

### A Merry Christmas and a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year!

The year is drawing to a close and we are looking confidently towards 2019!

Twelve months have passed in which we have further progressed and moved a big step closer towards our goals. This big step forward included among others:

- The **public declaration of the quality of biobank sample collections as one of the first in Europe** and indication in the "BBMRI.at Biobank and Sample Catalogue" and the BBMRI-ERIC Directory
- The **organization of multiple courses on sample processing, implementation of the CEN/TS sample quality standards** ([... more](#)) and on biobanking ([... more](#)) – **to educate and train international biobanks and researchers**
- The internal **quality management cross audits within BBMRI.at biobanks** which represents a sign of mutual trust – **to further improve quality**
- A **BBMRI.at Flyer for researchers containing information on the service portfolio and access procedures** ([... more](#))
- **Discussion panels with Austrian citizens and patients** – **to engage with the public and adapt our work** based on their attitudes and needs
- **Several public activities**, such as "Long Night of Science" and "Biobanking University workshops for children for which BBMRI.at received a "Special Award for PR" ([... more](#))
- **Exchange with experts from industry** ... to better understand their needs and improve our services



We would like to thank all people who contributed to these wonderful achievements for the great cooperation and their commitment to BBMRI.at!

We wish you a blessed Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year