

Speaker Profiles: Biobanking Development Webinar

Genomics and biobanking – a perfect match

9 November 2023 from 14:30 - 16:00 CET

Moderator: Saba Abdulghani

Dr. Saba Abdulghani (female), B.Eng, PhD has been the Head of Biobanking Development at BBMRI-ERIC since October 2022, where she is responsible for supporting the biobanking community of BBMRI in developing and sustaining their operations to fully leverage accelerated sample and data exchange, and to establish relationships with industry and academia within the Stakeholder Forum at BBMRI-ERIC. Prior to that, she was the coordinator of the CHAIN Biobank at NOVA Medical School in Lisbon. Dr Abdulghani holds a Bachelor of Engineering (in Biomaterials) and a PhD in Orthopaedic Biomaterials from Queen Mary University of London, UK. Her first post-doctoral position as a Marie Curie Fellow was carried out at the Orthopaedics department of Lund University Hospital in Sweden where she focused her research on orthopaedics applications. Since 2008, Dr Abdulghani has focused her research on investigating the nano-structural properties of osteoporotic bone (in an animal model) where she was awarded the European Calcified Tissue Society award for her research at the rheumatology research unit at Instituto de Medicina Molecular (IMM) in Portugal using state of the art synchrotron techniques. This research was then expanded to study osteoporosis in early and post-menopausal women using state of the art synchrotron techniques at ALBA Synchrotron in Barcelona, Spain. Dr. Abdulghani has presented her work in international scientific conferences over the past twenty years with various peer-reviewed publications, project coordination, student supervision and as an invited lecturer on the doctoral program for clinical research-biobanking at Nova Medical School in Lisbon.

Speaker: Samuel Kroll

Samuel did his PhD and PostDoc at the Max-Planck Institute for Plant Breeding research in Cologne, focusing on Microbiome and Plant Genetics. Before starting with Illumina, Samuel worked at QIAGEN as a Genomics Application Specialist where he supported the entire NGS portfolio across DACH. Now at Illumina, he works as a business development manager, being responsible for larger NGS projects that aim to utilize novel NGS solutions across Europe for biomarker discovery and clinical implementation.

Speaker: Eva Ortega Paíno

Eva Ortega Paíno, Scientific Director of the CNIO Biobank, has 30 years of experience between the Health Sector, the University and the Biotech Industry, mainly in the area of oncology and immunology. Eva Ortega-Paíno holds a PhD in Chemistry (specializing in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology) from the Complutense University of Madrid. She developed her doctoral thesis work at the Ramón y Cajal Hospital (Immunology Service) on tumour inhibitors, studying the role of proteins in the proliferation and cell growth of chemically induced "solid" tumours in mice. As a postdoctoral researcher, Eva landed at the University of Lund (Sweden) in the department of Immunotechnology, pioneering in RNAi and transfection of tumour cells in suspension. In 2008, she spent almost two years in Oslo (Norway) in a biotechnology company in the production of recombinant antibodies for therapeutics. In the last 9 years in Sweden, her field was focused on scientific management working as a scientific coordinator in Biobanking for BBMRI Sweden (Biobanking and molecular Resource

Infrastructure of Sweden), as well as project manager in a Swedish national initiative of strategic innovation programs, Swelife, funded by Vinnova.

In 2019, she returned to Spain and took up the direction of the CNIO Biobank, and in 2021 was appointed coordinator of the biobanks area within the national platform of Biobanks and Biomodels of the Carlos III Institute of Health, scientific coordinator of the National Node in BBMRI-ERIC, as well as Director of Management of the National Network of Brain Metastasis (RENACER). Recently, she joined the Science, Technology and Innovation Advisory Council (CACTI) of the Ministry of Science and Innovation, the body for the participation of the scientific and technological community in matters related to science, technology, and innovation, where members of the scientific and technological community of recognized international prestige are represented. She is vice-president of the Society of Spanish Scientists in Sweden (ACES), president of the CRE (Council of Spanish Residents 2017-2019), as well as being the councillor for Sweden in the CGCEE (General Council of Spanish Citizenship Abroad for the VII mandate). She is also currently an alternate member of the Network of Associations of Spanish Researchers and Scientists Abroad (RAICEX) for the VIII mandate (2022-). In, 2019, she also assumed the position of secretary general.

Speaker: Vita Rovite

Vita Rovite has been head of the Latvian National Biobank - Genome Database of Latvian population since 2016. She is also involved in [BBMRI.LV](https://www.bbmri-eric.eu/en/activities/latvia) activities ensuring communication of National Node of Latvia with biobanking institutions in Latvia, organizing local conferences and seminars and introducing BBMRI-ERIC activities at the national level. Vita Rovite has been BBMRI Latvia's National Node Director since 2021. She has been actively participating in the working group for the development of biobanking law in Latvia and is also a participant of BBMRI-ERIC quality management working groups. In addition to biobanking activities, Vita Rovite is a molecular biologist with experience in functional genomic studies in the fields of neuroendocrine tumours and autoimmune diseases. She is currently the leader of several research projects in this research field.