



International Society for Biological and Environmental Repositories

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For Immediate Release...

Robert Hewitt, MBBS, PhD
receives the 2012 International Society for Biological and Environmental Repositories
Outstanding Achievement in Biobanking Award Sponsored by Taylor-Wharton

Bethesda, MD – Robert Hewitt, MBBS, PhD is the 2012 recipient of the International Society for Biological and Environmental Repositories (ISBER) Outstanding Achievement in Biobanking Award sponsored by Taylor-Wharton. This competitive award is sponsored for the first time this year by Taylor-Wharton, and recognizes individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the field of biobanking. Past awardees include Dr. Kurt Zatloukal and Dr. Carolyn Compton. ISBER is proud to announce the addition of Dr. Robert Hewitt to this distinguished list.

Dr. Hewitt is currently Executive Officer of the European, Middle Eastern and African Society for Biopreservation and Biobanking (ESBB). Dr. Hewitt received a BSc (Hons) in Immunology and Microbiology from the University of London in 1980, a medical degree (MBBS) from the University of London in 1983, and a PhD in virology from the University of Glasgow in 1988. He worked in the Department of Histopathology, Queen's Medical Centre, Nottingham from 1988-1994, studied in the Laboratory of Pathology at the National Cancer Institute, Bethesda, MD, USA from 1994-1998, then moved back to London (1998-2000) Hammersmith Hospital Imperial College School of Medicine, where he worked with Gordon Stamp and El-Nasir Lalani to establish the Human Biomaterials Resource Centre (HBRC), a biobank with collaborative links to various pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies. He followed that with a year's stay to establish a new biobank at the King Faisal Specialist Hospital, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. Dr. Hewitt moved to Singapore, where from 2002 to 2009 he was a Senior Scientist and established a new tissue repository that became a leading participant in the Singapore Tissue Network (STN). Dr. Hewitt also established a closely linked hospital-based cancer registry running on North American guidelines (NAACCR) and obtained multiple grants from the Singapore Cancer Syndicate (SCS). He established collaborations with a number of biotechnology companies and hosted the 2007 ISBER annual meeting in Singapore, which was the first meeting of the Society in Asia. Dr. Hewitt was elected ISBER President for 2008-2009. He was the first non-US ISBER president. During his year as President he created several new committees, promoted creation of the Asian affiliation and ensured that ISBER join the Forum for International Biobanking Organizations (FIBO), which he co-founded. He is the European Editor of *Biopreservation and Biobanking* (ISBER Official Journal) and serves on several ISBER committees. Last but not least, during the last 2 years he has formed the European, Middle-Eastern and African Society for *Biopreservation and Biobanking* (ESBB), of which he is serving as the Executive Officer and which has become an official Chapter of ISBER.

The **International Society for Biological and Environmental Repositories (ISBER)** creates opportunities for sharing ideas internationally and harmonizing approaches to evolving challenges in biobanking and repository operation. ISBER fosters collaborations, creates education and training opportunities, and provides an international showcase for state-of-the-art research findings and cutting edge technologies, products, and services. Together, these activities promote best practices that cut across the broad range of repositories that ISBER serves. ISBER is a division of the American Society for Investigative Pathology (ASIP), a nonprofit educational organization. For more information visit the ISBER website at www.isber.org.

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