



International Society for Neuroethology

Newsletter/December 2024

International Society for Neuroethology
301 Concourse Blvd. Suite 210
Glen Allen, VA, 23059, USA
Website: <http://neuroethology.org/>
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/neuroethology/>
E-mail: isn.ks@kwglobal.com

PHONE: +1-785-289-2056
(or 1-800-627-0629 Ext. 233)
FAX: +1-785-843-1274

ISN Officers

President: Cynthia Moss, Department of Psychological & Brain Sciences, Johns Hopkins University, AMES 200B, 3400 N Charles St, Baltimore, MD 21218, USA
PHONE: +1-410-516-6483
E-mail: cynthia.moss@jhu.edu

Treasurer: Susan Fahrbach, Department of Biology, Wake Forest University, Box 7325, Winston-Salem, NC 27109 USA
PHONE: +1-336-758-5023 FAX: +1-336-758-6008
E-mail: fahrbach@wfu.edu

Secretary: Gabriella Wolff, Department of Biology, Case Western Reserve University, 2080 Adelbert Rd, DeGrace Hall 220, Cleveland, OH 44106 USA
E-mail: gabriella.wolff@case.edu

Past-President: Karen Mesce, Department of Entomology and Graduate Program in Neuroscience, University of Minnesota, 219 Hodson Hall, 1980 Folwell Avenue, Saint Paul, MN 55108 USA
PHONE: +1-612-624-3734 FAX: +1-612-625-5299
E-mail: mesce001@umn.edu

President-Elect: Elke Buschbeck, Department of Biological Sciences, University of Cincinnati, 318 College Dr, 800Q Rieveschl Hall, Cincinnati, OH 45219
PHONE: +1 513-556-9747
E-mail: elke.buschbeck@uc.edu



THIS ISSUE FEATURES

- President's Column by *Cindy Moss*
- 2024 ISN Election Results
- Spotlight on Early Career Research by *Alex Winsor*
- Update from the ISN Treasurer by *Susan Fahrbach*
- 2025 Gordon Conference on Neuroethology
- ISN social media on Bluesky



The Prez Sez
Cindy Moss
President of the ISN



Greetings fellow neuroethologists,

Writing my first "Prez Sez" column, I feel it's important to acknowledge that political events around the world have jolted all of us directly or indirectly, and our social and scientific communities can help anchor us. The International Society for Neuroethology community espouses core values of truth and equity, and I hope we can all navigate these difficult times by supporting each other.

I want to begin by conveying our collective congratulations to president-elect, **Elke Buschbeck**, who is already actively engaged in discussions with the leadership team on a range of topics. I also want to thank councilors continuing until 2026, **Anna Stockl, Eva Fischer, Basil el Jundi, Michiyo Kinoshita, Jessica Fox, Sanja Sane, Vielka Salazar** and newly elected councilors serving terms until 2028, **Angie Salles, Audrey Dussutour, Melissa Coleman, Rohini Balakrishnan, Simon Sponberg, Trevor Wardill, Vivek Nityananda**, and our early career representatives, **Claire Rusch** and **Alex Windsor**. We will all be meeting in January to discuss new opportunities to build and strengthen the ISN.

Since beginning my term as ISN President, I've been in conversations with the leadership team, **Karen Mesce** (past president), **Elke Buschbeck** (president elect), **Susan Fahrbach** (treasurer) and **Gabby Wolff** (secretary) about initiatives that can help strengthen the ISN community. Our discussions have focused on what ISN can do for its membership, and we have decided to make some changes to the structure of our awards to increase travel support for graduate students and postdocs to attend the International Congresses for Neuroethology (ICN's). In the past, only graduate students have been eligible for Heiligenberg Student Travel Awards (HSTA's), and these awards will now be available to postdocs as well, renamed Heiligenberg Travel Awards (HTA's). We aim to offer a minimum of six HTA's to graduate students and six HTA's to postdocs on ICN years. We also aim to increase the amount of these travel awards. To offer an increase in the number and amount of travel awards without a major influx of revenue to the ISN, we plan to restructure the Konishi Awards to recognize outstanding early career scientists with prizes in the amount of \$500, to be awarded every two years, coinciding with years of the ICN. Similarly, the Capranica Prize will be awarded only on ICN years. As in the past, we will continue to provide financial support for Young Investigator and Developing Neuroethology Awards on ICN years.

The historic attendance at the 2024 ICN in Berlin reflects our vibrant and growing scientific community. The diversity of research topics, levels of investigation, and species represented in more than 100 talks and over 500 poster presentations showcased the value of Neuroethology to modern science. The ICN scientific program chairs, **Coen Elemans** and **Elke Buschbeck**, raised an unprecedented \$90,000 in funds to support student, young investigator, and plenary speaker travel at the meeting. These funds came from the generous support of the National Science Foundation (NSF), Air Force Office of Sponsored Research (AFOSR), Office of Naval Research (ONR), the Company of Biologists, and

the Kavli Foundation; the ICN local organizing chair **Mathias F. Wernet**, co-chairs **Rüdiger Krahe** and **Constant Scharff** and **Uwe Homberg** worked hard to secure additional support from the German Research Council and many other agencies. The Freie Universität Berlin, the Boehringer Ingelheim Foundation, and several generous colleagues supported travel for attendees from the Global South. Collectively this funding helped make the 2024 Berlin ICN inclusive and welcoming to scientists from around the world.



Lunchtime at the Berlin ICN. Photo Credit: Pauline Fleischmann

I want to further express my deep personal appreciation to the Berlin ICN local organizing committee (**Mathias F. Wernet**, chair, **Rüdiger Krahe** and **Constant Scharff**, co-chairs, and members **Gary Lewin, Benjamin Judkewitz, Mirjam Knörnschild, Ursula Koch James Poulet, Silke Sachse, Lauren Sumner Rooney** and **Daniela Vallentin**), the Berlin ICN scientific program committee (**Coen Elemans** and **Elke Buschbeck**, co-chairs and members **Amir Ayali, Uwe Homberg, Laura Quintana, Constance Scharff, Sakiko Shiga**, and **Michael Yartsev**), the International Society of Neuroethology leadership team (**Karen Mesce, Gabby Wolff, and Susan Fahrbach**), the Executive Council (**Ana Amador, Marie Dacke, Jose Pena, Ana Silva, Andrea Simmons, Monika Stengl, Nachum Ulanovsky, Anna Stockl, Eva Fischer, Basil el Jundi, Michiyo Kinoshita, Jessica Fox, Sanja Sane, Vielka Salazar**), the Inclusion and Diversity Committee (**Ana Silva, Ayelén Nally, Vivek Nityananda, Lauren O'Connell, Lukas Weiss, Angeles Salles, Josh Martin**), the Early Career Representatives (**Saumya Gupta** and **Claire Rusch**), the Social Media Team (**Manal Shakeel, Jerome Beetz, Manon Jeschke, Olga Dyakova, and Pauline Fleischmann**) and YOU for making the 2024 ICN in Berlin such an engaging and welcoming meeting!

As you likely know, the ICN takes place every two years. The 2026 meeting will take place at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver, Canada, and the 2028 meeting will take place at National Tsing Hua University

in Taiwan. Plans are already underway for the ICN in Vancouver, July 26-31, 2026. I want to express my gratitude to the ICN Scientific Program Chairs, **Marie Dacke** and **Michael Dickinson** and the Local Organizing Committee (**Doug Altschuler, Chair, along with members Ben Matthews, Manu Madhav, Jon Sakata, Kiran Soma, Sarah Woolley**) for all their efforts to ensure that the upcoming meeting is a great success. They have been carefully reviewing your responses to past meeting surveys and plan to incorporate changes that take into account your comments and concerns. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend the ICN in Vancouver.

I want to let you know that during the past year our society management company was acquired by KnowledgeWorks Global Ltd. (KGL), which is partnering with Growth Zone, an association management software company that will support a new ISN website and provide a range of online services. Stay tuned for more information!

I also want to share that ISN leadership team has also been in conversation about our mission/vision and launching new initiatives. We really want to hear your suggestions for new initiatives and to learn more about what ISN can do for you. Keep your eye out for an ISN survey that will be distributed in January. Please take the time to complete the short survey when it arrives in your inbox.

In closing, I hope you find time to relax, enjoy and recharge over the holidays.

Warm regards,

Cindy Moss
ISN President



2024 ISN ELECTION RESULTS

Every two years, after the ICN, members vote in the ISN elections. This year, you voted for a new President-Elect, 7 Council seats, a new Early Career Representative, as well as an amendment to the Bylaws. Here are the results!



President-Elect

Elke Buschbeck
University of Cincinnati, USA

Research: My research has been dominated by a lifelong fascination with how animals sense the world. My career started by working on

spiders as an undergraduate student in my home city, Vienna, Austria. I then earned my PhD in the USA at the University of Arizona, working in both Ecology and Evolutionary Biology and the Arizona Research Laboratory Division of Neurobiology. From early on, I had a great passion for the amazing diversity of animals and their diverse nervous systems, with a special interest in vision. At the time, I delved into the details of how alterations of seemingly deeply conserved flight circuitry can facilitate a variety of different flight styles and aerobic capabilities. During my post-doc days, I explored the intricacies of the visual system organization of stalk-eyed flies, and then stumbled across the bizarre eyes of twisted-wing insects, which seemed to contradict known optical principles. The latter led me to develop a deeper interest in the optics of unusual eyes and visual systems. To my great delight, some of our findings were picked up by engineers and led to the development of novel visual sensors. Likewise, in my own laboratory, I got to explore the optics of yet another unusual eye type: the image-forming eyes of a diving beetle larva, and these too led to new engineering innovations. More recently, I have been fascinated broadly by how development allows invertebrate eyes to focus correctly, and how common molecular pathways give rise to diverse eye organizations. As I write this, I realize that the latter goes full circle, as much of my research career has been spent on finding common neuroethological principles in stunningly diverse groups of animals.

Service: My affiliation with ISN goes back to my early career, attending my first meeting in 1998 and having missed only one meeting since then. For the society, I served on the scientific program committee in 2004 and 2010. I was a council member from 2016 to 2022, and I served on the Capranica Prize Committee from 2016 to 2018. As I write this, I am engaging in my biggest task to date, co-chairing the scientific program committee for this year's meeting in Berlin. This has been an amazing opportunity, and I am proud of our program, which features high-class neuroethology research and provides the opportunity to disseminate research for many talented young scientists. This is particularly important to me as I see the society as a wonderful intellectual home. Having had great mentors myself, I have focused on other services around graduate affairs and graduate admissions, allowing me to interact with bright new talents. Additionally, I have been a founding member of the Institute for Research in Sensing at the University of Cincinnati, an interdisciplinary research institute that brings together basic and applied research, medicine, engineering, the humanities, social sciences, and fine and performing arts. In my career, I have also organized and co-organized several smaller meetings and a working group relating to light.

Vision: When I was asked if I would put my name forward for consideration for the position of president-elect, I thought hard about it because I only wanted to move forward if I truly felt that I could make a positive impact on the Society. One of the biggest privileges of being a researcher and educator is the ability to work closely with students and colleagues from all over the world. Yet, since my early days, the world seems to have become harsher and more competitive, and it grieves me how many people in science, especially young people and those from underrepresented backgrounds, struggle. This is especially true since the Covid-19 epidemic. The truth is that research is not always an easy career path, with additional challenges for those of us who are raising kids alongside a competitive career. Academia certainly has not been an exception to the current mental health crisis. For this reason, we added an extra lunch session to the ICN 2024, focusing on work/life balance and mental health in academia. If I were to become President-Elect and then President of ISN, I would continue such efforts, working towards raising awareness, connecting people, and making resources available to those who need them most. In addition, I would promote the society and raise awareness for its scientific values, and as a supportive and inclusive home base for all of us who are passionate about how nervous systems underlie rich behavioral repertoires in a multitude of different animals.

New ISN Council Members



Rohini Balakrishnan
Indian Institute of Science, India

Rohini Balakrishnan received her Ph.D. in neurogenetics in 1991 from the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research in Mumbai, India, where she studied pleiotropic effects of ion channel mutants on the taste pathway of fruit flies. She carried out postdoctoral research on the neuroethology of cricket courtship communication at McGill University, Montreal, Canada from 1993-1996, followed by a second postdoc at the University of Erlangen, Germany (1996-1998) on grasshopper song recognition. She joined the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, in 1998, where she is currently a senior Professor at the Centre for Ecological Sciences. She is a bioacoustician interested in the sensory and behavioral ecology of animal acoustic communication. Her research focuses on understanding how physiology and biomechanics, together with ecological selection pressures and evolutionary history, influence the structure, function and evolutionary trajectories of signals and signaling behavior.



Angie Salles
University of Illinois Chicago, USA

Angie Salles is an Assistant Professor at the Department of Biological Sciences at the University of Illinois at Chicago. Her career in neuroethology started during her PhD at the University of Buenos Aires, in Argentina, comparatively investigating the molecular mechanisms of learning and memory in mice and crabs. After attending the Neural Systems and Behavior course at the MBL in 2014, she decided to expand her research in neuroethology by approaching new questions, animals, and techniques. Thus, she pursued her postdoctoral work in Dr. Moss's lab at Johns Hopkins University investigating auditory processing in bats. Currently, Angie's lab focuses on the neurobiology of communication and social behavior in bats.



Audrey Dussoutour
CNRS, France

Audrey is a senior CNRS researcher at the Research Center on Animal Cognition UMR 5169, University of Toulouse, France. Her workplace is an extremely competitive research unit specializing in animal cognition, neuroscience, animal behavior, and computational biology. At the beginning of her career, she studied collective behavior in social insects, with interests in decision-making, collective movement, and integrative nutrition. She has made significant contributions to this field through a combination of meticulous behavioral experiments and rigorous analytical and simulation work. Her most recent work focuses on decision-making and learning in slime molds. She has demonstrated that slime molds can adapt and remember, showcasing a form of memory and learning ability that is based on their morphological, physiological, and molecular structure.



Melissa Coleman
Pitzer and Scripps Colleges,
California, USA

Melissa Coleman is a Professor of Neuroscience in the Natural Science Department of Scripps and Pitzer Colleges. For her PhD, she examined modulation of rhythmic neural networks in the crab with Dr. Michael Nusbaum. Afterward, she was a postdoc with Dr. Leslie Griffith studying mechanisms of pre- and postsynaptic plasticity at the fly neuromuscular junction. She was then a postdoc with Dr. Richard Mooney studying auditory processing in songbirds. In her own laboratory she studies

social behaviors in birdsongs. Working with undergraduate students she examines molecules and circuits important for pair-bond formation in zebra finch. She has also done fieldwork in Ecuador studying sensorimotor mechanisms involved in the coordination of duet singing in the plain-tailed wren.



Simon Sponberg (he/him)
Georgia Institute of Technology

Simon Sponberg is Dunn Family Associate Professor in the School of Physics and the School of Biological Sciences, at the Georgia Institute of Technology (Georgia Tech). He received his Ph.D. in Integrative Biology from the University of California, Berkeley, and was an NSF postdoctoral research fellow at the University of Washington before joining the faculty at Georgia Tech. He has been the recipient of a Young Investigator Award from the International Society for Neuroethology, a Klingenstein-Simons Fellowship in the Neurosciences, and a Hertz Fellowship. His work considers the integration of sensing and action in the agile locomotion of insects. His group has a strong focus on bridging quantitative approaches from physics and control theory with experimental ethology and electrophysiology. His current work explores the ubiquity and coordination of precise spike timing in motor units, how insects parse complex sensory cues to prioritize actions in tasks with multiple objectives, and comparative studies across moth species with diverse life histories that shape their sensorimotor dynamics.



Trevor Wardill
University of Minnesota, USA

Trevor Wardill is an Assistant Professor in the Dept. of Ecology, Evolution & Behavior at the University of Minnesota, USA (although he is an Australian, loves warm weather and being by the sea). He obtained his Ph.D. in 2005 from the University of Queensland, Australia working on a collaborative project investigating how maintaining genetic diversity improves the success of biological control agent establishment. As a postdoctoral fellow he (a) overturned the existing dogma that flies process motion and color in separate pathways, (b) assisted with the development of a widely used calcium indicator (GCaMP6), (c) worked with Dr. Gonzalez-Bellido, to discover a neural circuit exclusively dedicated to the control of tunable skin iridescence in squids, the neural control of skin papillae in cuttlefish and revealed new flight interception and decision making strategies in insects using 3D imaging. Currently his lab studies how

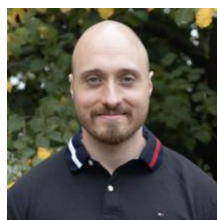
invertebrate sensory systems extract salient features, particularly visual inputs, from naturalistic scenes to inform behavioral responses, using insects and cephalopods (squids, cuttlefish and octopus). He has a dedicated marine lab, in the Midwest, to investigate cephalopod neural circuits to understand how colorblind animals are able to coordinate their movements and express specific skin elements (pigmented, structural color and texture) for conspecific signaling and camouflage.



Vivek Nityananda
Newcastle University, UK

Vivek Nityananda is a senior lecturer at the Biosciences Institute at Newcastle University. He got his PhD in 2008 from the Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru working with Rohini Balakrishnan on the sensory ecology of acoustic communication in katydid. He went on to do a postdoc with Prof Mark Bee at the University of Minnesota looking at the hearing strategies used by gray treefrogs to detect calls in noisy choruses. He then worked with Lars Chittka at Queen Mary University of London on visual search in bumblebees and with Jenny Read on the mechanisms of stereopsis in praying mantises. His lab focusses on vision and cognition in praying mantises and bumblebees. Currently research in the lab investigates visual attention, stereo vision and cognitive responses to stress. His career has involved several interdisciplinary collaborations across neuroscience, psychology, ecology and even English and music! He has been recipient of several fellowships and has led on many science communication projects using theatre, cartoons and animation to share research with the public.

New Early Career Representative



Alex Winsor
University of Illinois Chicago, USA

Alex Winsor is a 6th-year PhD student in Organismic and Evolutionary Biology at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. I received my Bachelor's in Biology from the University of Florida where he became fascinated with the diverse ways of sensing. He is broadly interested in how humans and other animals selectively gather and process sensory information to pursue their behavioral goals. To accomplish this, he tracks the moveable high-resolution eyes of jumping spiders as they inspect naturalistic objects and

simultaneously record neural activity from brain regions at different stages of visual processing. This enables him to probe how sequences of eye movements are used to extract ecologically relevant visual features from scenes, and how the valence of these features changes with behavioral state. From this, he can ask questions such as: how do spiders recognize conspecifics? How do they learn to classify palatable and unpalatable prey?

Amendment to the ISN Bylaws

ISN members voted ‘Yes’ to adopt the following changes to the Bylaws, highlighted in **bold**:

7. COUNCIL

Major policies and commitments shall be determined by a Council comprising the Executive Committee and sixteen elected Councilors, including **two** early-career neuroethologists (normally, one PhD student and one Post-doctoral fellow). In addition, the Chairpersons of the International Congress Committees and the Chairpersons of the Local Organizing Subcommittee of upcoming Congresses shall serve as appointed Councilors from the time of their appointments until the conclusions of their respective Congresses. The *President* shall preside, convene meetings, and consult and poll the Council by mail, email, or fax, but the President shall vote only in case of a tie. **Each Councilor must contribute at least one piece of writing to the ISN Newsletter during their appointment. Examples include, but are not limited to, feature articles, methods updates, book reviews, and reports from conferences.** Eight *elected Councilors* shall be replaced at each election, including one of the two early-career representatives. Elected Councilors thus serve for two Congress intervals. Election of the eight new Councilors by electronic ballot or in exceptional cases where this is not possible, by postal ballot, will occur before the end of the calendar year of the International Congress. A slate of candidates shall be announced at the Congress, prior to balloting. The early-career neuroethologists will be elected by student and post-doctoral members only.



SPOTLIGHT ON EARLY CAREER RESEARCH

Early Career Representative, **Alex Winsor** introduces a new initiative to highlight recently published neuroethology research by early-career researchers in the ISN newsletter and on social media.

Are you an early-career researcher who has recently published interesting research in neuroethology or are starting an exciting new project? Would like to have your work highlighted in the ISN newsletter and on social media? We are excited to announce a new research showcase aimed at better connecting early-career neuroethologists with our broader community!

Joining forces with **Claire Rusch**, I will serve as an Early Career Representative. One of our goals is to highlight the personal stories and research accomplishments of early-career researchers in our society. We hope to foster a sense of peer-to-peer community, build connections, encourage collaborations, and increase the visibility of newer researchers—especially for those who have not yet had many opportunities to share their work. Through this initiative, we also hope to inspire greater participation in our mentorship program.

To introduce myself, I grew up exploring the swamps of Florida to catch snakes, frogs, and spiders. From this, I developed broad interests in how animals use their senses to perceive and engage with their environments. In my current project, I track the movable high-resolution eyes of jumping spiders as they inspect objects while I simultaneously record neural activity in their brains.

Now it's your turn! If you are interested in being featured in the newsletter and in personalized threads on the ISN social media accounts (including Twitter/X and Bluesky), please reach out to Alex Winsor (amwinsor@umass.edu) with a link to a recent paper and/or a brief summary of your work, along with a bio and photo.



UPDATE FROM THE ISN TREASURER

ISN Treasurer, **Susan Fahrbach** carefully manages the society's finances, handles transactions and files tax returns so the rest of us can enjoy the benefits of all the awards, meetings, and initiatives on offer. Here she details the state of ISN finances.

As I write this column for the newsletter in early December, it is still too early to wrap up fiscal year 2024 from the perspective of tax statements and filings etc. Hence this column provides a snapshot of the Society's current financial status and an overview of exciting changes coming in the new year.

The ISN has a simple management structure: the Executive Committee of President, Secretary, Treasurer, Past-President, and President-Elect are all what I like to call “full time volunteers.” No members of the ISN

Executive Committee receive any compensation or special consideration in return for their services, and all pay the same membership dues and meeting registration fees as any other member.

The Executive Committee is supported by a society management company, KnowledgeWorks Global Ltd. (KGL; www.kwglobal.com). KGL hosts our website, maintains our member directory, and provides the interface that permits us to conduct credit card-based transactions with our members. KGL also links the ISN to business banking services provided by US Bank.



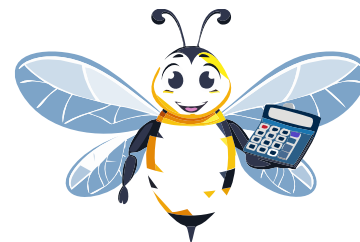
The ISN has renewed its contract with KGL for 2025. In addition to the basic services received in the past (association management, website management, member record maintenance, and payment processing), we are excited to add the GrowthZone Member Hub to our package of services we offer our members. It is our hope that the GrowthZone software (www.growthzone.com), to be accessed via the ISN website, will offer members an easy -to-use interactive platform that meets the needs of a growing community of neuroethologists. The annual fee for services to be provided by KGL in 2025 is just under \$45,000 USD.

Although this fee may seem extravagant, the Executive Committee has spent the months since we met in Berlin assessing alternative management options. Our analysis convinced us that renewing our partnership with KGL is the best option in terms of current value for our membership. We will carefully monitor the performance of KGL as GrowthZone is implemented and will continue to investigate alternative management options, should the need arise for a change in the future. The Executive Committee judged that a one-year contract would allow the ISN to try a new approach while keeping our options open. If you have suggestions of an association management company for us to consider, please send the details to ISN President Cindy Moss.

The day-to-day functions of the ISN Treasurer build on the support provided by KGL. The Treasurer handles all expenditures, drawing from the ISN US Bank account by wire transfer, debit card, or check. The main categories of expenditures are awards, management fees, and fund transfers to provide seed money for the next ICN. The main category of income to the ISN is member dues, as charitable contributions are currently quite low. The Treasurer also serves as a conduit for funds received from grants awarded to support each ICN, facilitating payments to individual awardees, invited speakers, and those

receiving travel support. The efforts of the Program Committee (PC) and the Local Organizing Committee (LOC) for the Berlin Congress yielded awards from the U.S. National Science Foundation, the U.S. Office of Naval Research, the U.S. Air Force Office of Scientific Research, the Kavli Institute, the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG), the Acoustical Society of America, the Company of Biologists, the Journal of Experimental Biology, and Journal of Comparative Physiology A. Some of these grant funds were paid out directly by the PC and LOC, with the remainder processed by the Treasurer. In addition to balancing the ISN account, the Treasurer also records donations and prepares the annual U.S. Internal Revenue 990 tax form to maintain the ISN's tax-exempt status. The requirement to file the 990 and related tax forms in the State of California, where the ISN was incorporated, is the reason why ISN Treasurer is an appointed, as opposed to an elected position, as it would be difficult for a non-U.S. citizen to handle these tasks.

The Treasurer also serves as the point of contact for the ISN's non-incorporated association brokerage account held at Charles Schwab and Co. This account comprises five mutual funds and a money market fund from which cash can be drawn to cover operating costs and to reserve facilities and accommodations for future Congresses. These reserve funds can also support new endeavors. In addition to the aforementioned addition of the GrowthZone Member Hub to the ISN website, these funds are currently being used to support strategic planning with the assistance of a professional who specializes in helping scientific societies develop a stakeholder-based vision for their future (attentionalleadership.com). All members will see signs of these new endeavors in 2025.



A peek at the ISN's financial status in the second week of December 2025 reveals a balance of \$31,847 USD in our US Bank account, \$365,617 USD in our mutual funds, and \$205,562 in our money market account. We have paid all expenses from the 2024 ICN and have transferred substantial initial payments to the Conferences and Accommodation Office at UBC to reserve meeting rooms and accommodations for the 2026 ICN. The ISN Executive Committee is already working with the 2026

PC, LOC, and IDC to ensure an outstanding Congress in Vancouver.

One final note: after maintaining membership dues at the same level for many years, the Executive Committee made the difficult decision to raise dues at all membership levels starting January 1, 2025. The new dues (in USD) are Regular, \$250; Postdoctoral Researcher, \$150; Student, \$75; Lifetime, \$1200. The Regular, Postdoctoral, and Student memberships are all still two-years. This decision was taken in light of the desire on the part of the membership to support new activities, including the Diversity Awards and the Mosaic Prize and the reality of inflation-driven increases in operating costs. We are also keenly aware that, at their current levels, income from membership dues and contributions resulted in a \$12,000 USD shortfall in the previous non-Congress year (2023). We covered the 2023 shortfall by drawing funds from our money market account, but this is not a sound long strategy given that our reserve funds are now much lower than the cost of delivering a Congress. The global Covid pandemic has heightened awareness that a Congress could incur significant financial losses owing to circumstances beyond our control, and it is our goal to hand off the ISN in the best possible condition to the next generation of neuroethologists.



2025 GORDON RESEARCH CONFERENCE

Neuroethology: Behavior, Evolution and Neurobiology

“A Systems View on Behavior, Genes, Neurons and Environment”



<https://www.grc.org/neuroethology-behavior-evolution-and-neurobiology-conference/2025/>

We are very much looking forward to welcoming you to GRC Neuroethology, held from June 29 to July 4, 2025, at the lovely Renaissance Tuscany Il Ciocco. The program will integrate the deep roots and new branches of the field and, in the spirit of Krogh’s many marvelous animals, showcase a variety of organisms while highlighting the wonderful work carried out both in the field and in the lab. We will explore how animals manage to thrive on a changing planet through themed sessions that range from sensory mechanisms to behavior, neuronal integration, and cognition.

Some information is already available on the GRC website. If you would like to learn more about the conference, please reach out to Julie Simpson (co-chair of the 2025 conference) or Eva Fischer and David Schulz (vice chairs), who will be at ICN 2024 in Berlin and will be happy to talk to you.



ISN IS ON BLUESKY



Our ISN Social Media Team is still busy posting about exciting new research from the neuroethology community on X but now you can also find those posts on Bluesky! Our handle is @neuroethology.org on Bluesky and it’s still @neuroethology on X.

