

Arpád Dobolyi, Ph.D.

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Experience in service to scientific community:

Editorial Board membership: Scientific Reports, Cells, Biologica Futura; President of the following Scientific Conferences: 17th International Conference of the Hungarian Neuroscience Society, Evolution of Sex Roles; Societies: Chair of the Financial Committee of the Hungarian Neuroscience Society, Member of the Neurobiology Committee of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Member of the NENS (Network of European Neuroscience Schools) Committee of the Federation of European Neuroscience Societies.

Statement of Commitment:

I have international experience as I spent 5 years in the USA as an NIH fellow before returning to Hungary with a European Fellowship. Ever since I regularly travel not only for science but also for reviews of major European Scientific Grants. My scientific interest includes neuropeptides, behavioral, molecular and systems neuroscience. Now, I would like to use my experience to participate in the Steering Committee of International Regulatory Peptide Society. For that purpose, I confirm in the present letter that I am happy to serve on IRPS council and assume the related responsibilities. My motivation to become a member of IRPS council is to be able to participate in the planning and implementing the decisions, programs and activities approved of by IRPS leadership including for example developing and maintaining programs, biannual conferences, budget-related requests and reports. In addition, my objective is to participate in discussions aimed at building consensus, making decisions and assuring accountability. I am especially devoted to make RegPep meeting the leading conference within the peptide field. Another reason why I would like to become member of the IRPS council is that I can keep IRPS members, as well as related member societies informed about IRPS's policies and activities via society website. Furthermore, I will regularly attend the IRPS but also other neuroscience conferences and meetings where I can advocate the programs and activities decided by IRPS council. In turn, it also gives me an opportunity to convey the views and needs of the membership to IRPS council.

Francesco Ferraguti, M.D.

Professor of Neuropharmacology
Head of Department,
Department of Pharmacology, Medical University of
Innsbruck, **Austria**
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Experience in service to scientific community:

Editorial Board Service Scientific Reports, Frontiers in Synaptic Neuroscience. Current President of the Austrian Neuroscience Association; Member of the DANA Alliance.

Statement of Commitment:

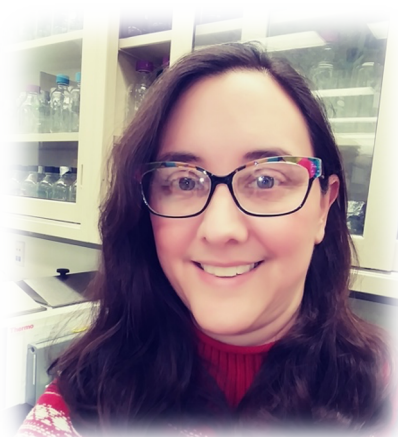
I would like to self-nominate for election as Councilor to serve The International Regulatory Peptide Society. While my formal involvement with the IRPS has been very limited, I was impressed with the enthusiasm and engagement of the Society's members in promoting scientific discussions and dissemination of results on neuropeptide and systems biology research. I would be happy to offer my experience and independent view for the promotion of the IRPS.

My research interest focuses on the neural mechanisms and circuits underlying emotional information processing.

URL https://www.i-med.ac.at/pharmakologie/forschung/research_ferraguti.html

Ki Ann Goosens, Ph.D.

Associate Professor,
Department of Psychiatry Investigator,
Friedman Brain Institute Investigator,
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Research interests:

My laboratory studies how chronic stress elevates the risk of psychiatric disorders and other comorbid diseases, such as metabolic syndrome and obesity. We examine the mechanisms by which neural circuits encode aversive experiences and generate behavior, and study how these are modified by chronic stress. My laboratory has argued that a ghrelin-growth hormone stress axis induces changes in both the brain and periphery after chronic stress. We have also advanced the idea that ghrelin resistance in the brain circuits that process aversion contributes to stress-induced vulnerability to posttraumatic stress disorder. We have demonstrated the importance of acyl-ghrelin to aversive processing and PTSD in both rodent models of the disorder and human patient populations. We are currently examining the role of leptin and LEAP2, two peptides often co-regulated with acyl-ghrelin, in stress-induced vulnerability to PTSD.

Statement of commitment:

I deeply appreciate both the international and interdisciplinary qualities of the IRPS. I believe that science can make its greatest advances when diverse groups of people collaborate to solve problems; this is seen in my own history of collaborative research with investigators from around the world. I also believe that interdisciplinary science is required to effectively discover new treatments for disease; there is extensive cross-talk between the brain and periphery, and characterizing these complex interactions and uncovering new ways to modulate them requires advances in neuroscience, endocrinology, biology, chemistry, statistics, and other fields. My own research reflects this multi-disciplinary approach.

I would like to further the IRPS as the premiere society for peptide research across the globe, and help develop it as a vehicle for innovating new methods in peptide research, facilitating the dissemination of new tools across labs, and linking peptide dysregulation to human disease. For the IRPS conference, I will work to increase the representation of speakers that study peptides in human disease. I also propose that each conference include an event, perhaps as a satellite meeting, focused on the translation of a specific peptide to the treatment of disease. The peptide of focus would change for each meeting, and should be a peptide is close to bridging a translational gap. Such an event would be designed to bring together researchers to explicitly identify the remaining translational knowledge “gaps”, identify tools that could facilitate translational studies, and generally promote collaboration between individuals united by their common interest in the peptide.

I am deeply interested in improving training for the next generation of leaders in peptide research. To this end, I would develop new opportunities for postdoctoral and graduate trainees to take on leadership roles within the IRPS meetings as well as providing opportunities for trainees to interact with faculty.

I am also interested in continuing to improve the representation of underrepresented groups and women in the IRPS. To this end, I will work towards improving the recognition of women in the regulatory peptide field; of the current 16 Distinguished Members of the IRPS, only two are women. Finally, I pledge to actively solicit additional ideas from the IRPS membership to make this a society that is useful to all of its members.

The website for my lab can be found at: <https://labs.icahn.mssm.edu/goosenslab/>

René Hurlemann, M.D., Ph.D.

Professor of Psychiatry

Head of Department of Psychiatry School of
Medicine & Health Sciences Carl von Ossietzky
University of Oldenburg, Germany

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Experience in Service to Scientific Community:

I have joined the World Psychiatric Association (WPA) section on Personalized Medicine in Psychiatry as well as the steering/editorial boards of Personalized Medicine in Psychiatry (Elsevier), Der Nervenarzt (Springer) and several other journals. I am a visiting associate in Psychology at the California Institute of Technology (Caltech), co-director of the Summer School on Affective Neuroscience, and member of >10 professional societies including the American College of Neuropsychopharmacology (ACNP) and the Society of Biological Psychiatry (SoBP). In addition, I serve as ad-hoc referee for >20 international funding agencies, >80 peer-reviewed journals in the fields of Psychiatry & Neuroscience, and several prize committees.

Statement of Commitment:

I completed my M.D. at the University of Bonn, Germany, in 2001, with a doctoral thesis on intracranial recordings in epilepsy patients. Later, I focused on stress-related emotion-cognition interactions and received my M.Sc. (2006) and Ph.D. (2007) from Maastricht University. I trained in Psychiatry at the University Hospital Bonn and was appointed Head of the Medical Psychology Division in 2013 and Deputy Director of the Dept. of Psychiatry in 2015. In 2019, I became Head of the Dept. of Psychiatry at the University of Oldenburg, Germany. As clinician scientist, I am committed to the field of precision psychiatry. My lab, the Neuromodulation of Emotion (NEMO) research group, is focused on developing cutting-edge experimental therapies along three research trajectories: (i) Neuroimaging-based predictive biotyping, (ii) neuromodulation (via hormonal, pharmacological and brain stimulation methods), and (iii) digital and immune phenotyping. Our agenda is currently funded by the German Research Foundation (DFG), Else Kroener Fresenius Foundation (EKFS) and German-Israel Foundation for Scientific Research & Development (GIF). Given this background, I am confident that my research expertise and interests align very closely with those of many *IRPS* members, thus enabling fruitful scientific exchange and rapid dissemination of latest scientific advances through outstanding *RegPep* meetings in the future as well as special issues/publications in prestigious journals. In addition to my enthusiasm for psychiatric neuroscience and its communication to scientific audiences and the general public, I will bring a wealth of clinical and teaching experience with me, along with a valuable international perspective on Psychiatric practice, which can significantly vary across countries. Becoming a member of the steering board will highly motivate me to dedicate myself to excellent teaching and mentorship of young scientists, and towards building an inspiring curriculum to foster students' academic enthusiasm for state-of-the-art knowledge of the specific role of regulatory peptides in mental disorders and latest innovation in prevention and treatment, thus making *RegPep* the premier regulatory peptide conference in our field. Taken together, I am convinced that my scientific expertise, clinical background, and passion for teaching will make me a valuable contributor to the steering board and help to further grow the superb international reputation of *IRPS*.

Link to my lab: <https://www.hurlemannlab.com>

Gil Levkowitz, Ph.D.

Associate Professor,
Department of Molecular Cell Biology
Weizmann Institute of Science, Israel
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Experience in service to scientific (peptide) community:

Scientific Organizing committee: 10th, 11th, 12th, 13th, 14th World Congress of Neurohypophysial Hormones; 10th International Symposium on VIP, PACAP and Related Peptides; Programme Advisory Committee: 10th International Congress of Neuroendocrinology (ICN 2022) - International Neuroendocrine Federation; The 9th Congress of the Federation of the Israel Societies for Experimental Biology 2020 - Neuroscience and Endocrinology; International Scientific Committee: The 23rd International Symposium on Regulatory Peptides (RegPep2020-*postponed*); Co-Organizer: 13th World Congress on Neurohypophysial Hormones (WCNH2019).

Outreach and educational activities:

Executive board member, European network on Fish Biomedical Models (EuFishBioMed); Member of the Weizmann's Life Sciences Board of Studies (2014-2020); Scientific Advisor, Student-Organized International Conference on Hormones and Behavior (2016). Book Editor, Model Animals in Neuroendocrinology (ed. M. Ludwig & G. Levkowitz). An open-ended series of books "Masterclass in Neuroendocrinology Series", a joint venture between the International Neuroendocrine Federation (<http://neuroendonow.com>) and Wiley-Blackwell. Book was written by experts for students, trainees, established researchers, and teachers. Popular science manuscript: How does the brain talk to the body? In *Frontiers for Young Mind Science for kids, edited by kids*: Freely available scientific articles by scientists describing cutting-edge discoveries in a language that is accessible for young readers by the input of their own young peers.

Statement of Commitment:

The foundations of modern neuroendocrinology date to the early 20th century when the pioneering work of Berta and Ernst Sharrer established the concept of neurosecretion using both invertebrate and vertebrate animal models. Since then, many findings in peptides biology have been extrapolated from animal models to human based on comparative anatomy, physiology, peptide biochemistry and more recently, molecular genetics and genomics analyses. My lab was one of the first labs to utilize zebrafish as a vertebrate model organism to study anatomy, development and function of the neuroendocrine hypothalamus. I will be fully committed to use my professional and organizational experiences to serve the mission of the International Regulatory Peptide Society. In particular, I would like to promote the use of non-mammalian model organisms to advance both basic understanding of regulatory peptide functions and their mechanisms of action and the translational implications of this understanding.

<http://www.weizmann.ac.il/mcb/GLevkowitz/home>

Robert P. Millar, Ph.D.

Professor, FRSE, FRSSA
Director Centre for Neuroendocrinology,
University of Pretoria
South Africa

Senior Research Scholar, University of Cape Town
Senior Research Fellow, University of Edinburgh, UK
Professor Emeritus, University of St Andrews, UK
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Experience in service to scientific community:

Robert (Bob) Millar was the President of the International Neuroendocrine Federation until Summer 2020. Bob grew up in Zimbabwe and studied Zoology, Botany and Chemistry at the University of the former Rhodesia and Nyasaland. He then obtained a master's degree in Biochemistry in London and a PhD in reproductive biology in Liverpool before moving into human biomedical research at the University of Cape Town where he became Professor ad hominem and directed four MRC Units. For twelve years he served as Director of the prestigious MRC Human Reproductive Sciences Unit at the University of Edinburgh, UK, and in 2011 he joined the University of Pretoria to take up the Directorship of the Mammal Research Institute (till 2016) when he took up his current position as Director of the Center for Neuroendocrinology. He has published over 400 peer reviewed articles which have been cited over 35,000 times and has an H-index of over 90 (Google scholar)

Statement of Commitment:

Bob has had a long history of research in peptide biology having isolated the first novel GnRH peptides, somatostatin-28 and cloned the GnRH receptor as well as the type II GnRH receptor and pioneered the development of GnRH, Kisspeptin and NKB analogues which have gone on to enter the clinic and create new therapeutics for cancer, endometriosis, polycystic ovarian syndrome and hot flashes. He has worked extensively with Andrew Schally, Wylie Vale and Jean Rivier as well as others in developing the field. His research has involved a continuum of molecular and cell biology, structural biology, physiology, evolutionary biology of peptides, chemical design and synthesis in analogue development through to clinical application. This spectrum of knowledgebase is rare in this era of specialisation. In addition to a long involvement in academe and the development of young scientists he has worked extensively with Pharma and biotech in drug development. This breadth of expertise will allow him to contribute to the development of existing and new initiatives in the IRPS and particularly a closer relationship with pharma and biotech in the translation of regulatory peptide discovery into drug development. He believes that the advance of IRPS will be intimately connected to a strong relationship with industry both in the translation of peptide discovery and reduction to practice but also in the financial support of IRPS meetings. His extensive consultation for industry and founding of the biotech company, Ardana, position him to accomplish this for the IRPS. His credentials as an insightful contributor to the success and growth of IRPS are also in his organizational and leadership skills. He has been chair of numerous meetings including programme chair of the 2018 International Conference of Endocrinology, member of the US Endocrine Society programme organising committee and chair of the British Pharmacological Society's James Black meeting amongst others. He was president of the International Neuroendocrine Federation until 2010. He will also bring communication and publication 'know how' to the IRPS to promulgate the outputs of the society through his extensive knowledge and experience as Editor in Chief of Neuroendocrinology where he increased the IF from 2.2 to 6.8 and his new role as Editor in Chief of the Journal of 'Neuroendocrinology's Translational and Clinical Neuroendocrinology arm which is the official journal of the IRPS.

Collectively the above credentials suggest he will be a substantial contributor as a council member of IRPS.

Esther L. Sabban, PhD

Professor,
Director of Laboratory for Stress-related Disorders
Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology,
New York Medical College, Valhalla New York, USA
email: abban@nymc.edu



Experience in service to the scientific community:

Editorial board of Stress, American Journal of Hypertension; Biomolecules; previous handling editor for Journal of Neurochemistry, past president, secretary/treasurer of Catecholamine Society (worked on writing mission statement, obtaining tax exempt status and in organizing, 10th International Catecholamine Society, Asilomar, CA); past secretary/treasurer of Endocrine and Metabolism Section of APS; past member of ASBMB Education and Professional Development Committee; reviewer for NIH, AHA, NSF etc; past member NIH Neurology C study section .

Statement of commitment:

The diversity and the range of actions of neuropeptides has exploded in the past few years. In addition, there is great potential for their use in a translational way for a variety of disorders. My research has focused on the mechanisms of long term responses to stress and has demonstrated translational potential of neuropeptide Y, and to some extent melanocortin receptor agonists, for stress-triggered neuropsychiatric disorders such as PTSD.

I feel that the IRPS can have an important role as a bridge for bring together colleagues from at all levels of experience to advance the field of regulatory peptides. Having participated in the past two RegPep meeting, I realize the consequential work that is accomplished in this area, as well as the challenge of covering the diverse range of neuropeptides and the expanding information. Future meetings should highlight advances and help to simulate collaborations and novel approaches. I feel that IRPS should also facilitate the dissemination of information regarding publications, international funding sources, and assist with career development of young scientists in the area of regulatory peptides.

I would be happy to serve on the council to help achieve these goals.

Chun-Xia Yi, MD, PhD
Principle investigator
Department of Endocrinology and Metabolism
Amsterdam University Medical Centers
University of Amsterdam
The Netherlands
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Experience in service to scientific communities:

I am serving as an editor for two peer-reviewed open-access journals: “Molecular Metabolism” ([MolecularMetabolism](#)); and “Frontiers in Endocrinology - Translational Endocrinology” and “Frontiers in Endocrinology - Cellular Endocrinology”. I am an organizer and co-organizer of several Dutch and international conferences: the “Dutch type 2 diabetes patient and researchers’ conversation day 2021”; the annual Dutch Neuroscience Meeting ([Dutch Neuroscience Meeting](#)) since 2018; the annual Dutch ImmunoMetabolism Network meeting ([ImmunoMetNet](#)) since 2019; the annual symposium of the Dutch Neuroscience Meeting in 2016-2021; the symposium of German Neuroscience Society, 14th Göttingen Meeting, 2021, and the XIV European Glial Meeting, 2021. I have served as a grant reviewer for UK-Canada Diabetes Research Team Grants; Foundation for Prader-Willi Research; Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC); Fond National de la Recherche Luxembourg (AFR); French National Research Agency (ANR) and Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF). I have also served as a reviewer for more than 20 peer-review journals. I am a member of the International Regulatory Peptide Society, the Society for Research on Biological Rhythms, the Society for Neuroscience, and the Netherlands Association for the Study of Obesity. My research interests can be found [Chun-Xia Yi group](#) and [Chun-Xia Yi AMC](#)

Statement of commitment:

One of my major interests is the interplay between neuropeptides and brain innate immunity. There is an ever-growing interest in the research field regarding the association between neuroimmunology and neurological human diseases. My research group bridges basic and translational researches at the Amsterdam University Medical Centers and the Netherland Institute for Neuroscience. In the basic research line, I am exploring the important roles played by the brain immune cells in regulating brain peptidergic neurons that control the whole-body energy homeostasis. In the translational research line, I am focusing on studies on the neuropeptides with post-mortem human brain tissues donated by patients with metabolic diseases (Netherlands Brain Bank). I am new for the IRPS, but I feel an urgency to join IRPS and devote my passion and efforts in promoting the research branch on neuropeptides and brain innate immunity interactions. To achieve this goal, I will share my research resources within IRPS, I will seek opportunity to apply for joint grants with other IRPS members, and support the exchange of research programs between IRPS members, especially I will offer opportunities for earlier career researchers in IRPS to join my research. I would also like to team up with other EU members to organize a future RegPep meeting in the Netherlands or elsewhere in Europe. I will help IRPS to get more attention from European scientific societies and other stakeholders.