26th International Symposium on Regulatory Peptides

RegPep26 (2027) Prospectus: Preliminary Program

Fragrant Hill, Beijing, China
March 23–28, 2027
Updated 17 August 2026

About RegPep and the IRPS

RegPep is the biennial international symposium organized by the International Regulatory Peptide Society (IRPS), an international nonprofit scientific society dedicated to advancing research and collaboration in regulatory peptide biology, systems neuroscience, endocrinology, metabolism, translational medicine, and peptide therapeutics. The RegPep meetings bring together scientists from basic, translational, pharmaceutical, and clinical disciplines to foster collaboration and accelerate progress in understanding and advancing therapeutic applications of regulatory peptides. The scope and purpose of the biennial meeting are described on our website regpep.org along with information about dates, venue, conference proceedings, and photo galleries of previous meetings.

Organizing Committee

Ruud Buijs (IRPS President, UNAM, México)

Yulong Li (Co-Host, Representative from Peking University)

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Vito Hernández (IRPS Ex-Officio Trustee, UNAM, Mexico)

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Dick Swaab (The Netherlands)
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Lei Xiao (China)
Mario Zetter (Mexico)

Preliminary Meeting Schedule

Preliminary Program : Updated 17 August 2026

Time	Tuesday, March 23, 2027	Wednesday, March 24, 2027			Thursday, March 25, 2027	Friday, March 26, 2027			Saturday, March 27, 2027	Sunday, March 28, 2027
8:00 AM	Pre-RegPep26 plenary Symposium 1	SS	SS	SS	KS	SS	SS	SS	Fragrant Hill morning hiking (optional)	IRPS General Assembly
8:30 AM										
9:00 AM										KS
9:30 AM										
10:00 AM										
10:30 AM	Coffee/Tea Break									
11:00 AM	Pre-RegPep26 plenary Symposium 2								PL	PL & Closing Celemony
11:30 AM		SS	SS	SS	KS	SS	SS	SS		
12:00 PM		Lunch and poster viewing, Datablitz1			Lunch and poster viewing, Datablitz2	Lunch and poster viewing, Datablitz3			Lunch and JNE Workshop	Farewell lunch
12:30 PM										
1:00 PM										
1:30 PM										
2:00 PM		PL			PL	Beijing city visit (Optional)			PL	*Optional: Traveling to Suzhou for CSHL-Asian Francis Crick Symposium: Neurobiology of Psychiatric Disorders, March 29–April 2, 2027*
2:30 PM	Lunch on your own									
3:00 PM	Opening celemony and PL	KS			KS				KS	
3:30 PM										
4:00 PM	Inteoduction to Ju Gong Prize and PL									
4:30 PM										
5:00 PM	PL (Lay lecture)	SL			SL				Conference banquet	
5:30 PM		SL			SL					
6:00 PM	RegPep26 Inaugural Reception	Free			Free					
6:30 PM										
7:00 PM										
7:30 PM										

Preliminary Program with confirmed speakers

Plenary lecture (PL)

PL1: Opening Lecture

TBC

PL2a: Introduction to Ju Gong Named Prize Lecture

Tomas Hökfelt, Karolinska Institute, Sweden (remote)

PL2: Ju Gong Named Prize Lecture

Decoding the neural mechanism of depression -- insights through ketamine's pharmacological lens

Hailan Hu, Zhejiang University, China

PL3: George Fink Named Prize Lecture

Hormones and mitochondria: new perspectives on body–brain communication in stress and behavior

Carmen Sandi, EPFL, Switzerland

PL4: José Antunes Named Prize lecture

Stimulating neuroscience research and mentoring in the global south

Greg Quirk, University of the Philippines, Manila

PL5: Harold (Hal) Gainer Named Prize Lecture

The Oxytocin Subsystems in the Mammalian Brain: From Axons to Sociality

Valery Grinevich, University of Heidelberg, Germany

PL6: Maurice Manning Named Prize Lecture

Quantitative imaging of neuromodulator dynamics in vivo by constructing new GRAB sensors

Yulong Li, Peking University, Beijing

PL7: Robert P. (Bob) Millar Memorial Lecture

From Bob Millar's Kisspeptin Revolution to the Brain's Reproductive Clock: The GnRH Pulse Generator in Health and Stress

Kevin O'Byrne, King's College, London, UK

PL8: RegPep26 Lay Lecture

Neuropeptides in Stress Regulation: From Molecular Pathways to Brain Circuits

Zhi-Qing David Xu, Capital Medical University, Beijing, China

Special lectures (SL)

SL1: REM Sleep and regulatory peptides

Luis de Lecea, University of Stanford, USA

SL2: A novel plant-derived bioidentical hormone for appetite regulation

Denise Belsham, University of Toronto, Canada

SL3: Estrogenic control of tanycyte-mediated brain–body communication

Vincent Prevot, Inserm, University of Lille, France

SL4: Neuropeptides in brain disorders: lessons from the human postmortem brain

Aimin Bao, University of Zhejiang, China

Keynote Symposia (KS)

KS-1 Neuropeptides in Neurotransmission

First-messenger versatility of neuropeptides

Lee Eiden, NIMH-NIH, USA

Peptide release sites and action in regulating fast and slow neurotransmission

Limei Zhang, UNAM, Mexico

Neuropeptide modulation in the dentate gyrus

Pablo Castillo, Albert Einstein College of Medicine, USA

KS-2 Regulatory Peptides in Metabolism

Hunger Drives Life

Tamas Horvath, Yale School of Medicine, New Haven, USA

Physiological surges in glucocorticoids promote muscle glucose uptake

Ruud Buijs, UNAM, Mexico City

TBC

Jens Brüning, Max Planck Cologne, Germany

KS-3 Circadian Rhythms, Eating & Metabolism

Hypothalamic Peptides, Energy Metabolism and the Autonomic Balance

Andries Kalsbeek, University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands

Spatial Transcriptomic Analysis of Suprachiasmatic Nucleus Reveals Rewiring of Neuropeptide Signaling in Human Circadian Clock

Jun Yan, Institute of Neuroscience, Chinese Academy of Sciences, China

Anorexia nervosa: a postmortem study

Dick Swaab, Netherlands Institute of Neuroscience, The Netherlands

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KS-4 Neuropeptides and Social Behavior

The neuroendocrine basis of social behavior: insights from wild birds and mammals

Simone Meddle, University of Edinburgh, UK

Neuropeptide signaling in neurodevelopment and autism

Xiang Yu, Peking University, China

Inhibition of aggression by somatosensory input

Árpád Dobolyi, Eötvös Loránd University, Hungary

KS-5 Neuropeptides, Stress and Resilience

CRH, AVP and cell adhesion in stress-induced cognitive and emotional dysfunctions

Xiaodong Wang, Zhejiang University, China

Nitrosylation-Dependent Desensitization of CRH Neurons: How Acute Stress Gates the HPA Axis

Jeffrey Tasker, Tulane University, USA

A prefrontal peptidergic circuit for psychogenic itch

Ji Hu, School of Life Science and Technology, Shanghai Tech, China

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KS-6 Regulatory Peptides and Reproduction

Anti-Müllerian Hormone at the Crossroads of Programming, Transmission and Therapy in PMOS/PCOS

Paolo Giacobini, Inserm, University of Lille, France

Kisspeptin- a central peptidergic regulator of reproduction

Ali Abbara, Imperial College, UK

Hormonal influences on the peptidergic control of fertility

Dave Grattan, Otago University, NZ

Pre-RegPep26 Plenary Symposia (PRPS)

Morning of March 23, 2027

PRPS-1. Neuropeptides in Narcolepsy Type 1

Co-Chairs: Ling Shan and Dick Swaab (The Netherlands Institute for Neuroscience)

Fang Han, Peking University People's Hospital, China

Virus infection and Narcolepsy: How orexin neuron is killed

Ling Shan, Netherlands Institute for Neuroscience, The Netherlands

A Systematic Search for Evidence of Autoimmunity in Narcolepsy Type 1: a postmortem study

Jiyou Tang, The First Medical University of Shandong, China

An altered physiological and psychological stress response in NT1

Akihiro Yamanaka, Chinese Institute for Brain Research, Beijing, China

The role of orexin receptors on orexin neurons

Hong Jiang, Neuroscience Research Institute, Peking University, China

Hypothalamic integration: where sleep homeostasis meets metabolism

PRPS-2. Mood and food, and human brain

Chair: Aimin Bao, Zhejiang University, China

Kerry J. Ressler, McLean Hospital/Harvard Medical School, USA

Post-traumatic stress disorder: clinical and translational neuroscience from cells to circuits

Benjamin Becker, University of Hong Kong, China

Opportunities for precision neural decoding in humans to drive neuropeptide based treatment discovery

René Hurlemann, University of Oldenburg, Germany

Oxytocin facilitates protective responses to aversive social stimuli in males; Oxytocin enhances amygdala-dependent, socially reinforced learning and emotional empathy in humans

Elena G Bochukova, Queen Mary University of London, UK

Rewiring Satiety: Neuropeptides in Prader–Willi Syndrome

Concurrent Scientific Sessions (SS)
(Vacant slots available, VSA*)

*We welcome proposals for individual talks, ECR short talks (15 min) or complete symposium proposals for the remaining **Concurrent Scientific Sessions (SS)** slots. To be considered as a speaker candidate, please submit a request together with **three relevant publications** on the topic when submitting the abstracts through the portal RegPep.org (deadline Oct. 31, 2026).

SS1 Peptidergic Modulation of Defensive and Appetitive Behaviors

Chair: Joanna Dabrowska (USA)

Joanna Dabrowska, Rosalind Franklin University, Chicago, USA

Oxytocin Receptor-Dependent Inhibition of BNST Output Is Necessary for Fear Learning to Predictable Threats

Hao Li, Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine, USA

The role of thalamo-amygdala neurotensin signaling during cost-benefit evaluation

Peng Cao (National Institute of Biological Sciences, Beijing)

Thalamic multisensory integration for observational fear

VSA

SS2 State-Dependent Plasticity of the Oxytocin and Vasopressin Systems

Co-Chairs: Quirin Krabichler (Germany) & Colin Brown (NZ)

Quirin Krabichler, Central Institute of Mental Health, Mannheim, Germany

Morphological and circuit plasticity in oxytocin neurons in lactation

Colin Brown, University of Otago, New Zealand

Plasticity in mechanosensing in AVP neurons in pregnancy and lactation

Javier Stern, Georgia State University, Atlanta, USA

From vasoconstriction to vasodilation: state-dependent plasticity of the vasopressin neurovascular unit

Weiying Wu, Zhejiang University, China

AVP neurons orchestrate vascular homeostasis at the neuro-haemal interface in posterior pituitary

SS3. Emerging Technologies to Study Neuropeptide Trafficking, Release, Signaling, and Modulation of Behaviors

Co-Chairs: Valery Grinevich (Germany) and Jin Bao (China)

Flavie Lavoie-Cardinal, CERVO Brain Research Centre, Université Laval, Canada

Deciphering the diversity of synaptic ultrastructure with quantitative optical nanoscopy

Markus Muttenthaler, University of Vienna, Austria / University of Queensland, Australia

Advanced probes for investigating neuropeptide pharmacology

Félix Leroy, Institute for Neurosciences, CSIC-UMH, Alicante, Spain

The neural basis of social preferences

Jin Bao, Shenzhen Institute of Advanced Technology, CAS, China

Measuring oxytocin release in the brain

SS4 Circuit Architecture and Functions of Oxytocin and Vasopressin Systems

Chair: Lei Xiao (China)

Yevgenia Kozorovitskiy, Northwestern University, USA

Circuit architecture of mouse oxytocin and vasopressin: their sex-invariant connectivity

Lei Xiao, Fudan University, China

Oxytocinergic circuits in anxiety: how these neurons exert opposite behavioral effects via release of different neurochemicals

Mingzheng Wu, Cornell University, USA

Wireless multimodal physiological monitoring and modulation in small animals: hypothalamic control of intestinal myoelectricity

Vito Hernández (UNAM, Mexico)

Hypothalamic vasopressin circuits linking homeostasis, stress and adaptive behavior

SS5 Pain, Stress, and Emotion: Emerging Roles of Relaxin-3 and Oxytocin

Co-Chairs: Anna Blasiak (Poland) & Andrew Gundlach (Australia)

Zhihua Gao, Zhejiang University, China

Oxytocin, lactation and emotional control

Marc Landry, Université de Bordeaux, France

Uncovering the role of relaxin-3/RXFP3 signaling in chronic pain

Solène Escoffier, CERVO Brain Research Centre, Université Laval, Canada

Pain induced modulation of relaxin-3 neurons in the mouse nucleus incertus

Anna Blasiak, Jagiellonian University, Poland

Cross-species evidence for relaxin-3–oxytocin interactions in the social stress network

SS6 Peptidergic Integration of Neuroendocrine State: Metabolism, Reproduction, Stress, Water Balance, and Behavior

Chair: Vito Hernández (UNAM, Mexico)

Rajae Talbi, University of Montreal, Canada

Kisspeptin and melanocortin crosstalk in metabolism and reproduction

Mario A. Zetter, La Salle University, Mexico

A brain kisspeptin network and its link to sensorial and behavioral state control

Sunny Z. Jiang, NIMH-IRP, NIH, USA

Medial prefrontal PACAPergic projections to CRH/PVN neurons Orchestrate stress response program

Arthur Lefevre, University of Lyon, CNRS, France

Primate oxytocinergic circuits regulating behavioral and physiological states

SS7 Peptide role in neuropsychiatry and neurodegeneration

Chair: Jing Lu (Zhejiang University, China)

Jing Lu, Zhejiang University School of Medicine, China

Sexually dimorphic changes of hypocretin (orexin) in depression

Hong Tan, Zhejiang University School of Medicine, China

Increased oxytocin/vasopressin ratio in bipolar disorder in a cohort of human postmortem adults

VSA

JNE Workshop

The International Regulatory Peptide Society (IRPS) adopted the Journal of Neuroendocrinology (JNE) as its official journal in 2020. Published by the British Society for Neuroendocrinology, JNE is a subscription-based journal that offers free publication to all authors after rigorous peer review, with open access options available, often at no cost to authors through institutional agreements. With an Impact Factor of 5.0, JNE is operated by and for the neuroendocrine community, with editorial decisions made by active scientists who understand the field.

This workshop, chaired by JNE Editor-in-Chief Mike Lehman and Deputy Editor-in-Chief Bob Goodman, will review recent progress and activities of the journal, what makes it different as a society-owned journal, as well as its current and future plans. We encourage all attendees, particularly early career researchers, to bring their questions and ideas.

(Preliminary Program for RegPep26, March 23-28, 2027, Version 6, 19 August 2026)