

# IBANGS News

Spring 2022, Issue 15



The **BIG** news around here is Genes, Brain and Behavior, 2022 in Memphis. This is the society's first in-person meeting since Edinburgh 2019. Needless to say, we are looking forward to catching up with colleagues and hearing about their latest research. With the efforts of many people, the Annual Meeting is shaping up to be an exciting event: Plenary speakers, Symposia, Awards, Workshops, Posters ...

Here is the latest and just about final Program information and [itinerary](#) printed here for your convenience.

## Plenary Lectures

- **Presidential Lecture:** [Dr. Arpana Agrawal](#), Professor of Psychiatry, Washington University School of Medicine, St. Louis, MO. [Dr. Agrawal's](#) research focuses on epidemiological and genomic approaches to the study of substance use and addiction. Her present work is concerned with understanding how genetic and environmental factors work together to shape our liability to use cannabis and become addicted. [Google Scholar](#)
- **Keynote Lecture:** Professor [Susan Ackerman](#), Stephen W. Kuffler Chair in Biology, UCSD. Dr. Ackerman's research is focused on defining molecular pathways necessary to maintain homeostasis in developing and aging mammalian neurons particularly in the context of alterations in translation elongation, translational fidelity, proteostasis, and RNA metabolism in neuronal function. [Publications](#)
- **Distinguished Investigator Lecture,** Professor [Elissa Chesler](#), Ann Watson Symington Chair in Addiction Research, The Jackson Laboratory, Bar Harbor. [Google Scholar](#)

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- **Early Career Lecture**, [Dr. Monica Dus](#), University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Neuroepigenetics of brain, behavior and nutrition. [Google Scholar](#)

## Symposia

- **Behavior Quantification using Machine Learning: Challenges and Opportunities** (Chair: Vivek Kumar, Speakers: Ann Kennedy, Eric Yttri)
- **Revolutionary genomics: Third-generation sequencing and pangenome approaches to understanding genes and behavior** (Chair: Dr. David Ashbrook, Speakers: Thomas Keane, Laura Saba, Tomas Fitzgerald, and Erik Garrison)
- **Revealing the function of sleep from flies to humans** (Chair: Dr. Rozi Andretić and Co- Dr. Kristin Hamre; Speakers: Paul Shaw, Malcom von Schantz)
- **Mapping the brain: Neuroimaging and connectome approaches to study genetic variation in brain function, structure, and behavior.** Chair: Dr. Clyde Francks and Co-Chair: Dr. Megan Mulligan)
- **The Cerebellar Nuclei in the Limelight (at Last)** (Chair: Dan Goldowitz, Speakers: Marylka Yoe Uusisaari, Justus Kebschull, Richard Wingate, Abigail Person)
- **Genetic studies of drug addiction-related traits in outbred rats** (Chair: Dr. Oksana Polesskaya, Speakers: Abe Palmer, Paul Meyer, Hao Chen, Francesca Telese, Alexandria Szalanczy)

## Award Ceremonies

- Distinguished Investigator Award Recipient, [Elissa Chesler](#), Jackson Laboratory
- Early Career Award Recipient, [Monica Dus](#), University of Michigan
- Outstanding Travel Awardees

## Workshops

- **Cross Cutting applications in genes, brains, and behavior: Single cell and spatial transcriptomics** (Panelists: Egon Ranghini of 10x Genomics, Kristen Maynard, Leonardo Collado-Torres) [Signup](#)

## Tentative workshop schedule

Monday May 23rd, Times in CDT



### Session A: Single Cell Genomics

9:00 to 9:45 am Introduction to Single cell genomics tech talk

9:45 to 10:00 break

10:00 to 11:00am Applications, limitations, and future directions of single cell technology for eQTL mapping

11:00 to 11:15am break

### Session B: Spatial Transcriptomics

11:15 to 12:00 pm Spatial transcriptomics tech talk about Visium tools and platform

12:00 to 12:15 pm Boxed lunch, working lunch

12:15 to 1:15 pm Applications, future directions, and limitations

- **Trainee Workshop: “Networking for Success in Science”**

Join us for an opportunity to introduce yourself, your science, and network amongst your peers before the Genes, Brain, Behavior 2022 Conference in Memphis. In “Networking for Success in Science”, trainees will have a chance to practice their scientific elevator pitches during a two-minute lightning talk followed by informal small group discussions to facilitate cross- disciplinary interactions and open windows for potential collaborations.

End the day with an energetic round of speed mentoring where you can cycle through multiple 5-minute Q&A conversations with established IBANGS members and mentors in the field. [Signup](#)

## **Posters Presentations**

### **Poster Blitz**

Short intro/pitch (3 min limit) for your poster

Includes both in person and virtual attendees

For time zone conflicts, recorded presentations are acceptable

Tues, May 24th 3:00 PM to 4:30 PM (Times in CDT)

### **In person attendees**

poster sessions (standard format)



## **Virtual attendee posters**

Displayed on the IBANGS website. Slack channels provided for each poster presenter for communication. Meetings can be arranged privately for more in depth discussion via Zoom.

Poster dimensions

46 ½" tall by 95" wide

## **Banquet**

- [The Jack Robinson Gallery](#)

## **Deadlines**

04/14/22 [Travel Award Applications](#)

04/22/22 [Abstract Submission](#)

04/29/22 [Meeting Registration](#) (Late fees apply after April 29th)

## **Practical Information**

### **Meeting Address**

Mooney Building

875 Monroe Avenue

Memphis, TN 38163

The meeting room is the Mooney Building Library room 201.

### **Transportation**

From downtown to the meeting, the area is walkable but there is very little pedestrian traffic and the local organizers are recommending walking in groups from a designating downtown hotel or cafe. Meetups will be arranged. Uber, Lyft or taxi are also options. In addition, there is a public trolley that runs from downtown to the campus to a stop nearby to the meeting building.


### **COVID**

Proof of vaccination is required for meeting attendees. The use of masks and hand sanitizer are strongly recommended. There is no requirement for a negative Covid test.

### **Recreation**

There are a lot of fun and interesting things to do in Memphis. Here are some favs from the local organizers.

[Memphis Tennessee Music Bus and Walking Tours - Backbeat Tours](#)



Welcome to Backbeat Tours! Our tours – the popular Memphis Mojo Tour, the Memphis Discovery Tour, the Ghost Tour, the Beale Street Tour, and the Historic Memphis Walking Tour – are the best way to experience one of the South's most beautiful and complicated cities: Memphis, Tennessee. Starting from the heart of the city at the intersection of Beale Street and the old Blues. [www.backbeattours.com](http://www.backbeattours.com)

#### [Mississippi River Sightseeing Dinner Cruises - Memphis Riverboats](#)

Take a Paddlewheeler a few miles up and down the greatest river in the U.S.A., The “Mighty” Mississippi. This is a great way to see and learn a bit of Mississippi River history while visiting Memphis, Tennessee.

#### [MEMPHIS BREW BUS - Memphis Brew Bus](#)

The Memphis Brew Bus is a Saturday afternoon trip into the amazing Memphis Craft Brewing Scene. Visit 3 local craft breweries for tours, talks with the brewers and of course a beer at each stop.

#### [Guide for Outdoor dining](#)

100+ places to eat and drink outside.

#### [OVERTON PARK](#)

Overton Park is a large, 342-acre public park in Midtown Memphis, close to downtown. The park grounds contain hiking trails, the [Memphis Brooks Museum of Art](#), and the award winning [Memphis Zoo](#).

#### [Autozone Park](#)

Redbirds Baseball Team, Home Game May 25th 7:00 pm

#### [Cooper-Young Garden Walk](#)

Tour local gardens May 21 - May 26

#### [National Civil Rights Museum](#)

### **Additional activities**

[Graceland](#)

[Sun Studio](#)

[Shelby Farms Park](#)

[Memphis museum of science and history](#)

[Botanic Gardens](#)

[Orpheum Theater](#)

[Memphis Hop Bus Tour](#)

### **Other News**

**Reminder: IBANGS Executive Committee Elections**

VOTES MUST BE RECEIVED BY 5:00 P.M., **WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15, 2022**, Central Daylight Time (CDT).

There are 2 nominees for President-Elect: Zoe Donaldson and Karla Kaun and 3 nominees for Member-At-Large: Amelie Baud, Paul Meyer, and Francesca Telese.

[Candidate biographical sketch](#)

The ballot is available via the following link [[IBANGS Elections 2023](#)].

### **IBANGS Seminar Series**

Last Seminar of the season!

Seminar: 04/20/22 12:00 pm EDT



**Amelie Baud**, Group Leader  
Center for Genomic Regulation  
Barcelona, Spain

<https://www.crg.eu/en/programmes-groups/aud-lab>

Details to follow

**Congratulations!** Amanda and Megan. We wish you both all of the best in your future pursuits and we look forward to hearing about the exciting work that you are doing.

### **Amanda Barkley-Levenson**



Amanda is starting a new lab at the University of New Mexico Health Sciences Center Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences. She will work on understanding the genetic basis of alcohol use disorder. Her website is under construction.

### **Megan Mulligan**



Megan recently received her tenure promotion at UTHSC. You can read about her research interests here.

<https://www.uthsc.edu/neuroscience-institute/about/faculty/mulligan.php>



## Paintings to celebrate the end of winter

[The Culture Trip](#)

### Sandro Botticelli, La Primavera, c.1482

**La Primavera** is one of the great works of the Renaissance. It hangs now in the Uffizi in Florence and was commissioned by Lorenzo Pierfrancesco de' Medici. At its center, as in Botticelli's most famous work, is the figure of Venus. The artist presents six women on the canvas flanked by two men, and above them flies a cherub. They stand in an orange grove, full of ripe fruits. Some critics see the woman to the front, scattering roses before her, as Primavera, the embodiment of spring. Others read the figures on the right as Zephyrus grasping at the nymph Chloris – he married her according to myth, and she was transformed to Flora, goddess of Spring. Some believe that the figure with roses may represent the metamorphosis of Chloris to Flora. Altogether it is a celebration of ripeness and fertility coming back to the world in spring.

