
IBANGS News

Summer 2022, Issue 16

CALL MEETING VENUE PROPOSALS GENES, BRAIN AND BEHAVIOR 2023



The 2023 annual Meeting was scheduled to take place in China but due to COVID-related circumstances, these plans have been canceled. We are currently soliciting proposals per the instructions below.

The 2023 Genes, Brain and Behavior meeting is slated to be held in May 2023, at a "European or Asian" location. The meeting generally draws 100-150 participants.

Key aspects of the proposal should include:

- Point person and local organizing committee members
- Information on hotels including costs, distance from venue, transportation options to and from venue
- Budget (Please contact Treasurer, Dr. Amy Lasek (alasek@uic.edu) to obtain a budget calculator spreadsheet)

- Preliminary schedule that includes at least one-half day free for sightseeing during the meeting week
- Plans for an opening reception
- Plans for a closing banquet
- At least one poster session
- A plan to solicit exhibitors and derive income from exhibitor fees
- Availability of a small meeting room for Executive Committee meeting
- Information on sightseeing opportunities before or after the meeting (expenses paid separately by participants)

The IBANGS Executive Committee will accept proposals from all interested hosts. Please submit proposals to IBANGS President, Judy Grisel, by, no later than September 30, 2022.

IN NUMBERS

Society

144 members

93 regular

51 trainee

Genes, Brain and Behavior 2022

141 meeting registrations

102 in person (**49** member, **53** non-member)

39 virtual (**14** member, **25** non-member)

97 abstract submissions

7 countries

42 transcriptomics workshop attendees

23 networking workshop attendees

25 travel awardees

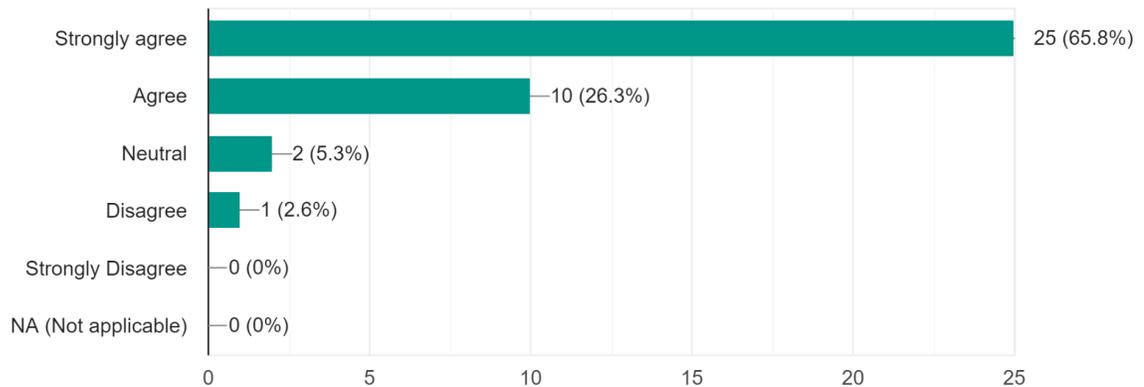
Behavior Satellite FENS 2022

113 meeting registrations

Summary of Annual Meeting Evaluations

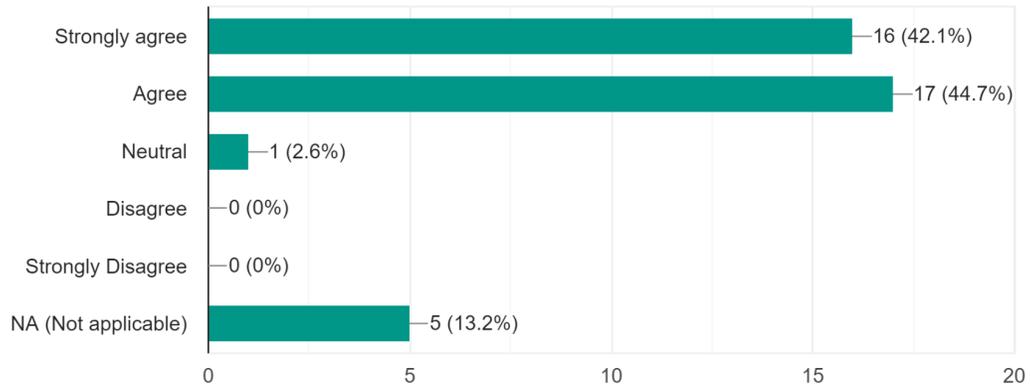
The conference was organized effectively

38 responses



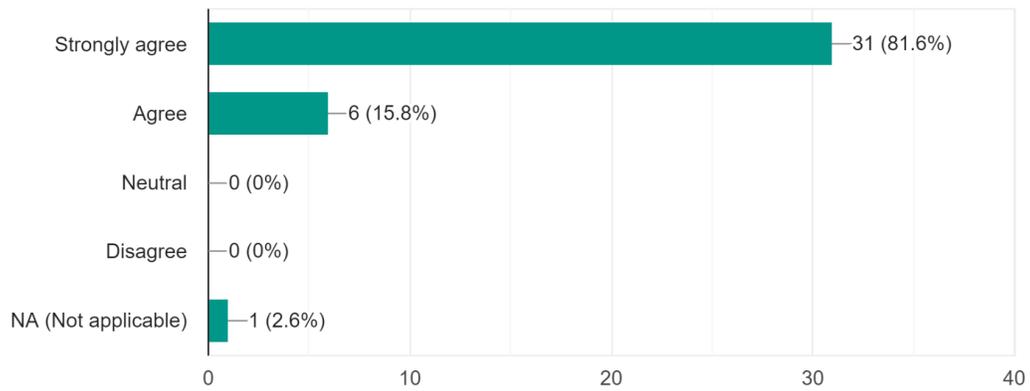
The hybrid format was effective

38 responses



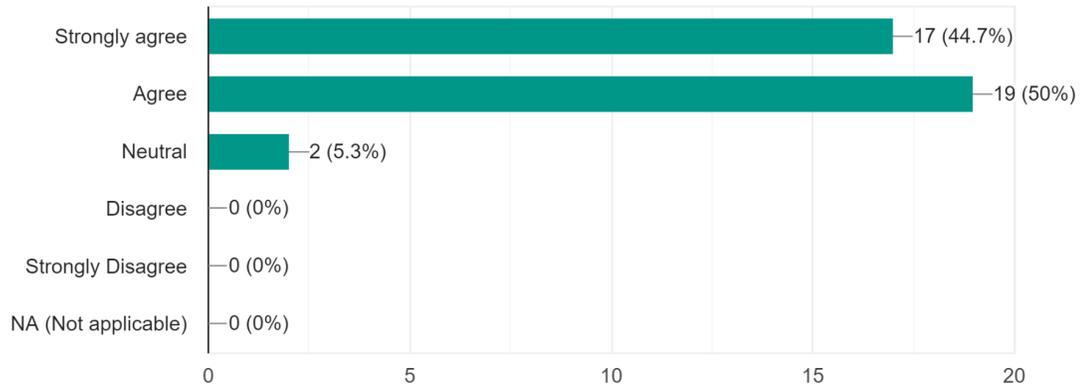
Society/conference staff were helpful and responsive

38 responses



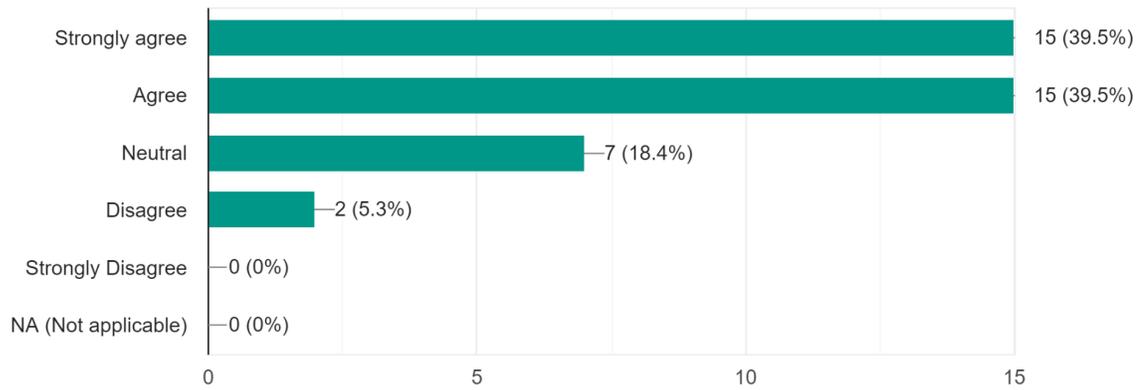
Participating speakers were effective

38 responses



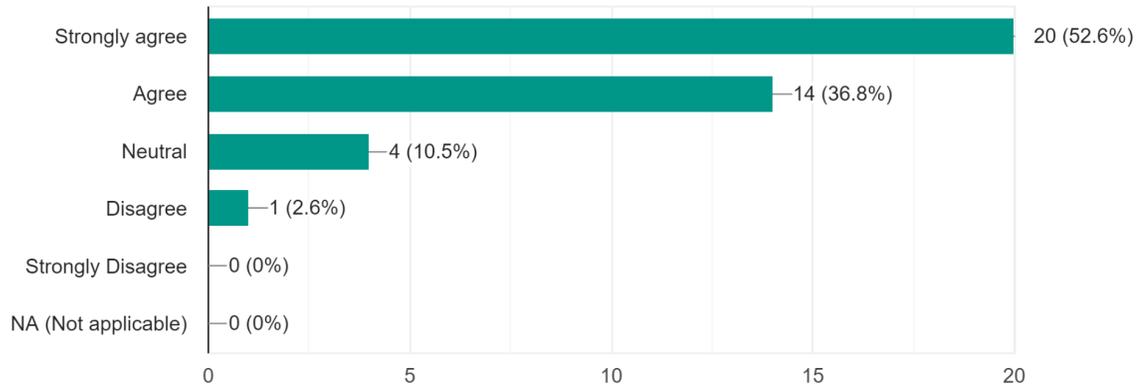
Breadth of topics was adequate

38 responses



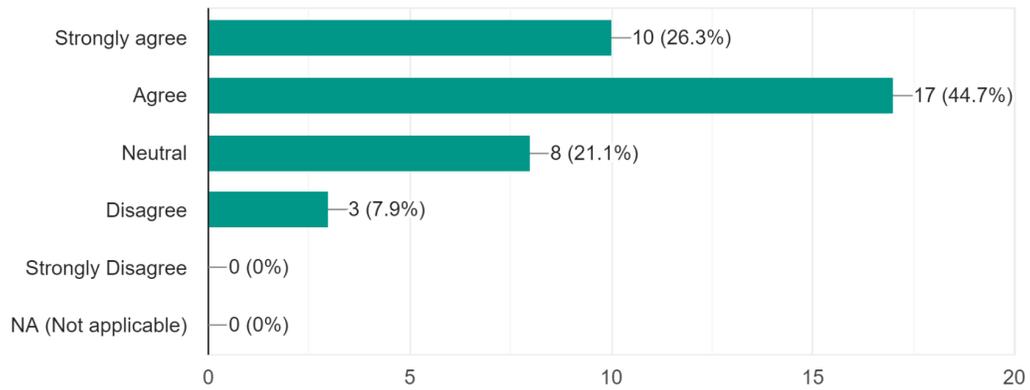
Depth of topic coverage was appropriate

38 responses



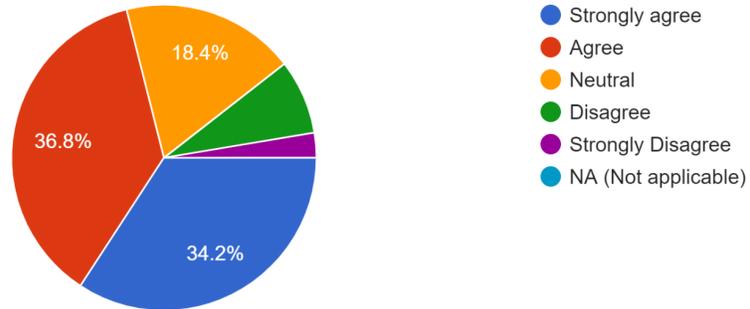
Length of the conference was appropriate

38 responses



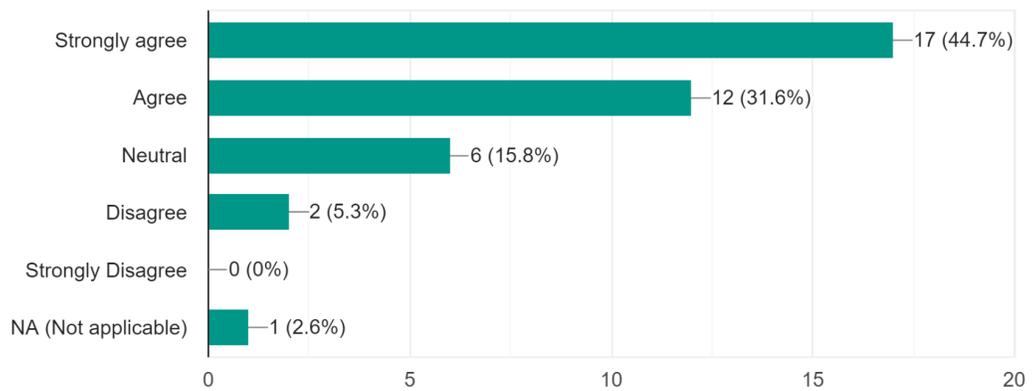
Length of individual talks was appropriate

38 responses



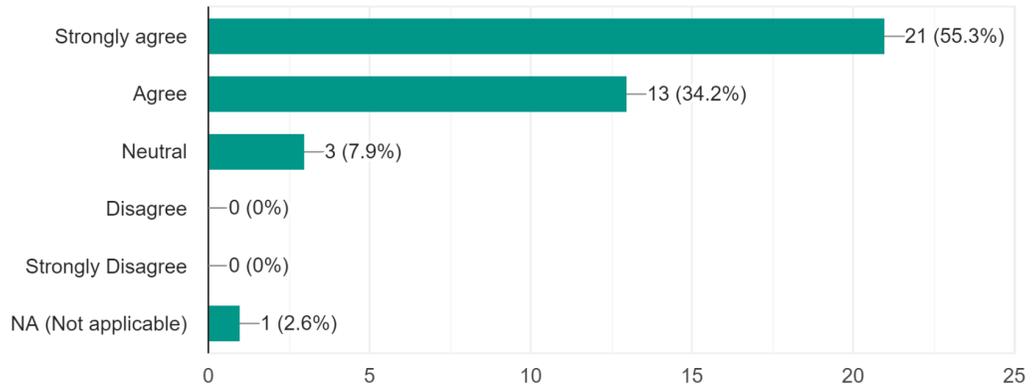
The length of poster sessions was adequate

38 responses



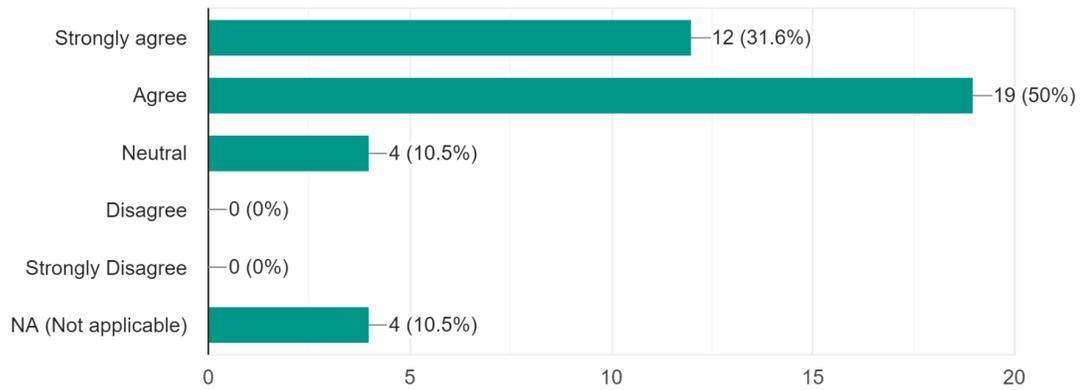
Format of conference was appropriate

38 responses



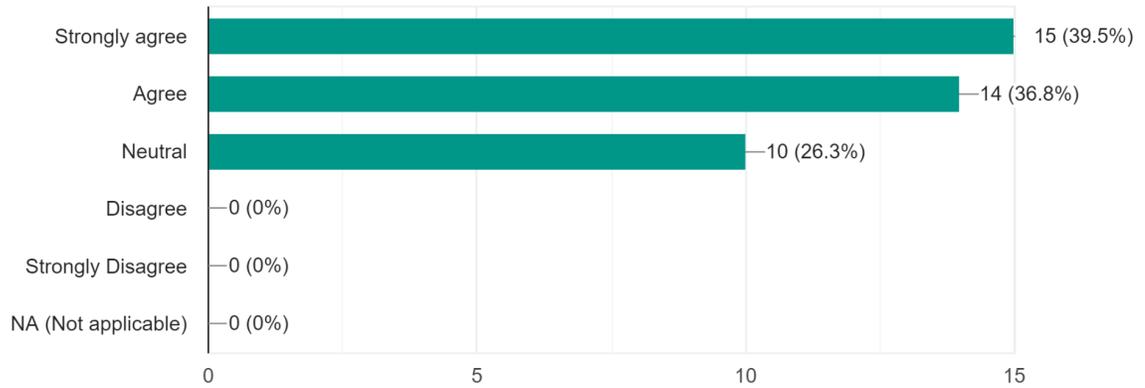
My networking and mentoring expectations were met

38 responses



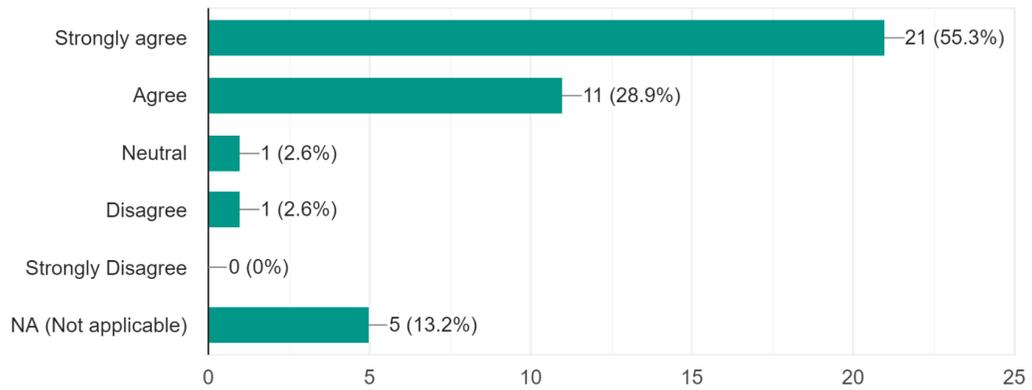
My particular professional interests were met

38 responses



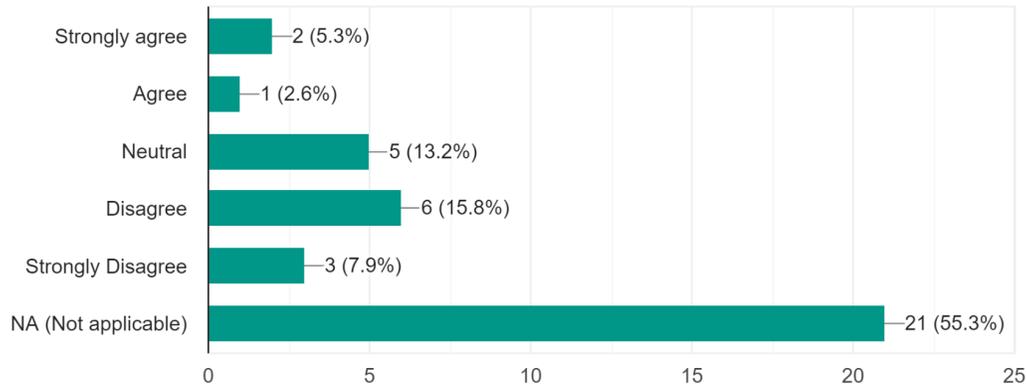
The in-person poster sessions were worthwhile

38 responses



The virtual poster session was worthwhile

38 responses



Comments and Suggestions

Beer/Wine with Posters

There needs to be a way to keep talks on time!

Pleased to have participated. I want to thank UTHSC for organizing the conference wonderfully. Appreciate Dr. Mulligan's hosting. Loved the opportunity to meet talented scientists.

very well organized meeting

Great job this year!

The venue was difficult to find/access. I wish there had been signage in front of the building and/or someone staffed to badge people in. That's my only complaint!

keep the trainee day going!

It would've been nice to have fewer PI talks and more trainee talks, and perhaps shorter talks in general aside from the keynotes. Non-mammalian model systems were severely underrepresented, and topics were too narrowly targeting specific subfields (e.g. cerebellar nuclei, outbred rats). Many talks were focused on tools and tool development, which is great, but it meant that there were fewer talks showing new findings, particularly for the Brain part of Genes, Brain and Behavior. Attendance of PIs at the poster sessions was limited, which is a shame for the trainees who put so much work into those poster presentations. It may help to have those in the middle of the day so that folks are not incentivized to just leave and skip the posters. To help with



networking/mentoring, the group lunches could be organized with tables dedicated to different topics (both scientific and career development).

No comment

Sticking to the schedule and warning speakers their time is running low. There was not adequate time for questions and discussion. I think shorter talks and the better facilitation of questions as well as panel discussion.

great meeting but I am not sure it is possible to make online posters work. If we do Hybrid again and want to do posters, i would 1) add a 'come see my poster' session with 1-2 min talks for both in person and online posters. 2) see if we can put the posters up for online peopel, 3) have QR code or similar to make it easy to get the zoom link so poster presenter can interact with people who come by to see the poster.

Great meeting!! I really enjoyed it. Thanks to the organizers for putting on an excellent meeting.

The acoustics in the room made it hard to hear sometimes.

I didn't attend the business meeting, but I heard there's some talk about hosting IBANGS in Israel. Behavioral genetics has previously been misappropriated as an excuse to commit atrocities, and many of our research programs/departments have been trying to address these issues moving forward. It would be irresponsible to host this kind of conference in a country that's actively committing war crimes and occupying foreign territory.

I did not attend the virtual poster sessions. It was difficult to remember to attend with all of the other events. I think the hybrid format worked great for the speakers but I would not recommend virtual poster sessions in the future.

Really well organized meeting. More poster space would be better (i.e. to be able to leave all the poster up for the whole meeting).

I wish there was more topic diversity. It felt like we heard about HA rats and genetic background screens every other talk. Also a higher variety of models could be fun!

As a trainee I really appreciated the trainee/mentor speed-networking session! It really facilitated meaningful connections with more senior people I otherwise wouldn't have spoken to. Thank you for organizing such a great conference!

Disclaimer: I enjoyed the conference, got a lot of great things out of this opportunity, and will definitely be back and recommend it, but I am going to clearly articulate shortcomings to benefit future meetings. The trainee event was my favorite day. It was best setup for actually meeting new people; the rest of the conference people didn't integrate as much, unfortunately, outside poster sessions. The poster session space was too crowded to be functional. I highly recommend a completely novel setup where posters are much more spread out (maybe on the outer edges of a room) to create



space and improve visibility and maybe auditory access (worst setup for people with hearing differences). There were some great talks that were delivered well but many that tried to do too much in the allotted time and ended up being a waste of time despite cool science. Most of my favorite speakers were female. Room for improving timing: One person who is good at organizing should be in charge of keeping time for all sessions (give a 5 minute signal to speaker and 1 minute signal, then stand at time). Reserving time for questions after multiple speakers is ineffective, so a specific time should be included after each speaker for questions like the 12:3 selected talk setup. Realistic time expectations would also help - 45 minutes for lunch when 30 minutes are spent in a single line is not okay; if the chair of a session is going to do an introduction, make time for that in the schedule as well. Cutting short breaks because of mismanagement of previous sessions is disrespectful of everyone's time and didn't allow sufficient brain or bathroom breaks. The neuroscience of learning indicates breaks for integration is also necessary so no session should be longer than 45 minutes to improve focus and learning. Maybe look up other research on learning to get best practices for sharing information effectively. Perhaps take a minute to teach people how to use microphones - you have to be close for them to work- because it was harder to hear in person than on zoom. Choose a better venue or encourage this venue to change a few key things regarding their environmentally detrimental features: i.e. over-airconditioned spaces and lack of reusable water options. Plastic water bottles should be banned and replaced with refillable containers (we had our own refillable containers but no space to fill them). There was also a disappointing lack of societal awareness in the meeting; IBNS for example made space for discussing issues of diversity and inclusion during their annual meeting and I think the IBANGS community would benefit from explicitly engaging with societal issues (the changing beat of the autistic community, for example, would be quite relevant or explicit brainstorming on how research topics could be created to best serve societies current). It would nice to see the society embrace its potential to influence the trajectory of behavioral genetic science towards something that will tackle bigger issues conscientiously (for example, the impact of the environment needs to be more integrated with our understanding of behavior and genetics to best serve many of our specific populations of interest - I only saw one person really make space for that and it was only during the Q&A about sleep, whereas I think this realistically needs to be a focus/lens through which we examine all of our research). I may have more thoughts but to be honest, this conference was incredibly draining due to lack of midday breaks - I think I'd rather spread talks out and get out later, or, maybe preferred, have fewer talks (eliminating redundancy perhaps) and spread them out while still allowing for some free time. Maybe creating a clear goal for what the talks should do (communicate 1 main idea or prompt 1 big idea or ask 1 main question) may help speakers to focus and connect better to all attendees. Despite my many critiques, thank you for organizing this!!! It was truly appreciated and helpful even though I am always looking to optimize.

Do away with the free afternoon and shorten the meeting by half a day.

Megan and Anna did superb jobs organizing and running all aspects of the meeting



So refreshing to attend a 100% positive conference with a cordial, collegiate, and considerate atmosphere. Organization couldn't have been better!

A bit too much emphasis on new techniques at expense of data talks. Megan did amazing job. Virtual poster presenters were ignored.

Thank you so much and I enjoyed a lot!

No suggestions

Nice balance across species and methods. I attended remotely from Europe. Would be good to know where I can find the recorded talks that I missed due to time zone.

I was a bit surprised at the high crime rate in Memphis. I observed several arrests and drug deals while I was there - just walking from the downtown area where the hotels were to the university. I think this type of info should be clearly communicated to conference attendees for future conferences. The US can be extremely unsafe due to lack of gun control. The lack of masking was also surprising and clearly contributed to the spread of COVID. Given that 30% of people get long covid symptoms, and the likelihood of getting long covid increases with multiple infections, I think this should have been taken more seriously by conference organizers. The organized lunches were great and fantastic for networking! Some effort in organizing dinners might be beneficial in future conferences (maybe even recommendations on places to eat will be enough as groups will plan on going there).

Thank you for a great meeting! One suggestion I have is to break up the symposiums halfway through with a 5-minute break. I think it could help keep the audience's attention longer than the current 2-hour format.

As a first-timer I was thrilled. Great conference! Would have been happy if there was a bit more molecular biology/neuroendocrinology to fill in the gaps between behavior and genetics.

Dr. Mulligan should be commended for her excellent work!

The incorporation of trainees into the selected talks was greatly appreciated!

For advance planners, having the poster size change so close to the meeting, was problematic. Even if the original size on the website was a mistake.

I think the in person poster session was a bit beyond my CoVID risk tolerance, and I was unclear how to participate in virtual posters as an onsite attendee. I would like to see fewer symposia and more selected talks, in a shorter meeting. One way to make the meeting a little shorter would be to have one major talk in the morning and one in the afternoon, or to have some scientific programming the evening of the welcome reception. More emphasis on recruiting as the meeting has a lot of trainees and many of the faculty had openings. So, a "job board" or other compilation of openings and contacts would add to the effectiveness of recruiting at the meeting.

Excellent meeting! Glad to be back in person.

Great meeting! I would recommend to not give 1hr long presentations.

It was great to get back to an in person conference. I very much appreciate all the hard work that went into it! I felt like it probably could have been a little bit shorter, but overall was quite happy with it. I think the hybrid talks worked well enough, but it did feel like there were maybe too many talks given remotely since there is no opportunity to chat with the speaker one-on-one after the fact. I did not attend any of the virtual poster session, so I have no idea how that went. But I really enjoyed the in person poster session. Was great to get back into live conversations about science! So refreshing. Thank you for all your hard work!

Unfortunately, only a handful of posters were available in a virtual session. This was unfortunate since most posters were already likely in PDF format, so uploading ALL posters would be beneficial for "virtual" participants.

I attended online and I thought the hybrid format worked really well

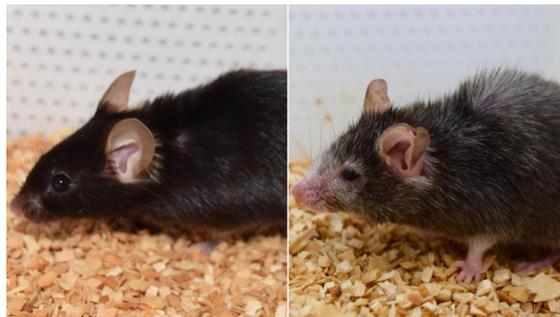
Resources

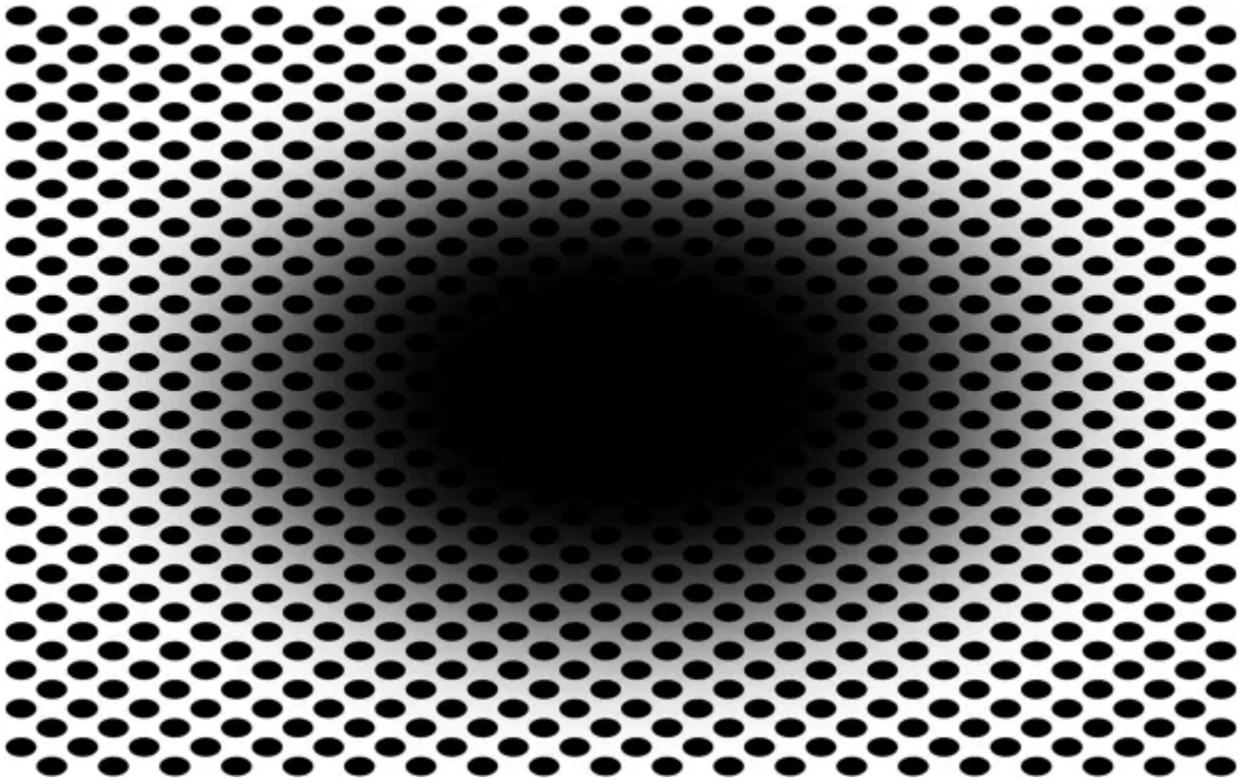
COST [TeaTime](#) Behavioral Neuroscience Seminars

[Seminars](#) given by a group of European scientists concerned with the development and use of automated home cage monitoring

Aging Research News

The 'Benjamin Button' effect: [Scientists can reverse aging in mice](#). (Reprinted from CNN. June 3, 2022) <https://sinclair.hms.harvard.edu/>





An illusion new to science shows that the pupillary light reflex, which controls the width of the pupil in anticipation of expected changes in light, depends on the perceived environment rather than the physical reality.

<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/35706480/>