



## Europe Biobank Week Congress comes to Bologna

The [Europe Biobank Week](#) (EBW) Congress, jointly organised between [BBMRI-ERIC](#) (the European Research Infrastructure for Biobanking and Biomolecular Resources in Health and Life Science) and [ESBB](#) (the European, African and Middle Eastern Society for Biopreservation and Biobanking) takes place from 13-16 May at Bologna Congressi, Italy.

The 2025 congress will host sessions showcasing the latest developments that represent the increasing importance of biobanking for human, environmental and animal health.

Bigger than ever, the organisers welcome over 700 delegates, including 45 sponsors, to embed the congress at the most influential biobanking event of the year. Particularly amongst research infrastructures, EBW is unique in size and scale for bringing together researchers, biobank staff, institutions and industry who engage in high-quality scientific sessions.

### EBW25 highlights

Four expert workshops, two keynotes, 99 oral and 137 poster presentations are set to be delivered over four days.

Keynote highlights are from Prof. Walter Ricciardi, Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, Rome, speaking about the need for courageous leadership in science and health in challenging times and Prof. Dr. Lili Milani, University of Tartu, on bringing the benefits of biobanking closer to the people.

The Scientific Programme Committee is also pleased to welcome European Commission expertise from Dr. Mélodie Bernaux who will discuss European Health Data Spaces – Concepts, implementation, and implications for biobanks.

A special topic curated by the [European Partnership for Personalised Medicine](#) will explore the critical role biobanks play for advances in personalised medicine (PM) as a scientific and healthcare concept to address citizens and patients' needs.

Prof. Jens K. Habermann, BBMRI-ERIC Director General, and Roland Leiminger, ESBB President, have led the joint organising committee.

Habermann shares:

“EBW is the unique place for our biobanking community to build, maintain and intensify collaborations with academic and industry partners, citizens and policy makers while learning about newest developments and discussing future directions. I am very much looking forward to this wide thematic portfolio of workshops, session and podium discussion and - last but not least - the extensive networking possibilities.”

Leiminger agrees:

“I am delighted to welcome all participants to EBW25 - the central meeting place for the international biobanking community. I look forward to time with colleagues who are full of scientific passion, knowledge and inspiration that furthers development of this fascinating field. The future of biobanks is in our hands - let's be the creators of this future!”



This year's congress is hosted by [BBMRI Italy](#). Professor Marialuisa Lavitrano has led the local organising committee with the strong involvement of the Italian biobanking community. Prof. Lavitrano contributes:

"We are honored to welcome the global biobanking community to Italy for Europe Biobank Week 2025. This congress offers an unparalleled platform for biobankers, healthcare professionals, academic experts and industry leaders to connect, collaborate, and share cutting-edge research and innovations.

"Italy is proud to showcase the latest scientific advancements in biobanking, which reflect our nation's commitment to leadership in scientific excellence and international collaboration."

### Super computing takes centre stage

High capacity data processing and storage of sensitive health data is a major topic of the congress. Prof. Zoccoli, President of the [ICSC](#) – Italy's National High-Performance Computing, Big Data and Quantum Computing Research Centre - will be an integral part of the opening ceremony.

BBMRI-ERIC and the ICSC are founding Nodes of the EOSC Federation. In build up stage, the Federation links data repositories and services that will be instrumental for Open Science to progress in Europe. This early cross Node collaboration is significant, as Prof. Jens K. Habermann explains:

"We are delighted to welcome the ICSC at EBW25. Cooperation between ICSC and BBMRI will enable the widest possible access to scientific communities and exchange of knowledge and experience.

"Better data management and sharing with ICSC and BBMRI users will also provide capacity for secure and trusted data processing environments for sensitive health data. The result will enable new collaborative approaches at larger scale."

Prof. Zoccoli adds:

"It is a real pleasure to take part in this prestigious congress, which brings together the entire scientific community grappling with the crucial challenge represented by the exploitation of biological and medical data for the study and treatment of diseases. This is a field where the ICSC National Center is already making significant contributions, which highlight the strategic choices made by the Italian Ministry of University and Research under the National Recovery and Resilience Plan.

"Therefore, we look forward to close cooperation between ICSC and BBMRI—built on and expanding the principles of sharing and collaboration at the heart of the EOSC initiative—will further strengthen Europe's capacity to manage health data and develop innovative analytical tools, always in full compliance with privacy and EU regulations."

## Programme

The [scientific programme](#) brings together experts from across Europe and further afield through oral and poster presentations that address:

- Navigating the Future of Biobanks: Challenges and Innovations. This includes topics on One Health, Rare Diseases, green practices and public health priorities.
- Bridging the Gap: Biobanks and Data-Driven Research folds in topics of artificial intelligence, big data, secure processing environments of sensitive health data and showcasing best practice.
- Biobanks – Pathways to Quality and Efficiency will address quality control of samples, preanalytical quality indicators, handling special samples and critical biobank resources in multi-omics research.
- Education, ELSI Insights, Stakeholder Collaboration and Patient-Centered Partnerships incorporates topics on ethical, legal and societal implications of biobanking, patient-centric engagement, building stronger partnerships and increasing sustainability within biobanking through training and education.

An additional [industry led programme](#) has been developed to profile the potential of existing and future partnerships. This includes a podium discussion to explore existing synergies of best practice and innovation.

The closing ceremony will highlight the best oral and poster presentations, recognise community leaders who have made significant contributions to biobanking, announce the winner of Pitch your innovative idea and make awards to biobanks that have achieved the [BBMRI Quality Label](#) for 2025.

## Strengthening the community through education

Four pre-congress workshops, led by community experts, focus in detail on sharing knowledge and best practices.

- AI in medicine focuses on its latest applications and the ethical considerations surrounding its implementation.
- Traceability of samples and data examines issues and challenges biobanks deal with under strict safety procedures and confidentiality.
- Building Bridges will look at practical ways to enhance patient and public engagement and involvement in biobanks and research.
- Finally, Multi-actor engagement approach for next generation biobanking looks at how to adopt innovative models that encourage active involvement from all stakeholders, with a view to ensuring scientific development that aligns with the principles of responsible research and innovation and open science.

## Sponsors and exhibitors

The Europe Biobank Week 2025 is made possible [by 45 sponsors](#) that support the congress and who will be present at the Bologna Congressi to share their expertise and innovations that help make quality biobanking and life science research possible. The Europe Biobank Week Congress is supported by [Emilia Romagna Regional Tourism Board](#).

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For editors:

## About the event

Europe Biobank Week is a yearly congress jointly organised between BBMRI-ERIC and ESBB. It unites biobankers, researchers, industry and decision makers from across the life sciences to discuss the latest innovative research and industry changes.

The EBW website has all the latest [programme](#), [sponsorship](#) and [congress news](#).

## About BBMRI-ERIC

[BBMRI-ERIC](#) is the European Research Infrastructure for biobanking and biomolecular resources established in 2013 under EU legislation. BBMRI-ERIC enables the development of innovative technology and processes as a cross-domain network that facilitates responsible access to high quality samples, data and biomolecular resources. We achieve this through multidisciplinary expertise and service provision, scientific excellence, knowledge exchange and partnerships in health and life sciences. **BBMRI-ERIC's vision** is simplified as: **"Biobanking for a Healthier World"**. Its headquarters are in Graz, Austria.

**BBMRI-ERIC Members:** Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Slovenia, Sweden and Switzerland.

**BBMRI-ERIC Observers:** Denmark, IARC/WHO, Qatar, Spain and Türkiye.

For more information about BBMRI-ERIC, visit [www.bbmri-eric.eu](http://www.bbmri-eric.eu)

## About ESBB

ESBB is the European, Middle Eastern & African Society for Biopreservation and Biobanking. Its mission is to advance biosharing for a better world through mobilising, inspiring, and educating the biobank community across EMEA.

Empowering biosharing is encouraging & supporting interdisciplinary approaches, working towards sustainability for biobanks, providing a strong united voice for biobankers to guide future advancement for our community and much more.

## About ICSC

ICSC is Italy's Research Center dedicated to High Performance Computing (HPC), Big Data, and Quantum Computing, established under the National Recovery and Resilience Plan (NRPP) to advance strategic sectors and foster innovation from research to industry. With a mission to manage and coordinate cutting-edge national and international R&D, ICSC is building a globally attractive ecosystem supporting scientific research, industry, and public administration to strengthen Italy's competitiveness and economic growth.

The Center is developing an advanced cloud-based supercomputing infrastructure by federating and upgrading national resources and promoting top-tier training for highly skilled professionals. In collaboration with private and public partners, ICSC also accelerates innovation transfer through the development of pioneering solutions in Digital Twins, Artificial Intelligence, and Quantum Computing, unlocking the scientific and socio-economic value of massive data volumes.

In 2025, ICSC was selected as Italy's national node of the European Open Science Cloud (EOSC), contributing its infrastructure and expertise to foster open science across Europe. Through its resources and integrated platform, ICSC provides cutting-edge computational and data services to support European research communities.

ICSC's activities are managed by the ICSC Foundation, uniting 51 founding members from Italy's academic, research, and industrial sectors. Structured on a Hub & Spoke model, the Center coordinates national efforts



from its Bologna (DAMA Tecnopolo Data Manifattura Emilia-Romagna) headquarters, while its Spokes lead research and development across eleven strategic domains.

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