

IUPAB News #89

International Union for Pure and Applied Biophysics



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***Biophysical Reviews* Impact Factor assigned (IF 4.9)**

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Important: Sign-Up

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21st IUPAB/62nd BSJ Congress in Kyoto, June 24-28th 2024

The 21st IUPAB/62nd BSJ Congress took place at Kyoto ICC from June 24th to 28th June 2024 – a handful of attendees also attended the 6th IUPAB congress in Kyoto in 1978. The event was organized by the Biophysical Society of Japan (BSJ) with the theme 'Rocking Out Biophysics', with the aim of “.....shaking up and creating new biophysics together.”

The congress was attended by just under 2000 delegates from 52 countries, with over 1045 poster presentations and 32 sessions. Among the highlights of the congress were the named IUPAB Plenary Lectures, IUPAB Awards, the IUPAB General Assembly, and the selection of the location of the 2030 triennial 23rd IUPAB congresses.

Manuel Prieto (IUPAB President, 2021-2024) and the Chairman of the Organizing Committee Hiroyuki Noji (Tokyo University, Japan) opened the congress (YouTube video [here](#)) during which one of the several “Rock sessions” took place. At the closing ceremony, chaired by Anthony Watts (IUPAB President, 2024-2027) and Noji-san, also had a “rock” theme and over 100 poster awards were made.



Left: Hiroyuki Noji, the chair of the organizing committee and Tony Watts (IUPAB President, 2024-2027), at the closing ceremony of the congress, wearing the specially made jackets to signify “Rocking out Biophysics”. Right: A group photo

following the President's dinner at Heihachi Jaya restaurant, with the IUPAB Executive and Councillors, speakers and distinguished guests, including Kuniaki Nagayama (President IUPAB 2008-2011).

The feedback received was unanimously very positive, for the excellence of the scientific programme, the meticulous organization and in particular the hospitality and friendliness of all our local hosts. The IUPAB Executive would like to thank everyone that made that the congress possible, especially **Hiroyuki Noji** (Congress chair), **Takayuki Nishizaka** (IUPAB Councillor, Japan), the BSJ and the **Executive Organizing Committee** who really did ensure that we all "Rocked out" biophysics!

"We were so happy to successfully attract over 1900 participants from 52 countries", comments Hiroyuki Noji. "All of them greatly contributed to forming a positive atmosphere under the congress theme, "Rocking out Biophysics!" Their wonderful talks, poster presentations, and participation in active discussions and social events were key to the success of the IUPA2024 Kyoto congress."

Avanti-IUPAB Prize: Massimo Olivucci for his work on the investigation of organic and bio-organic reactivity using theoretical and computational methods. The title of his Award lecture was "Dynamics and Efficiency of Light Energy Conversion in the Primary Event in Vision".

IUPAB Young Investigator Prize: Hideaki Kato (University of Tokyo) for his work on the molecular mechanisms that enable living organisms to capture and process energy and information from light at the atomic level, presented in a lecture entitled "Structural and functional diversity in pump-like cation channelrhodopsins".



The awardees presented keynote lectures and were then presented with a medal and certificate by the IUPAB Executive Committee. They also receive a monetary prize – details of nomination can be found on IUPAB.ORG. (Manuel Prieto, President), Anthony Watts (President-elect), David Crossmann (co-opted past-President), Ron Clarke (Secretary General) and Christina Sizun (Treasurer).

Bei Shizhang Lecture: The Bei Lecture, supported by the Chinese Biophysical Society and open to nominations from any IUPAB Adhering society, was awarded to Xiyun Yan (Institute of Biophysics, Chinese Academy of Sciences) - Professor Yan for her research achievements in the fields of include tumour biology and nanobiology about which she gave a lecture entitled "Nanozyme, a new biological catalyst and its applications".



General Assembly

- Manuel Prieto (President, IUPAB, 2021-2024) chaired the General Assembly during which he handed over the Presidency to Anthony Watts (President-elect, 2021-2024). A vote of thanks was given to Manuel for his enthusiastic and energetic contributions to IUPAB, previously as a Councillor (2011-2017), then President-elect (2017-2024) and President (2021-2024). In particular, Manuel provided expert guidance during the very difficult Covid-19 times, especially during the organization, at short notice, of the 2021 (then delayed to 2022) 20th IUPAB Congress from Brazil and on-line. We look forward to continuing to work with him as Past-President (2024-2027).
- Angela Gronenborn was confirmed as President-elect (2024-2027), and 7 new councillors were confirmed, following elections by voting members of the IUPAB Adhering Societies in May 2024.
- At the General Assembly, Christina Sizun (Paris, FR) and Ron Clarke (Sydney, Australia) gave the Treasurer's and Secretary-General's reports describing IUPAB activity (2021-2024).
- Vietnam was admitted as a new Adhering Body to IUPAB.
- Reports from the Kyoto and progress for the Berlin (2027) congresses were also presented.
- A brief Publisher's report on Biophysical Reviews, jointly owned by and providing revenues for IUPAB, was introduced by Kuniaki Nagayama (Senior Editor, Biophysical reviews; President IUPAB, 2008-2011) then presented by Mizuho Ota (Springer-Nature, Tokyo) – Biophysical Reviews achieved its first Impact Factor of 4.9 in June 2024. It was reported that Damien Hall (Editor-in-chief, Biophysical Reviews, 2019-2024) has handed over to Wilma Olson (USA) as the new Editor-in-chief (2024-on). A big vote of thanks was expressed and minuted by the General Assembly for the significant effort Damien gave to the Journal during his tenure.
- Minutes of the General Assembly and details of the new executive will be posted on IUPAB.ORG.

Location of the 2030 Congress

At the General Assembly in Kyoto, bids were invited to host the 22nd IUPAB Congress in 2030. Two bids were forthcoming, one from the Indian Biophysical Society who had had selected Hyderabad, and the other from the Canadian Biophysical Society who selected Quebec City. After the two presentations from delegates of the two societies, the voting members of the IUPAB General assembly voted in favour for the Canadian Bid (July 7 – 12th 2030), which was announced at the closing ceremony.

EBSA 2025 Congress Rome

The next EBSA congress will be in Rome, Italy 30 June - 4 July 2025. To stay updated, please go to their website: <https://www.ebsa2025.org/> and enter your details on the 'Keep me updated!' box in the top right-hand corner.





Young Biophysicists' Festival Portugal

As a Ph.D. student, I found it inspiring to see what fellow young researchers can achieve when working together. This year's Biophysics Festival, organized by the Portuguese Young Biophysicists Group, has been a huge success in terms of participation and number/level of presentations: despite being a new initiative, it has already shown an attendance increase. This is fantastic proof of how receptive young scientists are to these events highlighting both scientific results and the importance of building a network among researchers to support them.

This is particularly important in today's world, especially in the field of biophysics, where collaboration is fundamental. I am a computational biophysicist working in Italy: during the Festival, I was able to share my studies and learn about the research of people with different backgrounds from mine, especially experimentalists. This event allowed me to meet people outside of the world I am most familiar with, but who are my peers, the ones I am going to grow up with as a scientist. I hope this initiative will inspire many others to come so that we

will be able to build a strong group even though we are so many and so scattered across the globe.

Greta

Grassman

Michèle Auger Award for Young Scientists' Independent Research

In late 2018, long time Editorial Board Member of the Biophysical Reviews journal, Professor Michèle Auger, sadly succumbed to illness. As a mark of our respect for Michèle, the Biophysical Reviews' Board, together with the support of Springer-Nature Corporation, created a perpetual memorial award in honor of her life and service. 'The Michèle Auger Award for Young Scientists' Independent Research' is to be granted each year to a single candidate performing biophysical research who, at the time of application, is under 40 years of age. The award will consist of a plaque, a free personal subscription to the journal and an invitation to submit a single author review article to Biophysical Reviews (with gold open access costs to be paid by the journal). The winner's published Review will carry a short foreword about the life of Professor Michèle Auger, along with her work associated with teaching and training the next generation of biophysical scientists. Nominations can be made in the form of a candidate's one page curriculum vitae, along with their five best original manuscripts, and can be submitted by email to any of the Biophysical Reviews' senior editors, prior to 2022, October 31st. Judging will be carried out by a special committee assembled from approximately twenty senior biophysical scientists (at the senior Professor, Head of Institute, Head of Department level) with this assembly taking place after the submission deadline. Results will be announced in late December, with the winner's single author Review to be published in Issue 5 of the following year.



25th Chemical Computing Group Meeting, Montreal

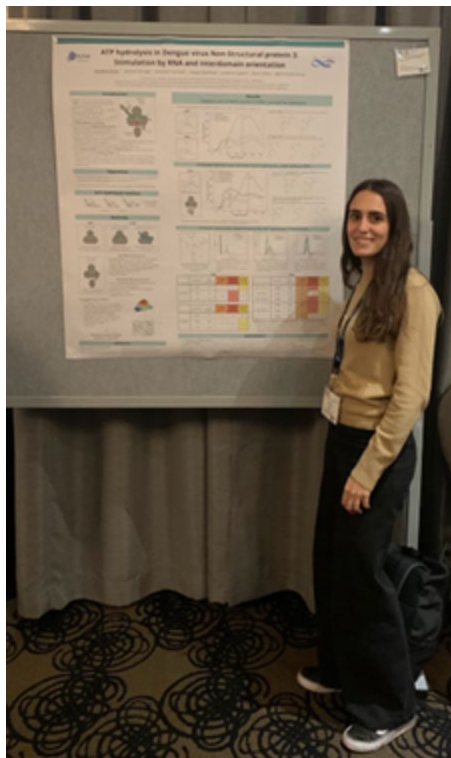
I am honored to have been granted the IUPAB bursary to attend an international meeting. My destination was Montreal, Canada, to participate in the 25th Chemical Computing Group (CCG) Conference and User Group Meeting (UGM). Words alone cannot fully capture how profoundly this experience has influenced my development as a PhD student committed to research in biochemical science. While I anticipated that the CCG UGM & Conference would be both interesting and useful, I could not have foreseen the extraordinary kindness from everyone involved, from the organizers to the attendees. The conference community felt like a large family, with everyone genuinely interested in each other's career journey and eager to offer assistance in any way possible.

The conference was a perfect blend of cutting-edge scientific research using advanced computational techniques and the application of these research outcomes in the development of pharmaceutical products. Although my familiarity with the industry topics was limited, the scientific insights I gained profoundly enhanced my interest in the field and inspired my desire to keep contributing to this remarkable community.

The conference featured two main segments: workshops led by the organizers to teach how to use the MOE software developed by CCG, and a series of oral presentations, as well as a poster session where I had the opportunity to present my work and receive insightful feedback. These academic activities were alternated with enjoyable events such as delicious meals, a guided tour of Montreal, and an unforgettable evening on a cruise ship, culminating in the most spectacular fireworks I have ever seen. This year's event was particularly special as it marked the 30th anniversary of the CCG company, and it was a privilege to be part of such a significant occasion. As I approach the final year of my doctoral studies, this experience has been invaluable in helping me choose my future path.

Meeting professionals who are further along in their careers provided me with insights, advice, and numerous contacts, giving me the confidence and resources to navigate my next steps. I am deeply grateful to IUPAB for making this unique experience possible and strongly encourage anyone who feels financially constrained to apply for a bursary, as it can truly be a transformative experience.

Carolina Sarto



Social Media

IUPAB is now on social media platforms! These include Twitter (@IUPAB1), Instagram (IUPAB1) and Facebook (IUPAB2). Please head over to any of these pages to keep up to date on all IUPAB activities. A IUPAB Wiki page has also been created – details [here](#).

Future IUPAB Congresses

2027 (October 17 – 21st) Berlin, Germany

Links will be posted on the IUPAB.ORG website when they are available.



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