

BIO-BABBLE



Newsletter of the Australasian Biospecimen Network Association

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2022 CONFERENCE APP

This year ABNA Biobanking – Blue Sky Horizons will be going, umm, green!...

Instead of a printed handbook, conference delegates will be able to use the Currinda App to navigate the session schedule, access invited speaker abstracts and biographies, submitted abstracts, peruse the sponsors and more! To maximise your networking experience, we also encourage all our delegates to update their own biographies and photos in Currinda which will be displayed in the conference delegate list.

No smart phone? No problem! There is also a mobile site you can access from your tablet or laptop. Wi-Fi will be available to all delegates at the venue ensuring ease of access to the mobile site [HERE](#). The mobile site also allows you to link directly to Twitter! – #ABNA2022Perth.

For those who like to plan, you can mark your favourite abstracts or posters that you'd like to revisit in break times, make your own notes (which you can email to yourself from the mobile site) or simply give the author or presenter a thumbs up.

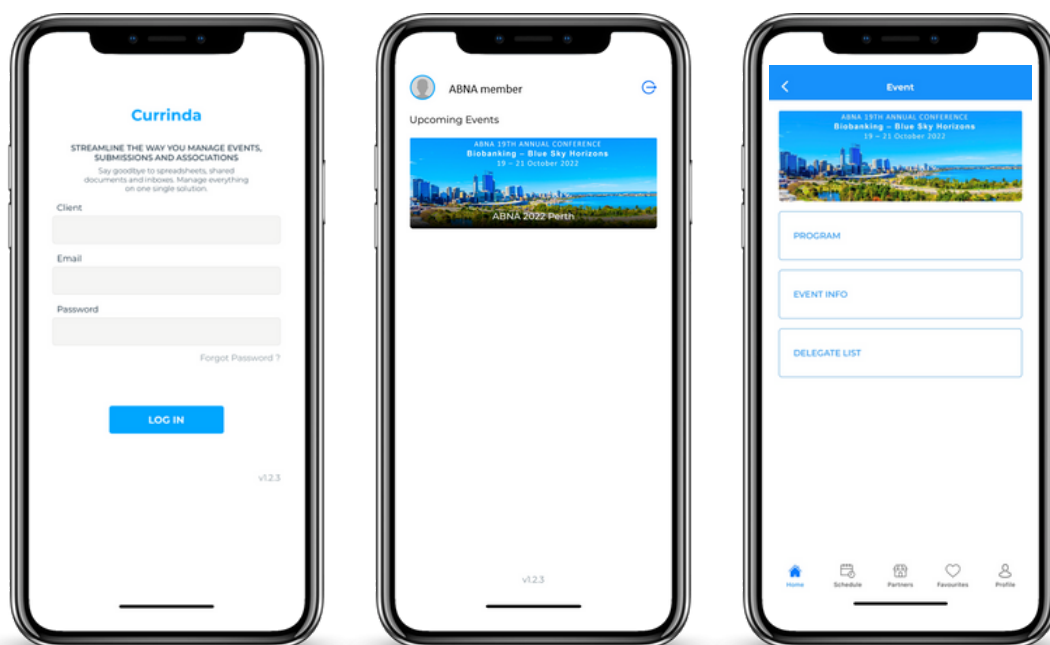
Both the app and the mobile site are now live and being updated with information as it comes to hand.

Currinda App details

Client: ABNA

Email: The address linked to your registration

Available for Android and Apple.



1. Currinda log in page

2. Press ABNA banner to enter

3. Navigate using bottom menu and the list

5 MIN WITH A BIOBANKER

We approach a different professional in the biobanking arena with the same five questions each month.



Karena Pryce is the Westmead Biobank Manager and the first Australian biobanker to complete the ISBER Qualification in Biorepository Science.

THE QUICK QUESTIONS

Tea or Coffee? Coffee

Cats or Dogs? Both

Coriander? No, no, no!

Star Trek or Star Wars? Star Wars

1. How long have you been working in biobanking?

8+ years

2. What has been the biggest biobanking challenge you have faced in your career so far?

One of the biggest challenges was implementing a LIMS system during the COVID 19 pandemic. The LIMS that was being installed required a fair bit of customization due to the complexity of the data being stored and the requirements from the team. Having to do all the workshops and changes via zoom bought the challenge to a new level. We worked with a great technical team who had a lot of patience when we kept adding and changing things.

3. What are you excited about that is happening in your biobank/what is your biobank doing that is new and innovative?

Getting the Automated LN2 sample storage, Askion C-Line, up and running to be able to offer exceptional storage options. It is the only one in Australia.

4. What is your one wish as a biobanker?

That biospecimens stored are utilised across the biobanking network to improve health research, make a difference and to spark more collaborations.

5. Three words that best describe your biobanking career:

Challenging, enlightening and evolving

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Thank you to all our conference sponsors, we look forward to welcoming everyone to Perth in October.

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HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW THE UK BIOBANK?



Following the death of Queen Elizabeth II our daily media has been saturated with British footage, both historical and current. As many Australians have been heavily engaged in UK events the Biobabble team felt it fitting to continue the trend and place a spotlight on the UK Biobank – a juggernaut biobank with some breaking news of it's own!

Not Familiar with the UK Biobank?

The UK Biobank is a large-scale biomedical database and research resource established to enable novel scientific discovery and to improve public health globally. The resource provides access to medical and genetic data from half a million participants, many of whom consent to longitudinal protocols!

Improving the world's health is complex, which is why UK Biobank fosters collaboration between experts from academia, industry, charity, and government to support advances in health research – UK Biobank Spokesperson

The UK Biobank emphasises the importance of global collaboration with over 80% of applications to use the research resource coming from international researchers!

The UK Biobank also encourages all researchers using its data, to share findings by publishing in open access scientific journals and requires return of results post publication to ensure distribution and testing of findings.



Photo Credit: <https://www.ukbiobank.ac.uk/>

Easy Access to BIG data!

Over the next 5 years, the UK Biobank database is expected to grow up to 15 petabytes which is equivalent to the amount of data created annually by the Large Hadron Collider!! To minimise the need for extensive local storage for download, which is inherently limiting for researchers in low-middle income countries, the expansion will employ a new approach that ensures that all researchers can engage with the data. Access to these data will remain, at all times, subject to the UK Biobank's own non-discriminatory and transparent access procedures and protocols. By developing its own cloud-based Data Analysis Platform, UK Biobank will enable researchers to analyse data on the platform, enabling quicker processing times and reduced storage needs at much lower cost.

Breaking News: Expansions to the Worlds Largest Longitudinal Imaging Dataset!

Last week it was announced that through a joint initiative funded by Calico, the Chan Zuckerberg Initiative, UK Biobank and the UK Medical Research Council, a £30m project capturing repeat high detailed, multi-organ images from a cohort would be developed following the foundational work commenced in 2014. As a baseline project, with MRI data from over 50,000 participants, the collection is the largest dataset of its kind in the world. Phase 2 will see both an expansion of participant numbers as well as further repeat scans that are intended to enable a better understanding of the trajectory of major chronic diseases and allow assessment of changes in physiology over time. The primary focus will be on cardiac imaging, abdominal, brain and bone density imaging as well as ultrasound scanning of carotid arteries.

Longitudinal imaging from the UK Biobank has already yielded novel findings in the field of COVID-19 research, with recent studies identifying short-term changes in the brain following COVID-19 infection.



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Deadline: November 7

 **isber** **2023** **MAY 3-6**
SEATTLE, USA
Annual Meeting
An In-Person & Virtual Hybrid Meeting | www.isber.org

If you have any suggestions for a short article for Bio-Babble, please contact: abna.biobabble@gmail.com
Content deadline for October edition: 21.10.22



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