



THE 17TH ISBR SYMPOSIUM

"Cultivating Bio-Innovation for a Sustainable Future"

2 – 6 November 2025, Ghent, Belgium, at the Ghent ICC

ISBR News - February 2025-2

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Register Now and Plan Your Travel Early

Don't miss out on your opportunity to showcase your work and engage with leaders in the field.

Registration for ISBR 2025 is open, so act now to secure your place and book your travel early. We encourage you to ensure your passports are valid, get your visa issued, book your flights, complete your [Registration](#) and book your [Accommodation](#) at the special discounted rates for ISBR delegates.



Program Overview

The ISBR 2025 symposium will be held over four days, in the scenic city of Ghent, Belgium.

Under the overarching theme “**Cultivating Bio-Innovation for a Sustainable Future**”, ISBR 2025 will offer many opportunities for learning and networking through plenary sessions, parallel sessions, Pecha Kucha presentations, workshops, and poster sessions. Please refer to ISBR website for the ISBR 2025 **Program at a Glance**.

The ISBR 2025 website will continue to be updated, including information about confirmed Keynote and Plenary speakers, speaker titles and abstracts. Please refer to **Plenary Session Information** to learn more about the [confirmed Keynote](#) and [Plenary speakers](#)!

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

***** DRAFT PROGRAM now available *****

Topic-Specific Parallel Sessions and Workshops

Many quality proposals for **Topic-Specific Parallel Sessions and Workshops** were received and peer-reviewed by the ISBR 2025 Scientific Program Committee.

Topic-Specific Parallel Sessions will be hosted on the afternoons of Monday, Nov 3rd and Wednesday, Nov 5th. Workshops will be hosted on the afternoon of Tuesday, Nov 4th. The specific days of each session will be announced soon.

The titles and abstracts of sessions selected for inclusion in the **ISBR 2025 Program** are **now posted**, and summarized below:

Topic Specific Parallel Sessions

Relevant Topic	Title	Chair(s)
Communication	Communicating the science of GMOs and emerging biotechnology tools	Willy Tonui
Capacity building	Coordinating capacity building efforts in biosafety in plant biotechnology for the global south	Marc Heijde
Sustainability and food security	Harnessing bio-Innovation: addressing regulation to tackle global challenges	Marcos Pupin
Global regulations, policy, and governance	Strategies for Modernizing Biotechnology Regulatory Frameworks	Bill Doley
	Safe(r) Innovation Approaches – Non-regulatory approaches fostering safety in innovation	Andrew Roberts, Marco Gielkens
Genetically modified (GM) crops	Data Transportability of Confined Field Testing: Current status of discussions and future prospects	Shuichi Nakai
	Innovation and Modernization on the Safety Assessment of Newly Expressed Proteins in Genetically Modified (GM) Crops	Tao Geng
	Trends, perspectives and recent developments on streamlining the regulatory assessment of GM stacked trait products	Miguel Vega-Sanchez
	Hands-on workshop on the crop composition database: A tool used in food and feed safety assessment	Bhavneet Bajaj
	Design considerations for non-target risk assessment studies – Lessons learned from insect resistant GE crops and challenges for new traits and technologies	Michael Meissle, Christopher Brown
Genome editing in plants	Plant Breeding Innovation:	

	Enabling applications and regulatory frameworks	Raymond Dobert
	Public-Private-Producer Perspectives on Gene Editing Innovation	Stuart Smyth
Gene Drives	Developments in Gene Drive – Advances in risk assessment, regulatory frameworks and field trial design	Andrew Roberts
	Advancing community engagement in gene drive research: Bridging perspectives and practices	Claudia Emerson
	Building capacity for risk assessment of engineered gene drive mosquitoes in Africa post-COP16/CP MOP11	Irméan Moussa Savadogo
Animal Biotechnology	Global status of animal biotechnology regulations	Alison Van Eenennaam
Agricultural biologicals	Safety considerations for agricultural microbial products derived from new genomic techniques (NGTs)	Andrew Roberts, Natasha Dixon
Bio-innovation	Harnessing bio-Innovation: addressing regulation to tackle global challenges	Marcos Pupin
Open sessions	TBD: 3 Session(s) will be composed on submitted abstracts related to a similar relevant topic	TBD

Workshops

Relevant Topic	Title	Organizer(s)
Genetically modified (GM) crops	Examples of regulatory modernization for GM Crops	Abby Simmons, Gabi Levitus
Genome editing in plants	Government perspective on implementation of genome edited plant regulatory policies: Challenges and solutions	Khaoula Belhaj-Fragrière, John McMurdy
Gene Drives	Ethics and evolution workshop: considerations for human intervention	Detlef Bartsch, René Custers, Peter Thygesen
Animal Biotechnology	Interactive workshop on practical regulatory solutions for animal biotechnologies in Europe and beyond	Geena Cartick
Artificial Intelligence	AI-Driven innovations: Potential for risk analysis in biosafety research	Pieter Windels

***** NOW OPEN*****

Call for ABSTRACTS for oral presentations or posters

Submitting an abstract for an oral presentation and/or a poster presentation gives you a valuable opportunity to contribute to the scientific content of the program. Abstracts should be related to the Relevant Topics, and the overarching ISBR 2025 symposium theme “Cultivating Bio-Innovation for a Sustainable Future”. **Unsolicited abstracts can be submitted here!**

Invited Speakers by the Program Committee or Topic Specific Plenary Sessions Chair or Workshop organizer are kindly requested to provide an abstract by **this specific link**.

Please refer to ISBR website for additional information about the **Call for Abstracts**, including information about requirements and guidelines, and links to Abstract Submission Portal.

Do not delay! Abstracts are due April 15th, 2025 !

***** Now OPEN *****

Call for SCHOLARSHIP Applications

With the help of a generous sponsorship from the Agricultural Biotechnology Stewardship Technical Committee (ABSTC), ISBR will offer several student scholarships to support student participation at the symposium. Scholarships will cover ISBR Registration, as well as support student accommodation and travel.



Scholarship Applications are due **March 15th, 2025**.
Details and guidance on how to apply are posted on the ISBR website [Student Scholarship page](#).

Deadlines - Important dates to diarise

	Opening Date	Closing Date
Open call - Topic-specific parallel sessions	*** CLOSED ***	Dec 15 th , 2024
Open call - Workshops	*** CLOSED ***	Dec 15 th , 2024
Open Call - Student scholarships	*** NOW OPEN *** December 15 th , 2024	March 15 th , 2025
Open Call – Abstracts for oral presentations and posters	*** NOW OPEN *** January 15 th , 2025	April 15 th , 2025
Early Bird Registration	*** NOW OPEN ***	June 15 th , 2025
Registration	June 16 th , 2025	Nov 1 st , 2025
ISBR Photo Contest	Information coming soon	

[For detailed information please click here](#)

Please feel free to share this newsletter with all your contacts!!



Useful Links

[PROGRAM AT A GLANCE](#)

[RELEVANT TOPICS](#)

[CALL FOR ABSTRACTS](#)

[STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS](#)

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