

# RNA SOCIETY NEWSLETTER



Fall 2024 | September 26, 2024

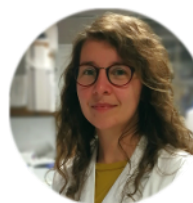
## RNA SOCIETY NEWSLETTER: FALL 2024

Dear friends! We are excited to bring you the Fall 2024 issue of the RNA Society newsletter, packed with past, present and upcoming news from the many activities and programs of the RNA Society.

In this issue, we hear from our president, Sandy Wolin, invite you to apply for one of many RNA Society Awards, celebrate the RNA Society Lifetime Achievement awardees and look back at the successful RNA 2024 meeting (and the pre-meeting workshop aimed at public engagement). Moreover, we bring news from the *RNA* journal, the Education Committee, the mentoring programs, RNA Salons and RNA Junior Scientist Group.

Enjoy the read!

Katarína Juríková and Gabriele Fuchs, Newsletter Editors  
Daniel Kim, Media & Communications Committee Chair



## UPCOMING

### RNA SOCIETY AWARDS

Nominations are accepted September 1 – October 1

All along your career path, the RNA SOCIETY has an award for you!

[RNASociety.org/Awards](https://RNASociety.org/Awards)



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# FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDENT

Sandra Wolin

Dear RNA friends,

As my term as President nears its end, I want to thank all of you for giving me this incredible opportunity. It has been an honor to work on behalf of our members to keep the RNA Society vibrant, and to try to make it even more responsive and useful to all. In this final piece, I would like to thank some of the many people who contribute to our Society and to describe some steps that we have taken to make the Society even more inclusive and beneficial to our members.

I would particularly like to thank Kristian Baker, our Chief Executive Officer, who works tirelessly behind the scenes to support and sustain our many events and initiatives, including our annual meeting, the RNA Salon program, the RNA Society awards, and our elections. I am very grateful to have had the opportunity to work with her. I also want to thank our Chief Financial Officer, Wen Ding, and our RNA Society Secretary, Hua Lou, as well as the 2023–2024 members of the Board of Directors (Anita Corbett, Jeffrey Kieft, Michaela Muller-McNicoll, Julie Claycomb, Katrin Karbstein, Thomas Preiss, Tsutomu Suzuki, Aaron Hoskins, and Neva Caliskan), for all their work on behalf of the Society.

I also want to thank the many members who volunteer their time to chair and/or serve on one of the Society's nine standing committees. To acknowledge their contributions, to increase transparency within the Society, and to make it easier for you to reach out to them, we now list all these committees and their membership on the Society website <https://www.rnasociety.org/contact-society-officers-and-committees>. I want to



particularly thank Benoit Chabot, who is stepping down after nine years of exemplary service as Chair of our Meetings Committee. He will be succeeded in this important position by Adrian Ferré-D'Amaré.

One achievement that I would like to particularly highlight is our new RNA Society Education Committee, which is charged with supporting our members who are passionate about education. Manny Ares is our inaugural Chair, and he has been joined by an enthusiastic cadre of graduate students, postdoctoral fellows, and faculty. The committee's scope is broad, and includes supporting formal instruction, mentoring and career development at all levels, as well as outreach to the public. The committee is already planning its first initiatives, which include an education-focused session in the afternoon of the opening day of our 2025 Annual Meeting.

During the past two years, the Society has also worked to increase our commitment to the important and growing discipline of RNA therapeutics. As part of this initiative, we have a new section dedicated to RNA Therapeutics in the *RNA Journal*, which will be

# FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDENT

Sandra Wolin

overseen by Michelle Hastings. In addition, we were fortunate to partner with Moderna to establish a new Award for Biomedical Innovation in RNA, which recognizes innovative contributions to the use of RNA in biomedicine, disease processes, and treatments. We are also grateful to Moderna for supporting our Poster Presentation awards at our annual meetings, to BioNTech for serving as the Platinum Sponsor at these meetings, as well as to the many other sponsors of RNA2024 <https://www2.rnasociety.org/conferences/rna-2024/sponsors/>. Our 2025 meeting will include talks by two leaders in this field: a keynote by Matt Disney, and a special talk from Jennifer Doudna, our 2024 Lifetime Achievement Award in Science winner.

We have also worked to reduce barriers to participation in our Society. Our DEI Committee, led first by Shobha Vasudevan, and now by Kehinde Ross, has been instrumental in this effort. Their work resulted in the establishment of several new RNA Salons in parts of the world that were not previously represented. Together with the Membership Committee, they also instituted mechanisms to subsidize RNA Society memberships for students and faculty that would otherwise be unable to join. These new programs are in addition to the Society's Inclusion Initiative, which makes the annual meeting digital content library available to RNA researchers who are unable to afford a subscription.

It will soon be time for me to pass the baton to Fatima Gebauer. I look forward to her leadership and thank all of you for allowing me to serve as President of this wonderful Society.

I hope to see many of you in San Diego.

Sandy  
President of the RNA Society  
[sandra.wolin@nih.gov](mailto:sandra.wolin@nih.gov)

# CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS – RNA SOCIETY FUNDRAISING & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

The RNA Society is seeking volunteers to serve on our Fundraising & Development Committee.

We invite applications from RNA Society members interested in serving either as an active member on this committee or as its chairperson. The chairperson will be responsible for overseeing fundraising and development activities of the RNA Society, recruiting committee members and coordinating the cultivation, stewardship and gift solicitation efforts of the committee. Members of the Fundraising & Development Committee should represent the diversity of the RNA Society and we welcome individuals from all membership levels (i.e. Student, Post-doc and Full Society members) to participate.

The chairperson role is a leadership position and is expected to require 10–15 hours per month and attendance at the RNA Society Annual Meeting. The term of the position is three (3) years with the possibility of extension. In recognition of the service, the Chairperson is provided an annual honorarium and full expenses for all role-related travel (including registration, travel, and accommodations to attend the Annual Meeting).

A brief description of the Roles and Responsibilities for the Chairperson of the RNA Society Fundraising & Development Committee can be found below.

Questions related to the position can be addressed to RNA Society CEO, Kristian Baker (ceo@RNASociety.org), and **applications should be submitted by November 1st, 2024 to RNA@RNASociety.org.**

## Chairperson, Fundraising & Development Committee

The chairperson of the Fundraising & Development Committee serves to oversee the cultivation, stewardship and solicitation of gifts to the RNA Society. The chairperson is an organized and detail-oriented individual, effective communicator, and an active member of the RNA research community.

### Roles & Responsibilities

1. Assemble and lead a committee of members as required to achieve committee goals.
2. Design and execute an approved Fundraising & Development Plan that meets the short and long-term future strategic needs of the RNA Society and includes compliance considerations and best practices.
3. Assemble a portfolio and track donor outreach and contributions; develop donor gift agreements.
4. Interface with RNA Society leadership and standing committee chairs, as necessary, to synergize efforts and maximize on fundraising and development activities.
5. Travel to attend RNA Society Annual Meeting to report activities to the RNA Society Board of Directors and recommend best practices and procedures of the committee.

# AWARDS

## Ambro van Hoof

*All along your career path the RNA Society has an award for you—Application deadline Oct 1<sup>st</sup>*

I am excited to remind you that the RNA Society has a number of awards that recognize diverse contributions to our field. Some of the awards recognize contributions by our principal investigators, while others are for trainees or researchers in permanent research positions. RNA Society members at almost any stage in their career are eligible for at least one of the twelve awards. For faculty, we provide the Elisa Izaurralde Award for Innovation in Research, Teaching and Service, The RNA Society Moderna Award for Biomedical Innovation in RNA, and the Early- and Mid-Career Research Awards. For graduate student and post-doctoral trainees, we award two Eclipse Awards, two Scaringe Awards and a CSHL Press Award. Other RNA Society members are eligible for the Outstanding Career awards, while everybody is eligible for the Inclusive Leadership award. New this year is that all of the awards now include a cash prize, complimentary registration, lodging and travel to the 2025 RNA Society Annual Meeting in San Diego (and

other benefits).

I would like to thank Moderna, Eclipse, Cold Spring Harbor Press, the Scaringe Foundation, and



a generous anonymous donor for supporting some of these awards. You can find more information on each award on the RNA Society web page (<https://www.rnasociety.org/awards>) or if you have any question, email me at [awards@rnasociety.org](mailto:awards@rnasociety.org).

**Apply or nominate** an RNA Society member today.

Ambro van Hoof  
Awards Committee Chair  
[awards@rnasociety.org](mailto:awards@rnasociety.org)

**RNA SOCIETY AWARDS**  
Nominations are accepted September 1 – October 1

*All along your career path, the RNA SOCIETY has an award for you!*

[RNASociety.org/Awards](https://RNASociety.org/Awards)



# THE RNA SOCIETY LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS 2024

## 2024 RNA Society Lifetime Achievement in Science

### *Jennifer Doudna*



Dr. Jennifer Doudna is recognized for her extraordinary contributions to the mechanistic and structural analysis of RNA, including the development of the now ubiquitous gene-editing tool CRISPR, for which she was honored with the 2020 Nobel Prize in Chemistry (along with Emmanuelle Charpentier). She started her career by making fundamental contributions to our understanding of RNA structure and ribozyme function. She dissected ribozyme catalysis and discovered several motifs that are now recognized as universal building blocks of RNA structure. She also developed tools and methods for RNA crystallography that have fueled the field ever since. She has made important contributions to the study of translation, next turning to the study of non-coding RNAs, solving structures of Dicer complexes, and ultimately working on CRISPR, which has been the focus of her lab for the last decade. In addition to making fundamental discoveries of profound importance, she has trained dozens of RNA biologists in our community, and founded several companies, extending her legacy deep into the future.

## 2024 RNA Society Lifetime Service Award

### *Ute Kothe*

Dr. Ute Kothe is recognized for her exemplary service to the RNA Society. In collaboration with Kristian Baker, Ute conceived of and built the RNA Salon program, which unites and elevates local RNA communities around the world. Until 2023, Ute was a creative and inclusive leader of the RNA Salons, growing the program to over 50 sites across the world. Her efforts to support RNA Salons and promote a switch to virtual seminars during the COVID-19 were extremely important in maintaining a sense of community and enabling inclusion during an isolating time. In a broader context, Ute has been an integral leader in the Canadian RNA community, by organizing national RNA conferences, developing RNA-focused training programs, and as a founding member of the newly formed RNA Canada ARN which aims to unite and advocate for Canadian RNA researchers. In her role within RNA Canada ARN, Ute continues to champion DEI initiatives as a member of the Equity, Diversity and Inclusivity Committee.



# NOTES ON RNA 2024

## 29<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL MEETING OF THE RNA SOCIETY

In the last week of May, the Society gathered for our 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting, which is always a high point of the scientific year. RNA 2024 was held in Scotland, at the Edinburgh International Conference Centre (EICC), from May 28 to June 2. Due to the venue capacity, attendance was limited to 1,125 participants. My apologies to those who were unable to register.

The meeting got off to a great start on the first evening, with fascinating and thought-provoking Keynote talks from Jernej Ule (King's College London and The Francis Crick Institute) and Narry Kim (Seoul National University). Jernej addressed one of the key mysteries in RNA biology of recent years; how RNA and protein features combine to generate specificity in condensates. Narry told us how non-A nucleotides in "poly(A)" tracts induce RNA stabilization – and how this process can be co-opted during viral infection.

Over the next four days, we were into the science-packed, main program; 135 talks split over 26 oral sessions, and 680 posters presented over three poster sessions. With sponsored talks running from 8.00 am and posters closing at 11.00 pm, it was a full-on RNA-fest.

The scientific program wound up with the last of our Keynote speakers: Reinhard Lührmann (MPI, Göttingen) who gave us brief recap of 40 years of

splicing analyses, before regaling us with his latest, exciting results on spliceosome structure. Reinhard's enduring enthusiasm, and ongoing success, are an inspiration to all of us. This was

followed by the traditional prize giving ceremony, in which it is always a great pleasure to see the success of the next generation of RNA biologists. The list of prize winners can be found below. My very warmest congratulations to all of them.

The formal proceedings now being concluded, we all headed off, through very pleasant evening sunshine, to the magnificent Scottish National Museum. Here we were welcomed by a piper, in full regalia, and enjoyed a Scottish "ceilidh" – basically a big party with traditional music and dancing.

Let me finish by thanking the co-organizers, Ben Blencowe, Markus Bohnsack, Atlanta Cook and Yue Wan, the RNA Society officers, Simple Meetings for the excellent conference organization and – of course – everyone who attended, asked questions, presented posters or talks, and generally interacted to make this a great meeting.

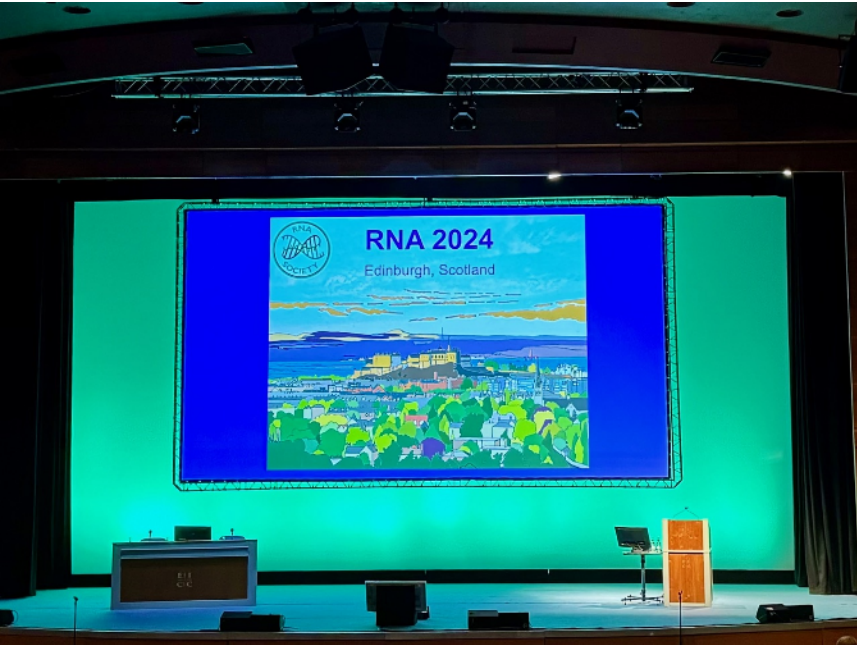
David Tollervey

On behalf of the organizers of RNA 2024



# RNA 2024

## 29TH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE RNA SOCIETY



Photos by Daniel Kim



# RNA 2024 , 29<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL MEETING OF THE RNA SOCIETY

## POSTER PRIZE WINNERS

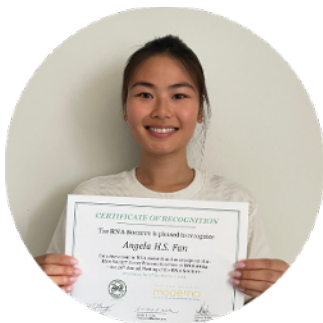
Michelle Aillaud  
Carla Azar  
Anna Baud



Luciana Castellano  
Jessica Centa  
Alice Despraires  
Cori Dilsavor



Maria Escura-Perez



Angela Fan  
Kelsey Farenhem

William Garland  
Sophie Giguere



Kavan Gor  
Sabrina Grunseich  
Natalia Gumińska  
Jutta Hafner  
Zahrat El Oula  
Hassoun  
Shruti Jain  
Seungwon Jung



Yoshika Janapala  
Maria Claudia Villegas  
Kcam  
Gabriel Khelifi  
Melina Klostermann  
Ryo Kurosawa  
Om Mattagajasingh  
Kaeri Martinez



Erika McCarthy  
Michael Murphy  
Damir Musaev  
Lee-Ann Notice  
Michaela Oborská

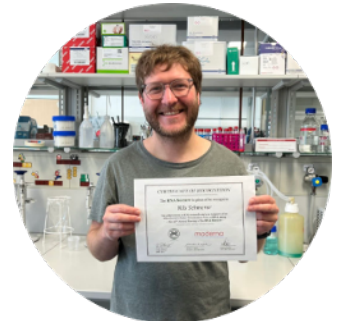


Juan-Carlos Padilla  
Youngran Park  
Daniela  
Portugal-Calisto



Ishika Pramanick  
Marco Preussner

Michaela Ristova



Nils Schmerer  
Adriano Setti  
Kaley Simcox  
Izabela Smok  
Sophie Tagneres  
Jerricho Tipo  
Wiep van der Toorn  
Katarzyna Tutak



Hector Veremis  
Manisha Balasaheb  
Walunj  
Tong Wei  
Denis Yudin  
Dagmar Zigackova

# RNA 2024 PRE-MEETING WORKSHOP

## PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT IN RNA RESEARCH



Prior to the opening of the RNA 2024 Annual Meeting in Edinburgh, members of our community gathered for a workshop on Public Engagement in RNA Research, organized by RNA Society members, Amy Buck, Julie Claycomb, and Angela Messmer-Blust, and headlined by Adrian Krainer (CSHL) and Thomas Crampton (Crampton-Blackie Partners). The workshop was funded by COST Action exRNA-PATH, the RNA Society, and a joint “RNA Communication” grant from the Universities of Toronto and Edinburgh to Claycomb and Buck.

Fueled by the “RNA moment” that has occurred in the wake of the pandemic and COVID-19 mRNA vaccines, the workshop brought together researchers who have participated in various types of public outreach to share their approaches, strategies, and brainstorm about how to overcome challenges, including a fear of putting oneself out there. The workshop welcomed novices who are curious about how to get started with public outreach activities, along with seasoned experts in scientific communication. As RNA researchers, we

have the potential to be outstanding ambassadors for the benefits of RNA and RNA technologies, but often we do not know how to effectively communicate these messages to a non-scientific audience. Dr. Krainer shared how he has honed and simplified his message while engaging with patients and their families, medical doctors, and regulatory agencies in the development of the RNA drug Spinraza to treat Spinal Muscular Atrophy (SMA). Mr. Crampton and his partner Rob Blackie have performed market research to determine what works best when speaking to the public about RNA technologies in agriculture. Some of their key messages included avoiding technical language, and focusing on the problems that RNA technologies can solve. The workshop enabled participants to practice simplifying their research message in a hands-on activity led by Mr. Crampton. It also featured an animated and productive panel discussion including the workshop organizers, and keynote speakers, along with the chairs of the Education and DEI committees, Manny Ares and Kehinde Ross. The panel discussion was driven by fantastic questions from the audience ranging

# RNA 2024 PRE-MEETING WORKSHOP

## PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT IN RNA RESEARCH

from what types of outreach activities members are engaged in to how to handle challenging conversations with science deniers, and everyone benefited from audience members who openly shared their expertise and experiences in different realms of RNA communication, as well. So that a broader part of our community could benefit from the workshop, a videographer captured the event to make it available on the online content library for the meeting.

All in all, this workshop was a successful grass-roots effort that exemplifies how we can enrich and enhance our RNA community simply by sharing our knowledge, recruiting the right experts, and facilitating discussions. The organizers hope that it is a first step in building a larger training framework and database of outreach modules and activities to lower the activation energy for our members to engage in outreach. Clear from this workshop is the fact that there is a hunger for these types of initiatives across RNA Society members, and now a dedicated and passionate group of folks on the education committee are working diligently to equip our community with the skills and tools to be ambassadors for our favorite molecule, RNA.

Julie M. Claycomb, Amy Buck and Angela  
Messmer-Blust  
Organizers of the "*Public Engagement in RNA Research*"

### *Developments at the Society Journal, RNA*



The RNA Society journal, *RNA*, continues to publish high-quality research papers in all areas of RNA biology. All articles published in *RNA* benefit from broad promotion on the journal's Social Media platforms, including featuring every new paper in X/Twitter. In addition, first authors of research papers are given the opportunity to participate in our 'Meet the First Author' (MTFA) feature to introduce themselves to

the RNA community, and are also eligible for the annual RNA Journal Prize, which is awarded to two particularly meritorious papers. We are pleased to report that 72% of first authors have participated in MTFA since its inception in 2022.

We continue to improve our rapid publication process, while maintaining the high quality of research that is characteristic of papers published in *RNA*. This is made possible by our stellar group of Associate Editors (<https://rnajournal.cshlp.org/site/misc/edboard.xhtml>), comprised of 19 prominent researchers who collectively cover all areas of RNA biology and who can call on their wide network of scientific colleagues for

expert opinions on manuscripts. We are pleased to announce that Anna Pyle (Yale University) has joined as our latest Associate Editor. These RNA Editors will continue to directly manage all submitted papers and will aim to accelerate our currently rapid review process.

We are also pleased to announce a new regular Section of *RNA* that is dedicated to papers in RNA therapeutics, headed by Michelle Hastings (University of Michigan) who has agreed to serve as *RNA Therapeutics* Editor.

We have also reorganized the format of the journal, which will now have papers in five categories: Communications (Letters to the Editor, Hypotheses, and Perspectives); Reviews; RNA and Gene Expression; RNA Therapeutics; and Bioinformatics and Databases.

Finally, we will continue to publish our highly successful annual Special Issue, on topics of high relevance for the RNA and related communities. Our latest Special Issue, on mRNA epitranscriptomics, published in the May of this year, was edited by Kate Meyer and Tao Pan (<https://rnajournal.cshlp.org/content/30/5/465.full>) and follows our highly successful initial Special Issues, on RNA in Biological Condensates, edited by Tom Cech (<https://rnajournal.cshlp.org/content/28/1/1.full>), and



Anna Pyle



Michelle Hastings

on RNA Therapeutics, edited by Adrian Krainer and Michelle Hastings (<https://rnajournal.cshlp.org/content/29/4/393.full>).

We look forward to working with you to publish your exciting RNA science. We will accept manuscripts in any of our categories as Articles, Reports, or Methods, and will also continue to publish timely Reviews, Perspectives, Commentaries, and Mini-reviews.

Javier F. Caceres and Eric M. Phizicky

Senior Editors

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# EDUCATION COMMITTEE

## Manny Ares

The RNA Society Education Committee came into existence at the beginning of 2024 with a great set of volunteer members from around the globe. We began discussing what the role of the education committee should be, and studied the education engagement profiles of other scientific societies to get a sense of the possibilities. These initial ideas expanded and were modified when many of us met in person for RNA 2024 in Edinburgh. For me, the attention and energy for RNA education at all levels from diverse corners of the Society was exciting and a little unexpected. It turns out that our members care deeply about RNA education and outreach!

The Society is intensely research-oriented, as it should be, and yet a moment's reflection on what is necessary to sustain the research enterprise reveals that teaching the public and the next generations of scientists about RNA is inextricably joined to our research success over time. An overarching goal of the new Education Committee is to highlight, support and extend the deep connections between research and teaching in the RNA field. I think we all recognize the "RNA moment" we have been in since the pandemic. We are THE RNA Society—who better to help the public understand RNA? As I left the meeting these two goals floated to the top for me: support our members in integrating their research and academic teaching roles in RNA, and help our members reach out to both the general public and the patient advocacy groups who are fighting RNA-based diseases.

Until RNA 2024, the RNA Society meetings have not had education-themed events – but this is about to change. At Edinburgh, just before the official start of

the meeting, Julie Claycomb, Amy Buck, and Angela Messmer-Blust presented the Public Engagement in RNA Research Workshop, including keynote talks by Adrian Krainer (Cold Spring Harbor) and Thomas Crampton (Crampton-Blackie Partners) about their experiences explaining RNA to the public (see pages 10–11). This event originated organically without any assistance from the new committee, but it's our hope and goal to support these kinds of events for our membership in the future.



Manny Ares  
Education Committee Chair  
[ares@ucsc.edu](mailto:ares@ucsc.edu)

# MENTORING PROGRAMS

## Nancy Greenbaum

For the first time since its launching in 2017, the current (7<sup>th</sup>) cycle of the Individual Mentoring Initiative had both January and June start dates. This program pairs junior scientists seeking guidance during times of career transition and growth with senior Society members willing to share their time and expertise. Each pair agrees to meet periodically (typically online) throughout the year-long cycle to assist the mentee with career decisions, preparation of applications or proposals, or any other steps or challenges encountered in professional development. This year, at least 40 senior members responded to the request for mentors at the beginning, but only 22 junior members sought mentoring; for this reason, a second (mid-cycle) advertisement was circulated to the Junior Scientists Group immediately after the annual meeting, which recruited an additional 14 mentees, for a total 2024 cohort of 36 mentor-mentee pairs. Throughout the seven cycles, mentees have been enthusiastic and appreciative about the guidance received, and most mentors have found the experience rewarding.

For those interested in the upcoming 8<sup>th</sup> cycle (which will start January 2025), be on the lookout for an email in early or mid-December and a posting on the RNA Society website. These postings will describe the program in more detail and will include an application form for mentee candidates; potential mentors are asked only to provide a note expressing interest and to include any information that will help in matching them with a suitable mentee. Scientists in the private sector have not been as active in responding as those in academic research (although any who have been asked individually were very quick to agree to serve in this

important role)—but with an increasing number of junior scientists seeking careers in biotech, pharmaceutical, and industry, we urge those with experience in non-academic fields (even if currently in academia) to volunteer. RNA Society members from all parts of the world are encouraged to participate. Once accepted into the program, the participants are provided with information for a good start and defining mentoring goals and progress—not asked to follow any specific structure.



The 2024 RNA Society Career Mentoring Event at the Edinburgh meeting was, for the first time, held at dinner (instead of lunch). The venue accommodated the ~725 participants comfortably, and all those involved in the planning (Meeting Organizers, venue staff, Simple Meetings staff) made it a successful and enjoyable event. As with the Individual Mentoring Initiative, we welcome even more participation by Society members with expertise in biotech or industry positions to meet the growing needs of our junior members seeking information about nonacademic careers. We look forward to seeing you at this annual event in San Diego at the 2025 RNA Society Annual Meeting!

Nancy L. Greenbaum  
RNA Society Mentoring Programs  
[nancy.greenbaum@hunter.cuny.edu](mailto:nancy.greenbaum@hunter.cuny.edu)

# RNA SALONS

## Minna-Liisa Änkö

As I begin my second season as the RNA Salon coordinator, I can only admire the enthusiasm of RNA Salon organisers around the world to support their local RNA science communities. The RNA Salon program has taken a special place in the hearts of RNA Society members, and it is wonderful to see the continued interest into the program. The RNA Salon program has been running since 2016 with a continuous growth. This year the number of RNA Salons increased to 58, and the program is now estimated to engage more than 5,000 RNA researchers across the world. The ninth call for applications closed at the end of August and the proposals are currently under review. Some Salons will be celebrating their ten-year anniversary next year!

The RNA Salons run inspiring and diverse activities that foster interactions between RNA scientists within local research communities. The RNA Salon program is now

established across the world, including regions where RNA science is still emerging. I hope that the RNA Salons encourage students to undertake RNA research to expand

RNA science in these regions. While many RNA Salons now meet in-person, some organise hybrid or virtual-only events, especially when the participants are spread across larger geographical regions. What unifies the RNA Salons is the focus on running activities that best serve the local RNA science community.

The RNA Salons bring together RNA researchers with diverse interests and provide training and professional development opportunities for junior scientists.



Photo by Neva Caliskan



# RNA SALONS

## Minna-Liisa Änkö

Many junior scientists are also actively involved as co-organisers of the local RNA Salon activities. It was wonderful to meet some of the RNA Salon organisers in the RNA Society meeting in Edinburgh. The inaugural RNA Salon luncheon (photo) brought together RNA Salon organisers from different corners of the world to share their experiences. To continue building the RNA Salon network, a virtual meet and greet event will be organised later in the year. We are always happy to receive feedback to continue improving the program. In the coming RNA Salon season, each RNA Salon will be asked to nominate a dedicated contact person who will take care of the communication related to the RNA Salon administration and advertisement.

I hope that most RNA Salon members have an RNA Salon close-by that enables sharing research and exchanging ideas with RNA-minded scientists. If not, you can always start one yourself!

Minna-Liisa Änkö

RNA Salon coordinator

[RNAsalon@RNAsociety.org](mailto:RNAsalon@RNAsociety.org)

# RNA JUNIOR SCIENTIST GROUP CORNER

Daniel Oh, Jimin Yoon, Belén Moro & Laura Hertz



Happy new academic year! We had a wonderful time at RNA 2024 getting to meet Junior Scientists from all over and learning about their research. We kicked off the conference with a pre-meeting virtual workshop about research communication with data visualization world-leader, Prof. Steven Franconeri from Northwestern University. In Edinburgh, we climbed great peaks, literally, heard from a fantastic career panel, and musical meet and greet. Keep a look out as we plan another virtual research communication workshop with Dr. Belén Moro in October!

We also congratulate Laura Landweber, Jennifer Chu and Chris Burge, and Sophie Giguere for winning the RNA Day baking contest and Palina Kot for winning in the visual arts category. We look forward to everyone's submissions next year!

We will be looking for two more additional Jr Sci Reps as we say goodbye to Jimin and Daniel, who greatly served for the past two years. The application window is Oct 1<sup>st</sup>–Oct 31<sup>st</sup>. Please submit your CV and a ½ page statement of intent to [junior\\_scientists@rnasociety.org](mailto:junior_scientists@rnasociety.org). The position entails organizing events for Junior Scientists at the annual RNA meeting. We look forward to receiving your applications!

Jimin Yoon, Daniel Oh, Belén Moro, Laura Hertz  
2024 RNA Society Junior Scientist Representatives  
[junior\\_scientists@rnasociety.org](mailto:junior_scientists@rnasociety.org)



# RNA SOCIETY—OFFICERS & CONTACTS

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## Chief Financial Officer

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USA  
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Thomas Preiss  
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Australia  
thomas.preiss@anu.edu.au

### 2024–2025

Tsutomu Suzuki  
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