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International Behavioural and Neural Genetics Society

IBANGS NEWS Autumn 2026: Issue 32

Letter from the President



Dear IBANGS Members,

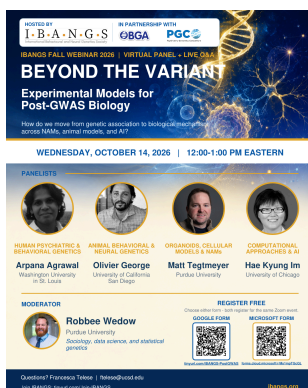
Recent initiatives from NIH and HHS have signalled an ambition to expand New Approach Methodologies (NAMs) — organoids, microphysiological systems, computational modelling, and AI — with an explicit goal of reducing and ultimately eliminating animal models in research.

A timely perspective piece by Olivier George and colleagues (The False Choice: Animal Models, NAMs, and the Future of

Neuropsychopharmacology), recently submitted to *Neuropsychopharmacology* addresses this debate head-on, and I would encourage every IBANGS member to read it (once published). Their central argument is one I find compelling: the framing of animal models versus NAMs presents a false choice. NAMs are genuine and exciting scientific advances, and their role will grow. But for neuropsychopharmacology, psychiatry, and addiction research, they cannot yet substitute for intact animal models. Mental illness and substance use disorders emerge from interactions among genes, circuits, physiology, development, environment, and behaviour — processes that unfold over time in whole organisms and cannot yet be captured in a dish or a silicon chip.

Caroline Brennan

Upcoming Events Webinar



An exciting webinar has been organized by Francesca Telese and the Membership Committee. Mark your calendars! **October 14th, 12:00-1:00 pm Eastern**

[Details & Registration](#)

Featured Panelists:

- Dr. [Arpana Agrawal](#), Professor of Psychiatry; Washington University in St. Louis
- Dr. [Olivier George](#), Professor of Psychiatry, University of California San Diego
- Dr. [Matt Tegtmeier](#), Assistant Professor, Purdue University
- Dr. [Hae Kyung Im](#), Associate Professor of Human Genetics, University of Chicago

Annual Meeting

Save the Date: May 24th-27th, 2027

Genes, Brain & Behavior 2027

The Botanical Gardens of Valencia

Valencia, Spain



Local organizing committee

Jose Vicente Torres Perez, Maria Abellán, María Castelló, and Alicia Aliena University of Valencia; Andrea Messina, University of Trento; Maria Elena Milletto Petrazzini, University of Padova

Plenary Speakers



Presidential Address

Professor Giorgio Vallortigara
Center for Mind/Brain Sciences
University of Trento, Italy
[Number and Space Cognition](#)



Keynote Address

Professor Gaia Novarino

Institute of Science and Technology Austria

[Genetic and Molecular Basis of Neurodevelopmental Disorders](#)

Coming Soon

- Call for Symposium Proposals/Mid October
- Distinguished and Early Career Investigator Award Nominations/November
- Check the meeting page for updates: <https://www.ibangs.org/gbb27>

Journal Updates



[Genes, Brain and Behavior](#)

Marissa Ehringer, New Editor-in-Chief

2.4 Journal Impact Factor

34% Acceptance rate

25 days Submission to first decision (median)

ORCID IDs

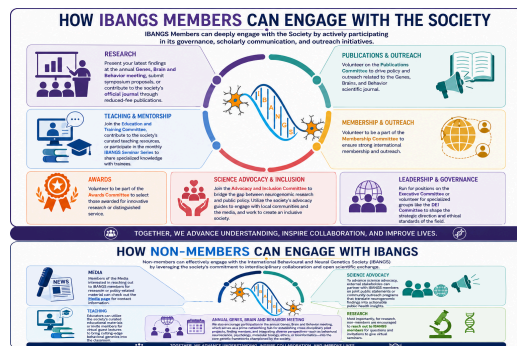
ORCID ID fields have been added to the member profiles page to highlight member publications which will be posted on the News page of the website. For those interested in participating, please add your ORCID ID to your profile or email it to Anna administrator@ibangs.org.

Committee Openings



The Publications Committee is currently seeking new members. This committee serves as an advisory bridge between the society and Wiley Publishers. Please contact the Committee Chair, Helen Kamens [\[hmk123@psu.edu\]](mailto:hmk123@psu.edu) for more information.

Resources Engagement



The Advocacy and Inclusion Committee has shared some ideas on how members can engage more with the society by becoming involved with its governance, outreach activities and scholarly communication. The aim is to create an inclusive society and shape the direction and ethical standards of the behavioral genetics field. More here:

<https://www.ibangs.org/advocacy-ibangs-members>

Teaching: AI Assessment



Colleen Dockstader of the Education and Training Committee has shared a curated list of AI assessment guided principles and strategies. More here: <https://www.ibangs.org/teaching-resources>

SfN Breakfast Meetup



Please join [Karla Kaun](#) to catch up and chat about what we are excited to see at SfN over an informal breakfast! Sunday, November 15th, 8:30 am at [The Delegate](#) in DC.

Please contact Anna [administrator@ibangs.org] if you are interested in attending.

Member News



Tamara Phillips has published a new review chapter co-authored with past Ph.D. student, Dr. Samantha Rios and former postdoctoral associate, Dr. Shkelzen Shabani. The chapter covers genetic findings related to the trace amine-associated receptor 1

(*Taar1*) gene and addiction, in addition to considering the potential of TAAR1 in addiction therapy.

Dr. Rios is currently a postdoctoral fellow with Dr. Susan Ingram at the University of Colorado Anschutz campus, working collaboratively with Dr. Ingram and Dr. Phillips on a funded R01 project using genetic mouse models to study neurocircuitry impacting binge level methamphetamine intake vs. avoidance of methamphetamine intake. Dr. Shabani is an ongoing collaborator.

Rios SM, Shabani S, Phillips TJ (2026) **TAAR1 as a target for addiction therapy**. Handb Exp Pharmacol. Aug 25. doi: 10.1007/164_2026_835. Online ahead of print.