

IBANGS News FALL 2024, Issue 25

Message from the President



Autumn in the Northern Hemisphere marks a time of abundance. In celebration of the season I am looking forward to a wealth of society activities. First, I am excited to announce Professor Margaret McCarthy as our Presidential Speaker! The focus of Dr. McCarthy's research is on sex differences in the developing brain. I am looking forward to an engaging presentation of her work, including brand new research, during the annual meeting in Fiji!

In the spirit of changing seasons, I would also like to welcome Helen Kamens as the new chair of the Awards Committee and thank Richard Radcliffe for his excellent service in this position!

Next, in October, Karla Kaun will be hosting an IBANGS SFN breakfast meetup. Be sure to RSVP if you are planning to attend SFN this year! Also in October, we have the deadline for symposium proposals (October 15th). Don't forget to submit your proposals! In addition to contributing to the overall meeting program, selected symposia organizers will receive a big discount on meeting registration!

Mark your calendars for November 13th! Paul Meyer will host a stimulating virtual panel discussion on the Use and Misuse of Behavioral Genetics Research that features a panel of experts—Gene E. Robinson, Amy Non, and Daphne O. Martschenko—moderated by Marissa A. Ehringer. Many thanks to the Membership Committee and all those involved, especially Paul Meyer, in putting together this important and timely event.

Wishing all of you an abundant Fall Season and looking forward to seeing you at Society events over the next few months!

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Genes, Brain and Behavior Fiji 2025 Meeting Updates



DRAFT PROGRAM

Presidential Speaker: Professor Margaret M. McCarthy

Sex Differences in the Developing Brain

The McCarthy Lab sits at the intersection of neuroscience and endocrinology, utilizing the latest scientific techniques to elucidate the origins and mechanisms of sex differences in the developing brain. The lab is affiliated with the University of Maryland School of Medicine, located in Downtown Baltimore

Margaret M. McCarthy, PhD
James and Carolyn Frenkil Professor
Department of Pharmacology, Physiology and Drug Development
Director UM-MIND
University of Maryland School of Medicine
<https://www.mccarthylab.com/>

Registration, Hotel and Travel

Registration, hotel and travel information is provided below and is also available on the meeting page website: <https://www.ibangs.org/genes-brain-and-behavior-2025-fiji>

Conference Pricing (USD)

*Chair and Speakers from Selected Symposia will receive discounted meeting registration of \$1,600

*Registration fee is reduced by \$500 per person if sharing a room with another meeting registrant.

Registration includes 4 nights accommodation (5/19 through 5/22), breakfast, lunch, dinner, refreshments, opening reception and beachside banquet.

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

[Meeting Registration Form](#)

Additional accommodation (up to three nights) before and after the meeting is available at a discounted price using the link below.

[Supplementary Stay Registration](#)

[Meeting Information and FAQ](#)

[Fiji Travel](#)

Fiji Airways Flight Deals

https://www.fijairways.com/en-gb/?gad_source=1&gclid=CjwKCAjw6c63BhAiEiwAF0EH1HfH2W4N3isqAbFQSswyWMVK57v1vmCZ-EWJaNBLgpM8P5tBSE8x8RoCOQcQAvD_BwE

Calls and Deadlines

[Call for Investigator Award Nominations 2025](#)

Deadline October 15, 2024

[Symposia Submission and Guidelines](#)

Deadline October 15, 2024

[Travel Award Submission and Guidelines](#)

Deadline January 17, 2025

[Abstract Submission and Guidelines](#)

Deadline: January 17, 2025

Membership Renewals

The membership renewal period is underway. Renewal forms and information are available here: <https://ibangs.memberclicks.net/why-join-ibangs>

Membership Rates

\$135 regular membership

\$45 trainee membership (undergraduate, graduate or postdoc)

\$45 Emeritus membership with online G2B access (Contact Anna for a code [administrator@ibangs.org].)

Scientists from developing countries are eligible for a membership reduction. The fee structure is online here:

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

An IBANGS Membership is great for all career stages. As a reminder, member benefits include:

- Reduced registration costs for IBANGS annual conferences.
- Eligibility for society career awards at all levels.
- Travel awards for students and postdocs
- Career and professional development opportunities.
- Career and resume guidance provided by senior members.
- Serve on IBANGS committees.
- Nominate, vote, and run in IBANGS elections
- Submit scientific symposium proposals or serve on the Program Committee and have a voice in the selection of scientific symposia presented at the annual meeting.
- Free and unlimited advertising in the society newsletter and social media.
- Network, socialize, and collaborate with other scientists working in neurobehavioral genetics.
- Reduced publication charges for G2B. Scientists in eligible countries may access the journal via [Research4Life](#)
- Full membership in the [Federation of European Neuroscience Societies](#) (FENS).
- Complimentary subscription to the online version of the FENS journal, [The European Journal of Neuroscience](#), and reduced cost subscription to the print version.
- Participate in shaping the future of neurobehavioral genetics.

Awards Committee Update



A very special thank you to Richard Radcliffe (left), outgoing Chair of the Awards Committee. Richard has done an outstanding job for the past several years and we are very grateful for his support and professionalism. We wish him all the best in his future endeavors.



Please join us in welcoming Helen Kamens (right) as the incoming Awards Committee Chair. Helen has a long history with the society, beginning as a trainee and throughout her career has served on several committees.


Upcoming Events

IBANGS SFN breakfast meetup hosted by Karla Kaun



IBANGS is sponsoring a breakfast Meet-Up at SFN in Chicago. Please RSVP by October 1st to Anna [administrator@ibangs.org] if you would like to attend. Restaurant details will be provided soon.

 **Date:** Monday October 7th, 2024

 **Time:** 9:00-10:30 am Eastern Time


 **Location:** TBA

Virtual Panel Discussion hosted by Paul Meyer



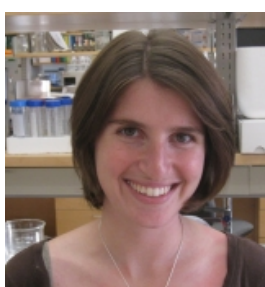
Untwisting the Ladder: the Use and Misuse of Behavioral Genetics Research

 **Date:** November 13, 2024

 **Time:** 4:00-5:00 PM Eastern Time

 **Location:** This event will take place virtually by Zoom

We are excited to invite you to the first of a series of panel discussions discussing the topic of how we as individual genetics researchers and as genetics-focused organizations can combat both misunderstanding and misappropriation of genetics research. The seminar series is hosted by IBANGS and the BGA.



Moderator:

- [Marissa A. Ehringer](#), Professor and Chair, Institute for Behavioral Genetics, University of Colorado

Panelists:

- [Gene E. Robinson](#), Professor and Director, Carl R. Woese Institute for Genomic Biology; Swanlund Endowed Chair, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

- [Amy Non](#), Professor of Anthropology, University of California San Diego

- [Daphne O. Martschenko](#), Assistant Professor of Biomedical Ethics, Stanford University

Event Highlights:

- Panel Discussion:

- Q&A Session:

How to Register:

- TBA

- Registered participants will receive a Zoom link via email prior to the event.

Who Should Attend:

- IBANGS and BGA members - all career stages.

For More Information Contact

- Paul Meyer, Associate Professor, University at Buffalo, [pmeyer@buffalo.edu]

Member Announcements

Abraham Palmer at SFN



Booth #1828, “Center for Genetics of SUD in Outbred Rats” (non-profit booth)

If you’re attending SFN this year, please stop by Abe Palmer’s Booth to say hello. Abe is an IBANGS Past President and long time society member. He will be providing information on his new research platform RATTACA (RAT Trait Ascertainment using Common Alleles).



RATTACA (RAT Trait Ascertainment using Common Alleles) is a new platform designed to study genetic differences in behavioral and other traits in outbred heterogeneous stock rats. We use polygenic prediction methods, trained using data from our prior genetic studies in HS rats to predict the expected phenotype of young rats based only on their genotype. The goal is to provide a tool for leveraging the genetic diversity of rats, to identify groups with extreme phenotypes, similar to what has been achieved using genetic selection. More information is available at <https://ratgenes.org/rattaca/>

Scientific Sense Podcast

[Scientific Sense](#)® is a daily podcast focused on Science and Economics. The guests are professors or leading researchers who are well known in their fields that discuss emerging research findings and topical areas of interest to both academics and the general public.



Check out [Karla Kaun's](#) discussion on *Addiction and the Brain*
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RsjZCU47BXI>



Clyde Franks has a new publication in PNAS. Congratulations Clyde!

The neocortical infrastructure for language involves region-specific patterns of laminar gene expression

Abstract

The language network of the human brain has core components in the inferior frontal cortex and superior/middle temporal cortex, with left-hemisphere dominance in most people. Functional specialization and interconnectivity of these neocortical regions is likely to be reflected in their molecular and cellular profiles. Excitatory connections between cortical regions arise and innervate according to layer-specific patterns. Here, we generated a gene expression dataset from human postmortem cortical tissue samples from core language network regions, using spatial transcriptomics to discriminate gene expression across cortical layers. Integration of these data with existing single-cell expression data identified 56 genes that showed differences in laminar expression profiles between the frontal and temporal language cortex together with upregulation in layer II/III and/or layer V/VI excitatory neurons. Based on data from large-scale genome-wide screening in the population, DNA variants within these 56 genes showed set-level associations with interindividual variation in structural connectivity between the left-hemisphere frontal and temporal language cortex, and with the brain-related disorders dyslexia and schizophrenia which often involve affected language. These findings identify region-specific patterns of laminar gene expression as a feature of the brain's language network.

<https://www.pnas.org/doi/10.1073/pnas.2401687121>

Feedback



All suggestions, comments, and questions are welcome at any time. Please email Anna [administrator@ibangs.org],