

# SBP APRIL 20, 2021 WORKSHOP

## **Connecting researchers and biobanks: The BioLink experience. What's "NExT"?**

### **SESSION 1** BioLink and NExT, two Instruments to connect researchers and biobanks

- **SNSF presentation**  
Dr. Irene Knüsel - *Head of Division of Biology and Medicine, Swiss National Science Foundation*
- **SBP presentation**  
Dr. Christine Currat - *Executive Director, Swiss Biobanking Platform*
- **SBP NExT**  
Dr. Khalil Klouche - *Innovation Officer, Swiss Biobanking Platform*

### **SESSION 2** Sharing your BioLink experience

- **Biobanking for state-of-the-art Sepsis research**  
Prof. Adrian Egli, *Applied Microbiology Research Laboratory, Universitätsspital Basel*
- **Live-cell biobanking for translational cancer research**  
Prof. Mitchell Levesque, *Dermatologische Klinik, Universitätsspital Zürich*
- **PathoLink: Connecting biobanks to determine mechanisms of metastasis formation and chemoresistance**  
Prof. Holger Moch, *Institute of Pathology and Molecular Pathology, University Hospital Zürich*
- **The Swiss Pediatric Hematology/ Oncology Metabank - a network for precision medicine research**  
Mr Denis Marino, *Biobank deputy director, University Hospital of Geneva*
- **Infectious Diseases Biobank Zurich - Proof of Concept for a Hospital based BIMS**  
Dr. Michael Weisskopf, *Universitätsspital Zürich*
- **PGXLink -Connecting pharmacogenomics (PGX), pharmacological intermediates, and clinical outcomes**  
Dr. Alexander Leichtle, *Zentrum für Labormedizin, Inselspital*
- **Linking biobanks to contribute to the 3R concept in mammary cancer research**  
Prof. Franco Guscetti, *Vetsuisse-Fakultät, Universität Zürich*

## **WORKSHOPS**

### **4 concurrent sessions led by**

Prof. Adrian Egli, *Universitätsspital Basel*  
Dr. Alexander Leichtle, *Inselspital*  
Prof. Marc Ansari, *University Hospital of Geneva*  
Dr. Michael Weisskopf, *Universitätsspital Zürich*

## **WRAP-UP AND CLOSING REMARKS**

By Prof. Carlo Largiadèr, *Inselspital*

# WRAP-UP SUMMARY

## **Sustainability of BioLink projects**

Sustainability of the current BioLink Call was one of the main issues that everyone agrees has to be tackled. This sustainability aspect needs to be integrated by SNF in the next BioLink Call and requires the involvement and commitment of the strategic management at institutional level. An asset for the future BioLink grantees, would be to rely on the past Biolink Calls experiences. They could benefit from business cases to further support the sustainability of their projects as well as learn from their encountered challenges, from the harmonization practice issues and the developments that had to be made to ensure success.

Aligning each other's interests is also key to contribute to this sustainability issue and provide a valuable solution to serve a larger research community.

## **Experience sharing**

Today's workshop has shown the importance of sharing experience to learn from each other and benefit from the gained knowledge of people working on similar projects or sharing common issues. We received a lot of feedback about the need of connection, enhanced communication across initiatives and learning more about success stories to support the scientific communities and foster exchange of practice.

## **Integration of non-human partners into SBP network**

The distinction between human and non-human samples is not always so easy to draw. Both types of samples share commonalities but are processed differently. The minimal requirements and applicable standards to apply must be clearly defined to ensure the quality of these important varieties of samples. The similarities and differences between human and non-human biobanks have to be considered to define the proper variables to be documented and design custom minimal datasets to be implemented. Integration of the non-human biobanks into SBP network is key to bridge with other research partners and/or national initiatives.

## **Sample and data sharing**

Another important raised aspect was the urgent need to ease sharing practice of samples and data to foster collaborations. Heaviness of the regulatory and exchange aspects are a clear burden to researchers wishing to access and use biological resources in their projects. Having an exchange platform such as NExT to support sample and data sharing is of high value to connect biobanks and researchers. This interactive tool could become the first step towards harmonization of a "common" sharing practice. The minimal regulatory / sharing requirements should be defined with the NExT community to facilitate and encourage collaborations through the platform.

# SURVEY FEEDBACK

Question 1 has 10 answers (Range) Avg rating: 8.4

“Overall, how would you rate the event?”



Question 2

“How do you feel about the timing of the sessions and the Workshop?”

"The session II contained too many presentations."

"Timing of sessions was good. I did not participate in the Workshops."

"Good but could be a bit longer"

"The timing was good. I find it interesting to see a summary of all the funded BioLink projects (if I am not mistaken). But have to admit that it is beyond my competences and did not understand it all ;-)"

"The session timing was well planned. The breaks were a bit short."

"Perfect"

"The Biolink presentations were a bit too short - but overall it was well timed."

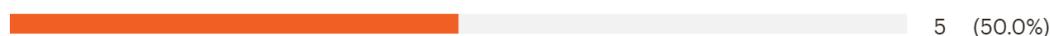
"Nice, was not too long, still quite exhausting"

"I find general virtual online discussions very difficult (second part of the workshop). I preferred the first part of the workshop with short concise presentations followed by Q&A."

Question 3 has 10 answers (Checkboxes)

“Why did you want to join the event?”

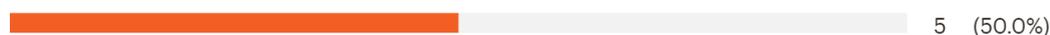
Interest in specific topics on agenda



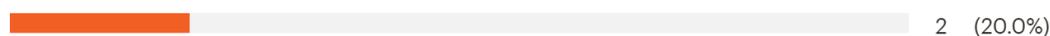
Interest learning more about the NExT tool



Catching up on the latest developments in Biobanking



Other (please specify)



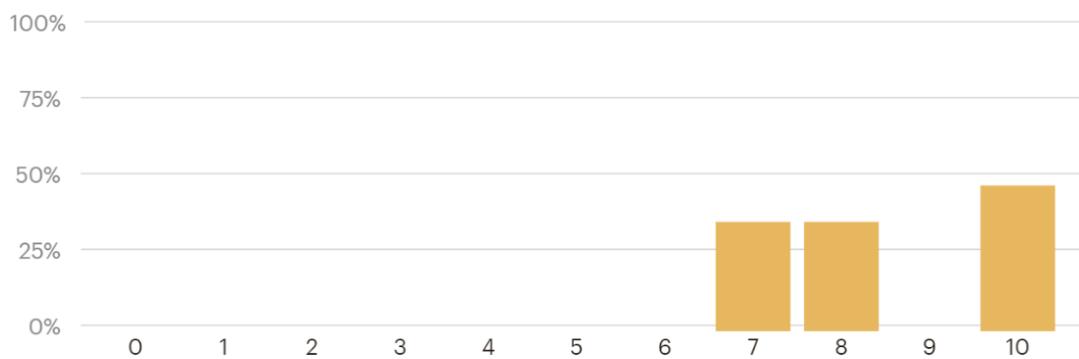
## Open text responses to "other":

"Lern from the community"

"BioLink grantee"

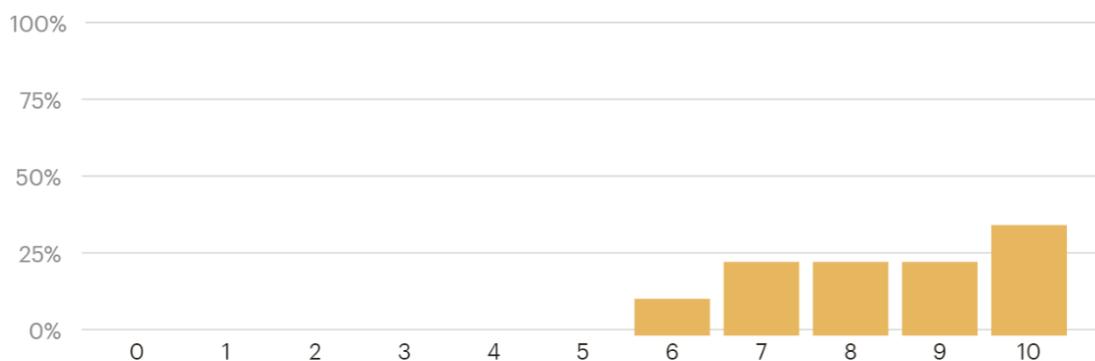
Question 4 has 10 answers (Range) Avg rating: 8.5

“How engaging did you find "Session I: Biolink and NExT"?”



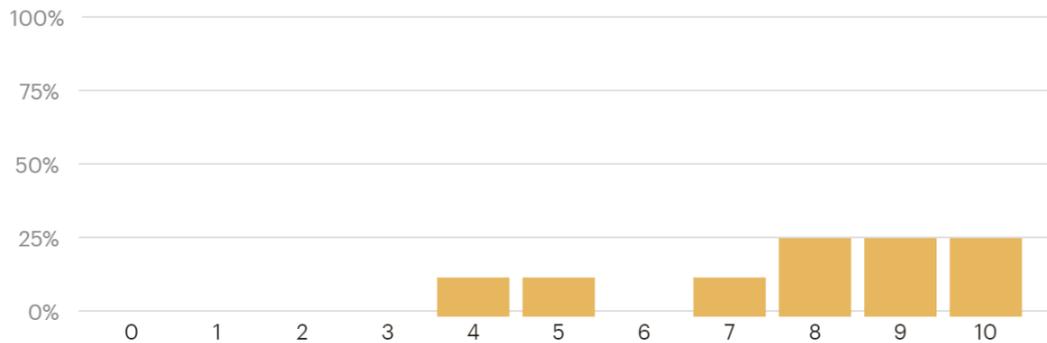
Question 5 has 10 answers (Range) Avg rating: 8.4

“How engaging did you find "Session II: Sharing the BioLink experience"?”



Question 6 has 9 answers (Range) Avg rating: 7.8

“How engaging did you find the Workshop?”



Question 7 has 9 answers (Radio Buttons)

“Your group leader at the Workshop was:”



Question 8

Any other comments or thoughts about the content of the sessions?”

“Very good”

“I did not contribute much to the discussions mostly because (as mentioned previously) it is beyond my competences. ”

“The workshop was not too interactive - there were many people with a switched off camera and not responding - in our workshop “only” 5-6 people were discussing - the content discussed was very good.”

“I found it interesting that there was quite some parallelism in”

### Question 9

“Is there anything else you would like to share about the event?”

"Very good, excellent way to share experience"

"The overall feeling was good, I could learn a lot and we could all see how more interactions between projects, biobank and research organisations will help us to get towards more harmonisation for the future."

"Congratulations on this perfectly organised event. It gave a very nice overview about possibilities as well as complexity and difficulties in biobanking. This is a good motivation to discuss the further development of our biobank and thereby evaluate both existing and new processes. Thank you very much, it was really inspiring"

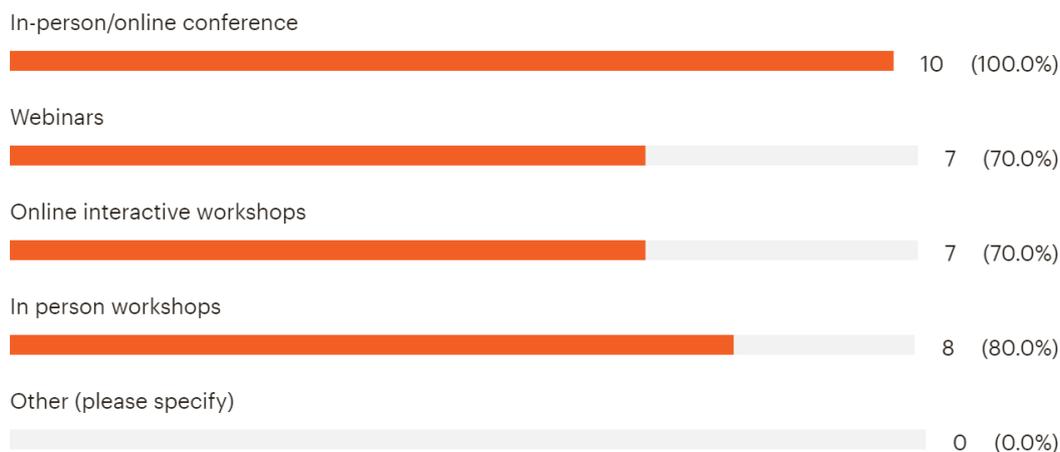
"Please repeat. There is many things which can be done - I think more workshops and capacity forming of biobanks could be good. For microbiology e.g. there could be an ESCMID workshop organized which I am happy to organize (its me, Adrian :) Strain collections could be involved to talk about this - could be a SBP/ESCMID event."

"Should be repeated. Materials should be shared."

"Overall, a very good experience. You should try to do this regularly, so that the gained momentum is kept up (2x per year ?)."

Question 10 has 10 answers (Checkboxes)

“What sort of events would you like from us in the future?”



## Question 11

“What are the topics you are mostly interested in?”

*“How can the access to the biobank samples be more simple or better explained for researchers?”*

*“Biobanking, Connection between biobanks and potential partners”*

*“Data/sample collection harmonization/coordination, data/sample sharing, biobank application, informatic strategies/automation, rare samples ”*

*“News of the development of SBP to better understand how it can link to other research-related organisations”*

*“biobank sample and data management, quality measures of samples, ethical and legal aspects/considerations in biobanking, options and tools in build-up of a database for research outcomes from used biobank samples”*

*“Collaboration between SBP, particularly NExT and the Swiss Registry Rare Disease”*

*“Biobanks of Bacteria, Fungi, Viruses... ”*

*“Inter-cohort collaboration”*

*“Experiences of other biobanks in implementing a BIMS. Properties of the different software systems.”*