

NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 24 - SEPTEMBER 2024

Society Updates



Dear Members,

We are looking forward to the **2024 EBPS Workshop, Sept 25-27th, in Banff, Canada**. The aim of the workshop is to explore novel pharmacotherapeutics being utilised in the treatment of substance use and related psychiatric conditions. The workshop will feature keynotes from **David Nutt, Lorenzo Leggio, Alex Kwan, and Meg Haney**. Symposia sessions include research focused on *orexin, cannabinoids, ketamine* and *psilocybin*.

Our next **biennial meeting** (see **page 6**) will be held in **Almeria, Spain 17-20th September 2025**. The event website will be available soon with more information.

Please submit nominations for the **Distinguished Achievement Award** which recognises outstanding contributions to the field and a commitment to EBPS; and the **Early Career Award** which recognises scientists within 10 years of their PhD who have demonstrated research excellence and a commitment to EBPS. *Nominations (letter and CV) should be sent to the EBPS General Secretary (alm46@cam.ac.uk) by November 1st.*

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

The DEI Committee has been busy putting together several initiatives for the **2024 EBPS Workshop**:

- 1. Travel Awards.** This year 18 individuals were selected (out of 42) by a group of Executive and DEI Committee members to receive travel awards to attend the workshop in Banff. The chosen individuals represent 5 countries and represent a wide range of backgrounds and research interests (see **page 5**).
- 2. Data Blitz.** Travel awardees have been invited to present a sneak peek of their poster presentations on Day 1 of the conference. Each presenter will be given 3 minutes to present the highlights of their research.
- 3. DEI Panel Discussion.** We are pleased to welcome a distinguished panel of guests to participate in our DEI panel discussion on Day 1. Our panel is focused on "Global DEI" to accommodate differences in activities and support over the world. Our speakers are Shelly Flagel (USA), Gill Bedi (AUS) and Oritoke Okeowo (NGA), hosted by Full/DEI committee member Karen Szumlinski.
- 4. Round table Discussion.** The DEI committee will run a roundtable event to discuss topics pertinent to our mission as a society and to combat DEI issues. The tables will have a chair to run the discussion and the topics will be Work/Life balance for women in science (Leah Mayo), Imposter syndrome (Connor Haggarty) and Language barriers as an international scientist (Margarita Moreno Montoya).
- 5. Mentor-Mentee.** We are implementing a mentor-mentee program for the 2024 Workshop, similar to the the 2023 Biennial Meeting. We received a huge number of applicants for this program and are excited to have more than 40 mentor-mentee matches made. This provides an opportunity for junior colleagues to engage with more senior members of the field and gain insight on their research and/or career trajectories.

IN MEMORIAM

Dr. Klaus Miczek

In July we lost one of the pillars of our community, Dr. Klaus Miczek. Klaus immigrated to the United States from Germany and obtained his PhD degree in 1972 at the University of Chicago, under the mentorship of Sebastian Grossman. He then obtained an appointment as an Associate Professor at Carnegie-Mellon University (Pittsburgh) in 1972, before becoming a Professor at Tufts University (Boston) in 1979.



He remained at Tufts for the duration of his career, eventually becoming the Moses Hunt Professor of Psychology, Psychiatry, Pharmacology, and Neuroscience. Klaus was a world expert on animal models of aggression and developed the widely used rodent model of intruder-evoked aggression. He made seminal discoveries on the impact of drugs and environmental conditions on aggression and the underlying neurobiology, and on the effect of social stress on drug self-administration and drug-induced changes in both the brain and periphery.

Klaus impacted our field in many ways beyond his own research. He served as the co-Managing Editor of *Psychopharmacology* for nearly 30 years (1991-2019) and handled over 6000 papers during that time. His dedication in this role was unmatched, not only in his mission of maintaining the highest level of scholarship, but also in the detailed comments he would often provide on each manuscript. His presence was a hallmark of EBPS meetings for decades, and he received the EBPS Distinguished Scientist Award in 2007.

Although he could be perceived as being somewhat fierce and critical, Klaus cared deeply about our field and his words often fostered vital discussions, whether on the poster floor or following a plenary lecture. Klaus was also a valued mentor and staunch supporter to many of us in the field. We will miss his lively engagement at our meetings and his wonderful spirit and wit.

Please find an obituary written by Harriet de Wit and Trevor Robbins, published in *Psychopharmacology* here: <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s00213-024-06677-8>

IN MEMORIAM

Dr. Will Spooren

We received the sad news that Dr. Will Spooren passed away on July 9th, at the age of 60. From 2011 until 2013, Will served as the General Secretary of EBPS. He started his research career in the laboratory of the late Prof. Alexander Cools, where he obtained his PhD degree studying tardive dyskinesia in Parkinson's disease. After a postdoc at the University of Rochester, Will started as a laboratory head at Novartis in Basel in 1996.



His important work on the role of metabotropic glutamate receptors in the treatment of anxiety led Roche to recruit him. At Roche, he continued his work to identify drug targets for a wide range of CNS disorders, including schizophrenia, anxiety, and Parkinson's disease.

In the latter phase of his career, he focused on the discovery of novel treatments for autism spectrum disorder, as well as other neurodevelopmental disorders. His major impact in the field was to establish and lead two large public-private consortia, EU AIMS and AIMS-2-TRIALS, that built a worldwide network to advance medicine development in autism and resulted in many high impact publications.

Those who were lucky enough to know him, will remember Will's thorough approach to behavioural pharmacology, his collegiality, and his dry sense of humour.

We acknowledge and appreciate the work and support that both Klaus and Will gave to the European Behavioural Pharmacology Society and Psychopharmacology over the years, and are deeply saddened by their passing.

Call for Papers

Psychopharmacology

“Stress, Trauma and Cannabinoids”

**Submission deadline. (extended):
December 31st 2024**

We are pleased to announce a special edition of *Psychopharmacology* related to the EBPS 2023 Biennial Meeting symposia of the same name. We welcome all types of papers exploring the role of cannabinoids on the processing of stress and trauma. Guest edited by [Connor Haggarty](#), [Leah Mayo](#), [Christelle Baunez](#) and [Christine Rabinak](#). Please submit queries or highlight your interest to: chaggarty@wayne.edu.

European Journal of Neuroscience

“Basal Ganglia and Related Disorders: From Cellular and Circuit Dysfunctions to Therapy”

**Submission deadline:
September 30th 2024**

Over the past decade, advancements in genetic tools, imaging, and electrophysiology have significantly deepened our understanding of basal ganglia function and its role in various brain disorders. Following the 2023 IBAGS meeting, a Special Issue invites studies that explore basal ganglia biology, from cellular analyses to clinical research, encouraging openness and reproducibility to advance knowledge of both normal and diseased states.

Other Updates

ECR Blog Series.

We seek graduate students and postdoctoral researchers to contribute to our new blog series. We ask ECRs to provide a short < 500 words summary of recent papers they have read in our partner journal (*Psychopharmacology*). Interested parties should contact Connor (chaggarty@wayne.edu).

Newsletter/Email contributions.

If any members have content they would like to see in the newsletter then please contact us at

EBPS_members@gmail.com.

If you have any job postings, news, updates that you would like to share with the EBPS members then please send this information to the EBPS email or DM us on Twitter/X ([@EurBehavPharm](https://twitter.com/EurBehavPharm)) and we will arrange to have this shared.

EBPS Committee

Executive Committee:

Shelly Flagel, (US) - *President*
Gavan McNally, (AU) - *President-elect*
Yavin Shaham, (US) - *Past-president*
Amy Milton, (UK) - *General Secretary*
Mohammed Shoaib, (UK) - *Treasurer*
Connor Haggarty, (US) - *Communications Officer*
Christelle Baunez, (FR) - *Psychopharmacology Rep*
Marco Venniro, (US) - *DEI Committee Chair*
Leah Mayo, (CA) - *Workshop LOC Chair*
Margarita Moreno, (ES) - *Meeting LOC Chair*
Rainer Spanagel, (DE) - *Past-meeting Chair*

Full Committee:

Karen Szumlinski, (US) Markus Heilig, (SE)
Anand Gururajan, (AU) Eisuke Koya, (UK)
Heidi Lesscher, (NL)

TRAVEL AWARD WINNERS



JESSICA SCHEUFEN
THE UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY, CAN



FAIZ KASSIM
LINKÖPING UNIVERSITY, SWE



PAOLA PALOMBO
FEDERAL UNIVERSITY OF SÃO PAULO, BRA



SEETHA KRISHNAN
THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO, USA



ALAINA JASTER
WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY, USA



MELANIE LYSENKO-MARTIN
THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA, CAN



LAUREN BROWN
UNIVERSITY OF NOTTINGHAM, UK



AGATA CIESLIK
POLISH ACADEMY OF SCIENCE, POL



MILAN VALYEAR
MCGILL UNIVERSITY, CAN



UMA CHATTERJEE
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN, USA



MARLAINA STOCO
UC SANTA BARBARA, USA



LILY ALEKSANDROVA
UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA, CAN



MEGAN GREENER
UNIVERSITY OF NOTTINGHAM, UK



DELONG ZHOU
MCGILL UNIVERSITY, CAN



FERNANDO CANO
UC SANTA BARBARA, USA



SEAN GOLDY
JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY, USA



ANITA SIKI
UNIVERSITY OF GUELPH, CAN



ERICA RAMIREZ
UC IRVINE, USA

Congratulations!

ebps

EUROPEAN BEHAVIOURAL
PHARMACOLOGY SOCIETY



UNIVERSIDAD
DE ALMERÍA



EBPS Biennial Meeting

17–20th September, 2025

Almería, Spain

Cabo de Gata Congress Palace, City of Almería

Organizing committee:

Margarita Moreno

Pilar Flores

Ana Sánchez-Kuhn

Elena Martín-González



EPBS 2025



Venue



ebps2025@ual.es

