

SMBE Business Meeting 2025

22 July 2025

13.00-14:00 local time

Beijing, China

SMBE 2025: Thank you to the Local Organizing Committee



Xuming Zhou



Weiwei Zhai



Yichen (Serena) Dai



Xiao Wang



Qiaomei Fu



Xuemei Lu



Jian Lu



Guang Yang

SMBE 2025

1180 registrants, 386 talks, 417 posters.
First SMBE conference in mainland China

SMBE 2025 Council

Ziheng Yang, *President*, UCL, UK

Juliette de Meaux, *President-Elect*, Institute for Plant Sciences, Cologne, Germany

Stephen Wright, *Past President*, University of Toronto, Canada

Emmanuelle Lerat, *Secretary*, Lyon 1 University, France

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

Rebecca Zufall, Councillor (2023-2025): University of Houston, TX, USA

Christian Landry, Councillor (2023-2025): Université Laval, Quebec, Canada

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

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 (2025 mid-year) numbers **2,762**, up **8.4%** from 2024. Renew your membership if you haven't done so!
- Membership comes from 64 countries, approx. **37%** student members
- Society goal to continue to expand in under-represented regions
- Despite fluctuations, long-term growth trend remains strong
- Increased engagement expected with conference taking place and ongoing outreach via our partnership with KGL.

**3-YEAR
Society
Membership
Worldwide**

Price: \$30.00

**3-YEAR
Society
Membership
Student
Worldwide**

Price: \$10.00

**Lifetime
Member
Worldwide**

Price:\$500.00

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**
- 14 Young Investigator (YI) Travel awards**
- 45 LOC Young Investigator Conference Support**

GSE & YI Selection committee:

Bing Su, Yalong Guo, Melissa Wilson, Emilia Huerta Sanchez, Daniel Ortiz Barrientos, Yuseob Kim, Manyuan Long and Aya Takahashi.

(The panel only received abstracts, without name or affiliation and their task was to rank them. The list of top rank abstracts was larger than the slots for the grad student awards, but all those that did not get to present received a travel award.)

LOC Young Investigator Conference Support (CAST) selection committee:

8 LOC members +
Qiang Qiu, Yongfeng Zhou, Hongru Wang, Yong Zhang

8 Graduate Student Excellence (GSE) awards

Dylan Sosa	Kaiyuan Li
Aidan Short	Philipp Hummer
Gemma Martinez-Redondo	Huangyi He
Hannah Verdonk	Alba Nieto Heredia

14 Young Investigator (YI) Travel awards

Shuya Zhang	Jose Miguel Serradell Noguera
Lele Zhao	Tristram Dodge
Jingyang Hu	Imtiyaz Enayatali Hariyani
Ruolin Wu	Alicia L Bruzos
Peiwei Chen	Anna Toidze
Diego Safian	Carolyn de Graaf
Ornob Alam	Audrey Tjahjadi

45 LOC Young Investigator (YI) Conference Support awards

SMBE Undergraduate Travel and Mentoring awards 2025

Nada Elsharkawy (New York University Abu Dhabi)
Pia Merete Eriksen (University of Oslo)
Maria Fernanda Garcia Rodriguez (LIIGH)
Emma Helman (McGill University)
Pablo Esteban Uribe Herrera (Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México)
Aleksei Skudnov (Immanuel Kant Baltic Federal University)
Alexander Sastokas (Biodesign Center for Mechanisms of Evolution)
Yanileth Lopez Tacoaman (Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute)
Anna Toidze (ETH Zürich)
Huy Chi Truong (Cornell University)
Woojung Yi (University of Richmond)
Xiaochi Zhou (Sun Yat-Sen University)

Selection committee chair:

Aya Takahashi

Rebecca Zufall

Mentor matching:

Aya Takahashi

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

How to get involved?

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

SMBE Faculty Award Winners 2025

Selection Committee:

Adam Eyre-Walker

Kayla King

Philipp Messer

Tal Dagan



Early Career Excellence
Award

Alison Feder

(University of Washington)

Mid-Career Excellence Award

Amanda Larracuente

(University of Rochester)



Lifetime Research
Achievement Award

Chung-I Wu

(University of Chicago)

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



Application period: July 20 - August 31, 2025

Launch date: July 20, 2025

For contact:

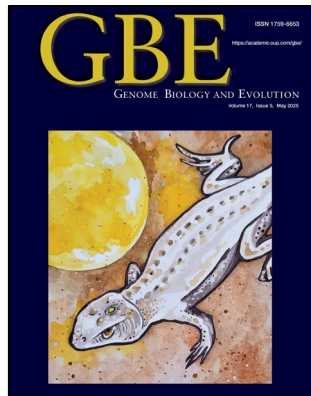
Brandon Gaut (bgaut@uci.edu)

Maud Tenaillon (maud.tenaillon@cns.fr)

Pedro Andrade (smbesocialmedia@gmail.com)

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

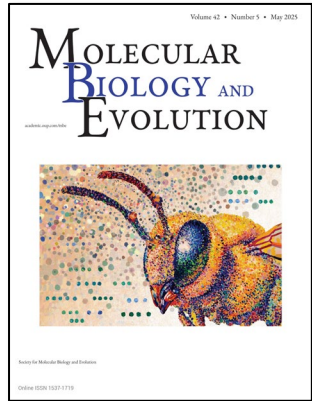


Laura A. Katz

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.

Increase visibility in social media (Social-media editor: Pedro Andrade)

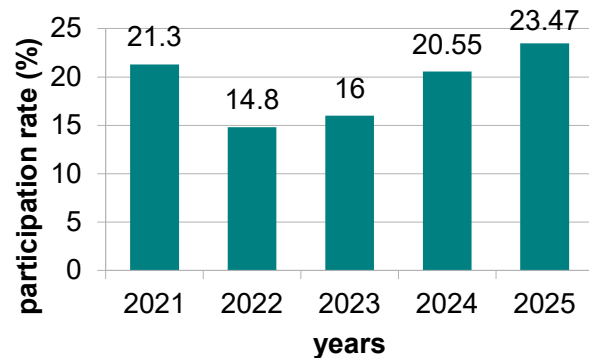
Exciting new logos coming up...



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



Members:

participation rate: $660/2812 = 23.47\%$

Xuming Zhou, Mary O'Connell, Nicolas Galtier, Deepa Agashe, and Emmanuelle Lerat (*ex officio*, SMBE Secretary), Stephen Wright (President)

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

New treasurer position will be overlapping next year with Aline the current Treasurer.

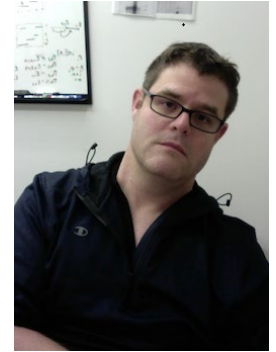
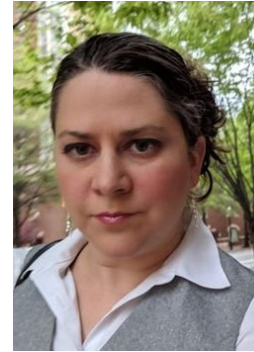
Election results

Congratulations and welcome to the new Council members!

President: Matthew Hahn

Secretary: Rebekah Rogers

Treasurer: JJ Emerson



Councilors: Ravinder Kanda and Qiaomei Fu



Satellite and Regional Meetings winners

Christian Landry and Juliana Vianna

Regional meetings:

- **II Latin American Meeting of Evolution (II CLEVOL)**, Tucuman, Argentina.
- **Experimental evolution—past and future perspectives**, Puerto Varas, Chile.
- **Evolutionary Genomics in Agricultural production and Biodiversity conservation in Africa**, Eldoret, Kenya.

Satellite meetings:

- **Origin, Maintenance, and Evolution of Biological Noise**, Tuebingen, Germany.
- **Evolutionary Biochemistry of Insect Antimicrobial Peptides**, Houston, USA.

SMBE 2026: Copenhagen



Coordinating Committee:



TOM GILBERT
General Chair
Professor
University of Copenhagen



ELINE LORENZEN
Vice-Chair
Professor
University of Copenhagen



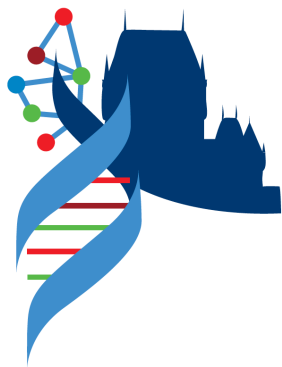
HANNES SCHROEDER
Principal coordinating team
Associate Professor
University of Copenhagen



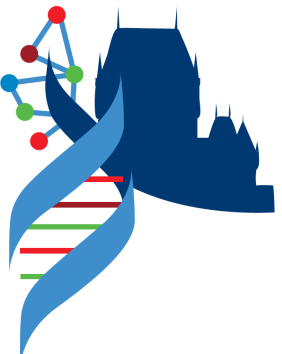
MARTIN SIKORA
Principal coordinating team
Associate Professor
University of Copenhagen



HERNÁN MORALES
Principal coordinating team
Associate Professor
University of Copenhagen



SMBE 2020
Québec City
June 28-July 2, 2020
Cancelled due to covid



SMBE 2027
Québec City
June 20-24, 2027



Christian Landry & Nadia Aubin-Horth



Future SMBE meetings

SMBE2026 Copenhagen, Denmark

SMBE2027 Quebec City

SMBE2028 Expanded regional meeting

Council has decided that from 2028 onwards, we will alternate between **global conference** and **expanded regional meeting**.

Call for proposals for
SMBE2028 expanded regional meeting and
SMBE2029 global conference
will be announced shortly.

2026 SMBE Satellite and Regional Meetings

Call was sent out a few days ago.

Deadline: 15 August 2025

Selection committee:

Juliana Vianna and Aya Takahashi (SMBE Councillors)

Progress on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

The launch of the ***SMBE IDEA (Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Access) Initiative*** in 2022 had 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

Progress on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

IDEA and Outreach Proposal Funding

- IDEA ***Building ScienceWise***, \$19,500
 - Rori Rohlf (Oregon University), and Emilia Huerta-Sanchez (Brown University)
- Outreach ***Regional Science Olympiad of Evolutionary Biology (ORBE2024)***, \$10,000
 - Claudia Russo (Federal University of Rio de Janeiro)

Non-parachute science projects

- ***Bridging the divide: Empowering African researchers in molecular biology and bioinformatics***, \$10,000
 - Boris Olou *et al.* (University of Parakou, Benin)
- ***Developing solutions to teach molecular biology and evolution within West African countries with limited laboratory infrastructures: the use of Miniaturised laboratorial equipment in Guinea-Bissau***, \$9,930
 - Stefan Prost (University of Oulu), and Aissa Regalla (IBAP, Guinea Bissau)

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

IDEA task force members

- Tugce Bilgin Sonay (co-chair)
- Epifanía Arango-Isaza (co-chair)
- Wei-Chin Ho (co-chair)
- Sishuo Wang
- Simone Biagini
- Hayley Free
- Charles Michie
- Neus Font Porterias



Join SMBE IDEA!

(& stepping down)

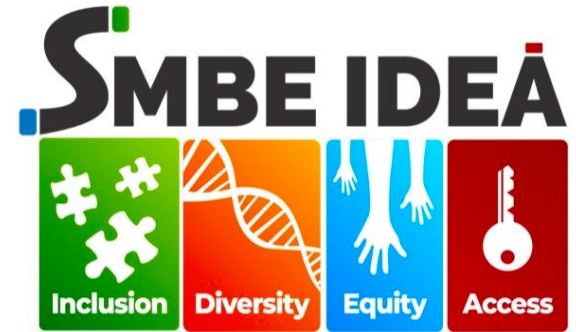
- Ravinder Kanda
- Miriam Miyagi
- Eduardo Amorim
- Grace Lee

SMBE council member contact:
Elena Gómez-Díaz

Progress on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

Looking Ahead: 2025–2026 Priorities

1. The 2025/2026 call for proposals to support IDEA-focused initiatives in SMBE and the broader MBE community is NOW OPEN! **Deadline 1st Sept 25**
2. Expanding the volunteer base for the IDEA committee, especially in non-parachute science and outreach.
3. Broadening SMBE membership in underrepresented regions.



**SMBE IDEA
Funding Call**



Join SMBE IDEA!

A Summary: SMBE 2024-5 Developments

- The Society journals and the Society are in a healthy state. Membership ~2800. Journal submissions are either increasing or back to pre-Covid levels. A Social Media Editor has been appointed.
- Initiatives continued under 'IDEA' and SMBE allies programs to further increase diversity and to make SMBE meetings safe and inclusive for everyone.
- First conference in China is a huge success this year- thanks to you!