



BBMRI.be Annual Meeting 2025



26.11.2025



09:00am - 5:00pm

Register

NOW

- 09:00am — Registration and Welcome Coffee
- 09:30am — Welcome and Opening
- 09:40am — BBMRI.be Achievements of 2025
- 10:00am — A One Health View on Biobanking
Bart Panis, Alliance of Bioversity International and CIAT
Koert Stittelaar, VirusBank Platform, KU Leuven
Ann Packeu, Scientific Service Mycology & Aerobiology, Sciensano
Zjef Pereboom, Antwerp Zoo Centre for Research and Conservation
- 12:00pm — Lunch and Networking
- 01:00pm — Biobank visit - session 1
- 01:30pm — Interactive Workshops- part 1
Workshop 1: Evaluating, selecting and implementing a BIMS
Workshop 2: Towards an updated Belgian Biobank Law
- 03:00pm — Coffee break
- 03:30pm — Interactive Workshops - part 2
Workshop 1: Evaluating, selecting and implementing a BIMS
Workshop 2: Towards an updated Belgian Biobank Law
- 05:00pm — Biobank visit - session 2

New Board of Directors for BBMRI.be

With the start of the new term at BBMRI.be, several changes have been made to the composition of the Board of Directors. Elke Smits, who has successfully led BBMRI.be as president over the past four years, has been re-elected and will continue in her role, providing strategic leadership and continuity. She will be supported by Annelies Debucquoy, in the role of National Node Director, as well as by representatives from the Belgian Cancer Registry.

In addition, each of the working groups has a newly appointed chair and co-chair(s), who will be responsible for steering the group's activities, fostering collaboration, and ensuring progress on key objectives. The Board of Directors also includes three scientific representatives. Their expertise will be instrumental in advising BBMRI.be on scientific matters and helping to shape the future direction of biobank-related research and infrastructure in Belgium.

We would like to thank all the appointed members of the Board of Directors for their support of BBMRI.be, and we look forward to a fruitful collaboration.

President	Elke Smits, UZA		
National Node Director	Annelies Debucquoy, BCR		
Chairs	Chair	Co-chair	Co-chair
IT	Kimberly Vanhees, UbiLim	Katia Emmerechts, BCR	
ELSI	Pieter Moons, UZA	Elke Berneel, UZGent	
Quality	Loes Linsen, UZLeuven	Delphine Eeckhout, UZGent	Greet van Wichelen, UZBrussel
Stakeholder	Stephanie Gofflot, CHU Liège	Elke Smits, UZA	Representative Host Annual meeting
Sustainability	David Triest, Sciensano	Manon Huizing, UZA	
Networking	Annelies Debucquoy, BCR	Elke Smits, UZA	
Scientific Representatives	Jérémie Gras, IPG	Evi Mampaey, ITG	Hélène Antoine-Poirel, Sciensano
BCR representatives	Katia Emmerechts, BCR	Liesbet Van Eycken, BCR	Mieke De Wilde, BCR

With the establishment of this new Board of Directors, we would also like to take this opportunity to thank the former members of the Board of Directors for their dedication and support during the previous term of BBMRI.be.

We would like to thank the following members of BBMRI.be as former chairs of the respective working groups: Johan Guns (Quality), Isabelle Huys (ELSI), Patrick Miqueu (Stakeholder Involvement), and Maartje Van Frankenhuijsen (Sustainability). Thank you for guiding our working groups in the right direction these past few years.

We would also like to thank Etienne Marbaix and Paul Delrée, former scientific representatives. Thank you for your advice and support of BBMRI.be.

Thank You

FAQ on the website

- What is a biobank ?
- What is BBMRI.be?
- How can I agree/disagree to give samples?
- Which samples and data are stored?
- For which research will my samples be used?
- Who can see my personal information in a biobank?
- Can I change my mind after donating a sample?
- Can I find out if my sample is stored in a biobank?
- Will my data be safe if it's shared with researchers in other countries?

Members of the BBMRI.be Stakeholder Working Group have developed a new series of FAQs dedicated to donors on the BBMRI.be webpage.

Take a look at the new FAQs in [English](#), [French](#), or [Dutch](#)

Do you have another question?
Submit it [here](#) so it can be added to the website!

secretariat.BBMRIbe@kankerregister.org

New Stakeholder Representatives

In response to requests from some industry biobanks to join the BBMRI.be network, we have created a new Stakeholder Representative category dedicated to this Stakeholder Working Group.

Two representatives from CellCarta and Johnson & Johnson have joined our working group as representatives of the industry biobanks. We are happy to welcome them and look forward to a fruitful collaboration.



Johnson & Johnson

Welcome

Join our Working Groups



BBMRI.be is currently preparing a new action plan for the period 2026-2029. In this new term, we will continue our activities in the six working groups of BBMRI.be focusing on

IT

ELSI

Quality

Sustainability

Stakeholders

Networking

Information of the WG activities of the past years can be found [here](#).

All members of BBMRI.be are invited to join any of our Working Groups. [Get in touch with us](#) if you would like to subscribe to our Working groups.



Join us for the most important event of the year for the global biobanking community, taking place from May 19-22, 2026, at the Prague Congress Centre.

Check the EBW26 homepage for updates on registration and the program:

<https://www.europebiobankweek.eu/>



Meaningful patient and public involvement – also known as research participant engagement – is still not standard practice for many biobanks. To facilitate a transition to active partnership, the BBMRI-ERIC community, which includes the National Nodes and Stakeholder Forum Patients and Citizens Pillar, have created a set of guidelines.

[Check them out now!](#)

Slovakia and **Spain** both joined BBMRI-ERIC as Full Member. Check out the press releases to learn more about the new Nodes



Check out the **new Podcast Episode – ELSI Dialogues: Empowering Voices – Enhancing Patient Engagement in Oncology Research**



BBMRI·be

The European research infrastructure
for biobanking and biomolecular
resources in health and life sciences

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