

BCNet Update

No. 1, March 2015

EDUCATION AND TRAINING PROGRAM

The Education and Training Working Group conducted a survey of the current 30 member institutions for their biobank status, expertise and educational needs. From the conclusion of the survey analysis and further discussion within the Working Groups, several programs are in development with a recommendation of a three-tiered approach to building sustainable biobanking knowledge in the member countries. The goal is to leverage the current expertise in sample management and biobanking in the networked institutions and provide training for information that is lacking or requires updating to support robust knowledge gain in the basics of biobanking, best practices for sample collection, processing and storage, quality control and assurance, information technology, ethic and legal issues.

Three Tiered Proposal:

1) Online Training

Members will have access to online training that will be available 24/7 from the BCNet member portal (www.bcnet.iarc.fr). The primary training will consist of an overview of the basics of biobanking. Each staff member of the institution's biobank will take this training, which includes a pre- and a post-test to measure knowledge gained. Additional tailored training modules will be created that are specific to biobanking in LMI countries (see below).

Documenting country specific challenges to Biobanking: Each member organization will provide their country specific rules/regulations/laws that govern biobanking (research and clinical, as applicable) to the BCNet coordinator. Each organization will also be required to provide several "real world" examples of biobanking needs/issues from their specific activities. These scenarios would be used to create BCNet-specific modules for more detailed online training in the areas of biobank operations, quality control/quality assurance, sample collection and processing, information technology and ethical and legal issues applicable to sharing of biospecimens.

Current status: IARC is in negotiations with the Canadian Tumor Repository Network (<http://education.ctrnet.ca/>) to adopt their training modules as the basis of the web content for BCNet. The modules will be modified to provide content specific Biobanking training for LMICs.

2) Initial In-Person Training at IARC

The member organizations will nominate participants from their institution to be trained during the initial in-person training at IARC, in Lyon, France. The nominees should be directly involved in sample management and biobank operations at the member institution. This training will be a 2 day program and will be recorded and made available on the BCNet member portal.

Current status: Training goals, objectives and metrics for the training are in development and trainers will be from the BCNet community or recruited from non-BCNet members if necessary. The target date is Mid-November 2015.

In-Country Training between Network Members

With BCNet support, member organizations with more advanced facilities and infrastructure will host other member institution staff for in-country training at their home institutions and biobanks. The workshops will center around the expertise that the host institution is known and will help create expert centers among the network members, building sustainable connections, knowledge and trust within the network.

Important Action point: Each WG subcommittee (IT/LIMS, Quality and ELSI) is kindly ask to create their action plans on this document framework to assist the E&T committee to develop the training modules. Please submit your contribution to Marianne Henderson and Maimuna Mendy by 1st April 2015.

IT LIMS

The IT Working Group review of Open Software LIMS is almost complete and a number of different software packages have been reviewed and assessed, the WG is preparing its recommendation to the Advisory committee for approval and adoption. The recommended system will be piloted by one BCNet member institutions (or 2 depending on funding). This will be a competitive process and priority will be given to institutions that do not already have a biobank LIMS to archive and monitor biological samples/data, but have established local IT systems with experienced personnel in house to support the maintenance and management of the product.

CATALOGUE

The BCNet Catalogue is progressing well. A server has been setup for the test environment. The software platform has been installed and tested. A prototype of the catalogue is online with the implementation of:

- User management: access control, authentication, roles, groups
- Biobank component: creation, updating and searching for the different roles

Sample Collection and Sample components are being developed but are not published yet.

BCNet WEBSITE

The IARC coordinating team has recently been joined by a Data Manager (Ny Haingo Andrianarisoa). As a result, the BCNet website will be more regularly updated with information and news. Please send any news that you would like to share with the BCNet community.