

## **Pre-conference Workshop at the *Europe Biobank Week 2018* in Antwerp, Belgium**

09:00 – 12:30 on September 4<sup>th</sup>, 2018

---

**Workshop 3:** Professionalising Biobanking as a Career

**Workshop Organiser:** Dr Balwir Matharoo-Ball

**Co-Chairs of workshop:** Dr Balwir Matharoo-Ball and Prof. Jens Habermann

### **Workshop Abstract:**

The field of modern biobanking has seen global growth and there is a demand for ongoing education and professionalization of this sector. Biospecimens have become a strategic tool for healthcare and medical research, research and conservation in biodiversity, animal, plant and microbial biology as well as in translational medical research and precision medicine. Biobanking for future research and conservation has now become a new discipline which requires qualified professionals with specific skills and competencies. We need to invest in our staff and ensure that they are trained in multiple aspects of biobanking processes, including technical, managerial, regulatory, and ethical aspects, and who have a good understanding of the challenges of biospecimen research, but also of the challenges related to the sustainability of future biobanks. To date however; no dedicated job descriptions (JD), person specification (PS) or competency framework template documents exist for Biobank professionals. This is a major issue which needs urgently rectifying both nationally and internationally.