

IBANGS NEWS Autumn 2025: Issue 29



Dispatches from the President

Dear IBANGS members,

We hope that you have had an excellent summer and your academic year is off to a good start! As I mentioned in my last letter, the 2026 [Genes, Brain, and Behavior \(GBB\) meeting](#) will be hosted in Pittsburgh, thanks to Sean Farris and Gregg Homanics. The last time I was in Pittsburgh my friend took me to *Gaucha Parrilla*, which is a great Argentinian restaurant in the downtown [Cultural District](#). I also recommend the many scenic bridges, and it's worth riding the Duquesne & Monongahela inclines for even more scenic overviews. The University of Pittsburgh (where the conference will be held) is home to the 42-story [Cathedral of Learning](#), so you'll never get lost on campus! I look forward to exploring the city more with some of you next June. The conference dates will be from **June 8th-11th, 2026**. Please mark your calendars. Note that these dates were changed from a previous announcement, so our meeting wouldn't conflict with NIDA's genetics meeting the preceding week. June '26 will be busy for many of us!

Of course, the big draw of the meeting will be the science. Our mission has always been to promote research collaboration in the study of the genetics of behavioral and neural traits, and the GBB meeting is central to this mission. The mid-sized membership of the society is a strength, because it means our meetings are more intimate, and this fosters direct conversations between junior and senior scientists, model-organism and clinical researchers, and genetics laboratories from around the world. Maintaining this strength is especially important at a time when animal research faces increasing scrutiny in many countries. I think that a cross-species approach that integrates animal research with human studies has advanced (and will continue to advance) our understanding of neurobehavioral traits. Animal work informs human studies, and human data reinforce the validity of animal models. It's one of the reasons I'm happy to be a part of IBANGS and excited to hear about everyone's work at the GBB meeting. Along those lines, please consider submitting a [Symposium Proposal](#)! You'll be getting an official call soon, but you heard it here first - the deadline will be **November 7th, 2025**. As always, we value proposals that bridge genetics and behavior across species, showcase methodological innovations, and feature a diverse mix of speakers in terms of scientific focus, background, and career stage (bonus points for trainee-led proposals). For more details, watch for the call in the next couple days. Another piece of breaking news that I'm happy to share: The Presidential Address speaker will be **Professor Danielle Posthuma, from Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam**. You can read about her research [here \(link\)](#). Dr. Posthuma is a statistical geneticist who has published findings on neuropsychiatric traits using some of the most well-powered human datasets available. She also has success stories showing how we can move from statistical associations to cellular mechanisms, which I think will be appreciated by all GBB attendees. Or maybe she'll surprise us with a different direction!

Beyond the annual meeting, the IBANGS [executive committee](#) has been working on several projects. **Karla Kaun** and co-chair **Jeffrey Glennon** have formed a new Advocacy and Inclusion Committee, which will serve as a hub for efforts around equity, inclusion, and public-facing science advocacy. As part of this effort, a special Advocacy section of the IBANGS website is now under development, with the goal of sharing this kind of information and action items using our website and materials repositories. Please take a moment to complete a [brief survey to share your vision](#) for what this committee should prioritize. Any information you can provide will be helpful. Thank you to those that volunteered for this important new committee! Together with the Education and Training Committee (**Amanda Barkley Levenson** and **Emily Petruccelli**, co-chairs), the Membership Committee (**Kristin Scaplen**, chair), the Advocacy and Inclusion Committee is working on revamping some of our mentorship and networking activities, both between and during the annual meeting. This will include trainee activities like the “*IBANGS Fireside Chat with Early-Career Scientists: Bridging Academia and Industry*”, but others as well. If you have ideas or want to get involved like our recent addition **Colleen Dockstader** (see spotlight below), please let me know!

Speaking of the Membership Committee, in the past couple years Kristin and I have worked with the Behavior Genetics Association to host two installments of “*Untwisting the Ladder: The Use and Misuse of Behavioral Genetics Research*”. Recently, the Psychiatric Genomics Consortium has agreed to be part of the rotation as well, so expect more entries in this series! I love that this has taken on a life of its own. Thanks to Kristin, BGA, and PGC for partnering on this. Watch for an announcement in the upcoming months.

That’s it from me for now. Many important announcements and celebrations follow below! Watch your inboxes for more announcements regarding the Call for Symposium Proposal, Distinguished and Early Career Investigator Award nominations, and other information regarding the Annual Meeting! And don’t forget to renew your membership!

With best wishes,

Paul Meyer
IBANGS

Advocacy and Inclusion

Karla Kaun and co-chair Jeffrey Glennon have formed a new Advocacy and Inclusion Committee, which will serve as a hub for efforts around equity, inclusion, and public-facing science advocacy. As part of this effort, a special Advocacy section of the IBANGS website has been created for information and action items. Please take a moment to complete a [brief survey to share your vision](#) for what this committee should prioritize. Any information you can provide will be helpful.

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Virtual Seminar Series

This year IBANGS is collaborating with the Behavior Genetics Association and the Psychiatric Genetics Consortium to organize three virtual seminars. Each group will take a turn leading a seminar. Planning is in the works. Details will be announced.

Teaching Repository Collaboration

Welcome aboard Colleen Dockstader!



Colleen is an Associate Professor, Teaching Stream in the Department of Human Biology at the University of Toronto. She has recently joined the IBANGS Education and Training Committee and is collaborating with us to build a repository for teaching materials. Colleen has extensive experience in developing neuroscience curriculum based on her past teaching and research endeavors. We are very excited to have her on board. You can read more about Colleen's work here:

<https://discover.research.utoronto.ca/24302-colleen-dockstader/about>

And check out her contributions to the Teaching Resources section under the Engagement Tab on the IBANGS Website: <https://www.ibangs.org/>. Login is required.

Research Resources

We have started a repository for research resources. If you would like to contribute materials, please send content to Anna [administrator@ibangs.org]. You can access the Research Resources under the Engagement Tab on the IBANGS Website: <https://www.ibangs.org/>. Login is required.

IBANGS Meetup SFN 2025



Karla Kaun will be hosting the 3rd Annual SFN Breakfast Meetup for IBANGS members in San Diego. Breakfast will be at [Hudson and Nash](#) on Tuesday, November 18th at 9:00 am. Reservation is required, please contact Anna [administrator@ibangs.org] if you would like to attend.

Membership Renewal Info

The membership renewal period for 2026 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>. (Contact Anna for a code [administrator@ibangs.org].)

An IBANGS Membership is great for all career stages. Check out the membership benefits: <https://www.ibangs.org/why-join-ibangs>

Member News

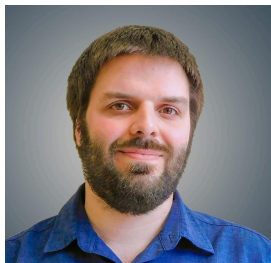
Academic Achievement



Congratulations to Emmanuel Onaivi on being recognized as a top scholar for 2024 by ScholarGPS which acknowledges outstanding performance and contribution to the field. More here:

<https://scholargps.com/scholars/83100470025092/emmanuel-s-onaivi>

New Position



David Ashbrook is joining the University of Edinburgh as a Baszucki Foundation Chancellor's Fellow, as part of The Hub for Metabolic Psychiatry. We wish David all the best for a smooth transition and continued success.

Welcome New Members!

Zurika Murray
University of the Free State

Philip Antwi-Adjei
Texas Tech Health Sciences Center

Julien G. Guénane Caire
Université Paris Cité - UCBL LYON 1

SAVE THE DATE

GENES, BRAIN AND BEHAVIOR



JUNE 8–11, 2026

**UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH
PITTSBURGH, PA**

Join us for an exciting week of research,
networking and discussion.

LOCAL ORGANIZERS:
Sean Farris & Gregg Homanics



<https://www.ibangs.org/genes-brain-and-behavior-2026>