

## Speaker Profiles: BBMRI-ERIC ELSI Dialogues Webinar

### Organoids: Scientific, ethical and regulatory aspects

31 October 2023 @ 15:00 - 16:00 CEST

#### *Dr. Melanie Goisauf*

Dr. Melanie Goisauf is a social scientist and holds a doctorate (with honors) in Sociology from the University of Vienna. She also studied at the Royal Holloway University of London and is a graduate of the postgraduate program "Sociology of Social Practices" of the Institute for Advanced Studies (IHS) Vienna. Her dissertation was awarded the prize for best thesis in 2017 by the research network "Gender and Agency" of the University of Vienna. Since 2008 she has been working as a lecturer at the Department of Science and Technology Studies and the Institute of Sociology of the University of Vienna, and at the University of Malta. Currently, she is senior scientist at the European Infrastructure for Biobanking (BBMRI-ERIC). She is involved in several research projects, also in a leading position, she is a member of ethical advisory boards and leads the Ethics of AI Lab. Her research focus is on ethical and social/societal aspects of biobanking, in particular on governance and stakeholder engagement, as well as gender, knowledge production and artificial intelligence.

#### *Dr. Zisis Kozlakidis*

Dr Kozlakidis has significant expertise in the field of biobanking. Until recently he served as the President of ISBER, and he has been involved in the activities of [BBMRI.uk](http://BBMRI.uk). His ISBER presidency was instrumental in the closer collaboration between ISBER and BBMRI-ERIC, with the signing of a [Memorandum of Understanding](#) between the two organisations and the planning of many future joint activities. It is expected that this close collaboration will continue now that Dr Kozlakidis has taken up his position with IARC and BCNet, to the benefit of the biobanking field globally.

Dr Kozlakidis is a virologist, with a PhD in microbiology from Imperial College London. He is an elected Fellow of the Linnean Society of London, the Royal Academy of Sciences, UK, and a Turnberg Fellow of the UK Academy of Medical Sciences. Dr Kozlakidis has contributed to seminal studies in the adoption of innovations into routine healthcare, and their associated financial impacts (NHS Innovation, 2014: "The determinants for the adoption of innovation in the NHS"; PHG Foundation, 2015: "Pathogen genomics into practice"; WHO, 2016: "Ensuring innovation in diagnostics for bacterial infection"). He holds an Executive MBA degree from Cass Business School, City University, London, and he is a co-founder of the City Healthcare Innovation Network, a conduit for providing and strengthening contacts between healthcare start-ups and financial institutions based in the financial district of London.

### *Dr. Maria Berdasco Menendez*

Dr. Berdasco is a molecular biologist with over 20 years of experience in the field of Clinical Epigenetics, or the clinical translation of the epigenetic findings, previously as principal researcher at the CNIO (Madrid) and IDIBELL (Barcelona) and currently as Head of the Epigenetic Therapies (EPITARGET) Research Group at Josep Carreras Leukaemia Research Institute. She has participated in international research consortia of European projects, covering funding schemes from the Cooperation Scheme in H2020 (ITN, RISE, COST) and she is the principal investigator of various other privately funded endeavours and national programs. To improve the group's research lines in translational research some actions are promoted, including clinical-basic interactions, technological transfer, or agreements with private companies. An aspect of interest for the translational value of the research is her education and professional activities in Bioethics and management of human samples for biomedical research (Master in Bioethics and Law-University of Barcelona Cátedra UNESCO and Master in management of Human Samples Biobanking to conduct research in Biomedicine, UCV- Spanish National Biobank Network). In 2019, she was designated by the Spanish Ministry of Science and Technology as member of the Advisory Committee for Human Tissue and Cell donation and use, a management structure from the Sub-directorate general for Research on Cellular Therapy at the Instituto de Salud Carlos III. She is Chair of the Ethical Committee for Regenerative Medicine (CEIC-pCMR[C], Barcelona).

### *Dr. Signe Mežinska*

Dr. Signe Mežinska is a bioethicist and sociologist by training. She is affiliated at the University of Latvia, Faculty of Medicine as an Associate Professor, and holds a PhD in Sociology and MSc in Bioethics. Signe has been teaching medical ethics, bioethics, and research ethics for more than 20 years. Her scientific interests include biomedical research ethics, ethics of biobanking and biotechnologies, reproductive ethics and rational use of medicines. Signe serves as a member of the UNESCO International Bioethics Committee, as well as an ethics expert for WHO, BBMRI-ERIC, European Commission and several national bodies in Latvia. Currently she is a work package leader in several projects funded by the European Commission Horizon program.

### *Dr. Mike Lensink*

Mike Lensink (33) was trained in philosophy and technology ethics, specialising in the ethical aspects of biomedical innovations. He has worked as an academic researchrt at the Medical Humanities department of the University Medical Center in Utrecht (The Netherlands), where he studied the ethical aspects of organoid research as part of a large international Horizon 20202 consortium. For his PhD thesis (published in 2021) Mike has focused on studying the perspectives of different stakeholders on the ethical challenges involved in organoid biobanking, and put forward some ethically responsible ways forward in the governance of the field, specifically on topics like consent, meaningful involvement of biobank participants/patients, and commercial use. Mike currently works as an advisor to governmental organisations, to facilitate the ethically responsible use of technology, big data and AI.