



## **ISBER Elections Candidate Statement**

### **Director-At-Large: Europe, Middle East, and Africa Region**

#### **Alison Parry-Jones**

As the current ISBER Director-at-Large (DAL) for Europe, the Middle East and Africa (EMEA) it has been my privilege to work on the ISBER Board to represent the region and contribute to the great work being done by members in Committees, Working groups and Special interest groups throughout ISBER.

EMEA is a vast region with varied and sometimes challenging biobanking needs due to geography, culture or funding. To ensure greater representation and input from different areas of the region, I initiated and developed the Regional Ambassador (RA) program as part of my DAL role. This initiative now has six RAs from around the EMEA region as well as RAs in the three other ISBER regions. The program gives the opportunity for the regional voice to be heard and to increase ISBER's scope and range through increased local awareness of the organisation via the RAs. The program is starting to flourish, and I would be honoured to have the opportunity to continue its development and expansion if elected for a further DAL term.

I feel it is important to work closely with other biobanking and similar organisations to ensure the biobanking community is well served without duplication of effort and resources. Each organisation has its own unique strengths and together the biobanking voice is stronger. Identifying potential collaborative opportunities to work with other organisations will help to streamline activity and support a more focused use of ISBER's resources.

Over the coming years, I would like to see ISBER continue to thrive as an organisation and work to further expand its global reach. The international membership has been steadily growing and the organisation has benefited enormously from the increased diversity of members, their knowledge and experiences. I think the organisation has a role to play in mentorship and helping biobankers to prosper, both within their organisations and as new, emerging leaders for ISBER's future. Increasing awareness of ISBER and the availability of the great practical tools and resources it has to offer the biobanking community, especially around education, training and best practices, should be a priority for the organisation.