

# Global Biobank Week: Toward Harmony in Biobanking

13-15 September 2017, Stockholm, Sweden



**BBMRI-ERIC<sup>1</sup>, ESBB<sup>2</sup> and ISBER<sup>3</sup>** are joining forces for the first Global Biobank Week which will take place from 13 to 15 September 2017 in Stockholm, Sweden. The theme of the congress is harmonization of biobanking activities around the world. This forum provides a global platform for comprehensive discussion and collaboration on activities important for biobanking and biopreservation of samples and data for biological and environmental research to improve health care and decrease the burden of disease worldwide.

This conference will bring together biobanking experts, scientists, policy makers and patient representatives to discuss the future challenges for biobanking, such as global harmonization, best practices, reproducibility of data from specimen research, donors rights and public trust as well as environmental issues, and will enhance efforts to foster international collaboration.

The Global Biobank Week is expected to attract around 1000 participants from all over the world representing the wide variety of stakeholders in biobanking. Biobanking has evolved into a dynamic and complex activity worldwide. This new age of global collaboration and integration will allow focus on areas ripe for discovery and novel innovation that are capable of driving future research and discovery.

*"I am very happy to have the chance to work with both ESBB and ISBER to deliver the first edition of Global Biobank Week in Stockholm, my home city. The aim is to make it a world's leading conference in biobanking. The theme of the conference, harmonization, is particularly topical as biobanks are gaining increasing recognition as crucial infrastructure for research and a tool for personalised medicine. There is still a lot to do however, with widely varied practices in biobanking and to steer the community towards homogenous practices on privacy and data protection issues."*

- Prof Jan-Eric Litton, Director-General of BBMRI-ERIC

*"ESBB is pleased to announce the 2017 annual biobank meeting to be hosted in Stockholm in Sweden, for the first time a joint initiative involving BBMRI and ISBER. The Global Biobank Week will provide a forum to enhance coherent policy and partnerships and to foster harmonization into diverse fields of biopreservation and biobanking across countries and nations within the international framework."*

-Prof Elke Smits, President ESBB

*"ISBER's role as a leading global forum which promotes harmonized high quality standards, ethical principles, and innovation in the science and management of biorepositories will be enhanced by this important collaboration with BBMRI –ERIC and ESBB in the first Global Biobank Week."*

- Prof Brent Schacter, President ISBER

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<sup>1</sup> **Biobanking and BioMolecular resources Research Infrastructure - European Research Infrastructure Consortium (BBMRI-ERIC)**

<sup>2</sup> **European, Middle Eastern and African Society for Biopreservation and Biobanking (ESBB)**

<sup>3</sup> **International Society for Biological and Environmental Repositories (ISBER)**

Registration and more information: [www.globalbiobankweek.org](http://www.globalbiobankweek.org)

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Notes to editors:

### **Biobanking and BioMolecular resources Research Infrastructure - European Research Infrastructure Consortium (BBMRI-ERIC)**

BBMRI-ERIC ([www.bbmri-eric.eu](http://www.bbmri-eric.eu)) is an international organization established under EU law, facilitating access to biological resources as well as biomedical facilities. Nineteen European Member States and one International Organisation (IARC) have joined forces in establishing BBMRI-ERIC. BBMRI-ERIC relies on a close collaboration between researchers, biobankers, patient advocacy groups, and the pharmaceutical and biotech industry. The specific legal form of an ERIC is designed to facilitate the joint establishment and operation of research infrastructures of European interest in the European Research Area (ERA). BBMRI-ERIC offers to use its organisation involving numerous stakeholders throughout Europe to reach this aim. Especially, in order to reach well-balanced and secure procedures for handling health data, the opinions of all concerned stakeholders have to be taken into account. Countries outside EU can also join BBMRI-ERIC.

**More information:** <https://www.bbmri-eric.eu>

### **European, Middle Eastern and African Society for Biopreservation and Biobanking (ESBB)**

ESBB ([www.esbb.org](http://www.esbb.org)) is a society for people involved in the collection and storage of biological materials from all species. ESBB's mission is to advance the field of biobanking in support of research relating to healthcare, agriculture and the environment. Through annual conferences and other activities, ESBB provides a platform for dissemination of knowledge and discussion of issues, and through its working groups it unites members in problem solving activities. ESBB's focus of interest is on Europe, the Middle East and Africa.

## **International Society for Biological and Environmental Repositories (ISBER)**

ISBER ([www.isber.org](http://www.isber.org)) 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 fosters collaboration, creates education and training opportunities, provides an international showcase for state-of-the-art policies, processes, and research findings, and innovative technologies, products, and services. Together, these activities promote best practices that cut across the broad range of repositories that ISBER serves.