

# BBMRI.be

Biobanking and  
BioMolecular resources  
Research Infrastructure  
Belgium

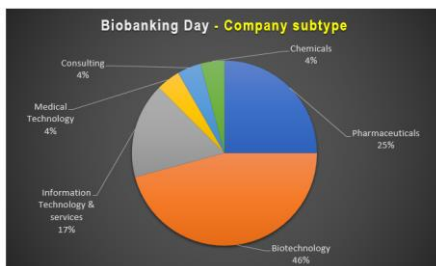
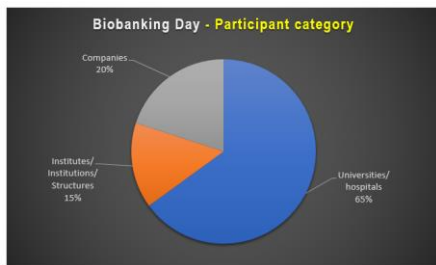
ISSUE 2

## Looking back on the Belgian Biobank Day!

On March 23<sup>rd</sup> 2018, BBMRI.be organized for the first time the Belgian Biobank Day. We look back with you on this successful first edition!



Eighty- three participants attended the meeting. Next to 22 members of BBMRI.be, we were very happy to also welcome 41 representatives from academia, 19 industry representatives and 6 members of scientific institutes. Overall, the majority of the participants were from universities and hospitals. The company representatives were working in different fields (see figure below).



The meeting was kicked-off by a welcome word by the President and National Node Director of BBMRI.be. The virtual tour of the biobanks, presented by the Operational Manager of BWB gave a nice overview of the diversity of biobanks in the BBMRI.be network.

The necessity of quality control during the different steps in the biobanking process was nicely illustrated by speakers from academic and industry perspectives.

After a refreshing coffee break, kindly offered by Greiner, we continued our instructive afternoon by focussing on the quality of the data and the possibilities of sample management systems. We concluded the meeting with a look on the new Belgian Biobank Law and its impact on the biobanks.



We would like to thank all speakers, participants and Greiner for the wonderful experience and we look forward to the next edition.

To make our next edition even better, we would like to have your opinion on the Belgian Biobank Day. Please complete [the feedback form](#) so we can take your suggestions into consideration for next year!

# News

## June 2018

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#### Belgian Biobank Day

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We give you a sneak preview of the programme of the Europe Biobank Week



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## Working Group in the picture: Stakeholder Involvement

The Stakeholder Involvement WG was only kicked off at the end of 2017, but has already taken some very nice initiatives. In this newsletter, we want to highlight two projects undertaken by this working group.

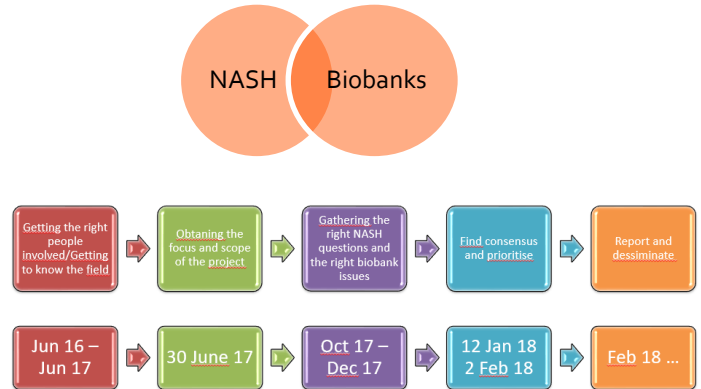
### Reverse Science Café



The Reverse Science Café was organized on November 26th 2017 during the Day of Science at the University Hospital in Ghent. This event was organized in the framework of SPARKS, a European project that wants to inform citizens about the importance of scientific research. During the Reverse Science Café citizens were invited to discuss about scientific topics (e.g. biobanks, clinical studies, ..) and come up with priorities for these research fields. The most important recommendations of the citizens were the need to setup information campaigns about biobanks/clinical studies and the need for clear and understandable informed consents.

A follow-up of this event will be organized at the Europe Biobank Week (Friday Sept. 7th) in Antwerp.

### Priority setting in research: mind the gap!



The King Baudoin Foundation set up a multistakeholder dialogue project to prioritize hepatology research, more specifically Non-alcoholic Fatty Liver Disease (NASH), in the biobanking field.

During a multi-step process (June 2016- May 2018) the needs of the NASH community were discussed with different stakeholders (patients and citizens, biobank managers, industry) in separate focus groups. Afterwards, the most relevant issues for biobanking were selected and prioritized by the different stakeholders in a consensus meeting.

The result of the project were 24 NASH research questions that can be answered with the use of biobank samples.

## Europe Biobank Week



The Europe Biobank Week is rapidly approaching. Therefore we would like to give you already a glimpse of what you might expect during this week.

Before the official opening of the meeting on Wednesday September 5<sup>th</sup>, you can already attend several [pre-conference workshops](#) to refine your knowledge about biobank automated storage systems, science communication strategies or to learn more about the different job profiles needed to run a biobank. Members of ESBB can in the afternoon attend several ESBB Working Group meetings.

On Wednesday September 5<sup>th</sup>, the meeting will be officially opened by Minister De Block and Minister De Backer in the fabulous Queen Elizabeth Hall after which the [scientific program](#) will be kicked-off. For each scientific topic there will be an oral scientific session and a poster guided tour, including more than 20 contributions from Belgian biobanks. After the official end of the meeting on Friday afternoon, BBMRI.be will organize a [Reverse Science Café](#) to discuss biobank questions with the public.

Next to the scientific opportunities, the Europe Biobank Week also offers some social events including a Welcome Reception and guided tour in the Zoo on Wednesday evening and a gala dinner on Thursday evening at the Horta venue in Antwerp.

Don't hesitate and [register](#) for the Europe Biobank Week! Hope to see all of you there!

## Hot News

### BBMRI-ERIC WELCOMES BULGARIA!



On May 29<sup>th</sup> 2018, The Bulgarian Minister of Education and Science Krasimir Valchev met with Belgian National Node Director Annelies Debucquoy and Francesco Florindi in Brussels to make it official: Bulgaria joins BBMRI-ERIC as a full member. Congratulations and a warm welcome!

### BBMRI-ERIC LAUNCHES ONLINE TOOL TO FACILITATE ACCESS TO OVER 500 BIOBANKS



BBMRI-ERIC recently launched its [Negotiator](#), a web-based solution to help researchers find detailed information on the availability of samples and associated data. The tool is a great step forward in facilitating access to high-quality samples that are currently stored in biobanks all over Europe. Connected to the [BBMRI-ERIC Directory](#), the world's largest biobanking catalogue including more than 100 million samples, the Negotiator allows users to contact biobanks directly with a specific request.

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### BBMRI.BE BIOBANKS IN THE PICTURE



Tumorbank@uza: A Collection of Tissue, Fluid Samples and Associated Data of Oncology Patients for the Use in Translational Research

Authors: [Sofie Goethals](#), [Annemieke De Wilde](#), [Katrien Lesage](#), [Elke Smits](#), [Patrick Pauwels](#), [Marc Peeters](#)

[Open Journal of Bioresources \(2018\), 5: 4](#)



Bimetra Biobank: A High Quality Biobank Facility to Stimulate Translational Biomedical Research

Authors: [Veronique T'Joens](#), [Sara Phlypo](#), [Sofie Bekaert](#)

[Open Journal of Bioresources \(2018\), 5: 7](#)



#### **Biobanks as Essential Tools for Translational Research: The Belgian Landscape**

Contribute now to the Research topic of Frontiers in Medicine specifically dedicated to the Belgian Biobanks. Don't miss this opportunity to put your biobank in the picture. Have a look [here](#) for more information and submit your abstract before July 31st 2018.

#### MEETINGS OF INTEREST

##### [EUROPE BIOBANK WEEK](#)

September 4<sup>th</sup> -7<sup>th</sup> 2018, Antwerp

##### [REVERSE SCIENCE CAFE](#)

September 7<sup>th</sup> 2018, Antwerp

##### [STANDARDS FOR BIOTECH EVENT](#)

October 4<sup>th</sup> 2018, Brussels

##### [BIOBANKING CONGRESS](#)

October 25-26 2018, London, UK

##### [WORLD BIOBANKING SUMMIT](#)

November 29-30, 2018 Berlin, Germany

## BBMRI.be

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