



## **ISBER REGIONS**

### **PREAMBLE**

ISBER is an international Society, governed by a Board of Directors elected by its membership. ISBER has a Head Office which is run by a management services company for day to day Society business. ISBER aspires to become truly global, meaning that all Regions of the world will have equal representation in the governance of the Society and will contribute to the development and implementation of the Society's strategy. Within ISBER there are Regions and ISBER exists and functions through its Regions. The intent of this Charter is to define the principles of the organization of the ISBER Regions. All Regions will be bound to ISBER through this Charter which is substantially identical for each Region, with minor adaptations to conform to local circumstances.

### **Name**

Following the decision of the ISBER Board of Directors in October 2013, the Regions will be the Americas, Europe-Middle East-Africa, China, and Indo-Pacific Rim. The name of an ISBER Region shall be "x Region of ISBER", "x" standing for each of the abovementioned Regions. A Region shall be referred to as the "x Region" and ISBER shall be referred to as the "Society".

### **Purpose and Objectives**

The purpose of the ISBER Regions is to share ideas and innovations in biobanking in the Region and to actively participate in the harmonization of approaches to evolving challenges for biological and environmental repositories. To this end, each ISBER Region shall promote the profession of biobanking and advance biobanking practice through advocacy, education, communication and fellowship in the Region.

The objective of the ISBER Regions is to construct Regional identity in a global Society. Identity building implies featuring what is specific for the Region and its members (e.g. sets of regulations, cultures and languages represented within the Region). On the other hand, biospecimen technicalities and usage are anchored in universal scientific knowledge, globally available equipment and consumables, and constitute the object of the "global Society" belonging to which is a crucial feature of the Region's identity as an international actor. The Region's identity as an international participant and as part of an international Society shows the Region's global commitments.

### **Territory**

The territory of the Regions, as determined by the ISBER Board of Directors in October 2013 shall be: the Americas, Europe-Middle East-Africa, China, and Indo-Pacific Rim. Changes in the territorial limits of the Regions (or addition of new Regions) shall be the decision of the ISBER Board of Directors.

### **Membership**

Membership in the Region shall be consistent with the categories of membership authorized by the Society. ISBER members shall be members of the Regions according to primary mailing address – including the Americas, Europe-Middle East-Africa, China, and Indo-Pacific Rim. ISBER members who are not within one of these Regions will be identified as 'Rest of World', although this designation will not have recognition as an official Region.

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## **Governance**

Per the ISBER Bylaws, the Society shall be administered by a Board of Directors composed of the elected global Society Officers (President, Past President, President Elect, Secretary, Treasurer) and one at-large voting director from each Region, for a total of 4 Directors-at-Large and 9 total Board members. ISBER members from each Region will be responsible for electing the Director-at-Large from their Region. The ISBER Nominating Committee will be responsible for ensuring that Regions are represented on the Board appropriately, as outlined above.

The Regional Director-at-Large shall propose to the Board an annual regional budget, association agreements and co-marketing agreements with other local societies, and an annual regional operating plan, including meetings, working groups, workshops, regional representations, etc., for approval.

## **Voting and Leadership**

ISBER members assigned to Regions shall have the right to vote in ISBER regional elections for the Regional Director-at-Large, in ISBER global elections for the Board of Directors, and on any other matters requiring a vote by the ISBER membership. ISBER members in good standing may hold any office in the Society and serve on Society Committees.

## **Management**

The executive management of the activities of the Regions, including accounting, logistics of conferences, forum, website, shall be undertaken by ISBER Head Office.

## **Funds**

The Regional Director-at-Large shall propose to the Board an annual regional budget.

All membership fees will be collected by ISBER Society, consistent with the categories of membership authorized by the Society. All other financials within the Regions, including regional meetings and corporate partnership funds, shall be part of the ISBER funds and managed by ISBER Head Office. A Region can apply for project-based funding with assistance by the ISBER Head Office per regional regulations, as approved by the ISBER Treasurer. Normal business checks and balances such as independent approvals for invoices and an annual financial audit shall be applied.

## **SOPs**

All ISBER members, including those assigned to Regions, shall comply with the ISBER SOPs unless otherwise specified.

## **Committees and Working Groups**

ISBER has central standing Committees, which are established for the Society as a whole: Executive Committee, Audit and Finance Committee, Governance Committee, Compensation and Performance Review Committee, Publications Advisory Committee, Working Group Oversight Committee, and Organizing Committee. ISBER central Committees will include members from all Regions, as feasible.

The Scientific Program Advisory Committee will be led by the Region in which the Society's Annual Meeting takes place. Leadership will be elected by the Board of Directors and Regional Director-at-Large.

A Regional Nominating Committee will be responsible for electing the Regional Director-at-Large.

ISBER Working Groups will be composed of members from all Regions, as feasible. Regions can establish Regional Working Groups, when specific regional issues are at stake. .

## Meetings

Meetings of the Society are managed according to the Bylaws. The Society shall have a global Annual Meeting in one of the Regions. Regions can organize regional meetings at times and places determined by the Regional Director-at-Large and the Board of Directors. There will not be a regional meeting in the year when the global annual meeting takes place in that Region.

## CONCLUSIONS

The global ISBER exists through the Regions. Therefore, ISBER COMMITS TO:

- Modify and maintain its Bylaws and policies to provide the framework for a regional organization
- Ensure regional individuality
- Ensure regional participation in the Society governance
- Maintain the Society as a coordinated, cohesive whole
- Maintain overall control and protection of the integrity of the Society's services and brand

Rights of the Regions:

- Represent the Region in the Society governance via representation of one Director-at-Large per Region
- Use the Society name and brand, following established ISBER policies
- Participate in Society governance
- Develop and implement regional structures, governance, programs, procedures
- Obtain project-based funding with assistance by the ISBER Head Office per regional regulations
- Organize regional meetings, beyond the global annual ISBER meeting
- Develop curricula for the benefit of regional members

Responsibilities of the Regions:

- Promote ISBER international activities, education and materials, including but not limited to ISBER Best Practices
- Follow ISBER Bylaws and procedures
- Adhere to the rules related to the use of the ISBER's name and brand
- Contribute to the global activities

We aspire to an ISBER that is a strong and respected voice in the world of biobanking, speaking out on major issues related to biobanks; that strengthens and enlarges its regional and international networks; that has a global relevance and profile; that is devoted to improving the practices of all people handling and using biospecimens for research.

**Figure 1: Regional Identity**

