

IBANGS News Spring 2024, Issue 23

President's Message



Dear IBANGS Members,

I hope to see many of you at the 2024 Annual Genes, Brains & Behavior Meeting, June 3-6 at Western University in London Ontario. The IBANGS Program Committee has put together an exciting program – please take a look at the [Program!](#) I'm delighted that [Dr. Sheena Josselyn](#) will give the Presidential Seminar and [Dr. Amita Seghal](#) will give the Keynote Address. Of note, the pre-meeting Workshop this year will be focused on OpenSource Behavior Tools, and the Education & Training Committee has organized a fantastic workshop for trainees the afternoon of June 3.

The IBANGS Diversity, Equity and Inclusion committee has been very active this term and are working together with the Program Committee for the upcoming 2024 meeting to increase inclusivity at the meeting. This includes a new list of travel grant opportunities to increase accessibility to attend the annual meeting for trainees, which is available on the member portal. We hope these collective efforts help bolster the strong sense of belonging within the IBANGS community and look forward to your ideas and feedback for future events.

The IBANGS Executive Committee has also been working on venues for the 2025 Annual Genes, Brains & Behavior Meeting, and are looking into options for the 2026 Annual Meeting. We will be discussing this during the business meeting on the last day of the 2024 meeting. A Zoom link for the business meeting will be provided for all IBANGS members unable to attend in person.

In February the Membership Committee and Education & Training Committee worked together to host a well-attended virtual career panel for trainees to learn about the diversity of different career opportunities available to scientists in the field of Neurogenetics this past February. We encourage you to let us know ideas for events that you think would most benefit you as a member.

I also want to encourage you to think about getting involved in IBANGS. Serving on a committee or as an executive member is an effective way to get your voice heard and make a difference in our field. If you're interested, please do reach out! [karla_kaun@brown.edu, administrator@ibangs.org]

Please do also vote in the upcoming IBANGS election! This is an important way to make sure IBANGS is steered by people that you feel best represent the field of Behavior and Neural Genetics.

Sincerely,
Karla Kaun
IBANGS President

Executive Committee Elections

Committee Elections will officially open April 1st. Watch for the email with voting instructions. This year 2 positions are open, President-elect and Member-at-Large. The candidates are include below

President-elect:



Paul Meyer, Zoe Donaldson

Member-at-Large:



: (left to right) Derek Morris, Francesca Telese, and Clyde Francks

Outgoing Executive Committee members:



THANK YOU to IBANGS Past President, Judy Grisel (left) and Member-at-Large, Amy Dunn (right) for their leadership and contribution to the society.

Annual Meeting Updates

Child care bursaries

Child care bursaries are available. Please contact Anna [administrator@ibangs.org] if you are interested in applying.

Meeting Itinerary

The Meeting itinerary is available online here:

<https://www.conftool.pro/ibangs2024/index.php?page=browseSessions>

Meeting Registration

Note: Early registration pricing closes on 03/31/24. [Register](#)

GBB24 Travel Award Recipients

This year IBANGS has funded 33 travel awards underscoring our commitment to supporting career advancement and education for trainees. Congratulations All! We look forward to your presentations.

Students

Will Lynch, Boston University, **Validating Zhx2 as a candidate gene underlying oxycodone metabolite (oxymorphone) brain concentration and behavior via gene editing and -omics analyses in BALB/cByJ mice**

Alyson Blount, University of Maryland, **Characterization of cognitive performance in GPR158 transgenic mice across sex and age in a social environment using an automated home cage**

Rebekah Jolicoeur Alfaro, University of Toronto, **Investigating the mechanisms of transgenerational effects induced by Ritalin**

Karanveer Johal, University of Ottawa, **The histone chaperone Srcap regulates H2A.Z genomic location, gene expression, and neuronal differentiation in N2A cells.**

Micah Evans, Western University, **Sex-specific modulation of social space by dopamine receptors in the Drosophila melanogaster mushroom bodies**

Nicholas Bulthuis, Columbia University, **Encoding and retrieval of a contextual fear memory evoke divergent expression of immediate-early genes Arc and c-Fos**

Sophia Miracle, Northeastern University, **Effects of Zhx2 liver and brain overexpression on oxymorphone metabolite levels and state-dependent oxycodone reward learning in BALB/cJ mice with a Zhx2 loss-of-function variant**

Wyatt Ortibus, Dalhousie University, **Using Signal Detection Theory to Define Olfactory Discrimination Reversal Learning Strategies in Mice**

André Lucas S. Borges, University of New Mexico, **Fut2 genotype and alcohol impacts on gut microbiota in mice**

Christian D. Del Valle-Colón, University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras, **Tip60 histone acetyltransferase regulates PDF neuropeptide expression and alcohol-tolerance acquisition in Drosophila melanogaster**

Eamonn Duffy, University of Colorado, Boulder, **Characterization of the gut microbiome and intravenous oxycodone self-administration in two genetically divergent rat strains**

Erica Merhoff, University of Colorado, Boulder, **Alcohol-Related Behaviors in a Mouse Model Containing the Human GCKR SNP rs1260326 (P446L),**

Isaury Sanchez, University of Puerto Rico, **Molecular mechanisms of alcohol-induced cognitive impairment in Drosophila melanogaster larvae**

Jeffrey Spencer Hatfield, Clemson University, **Genome-wide Association Analysis of Cocaine Traits in Drosophila**

Brent Kisby, Texas Tech University, **Effects of Tlr3-dependent innate immune activation and chronic alcohol consumption on gene expression in brain micro-vessels.**

Abigail Bechard, Western University, **Investigating the neural circuitry underlying social spacing using Drosophila melanogaster as a model**

Sandra Youseff, University of Ottawa, **Histone variant H2A.Z is relocated in the genome during neuronal development and regulates gene expression.**

Samina Panjwani, Western University, **Investigating the impact of alpha-synuclein pathology on sustained and selective attention in a translational mouse model**

Reut Hazani, Bar-Ilan University and Geha Mental Health Center, **Helping a friend in need: behavioral and neural mechanisms of prosocial behavior in rats**

Neha Rajput, Wayne State University, **Mapping the neural basis for individual differences in the exploratory behavior of adult zebrafish by combining in-situ hybridization chin reaction with the adult zebrafish brain atlas and BrainGlobe.**

Mírian Velten Mendes, University of Minas Gerais, **Functional inference analysis of cecum and colon microbiota in an animal model of high alcohol consumption and preference**

Postdoctoral Associates

Forrest Rogers, Princeton University, **Uncovering the neural genetic basis of paternal care in African striped mice**

Brittany Baskin, Northeastern University, **Spontaneously Hypertensive Rat substrains and the offspring of reciprocal F2 crosses exhibit differences in addiction risk traits and cocaine behavioral sensitivity**

Brad Balderson, Salk Institute, **Decoding the Biological Basis of Opioid Addiction using Single Nuclei RNA-seq and Chromatin Accessibility from the Nucleus Accumbens of Outbred Rats**

John Hernandez, Brown University, **A dopaminergic circuit for escalation of alcohol use in *Drosophila***

Marcelo Zimmer, Yale University, **Genetic diversity shapes the infant's distress response in mice**

Rashmi Chandra, University of California San Francisco, **Sleep-dependent olfactory memory requires astrocytes during sleep to consolidate memory**

Winona Booher, University of Colorado, **Pilot Study on the Genetic Effects of THC Metabolism in Mice**

Naira Rashid, Jamia Hamdard University, **Analysis and functional characterization of alternatively spliced novel isoforms of human genes encoding small heat shock protein 8 and deciphering their potential role in neuroprotection.**

Renato Elias Moreira, Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais, **Interconnections between Behavior, Neuroinflammation, Gut Microbiota, Transcriptional Regulation, and Epigenetics in a Mouse Model of High Ethanol Consumption and Preference: The Integrative Role of the Gut-Brain Axis**

Junior Faculty

Ethan Anderson, Louisiana State University, **The epigenetic enzyme g9a acts in dynorphin-positive accumbal neurons to reduce stress-induced escalation of ethanol drinking in mice**

Jay Prakash Prasad Kumal, Nepalgunj Medical College, **Combining Electroacupuncture and Metformin Therapy to Enhance Neural Recovery and Alleviate Cognitive Impairment After Traumatic Brain Injury**

Dibyadeep Datta, Yale University, **Susceptible pyramidal neurons in primate dorsolateral prefrontal cortex express an enriched calcium interactome: Critical role of calbindin and Cav1.2 in higher-order cognition**

Member Spotlight



Spotlight on Hayley Thorpe. Hayley is a postdoctoral associate in the laboratory of Jibran Khokhar at Western University. She has been an IBANGS member for a few years and has presented her work at several Annual Meetings. Hayley joined the DEI Committee this year and has spearheaded the effort to restructure the DEI statement for our website. The revision that she has produced is nothing short of excellent. We're very fortunate and grateful to have her on board. The new DEI statement will be published online soon. Thank you for your efforts Hayley!

In Remembrance

Contributed by Wim Crusio

Peter Driscoll (October 23, 1938 - March 12, 2024)



Peter Driscoll will forever be remembered for his extensive research on the RHA/RLA (Roman High and Low Avoidance) rats, resulting over the decades in a stream of publications. To many of us, Peter was also known as a tireless associate editor for the journal *Behavior Genetics*. I will always remember getting back my manuscripts not only with comments by reviewers but also many comments in his meticulous handwriting almost invariably improving the text. Rest in Peace, Peter.

Larry J. Young (1950-March 2024)



Larry passed away unexpectedly in March. He was widely known, also to the public at large, for his studies on monogamous/polygamous voles and the roles of vasopressin and oxytocin in these mating systems. His enthusiasm and inquisitiveness will be remembered. Rest in Peace, Larry.

Ilan Golani (1938-2024)



Ilan Golani was known for his very detailed studies of rodent exploratory behavior. He also was interested in the replication "crisis" and published widely on these subjects. He was a dominating figure in Israeli behavioral genetics and neuroscience and will not be forgotten soon. Rest in Peace, Ilan.