

Ontario Biobanks Workshop

Thursday May 28, 2026

10:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. ET

OICR, 661 University Ave, Suite 510, Toronto, ON | Rooms 5-20 / 5-21

Zoom link will be made available through EventBrite

ontariobiobanks@oicr.on.ca

Purpose








To review recent progress and upcoming plans across the Ontario Biobanks network, with a focus on **advancing biobank utilization and long-term sustainability**. [Ontario Biobanks](#) connects biobanks and repositories across the province to facilitate knowledge exchange, resource sharing, and strengthened support for oncology research.

Agenda

| Time | Topic | Speaker(s) |
|---------------|-----------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 9:30 - 10:00 | Arrivals & Breakfast | |
| 10:00 - 10:20 | Welcome | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Katarina Maksimovic, Project Lead, Ontario Biobanks Lincoln Stein, Acting Scientific Director, OICR; PI, Ontario Tumour Bank Christine Williams, Acting President, OICR Dianne Chadwick, Director, Ontario Tumour Bank |
| 10:20 - 10:30 | Patient Partner Keynote | Terry Hawrysh, Patient Partner, Ontario Tumour Bank |
| 10:30 - 11:15 | Biobank Keynote Speaker | Geoff Wood, Co-Director, Ontario Veterinary College Veterinary Biobank, University of Guelph |
| 11:15 - 11:45 | Morning Break & Sponsor Exhibition | |

| Time | Topic | Speaker(s) |
|---------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 11:45 - 12:00 | Sponsor presentations | <p>Illustrina DMark Biosciences / Migali Scientific</p> |
| 12:00 - 12:55 | "Patient Engagement Opportunities Before & After Consent" | <p>Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ontario Biobanks Patient Partners - Anne Leishman, Katie Lark, Vinesha Ramasamy, Dawn Barker, Lucia Ioannoni • Helen Dimaras, PI, Kids Eye Biobank, SickKids |
| 12:55 - 1:40 | Lunch & Sponsor Exhibition | |
| 1:40 - 1:55 | Sponsor presentations | <p>ESBE Scientific Miltenyi Biotec</p> |
| 1:55 - 2:45 | Network progress and next steps | Working Groups |
| 2:45 - 2:55 | Afternoon Break & Sponsor Exhibition | |
| 2:55 - 3:10 | Sponsor presentations | <p>Thermo Fisher Scientific Chromatographic Specialties / BioLynx</p> |
| 3:10 - 4:15 | Breakout session: Future directions | All |
| 4:15 - 4:30 | Closing remarks and next steps | Katarina Maksimovic |
| 4:30 - 5:00 | Optional biobank tour *pre-registration required* | <p>LTRI Biospecimen Repository & Processing Laboratory OICR Genomics & Diagnostic Development</p> |
| 5:00 - 7:00 | Networking social event - Mick E Fynns (45 Carlton St) | |

Workshop Sponsors

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|  <p>ThermoFisher SCIENTIFIC</p> | <p><u>Thermo Fisher Scientific</u></p> |

Attendees

ONTARIO

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| Erie Shores HealthCare |
| Jacob Wiebe, Research Assistant |
| Hamilton Health Sciences |
| Gino Celebre, Manager, Hamilton Regional Biospecimen Solutions (HRBS) |
| London Health Sciences Centre |
| Anargyros Xenocostas, Hematologist, Western University |
| Jennifer Petzke, Clinical Coordinator, Ontario Tumour Bank |
| Kes Sebborn, Research Coordinator, London Urology BioSolutions Repository |
| Komila Zakirova, Clinical Research Coordinator |
| Lori Lowes, Research Coordinator |
| Sultana Rownok Jahan, Research Lab Technician, Victoria Research Lab |
| Lunenfeld-Tanenbaum Research Institute |
| Abiola Oduwole, Facility Manager, Biospecimen Repository & Processing Laboratory |
| McMaster University |
| Basma Ahmed, Manager, Canadian Longitudinal Study on Aging |
| Chetna Naik, Biorepository Coordinator, Canadian Longitudinal Study on Aging |
| Dhruvi Patel, Research Technician, Canadian Longitudinal Study on Aging |
| Emily Hartung, Clinical Research Associate |
| Mahmoud Elsayed, Research Associate |
| Tobias Berg, Associate Professor |
| Ontario Institute for Cancer Research |
| Alexandria Albano, Biospecimen Research Technician, Diagnostic Development |
| Alexia Leber, Project Coordinator, Ontario Joint Genomics Program |
| Andrea Senff-Ribeiro, Scientist, Computational Biology |

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| Angela De Luca, Translational Research Technician II and Lab Coordinator, Diagnostic Development |
| Anne Leishman, Patient Partner, Ontario Biobanks |
| Anthony Magliocco, steering committee member, Ontario Tumour Bank (see also <i>Protean BioDiagnostics</i>) |
| Christine Williams, Acting President |
| Dawn Barker, Patient Partner, Ontario Biobanks |
| Dianne Chadwick, Director, Ontario Tumour Bank |
| Graham Cromar, Senior Manager, Ontario Joint Genomics Program |
| Ilinca Lungu, Sr Project Manager, Diagnostic Development, and Operations Manager, Ontario Tumour Bank |
| Jane Bayani, Co-Director and Principal Research Scientist, Diagnostic Development |
| Jessica Sullivan, Associate Director, Scientific Secretariat |
| Katarina Maksimovic, Project Lead, Ontario Tumour Bank, Ontario Biobanks |
| Katie Lark, Patient Partner, Ontario Biobanks |
| Kelly McDonald, Senior Program Manager, Ontario Health Study |
| Larry Phouthavongsy, Analyst, Ontario Tumour Bank |
| Leigh-Ann Van Strijp, Lead, Patient Partnership, Ontario Molecular Pathology Research Network |
| Lincoln Stein, Acting Scientific Director and Head, Adaptive Oncology, Principal Investigator, Ontario Tumour Bank |
| Lindsay Hayman, Project Lead, Biospecimen Operations, Ontario Health Study |
| Lucy Ioannoni, Patient Partner, Ontario Biobanks |
| Melanie Spears, Co-Director & Principal Research Scientist, Diagnostic Development |
| Monique Albert, Senior Program Manager, Ontario Hereditary Cancer Research Network |
| Olivia Scandlan, Biospecimen Research Technician, Diagnostic Development |
| Riley Cox, Senior Client Coordinator, Ontario Tumour Bank |
| Terry Hawrysh, Patient Partner, Ontario Tumour Bank |
| Vanya Peltekova, Manager, BioLab |

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| Victoria Kirsh, Interim Director, Ontario Health Study, Ontario Health Study |
| Vinesha Ramasamy, Patient Partner, Ontario Biobanks |
| Ottawa Hospital Research Institute |
| Agatha Vranjkovic, Research Ethics and Access Officer, Canadian Biobank Alliance |
| Amela Koco, Clinical Research Assistant, Ontario Tumour Bank |
| Angela Crawley, Director, Canadian Biobank Alliance |
| Edita Delic, Tissue Navigator, Global Tissue Consent |
| Katya Godard, Clinical Research Coordinator, Hematology Biobank |
| Queen's University |
| Shakeel Virk, Tissue Bank, Manager, Canadian Cancer Trials Group |
| St Joseph's Healthcare Hamilton |
| Anbreen Zaidi, Tumour Bank Coordinator, Ontario Tumour Bank |
| Rick Tucker, Tumour Bank Coordinator, Ontario Tumour Bank |
| Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre |
| Tina Khazaei, Biobank Supervisor, Hematology Biobank |
| The Centre for Addiction and Mental Health |
| Natalie Freeman, Research Operations Manager, CAMH Biobank |
| The Hospital for Sick Children |
| Alexandra Kostich, Clinical Research Project Assistant, Kids Eye Biobank |
| Andrew Bondoc, Manager, BTRC Brain Tumour Biobank (NEUROcore) |
| Beck Barnshaw, Clinical Research Project Assistant |
| Christine Kowal, Clinical Research Project Manager, Epilepsy Biobank |
| Dax Torti, Manager, Clinical Research Facilities and Services, Central Biobank |
| Frances Argento, Clinical Research Project Assistant, Kids Eye Biobank |
| Helen Dimaras, Principal Investigator, Kids Eye Biobank |
| Kaitlin Jones, Clinical Research Project Assistant, Kids Eye Biobank |
| Maria Isabel Suarez, Research Ethics Coordinator, Research Office |
| Michelle Prunier, Patient Advocate, Kids Eye Biobank |
| Stephanie Grover, Director, ACCESS |

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| Toronto Zoo |
| Paula Mackie, Science Development Manager, Toronto Zoo Biobank |
| Unity Health Toronto |
| Dhriti Dey, Research Assistant, Department of Neurosurgery |
| Maneli Kalantari, Research Volunteer |
| Reva Jerath, Research Assistant, Brain Tumour Biobank |
| Sara Hafezi Bakhtiari, Staff Pathologist, Department of Laboratory Medicine |
| Sorcha Kellett, Research Manager, Brain Tumour Biobank, Ontario Tumour Bank |
| Thamilini Sathiyathan, Research Assistant, Brain Tumour Biobank |
| Valeria Di Giovanni, Biobank Program Manager, Brain Tumour Biobank, Ontario Tumour Bank |
| Yevanhelina Cherkashyna, Research Technician, Brain Tumour Biobank, Ontario Tumour Bank |
| University Health Network |
| Amit Rungta, Clinical Research Manager, Peter Munk Cardiac Centre Cardiovascular Biobank |
| Celeste Yu, Senior Manager, Cancer Genomics Program |
| Heidi Wagner, Director, UHN Biospecimen Services |
| Leda Weiss, Interim Research Manager, McCain GU Biobank |
| Marcelo Cuesta, Biobank Manager, Toronto Lung Transplant Program |
| Maria Agustina Perusini, Clinical Research Fellow, Leukemia and Myeloproliferative Neoplasms Program |
| Maria Aurora Mejia Benitez, Scientific Associate, University Health Network |
| Michael BeGora, Team Lead, Princess Margaret Cancer Biobank |
| Michael Nweke, Scientific Associate, UHN Biospecimen Services |
| Mikaeel Ghany, Research Associate, UHN Biospecimen Services |
| Nhu-An Pham, Staff Scientist, Princess Margaret Living Biobank |
| Shenghui Su, Manager, Multi-Organ Transplant Biobank |
| University of Guelph |
| Deirdre Stuart, Veterinary Biobank Coordinator, OVC Veterinary Biobank |
| Geoffrey Wood, Principal Investigator, OVC Veterinary Biobank |

University of Ottawa

Nikita Rayne, Biobank Manager, University of Ottawa Heart Institute Biobank

Women's College Hospital

Chris Battiston, Redcap Admin, Research Operations

CANADA

Alberta Health Services

Danielle Simonot, Manager, Alberta Cancer Research Biobank

Lisa Yu, Senior Advisor, Alberta Cancer Research Biobank

Mihoko Ladd, Operations Coordinator, Alberta Cancer Research Biobank

Atlantic Cancer Research Institute

Mansi Arora, Senior Bioinformatician, Atlantic Cancer Research Institute

BC Children's Hospital

Jonathan Bush, Pathologist, Co-Lead, ACCESS

Vi Nguyen, Project Coordinator, ACCESS

Biobanque Génomique Québec / CIUSSS Saguenay Lac-St-Jean

Nancy Tremblay, Assistant Director of Operations, Technology Platforms

Canadian Tissue Repository Network

Tamsin Tarling, Program Leader, CTRNet

Nova Scotia Health

Gillian Bethune, Medical Director, Nova Scotia Health Biobank

Laura Lee Madden, Biobank Coordinator, Nova Scotia Health Biobank

Public Health Agency of Canada

Karly Capina, Senior Technician, Public Health Agency of Canada

Research Institute of the McGill University Health Centre

Emily Nakada, Project Manager, ACCESS

University of Alberta

Bruce Ritchie, Principal Investigator, Canadian Biosample Repository

INDUSTRY

Protean BioDiagnostics

Anthony Magliocco, CEO, Protean BioDiagnostics (*see also OICR*)

Specie Bio

Zara Nemati, Head of Science, Specie Bio

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| SpeciLife |
| Katia Dahan, Founder and President, SpeciLife Inc. |
| Technidata |
| Elisabeth Barbier, Communication manager, Technidata |
| Piero Tassoni, Head of international Sales, Technidata |
| Illumina |
| Ian Lee, Sr. Sales Specialist, Illumina |
| Mena Farag, Associate Director, District Sales Manager, Illumina |
| Natalie Shier, Executive Territory Account Manager, Illumina |
| Thermo Fisher Scientific |
| |
| ESBE Scientific |
| David Freeman, Global Sales and Business Development Director, ESBE Scientific |
| Emanuel Ellis, Product Manager, ESBE Scientific |
| Pamela Korithoski, Field Manager, ESBE Scientific |
| Chromatographic Specialties / BioLynx |
| Megan Gallagher, Technical Account Manager, BioLynx |
| Nour Khadra, Technical Support Specialist, BioLynx |
| Miltenyi Biotec |
| Fatima Inthathirath, Technical Sales Consultant, Miltenyi Biotec |
| Rachel Rocanova, Advanced Imaging Specialist, Miltenyi Biotec |
| DMark Biosciences / Migali Scientific |
| Murray Wigmore, Chief Commercial Officer, DMark Biosciences / Migali Scientific |
| Narendra Yadav, Genomics Specialist, DMark Biosciences |
| Pauline Fung, Sales Operations Manager, DMark Biosciences |
| INTERNATIONAL |
| American Cancer Society |
| Cari Lichtman, Senior Director Biospecimen Management, American Cancer Society |
| Holly Vins, Scientist, American Cancer Society |
| Biobanking Without Borders |

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| Helena Ellis, Managing Director/Consultant, Biobanking Without Borders, LLC |
| Biopreservation and Biobanking |
| Marianna Bledsoe, Editor-in-Chief, Biopreservation and Biobanking |
| Department of Veterans Affairs |
| Quynh Vantu, Director of Operations, Department of Veterans Affairs |
| Mount Sinai Medical Centre |
| Purnima Singh, Director, Mount Sinai Medical Centre |
| National Cancer Institute |
| Marianne Henderson, Sr Advisor, Division of Cancer Epidemiology & Genetics |
| Penn Medicine |
| Maureen Smith, Research Coordinator, Penn Medicine |
| Precision Ocular Network |
| Gregory Grossman, Chief Scientific Officer |
| Dubai Health (United Arab Emirates) |
| Khawla Alzarooni, Director, Biobank, Mohammed Bin Rashid University of Medicine and Health Sciences |
| King Abdullah International Medical Research Center (Saudi Arabia) |
| Ella Zare, Tissue Biobank Head, Saudi Biobank |
| King Hussein Cancer Cancer (Jordan) |
| Sallam Alhassoon, Sr Biobank Medical Technologist, KHCC Biobank |
| Medical University of Bialystok (Poland) |
| Anna Michalska-Falkowska, Deputy Director, MUB Biobank |
| Translational Health Science and Technology Institute (India) |
| Tahreem Sahar, Quality Manager, Translational Health Science & Technology Institute Biobank |