Dear Members,

I am thrilled and honored to serve as the IBANGS President this year!

I would like to thank outgoing President Karla Kaun for her inspiring work and mentorship this past year. I would also like to acknowledge the hard work of the IBANGS Executive Committee, Program Committee, and Local Organizing Committee for their leadership in executing a highly successful, diverse, and intellectually stimulating annual Genes, Brain, and Behavior meeting at Western University in London, Ontario, Canada. I would also like to extend a warm welcome to Paul Meyer as the incoming President-elect and new Members-at-Large Francesca Telese and Derek Morris.

I look forward to working with Executive Committee Members Amy Lasek (Treasurer), David Ashbrook (Secretary), Member-at-Large (Kristin Scaplen), and new Local Organizing Committee Members (Kelly Clemens and Timothy Bredy). Thanks to all for their service this year! I also look forward to working with IBANGS Committee members and chairs to continue development of networking and mentorship events, seminar series, and new initiatives. I encourage everyone to participate in upcoming society events. Please also consider contributing your thoughts and ideas for the continued success of our society by joining an IBANGS Committee. We are currently accepting new members for several Committees including Inclusion and Diversity, Education and Training, Program, and Awards Committees.

We have many exciting developments to look forward to in 2024-25, many of which are highlighted in this edition of the newsletter. Major events this year include an upcoming seminar series coordinated by the Membership Committee and our 2025 annual meeting in Fiji! We are currently working hard on the meeting program and are soliciting Young Investigator and Distinguished Investigator Award nominations. Travel award and symposia submission information will be coming soon! Please consider registering early this year as we have reserved a limited number of rooms and want to make sure that all who wish to attend the meeting can do so!

Have a safe and relaxing summer!

Kind regards,

Megan Mulligan
The Big News!

**GBB25** Fiji. Meeting Registration is open.
Register early and receive the early bird rate

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**Local Organizers**
Dr. Kelly Clemens, University of New South Wales, Sydney
Professor Timothy Bredy, Queensland Brain Institute, Brisbane

**Shangri-La Resort and Spa**
Address: Yanuca Island, Coral Coast, Fiji Islands Fiji
Phone: (679) 652 0155
E-mail: fij@shangri-la.com

**Meeting Registration Genes, Brain and Behavior 2025, Fiji**
Registration includes: 4 nights accommodation (5/19 through 5/22), breakfast, lunch, dinner, refreshments, opening reception and beachside banquet. Note-Registration fee is reduced by $500 per person if sharing a room with another meeting registrant.

**Registration Fees**
Regular Member - $2100
Student/Postdoc Member - $1600
Regular Non Member - $2500
Student/Postdoc Non Member - $1800
Regular Member (room sharing) - $1600
Student/Postdoc Member (room sharing) - $1100
Regular Non Member (room sharing) - $2000
Student/Postdoc Non Member (room sharing) - $1300

**Extended stay**
Meeting attendees have the option to stay 3 evenings before (5/16-5/18) and/or after (5/23-5/25) the conference. Note-Supplementary days are not all inclusive. Breakfast is included. Each additional evening costs $281. Children 12 years and older are considered adults and will need a second room booking. For families with infants, 1 baby cot may be reserved at no extra cost.
Annual GBB24 Meeting Summary
This year’s Annual Meeting boasted 160 Registrations, 112 Abstracts, and 33 Travel Awardees. Based on meeting survey responses, highlights of the meeting included

- The meeting was well organized
- Good selection of diverse talks and topics
- Networking opportunities were excellent
- Social events and lunches were enjoyable
- The strong sense of community was appreciated

Thank you to all who completed the annual meeting survey. Your feedback will be helpful for planning future meetings.

It Takes a Village
THANK YOU to all of the folks that contributed to making the annual meeting a success: Local organizers, Anne Simon, Jibran Khokhar, Marla Sokolowski, and Ina Anreiter, IBANGS Program Committee, Executive Committee, DEI Committee, Education and Training Committee, Awards Committee, Exhibitors and Sponsors: Touch Screen Cognition Group, Western Institute for Neuroscience, Schulich Institute of Medicine and Dentistry, Lafayette Instruments, TDT Technologies and ALL meeting participants.

A special THANK YOU to IBANGS Members for donating to support student travel at the meeting: David Linsenbardt, Zoe Bichler, Cheryl Reed, Francesca Telese, Cathy Fernandes, Mark Rutledge-Gorman, Camron Bryant, Hee-Sup Shin, and Mary-Anne Enoch.

GBB24 Highlights In Photos

Investigator Award Recipients and Plenary Speakers
Top, left to right: Early Career Awardee Francesca Telese and Distinguished Investigator Andrew Holmes.
Bottom, left to right, Bottom: Keynote, Amita Sehgal and Presidential Speaker, Sheena Jocelyn
Outstanding Travel Awardees

Top, left to right: Eamon Duffy, Jay Prakash Prasad Kumal, Bottom, left to right: Reut Hazani and John Hernandez

Website updates contributed by the DEI and Executive Committee

- Core Tenets and Principles
- Updated DEI statement
- Code of Ethics and Conduct

Become Involved

Please consider joining an IBANGS Committee this year! The Program Committee, Education and Training Committee, and Inclusion and Diversity Committee are actively soliciting new members. To join a committee please contact Megan Mulligan (mulliganmk@gmail.com) or Anna Delprato (annadelprato@gmail.com). A complete list of committees and members can be found here: https://www.ibngs.org/committees-2024

Distinguished Investigator and Early Career Award Nominations Open

Nominations are now open for the 2025 Distinguished Investigator and Early Career Award. The Early Career Achievement Award and the Distinguished Investigator Award recognize two outstanding individuals in the field of behavioral and neural genetics. Awardees will receive an honorarium, free meeting registration, and present their research in a plenary speech at the 2025 G2B Meeting in Fiji. For requirements and nomination details please see link:

Upcoming Events

Planning is in the works by the Membership Committee to launch a Seminar Series concerned with ethics in Behavior Genetics. The preliminary format is as follows:
Three topics, three seminars

• **Naive misunderstandings** of genetics research (e.g., members of the public not grasping the nuances of polygenic scores, heritability, etc.)

• **Deliberate misappropriation**/ weaponization of mainstream genetics (e.g., scientific racism, eugenics).

• How we as individual genetics researchers and as genetics-focused organizations can **combat both misunderstanding and misappropriation**.

If you would like more information, please contact Paul Meyer [pmeyer@buffalo.edu]

Happy Summer Everyone!

NASA’s James Webb Telescope, Halo at Sunrise. 2024