

## BBMRI.it promotes coordinated action towards the COVID-19 pandemic

B. Parodi<sup>1</sup>, E.Bravo<sup>2</sup>, S. Casati<sup>3</sup>, M.G. Daidone<sup>4</sup>, M. Gnocchi<sup>5</sup>, M. Macilotti<sup>5</sup>, L. Milanesi<sup>5</sup>, L. Minghetti<sup>2</sup>, M. Napolitano<sup>2</sup>, A. Paradiso<sup>6</sup>, G. Stanta<sup>7</sup>, P. Visconti<sup>1</sup>, M. Lavitrano<sup>8</sup>

<sup>1</sup> IRCCS Ospedale Policlinico San Martino, Genova; <sup>2</sup> Istituto Superiore di Sanità, Roma; <sup>3</sup> Università Milano-Bicocca, Milano; <sup>4</sup> IRCCS Istituto Tumori, Milano; <sup>5</sup> CNR-ITB, Segrate, Milano; <sup>6</sup> IRCCS Istituto Tumori "Giovanni Paolo II", Bari; <sup>7</sup> Università di Trieste; <sup>8</sup> Università Milano-Bicocca, Milano - BBMRI.it National Node Director



### INTRODUCTION

COVID-19 epidemic is a challenging situation, falling in the area between clinical care, public health and clinical research.

### AIM

To address the immediate need to do research for a better understanding of COVID-19

### METHOD

Set up of a COVID-19 dedicated section of the BBMRI.it portal

Publication of guidelines and recommendations.

Structure the ethical framework of COVID-19 research.

Launch of a survey among Italian biobanks in order to promote sharing of resources.

### RESULTS

A COVID-19 dedicated section of the BBMRI.it portal has been set up <https://www.bbmri.it/en/biobanche-covid19/>, to make tools and documents immediately available to the scientific community:

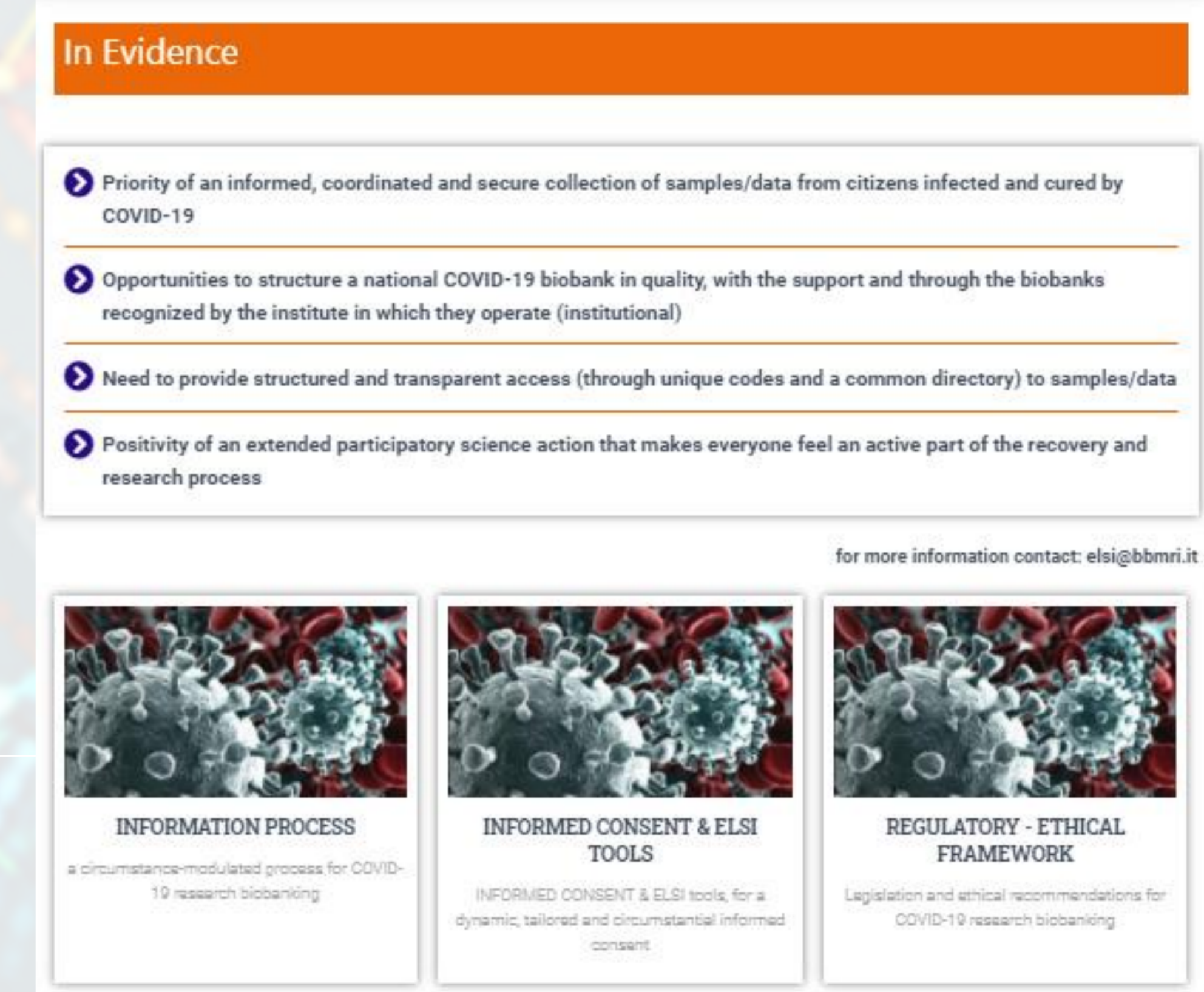
- International guidelines and recommendations for the collection, transport, storage and laboratory testing of biological samples covid-19 have been published, by linking to CDC and WHO public databases <https://www.bbmri.it/en/documenti/documenti-covid-19/>
- The ethical framework of COVID-19 research has been shared and the information process to the patient has been structured <https://www.bbmri.it/en/nodo-nazionale/elsi-covid-19/assetto-etico-normativo/>
- A specific informed consent model for the collection, preservation and use of biological materials and associated data (biobanking) for COVID-19 research has been produced <https://www.bbmri.it/en/nodo-nazionale/elsi-covid-19/strumenti-informativi/>
- A survey among Italian biobanks was launched, to understand which resources (biological samples and data) are available and can be shared to facilitate progress in the knowledge of the virus.

### CONCLUSIONS

To improve the clinical and public health response, an unprecedented action is underway to collect biological samples and demographic and health data from the population, which are crucial for effective research on COVID-19.

Italy has been dramatically at the forefront of the pandemic, facing an emergency which amounts to an unprecedented clinical, humanitarian, ethical and financial crisis.

BBMRI.it has taken immediate action, by supporting BBMRI-ERIC in joining forces to find ways to help the scientific community to conduct research on Covid-19.



### REFERENCES

Istituto Superiore di Sanità Recommendations for collection, transport and storage of COVID-19 biological samples. Version of April 15, 2020. ISS COVID-19 Translational Research Working Group 2020, 19 p. Rapporti ISS COVID-19 n. 13/2020

### CONTACT INFORMATION

barbara.parodi@hsanmartino.it