

BCNetter

Issue No. 10, October 2019



Zisis Kozlakidis and the biobank team at IARC. Photo by Xuexun Zhou

Dear BCNet Members,

September and October are very busy seasons as a number of conferences are held throughout the world, providing us with the opportunity to interact, exchange our experiences and expertise. While the focus in such meetings is often in technical aspects or needs of biobanking, the ability to exchange information across our network gives us strength and a purpose of continued empowerment.

In this BCNetter you will read the excellent initiatives that have taken place, from a seminal ELSI publication by our Egyptian colleagues, to the anniversary meeting in Romania, to the continued success of biobanking in Indonesia and many more.

We are grateful for all of our members' contributions and keen to highlight much needed success stories where possible.

Additionally the BCNet welcomed two new members over the last few months, the Clinica de la Costa from Barranquilla, Colombia; and the Golestan Cancer Biobank from the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The diverse experiences and needs continue to grow and enrich our knowledge. The BCNet has a number of activities planned over the next few months, with a workshop during the AORTIC meeting (November 5-8, 2019) during which Marianne Henderson, Olusegun Alatisé and myself will be presenting on how to 'Maximize the Quality and Use of Samples for Research'.

Lastly, BCNet is in late stage negotiations with ISBER to incorporate all of the BCNet members as ISBER members and thus provide access to additional educational resources online, as well as the community forum, where questions can be asked to global experts.

These are indeed exciting times for BCNet, and the activity will be presented to and reviewed by a meeting of the BCNet partners, to be held provisionally in the first weeks of 2020. We look forward to the continued cooperation of the members and even more successful initiatives in the coming weeks and months.

Zisis Kozlakidis
BCNet Coordinator

“Between molecular pathology and Bioinformatics: Where we stand in the era of Digital pathology” at the Oncology Institute Ion Chiricuta in Cluj Napoca.



Rita Lawlor of ARC-Net, BCNet partner and Ioana Berindan-Neagoe of The Oncology Institute Ion Chiricuta, report on behalf of IARC on the 90th Anniversary workshop

The Oncology Institute "Prof. Dr. Ion Chiricuta" Cluj-Napoca was established in 1929 by Professor Iuliu Moldovan, under the name of "The Institute for Research and Treatment of Cancer", and was one of the first cancer centers in Europe. Since 1990 the Institute bears the name of Professor Ion Chiricuță, in honour of his efforts to establish a facility to integrate patient care and research activities as a comprehensive cancer center offering preventive, curative and palliative medical services in the oncologic domain, as well as research and learning opportunities.

As part of the 90th anniversary celebrations and in respect of the research initiatives of the institute, parallel symposium was held entitled "Pathobiology, biobanking and personalized genomics in the era of precision medicine".

Eighty participants attended the biobanking symposium which was divided into three sessions:

- Introduction: The role of pathobiology and digital pathology in personalized medicine
- First session: New trends in cancer medicine
- Second session: Biobanking
- Third session: Genomics and personalized therapy from bed to bench – the patient model

Among the presentations on biobanking and its role in cancer research, Patriciu Achimas Cadariu Medical Director presented the road of oncology in Clu and the institute experience in patient care and research. Professor Giorgio Stanta, representative of the OEI (Organization of European Cancer Institutes) presented on the role of digital pathology in personalized medicine. Professor Ian Cree, representative of IARC presented on Cancer Classification, and Dr. Rita Lawlor presented on behalf of BC-Net on the advances of the Biobanking Cohort Initiative and on the role of digital advances in Pathology and Research.



What's On ?



November

[ISBER Regional Meeting & Exhibits](#)

Minneapolis, USA

3-5 November 2019

[AORTIC's 12th International Conference on Cancer in Africa: Innovation, Strategies, Implementation](#)

Maputo, Mozambique

5-8 November 2019

December

[Biobanking 2019: International Conference on Stem Cells, Biobanking and Tissue Preservation](#)

Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates

9-10 December 2019

[Pan African Environmental Mutagen and Genomic Society meeting](#)

Cairo, Egypt

21-23 December 2019

Master Biologie Médicale en Afrique de l'Ouest



Depuis plus de 10 ans l'ESTBB pilote une formation à destination des technologistes d'Afrique de l'Ouest pour le renforcement des compétences en biologie médicale.

Cette formation se transforme et devient un Master en Biologie Médicale piloté par l'Université des Sciences, des Techniques et des Technologies de Bamako ([USTTB](#)) en collaboration avec le Centre d'Infectiologie Charles Mérieux, la Fondation Mérieux et [l'ESTBB](#)¹. En 2010, l'ESTBB a lancé la première formation diplômante de niveau Master en biobanking dans le monde. Depuis neuf ans, le Master Management des Biobanques a gagné en notoriété en France et à l'international et depuis, d'autres pays européens ont ouvert leur propre programme. Dans le cadre de leur collaboration avec le Mali pour le Master en Biologie Médicale et leur expertise en formation des biobanquiers, l'ESTBB est en charge de développer et dispenser un module de 50 heures intitulé « Management des biobanques » en utilisant une pédagogie d'enseignement à distance (septembre 2019).

Le module de formation à distance sur le Management des Biobanques a pour objectif de sensibiliser et introduire les acteurs de la santé humaine en Afrique de l'Ouest aux problématiques liées à la collecte et l'utilisation des biospécimens.

Les thématiques abordées sont les suivantes –

- Sciences, management et utilisation des ressources biologiques
- Management des données associées aux ressources biologiques
- Systèmes qualité pour le management de plateforme de ressources biologiques
- Législation, réglementation et éthique se rapportant aux ressources biologiques

Lors du déroulement des modules, une classe virtuelle est mise en place et le temps dédié à chaque thématique délimité. Un tuteur par thématique suit le travail de la classe virtuelle. Des exercices et des autoévaluations sont proposés tout

au long du module. Le module donnera lieu à une évaluation finale organisée à l'USTTB de Bamako.

Le contenu de chaque intervention est construit selon les schémas suivants, adaptés en fonction du contenu délivré :

- Une ou plusieurs vidéos de synthèse de 10 ou 20 mn reprenant le thème à traiter de façon synthétique
- Des documents supports à lire (des fiches de lecture pourront être demandés aux étudiants)
- Des exercices et autoévaluations

Certaines interventions sont assurées par Dr Elodie Caboux, du CIRC.

- [Introduction](#) – cycle de vie des biospécimens
- [Transport des biospécimens](#)
- [BCNet : un réseau de biobanques](#)

¹Ecole Supérieure de Biologie-Biochimie, Biotechnologies, Lyon, France.



Dr Elodie Caboux, IARC

For more information, contact [Dr Elodie Caboux](#), IARC, or [Dr Emmanuelle Gormally](#), Deputy Director, ESTBB

BCNet Member, Banco de Tumores, Instituto Nacional de Cancerología, Mexico, is published in the Journal of The Royal Society of Chemistry 2019



Identification of specific pre-analytical quality control markers in plasma and serum samples.

Dr Luz Maria Ruiz-Godoy and colleagues from the Instituto Nacional de Cancerología in Mexico submitted the manuscript which was accepted in March 2019. The abstract is printed below.

Blood is a liquid connective tissue with a complex composition that supplies oxygen and nutrients to cells.

It is minimally invasive to obtain and can be used in "omics" technologies. Current research regarding blood-based biomarkers has gained considerable attention as a useful tool for diagnostic, therapeutic, and drug development.

However, several research groups have reported controversial results despite using the same analytical platform.

Such discrepancy can be caused by errors made during the pre-analytical phase.

Therefore, quality control of pre-analytical variables is an important factor that could affect the reproducibility and credibility of results. This review discusses the challenge to identify blood quality control markers and describes several molecules that could be potential candidates.

For more information, and to request a pdf of the full article, please contact [Luz Maria Ruz-Godoy](#).

More articles



BMC Medical Ethics: [What Egyptians think. Knowledge, attitude, and opinions of Egyptian patients towards biobanking issues](#)

Two interesting reports from the [PHG Foundation](#).

[Algorithms as medical devices](#)

and

[Regulating algorithms in healthcare: the GDPR and IVDR in practice](#)

Biopreservation & Biobanking: [Advancing Professionalization of Biobank Business Operations: A Worldwide Survey](#)

Biopreservation & Biobanking: [RNA and DNA Integrity Remain Stable in Frozen Tissue After Long-Term Storage at Cryogenic Temperatures: A Report from the Ontario Tumour Bank](#)

See [here](#) for the NCI Summer Curriculum in Cancer Prevention.

See [here](#) for information on the Africa Postdoctoral Training Initiative



The IARC Learning portal is currently being upgraded, so you may be experiencing some difficulties in connecting. As soon as the upgrade is complete, we will be in touch again.

Official opening of the Biobank for Health Research at the Faculty of Medicine, Public Health and Nursign, UGM



Dr Jajah Fachiroh gives an update of the biobank activities in Jogjakarta, Indonesia.

After a year of trialling, the Biobank FK-KMK UGM finally open at FK-KMK UGM and its academic hospital network on August 20th 2019. The Biobank comprises of office space, one laboratory for peripheral blood processing and storage space for -80°C freezers and liquid nitrogen tanks. Three technical staff are employed for day-to-day activities and based on current capacity the biobank is able to hold 130,000 vials which it estimates will be equivalent to 3-4 years of sample collection.

The opening was officiated by the Vice Dean of Research and Development, to coincide with the [Health Research Expo](#), which focussed on big data in health research. The biobank is expected to play an important role in research infrastructure, to ensure the continuation of data collection that useful for health researchers, and interlinks with different research infrastructures in the faculty.

The Biobank at FK-KMK UGM not only provides service for storage with quality, but also works closely with other faculties in the institution as part of a sustainable research mission which includes the development of a hospital based biobank and a cohort biobank.

For more information, please contact [Dr Jajah Fachiroh](#).

A tour of the new facilities



The Vice Dean of Research and Development FK-KMK UGM, Dr Yodhi Mahendradatta and Dr Jajah Fachiroh at the unveiling of the biobank logo.



Group photo with the biobank team and heads of research infrastructures

Common Minimum Technical Standards and Protocols for Biobanks Dedicated to Cancer Research now available in Farsi



Kazem Zendehtdel, MD, PhD is the deputy of research, Cancer Research Center, Cancer Institute of Iran, based at the Tehran University of Medical Sciences.

[Dr Zendehtdel](#) has translated the IARC technical guide into Farsi.

If any other BCNet members are interested in translating the technical guide, please do contact us at bcnet@iarc.fr. It is, however, important to note that we cannot fund this activity.



Who Are We?

BCNet is the Low- and Middle-Income Countries (LMIC) Biobank and Cohort Building Network, which was established in 2013 to provide a platform for collaboration between its members, partners, IARC, and the international community. BCNet aims to support biobanking and cohort-building activities and to develop sustainable infrastructures for the management of high-quality biological samples and data for research, using best practice principles and guidelines.

A new publication about the attitude of Egyptian patients towards biobanking issues



A new article about the attitude of Egyptian patients towards biobanking issues has just been published. The paper entitled "What Egyptians think. Knowledge, attitude, and opinions of Egyptian patients towards biobanking issues" was published in August in the journal BMC Medical Ethics.

The study aimed at evaluating the knowledge, attitude, and opinions of Egyptian patients towards biobanking issues. This was done by means of a survey which was administered to patients coming to the outpatient clinics in three university hospitals in the north, capital and south of Egypt.

The survey highlighted that although there is limited knowledge about biobanking among Egyptian patients, many had a positive attitude towards sample donation and that concerns based on religious beliefs were low.

However, the survey participants did have concerns regarding participation in genetic research as well as with sharing their samples across borders or with pharmaceutical companies. The researchers concluded that further public education about biobanking is possible, taking into consideration the specific cultural and legal framework in Egypt.

The authors included, among others, four BCNet members; Ahmed Samir Abdelhafiz and Merhan Fouda from the Egyptian National Cancer Institute, Douaa Sayed from South Egypt Cancer Institute, and Rania Labib from Children Cancer hospital Egypt 57357.

The article is available for free through the following link

<https://bmcmethics.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s12910-019-0394-6>

For further information, please contact [Dr Ahmed Samir Abdelhafiz](#)

Did you know that IARC produces a newsletter?

If you wish to subscribe, you can do so [here](#).

You can also find out a lot more about IARC's activities on the [website](#).

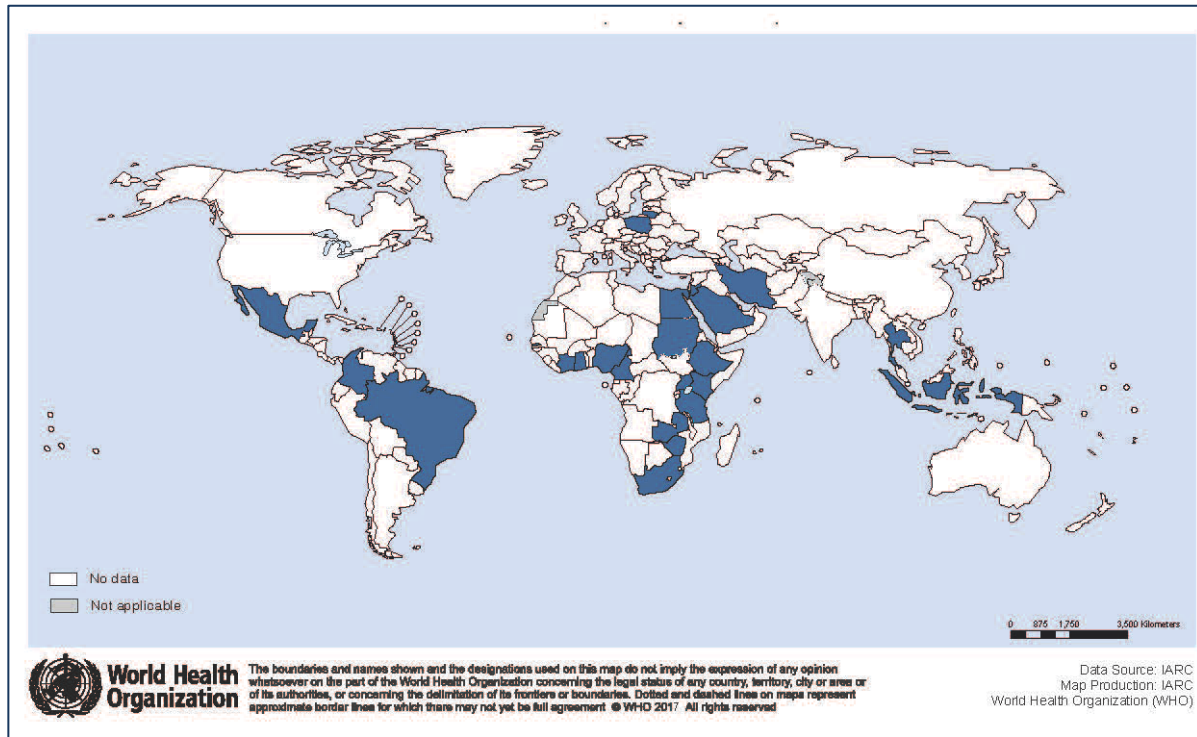
If you have news you wish to share with us, or with your fellow BCNet members, please don't hesitate to get in touch: bcnet@iarc.fr

Don't forget that the BCNet has a website.

bcnet@iarc.fr

Please do get in touch if you have suggestions/ or comments on the content or layout.

BCNet Members



BRAZIL: Barretos Cancer Hospital; **CAMEROON:** Faculty of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, Université de Yaoundé; Université des Montagnes; **COLOMBIA:** Clinica de la Costa Ltda; **CÔTE D’IVOIRE:** Institut Pasteur de Côte d’Ivoire; **EGYPT:** Children’s Cancer Hospital Egypt – 57357, Faculty of Medicine Cairo University, Medical Research Institute Ain Shams University, Medical Research Institute Alexandria University, National Cancer Institute, National Liver Institute, South Egypt Cancer Institute Assiut University; **ETHIOPIA:** Jigjiga University; **GHANA:** Breast Care International, University of Health and Allied Sciences; **INDONESIA:** Faculty of Medicine Universitas Gadjah Mada; **IRAN:** Golestan Cancer Biobank; **JORDAN:** King Hussein Cancer Center Biobank; **KENYA:** Ampath Reference Laboratory; **LITHUANIA:** National Cancer Institute; **MEXICO:** Instituto Nacional de Cancerología; **NIGERIA:** College of Medicine University of Ibadan, Obafemi Awolowo University Teaching Hospitals Complex; **POLAND:** Biobank Lab Department of Molecular Biophysics University of Lodz, Wrocław Research Centre EIT+ Biobank; **SOUTH AFRICA:** National Health Laboratory Service (NHLS), NHLS/Stellenbosch University Biobank; **SUDAN:** Radio-Isotope Centre Khartoum; **THAILAND:** National Cancer Institute; **THE GAMBIA:** Medical Research Council (MRC) The Gambia Unit, MRC International Nutrition Group; **UGANDA:** Makerere University College of Health Sciences; **UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA:** Kilimanjaro Clinical Research Institute; **ZAMBIA:** Centre for Infectious Disease Research in Zambia; **ZIMBABWE:** African Institute of Biomedical Science & Technology; University of Zimbabwe College of Health Sciences.

BCNet Partners



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