

BCNet training at IARC, 3-5 November 2015

The International Agency for Research on Cancer recently organised and hosted the first BCNet training workshop, in Lyon from 3 – 5 November 2015.

The IARC *Biobank and Cohort building Network* (BCNet) has created an opportunity for LMICs to work together in a coordinated and effective manner and jointly address the shortfalls in biobanking infrastructure and other shared challenges including, ethical, legal, and societal issues.

In collaboration with US NCI-Centre for Global Health (US NCI-CGH), BBMRI-ERIC, BBMRI.se and other international societies and organizations, BCNet will promote cancer control in LMICs through educational and methodological support towards building and developing sustainable research infrastructures for cohorts and biobanking facilities.

Following a survey of BCNet member institutions a three-tiered training program was devised which includes: i) online training; ii) in-person training at IARC and iii) in-country training between network members.

The on-line training, which was provided by IARC, in partnership with CTRNet and ISBER, gave BCNet members access to an online training course on basic biobanking (including a pre- and a post-test to measure knowledge gained).

The first in-person training was held at IARC, Lyon from 3-5 November 2015. A total of 25 participants from 16 low and middle income countries attended, including biobank managers and technicians, pathologists, biologists and medical researchers. IARC, together with 11 partners including US NCI-CGH, BBMRI-ERIC, BBMRI.se, P3G, CGP and UKCRC Tissue Directory and Coordination Centre, conducted the lectures and shared experiences with BCNet members.

The program covered the key aspects of biobanking and included discussion on documented country-specific biobanking challenges presented by each member organization in posters and group discussions and “real world” examples focussing on country-specific rules/regulations/laws that govern biobanking in research and clinical settings.

The feedback and recommendations from the 1st training program has provided information for the development of BCNet-specific modules for more detailed online training.

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