



THE 17TH ISBR SYMPOSIUM

"Cultivating Bio-Innovation for a Sustainable Future"

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

ISBR News - January 2025

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Happy New Year!

2025 is the year of the next ISBR Symposium in Ghent, Belgium. The call for abstracts is now open, marking the next step towards an inspiring and relevant event in a vibrant and picturesque city.

Best wishes for 2025. See you in Ghent



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**
 - *Confirmed speakers:*
 - **Ms. Julie Borlaug - Keynote Speaker**, President of Borlaug Consulting and the Borlaug Foundation
 - **Mr. German Vighi**, Board member GeneSprout Initiative; KU Leuven Plant Institute
 - **Dr. Zach Adelman**, Professor, Entomology Department, Texas A&M University
- **Plenary II: Exploring Scientific Opportunities, Advancements, Benefits, and Challenges in Bio-innovation**
 - *Confirmed speakers:*
 - **Dr. Steven Reno - Keynote Speaker**, Professor of Molecular Biology at Kenyatta University
 - **Ms. Ana Alfonso**, Nutrition & Food Innovation, Head of Unit, EFSA
 - **Dr. Cathie Martin**, John Innes Centre
 - **Dr. Jean-Yves Paul**, Queensland University of Technology
 - **Dr. Clint Nesbitt**, Global Director of Regulatory and External Affairs; Genus PLC
 - **Ms. Shade Sabitu**, Director, Regulatory Science and Operations, Pivot Bio
- **Plenary III: Governance, Policy, and Regulatory Frameworks: Exploring the global landscape and impact on bio-innovation**

- *Confirmed speakers:*
 - **Dr. Rodomiro Ortiz - Keynote Speaker**, Professor and Chair of Genetics and Plant Breeding, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences
 - **Dr. Olalekan Akinbo**, Professor and Head, Genome Editing Programme, African Union Development Agency - NEPAD
 - **Ms. Irene Sacristán Sánchez**, Head of Biotechnology Unit, DG SANTE, European Commission
 - **Ms. Bernadette Juarez**, Deputy Administrator for Biotechnology Regulatory Services, USDA
 - **Dr. Leandro Astarita**, Chair of the National Technical Commission on Biosafety (CTNBio), Brazil
 - **Dr. Lourdes Taylo**, Project Leader of the Bt Eggplant Project; University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB)
- **Plenary IV: Enhancing the potential of bio-innovation for a sustainable future**
 - *Confirmed speakers:*
 - **Dr. Carl Ramage - Moderator Panel Discussion**, Rautaki Solutions PTY LTD.
 - **Dr. Eric Andreasson**, Professor at the Department of Plant Protection Biology, Swedish University of Agricultural Studies
 - **Prof. Dr. Justus Wesseler**, Agricultural Economics and Rural Policy at Wageningen University, The Netherlands.

***** Closed *****

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

to organize a Topic-Specific Parallel Session or Workshop

The call for proposals to organize a Topic-Specific Parallel Session and Workshops at ISBR 2025 is now closed !!!

Many quality proposals have been received and are being peer-reviewed by the ISBR 2025 Scientific Program Committee.

Chairs of accepted proposals will be notified soon. The title and abstract of accepted proposals will be published on the symposium website in January 2025.

***** 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 following 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.

***** 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](#).

Call for SPONSORSHIP

This ISBR symposium is funded entirely by sponsorships and registration fees. Without sponsorship, this symposium is not sustainable! We need you!

A wide range of **sponsorship opportunities** are available to fit your sponsorship budget and goals. There are many ways you can support the scientific, social and cultural aspects of the symposium

Please review the full **Sponsorship Prospectus** and consider sponsoring this great event.

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	Information coming soon	
Regular Registration	Information coming soon	
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](#)

For further information email us at admin@isbr.info
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