

# Speakers' Bios

## “From Biosamples to Personalized Medicine” Seminar

31 May 2016, Brussels

**Jan-Eric Litton** is Professor of Biomedical Computing Technology at the Karolinska Institutet, Stockholm, Sweden. He was appointed BBMRI-ERIC's first Director General on 22 January 2014. Litton acts as the chief executive officer and legal representative of BBMRI-ERIC and is responsible to the Assembly of Members. Litton was Executive Director and head of one of the largest medical infrastructure in Sweden – BBMRI.se (The Biobanking and Molecular Resource Infrastructure of Sweden). He also coordinated the Nordic BBMRI (Denmark, Sweden, Norway, Finland, Island, Faroe Island and Estonia). Litton is renowned for his expertise in biobanking and leadership in large-scale projects. He is also heading the development of e-epidemiology by using Internet, cell-phones, digital paper and digital TV for collecting epidemiology data. Litton is involved in 8 large EU projects in medicine, including the: BiobankCloud – Scalable, Secure Storage of Biobank Data. He was one of the driving forces in the FP5 project GenomEUtwin, where an infrastructure was built to link information between the 600 000 twins in seven European Countries and Australia between 2002–2007. He led an infrastructure group in the "EU Coordination Action; Harmonising population-based biobanks and cohort studies to strengthen the foundation of European biomedical science in the post-genome era" 2006, and has been involved in P3G since 2004, he led IWG2 (Information Curation and Information Technology) in P3G during 2004–2008. He was the co-director for the Swedish LifeGene initiative, a prospective cohort based biobank with the aim of 500,000 participants until 2010. Since 2012, Litton is part of the e-science initiative in Sweden with a yearly budget from the Swedish government. Jan-Eric Litton has also made major contributions to the current knowledge in Positron Emission Tomography (PET) and was one of the first researchers showing receptor binding with PET technique. He did his post doc at The Research Medicine Department of Lawrence Berkeley Laboratory and Donner Laboratory of the University of California, USA, 1986–1987. Litton has been giving more than 32 invited keynote lecture last six years

**Michaela Th. Mayrhofer** is a political scientist and historian by training. She was educated in Vienna, Louvain-la-Neuve, Essex and Paris. In 2010, she has earned her PhD from both the Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales and the University of Vienna, which was shortlisted by the Austrian Society for Political Science for the 'best thesis 2010' young scientist award. Furthermore, she is Research Fellow at the IFZ and Member of the Editorial Board of the Austrian Journal of Political Science (ÖZP). Prior to her appointment to Senior Project Manager of BBMRI-ERIC and senior officer to the COMMON SERVICE ELSI, she was investigator in several national and international research projects focusing on the politics of biotechnology and the life sciences. Her academic career led her to various positions and stays at the Centre de Recherche Médecine, Sciences, Santé et Société, the University of Vienna, the Institute of Technology and Society Studies at the Alpen-Adria-Universität Klagenfurt/Vienna/Graz, the Technical University of Vienna, the Fondation Brocher and the Medical University of Graz. She was involved in the coordination of the BBMRI Preparatory Phase and is experienced in the management of national and international research projects.

**Alastair Kent** OBE is the Director of Genetic Alliance UK, and is Chair of Rare Disease UK. Alastair has worked in the field of genetic and rare disease healthcare for over 20 years. Alastair represents the

interests of patients on numerous platforms; he is the president of the European Genetic Alliances Network (EGAN), Immediate Past Chair of the European Platform for Patient Organisations, Science and Industry (EPPOSI) and the EU Committee of Experts on Rare Diseases amongst others. He has previously been a member of the Orphan Medicinal Products Committee and Committee for Advanced Therapies at the European Medicines Agency and a member of the Human Genetics Commission.

**Francesco Florindi** joined ECPC in March 2014 as Public Affairs Coordinator. He obtained a cum laude Master in International Relations and Diplomacy from the University of Trieste-Gorizia with a thesis on EU enlargement. In Brussels, Francesco worked for regional representatives, NGOs, research centres and the European Commission (Joint Research Centre). His experience working on cancer dates back to 2013, when he joined ECCO and SIOPE Public Affairs team. This experience raised his awareness of the challenges faced by patients. Hence, he quickly moved to the side of patients, putting his policy and public affairs skills to ECPC's service, helping the ECPC Board to produce a new policy strategy ("Europe of Disparities in Cancer") and to deliver several high profile projects. Francesco is a fellow Young Gasteiner and a Member of the European Health Parliament.

**Dietrich Rebholz -Schuhmann** is a director of Insight Centre for Data Analytics @NUI Galway. Prof Rebholz-Schuhmann is a qualified doctor with a PhD in immunology. Now a professor of computer science, he works at the interface between medicine and data research, specializing in the fields of Semantic Web and Linked Data.

**Dr. Amalia-Irina Vlad** is the Head of Sector Digital Patient at the European Commission. She is responsible with the modelling and simulation of diseases research area in FP7 and H2020 and the coordination of the eHealth research activities in the Health and Well-being Unit, European Commission, Directorate-General for Communication Networks, Content and Technology -DG CONNEX. She received a MD degree from Carol Davila Medical University and a PhD from the Paris 13 University.

**Michel Pletschette** MD, MSc, DTMH, FRCP, has trained in microbiology, infectious diseases and epidemiology in Austria, UK and Germany and became the director of the first German clinical microbiology department in the Hannover Medical School. In 1992, he joined the European Commission as scientific officer of the EU health research program for development, working on project and policies for scientific cooperation between countries of the European Union and third countries in Africa, Asia, Latin American and the former Soviet Union. In 2005 he was moved to the Directorate General for Health (DG SANTE Health) of the European Commission as Head of Scientific Unit of the new Executive Agency of the EU Public Health Programme. In 2009 he was appointed to lead the policy evaluation, audit and strategic advice unit. Since 2016 he is senior advisor for research and science issues in DG SANTE with a focus on health sciences.

**Angela Brand**, MD PhD MPH (USA) is Full Professor at MERIT (Maastricht Economic and Social Research Institute on Innovation and Technology), Faculty of Humanities and Sciences at Maastricht University, The Netherlands, Director of the European Centre for Public Health Genomics (ECPHG) as well as Dr. T.M.Pai Endowed Chair on Public Health Genomics and Adjunct Professor at the School of Life Sciences at Manipal University, India. Before she worked in the clinics, at various academic institutions and in governmental bodies in the USA and Germany. She is Fellow of the Rockefeller Foundation, USA, of the 21st Century Trust of the Wellcome Trust, UK, and Member of the New York Academy of Sciences. She is Expert of the International Consortium Personalised Medicine (IC PerMed),

Editor-in-Chief of the international Journal Public Health Genomics, Steering Committee Member of the European Alliance for Personalised Medicine (EAPM).

**Dr. Ivo Gut** is the Director of the Centro Nacional de Análisis Genómico (CNAG-CRG), one of the largest genome sequencing center in Europe. From 1999 to 2009 he established, at the Centre National de Génotypage (CNG), the highest throughput genotyping platform in Europe and executed many genome-wide association studies; he was the coordinator of the EU-funded Project READNA in which 2nd, 3rd and 4th generation nucleic acid analysis technologies were developed. He received his PhD in Physical Chemistry from the University of Basel in 1990. He is author of more than 300 research papers, 11 reviews and 12 book chapters, cited over 21 000 times, inventor of 25 patents or patent applications, founder of 4 biotech start-ups, and serves on numerous international advisory boards.

**Dirk Fey** is a junior group leader at Systems Biology Ireland. His aim is a quantitative understanding of cancer related signalling networks across the scales ranging from the intracellular to the organism level. For example, how does variability on the cellular level affect cell fate? How do patient-to-patient differences affect clinical outcomes? He holds a PhD with European distinction from the University of Liege, and a MEng in Engineering Cybernetics from the University of Stuttgart. Dirk's career path included industry and several academic institutions, including BASF Ludwigshafen and Thomas Jefferson University, Philadelphia.

**Gwendolyn Goedbloed** is global Biobank head at Janssen. Goedbloed is an engineer by education and has been working at Janssen for 17 years starting in compound logistics, diagnostics and since 4 years on Biobanking. She has been setting-up a Biobank in Beerse in 2012. In 2013 she was appointed to lead the global Biobank community of practices with stakeholders in US, Shanghai, Netherlands and Belgium.

**Declan Kirrane** is the Chairman and Managing Director of ISC. His expertise covers IP, R&D consortia development, management and dissemination in areas such as ICT, health, security, defence, space and related policies, legislation, programmes and funding mechanisms. Prior to ISC he was responsible for the dissemination of the European Union's Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development and Demonstration (FP). Kirrane has a background in analysing the relationship between public and private R&D investment and the impact on R&D performance. He has worked extensively on science policy evaluation methodologies and technology options for policy and decision makers. He was the contractor that established the CORDIS News Service for the Commission in 1994 and has edited CORDIS focus and Innovation and Technology Transfer Newsletter, both published by the European Commission. He is a graduate of University College, Dublin and the Dublin Institute of Technology.