

SMBE Business Meeting 2026

July 1st 2026

12.20-13:20 local time

Copenhagen, Denmark

SMBE 2026: Thank you to the Local Organizing Committee



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General Chair
Professor, University Of
Copenhagen



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Vice-Chair
Associate Professor, University
Of Copenhagen



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Principal Coordinating Team
Professor, University Of
Copenhagen



HANNES SCHROEDER

Principal Coordinating Team
Associate Professor, University
Of Copenhagen



MARTIN SIKORA

Principal Coordinating Team
Associate Professor, University
Of Copenhagen

Scientific board

Ana Prohaska

Assistant Professor, Globe Institute

Antton Alberdi

Associate Professor, Globe Institute

Bent Petersen

Senior Researcher, Globe Institute

Chris Barnes

Associate Professor, Globe Institute

Christina Hvilsom

Senior Researcher, Copenhagen Zoo

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Assistant Professor, Department of Biology

Mark Scherz

Assistant Professor, Natural History Museum of Denmark

Michael Poulsen

Professor, Department of Biology

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Associate Professor, Natural History Museum of Denmark

Ostaizka Aizpurua

Assistant Professor, Globe Institute

Pete Hosner

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Rasmus Nielsen

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Associate Professor, Globe Institute

Shyam Gopalakrishnan

Associate Professor, Globe Institute

Kasun Bodawatta

Researcher, Globe Institute

Morten Limborg

Associate Professor, Globe Institute

Ida Hartvig

Assistant Professor, Globe Institute

Jazmin Ramos-Madrigal

Assistant Professor, Globe Institute

Binia De Cahsan Westbury

Researcher, Globe Institute

SMBE 2026

- 1721 Onsite participants
- 221 Online Participants
- 588 Talks
- 749 Posters

SMBE 2026 Council

Juliette de Meaux, *President*, University of Cologne, Germany

Ziheng Yang, *Past President*, UCL, UK

Matt Hahn *President-Elect*, University of Indiana, USA

Rebekah Rogers, *Secretary*, The George Washington University, Washington, DC

Aline Muyle, *Treasurer*, CNRS Researcher, Montpellier, France

JJ Emerson, *Treasurer*, University of California, Irvine, CA, USA

Elena Gómez-Díaz, *Councillor (2024-2026)*: Spanish National Scientific Council (IPBLN-CSIC), Spain

Juliana A. Vianna, *Councillor (2024-2026)*: Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile (UC), Chile

Aya Takahashi (2025-2027): Tokyo Metropolitan University (TMU), Japan

Melissa Wilson (2025-2027): Arizona State University, USA

Xiaomei Fu, *Councillor (2026-2028)*: Chinese Academy of Science, China

Ravinder Kanda, *Councillor (2026-2028)*: Oxford Brooks University, UK

Claudia A. M. Russo (ex-officio), *Editor in Chief, MBE*, Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

Brandon Stuart Gaut (ex-officio), *Editor in Chief, MBE*, University of California, Irvine, CA, USA

Laura A. Katz (ex-officio), *Editor in Chief, GBE*, Smith College, USA

Maud Tenaillon (ex-officio), *Editor in Chief, GBE*, France

Membership updates

Current Membership Fees:

- **3-YEAR Society Membership Student Worldwide - \$20 USD**
- **3-YEAR Society Membership Worldwide - \$50 USD**
- **Lifetime Member Worldwide - \$500 USD**

Region	Members	%
North America	1,216 (US 973, Canada 119, Mexico 124)	41.05%
Europe	1,044	35.25%
Asia	472	15.94%
Oceania	120	4.05%
South America	74	2.50%
Africa	36	1.22%

About to pass the 3000 member-bar!

Benefits of Membership

- Reduced registration at the annual meeting
- Eligibility for travel awards and registration waiver awards
- Eligibility for prizes (Best Graduate Student paper in MBE and GBE; Graduate Student Excellence Award)
- Eligibility for career achievement awards
- Eligibility to apply for funds for satellite meetings
- Eligibility for caregiver support
- Eligibility to benefit from IDEA initiative
- Discounted publication charges for MBE and GBE
- Being part of community

8 Graduate Student Excellence (GSE) awards
20 Young Investigator (YI) Travel awards

GSE & YI Selection committee:

Jian Lu, Yun Song, Aurora Ruiz-Herrera, Julia Kreiner, Mia Levine, Mateja Hajdinjak, Daniel Croll, Diego del Vecchio, Mehmet Somel, Nandita Garud

8 Graduate Student Excellence (GSE) awards

François Frejacques	Wei-Han Lin
Anjali Gupta	Arthur Matte
Nadia Haghani	Jialin Wei
Oya Inanli	Ira Zibbu

20 Young Investigator (YI) Travel awards

- | | |
|---------------------|------------------------|
| • Lucija Andjel | • Andrea Soler i Núñez |
| • Moritz Blumer | • Cedric Tan |
| • Margaret Chi | • Nina Vittorelli |
| • Nadav Mishol | • Yue Yu |
| • Saswat Mohanty | • Xueling Yi |
| • Markella Moraitou | • Olga Rosspopoff |
| • Shazia Parveen | • Henry North |
| • David Peede | • Tom Parée |
| • Gabriel Preising | • Christopher Kyriazis |
| • Roudin Sarama | • Pascal Angst |

- Selection committee chair:
Aya Takahashi
Ravinder Kanda

Thank you to their mentors! Rafal Gutaker, Jasmin Rees, Miguel Arenas, Luciana Santoferrara, Keith Crandall, Li-Jun Ma, Yang Li, Carolin Kosiol, Xinjun Zhang, Frederic Delsuc

SMBE GE, YI, and Travel awards, ...

How to get involved?

- respond to our calls for nominations, call for proposals.
- participate to SMBE panels
- think of ideas for community building, for helping the society, in particular for helping members from underrepresented regions.
- come to talk or email any of the councillors.

SMBE Faculty Award Winners 2026

Members:

Committee for smbe faculty
awards 2026:

Belinda Chang (Chair)

Maria Anisimova

Alison Feder

Yuseob Kim

Jian Lu

Mary O'Connell

Tal Pupko

Yong Zhang

Ziheng Yang (Past President)



Lifetime Research Achievement Award

Anne Stone

(Arizona State University)



Early Career Excellence Award

Leo Speidel

(Riken, Japan)



Mid-Career Excellence Award

Matthew Pennell

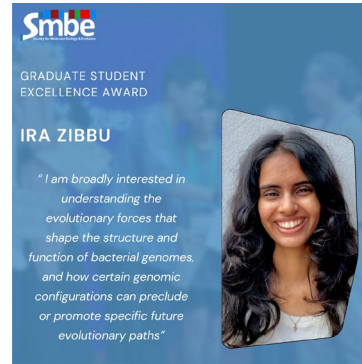
(Cornell University)



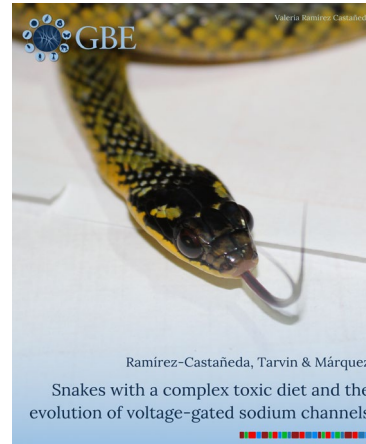
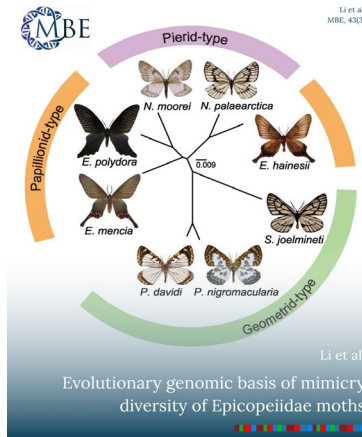
Community Service Award

Aoife McLysaght

(Trinity College Dublin)



Social media presence aimed at increasing the visibility of your work and your society



Led by Pedro Andrade

Follow us on social media!



Bluesky



LinkedIn



WeChat



Apply to join the SMBE Fellows Program!

The SMBE Fellows Program aims to mentor early-career researchers in scientific writing for evolutionary and molecular biology. Selected Fellows will be invited to write Highlight articles for *MBE* and *GBE*, and benefit from training and networking opportunities.

Why join?

- Opportunity to author Highlight articles in *MBE* and *GBE*
- Training in writing and editing
- Support to attend the 2026 SMBE Annual Meeting
- A small stipend as an honorarium for each published Highlight



For contact:

Brandon Gaut (bgaut@uci.edu)

Maud Tenaillon (maud.tenaillon@cncrs.fr)

Pedro Andrade (smbe.socialmedia@gmail.com)

Smbe
Fellows



Ioanna
Kotari



Shady
Kuster



Haoran
Cai

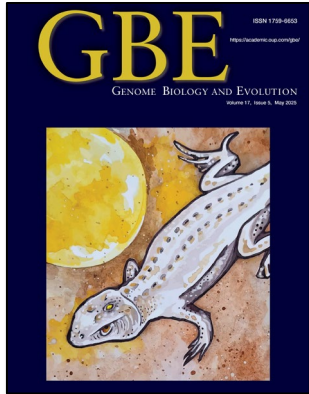
We welcomed three ECRs to our
SMBE Fellows Program, who
produced a combined total of 12
Highlights for MBE and GBE

Will YOU be part of the second
cohort of fellows starting in
October.

Next Application deadline : August 15th 2026

Publish in the SMBE Journals

Genome Biology and Evolution



Publishing leading original research at the interface between evolutionary biology and genomics on topics concerning natural genome diversity, population genomics, the structure, function, organization and expression of genomes, comparative genomics, proteomics, and environmental genomic interactions.



Maud Tenaillon

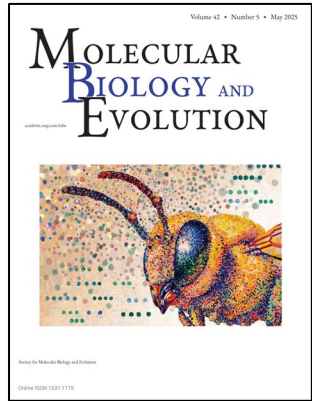


Laura A. Katz

Editors-in-Chief

Publish in the SMBE Journals

Molecular Biology and Evolution



Publishing fresh insights into the patterns and processes that impact the evolution of life at molecular levels, across a full breadth of taxonomy, genomic organization, functions, forms, and phenotypes.



Claudia A. M. Russo & Brandon S. Gaut
Editors-in-Chief

Publish in the SMBE Journals

Society journals

GBE and MBE are the official journals for the **Society of Molecular Biology and Evolution (SMBE)**. OUP is **not-for-profit**.

Fast and rigorous peer review

Fast and **rigorous** peer review to ensure publications are of the highest of standards for authors and readers

Open access publishing

GBE and *MBE* are both fully **open access** and compliant with all major funders, with a generous and inclusive **waiver policy** for all

Variety of article formats

Both journals have a variety of long and short form manuscript types such as **Reviews, perspectives, Genome Resources, Protocols**, etc.

Best Paper Awards

Both journals deliver an Award to the best paper published by a Graduate Student.



Support SMBE by publishing in SMBE Journals

Article Processing Charges (APCs) allow SMBE to deliver:

- Annual conference and satellite meetings
- Young Investigator and Graduate Student Excellence awards
- Caregiver awards
- Undergraduate mentoring
- Equity, Diversity and Inclusion initiatives

Both journals fully **open access** and compliant with all major funders (OUP **Read and Publish** agreement)

- Generous and inclusive **waiver policy** for all
- Continuous publication model allows for **fast publication** of your articles online
- **Support your society's journals!**

Election summary

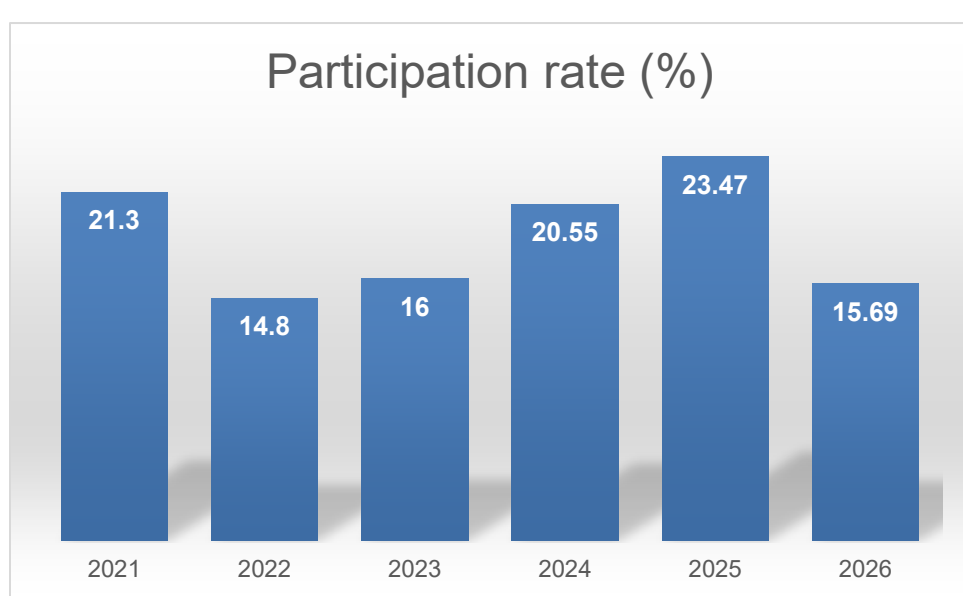
participation rate: $464/2957 = 15.69\%$

Selection Committee:

Anne Yoder (Chair)

Rishi De-Kayne, Janna Fierst, Stephie Ravelson, Antonis Rokas, Tianqi Zhu, Ziheng Yang

The nomination committee was tasked with ensuring **a diverse slate with respect to gender, geographic spread, language etc.**



Election results

Congratulations and welcome to the new Council members!

President-elect: Dmitri Petrov



Councillors: Esther Betran



Sohini Ramachandran





SAVE THE DATE

Last world meeting before 2029!

Québec City, Canada

June 20-24, 2027

Organization
Christian Landry
Nadia Aubin-Horth

Future SMBE meetings

SMBE2027 Quebec City

SMBE2028 Extended regional meetings

SMBE2029 tba

From 2028 onwards, we will alternate between **global conference** and **extended global regional meeting**.

SMBE 2028 Global Regional

Councillors: Aya Takabayashi and Juliana Vianna

Five Regional Meetings:

Benin – China – Mexico – Brazil – France

Abomey-Calavi, Shanghai, Guanajuato, Campinas, Paris

2027 SMBE Satellite and Regional Meetings

Call will be send out in a few days.

Deadline: 31 August 2026

Selection committee:

Qiaomei Fu and Aya Takahashi (SMBE Councillors)

Progress on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

The launch of the ***SMBE IDEA (Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Access) Initiative*** has a very broad set of tasks:

- to increase representation and inclusion in our membership across all dimensions of diversity.
- Identify and address systemic racism, sexism, colonialism, and other structural inequities affecting SMBE members.
- Support outreach and equity efforts across academia, particularly in molecular biology and evolution

Budget: 35 000\$

Organizers: Olatunde Omotoso*, Lotanna Micah Nneji, Oreoluwa Ajayi, and Akindele Oluwatosin Adeyi, Tonjock Rosemary Kinge*, Brice Tibab, and Oba Romuald

Progress on IDEA (Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Access)

IDEA task force members

Wei-Chin Ho

Simone Andrea Biagini

Neus Font Porterias

Carlos Eduardo G. Amorim

Sishuo Wang

Charles A. G. Michie

Hayley Beth Free

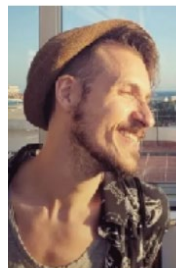
New members

Boris Olou

Gözde Atağ

Yichen (Serena) Dai

Morjina Solaiman



Simone



Neus



Charles



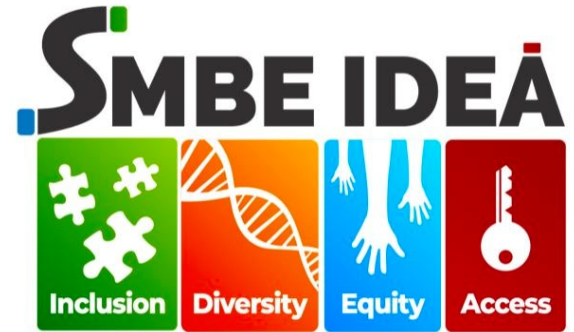
Join SMBE IDEA!

SMBE council member contact:
Ravinder Kanda, Elena Gómez-Díaz

Progress on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

Looking Ahead: 2026–2027 Objectives

1. Widen the SMBE membership in underrepresented areas.
2. Use the 2027 call for proposals to support IDEA-focused initiatives in SMBE.
3. Organize the IDEA Symposium 2027 to facilitate the awareness of IDEA issues across scientists from the world and stimulate more discussion on solution plans.
4. Recruit more members with diverse backgrounds to join the Task Force, including the two subcommittees: Outreach and Local Leadership in Science.
5. Enhance the use of IDEA's social media accounts and the collaboration with the SMBE's social media manager to make SMBE more visible in diverse communities.



**SMBE IDEA
Funding Call**



Join SMBE IDEA!

A Summary: SMBE 2025-6 Developments

- The Society journals and the Society are in a healthy state. Journal submissions are at all time high. Impact factor is stabilized
- Initiatives continued under 'IDEA' and SMBE allies programs to further increase diversity and to make SMBE meetings safe and inclusive for everyone.
- Preparing for alternating regional and yearly meetings to mitigate costs, facilitate travel, reduce carbon footprints
- Membership throughout the world is growing!