

IBANGS News

Fall 2023, Issue 21



Letter from the President

Dear IBANGS Members,

I hope your Fall term is off to a great start! The IBANGS executive members and committees have had a very busy start this year. The 2024 IBANGS Program Committee is putting together an exciting program for the annual Genes, Brains & Behavior Meeting, June 3-6 at Western University in London Ontario. We are looking forward to a fun and diverse meeting and hope you will consider submitting a proposal for a [symposium](#) (Due November 15). We have drafted new guidelines for submitting a proposal which we hope will be helpful for early career researchers interested in organizing a [symposium](#).

The Membership Committee and Education & Training Committee have also been collaborating to plan a virtual career panel for trainees to learn about a diversity of different careers this fall/winter. They are also working on the trainee workshop and networking activities for the annual meeting. The Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee has also put together a fantastic list of travel grant opportunities to increase



accessibility to attend the annual meeting for trainees, which is available on the member portal job forum board.

I'd like to also draw your attention to a recent NIH Guest Blog by Vence L. Bonham, Jr. and Sheri Schully on [Rethinking Population Descriptors in Genetics and Genomics Studies](#). Language surrounding genetic differences has recently been used in the popular media to promote scientific racism, and the National Academies of Science, Engineering and Medicine (NASEM) has convened a committee to explore population descriptors in genetics and genomics. This blog post includes useful links to navigating the use of population descriptors in genetics and genomics.

The Personal Genetics Education Project (pgEd) and Genetics Society of America (GSA) has also put together a useful list of resources for [Discussing Eugenics in the Classroom](#) that I encourage everyone who teaches behavioral or neurogenetics in the classroom or laboratory to read.

I wish you all a colorful autumn filled with change, growth and new discoveries.

Sincerely,
Karla Kaun
IBANGS President

Activities and Initiatives

We are excited to announce a series of innovative activities and initiatives aimed at enriching the IBANGS experience:

- **Fireside Chat:** The Membership Committee will organize a panel discussion on key topics in Behavior genetics. Please contact Paul Meyer [pmeyer@buffalo.edu] if you are interested in participating as a panel member or if you have a subject in mind that may be of interest to the membership. Stay tuned for more details on our upcoming sessions.
- **Careers and Coffee:** The Education Committee and Membership Committee are launching a mentorship program to foster connections and provide guidance to emerging researchers. Whether you're a mentor or mentee, this program will be aimed at facilitating growth and collaboration. A brief survey will be sent around to the membership for those interested in participating as a mentee.
- **Halloween Costume Photo Contest:** Back by popular demand. The society will hold the 2nd annual Halloween costume photo contest. Get ready to unleash your creativity this Halloween!, win exciting prizes and showcase your spooky spirit:O Watch for details around mid October.



- **Turkey Trot 5K Run/Walk:** Join us for a Turkey Trot 5K run/walk. Stay active, get outdoors and support a worthy cause, Toys for Tots. Watch for information in early November.

Expanded Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee

We're pleased to announce the expansion of our DEI Committee. Please join us in welcoming Jeffrey Glennon (Chair), Silvana Chiavegatto (ALBA representative), Vivek Philip, Alex Keene, Chao Guo, Annie Park, and Hayley Thorpe.

The DEI Committee is aligning with the other IBANGS committees as well as the ALBA network to further the society's initiatives. ALBA was founded by FENS, SFN and IBRO. You can check out the ALBA website for more information on background, opportunities and resources.

<https://www.alba.network/>.

As part of our commitment to fostering a more inclusive and diverse community, members will be asked to participate in a Diversity Survey which will be sent via email. Your responses will help us better understand the composition of our membership and identify opportunities for creating an even more inclusive community.

Communications Committee

A new Communications Committee is underway. Please join us in welcoming new committee members, Brent Kisby and Hayley Thorpe. The committee is just getting off the ground and there are opportunities to join this committee.. If you are interested in joining or would like more information, please contact IBANGS President, Karla Kaun [Karla_Kaun@brown.edu]

Membership Renewal Now Open

Don't forget to renew your IBANGS membership! Your continued support is invaluable in supporting the continuation of the field.

Membership Information and Options

Memberships are effective from Jan 1 – December 31. New memberships and renewals received after 10/1 are effective through the following calendar year.

Current membership rates

\$135 regular membership with online G2B access

\$45 trainee membership (undergraduate, graduate or postdoc) with online G2B access

\$45 Emeritus membership with online G2B access(Contact Anna for a discount code.)

Membership fees for scientists in developing countries



Rates vary depending on the country of residence. More information here:

<https://www.ibangs.org/assets/documents/IBANGS%20Fee%20Structure%20Developing%20Countries.pdf>

Resources

Repository

The society would like to create a repository for research and teaching materials that would be made available to members. If you are interested in helping with this initiative and/or have recommendations for resources, please contact Anna [administrator@ibangs.org].

Job Post

Contributed by Susan E. Maloney

My lab at Washington University in St. Louis is seeking a motivated scientist to join our behavioral team in the Departments of Genetics & Psychiatry. The primary responsibilities of this role include collecting behavioral data, conducting preliminary data quality analysis, maintaining experimental mouse lines, and molecular assays for genotype determination. Additional responsibilities and opportunities include statistical analysis, data interpretation and assisting the team to bring new behavioral assays online. Details here:

https://wustl.wd1.myworkdayjobs.com/External/job/Washington-University-Medical-Campus/Research-Technician-II---Genetics_JR76786.

Best Wishes for a Successful Research and Academic Year Ahead

As the new academic year unfolds, we extend our warmest wishes to all members. May this year be filled with discovery, collaboration, and achievement.

“Live in each season as it passes; breathe the air, drink the drink, taste the fruit, and resign yourself to the influence of the earth.”

— Henry David Thoreau