



**International Society for Biological and Environmental Repositories**

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**For Immediate Release...**

**Marianna J. Bledsoe, MA  
receives the 2012 International Society for Biological and Environmental Repositories  
Distinguished Leadership & Service Award**

**Bethesda, MD – Marianna J. Bledsoe, MA**, is the 2012 recipient of the International Society for Biological and Environmental Repositories (ISBER) Distinguished Leadership & Service Award. This competitive 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. Past awardees include Elaine Gunter, Phil Baird, and Dr. Robert Hewitt. ISBER is proud to announce the addition of Ms. Marianna Bledsoe to this distinguished list.

Ms. Bledsoe is the Senior Program Manager for Biorepositories and Biobanking at the Department of Veterans Affairs, Office of Research and Development. She provides strategic direction and oversight of the VA's tissue banking activities. Prior to this position, she was Deputy Associate Director of the Clinical Research Policy Analysis and Coordination Program in the Office of Science Policy, Office of the Director, National Institutes of Health (NIH). Ms. Bledsoe served as ISBER President from 2007-2008 and established the Special Service Awards for ISBER. She represented ISBER as a founding member of the Forum for International Biobanking Organizations (FIBO) and has served on numerous ISBER committees. Ms. Bledsoe continues to offer her leadership and insights in the realm of biobanking. She was instrumental in planning the 2011 ISBER annual meeting program for Governance Models to Ensure Public Benefit and organized the Return of Research Results: Stakeholder session, which brought together biobankers, ethicists and other stakeholders for a discussion of this important issue. She was a key speaker for the University of Minnesota's Consortium on Law and Values, in Health, Environment and Life Sciences, "Should we Return Research Results and Incidental Findings from Genomic Biobanks and Archives?" that immediately followed the ISBER meeting. In addition, in 2011, Ms. Bledsoe was instrumental in recognizing the need for a forum for discussion of scientific policies affecting biobanking and biospecimen use across the globe. As a result, the ISBER Council created the Science Policy Committee in 2011 with global ISBER member representation.

The International Society for Biological and Environmental Repositories (ISBER) creates opportunities for sharing ideas internationally and harmonizing approaches to evolving challenges in biobanking and repository operation. ISBER fosters collaborations, creates education and training opportunities, and provides an international showcase for state-of-the-art research findings and cutting edge technologies, products and services. Together, these activities promote best practices that cut across the broad range of repositories that ISBER serves. ISBER is a division of the American Society for Investigative Pathology (ASIP), a nonprofit educational organization. For more information visit the ISBER website at [www.isber.org](http://www.isber.org).

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