



ANNUAL REPORT 2018





Isber Annual Report 2018

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About

ISBER is the only global forum that addresses harmonization of scientific, technical, legal, and ethical issues relevant to repositories of biological and environmental specimens.

ISBER fosters collaboration; creates education and training opportunities; provides a forum for the dissemination of state-of-the-art policies, processes, and research findings; and provides an international showcase for innovative technologies, products, and services. Together, these activities promote best practices that cut across the broad range of repositories that ISBER serves.

ISBER is a global organization which creates opportunities for sharing ideas and innovations in biobanking and harmonizes approaches to evolving challenges for biological and environmental repositories.



ISBER is a global biobanking organization which creates opportunities for networking, education, and innovations and harmonizes approaches to evolving challenges in biological and environmental repositories.



ISBER will be the leading global biobanking forum for promoting harmonized high quality standards, education, ethical principles, and innovation in the science and management of biorepositories.



- 1. Disseminate information on repository management issues
- 2. Educate and share information and tools within the society and with stakeholders
- 3. Act as the voice for repositories to influence regulations and policy
- 4. Develop best practice guidelines
- 5. Provide centralized information about existing repositories
- 6. Bring members together to work on emerging issues



Message from the President

Dear ISBER members,

I am pleased to present to you ISBER's 2018 annual report. The goal of the report is to provide you with a summary of what the association leadership accomplished on your behalf since the last annual general meeting.

This past year has been a strong and busy one for ISBER. First, we started implementing our new strategic plan, created based on membership feedback from our first ever member survey as well as key stakeholder interviews. Through our updated vision and mission statements, the association committed to the following five main goals:

- 1. Strengthen Organization
- 2. Policy Influence
- 3. Advance the Science of Biobanking
- 4. Global and Sectoral Presence
- **5.** Increased Awareness of ISBER

The 2017 annual meeting, held in Toronto, was a big success and attracted over 700 biobankers from across the world. Presentation topics ranged from the Svalbard Global Seed Vault to the NASA Ames Life Sciences Data Archive to returning individual research results and incidental findings.

In partnership with the Society for Cryobiology, ISBER hosted a plenary session and workshop at CRYO 2017, their annual conference in July 2017 in Hefei, China. A number of additional ISBER-related presentations took place in China including at the ABC 2017 meeting in Changsha and at the 10th year Anniversary BBCMBA Annual Conference in Shanghai in 2018. This allowed us to consistently reach biobankers in that area ahead of the 20th year Anniversary ISBER 2019 Annual Conference in Shanghai.

We also engaged in a partnership with the European, Middle Eastern and African Society for Biopreservation and Biobanking (ESBB) and the Biobanking and Biomolecular Resources Research Infrastructure – European Research Infrastructure Consortium (BBMRI-ERIC) to produce the first ever Global Biobank Week (GBW) in Stockholm in September 2017. This was an impressive conference with over 800 attendees and speakers from across the world, opened with a passionate keynote presentation by Gregory C. Simon, President of the Biden Cancer Initiative. The success of this meeting convinced the three collaborating organizations to work towards a GBW II in 2020.



We then moved on to organize our first ever Biospecimen Research Symposium in Luxembourg City, Luxembourg, in collaboration with the Integrated BioBank of Luxembourg (IBBL) with supportive funding from the Luxembourg National Research Fund (FNR). This was a thematic one-and-a-half day symposium in February 2018 focused on the science of Biospecimen Research which attracted over 200 attendees from across the world. The intense interest in the topic of the meeting will be reflected in the 'Best of Lux' session at the upcoming Dallas 2018 Annual Meeting and Exhibits.

We are excited to announce that this year ISBER has completed and released the **4th edition of the ISBER Best Practices: Recommendations for Repositories (ISBER BP)**. The ISBER BP are freely available through the ISBER website, represent the most effective practices for the management of biological and environmental specimen collections and repositories, and have established themselves as the premier handbook for biobanking. The ISBER BP are either evidence-based or consensus-based practices for collection, long-term storage, retrieval and distribution of specimens. The ISBER BP promote the availability of high-quality biological and environmental specimens for future research. An inclusive, international group of experienced biobankers contributed to the ISBER BP and within the first month of release, the ISBER BP has been downloaded over 700 times!. Over a third of those downloading the document are from outside the ISBER organization and many state that they plan to use the BP in order to inform policies and/or SOPs. This demonstrates the significant impact and reach of the best practices to the scientific community as a whole. We anticipate the ISBER BP to further reach global audiences as a special edition of BIO has just been published and translations in Chinese, Japanese, Korean, French, Spanish and Farsi are in various stages of preparation.

ISBER has also contributed to the ISO 20387 document, due to be published at the end of 2018. At the same time, we reached an agreement with the American Society for Clinical Pathology Board of Certification (ASCP BOC) to develop, administer, and maintain a new Biobanking Practitioner Qualification (BPQ), tentatively scheduled for early 2019. ISBER also provided a series of membership benefits via the ISBER tools, as well as webinars and educational opportunities. We have taken all the above constitute substantial steps towards the ongoing professionalization of this sector.

ISBER provided responses to consultations on the Proposed Changes to TCPS 2 (2014) Guidance for Research involving Human Cells and Cell Lines in Canada; to the Secretary's Advisory Committee on Human Research Protections, DHHS, USA; and to the Biobanking framework working group at the Russian Ministry of Health, Russia. Finally, a number of our activities, including the Breakthroughs in Biobanking Rare Diseases stories, went viral on social media, or were published by the international press.



ISBER continued to strengthen its international position through a series of Affiliation agreements that were established in 2017 and 2018. These include closer working ties with the following organizations:

- The Entomological Collections Network (ECN)
- The Biobanking and Biomolecular Resources Research Infrastructure European Research Infrastructure Consortium (BBMRI-ERIC)
- The Biobank Branch, China Medicinal Biotech Association (BBCMBA)
- The China National Gene Bank (CNGB)
- The Council for Industrial use of Biological and Environmental Repositories (CIBER), Japan
- The National BioService (NBS), Russia
- The Public Responsibility in Medicine and Research (PRIM&R)

As I complete my term as president, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Board of Directors and Committee Chairs who have worked tirelessly to advance the mission and vision of the association. I also wish to thank all the members who have sat on committees, working groups, editorial committees and special interest groups. ISBER's growth and development is dependent on the continued engagement from our members.

I would like to encourage you to always reach out with any new ideas that you may have. I would like to encourage you to participate where possible on the various committees, special interest groups and working groups. When the call is made for Board positions, we encourage you to put your name forward.

ISBER is here for you!



Sincerely,
Zisis Kozlakidis

President
International Society for Biological and Environmental Repositories



Listing of Organization Leadership and Staff

BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS

BOARD MEMBERS:



President
May 2017 – May 2018

Zisis Kozlakidis, BSc, PhD, AKC, MBA, FLS
Europe, Middle-East and Africa
University College London and Farr Institute of
Health Informatics Research
London, United Kingdom



Past President
May 2017 – May 2018 **Brent Schacter,** MD, FRCPC
Americas
CancerCare Manitoba
Winnipeg, Canada



President-Elect May 2017 – May 2018 **David Lewandowski,** BA Americas Brooks Life Science Systems Chelmsford, United States



Director-at-Large – Americas May 2017 – May 2021 **Monique Albert** Ontario Institute for Cancer Research Toronto, Canada



Director-at-Large – China May 2015-May 2018 **Xiaomin Wang**, MD, PhD Capital Medical University Beijing, China



Director-at-Large – Europe, Middle East, Africa May 2017 – May 2020 **Alison Parry-Jones,** MD Wales Cancer Bank – Cardiff University Cardiff, United Kingdom



Treasurer
May 2017 – May 2020
Piper Mullins, MS
Smithsonian Institution
Washington, United States



Director-at-Large – Indo-Pacific Rim May 2017 – May 2020 **Daniel Catchpoole,** PhD, FFSc Tumor Bank, The Children's Hospital at Westmead Westmead, Austrailia



Secretary May 2017 – May 2020 Nicole Sieffert, MBA, CCRS MD Anderson Cancer Center Houston, United States

COMMITTEE CHAIRS



Science Policy Advisory Committee Chair **Marianna J. Bledsoe**, MA Silver Spring, MD, United States



Organizing Advisory Committee Chair **Marianne Henderson**, MS NCI/NIH/DHHS, Bethesda, MD, United States



Standards Advisory Committee Chair **Daniel Simeon-Dubach**, MD, MHA *Medservice, Walchwil, Switzerland*



Communications Advisory Committee Chair Catherine Seiler, PhD Kaleido Biosciences Bedford, MA, United States



Member Relations Advisory Committee Chair Shonali Paul CloudLIMS.com Wilmington, United States



Education and Training Advisory Committee Chair **Sheila O'Donoghue** BC Cancer Agency Tumour Tissue Repository, Vancouver, BC, Canada



Marketing Advisory Committee Chair **Debra Leiolani Garcia,** MPA San Francisco, CA, United States



2017 Scientific Program Advisory Committee Co-Chair **Dr. Alison Parry-Jones** Wales Cancer Bank - Cardiff University, Cardiff, United Kingdom



2018 Scientific Program Advisory Committee Co-Chair **Nicole Sieffert** MD Anderson Cancer Center Houston, TX, United States



2017 Scientific Program Advisory Committee Co-Chair **Monique Albert** Ontario Institute for Cancer Research Toronto, ON, Canada



2018 Scientific Program Advisory Committee Co-Chair **Marianne Henderson** National Cancer Institute Bethesda, MD, United States

2018 Scientific Program Advisory Committee Vice Chair **Weiping Shao** Regeneron Pharmaceuticals

Regeneron Pharmaceutical Tarrytown, United States

WORKING GROUP AND SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP CHAIRS

Biospecimen Science Working Group Fay Betsou	Automated Repositories Special Interest Group Andy Zaayenga, Jessica Lesko, and Jessica Erbsen	Rare Diseases Working Group Samuel Hughes and Yaffa Rubinstein	Informatics Working Group Kevin Meagher	Hospital-Integrated Biorepositories Special Interest Group Daniel Catchpoole
Trans-Omics Working Group Le Cheng and Yong Zhang	International Repository Locator Working Group Yaffa Rubenstein and David Van Enckevort	Enviro-Bio Working Group Piper Mullins	CSF Biobanking Special Interest Group Charlotte Teunissen	Public Education Working Group Pedro Rondot-Radio and Sylvia Silver
Integrated Biobanking Workflows Working Group Erik Steinfelder	Regulatory and Ethics Working Group Scott Jewell and Madeline Williams	Pharma Working Group Clive Green and Rose Redfield	Management of Investigator- Returned Research Results Special Interest Group Hollie Kathleen Schmidt	Pediatrics Special Interest Group Suzanne Vercauteren

ISBER HEAD OFFICE



Executive Director **Ana Torres**, BA (Hons), MPub



Project Manager **Samantha Wale**, BA (Hons)



Project Manager Elizabeth Sun, BSc, MM



Project Manager Orsa Papaioannou, BSc, MSc



Association Coordinator **Veronica Dabrowski**, BSc



Association Coordinator Emma Armstrong, BSc



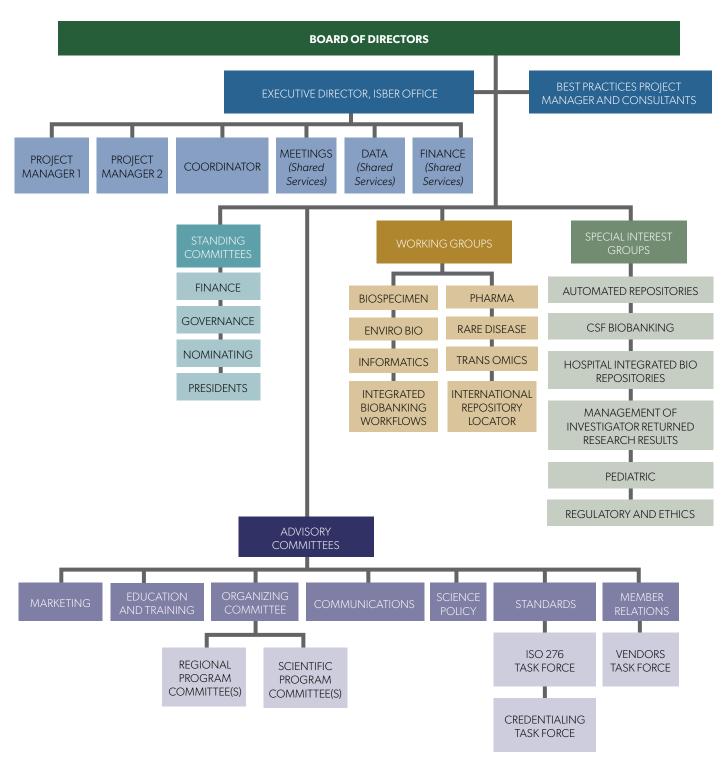
Meetings Director **Paul Fogerty**, BA



Database Director, Paul Kool, BSc, AIT



The ISBER organization chart was updated as follows:





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Membership Statistics

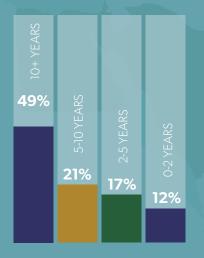
and Organizational Sub-Accounts with a total of 1, 290 members. In 2017, ISBER welcomed new members from Iran, Philippines, and Ukraine. Further, ISBER is pleased to welcome the 150 new individuals that joined our Society in Middle Income Countries (LMICs) including Philippines, Uganda, Ukraine, India, and Indonesia.

ISBER MEMBERSHIP 2004 – 2017

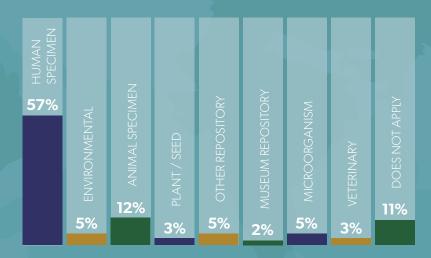




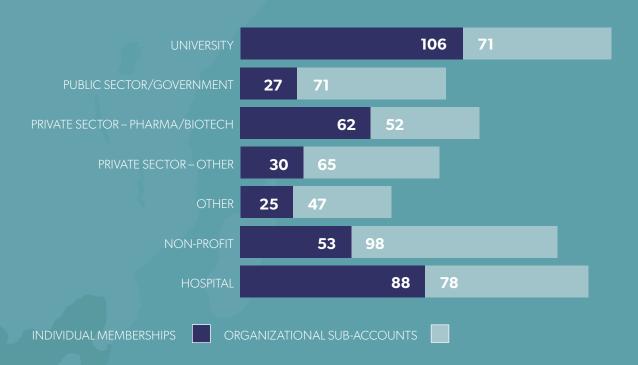
YEARS OF EXPERIENCE IN FIELD



TYPES OF REPOSITORIES



MEMBERSHIP ROLES





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ISBER Best Practices

ON JANUARY 31, 2018 ISBER RELEASED THE FOURTH EDITION OF THE **ISBER BEST PRACTICES**



The ISBER Best Practices can be downloaded here: www.isber.org/ bestpractices.

The ISBER Best Practices: Recommendations for Repositories, Fourth Edition presents the most effective practices for the management of biological and environmental specimen collections and repositories. These are either evidence-based or consensus-based practices for the collection, handling, storage, retrieval, and distribution of specimens. They promote the availability of high-quality biological and environmental specimens for future research. Biorepository managers, technicians, and researchers can take advantage of the ISBER Best Practices to improve specimen collection, storage, use, and governance based on practices established by the global repository community. The recommendations provided in the Best Practices aim to improve specimen quality from collection to discovery.

A key objective is to promote harmonization of the scientific, technical, legal and ethical issues relevant to repositories of biological and environmental specimens. In 2005, ISBER published Best Practices for Repositories I: Collection, Storage, and Retrieval of Human Biological Materials for Research as a comprehensive tool to guide repository professionals in the development, management, and operations of repositories. The Best Practices were subsequently revised in 2008 to include specimens derived from non-human sources and again in 2012 to reflect advances in biospecimen science and new technology platforms. The fourth edition of the ISBER Best Practices builds on the foundation established in previous versions.

Since it is impossible to incorporate the national/federal, regional, and local regulations that apply to each repository, the Best Practices strive to address areas of commonality among all repositories. Members of the Editorial Board have a variety of backgrounds in the technical, managerial, and ethical aspects of the collection, handling, storage, and distribution of materials from biological and environmental resources and represent organizations based in locations around the world. In addition, great effort was made to seek input from the diverse ISBER membership for contributions and to prevent any regional biases.

Questions about the ISBER Best Practices can be directed to bestpractices@isber.org.



ISBER WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE WHO CONTRIBUTED TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE BEST PRACTICES:

Editor-in-Chief:

Lori D. Campbell

Associate Editors:

Jonas J. Astrin, Rachel Brody, Yvonne De Souza, Judith G. Giri, Ashokkumar A. Patel, Melissa Rawley-Payne, Amanda Rush, Nicole Sieffert

ISBER Best Practices International Review Board:

Nahla Afifi, Fay Betsou, Carolyn Compton, Koh Furuta, Rongxing Gan, Rita Lawlor, Maimuna Mendy, Ole Seberg, Daniel Simeon-Dubach, Anne-Marie Tassé

Individual Contributors to the Fourth Edition:

Jonas J. Astrin, Susan Baker, Katharine Barker, Thomas J. Barr, Paul Bartels, Erica Benson, Penny Berents, Carol Butler, Mark Cada, Lori D. Campbell, Antonio Hugo Jose Froes Marques Campos, David Carpentieri, Candace Carter, Marta Castelhano, Omoshile Clement, Domenico Coppola, Yvonne De Souza, Jim Doherty, Gabriele Dröge, Helena Ellis, Oscar Estrada, Paul Fearn, Kelly Feil, Debra Garcia, Judith Giri, Ellis Gitlin, William E. Grizzle, Kathleen Groover, Denise Marie Guevarra, Keith Harding, Jason Harraden, Marianne K. Henderson, Chris J. Huddleston, Berthold Huppertz, John Jakubczak, Leo Joseph, Edward Kaercher, Joseph Kessler, Caroline Larson, Sarah Loud, Christopher Lyal, Jacqueline Mackenzie-Dodds, Hannah Maynor, Shannon McCall, Kevin McCluskey, Kevin Meagher, Cheryl Michels, Lisa Miranda, Judy Muller-Cohn, Rolf Muller, Piper F. Mullins, James O'Sullivan, Francisco Javier Garcia Palomo, Ashokkumar A. Patel, Gitte Petersen, Karen Pitt, Olga Potapova, Rebecca Pugh, Pedro Rondot Radio, Rivka Ravid, Melissa Rawley-Payne, Marcy Revelez, James Robb, Michael Roehrl, Amanda Rush, Oris Sanjur, William Schleif, Ole Seberg, Katherine Sexton, Weiping Shao, Nicole Sieffert, Ricardo Luis A. Silva, Amy Skubitz, Stella Somiari, Helen Stewart, Tatsuaki Tsuruyama, Frans van der Horst, Gavin Welch, Andy Zaayenga, Breda Marie Zimkus

Standards Advisory Committee Members and Advisors:

Daniel Simeon-Dubach (Chair), Cheryl Michels (Vice Chair), Clare Alloca, Fay Betsou, Jane Carpenter, Yehudit Cohen, Annemieke De Wilde, Bongikosi Duma, Helena Ellis, Koh Furuta, Shannon McCall, Michael Roehrl, Brent Schacter, Carmen Swanepoel, Dana Valley



Activity Report - Conference Report

2017 TORONTO



ISBER held its 17th Annual Meeting and Exhibits in Toronto, Ontario, Canada at the Westin Harbour Castle Hotel from May 9-12, 2017.

The annual meeting had a final delegate count of 693, which is the second highest delegate count in North America following the record setting annual meeting held in Phoenix, USA in 2015. All ISBER regions were represented at the meeting with the Americas (AMER) leading the majority at 74% of registrants. The Europe, Middle East, and Africa (EMEA) region followed with 13% of delegates, China with 8% and lastly the Indo-Pacific Rim (IPR) at 5%.

The meeting included seven symposia sessions. The opening session, "Polar Shift: How Biobanking is Changing Our Thinking and the World" was live webcast and recorded to support ongoing education and allow ISBER members from around the world to participate. The success of this first-ever ISBER live webcast has encouraged ISBER to continue with this practice at the 2018 Annual Meeting.

Abstract submission was strong with 201 submissions. The abstracts were evaluated by the Program Committee and the accepted abstracts were published in the online 2017 Abstract Supplement of the Journal of Biopreservation & Biobanking (BIO), ISBER's official journal.

ISBER organized nine educational workshops through the Education and Training Committee, all of which were included in the Final Program.

ISBER presented several awards at the meeting to recognize individuals and achievements in the field of biobanking. The following awards were presented at the Meeting:

- ISBER Travel Award Rogers Kisuule (Uganda)
- ISBER Founder's Award Phil Baird (United States)
- ISBER Award for Outstanding Achievement in Biobanking Dr. Allison Hubel (United States)
- ISBER Distinguished Leadership & Service Award Katherine Sexton (United States)
- SBER Special Service Award Debra Garcia (United States) and Daniel Simeon-Dubach (Switzerland)
- ISBER Outstanding New Product Award Chart MVE Fusion, Chart MVE



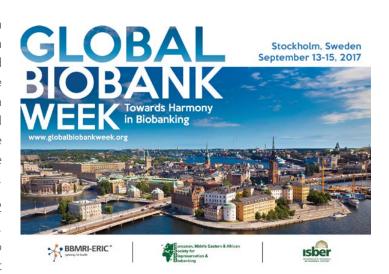
ISBER hosted the 6th Annual 5K Fun Run/Walk/Sleep in support of the ISBER Travel Award. The proceeds are used to support individuals from low and middle income countries (LMICs), who are planning or currently managing a repository, to attend the ISBER Annual Meeting and Exhibits.

The ISBER 2017 Annual Meeting and Exhibits received generous support from its corporate supporters. This year, ISBER had 7 Platinum Partners, 2 Gold Partners, and 3 Silver Partners. The Exhibit Hall hosted 66 exhibitors with a total of 86 booths. ISBER also sold its first Corporate Lunch Symposium, which was held Wednesday, May 10, 2017.

2017 STOCKHOLM

In 2017, ISBER partnered with the European and Middle Eastern Society for Biopreservation and Biobanking (ESBB) and Biobanking and Biomolecular Resources Research Infrastructure – European Research Infrastructure Consortium (BBMRI-ERIC) to host Global Biobank Week: Toward Harmony in Biobanking. This three-day conference took place from September 13-15, 2017 at The Brewery Convention Center in Stockholm, Sweden.

The meeting attracted 813 delegates, included 52 exhibitors, and received 151 abstract submissions. Ancillary events included a sold out site visit to SciLifeLab and Karolinska Institutet Biobank, a visit to the world famous Stockholm City Hall, preconference workshops, and a networking dinner.



2018 LUXEMBOURG



In 2018, ISBER partnered with the Integrated BioBank of Luxembourg (IBBL) to host the Biospecimen Research Symposium, ISBER's European regional meeting in 2018. The symposium took place from February 27-28 at the European Convention Center Luxembourg (ECCL).



The symposium consisted of three plenary sessions, covering all major types of specimens – human fluid, human tissue, and environmental. The symposium featured 20 invited speakers from across the globe, a debate on "Moral Tribes, Biospecimen Research, and ISO Standards", 42 abstract submissions, and 19 exhibitors. The keynote presentation was given by Carolyn Compton, MD, PhD, on "Specimens, Standards, and Signatures: Keys to the Vision of Precision Medicine".

Of the 42 abstracts submitted, 9 were scheduled for oral presentation and 24 were scheduled for poster presentation. The Best Poster Abstract award was presented to Svitlana Rozanova for her abstract "Influence of Different Sample Preparation Methods on the Proteome of Serum Extracellular Vesicles".

The meeting featured a sold out site visit to IBBL (over 100 participants!), and a sold out networking dinner.

2018 DALLAS



The 2018 ISBER Annual Meeting and Exhibits "Thinking BIG in Texas: Seizing BIG Opportunities in BIOBANKING through Data, Collaboration and Innovation", will be held from May 20-24 in Dallas, USA at the Hyatt Regency Dallas. The Program Committee for the meeting is chaired by Nicole Sieffert, Marianne Henderson, and Weiping Shao.

Dallas is home to world class museums and restaurants, unique neighborhoods, and a vibrant music scene. It has warm weather nearly all year, making it easy to get outside and explore during breaks in the meeting schedule, or to find a nice café patio to sit down with other meeting delegates.

The meeting will feature 8 symposia sessions, 33 invited speakers, 4 contributed paper sessions, an innovative technologies session, 9 educational workshops, and roundtable discussions, as well as opportunities to attend corporate lunch symposia and corporate workshops. A large exhibition space will be host to several networking opportunities and poster presentations, with a formal networking dinner taking place at Eddie Dean's.

The 8 symposia sessions will feature speakers from across biobanking communities and across borders. Topics include global impact, advocacy, data, innovation, sustainability, quality management, collaboration, and biospecimen science. These sessions will form the foundation for exciting discussions of ideas and innovative solutions throughout the meeting.

The 9 topic-driven educational workshops will be available free of charge to all meeting delegates. The workshops are designed to inform attendees about specific types of repository activity and will open up great learning and knowledge exchange opportunities.



ISBER received 216 abstract submissions – the most abstracts ever received for an ISBER annual meeting! Of these abstracts, 28 are scheduled for oral presentation via 4 contributed paper sessions, 10 will be presented as flash talks during the innovative technologies sessions, and 165 will be presented as posters.

The annual meeting also provides an opportunity for the various ISBER Committees and Working Groups to meet in person, with pre-scheduled meeting times and room bookings for all groups to get together and progress their exciting work.

FUTURE MEETINGS







ISBER Science Policy Advisory Committee Initiatives

ISBER continues to provide a voice for the perspectives of the ISBER membership and the Society on policy issues related to biological and environmental repositories through the ISBER Science Policy Committee. In 2017, ISBER continued to follow global regulatory and science policy developments and provide input on them when appropriate, including the revisions to the US Federal Policy for the Protection of Human Subjects (Common Rule), the European Union General Data Protection Regulations (EU-GDPR), and the Proposed Changes to the Canadian Tri Council Policy Statement 2 (2014) Guidance for Research involving Human Cells and Cell Lines. In addition, the Committee continued to disseminate information to the ISBER membership about regulations and policies related to biobanking in a variety of ways. The ISBER Science Policy Committee webpage was redesigned and a new ISBER Science Policy Resource page was established with links to key national and global regulatory and policy documents as one mechanism for disseminating this information.

The ISBER Science Policy Committee has been discussing various ways to help educate the lay public on biobanking and developing appropriate educational materials around certain complex topic areas related to legal, ethical and social issues. During the past year, the ISBER Science Policy Committee has developed some draft Qs and As in lay language on important issues related to biobanking that may be useful for public education efforts. Topics addressed in the Qs and As include changes in the US regulations for protecting human subjects who donate specimens, issues relating to commercialization and compensation, why it is not always possible to seek consent for archival sample use and why research needs so many samples. These Qs and As were used as key background materials for an interview of ISBER Past President Brent Schacter for

an article in the American Association of Blood Banks. The Science Policy Committee is continuing to develop educational materials for the lay public on other topic areas.

The Committee has been communicating with the US DHHS Office for Human Research Protections (OHRP) about their efforts to educate the public about research and the protections in place for research participants. The ISBER Science Policy Committee has shared the draft Qs and As that it has developed with the OHRP and will be collaborating with OHRP to provide content and help review draft scripts for a video they are developing for the lay public on research using human specimens and data.

Members of the ISBER Science Policy Committee have played key roles in helping to educate the ISBER membership, as well as the ELSI, and research ethics board communities on practical and policy issues related to biobanking. This includes planning ELSI plenary sessions and workshops at ISBER meetings on a variety of emerging ELSI issues, including changes to the US Common Rule, as well as the global implications of the EU-GDPR. In addition, members of the ISBER Science Policy Committee have collaborated with Public Responsibility in Medicine and Research (PRIM&R) to organize all day advanced tissue banking programs and workshops on various topics at their annual meetings to help educate the ethics review committee community and other meeting participants. ISBER and PRIM&R signed a revised associate agreement to strengthen our relationship and provide new opportunities for future collaborations on areas of mutual interest.

Finally, the ISBER Science Policy Committee will be expanding its membership to ensure greater global representation by adding members representing EMEA, Indo-Pacific Rim, Americas and China.



ISBER Standards Advisory Committee Initiatives

The Standards Advisory Committee serves as an advisory to the board and provides biobanking expertise on behalf of ISBER to establish consistent biobanking standards. The Committee's primary focus has been the development and maintenance of the ISBER Best Practices, Fourth Edition as well as contributing to various biobanking standards and the development of a formal repository qualification program.

One of the key initiatives for the Standards Committee has been the development and dissemination of the ISBER Best Practices, Fourth Edition. Members of the Standards Committee, the Best Practices Task Force, which consisted of chairs from the Education & Training, Communications, Marketing, and Standards Committees, along with a team of Best Practices Contributors and Editors worked tirelessly towards the January 31, 2018 release date of the Best Practices. To promote the work being done on the Best Practices, ISBER presented a poster at Global Biobank Week in September 2017 followed by another poster at the Luxembourg Biospecimen Symposium in February 2018. Further, the February issue of BIO, ISBER's official journal, featured a special section with six articles to commemorate the release of the Best Practices.

At the same time that ISBER has been developing the ISBER Best Practices, the ISO/TC276/WG2 has been developing an International Standard (IS), ISO/DIS 20387 *General requirements for biobanking standard*. Several Standards Committee Members are currently participating in the development of ISO/DIS 20387 and

participate on the ISBER ISO 276 Task Force that reports to the Standards Committee. It is important that the work of ISBER and ISO/TC276/WG2 is harmonized to allow the diversity of members to tailor the accessibility of tools to their specific biobanking needs. During the initial development of 20387, the ISBER Best Practices, Third Edition, was used as a resource. In mid-2017, the ISO 276 Task Force released a call to all ISBER members to encourage them to submit their comments on the draft of 20387. Over 100 comments were provided from both human and non-human domains.

Modern biobanking has become a complex activity on a worldwide basis and the professional requirements for people working in the biobanking field have steadily increased. It is well acknowledged that welltrained repository staff are essential for assuring highquality research. As no formal repository qualification program has been developed, the ISBER Standards Committee has been involved in the development of a Repository Qualification Credential Program. On November 2, 2017, ISBER and ASCP BOC signed a Memorandum of Understanding to establish a shared qualification category through which individuals may earn a Repository Qualification Credential. The press release was made available on December 11, 2017. The goal is to have the Repository Qualification Certificate Program available by Q1/Q2 of 2019. In early 2018, ISBER released a call to its members to recruit for the Repository Qualification Workgroup that will be established as a standing committee of the ASCP BOC. Almost thirty applications were received and eight individuals were chosen to sit on the Workgroup.



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Webinars

ISBER presents a series of webinars available for both ISBER members (at no cost) and non-members, on a variety of topics related to the field of biobanking.

In the past year, ISBER has hosted three webinars. In September 2017, Cara Sutcliffe, Yan Ru Su, and Kerry Wiles presented a webinar titled, "Acquiring Automation in an Academic Core Facility". This webinar attracted 40 attendees from the biobanking community. The webinar presenters shared their knowledge on how and when to introduce automation into a collection.



After the release of the ISBER Best Practices, Fourth Edition, ISBER hosted a webinar titled, "ISBER Best Practices Live Webinar" presented by Marianna Bledsoe, Lori Campbell, Catherine Seiler, Daniel Simeon-Dubach, and Heidi Wagner in early February 2018. The webinar attracted 65 participants and provided a high-level overview of the summary of changes between the Third and Fourth Editions of the ISBER Best Practices.

In early March 2018, ISBER hosted a live webinar titled, "Public Education About Biobanks", presented by Sheila O'Donoghue, Suzanne Vercauteren, and Tamsin Tarling. A total of 28 individuals tuned in to a discussion around the importance of public education about biobanks. The webinar also covered an overview of an ISBER 2017 Annual Meeting public education workshop and gave participants the opportunity to bring forward their own questions.



Introduction to Biobanking Course





ISBER is pleased to partner with CTRNet to offer you the Introduction to Biobanking Course. The purpose of the Introduction to Biobanking Course is to give ISBER Members and non-members a general overview of the key issues in establishing, maintaining and accessing a biobank. The education program includes 9 online modules designed to provide 'how-to' knowledge for researchers and biobankers. Upon completion of this course, members receive a Record of Completion for their use. This course is offered in English and French.

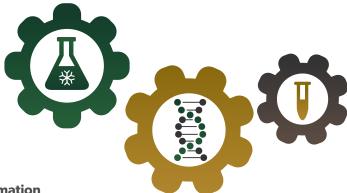
The modules for this course:

- Basics of Biobanking Provides an introductory overview of biobanking including key issues in establishing, maintaining and accessing a biobank.
- Governance Introduces participants to the concept of biobank governance and its importance to the everyday operations of a biobank.
- Ethics, Privacy and Security Discusses the importance of ensuring that biospecimens and personal health-related information are used ethically and optimally for research purposes.
- Facility Design and Safety Provides participants with information on the fundamental physical components of a biobank facility. It also covers the importance of biobank facility design and security in maintaining a safe environment.
- Quality Management and Process Improvement Provides general information on the importance of quality management and process improvement for biobanks.
- Informed Consent Identifies and describes processes related to informed consent in the biobank setting.
- Biospecimen Collection and Processing Provides an overview of the types of biospecimens commonly collected and stored in a biobank and the procedures involved in biospecimen collection and processing.
- Biospecimen Storage and Distribution Provides an overview of proper biospecimen storage, retrieval and sample distribution procedures for a biobank.
- Data Systems and Records Management Provides an overview of the types of data systems and records management systems used for storing biospecimen data.



ISBER Tools





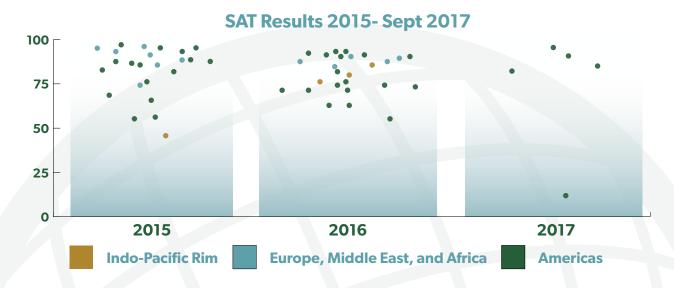


Scan the QR for more information about the ISBER Tools!



SELF-ASSESSMENT TOOL (SAT) FOR REPOSITORIES

The Self-Assessment Tool will be updated to accommodate the changes made in the Fourth Edition of the ISBER Best Practices. The ISBER Self-Assessment Tool (SAT) assists repositories in evaluating how well their repository follows ISBER's Best Practices (BP) for Repositories. Developed by the ISBER Education and Training Committee, the tool contains 152 questions which may be answered in a single or multiple sessions. Each page of the survey corresponds to a section of ISBER BP. After completion of the SAT, personalized results, including a "risk-balanced assessment score" will help evaluate how well the repository's current practices conform to the ISBER BP. The score is based on possible risk to specimens, frequency of implementation of each practice, and the ease with which deviations can be detected. ISBER members can access the latest version of the SAT on the ISBER website at no cost. The cost for non-ISBER members to access the latest version of the SAT is \$180 USD.







STANDARD PRE-ANALYTICAL CODE (SPREC)

The ISBER Biospecimen Science Working Group developed the Standard PRE-Analytical Code (SPREC) that identifies and records the main pre-analytical factors that may have impact on the integrity of sampled clinical fluids and solid biospecimens and their simple derivatives during collection, processing, and storage.

SPREC comprises seven elements for both fluid and solid samples, defining the sample and primary container type, periods of cold and warm ischemia, and subsequent handling steps including speed and temperature of centrifugation and final storage temperature.

The ability to manage and track pre-analytical variations impacting biospecimen integrity is fundamental to the provision of high quality tissue samples for research, and the effective and efficient interconnectivity and interoperability between national and international biobanks.

SPREC 3.0 was published in the February 2018 Issue of Biopreservation and Biobanking (BIO), ISBER's Official Journal. This tool is available free of charge to members and non-members alike.



PRE-ANALYTICAL BIOREPOSITORY EXTERNAL QUALITY ASSESSMENT (EQA) SURVEY

The Pre-Analytical External Quality Assessment Survey is for the pre-analytical phase in biorepositories. It is based on a collection of information about pre-analytical biorepository procedures (Biochemia Medica 2014; 24:114-122), developed by the ISBER Biospecimen Science Working Group, and approved by the ISBER Education and Training Committee. The scheme is applicable to all biorepositories, both clinical and environmental.

The scheme has 63 questions including questions relative to quality assurance and quality control. At the end of the survey, participants will receive a personalized report, showing results and statistics obtained by all biorepositories who have completed the survey. The benefit of participating in this scheme is to be able to compare one's preanalytical practices to those of all other biorepositories and benchmark. The EQA Survey is free to all biorepositories.



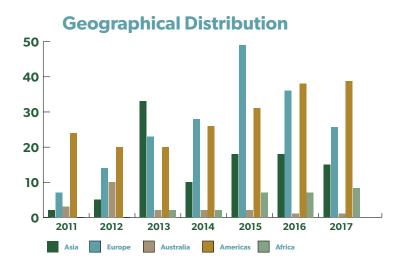
BIOREPOSITORY PROFICIENCY TESTING (PT) PROGRAM

The ISBER endorsed IBBL Biorepository Proficiency Testing (PT) Program provides laboratories working with biospecimens, including biorepositories, clinical laboratories, research organizations, and bioservice providers with a tool to validate routine lab methods. The program is designed to:

- Allow biorepositories to assess the accuracy of their quality control assays and their characterization of biospecimens
- Compare results with those obtained in other laboratories around the world
- Allow biorepositories to identify testing problems that may be related to individual staff performance or calibration of instrumentation used in biospecimen quality control



Provide an external quality assessment (EQA) tool and guidance to biorepositories and laboratories testing biospecimens with the ultimate goal to support their quality control activities and to offer organizations who are seeking compliance with ISO 17025, CLIA, or equivalent the possibility to fulfill the respective normative requirements. This tool verifies the precision and accuracy of your biospecimen testing methods, and the efficiency of processing methods employed through the following steps:





BIOSPECIMEN STABILITY TESTING CALCULATOR (STABCALC)

There is a strong interest of biobank end-users in research for new disease markers. For this purpose, biospecimens are commonly stored for many years in biobanks in order to relate biomarker levels to long-term clinical outcome measures at follow-up. Research is often hampered by variability in pre-analytical procedures, which is an important source of variation in study outcomes.

One important variability factor is time: collection time, processing time, or long-term storage time. The impact of this time can be assessed by short- or long-term stability studies. The new ISBER Biobanking for Neurodegenerative Diseases Working Group presents standardized tools to perform stability studies and examine biomarker stability in biospecimens, e.g., body fluids.

The Biospecimen Stability Testing SOP and Calculator Tool (STABCALC) has been developed by the JPND BIOMARKAPD and JPND Biobanking Working Group projects, and is being made available to the community by ISBER. The tool will facilitate stability studies performed by biobanks on different types of biospecimens.





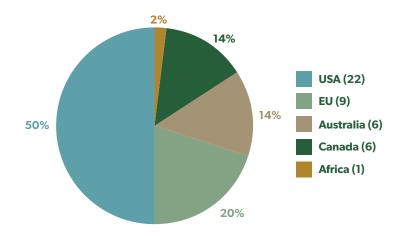
INTERNATIONAL REPOSITORY LOCATOR (IRL)

The International Repository Locator (IRL) is an initiative by ISBER to help investigators locate biospecimen and data repositories by developing a directory of repository information that can be searched online. The International Repository Locator also seeks to increase the profile of research and biobanking activities being supported by individual repositories amongst key global stakeholders including scientific societies, researchers, funding bodies, governments, consortia and private industry.

The website for the IRL was established courtesy of Information Management Services, Inc. (IMS) and managed by Steve Marroulis (IMS).

The IRL working group chairs are Yaffa Rubinstein and David van Enckevort.

Geographical Representation of Participants





Soer Annual Report 2018

Regional Reports



AMERICAS





EUROPE, MIDDLE EAST, AFRICA (EMEA)

Global Biobanking Week: Towards Harmony in Biobanking ERIC and ESBB. Talks, events and workshops over the three



Germany won the poster prize for her poster describing the prize, Svitlana benefits from a one-year complimentary ISBER membership. Attendees welcomed the opportunity for a focused scientific event and feedback suggested that they found it educational, interesting and a great networking event. There are requests for a second symposium in 2019.

EMEA members continue to contribute to ISBER and its strategic goals by actively participating in committees, working groups and task forces. An outreach program is being developed to encourage further, increased involvement and to identify new members and new biobanks who could benefit





CHINA

In 2017, the Biobanking field in China developed rapidly. Many public hospitals began to build large-scale biobanks.

More and more biobankers started to join and engage in international communication, networking and interaction. More than 60 biobankers participated in ISBER2017. Three high-level biobanking conferences were held in China: BBCMBA2017, Cryo2017, and ABC2017, each of them attracting nearly 1,000 biobank participants respectively.

Chinese biobankers have united and collaborated. The eBiobank Biospecimen Science Interest Group translated CTRnet SOPs, ISBER Best Practices 2018, and more than 150 articles. They also held various activities of additional interest such as the Biobankers Photography Exhibition.





INDO-PACIFIC RIM (IPR)

During 2017/18, ISBER members from the Indo-Pacific-Rim (IPR) have been frequent and active participants within the societies' committees, working groups and task forces. ISBER IPR members have been active on the world stage with a small but merry contingent of us attending Global Biobank Week in Stockholm, Sweden. ISBER has continued its engagement with local biorepositories as well as national biobanking societies that operate throughout the region including groups in India, Vietnam, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, New Zealand and Australia, with these groups actively seeking ISBER input into their activities. This includes the roll out of the 4th Edition of the Best Practice Recommendations, which will be enhanced with the translation of the document into Japanese and Korean, allowing our local members to engage further with the implementation of these guidelines within their institutions. Members from the IPR are excited that the 2019 ISBER Annual Meeting will be in Shanghai, China and are looking forward to showcasing what we are doing, our differences, our gains, and our successes.



Strategic Plan Update



At the February 2016 ISBER's Board meeting, the Board agreed to undertake strategic planning for 2017 to 2020. The Board tasked its Executive Director, Ana Torres, to lead the strategic planning process.

In order to ensure that ISBER's strategic plan was based on the needs of its membership and its stakeholders, an environmental scanning process was initiated. The process included a member's survey, stakeholder interviews, and leadership input and feedback via committee members and chairs.

The membership survey was designed and approved by the Board and Committee Chairs. 276 members completed the survey, which represents 22.8 % of the society's 2016 membership. The results of the survey were reviewed by the Board and Committee Chairs as part of the strategic planning process.

In consultation with the Board and Committee Chairs, a list of various sector

stakeholders and questions were developed. Then stakeholder interviews were conducted from June 1 to August 31, 2016. A total of 14 interviews were conducted. Interviews were classified as either "partner" or "corporate partner" interviews. Partners are associations with whom ISBER has existing associate or affiliate agreements. Corporate Partners are industry companies who sponsor the association. The Board and Committee Chairs identified which partners and corporate partners would be interviewed. ISBER interviewed eight partners and six corporate partners.

As part of the process, input and feedback from the association's leaders was sought via the Committee Chairs. Committee Chairs were tasked with seeking input and feedback from its members. A set of questions were developed and the chairs reported the members' feedback at the strategic planning session held in conjunction with the association's Bethesda Regional Meeting.

Strategic planning sessions were organized with the Board and Committee Chairs on Saturday, November 5 and Sunday, November 6, 2016 in Bethesda, Maryland, USA.

The plan was formally adopted in January 2017. The key achievements and deliverables in 2017 include:

- Releasing the ISBER Best Practices, Fourth Edition
- Split the Marketing and Membership Committee into two committees—Membership and Marketing, secured leadership and membership
- Publications committee evolved into Communications committee, secured leadership and membership.
- Created a Standards Committee
- Revised the corporate sponsorship and meeting sponsorship program to meet the needs of the vendors and provide more flexible sponsorship options
- Re-invigorated the vendors relationship task force under the membership committee
- Participated in important efforts to shape the development of global regulations, policies and standards (see pages 18 and 19)



- Section 4 Hosted a meeting with BBMRI-ERIC and ESBB in September 2017
- Held a Biospecimen Research Symposium in February 2018
- Developed a translation plan for the ISBER Best Practices
- Signed a partnership with ASCP BOC to develop a biobanking qualification exam
- Started webcasting key sessions at our annual and regional conferences
- Entered into a number of key agreements with: The Entomological Collections Network (ECN), The Biobanking and Biomolecular Resources Research Infrastructure European Research Infrastructure Consortium (BBMRI-ERIC), The Biobank Branch, China Medicinal Biotech Association (BBCMBA), The China National Gene Bank (CNGB), The Council for Industrial use of Biological and Environmental Repositories (CIBER), Japan, The National BioService (NBS), Russia

MISSION

ISBER is a global biobanking organization which creates opportunities for networking, education, and innovations and harmonizes approaches to evolving challenges in biological and environmental repositories.

VISION

ISBER will be the leading global biobanking forum for promoting harmonized high quality standards, education, ethical principles, and innovation in the science and management of biorepositories.

GOALS

- 1. Disseminate information on repository management issues
- 2. Educate and share information and tools within the society and with stakeholders
- 3. Act as the voice for repositories to influence regulations and policy
- 4. Develop best practice guidelines
- 5. Provide centralized information about existing repositories
- 6. Bring members together to work on emerging issues



BIO Report



As noted on its website, "Biopreservation and Biobanking (BIO) is the first journal to provide a unifying forum for the peer-reviewed communication of recent advances in the emerging and evolving field of biospecimen procurement, processing, preservation and banking, distribution, and use. The journal continues to publish a range of original articles focusing on current challenges and problems in biopreservation, and advances in methods to address these issues related to the processing of macromolecules, cells, and tissues for research. It also explores the ethical, legal, and societal considerations surrounding biobanking and biorepository operation. Ideas and practical solutions relevant to improved quality, efficiency, and sustainability of repositories, and relating to their management, operation and oversight are discussed as well."

The impact factor for BIO is currently 1.7, reflecting citations of BIO papers in 2016, for articles published in 2014 and 2015. Although the impact factor was somewhat lower than the 1.8 in 2016, full text downloads of BIO articles have continued to increase significantly every year, in the 10 to 15 percent range. Full text download statistics are an indication of both the interest of readers in the journal's articles as well as promising news for the long-term prospects for BIO in terms of subscriptions. The journal also continues to receive about 120 submissions of manuscripts each year, which has allowed BIO to continue to be selective in publishing high quality original research articles and reviews.

As Editor-in-Chief Jim Vaught noted in the Editorial from the current, April 2018, issue of BIO, over the past few years BIO has published a number of special sections and issues that covered a variety of topics: Biobanking in emerging countries; economics and sustainability; biobank disaster preparation; biobanking in China; and ethical, legal and social issues (ELSI). In April 2017, BIO published a special 15th anniversary issue that included a special section about biobanking in Africa, where there are several ambitious projects such as H3Africa and B3Africa that are addressing some of the special challenges to modern biobanking on the continent. The February 2018 issue included a special section on practices, standards and tools, and coincided with the publication of the 4th Edition of the ISBER Best Practices. Papers in these special sections and issues have been among the most downloaded and cited for the journal. And anecdotally, Dr. Vaught often receives comments from readers about how informative the papers are, i.e. in terms of having a series of articles on a common theme. The Editorial Board and ISBER colleagues in particular have been very proactive in suggesting ideas for special topics. From the Toronto ISBER meeting in 2017, the concept of a special issue on agricultural gene banks and related genetic resources was proposed. Later in 2018, this special issue will be published and will represent a significant expansion of the journal's coverage of this specialized area of biobanking.



A number of articles were especially noteworthy from the most recent issues of BIO. As noted above, the February issue on standards, practices and tools was partially focused on the 4th edition of ISBER's Best Practices. Several other excellent articles also appeared in the February issue, including an update by Shannon McCall et al., from the College of American Pathologists 5-year experience with its Biorepository Accreditation Program. ISBER's significant contributions to the new ISO Technical Committee 276 standards for biobanks and bioresources was also highlighted in an article by BIO editorial board member Koh Furuta and others.

Many other articles from the 2017 issues of BIO are worth reading if you haven't already. For example, see the October and December issues for summaries of ISBER's significant roles in the July Cryobiology conference in Hefei China, and Global Biobank Week in Stockholm in September. To view and read all BIO articles, freely available to ISBER members, visit https://home.liebertpub.com/publications/biopreservation-and-biobanking/110/overview.

Finally, as always, many thanks to BIO's Editor in Chief Jim Vaught, and Deputy Editors Marianna Bledsoe, Dayong Gao, and Peter Watson, and European Editor William Mathieson. During 2017, BIO also appointed Dr. Rongxing Gan as its first Asia-based Editor, in recognition of the significant number of articles being submitted from China, Japan and other countries in the region. Other new members of the editorial board include Dr. Junmei Zhou of Shanghai Children's Hospital as a Section Editor for Biospecimen Science, and Nahla Afifi from the Qatar Biobank for Medical Research. The editorial board members' excellent efforts in selecting reviewers and recommending action for articles are critical to BIO's continued success. BIO's authors, reviewers, and readers of course also are critical elements in the journal's advancement. The feedback BIO is getting in terms of most-read articles, and the unique perspective of the journal in terms of subject matter, continue to be critical to the journal's success and support of ISBER's mission.



ISBER Award Recipients

ISBER OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT IN BIOBANKING

The ISBER Award for Outstanding Achievement in Biobanking, sponsored by Worthington Industries, is designed to recognize individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the field of biobanking. The award can be given for a single outstanding achievement or a life-time body of outstanding work in the field.



Jane Carpenter, Australia



ISBER FOUNDER'S AWARD

The ISBER Founders Award, sponsored by Chart MVE, recognizes individuals who have provided outstanding leadership to the founding, support, and incorporation of ISBER as an international biobanking society. The recipient of this award is selected by the ISBER Nominating Committee.



Jim Vaught, United States



ISBER DISTINGUISHED LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE AWARD

This award is designed to honor ISBER members who have demonstrated exceptional leadership to further the mission and goals of the society and/or significant, long-standing contributions to the society.



Lori Campbell, United States

ISBER TRAVEL AWARDS

The ISBER Global Expansion Fund supports efforts to increase ISBER's membership and presence worldwide. The ISBER Travel Award provides travel support for individuals from emerging countries who are planning, or are currently managing, a repository to attend the ISBER Annual Meeting.



Amany Abou Elfadel, Egypt



Birendra Yadav,



Jean Marie Nana, Cameroon



Milcah Dhoro, Zimbabwe

ISBER SPECIAL SERVICE AWARDS

The ISBER Special Service Awards recognize individuals who have made exceptional contributions towards the goals of the Society through the performance of a special service or act on behalf of the organization. Awardees are recognized at the ISBER Annual Meetings.



Mark Barnes, United States



Marianna Bledsoe, United States



Andy Brooks, United States



Koh Furuta, Japan



Marianne Henderson, United States



Helen Morrin, New Zealand



Xiaomin Wang, China



Xuexun Zhou, China



Agreements and Partnerships

ISBER has partnerships with the following organizations:

- European, Middle-Eastern and African Society for Biopreservation and Biobanking (ESBB)
- Global Genome Biodiversity Network (GGBN)
- College of American Pathologists (CAP)
- Australasian Biospecimen Network Association (ABNA)
- Society for Cryobiology (CRYO)
- Public Responsibility in Medicine and Research (PRIM&R)
- Public Population Project in Genomics and Society (P3G)
- BCNet via International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC)
- Global Alliance for Genomics & Health
- Forum for International Biobanking Organizations (P3G/FIBO)
- Society for Laboratory Automation and Screening (SLAS)
- Technologie- und Methodenplattform für die vernetzte medizinische Forschung (TMF)
- Cambridge Healthtech Institute (CHI)
- Biobanking and Biomolecular Resources Research Infrastructure European Research Infrastructure Consortium (BBMRI-ERIC)
- Canadian Tissue Repository Network (CTRNET)
- Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections (SPNHC)
- Biobank Branch, China Medicinal Biotech Association (BBCMBA)
- China National GeneBank (CNGB)
- American Society for Clinical Pathology (ASCP)
- Entomological Collections Network (ECN)
- Council of Industrial use of Biological and Environmental Repositories (CIBER)
- National Bioservice (NBS)



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Sponsors

WE WISH TO THANK OUR CORPORATE PARTNERS FOR 2017:

PLATINUM CORPORATE PARTNERS















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WE WISH TO THANK THE FOLLOWING EXHIBITORS WHO PARTICIPATED AT THE ISBER 2017 ANNUAL MEETING IN TORONTO

- Abbott Informatics
- ABS Inc.
- Agilent Technologies
- Artificial Intelligence in Medicine
- ATCC
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- LVL Technologies GmbH & Co. KG
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- Micronic
- Modul-Bio
- OpenSpecimen

- Pacific Bio-Material Management, Inc.
- Panasonic Healthcare Corporation of North America
- PerkinElmer
- Praxair Distribution, Inc.
- Rees Scientific
- Retisoft, Inc.
- RUCDR Infinite Biologics
- RURO, Inc.
- Scinomix, Inc.
- So-Low Environmental Equipment Co., Inc.
- Stirling Ultracold
- Technidata America Medical Software
- TerumoBCT
- Thermo Fisher Scientific
- Titian Software
- TTP Labtech
- TWD TradeWinds, Inc.
- Worthington Industries
- Z-SC1 Biomedical
- Zhejiang Sorfa Life Science Research Co., Ltd.



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WE WISH TO THANK THE FOLLOWING COMPANIES, WHO SPONSORED **THE LUXEMBOURG SYMPOSIUM IN 2018:**











SYMPOSIUM EXHIBITORS:

- Agilent
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- **&** BBMRI-ERIC
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- IKS International
- Jutta Ohst German-Cryo GmbH
- Kaye
- Liconic Services Deutschland GmbH
- Perkin Elmer
- Supertecbox LTD
- TTP Labtech
- Ziath LTD



Financial Statments

Expressed in U.S. Dollars
For the year ended December 31, 2017.

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Independent Auditors' Report

To the Board of Directors of International Society for Biological & Environmental Repositories

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the International Society for Biological & Environmental Repositories, which comprise the statement of financial position as at December 31, 2017, and the statements of activities, changes in net assets and cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America; this includes the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal controls relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatements, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Opinion

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the International Society for Biological & Environmental Repositories as at December 31, 2017 and the results of its activities, changes in net assets and cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Supplemental Information

The supplementary financial information presented in the Schedule of Conference Revenues and Expenses is presented for the purposes of additional analysis and is not a required part of the financial statements. Such supplementary information is the responsibility of management and was derived from the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the main financial statements. The supplementary information has not been subject to audit.

Chartered Professional Accountants Vancouver, British Columbia Board Approval Date





International Society for Biological & Environmental Repositories Statement of Financial Position

December 31			2017	2016
Assets				
Cash and cash equivalents Investments (Note 2) Accounts receivable and accrued revenues Prepaid expenses		\$ _	570,099 373,619 48,943 42,228	\$ 532,368 370,776 49,521 120,764
Total Assets		\$	1,034,889	\$ 1,073,429
Liabilities and Net Assets				
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities Deferred revenue (Note 3)		\$ _	67,578 240,762	\$ 119,871 329,753
Total liabilities		_	308,340	449,624
Unrestricted net assets		_	726,549	623,805
Total Liabilities and Net Assets		\$	1,034,889	\$ 1,073,429
Approved by:				
	. President			
	. Treasurer			

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements



Isber Annual Report 2018

International Society for Biological & Environmental Repositories Statement of Activities

For the year ended December 31		2017	2016
Revenues			
Membership - corporate	\$	177,105 \$	168,762
Membership - individual		76,739	74,279
Membership - institutional		102,775	93,000
Publications		15,033	14,760
Education		9,589	9,365
Other operating revenue	_	6,936	942
Total operating revenue	_	388,177	361,108
Annual meeting		769,144	646,889
Global Biobank Week		31,970	-
Regional meeting	_	(190)	153,123
Total meeting revenue	_	800,924	800,012
		1,189,101	1,161,120
Expenses			
Accounting and legal		10,924	12,861
Bank and credit card		7,400	10,534
Board and council meetings		46,001	42,503
Consulting fees		40,000	
Currency exchange loss		11,655	12,725
Database and licensing fees		13,591	18,392
Insurance		5,120	5,220
Management fees (Note 5)		142,605	135,210
Marketing and promotion		12,650	2,136
Office and miscellaneous		12,286	6,063
Publication subscription fee		62,349	54,602
Site visit		11,963	1,730
Strategic outreach		14,074	14,208
Webinar		186	8,216
Total general and administrative expenses	_	390,804	324,400
Annual meeting		640,281	602,988
Future meetings		5,745	4,707
Regional meeting		(2,958)	205,588
Global Biobank Week		32,764	863
CRYO 2017		19,721	-
Total meeting expenses	_	695,553	814,146
		1,086,357	1,138,546
Increase in net assets from operations	\$	102,744 \$	22,574

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements





International Society for Biological & Environmental Repositories Statement of Changes in Net Assets

For the year ended December 31	2017	2016
Unrestricted net assets:		
Unrestricted net assets, beginning of the year	\$ 623,805	\$ 601,231
Increase in unrestricted net assets from operations	102,744	22,574
Unrestricted net assets, end of year	\$ 726,549	\$ 623,805

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements $% \left(1\right) =\left(1\right) \left(1\right)$



Isber Annual Report 2018

International Society for Biological & Environmental Repositories Statement of Cash Flows

For the year ended December 31		2017	2016
Cash flows from operating activities			
Increase in net assets from operations	\$	102,744 \$	22,574
Adjustments to reconcile change in net assets to net cash provided by operating activities: (Increase) decrease in operating assets			
Accounts receivable and accrued revenues		578	(8,115)
Prepaid expenses		78,536	104,155
Increase (decrease) in operating liabilities Accounts payable and accrued liabilities Deferred revenue		(52,293) (88,991)	103,590 22,985
Net cash provided by operating activities		40,574	245,189
Cash flows from financing activities Purchase of investments		(2,843)	(345,746)
Net increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents		37,731	(100,557)
Cash and cash equivalents, beginning of year	_	532,368	632,925
Cash and cash equivalents, end of year	\$	570,099 \$	532,368

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements



International Society for Biological & Environmental Repositories Notes to the Financial Statements

December 31, 2017

1. Nature of Operations and Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

(a) Organization

The International Society for Biological and Environmental Repositories (the "Society") was incorporated in 2013, as a non-profit corporation under the general laws of the State of Illinois. The Society has been organized to operate exclusively for charitable, scientific, and educational purposes, as those terms are defined in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, including, but not limited to, sharing ideas and innovations in bio-banking and participating in the harmonization of approaches to evolving challenges for biological and environmental repositories. The activities of the Society are funded primarily through educational conferences and membership dues.

(b) Basis of Accounting

The accompanying financial statements of the Society are presented using the accrual basis of accounting in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America ("U.S. GAAP") and presented in U.S. dollars.

(c) Cash and Cash Equivalents

The Society considers all highly liquid instruments, which are to be used for current operations and which have an original maturity of three months or less, to be cash and cash equivalents.

(d) Accounts Receivables and Accrued Revenues

Accounts receivables consist primarily of credit card deposits in transit, federal taxes recoverable and conference sponsorships. The Society records an allowance for doubtful accounts to state accounts receivable at their net realizable value. The allowance is based upon the Society's policy and management's analysis of accounts. Trade receivable are written off if reasonable collection efforts prove unsuccessful.

(e) Investments

Investments consist of certificates of deposit. These investments are classified as financial assets and are measured at cost which approximates fair value. An impariment loss in respect of investments measured at cost is calculated as the difference between the carrying amount and the market value of the investment. Losses are recognized in net assets from operations.

(f) Deferred Revenues

All amounts received for conferences and membership dues relating to services to be performed in future periods are deferred until the services are delivered in future periods. Revenues relating to conference activities are recognized when conferences are held. Membership dues revenues are recognized over the term of membership.

(g) Unrestricted Net Assets

Unrestricted net assets represent the accumulated net surplus of unrestricted revenues over expenses. It is available for use by the Society in furtherance of its mission.



International Society for Biological & Environmental Repositories Notes to the Financial Statements

December 31, 2017

1. Nature of Operations and Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)

(h) Revenue Recognition

Membership fees are invoiced annually or every two years for some individual members, and when memberships expire on December 31. Membership fees receivable are recorded when collection is reasonably assured and are recognized as revenue during the applicable membership period. Annual conference and other meeting revenues are reported in the fiscal year in which the conference is held. Amounts received in advance from members, sponsors and attendees for meetings occurring in the following fiscal year are recorded as deferred revenues.

Publication revenues are the royalties received from the contractor who publishes the Society's journal and are recorded as earned when the amount is readily determinable and collection is reasonably assured.

Contributions, which are included in the statement of activities in the line item to which the contribution relates, are recognized when received, including those contributions received in the form of unconditional promises to give. Contributions are recorded as restricted support if they are received with restrictions that limit the use of the funds for a particular purpose and/or time. When a contributor restriction is met or expires, that is, when a stipulated time restriction ends or purpose restriction is accomplished, temporarily restricted net assets are reclassified to unrestricted net assets and reported in the statement of activities.

(i) Expenses

Expenses are recognized during the period in which they are incurred. Expenses paid in advance for services or goods not yet received are deferred to the applicable period.

(j) Tax Exemption

The Society has been granted exemption by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) from federal income taxes under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code (IRC). The IRS has also determined that the Society is not a private foundation. The Society is required to report and pay taxes on unrelated business income to the IRS and other local jurisdictions. There was no liability for unrelated business income taxes as of December 31, 2017.

The Society records a provision related to accounting for uncertainty in income taxes when income tax benefits are recognized for income tax positions taken or expected to be taken in a tax return, only when it is determined that the income tax position will more-likely-than-not be sustained upon examination by taxing authorities. The Society analyzed tax positions taken for filing with the Internal Revenue Service and all state jurisdictions where it operates. The Society believes that income tax filing positions will be sustained upon examination and does not anticipate any adjustments that would result in a material adverse effect on the Society's financial condition, results of operations or cash flows. Accordingly, the Society has not recorded any reserves, or related accruals for interest and penalties for uncertain income tax positions at December 31, 2017.

As of December 31, 2017, the Society was not subject to any examinations by taxing authorities.



International Society for Biological & Environmental Repositories Notes to the Financial Statements

December 31, 2017

1. Nature of Operations and Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)

(k) Concentration of Credit Risk

Financial instruments, which potentially subject the Society to concentrations of credit risk consist principally of cash and cash equivalents, short-term investments and receivables.

The Society maintains cash balances in excess of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) limit. While the amounts in the bank accounts at times may exceed the amount guaranteed by federal agencies, and therefore bear some risk, the Society has not experienced any loss of funds. Uninsured cash balances aggregate approximately \$406,895 at December 31, 2017.

Credit risk with respect to receivables is generally limited as members pay their dues in advance, so the balance is primarily deposits in transit from large banks for credit card payments, US government (IRS receivable) or the Canadian government (GST recoverable). As of December 31, 2017, the Society had no significant concentration of credit risk.

(l) Use of Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

(m) Foreign Currencies

U.S. dollar is determined as the functional currency. Monetary assets and liabilities in foreign currencies are translated into U.S. dollars at the rate of exchange ruling at the balance sheet date. Transactions in foreign currencies are translated into U.S. dollars at the rate of exchange ruling at the date of the transaction. Exchange gains and losses are reported in general and administrative expenses on the statement of activities.



International Society for Biological & Environmental Repositories Notes to the Financial Statements

December 31, 2017

1. Nature of Operations and Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)

(n) Financial Instruments

Financial instruments are classified as level 1, 2 or 3 for the purposes of describing the basis of the inputs used to measure the fair values of financial instruments in the fair value measurement category, as described below:

- Level 1 Quoted prices (unadjusted) in active markets for identical assets or liabilities.
- Level 2 Market-based inputs other than quoted prices that are observable for the asset or liability either directly or indirectly.
- Level 3 Inputs for the asset or liability that are not based on observable market data; assumptions are based on the best internal and external information available and are most suitable and appropriate based on the type of financial instrument being valued in order to establish what the transaction price would have been on the measurement date in an arm's length transaction.

Cost/amortized cost category: cash and cash equivalents and investments are recorded at cost. Gains and losses are recognized in the Statement of Operations upon derecognition or impairment.

2. Investments

The Society's investments include certificates of deposit that bear interest rates ranging from 1.150% to 2.250% and have maturity dates ranging from September 21, 2018 to October 6, 2022.

3. Deferred Revenue

Deferred revenue for the years ended December 31 include the following:

	 2017	2016
Membership fees Annual meeting	\$ 77,201 163,561	\$ 142,563 187,190
	\$ 240,762	\$ 329,753



International Society for Biological & Environmental Repositories Notes to the Financial Statements

December 31, 2017

4. Commitments and Contingencies

The Society enters into agreements with hotels for their annual conference. Hotel agreements are made several years in advance to block rooms and meeting space. Such agreements contain cancellation clauses that increase as the actual date of the annual conference approaches.

The Society has committed to a future annual or regional meeting, where deposits may have been paid, and the contract has potential cancellation fees, which have not been recognized, as follows:

2040	Location	Cancellation fee (U.S. \$)
2018 Regional	Luxembourg Congres (Luxembourg) January 1, 2018 to January 26, 2018 January 27, 2018 to February 11, 2018 February 12, 2018 to February 18, 2018 On or after February 19, 2018	4,796 6,851 10,276 13,702
2018 Regional	Melia Luxembourg (Luxembourg) February 13, 2018 to February 19, 2018 On or after February 20, 2018	13,586 16,982
2018 Annual	Hyatt Regency Dallas (Dallas, Texas) On or after January 1, 2018	306,569
2019 Annual	Oriental Riverside Hotel (Shanghai, China) January 5, 2019 to February 3, 2019 February 4, 2019 to April 4, 2019 On or after April 5, 2019	44,572 111,429 156,001
2019 Regional	Renaissance Minneapolis Hotel (Minneapolis, Minneso January 1, 2018 to May 4, 2019 May 5, 2019 to September 2, 2019 September 3, 2019 to October 2, 2019 On or after October 3, 2019	22,800 45,600 68,400 91,200



International Society for Biological & Environmental Repositories Notes to the Financial Statements

December 31, 2017

5. Related Party Transactions

The Society has entered into a management contract with Malachite Management Inc. ("MMI") to pay management fees of 37% (2016 - 37%) of all of the Society's revenues, including but not limited to the Society's paid membership dues, meeting and event registration fees, meeting exhibitor fees, product and service fees, career centre fees, hotel and other commissions and rebates, and meeting and other sponsorships. The contract expires December 31, 2019 and must be renewed or terminated in writing on or before June 30, 2019.

Conference management fees included:

		2017	2016
Association management fee	\$	142,605	\$ 135,210
2016 Annual meeting (Berlin) 2017 Annual meeting (Toronto) Regional meeting Global Biobank Week CRYO 2017	_	285,708 - 13,000 5,590	239,349 - 56,655 - -
		304,298	296,004
	\$	446,903	\$ 431,214

During the year, the Society incurred \$31,946 (2016 - \$11,396) of cost reimbursements which were paid to MMI. As at December 31, 2017, \$26,650 (2016 - \$9,417) is payable to MMI and the amount has been recorded within accounts payable and accrued liabilities.

6. Subsequent Events

The Society evaluated subsequent events through Board Approval Date which is the date the financial statements were available to be issued. No other events arose during the period that required additional disclosure in these financial statements.





International Society for Biological & Environmental Repositories Schedule of Conference Revenues and Expenses (Unaudited)

For the year ended December 31		2017	2016
Annual conference revenues		277 005	ć 207.272
Registration	\$,	\$ 286,362
Exhibit booths		315,528	275,589
Sponsorship		16,700	30,797
Hotel commission		29,291	29,284
Symposia Social Event		12,000 14,700	11,725
5K fun run/walk		3,840	3,512
		3,640	•
Pre-conference registration	_		9,620
Total conference revenues	_	769,144	646,889
Annual conference expenses			
Audiovisual		58,487	49,380
Abstract		5,070	10,028
Awards		5,049	7,468
Bank and credit card		26,670	18,606
Conference management fees		284,583	239,349
Consulting fees		-	7,500
Delegate materials		2,650	2,962
Final program/abstract book		3,426	6,334
Food and beverage		150,442	130,940
Gala evening		36,513	27,157
Mobile event app		10,165	7,250
Office and miscellaneous		4,552	5,951
Posters, exhibits and signage		11,356	51,143
Promotion and marketing		8,007	3,940
Security		-	1,327
Speaker costs		20,510	28,793
Staff travel		11,518	15,396
Telephone, fax and teleconferences		-	29
Wifi		5,358	-
5K fun run/walk		632	4,917
Total conference expenses		644,988	618,470
Less amounts expensed in prior year		(4,707)	(15,482)
Current conference expenses	\$	640,281	\$ 602,988

Net annual conference revenue for 2017 was \$124,156 (2016 - \$28,419)





INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR BIOLOGICAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL REPOSITORIES



ISBER HEAD OFFICE

750 West Pender Street – Suite 301 Vancouver BC V6C 2T7, Canada T 604.484.5693 • F 604.874.4378

www.isber.org