

Welcome

Welcome Serotoninologists!
It is an honour and a privilege to serve as President of the ISSR for 2026–2027. I am deeply grateful to my predecessors for their leadership and vision, and I am particularly thankful that Noelle Anastasio (Secretary) and Lyn Daws (Treasurer) continue to lend their expertise and dedication to the Society. Their commitment is invaluable, and I am truly fortunate to work alongside them.

We live in a time of profound global change—a shifting world order and a growing skepticism toward science that challenges the foundations of evidence-based research. Yet, it is precisely in these moments that the work of the ISSR becomes even more vital. Serotonin research has never been more relevant, as we uncover its roles in physiology, mental health, and disease across the lifespan. Our Society remains a strong, unified voice for serotonin research, fostering collaboration, innovation, and mentorship across disciplines and borders. I want to extend a special invitation to early-career scientists. The ISSR has been a cornerstone of my own career for decades, offering not just scientific exchange but also lifelong friendships and collaborations. When I first attended the “Serotonin Club” meeting in Porto nearly 20 years ago,

Continued on Page 2

Number 100,
2026-April

IN THIS ISSUE:

- Welcome
- ISSR 2027 Calgary
- ISSR 2025 Vienna
- 2026 Webinar
- Neuroscience Mixer 2025
- Membership
- And More...

I found a welcoming community that nurtured my growth as a scientist – and I established a lifelong collaboration on top. Today, I see the same potential for the next generation—an opportunity to connect, learn, and shape the future of serotonin research together.

Upcoming ISSR Activities

We have an exciting year ahead, and I encourage you to participate and share these opportunities with your colleagues, trainees, and collaborators.

We are hosting a **Webinar in Fall 2026** as a launch to Serotonin in the Blue Sky City in 2027. Details about the upcoming webinar will be shared soon—stay tuned for announcements! Please reach out to the ISSR Leadership Team if you would like to help with organizing and/or hosting the webinar. We hope to have speakers represent the international nature of our organization,

Save the Date:

ISSR 2027 in Calgary, Canada

Mark your calendars for the next annual meeting “**Serotonin in the Blue Sky City**”, which will take place from **June 10–13, 2027, in Calgary, Canada**. While details are still being finalized, we are already working to create a program that reflects the diversity and dynamism of our field.

More information will follow – start planning now – and start looking forward!

A Call to Engage

The ISSR is more than a scientific society – it is a community of researchers united by a shared passion for understanding serotonin's role in health and disease. Whether you are a seasoned investigator or just beginning your career, your contributions are what make this Society thrive.

Please renew your membership if it's due (contact Lyn Daws at daws@uthscsa.edu if you're unsure) and join us as we continue to advance serotonin research together.

I look forward to seeing you in Calgary and to another year of discovery, collaboration, and progress – maybe under the motto: “**Stay strong, say serotonin!**”

With warm regards,
Harald Sitte
President, International Society
for Serotonin Research (ISSR)



Important Dates

2026:

April: Nominations for Honorary Lecturers for Calgary 2027

May: Call for Symposia for Calgary 2027

June-July: Symposia Participants notified for Calgary 2027

September: Webinar

Mid-October: Early bird registration for ISSR 2027 opens (early bird registration will be discounted!) and hotel reservations will open

2027:

Mid-January: Deadline for oral presentation abstracts; Early bird registration rates end and regular registration rates for ISSR 2027 start

Mid-February: Final day for poster abstracts

Mid-April: Late breaking poster abstracts; Regular registration rates close and late registration rates start (will be more costly)

Current members receive discounted ISSR 2027 registration fees.

Call for Nominations

- **VP-Europe**
- **Associate Councilor-Rest of World (1)**

We are currently accepting nominations to serve in the position of Vice President-Europe as well as Associate Councilor for Rest of World (one open). Each of these positions serve 4-year terms and are elected by the membership of the region they will represent. Terms will start in 2026. Typically, Councilors are mid-career to senior investigators. Associate Councilors are typically new investigators with less than 10 years experience after obtaining their advanced degree.

If nominating someone, please provide confirmation that the member is willing to serve. Self-nominations are welcome. The nominee must be a current member of the ISSR.

Nominations may be sent to serotoninclub1987@gmail.com

Deadline for nominations is May 15, 2026.



Calgary Alberta



INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY *for* SEROTONIN RESEARCH
BIENNIAL CONFERENCE

JUNE 10–13, 2027 | SAVE THE DATE



Calgary, Alberta, Canada

Conference Venue Hyatt Regency Calgary



Looking forward to seeing you
in Calgary in 2027!



ISSR 2025 was highlighted by a **series of honorary and special lectures** from internationally renowned leaders in serotonin research. **Susan Dymecki** (Harvard Medical School) delivered the **Irvine Page Plenary Lecture**, offering new insights into the diversity and unity of the brain's serotonergic neuronal system. **Alan Frazer** (University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio) gave the **Maurice Rapport Lecture**, reflecting on the remarkable progress in serotonin research with his talk "Serotonin – You've Come a Long Way." **Anne Andrews** (University of California Los Angeles) presented the **Paul Vanhoutte Distinguished Lecture**, tracing her pioneering work on monitoring serotonin signaling across time and space. Complementing these honors, **special lectures by Jennifer Mitchell** (University of California San Francisco) on the regulatory journey of MDMA, and **David Nutt** (Imperial College London) on 5-HT_{2A} receptor agonists as novel treatments for brain disorders, provided powerful examples of serotonin research at the translational frontier.





The scientific core of the meeting was reflected in **27 symposia**, covering the full spectrum of serotonin research from molecular mechanisms to clinical applications. These 27 symposia were selected from all applications based on their scientific merit and also included consideration of gender balance, the balance between junior and senior speakers – and a good geographical distribution of the speakers around the globe. Several sessions focused on **neurocircuitry and cellular diversity**, including work on serotonergic sub-circuits, phenotypic variation of neurons, and the complex interplay between serotonin pathways and heteroreceptor complexes. The **developmental and stress-related roles of serotonin** were highlighted in symposia on maternal serotonergic effects, early-life stress, dorsal raphe stress signaling, and lifelong behavioral changes.

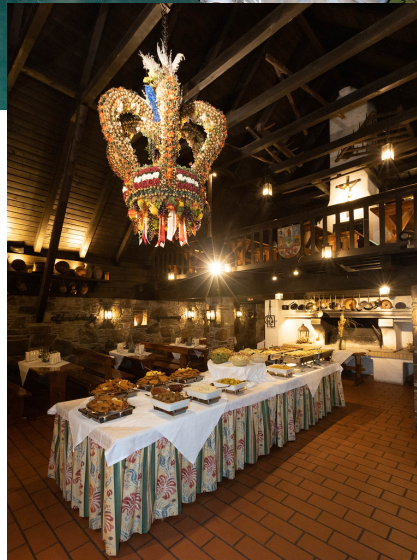
A major emphasis was placed on **psychedelics and their therapeutic potential**, with multiple symposia addressing receptor mechanisms, acute and persisting clinical effects, their antidepressant efficacy, and their impact on substance use disorders and neuropsychiatric illness. In parallel, **serotonin's role in psychiatric disease** was explored in sessions on biomarkers for depression, treatment resistance linked to MAOA, the limits of SSRIs, and novel treatment strategies targeting presynaptic and postsynaptic systems.





On the **molecular and biochemical front**, contributions ranged from studies on transporters (serotonin transporter (SERT), organic cation transporters (OCTs), vesicular monoamine transporter 2 (VMAT2)), receptor targets such as 5-HT₇, and lipidation mechanisms, to tryptophan metabolism and advances in detection technologies. Several symposia extended the serotonin perspective **beyond the brain**, addressing its regulatory role in gut-brain interactions, cardiovascular function, sudden death, and sex differences in vulnerability to stress- and alcohol-related disorders. Finally, bridging bench and bedside, symposia **featured innovative imaging approaches** to study genetic variability in the serotonin system, and discussions on how translational *research can refine treatment strategies in psychiatry and beyond*. In total, "Serotonin 2025" welcomed 254 participants from 29 countries, spanning Australia to Europe to the United States of America, Chile to Japan.







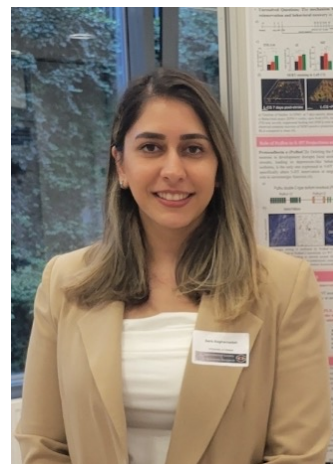
ISSR 2025 Travel Awardees

Isak Aarrestad, *University of California, Davis, USA*: "One of the highlights of the conference for me was finally putting faces to the names of PIs whose work I've admired for so long, and getting to connect with them as colleagues in the field. I also really enjoyed meeting other travel awardees from similar labs. It felt like the first of many encounters with a group that will grow and have their own impact on the field in the coming years."



Carla Veronica Arganaraz, *Institute for Physiology, Molecular Biology and Neuroscience (IFIBYNE) - UBA - CONICET, Argentina*: "ISSR was such an amazing experience! I feel so grateful for the opportunity to present my work among this community. It was very exciting to get to know so many incredible scientists working to advance our knowledge on serotonin, and getting to know PhD students working on projects close to mine. It was a really enriching experience, and I hope to cross paths again with these amazing people."

Sara Asgharzadeh, *University of Ottawa, Faculty of Medicine, Cellular & Molecular Medicine; Ottawa Hospital Research Institute (OHRI)- Ottawa, ON, Canada*: "I really enjoyed how friendly and open the conference felt. The talks were clear and useful, and I learned a lot from hearing different views on serotonin research. My favorite part was that the whole meeting stayed focused on the serotonin system, looking at it from many angles (molecules, circuits, behavior, and methods). That focus made it easy to connect the dots across sessions, and I genuinely enjoyed every part of it. I also gave an oral presentation, which let me share my research and receive great feedback.



The poster and discussion sessions were especially helpful because people offered practical suggestions I can use right away in my project. I had great hallway conversations, met new collaborators, and left feeling motivated and supported."

Nagalakshmi Balasubrama, *University of Florida, USA*: "The ISSR 2025 meeting was a highly rewarding experience, and I am honored to have been selected as a travel award recipient. This support enabled my participation and provided the opportunity to engage in five days of stimulating discussions on serotonin research. I was grateful to present my panel talk and to gain a deeper understanding of the responsibilities associated with being a travel awardee. I sincerely thank the mentors who offered guidance and assistance throughout the meeting. ISSR also served as an excellent forum for networking and collaboration, and I was able to establish valuable professional connections that will contribute to my future career development as I prepare for a tenure-track position."



Beatrice Baumberger, *Imperial College London, UK*: "I loved how wholesome and inspiring the ISSR conference felt: it was so stimulating to see research ranging from basic to applied, with people innovating while always keeping helping patients in mind. The openness, passion, and inclusivity in every discussion made it a truly exciting and meaningful experience. The mentorship was incredibly supportive, the networking opportunities were highly valuable, and I'm very grateful to the organizing committee for putting together such a great event."

Bettina Bohl, *Imperial College London, Department of Bioengineering, UK*: "The ISSR meeting in Vienna was an inspiring gathering, showcasing groundbreaking science that pushed the boundaries of our understanding of serotonin. Equally remarkable was the spirit of collegiality and support by the community, fostering meaningful connections across generations of researchers, especially through the mentorship program for the Travel Awardees. The Farewell Dinner was a truly memorable conclusion to the meeting leaving all of us inspired and already looking forward to the next meeting."





Emma Bonniwell, *Medical College of Wisconsin, USA*: ISSR 2025 was an energizing experience that expanded my scientific perspective through the diverse serotonin research presented and my valuable conversations with colleagues. Exploring Vienna's scientific and medical history alongside fellow attendees made the conference especially memorable.

Claire Deckers, *Center for Substance Abuse Research, Lewis Katz School of Medicine, Temple University, Philadelphia, PA, USA*: "I really enjoyed the chance to dive into so much exciting research at ISSR's meeting—it was inspiring to hear talks from some of the leading names in the serotonin field. The conversations I had with other attendees gave me new perspectives and even sparked a whole new line of inquiry for my own work. It's energizing to bring fresh ideas back to the lab and think about where they might lead. On top of that, Vienna was such a beautiful and fitting setting for the conference, which made the whole experience even more special."



Sixtine Fleury, *Dartmouth College, USA*: "I really enjoyed connecting with other graduate students in the field who are at a similar stage in their PhD journey. It was inspiring to see everyone's hard work, and I felt grateful for the chance to share my own research. The atmosphere was supportive, with great feedback and encouragement all around. Beyond the sessions, exploring beautiful Vienna and sharing a traditional Austrian meal with everyone made the experience even more memorable!"

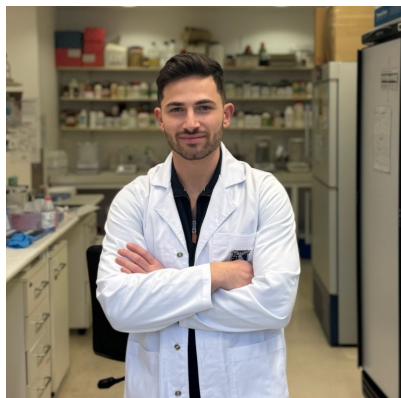


Rocio Beatriz Foltran, *Instituto de Fisiología, Biología Molecular y Neurociencias (IFIBYNE), UBA-CONICET, Argentina*: "The Serotonin in Vienna Conference was a great opportunity to meet and discuss results and ideas with people all around the world. Plenaries were of very high quality and symposia were incredibly interesting, both being the best opportunities to learn about new tools or forms of approaching different questions in neuroscience. The "Career development and Training Opportunities" discussion was particularly useful for people in my career stage, and allowed me to learn some tips that I can apply in my following steps. Finally, the farewell dinner in the Museum of Art History was absolutely fantastic! It felt surreal and it was so much fun to end the meeting there with all the new friends I made throughout the meeting."

Blake Fordyce, *University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, USA*: This summer I was honored to receive a Travel Award from ISSR to attend their 2025 meeting in Vienna, Austria. It was an inspiring experience where I shared my work and connected with scientists from all over the world, across every stage of their careers. The conference's rich tradition and active members cultivate a sense of culture and camaraderie, making it a truly welcoming and enriching community.



Maria Teresa Gallo, *Department of Pharmacological and Biomolecular Sciences "Rodolfo Paoletti", Università degli Studi di Milano, Milan, Italy*: "What I enjoyed most about the ISSR conference was the inspiring exchange of ideas across different disciplines, the chance to receive constructive feedback on my work, and the welcoming and supportive atmosphere of the community. It was truly a pleasure to be part of ISSR 2025."



James Gattuso, *University of Melbourne, Australia*: "I thoroughly enjoyed my time at ISSR 2025. The meeting was intellectually stimulating, with cutting-edge research directly relevant to my field, and it offered invaluable opportunities to connect with world-class scientists at a pivotal stage in my early career."



Ralph Gradisch, *University of Zurich, Institut of Pharmacology and Toxicology Department of Chemical Neuropharmacology 8057 Zurich, Switzerland*: "The ISSR conference in Vienna was my second of this kind. It's great when you meet familiar faces and make new acquaintances – and everyone shares a common interest: serotonin! The ISSR offers the full spectrum: from structural data, to cellular and in-vivo mechanisms, all the way to clinical studies."



L. Sophie Guillino, *Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Belgium*: What I appreciated most about the ISSR conference was that many sessions were directly relevant to my research, and I was able to learn a great deal. I also valued the friendly atmosphere, which made it easy to approach other researchers and build connections.



Aurelija Ippolito, *University of Oxford, Department of Pharmacology, UK*: The ISSR conference 2025 was a wonderful week of interesting data, thought-provoking discussions and networking. It was great to listen to so many talks on psychedelic research and I came away from the conference with new ideas for my own experiments. I am so grateful to have had the opportunity to present a poster at the conference and speak to so many wonderful researchers.



Chalystha Yie Qin Lee, *New York University (NYU), USA*: I am incredibly grateful for the opportunity to attend my first ISSR meeting in Vienna, surrounded by an inspiring community of international scientists united by a shared passion for all things 5-HT. I enjoyed that the meeting fostered a warm, supportive atmosphere, with a well-curated program that highlighted the many facets of serotonin research while also offering a chance to experience the rich culture that Vienna had to offer!

Katie Lehigh, *Harvard Medical School*: "The breadth of the serotonin-related work presented at the ISSR conference enriched my knowledge of new developments across the field, and that has given me a new perspective as I revisit my own science. I attended symposia spanning the molecular mechanisms of serotonin transporters to the role of serotonin in autonomic functions to preclinical and clinical work showcasing the importance of serotonin in mood regulation and behavior. These all highlight the value of interdisciplinary approaches towards gaining a thorough understanding of serotonin's effects on the brain and body. Personally, I am grateful to the organizers for the platform to present my own work and for facilitating fun and engaging social events. These both led to thought-provoking discussions with clinicians and scientists of diverse backgrounds and enhanced my experience of the ISSR community."

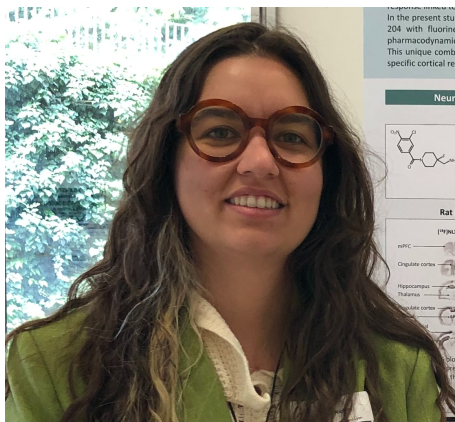


Jacob Noeker, *University of Minnesota, USA*: "I thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to connect with the international serotonin research community. It was an honor to be in the presence of such distinguished researchers and connect with them on both a professional and personal level. Being new to the field, I felt welcomed and encouraged by everyone I talked to, which showed me how incredible the community is. I am grateful to have had the opportunity, through the travel award, to participate and grow my network in this very exciting field. I look forward to engaging with the ISSR community again in the future."

Jennyfer Payet, *La Trobe University, Australia*: The ISSR conference was absolutely one of the best conferences I have been to. It was so great to meet all the leaders of serotonin research in the same room. I particularly enjoyed Susan Dymecki's plenary lecture, as well as getting to meet long-time collaborator Christopher Lowry during one of the symposia. I was also paired with a wonderful mentor, Mariano Soiza-Reilly, who helped me make some great connections throughout the conference. The farewell dinner in the Kunsthistorisches Museum was also definitely a highlight, and I am already looking forward to the next ISSR meeting!



Saige Power, *McGill University, Montreal, QC, Canada*: "The ISSR meeting was phenomenally engaging, both scientifically and personally. What a privilege to be welcomed into a community of such intelligent, collaborative, and kind scientists."



Violette Richin, *Lyon Neuroscience Research Center (University Claude Bernard Lyon 1) & Neurolix, France*: What I liked the most about ISSR was that the Travel award facilitated networking and allowed me to meet great researchers. Plus, the opening and closing were absolutely fabulous.

Renata Sadretdinova, *CERVO Research Center, Laval University, Quebec City, Canada*: Attending my first ISSR conference was a fantastic experience. I enjoyed every aspect of it: meeting in person with serotonin-minded researchers from all over the world, fresh insights from symposia and poster sessions, valuable discussions about my own data, and, of course, the beautiful city of Vienna. I am very grateful to all the organizers for giving me the chance to be there!"



Maria Sancho Alonso, *University of Valencia and CIBERSAM, Spain*: What I liked most about the conference was the opportunity to listen to a wide variety of enriching presentations, which allowed me to learn about new perspectives and approaches within my area of interest. In particular, it was very interesting to meet so many people focused on the study of the serotonergic system and neuropsychiatric disorders. I also greatly valued the spaces for dialogue and exchange with colleagues from different institutions and countries, as they fostered collaboration and mutual learning. Finally, I would like to highlight the excellent organization of the event and the friendly atmosphere, which made the experience truly rewarding.



Isabelle Straumann, *University Hospital Basel, Switzerland*: What I especially enjoyed at the ISSR conference was the mix of basic science and clinical research, including how discoveries about serotonin connect everything from molecules to mental health. The most inspiring part was the interesting conversations with researchers who were generous with their feedback and genuinely curious about each other's work. I came back with fresh ideas and a lot of motivation for my own research.

Olivia Yang, *University of Texas Health at San Antonio, USA*: "My first time attending ISSR was extremely memorable. My favorite part was getting to meet fellow trainees from all over the world and learn from their different perspectives. It was also an honor to hear such esteemed professors talk about their research."



Lewis Yu, *University of California, Los Angeles, USA*: "The keynote presentations were exceptional, offering valuable insights into the field. I also greatly appreciated the focused symposium sessions, which highlighted niche areas of 5-HT biology and fostered in-depth discussion. Perhaps most memorable, however, was the collegial atmosphere—the participants were remarkably warm and welcoming, creating an engaging environment for scientific exchange."





2026 ISSR Webinar

The ISSR will deliver its third webinar this September! Please reach out to serotoninclub1987@gmail.com if you would like to help with planning and/or hosting.

Fun at the ISSR 2025 Neuroscience Mixer

We hosted a wonderfully successful event at the Bay City Brewing Co in San Diego, CA. Here, serotoninologists were treated to good eats, drinks and abundant banter. It was great to reconnect with others following our successful meeting in Vienna!



International Society
for Serotonin Research
Mixer at SfN 2025

Mon Nov 17, 6:30-8:30PM

Bay City Brewing Co.
627 8th Ave, San Diego

\$20 (\$10 for trainees)
incl 2 drinks and apps



- Connect with other serotonin enthusiasts
- Meet ISSR Councilors and members
- Discuss science presented recently in Vienna
- Learn about the 2027 meeting in Calgary!

ISSR Membership Information

Anyone with a research or clinical interest in Serotonin may become a member of our Society. **Current dues cycle is January 2026 through December 2027.** Please note that discounted biennial meeting registration fees, which are significant for current members, will apply only to those who are up-to-date in dues payments. Membership renewals are on a 2-year cycle (see [rates](#) and [payment instructions](#) below). Members will be notified by email when membership is up for renewal and payment is due. Your dues payments provide the support needed to maintain viability of the ISSR. Thank you for your support!!

Benefits of ISSR Membership:

- Networking opportunities to form collaborations with other serotonin researchers
- Opportunities for professional development and leadership in the Society
- Opportunities to submit proposals and chair symposium at our international biennial meetings
- Discounted registration fees to attend our international biennial meetings
- Information about and invitations to ISSR-sponsored events, e.g., FENS socials, SfN mixers
- Delivery of our Society newsletters directly to your email

Membership Categories:

- Regular (faculty or equivalent) \$150 USD
 - Trainee (student or postdoc) \$75 USD
- We require email confirmation of student or post-doc status.*
- Retired (former member) \$75 USD
 - All costs are for a 2-year membership

Payment can be made at our ISSR website (<https://www.serotoninclub.org/join>).

In some cases, we are able to accept bank wire transfers for dues, please contact Lyn Daws (daws@uthscsa.edu) to make arrangements. Alternatively, you may send a check or money order payable to the "International Society for Serotonin Research" to Lyn at the address below.

Lynette C. Daws, Ph.D.
Department of Cellular and Integrative Physiology, MC7756
University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio
7703 Floyd Curl Drive
San Antonio, TX, 78229-3900

