



International Society for Biological and Environmental Repositories

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For Immediate Release...

**Fay Betsou, PhD, HDR
is elected 2012-2013 President-Elect of the
International Society for Biological and Environmental Repositories**

Bethesda, MD – Fay Betsou, PhD, HDR, has been elected to serve as President-Elect of the International Society for Biological and Environmental Repositories (ISBER) in 2012-2013. ISBER is governed through a nine-member Council, reflecting the entire membership with global representation from government, academia, and private industry. Dr. Betsou will take over the duties as ISBER President at the ISBER 2013 Annual Meeting in Sydney, Australia, on May 5-8, 2013.

Dr. Betsou is currently the Chief of Biospecimen Science at the Integrated Biobank of Luxembourg. She holds a PhD in molecular microbiology and Research Direction Authorization in immunopathophysiology and molecular diagnostics, as well as biostatistics. Dr. Betsou's biobanking interests include biospecimen science, quality assurance, and quality control. Her professional activities (ISBER and other) include: ISBER Councilor 2008-2011, ISBER Education and Training Committee member; ISBER Biospecimen Science Working Group Chair; ISBER Proficiency Testing Advisory Group Chair; CLSI contributor; BBMRI.se SAB member; FP7 STORE partner; University of Luxembourg, Associate Professor in Biobanking (University Certificate on "Principles of biobanking for clinical, biological and environmental biospecimens and bioresources"). Dr. Betsou has also served on the editorial Board for *Biopreservation and Biobanking*, (the official journal of ISBER).

According to Dr. Betsou, after starting her scientific career in the environmental sector, she has "seen the value of transdisciplinarity as a powerful driver of scientific progress in general and as an opportunity for us to develop the impact of ISBER as an organization." Dr. Betsou wants to "reinforce the scientific character of ISBER (e.g., scientific publications, grant applications, biobank accreditation)." She plans to promote ongoing initiatives, including the Certified Repository Technician program and the Proficiency Testing program, and will work with the Asian Network of Research Resource Centers (ANRRC) and the European Middle Eastern and African Society for Biopreservation and Biobanking (ESBB), a Chapter of ISBER, to ensure coordination of efforts. Dr. Betsou is "confident that (we) will inspire a new generation of scientists and biobankers to join and bring the high quality of their expertise to ISBER's activities."

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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