

## IBANGS NEWS Spring 2026: Issue 30



### Letter from the President

Dear IBANGS members,

I'm getting excited about seeing some of you soon at the annual Genes, Brain, and Behavior meeting in Pittsburgh this June! Scientific communities like IBANGS remain to be places where people from around the world can convene for the simple purpose of sharing ideas, working together, and forming new relationships at a time when international cooperation feels more fragile than it should. Last year Megan Mulligan called the meeting "an homage to the pursuit of knowledge and our society's commitment to keeping science open, diverse, and inclusive". I still think that captures something important about what IBANGS strives to be.

Related to this, this is an interactive newsletter because we have several **action items for you**. We have a great lineup of plenary sessions, symposia, selected talks and other scientific content that you can read about in our [preliminary program](#). Also, on Thursday we will have our **annual business meeting**, where we will discuss society membership and finances, receive an update about the society journal Genes, Brains & Behavior, hear updates from IBANGS committees, and introduce potential venues for next year's conference. We want to ensure the conversation reflects the priorities and interests of our diverse community. This is your forum to influence the direction of the Society and discuss the issues that matter most to behavioral and neurogenetics research so please take a moment to fill out this [1-question survey](#) and share any additional topics, initiatives, or concerns you would like to see addressed. Not going to make it in person to the business meeting? We are planning on streaming it; a [Zoom link](#) will be forthcoming.

Also, have some hot-of-the-presses data that you want to share at the meeting, or simply made a late decision to attend? Submit a **late-breaking abstract**, we will accept them on a rolling basis until **May 4th**. You can do that by visiting the [meeting website](#). The website also has information about registration, campus housing, and hotels as well. If you haven't booked lodging yet, now's the time. The deadline to register is **May 7th**.

Next, the ballot for the three **executive committee positions** was released last Friday. Check your email for your ballot, which you can also find [using this link](#). The email also has a link to the candidates' brief bios. Our nominees for President-elect position are Drs. Anne Simon and Stephen Boehm II, for Secretary they are Drs. Wanhe Li and Laura Saba, and for Member-at-Large they are Dr. Diego Rovaris and Ina Anreiter. The last day to vote is **April 30th**, but really there's no reason to wait. You can vote with confidence, all six of these people are exceptionally qualified for these positions! I want to thank them all for agreeing to be nominated.

Finally, there are many bits of news and information related to the meeting and the Society's other activities below. For example, scroll down to the colourful hands and check out the invitation for contributions to a new **Inclusion and Engagement Commentary Section** in the IBANGS newsletter being curated by once and future presidents Karla Kaun and Caroline Brennan.

That's it from me for now! In fact this is my last newsletter before I pass the torch to Dr. Brennan as the incoming President. I'm not going anywhere though; I'm planning to help with other membership activities once I have more time as a past-president. See you all later, if not in Pittsburgh, then hopefully at future meetings.

With best wishes,

Paul

## Genes, Brain and Behavior University of Pittsburgh 2026



### Annual Meeting Updates

#### Meeting Program

<https://www.conftool.pro/ibangs2026/index.php?page=browseSessions&mode=list&presentations=show>

#### Late Breaking Abstracts

There is still time to join the meeting and present a late breaking abstract. Rolling [abstract submission](#) will be open through May 4th.

### **IBANGS Travel Awardees 2026**

Please join us in congratulating this year's travel award recipients. Each awardee will be presenting their work at the meeting in June. \*Selected as Outstanding travel awardee.

#### **Students**

Myra Bower University of Colorado, Boulder\*  
Karina Piotrowska, University of Oxford\*  
Aijun Zhang, UTHSC  
Alanna Mayberry, University of Colorado, Boulder  
Carlos Novoa, Penn State University  
Markos Michail Chatziannis, Fujita Health University  
Tolulope Ajanaku, University of Colorado, Boulder  
Andre Borges, University of New Mexico  
Doris Olekanma, Penn State University  
Antonio Marini Davis, University of Maryland  
Justine Anne Guevarra, University of Maryland

#### **Postdocs**

Zachary Tatum, UCSD\*  
Fiachra McEnaney, University of Leeds

#### **Junior Faculty**

Amanda Barkley Levenson, University of New Mexico\*  
Jay Prakash Kumal, Nepalgunj Medical College

#### **Poster Presentations**

Posterboard dimensions 36H" x 48W"

#### **Where to stay**

##### Campus Housing

For a description of on campus housing options, here are links to [Bouquet Gardens](#) (4 bedroom apartment style room) and to [Litchfield Tower](#) (two person dorm room option).

This is the [link](#) for on campus housing reservations. **Must be reserved by May 7.**

Pricing: apartment style is ~\$56/person/night.

Dorm room style is ~\$52/person/night.

##### Hotel Accommodations

Please note: The discounted rate for the hotels will be applied when using the links below.

[Marriott Courtyard](#)

[Hilton Garden Inn](#)

[The Oaklander](#)

## [Residence Inn](#)

### **What to do**

Pittsburgh is famous for the Carnegie Museums: Below are links for each museum which contains general visitor information as well as information about reduced admission fees. There are also many fun and interesting activities to explore. Several are listed below.



- [Carnegie Museum of Art](#)
- [Carnegie Museum of Natural History](#)
- [Kamin Science Center](#)
- [The Andy Warhol Museum](#)

Other fun entertainment options to explore

- [Phipps conservatory and botanical gardens](#)
- [Kennywood Amusement Park](#)
- [Point State Park](#)
- [Pittsburgh Zoo and Aquarium](#)
- [Music Venues](#)
- [Nightlife](#)

### **Advocacy and Inclusion Committee**

Invitation to Contribute



We are inviting members to contribute to a new Inclusion and Engagement commentary section in the IBANGS newsletter. This is an opportunity to share your experiences, perspectives, and initiatives relating to diversity, equity, and inclusion within our field — whether from the lab, the classroom, or the wider scientific community.

Contributions can take many forms: short personal reflections, accounts of departmental or institutional initiatives, or commentary on broader challenges facing our discipline. We welcome voices from across career stages and backgrounds.

If you would like to contribute or would like more information, please contact Karla Kaun at [karla\_kaun@brown.edu]. We look forward to hearing from you.

## New England Addiction Meeting

**Save the Date** The [New England Addiction Neuroscience Research Conference](#) will be held Friday August 14, 2026 at Tufts University in Boston. Please share the information with your colleagues.

## Call for Annual Meeting Venues

Each year IBANGS organizes a scientific meeting where scientists working in the field of behavior genetics have the opportunity to present new research findings, share ideas and forge collaborations. Meeting venues alternate between the US, Europe and Asia. If you are interested

in hosting an IBANGS annual meeting at your institution, please contact the society administrator [Anna Delprato: [administrator@ibangs.org](mailto:administrator@ibangs.org)] for more information.

### **Committee Opportunities**

Volunteering for an IBANGS committee is a great way to contribute to our broader scientific mission and connect with colleagues. If you're interested, please contact IBANGS President-Elect, Paul Meyer ([pmeyer@buffalo.edu](mailto:pmeyer@buffalo.edu)).

- Committee Options
- Membership Committee
- Nomination & Election Committee
- Publications Committee
- Education and Training Committee
- Inclusion and Diversity Committee

### **Feedback, Ideas, Resources**

Please let us know if you have feedback or suggestions for future virtual symposium themes, ideas for member enrichment and/or resources that you would like to contribute to the teaching and research repository.



Parting Spring by Kawai Gyokudo (National Museum of Modern Art, Tokyo)