



17<sup>th</sup>  
IS

BR

SYMPOSIUM  
GHENT, BELGIUM  
2 - 6 Nov 2025

02-06 NOVEMBER  
**2025**  
GHENT ICC

## SPONSORSHIP PROSPECTUS



# WELCOME

The International Society for Biosafety Research (ISBR) is pleased to announce that Ghent, Belgium will be hosting the 17th ISBR Symposium from 02 to 06 November 2025. The symposium will be held at Ghent International Convention Centre (ICC), a city that is home to extensive biotechnology research, industry, and international outreach activity.

This symposium provides a vital forum for key players in the fields of biotechnology and biosafety to come together to share knowledge, discuss challenges and explore opportunities.

The 17th ISBR Symposium will build on the successes of previous symposia previously hosted around the world. In striving to ensure that ISBR's activities keep pace with new technological developments, the symposium will bring people together from around the world to promote best-practice science and regulation in sustainable biotechnology application and biosafety. Researchers, technology developers, industry, regulatory authorities, non-government organizations and other stakeholders will take advantage of this unique opportunity to share information and experiences and engage in open and meaningful dialogue on cutting-edge biosafety research, risk analysis, policy, regulation, and communication.

The 17th ISBR Symposium theme is "Cultivating Bio-Innovation for a Sustainable Future". Occurring against a background of rapid advances in new technologies, and the opportunities and challenges that these present, the symposium promises to be an outstanding and timely occasion for sharing and advancing understanding of contemporary biosafety research.

We estimate that approximately up to 300 delegates from at least 45 countries will participate in the symposium. We look forward to welcoming you to Ghent, Belgium in November 2025!

# BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Established as a non-profit organization, ISBR is the leading international scientific society that promotes the safe and effective practice and application of science in the fields of biotechnology and environmental risk analysis. Recognizing the value of being a global forum, ISBR aims for scientifically sound biosafety research and provides a fair and welcoming exchange platform for scientists, regulators and technology developers - improving communication and promoting a multidisciplinary approach to modern biotechnology and biosafety research.

Our membership is international in scope and includes researchers from academia, government agencies, non-government bodies and technology developers, as well as risk assessors and regulators. ISBR symposia are broadly interdisciplinary, covering the entire spectrum of pertinent research, from molecular laboratory studies to field studies, through to regulatory, communication and socioeconomic aspects of the use of biotechnology in agriculture, food production, disease vector control, and environmental conservation.

By fostering communication and technical exchange among experts, ISBR supports the progress of biosafety assessment and promotes constructive science-based dialogue on important biosafety issues.

## PREVIOUS EVENTS

- 1990 **Kiawah Island, USA**, 27 – 30 November
- 1992 **Goslar Germany**, 11 – 14 May
- 1994 **Monterey, USA**, 13 – 16 November
- 1996 **Tsukuba, Japan**, 14 – 18 July
- 1998 **Braunschweig, Germany**, 6 – 10 September
- 2000 **Saskatoon, Canada**, 8 – 13 July
- 2002 **Beijing, China**, 10 – 16 October
- 2004 **Montpellier, France**, 26 – 30 September
- 2006 **Jeju, Korea**, 24 – 29 September
- 2008 **Wellington, New Zealand**, 16 – 21 November
- 2010 **Buenos Aires, Argentina**, 15 – 20 November
- 2012 **St Louis, USA**, 16 – 20 September
- 2014 **Cape Town, South Africa**, 9 – 13 November
- 2017 **Guadalajara, Mexico**, 4 – 8 June
- 2019 **Tarragona, Spain**, 1 – 4 April
- 2023 **St. Louis, USA**, 30 April - 4 May

# 17th ISBR Symposium

**THE PRELIMINARY PROGRAM FOR THE SYMPOSIUM IS AVAILABLE AT [HTTPS://ISBR.INFO](https://isbr.info)**

**The ISBR 2025 Symposium will provide participants with unique opportunities to discuss the latest developments in research and regulations as well as to network with experts.**

The symposium will run over four days (2 Nov to 6 Nov) and will include a comprehensive program of plenary, parallel, poster and Pecha Kucha sessions, accompanied by topic-focused workshops, satellite events, facility visits, social activities and opportunity for informal discussions.

Previously known as the International Symposium on Biosafety of Genetically Modified Organisms (ISBGMO), the series focused on biosafety research and environmental risk assessment of genetically modified (or transgenic) plants, as these were the first biotechnology based products used in the agricultural context, catalysing significant research and regulatory efforts.

However, innovations are driving research and development of new tools and technologies that make significant contributions beyond agriculture and food systems – benefiting sustainability, public health, natural resource management, and economic and social development. This presents an exciting and important opportunity for the Society to continue, expand and fulfil its aim “to encourage research which supports the safe and effective use of biotechnology in agriculture and food production and assists the development of the relevant policy and regulation”.

Reflecting the evolution and application of relevant molecular biology technologies, the biennial symposium series is now known simply as the ISBR Symposium. The current state of research, risk assessment, and regulation relating to “traditional” GMOs and their release into the environment remain an important part of the program, but the upcoming 2025 Symposium program will include discussions on emerging technological advancements and tools, as well as challenges and opportunities for deploying products around the world.

Plenary and parallel sessions will generate insights on the latest research, product development and regulatory challenges. The program includes plenary sessions on:

- Advancing Public Understanding and Support for Bio-Innovation
- Exploring Scientific Opportunities, Advancements, Benefits, and Challenges in Bio-innovation
- Governance, Policy, and Regulatory Frameworks: Exploring the global landscape and impact on bio-innovation
- Enhancing the potential of bio-innovation for a sustainable future



A wide range of parallel sessions and workshops will also take place. Workshops will offer opportunities to delve deeply into topics such as the utility of specific risk assessment approaches and strategies to support biosafety activities. Some of the sessions under consideration include:

Science communication	Advancing social license, public perception, science communication and a science-based understanding of bio-innovation.
Capacity building	Opportunities, challenges and advancements in global capacity building and knowledge-building for emerging technologies and bio-innovation.
Sustainability and food security	Leveraging bio-innovation for improved climate, sustainability, and food security. Understanding the socio-economic considerations of emerging technologies.
Global regulations, policy, and governance	Exploring the global landscape of regulations, policy, and governance of bio-innovation.
Genetically modified (GM) crops	Scientific advancements, challenges, and regulatory considerations related to genetically modified crops. Examples include food, feed, and environmental safety assessment, integrated pest management, new-product offerings, etc.
Genome editing in plants	Scientific advancements, challenges, risk assessment, and regulatory considerations related to genome editing in plants, including Plant Breeding Innovation (PBI), New Breeding Techniques (NBTs), New genomic techniques (NGTs), etc.
Gene Drives	Scientific advancements, challenges, risk assessment, and regulatory considerations related to gene drives and super-mendelian inheritance.
Animal Biotechnology	Scientific advancements, challenges, risk assessment, and regulatory considerations related to animal biotechnology, including gene edited animals, genetically modified animals, etc.
Agricultural biologicals	Scientific advancements, challenges, risk assessment, and regulatory considerations for agricultural biologicals, including genetically modified microbes, gene edited microbes, as well as other microbial, biochemical, semiochemical, and biological-based solutions.
Other Bio-innovation	Other bio-innovation topics highlighting scientific advancements, risk assessment, or regulatory considerations. Examples include industrial biotechnology, synthetic biology, genetics-based health biotechnology, the role of artificial intelligence (AI) in sustainable bio-innovation, etc.

## VENUE

Gent ICC – international convention center  
Van Ryselberghedreef 2 bus 1 – Citadelpark  
B – 9000 Gent  
t. +32 (0)9-242 89 00

GREEN 0800-9 242 9 / uitsluitend vanuit België  
f. +32 (0)9-242 89 01

VAT: BE0472.126.516  
<https://www.iccgent.com/>

Poster exhibitions, Pecha Kucha sessions, and social activities are planned to provide further connections between networks of academic, government, non-government, industry and others working in these fields. Approximately 300 participants are expected.



# WHY SPONSOR?

**This symposium is funded entirely by sponsorships and registration fees. Without sponsorship, this symposium is not sustainable!**

**We need you!**

Several options to fit your sponsorship budget and goals – contact us for a tailor-made package.

Increase your exposure through pre-symposium marketing coverage (web site / mailers/ social media / newsletters)

Promote your offering to a global audience

Have access to decision makers at the highest level

Raise your company profile above that of your competitors

Increase recognition and drive traffic to your exhibition / table stand (should you participate)

Have the opportunity to network at the highest level

Marketing platform through branding and acknowledgement

Increase your company's perceived image and gain the respect and credibility of your target audience

# SPONSOR OPPORTUNITIES

BENEFITS	DIAMOND	PLATINUM	GOLD	SILVER
	\$25,000	\$15,000	\$7,500	\$5,000
Recognition as sponsor of a symposium lunch	X	X		
Recognition as sponsor of a symposium coffee break	X		X	
Complimentary registrations to the symposium, welcoming cocktail and social dinner (each ticket is valued at \$950 value).	4	3	2	1
Display space available at the symposium	2 tables	1 table	15% discount	10% discount
Prominent placing of advertisements within the symposium booklet. Sponsor to supply high resolution advertisements to be used.	3 pages – front inside cover or back cover, plus 2 other pages within booklet	2 pages	1 page	½ page
Pull-up banners to be placed in and around the plenary venue. Sponsor to supply banners. Final positioning of the banners to be determined by the organizer.	4	3	2	1
Sponsor logo to be placed on the symposium website with a direct link to the sponsor website. URL link and company description (where applicable)	URL link and company description (700 words)	URL link and company description (500 words)	URL link and company description (200 words)	URL link only
Sponsor logo to be placed on the sponsor holding slide that will be displayed during breaks in the plenary venue.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Sponsor will be acknowledged on the general sponsor banner on site at the symposium registration	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

# ADDITIONAL SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

The 17th ISBR Symposium offers a wide spectrum of opportunities of exposure by providing opportunities for support in the scientific, social and cultural aspects of the symposium. A list of items available for support follows. Quantities and grant requests will be available per request. We encourage you to contact us if something of interest to you is not currently listed.

CATEGORY	AVAILABLE ITEM
SCIENTIFIC SESSIONS:	Satellite Symposium Focused workshops Speakers' expenses
SPONSORING DELEGATES / STUDENTS:	Registration, accommodation and economy flights
AWARDS:	Photography contest & student scholarship
SOCIAL AND CULTURAL:	Welcome Reception Social Dinner

If you would like to take any of these sponsorship opportunities, please contact [crystal@centeqevents.co.za](mailto:crystal@centeqevents.co.za). These sponsorship options are mainly for guidance and they can be discussed to accommodate your needs.

## WHO WILL BE ATTENDING

WE ARE EXPECTING APPROXIMATELY 300 DELEGATES TO ATTEND FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD WHO WORK IN THE FOLLOWING AREAS:



Biotechnology  
developers



Scientists from  
industry, academia,  
and government



Regulatory  
authorities from global  
regulatory bodies



Students and early  
career scientists



## SYMPOSIUM SECRETARIAT



Centeq Events

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Tel: +27 21 9101913

[ISBRsymposium@allevents.co.za](mailto:ISBRsymposium@allevents.co.za)

Symposium Logistics, Exhibition & Sponsorship,  
Registrations and hotel Accommodation