



October 1st, 2008

Coverletter BBMRI core questionnaire and network questionnaire

Dear Madam, Dear Sir,
Dear Colleague,

This letter is to inform you that the Biobanking and Biomolecular Resources Research Infrastructure (BBMRI) has released a core questionnaire to be filled in by biobanks and a network questionnaire for networks of biobanks. The purpose of these questionnaires is to make an inventory of Europe's biobanking landscape and to identify biobanks that should be part of the BBMRI infrastructure. Therefore, providing the necessary information by filling the BBMRI core questionnaire is mandatory to be registered in BBMRI.

BBMRI aims to construct a pan-European resource by linking individual biobanks and networks. Key components of BBMRI are thus comprehensive collections of biological samples from different (sub-) populations of Europe, which should be associated with continuously updated data on the health status, lifestyle and environmental exposure of the sample donors. A federated network of Europe's most advanced biobanks will be established in European Member States.

We aim to include institutions, companies, networks or any other organisational forms that are collecting or have collected human biological materials and the associated data for a population or a large subset of a population with information stored in an organised system. In addition, access to external researchers or third parties must be allowed.

We kindly ask you to fill in the BBMRI questionnaire for your biobank or network and return it via e-mail within 4 weeks. Please also have a look on our website at: www.biobanks.eu and www.bbmri.eu.

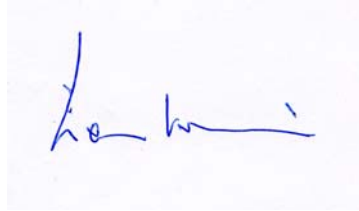
The questionnaires are based on templates kindly provided by the observatory of P³G. They will be the bases of a web-based overview catalogue, which will include biobanks of high quality describing their contact details, objectives, available data and resources. The selection will be based on parameters like the biobank has a form of external access, operates according to standards and has a minimum amount of samples (depending on the kind of samples and the spectrum of the bank). Those selected will be taken up in the inventory and finally published on the BBMRI website. All kind of sensible data (e.g. costs and financing) submitted to BBMRI will be treated confidential and will be used for planning purposes only by the governmental members of your country. This information will not be disseminated or published on an individual level.

We look forward to receiving your core questionnaires.

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kurt Zatloukal', with a long, wavy horizontal stroke at the end.

Prof. Dr. Kurt Zatloukal

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Eero Vourio', with a long, wavy horizontal stroke at the end.

Prof. Dr. Eero Vourio

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Leena Peltonen', with a long, wavy horizontal stroke at the end.

Prof. Dr. Leena Peltonen

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'H.-Erich Wichmann', with a long, wavy horizontal stroke at the end.

Prof. Dr. Dr. H.-Erich Wichmann

PS: In a second step, we will ask you to complete supplementary questionnaires.