



International Society for Biological and Environmental Repositories

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For Immediate Release...

Paul Bartels, MSc, BVSc
is elected 2012-2013 Councilor of the
International Society for Biological and Environmental Repositories

Bethesda, MD – Paul Bartels, MSc, BVSc, has been elected to serve as Councilor 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 representation from government, academia, and private industry. Dr. Bartels has been elected to serve as Councilor of the Society in 2012-2015, and will take over the duties as ISBER Councilor at the ISBER 2012 Annual Meeting in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, on May 17, 2012.

Dr. Bartels is currently the head of the NZGBiobank, National Zoological Gardens, National Research Foundation, and the BioBankSA consortium in South Africa. He holds a BSc in Zoology and Animal Physiology and an MSc in Zoology, as well as a BVSc degree. His continuing education program includes modules, courses, and workshops on management, assisted reproductive technology, cryobiology, biomaterial banking, wildlife management, and biodiversity conservation.

Dr. Bartels' biobanking interests include the establishment of the Wildlife Biological Resource Centre (wBRC) in 1996 as part of a conservation NGO (non-government organization), a project dedicated to the collection, processing, banking, use, and distribution of wildlife biomaterials for biodiversity conservation and biotechnology development for the benefit of society. In 2003, he established BioBankSA, a consortium comprising National Parks, University of Cape Town, Agricultural Research Council, Endangered Wildlife Trust, and the Taurus Stock Improvement Institute, with the aim of promoting and assisting in the management of all aspects related to biomaterial banking in South Africa and southern Africa. In 2005 the wBRC was transferred to the National Zoological Gardens of SA, a national facility of the National Research Foundation. Dr. Bartels' professional activities related to biobanking (ISBER and other), include serving as a member of the ISBER Scientific Program Committee in 2009-2012, a member of the ISBER Strategic Planning Committee in 2011-2012, and as the co-chair of the ISBER Enviro-Bio Working Group. Bartels has also organized or co-organized numerous meetings and conferences.

According to Dr. Bartels, "ISBER represents a multitude of different biomaterial banking repositories, but where the current membership and activities strongly favor the human tissue banking sector. There is tremendous potential to tap into the vast environmental, animal, plant and microbial repository sectors and where the inclusion of such repositories would not only contribute to the growth of the organization, but more importantly, add tremendous value to all of ISBER's members, in dealing with the many cross-cutting themes of biomaterial banking repositories."

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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