Business Meeting

27 July, 2023
13.30 CET
AD-A2, Ferrara, Italy
Your Council 2023

Kateryna D. Makova, President, Penn State University, State College, PA, USA

James McInerney, Past President, University of Nottingham, UK

Stephen Wright, President-Elect, University of Toronto, Canada

Emmanuelle Lerat, Secretary, Lyon 1 University, France

John McCutcheon, Treasurer, Arizona State University, AZ, USA

Rebecca Zufall, Councillor, University of Houston, TX, USA

Christian Landry, Councillor, Université Laval, Quebec, Canada

Josefa González, Councillor, Institut de Biologia Evolutiva (CSIC-UPF), Spain

Katerina Guschanski, Councillor, Uppsala University, Sweden

María C. Ávila Arcos, Councillor, UNAM, Querétaro, Mexico

Jeffrey Ross-Ibarra, Councillor, University of California, Davis, CA, USA

Claudia A. M. Russo, Editor, MBE, Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

Brandon Stuart Gaut, Editor, MBE, University of California, Irvine, CA, USA

Laura A. Katz, Editor, GBE, Smith College, Northampton, USA

Adam Eyre-Walker, Editor, GBE, University of Sussex, UK
### SMBE financial overview for 2019-23

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>MBE Revenues</th>
<th>GBE Revenues</th>
<th>Total Journal Revenues</th>
<th>2019 Total Expenses</th>
<th>Net Assets as of 31 December 2019</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>$563,487.00</td>
<td>$258,452.00</td>
<td>$821,939.00</td>
<td>-$905,777.30</td>
<td>$3,890,074.74</td>
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<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>$674,638.00</td>
<td>$323,887.00</td>
<td>$998,525.00</td>
<td>-$411,261.91</td>
<td>$3,544,932.22</td>
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<tr>
<td>2021</td>
<td>$1,085,368.00</td>
<td>$432,515.00</td>
<td>$1,517,883.00</td>
<td>-$449,705.09</td>
<td>$4,648,637.09</td>
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<tr>
<td>2022</td>
<td>$562,992.00</td>
<td>$226,268.00</td>
<td>$789,260.00</td>
<td>-$723,018.30</td>
<td>$4,747,352.93</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. Last in-person meeting, Manchester.
2. Quebec meeting cancelled, includes ~$100k penalties.
3. Includes deferred journal revenue, a one-time large payment was made in 2021.
4. First year all OA for MBE, inflated due to carry-forward from 2020 deferred revenue.
5. Large final payment to S. Kumar, in-person 2023 meeting seed money, satellite meetings back.
SMBE Graduate Student Excellence (GSE) award winners
SMBE Faculty Awards 2023

Lifetime achievement:  
Mid-career

James Lake

Early-career:

Kayla King

Amy Goldberg
SMBE Community Services Award 2023

Council is awarding Mary O’Connell and Beth Shapiro this award in profound appreciation of their services to us especially during 2021’s first online annual meeting.
SMBE Undergraduate Mentorship awards 2023

Valeria Añorve-Garibay
Serah Osborn
Ángel Ojeda
Uchenna Nwaeghe
Maddie Olvey
Leo Camino
Miguel Navarro García
Lada Isakova
Viktoria Bednarski
Yu En Lin

Justin Gupta
Thomas Decroly
Anastasia Yankovskiy
Louise Dupont
Sofia Sabbagh
Christina Pleschka
Camille Bédard
Molly Miraglia
Elpida Skarlou
2023 Membership Update  
(data as of July 14, 2023)

- With 3,028 current members, SMBE membership is up 12% from 2022.
- SMBE will begin 2024 with more than 1,400 members by default due to the multi-year membership cycle.
- Membership renewals will be sent in the late fall to the 1600+ members who will lapse at the end of 2023.
- 40% of members are students (remained static since 2022).
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 (child, adult dependent, or self)
• Eligibility to benefit from IDEA initiative
• Discounted publication charges for MBE and GBE
• Being part of a community
MBE’s transition from issue-based hybrid to fully open access, continuing publishing model, from January 2021 was successful, with submission rates in 2021 comparable to (slightly higher than) those in 2020: 1,247 original submissions in 2020, 1312 in 2021, 1101 in 2022.

- The official 2022 IF, released in June 2023, increased to 10.7.
- We added 10 members to the Editorial Board in 2023, which mainly increased the number of editors from Southern and Central America.
- We hired Casey McGrath in 2023 to write a handful of highlights about our papers and to manage social media accounts. The impact has been immediate.
- In 2022, MBE generated a profit of $562,992 for SMBE, to spend mostly on travel for speakers and awardees. By comparison, income in 2022 was essentially identical to income in 2018 and 2019 (~$560,000 both years), but it is lower than 2017 ($596,625), 2020 ($676,624) and 2021 ($1,084,188). Overall, our income remains strong despite the transition to Open Access in 2021.
Genome Biology and Evolution

- **EiCs:** Adam Eyre-Walker (Uni Sussex) and Laura A. Katz (Smith College)
- **Data:** 178 articles published in 2022, including numerous Reviews and Perspectives
- **Commitment:** Publish excellent science irrespective of the size of community or organism
- **Gender as one metric of inclusivity:**
  - Editorial board has been majority women since 2021 (currently 53% women)
  - GBE is gender neutral with respect to acceptance rate, number of revisions and referee requests
- **New and ongoing initiatives**
  - Data availability checked prior to publication
  - Biography section - five published Harmit Malik, Marta Wayne, Martin Embley, Emilia Huerta-Sanchez, Brandon Ogbunu
  - Linking three SMBE 2023 symposia to special issues
  - Generous waiver policy (see instructions to authors)
2023 ELECTION: From the Report of the SMBE Nominations Committee:

Aoife McLysaght (Chair), Trinity College Dublin, Ireland
Deepa Agashe, NCBS, Bangalore, India https://adaptationlab.in
Sandra Baldauf, Uppsala University, Sweden, https://www.iob.uu.se/research/systematic-biology/baldauf-eng/
Rosa María Fernández, Institute of Evolutionary Biology, Barcelona, Spain https://www.metazomics.com
Barbara Holland, University of Tasmania, Australia https://www.utas.edu.au/profiles/staff/maths-physics/Barbara-Holland
Yuseob Kim, Ewha Womans University, Korea http://home.ewha.ac.kr/ykim/
Wojciech Makalowski, University of Muenster, Germany https://bioinformatics.uni-muenster.de/home/index.hbi?
Juan C. Opazo, Universidad Austral de Chile, Chile https://sites.google.com/view/opazolab/home

The SMBE Secretary, Emmanuelle Lerat (https://lbbe.univ-lyon1.fr/en/annuaires-des-membres/lerat-emmanuelle) also joined the committee ex officio

Nominations for the post of President, Treasurer, and two councillor positions were solicited from the membership. Sixteen valid nominations were received (for 14 individuals, two being nominated for either position). Six individuals were nominated for the President role, and 10 for the councillor positions. Nominators were asked to provide a few relevant details to accompany their nomination, and for the position of President this was to include any prior involvement with SMBE.

The Nominations committee was tasked with ensuring a diverse slate with respect to gender, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, ability, and geography.
2023 Election Summary

For the 2023 Election, 487 members voted which equated to a 16.26% participation rate.

5-year historical participation analysis:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Number Invited to Vote</th>
<th>Number that Voted</th>
<th>Participation Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>2261</td>
<td>599</td>
<td>26.49%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>2242</td>
<td>534</td>
<td>23.82%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2021</td>
<td>2563</td>
<td>545</td>
<td>21.26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2022</td>
<td>2587</td>
<td>378</td>
<td>14.61%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2023</td>
<td>2995</td>
<td>487</td>
<td>16.26%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2995 members were sent a link to the online ballot and 487 members voted (16% participation).

Congratulations and welcome to the new Council members from 2024:

- President Elect - Ziheng Yang
- Treasurer - Aline Muyle
- Councilors - Elena Gómez-Díaz and Juliana Vianna
ATTEND SMBE2023 ON GATHERTOWN!


All registered participants have access to all talks and posters after the end of SMBE23 (for 12 months).

Whether you are in Ferrara and cannot manage to reach another venue in time to listen to your favorite talk, or if you want to read the posters during your lunch break or after their session is over, if you could not join in person but you still want to ask questions to the speakers and interact with other attendees, or if you simply want to have access to all the content even after the congress is over...

Contact us at: smbe2023@unife.it
SMBE Liaison officers:
Josepha Gonzalez Perez, Kateryna Guchansiki.

Local Organizing committee:
Giorgio Bertorelle (President), Omar Rota-Stabelli (vice-president), Andrea Lucchetti (councilor), Emiliano Trucchi (councilor), Luca Pagani (councilor), Silvia Ghirotto (councilor).

Thank you to all organisers
Annual Meeting of the Society for Molecular Biology and Evolution

July 7-11, 2024
Puerto Vallarta, Mexico
SMBE 2024 in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico

• SMBE has never been hosted in mainland Latin America.

• Mexico harbours one of the fastest growing scientific communities interested in genomics, evolution and molecular biology, with several world-class research centres created in the past 15 years.

• It’s one of the most diverse regions in terms of biological, ethnic and cultural diversity, which naturally connects with SMBE’s objectives and vision.

• Bringing a world-class conference to Latin America will boost SMBE’s global exposure, training opportunities for students and, ultimately, local capacity building for the region.

• PV is surrounded by nature and cultural diversity, offering attendees a unique, yet safe, experience taking advantage of existing infrastructure for international conferences.

• Venue and local OC are prepared to host virtual (online) components of the meeting as needed.

• Destination is well connected with direct flights from the US and Europe.

• Local costs are lower than traditional SMBE destinations, increasing feasibility without losing quality.

• Local OC has a solid trajectory in the field and experience organizing in-person and virtual international conferences (e.g., mexpopgen annual meetings since 2015).

• Puerto Vallarta has been waiting for SMBE since 2017, now is the time!
Future SMBE meetings

2024   Americas (Mexico)   #SMBE2024
2025   Beijing, China    #SMBE2025
2026   Online or in Europe

Proposals for SMBE 2026 will shortly be sought and considered and will be announced in 2024.
UPCOMING REGIONAL & SATELLITE MEETINGS

Regional meeting: Mexico Population Genomics Meeting 6 (MexPopGen6)
Dates: October 12th and 13th, 2023
Location: Center of Genomic Sciences, Cuernavaca, México
Website: https://www.mexpopgen.com.mx/
Registration deadline: 26th of June
Invited speakers: Genevieve Wojcik, Jeffrey Ross-Ibarra and Ella Vázquez Domínguez
UPCOMING REGIONAL & SATELLITE MEETINGS

Regional Meeting: Molecular mechanisms in evolution
**Dates:** December 16th-17th, 2023
**Location:** Dehradun, India
**Website:** TBA
**Registration deadline:** Not announced yet
**Invited speakers:** Jordi Van Gestel (Plenary speaker), Helen Alexander (Plenary speaker), Sabari Sankar Tirupathy, Nishad Matange, Riddhiman Dhar, Deepa Agashe, Krishna Swamy, Laasya Samhita, Janhavi Joshi, Imroze Khan
**Organisers:** Laasya Samhita, Shraddha Karve
UPCOMING REGIONAL & SATELLITE MEETINGS

Regional Meeting in China (Shanghai)

Dates: October 20th-22nd, 2023

Website: https://pog.fudan.edu.cn/smbeshanghai2023

Invited speakers: Jonathan Pritchard and Xiaomei Fu

Organisers: Daniel Falush
UPCOMING REGIONAL & SATELLITE MEETINGS

Satellite Meeting on De Novo Gene Birth

Dates: November 6-9, 2023
Location: Texas A&M University, College Station, TX - USA
Website: https://agriliferegister.tamu.edu/website/56645/
Registration deadline: June 30th.
Keynote Speakers: Anne-Ruxandra Carvunis, Erich Bornberg-Bauer
Invited Speakers: David Begun, Christina Cheng, Manyuan Long, Christian Rödelsperger, Jorge Ruiz-Orera, Alan Saghatelian, Gisela Storz, Yusuke Suenaga, Diethard Tautz, Eve Wurtele
Organisers: Claudio Casola, Texas A&M University; Li Zhao, Rockefeller University; Victor Luria, Yale University; Nikolaos Vakirlis, BSRC “Alexander Fleming”
UPCOMING REGIONAL & SATELLITE MEETINGS

Satellite meeting: SMBE Satellite Meeting on Mechanisms of Cellular Evolution

Date: November 8th – 11th, 2023. Location: Arizona State University

Time and timezone: 8AM - 7PM, MST


Registration deadline: September 1, 2023 (for abstract submission), October 30, 2023 (for attending only)


Organizers: Kerry Geiler-Samerotte, Wei-Chin Ho, Michael Lynch, Wayne Frasch, George Hochberg, Ke Hu, John McCutcheon, and Jeremy Wideman
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:

1. to increase representation and inclusion in our membership along all axes of diversity

1. to collect data on and/or address systemic racism, sexism, colonialism, and other exclusion in our society
Progress on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

The IDEA proposal call was launched in April 2022, 19 proposals were received that were filtered down to 7 using the following rubric:

• Does this benefit SMBE (yes/no)
• Does this benefit a diverse audience (yes/no)
• How does this align with IDEA goals (1-5)
• Do the organizers bring a diverse perspective (yes/no)

Of these, 3 proposals were selected:
1) Virtual Lab Meeting Training Program (proposed by Joanna Kelley)
2) Applying feminist / anti-oppressive lenses to evolutionary genetics (proposed by Emily Josephs and Daniela Palmer)
3) EvoBio Crash Course: Bridging the Knowledge Gap, proposed by Sergio González and colleagues.
Other achievements in 2022

- **Website, logo, twitter/social media** – all to raise an awareness of SMBE’s commitment to this initiative
- **Global Symposium 1 of SMBE 2022** on Parachute Science was very successful
- **Liasing with other societies** (such as GSA DEI, and JEDI at EDP)
- **Understanding the demographic makeup of the society** -

A questionnaire (anonymous) has been set up which members are being asked to complete,
From anonymised membership information SMBE current global distribution looks like this:

(black represents no members),
Immediate priorities for the IDEA committee:

1. Call for proposals to improve IDEA in SMBE and the field of MBE.
2. Analyses of data within the society (membership composition through the questionnaire, journal submission/acceptance rates) to identify potential sources of bias.
3. Setup collaborations with DEI initiatives from other societies.

More members for the task force

Create separate sub-committees for:

a. Parachute science – 8 individuals +2 IDEA members ($25k)
b. Outreach – 8 individuals + 2 IDEA members ($15-25k)
Progress on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

**IDEA task force members**

Chairs: Ravinder Kanda. Senior Lecturer. UK.
Samantha Clinton. MSc Student. UK.

Federico Hoffmann. Assoc Prof. US.
Eduardo Amorim. Assistant Professor. US.
Irene Gallego Romero. Senior Lecturer. AU.
Grace Lee. Asst Prof. US.
Mirima Miyagi. PhD student. US.
Chris Robles. PhD student. US.

**SMBE council members:**

Jeff Ross-Ibarra. Professor, US.
A Summary: SMBE 2022-23 Developments

• New EICs for MBE started in July 2022
• MBE successfully completed its second year as fully Open Access
• First new Initiatives started under ‘IDEA’ to further increase diversity and to counteract racism in our community
• Second online-only SMBE conference completed as Global Symposia throughout the year
• First in-person conference post pandemic planned and now ... almost completed! Thank you all for coming!