

# RNA SOCIETY NEWSLETTER



Fall 2025 | September 17, 2025

## RNA SOCIETY NEWSLETTER: FALL 2025

We are excited to bring you the Fall 2025 edition of the RNA Society Newsletter! In this issue, we hear from our RNA Society President, learn about the RNA Society Awards applications, look back at RNA 2025, and celebrate the Lifetime Achievement Award winners! We are happy to announce a save-the-date for RNA 2026 and also invite you to submit your exciting new RNA research to the RNA Society flagship journal *RNA*. We also offer a glimpse into the many exciting activities of our RNA Society members, from the Education Committee's activities and plans, to the RNA Salons, Spotlight Series, and finally, the RNA Society Junior Scientists and their amazing Art & Baking Contest winners.

Hope you enjoy the read!

Katarína Juríková, Newsletter Editor

Daniel Kim, Media & Communications Committee Chair



## UPCOMING

### RNA SOCIETY AWARDS

Nominations are accepted September 15– October 15

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

## Fátima Gebauer

Dear RNA Society members,

It has already been three months since our last meeting in San Diego. I was truly delighted to see such strong attendance, particularly given the challenges faced by many of our U.S. colleagues, who represent nearly half of our Society. The atmosphere was vibrant, with excitement to share the latest discoveries in RNA research, creating a space that felt both inspiring and collaborative.

Since then, circumstances for many researchers in the U.S. remain difficult, with projects being discontinued and certain areas of RNA research, including mRNA vaccines, facing wind down. Moments like these remind us of the importance of standing together. We must remain steadfast in our dedication to objective scientific inquiry, evidence-based decisions, and our shared commitment to discovery, education, inclusiveness, and the public good.

At the Society, we are working to provide practical support. We are facilitating job exchange opportunities through our website and social media, and I would like to thank colleagues around the world who have been able to offer alternatives to RNA scientists facing uncertain futures. We are also expanding our education and outreach efforts through the Education Committee, led by Manny Ares (see further details in this newsletter), with the aim of strengthening trust and understanding in the broader community. In addition, we continue to seek out connections and partnerships that can help protect RNA science and support our members.

Despite existing difficulties, this is an extraordinary

moment for RNA research. The range of RNA applications continues to expand, many of them rooted in fundamental discoveries

pioneered by members of our Society. Reflecting the growing interest on RNA science, the impact factor of our journal, *RNA*, has increased from 4.2 to 5.0 in the latest measurement—an increase that stands out against the downward trend seen in other journals of the same tier, and its section on Therapeutics and Disease continues to gain visibility. I congratulate Senior Editors Javier Cáceres and Eric Phizicky, as well as the whole Editorial Board, for these achievements, and I encourage you to keep publishing in *RNA*!

Our next annual meeting will take place in Montreal and the organizers are already preparing an exciting program. The Meetings Committee, chaired by Adrian Ferré-D'Amaré, has secured Eric Westhof to lead the 2027 meeting in Strasbourg, while discussions are underway regarding the 2028 venue in Asia or Australia. I thank all colleagues dedicating their efforts to these important tasks and wish the best of luck to the 2028 contenders.

Our networking extends well beyond our annual meeting. The RNA Salon Program supports over 60 networking activities worldwide, while the RNA



# FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDENT

Sandra Wolin

Collaborative Program links around 30 participating institutions through virtual seminars and offers workshops to strengthen communication skills among RNA trainees. In addition, our Junior Scientist representatives also lead year-round networking and professional development through virtual events, and the RNA Spotlight series highlight the achievements and career journeys of our colleagues. In this issue, you will find more details on the RNA Salon and RNA Spotlight programs, and I warmly encourage you to explore them.

Additionally, the RNA Society supports the careers of its members through a comprehensive Awards Program that recognizes excellence at every career stage. The next application period is approaching, so I encourage you to nominate a colleague or submit your own application.

I would also like to highlight our Mentoring Program, led by Nancy Greenbaum, which supports junior members of our community not only through a dedicated event at the annual meeting but also via one-on-one mentoring throughout the year. Nancy received the 2025 RNA Society Lifetime in Service Award for her contributions, and I am deeply grateful for her relentless support of our junior scientists.

Finally, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to our former CFO, Wen Ding, for her outstanding work and for ensuring a smooth transition to Kelly Campbell; to our CEO, Kristian Baker, for her unwavering and insightful support; to the RNA Society leadership—for being such a remarkable team; and to the many volunteers whose dedication makes our extensive program possible.

Always yours,

Fátima Gebauer

President of the RNA Society

# AWARDS

## Ambro van Hoof

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

**Application deadline Oct 15<sup>th</sup>**

I am excited to remind all of 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 early- and mid-stage group leaders we provide four different awards: the Elisa Izaurralde Award, The RNA Society Moderna Award for Biomedical Innovation in RNA, and the Early- and Mid-Career Research Awards. For trainees we have five different awards: A Scaringe Award and an Eclipse Award for graduate students, a Scaringe Award and an Eclipse Award for post-docs, and one CSHL Press Award for any underrepresented trainee. Other RNA Society members are eligible for the Outstanding Career Researcher awards, while all members are eligible for the Inclusive Leadership Award. All of these awards include a cash prize, compli-

mentary registration, lodging and travel for the 2026 RNA Society annual meeting in Montreal, Canada and other benefits.

I would like to thank Moderna, Eclipsebio, Cold Spring Harbor Press, the Scaringe Foundation, and an anonymous donor for supporting some of these awards. You can apply or nominate another RNA Society member today for these awards. Nominations for the Lifetime Achievement in Science and Service Awards are separate and will be due early next year. You can find more information at <https://www.rnasociety.org/awards> or if you have any question, email me at [awards@rnasociety.org](mailto:awards@rnasociety.org).

Ambro van Hoof  
Chair of the Awards Committee



## RNA SOCIETY AWARDS

**Nominations open Sept 15th through Oct 15th**

**The RNA Society has awards to recognize your contributions**

The Elisa Izaurralde Award for Innovation in Research, Teaching, and Service  
The RNA Society Moderna Award for Biomedical Innovation in RNA  
The RNA Society Early-Career Award and Mid-Career Award  
The RNA Society / CSHL Press Distinguished Research Mentor Award  
The RNA Society / Scaringe Young Scientist Awards  
Eclipse Awards for Innovation in High Throughput Biology  
The RNA Society / Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Press Award for Research Excellence by an Underrepresented Scientist  
The RNA Society Outstanding Career Researcher award  
The RNA Society Award for Excellence in Inclusive Leadership

**[RNASOCIETY.ORG/AWARDS](https://www.rnasociety.org/awards)**





# THE RNA SOCIETY LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS 2025

## 2025 RNA Society Lifetime Achievement in Science

### *David Tollervey*



Dr. David Tollervey, Wellcome Principal Research Fellow and Professor of RNA Biology at the Centre for Cell Biology (University of Edinburgh), is recognized for his pioneering work in the fields of ribosome biogenesis and RNA surveillance. He contributed to establishing the role of snoRNAs in ribosomal RNA processing, described the function of fibrillarin in this process, and identified dozens of trans-acting factors involved in rRNA cleavage, modification or remodeling. The Tollervey lab discovered the RNA exosome, a prominent cell nanomachine responsible for the surveillance of most classes of RNA. More recently, he has described methods for the high-throughput mapping of RNA-RNA and RNA-protein interactions (CRAC, CLASH, TRAPP) that are widely used by the community, and has characterized the role of imprinted snoRNAs in Prader-Willi Syndrome. Dr. Tollervey's seminal contributions are now textbook material. In addition to his scientific discoveries, Dr. Tollervey has been a generous member of the RNA Society, serving as President (2007-2008), Director (2003-2004) and annual meeting organizer (1999, 2002, 2024).

## 2025 RNA Society Lifetime Service Award

### *Nancy Greenbaum*

Dr. Nancy Greenbaum, Professor at Hunter College, City University of New York (CUNY), is recognized for her outstanding contributions to mentoring junior scientist members of the RNA Society and within the greater RNA research community. Dr. Greenbaum has led efforts to provide mentorship to junior members by organizing the Career Mentoring event of the RNA Society Annual Meeting for the last 11 years. Since 2017, she has also coordinated the RNA Society Individual Mentoring Initiative, providing one-on-one mentoring to over 40 young RNA researchers per year. More broadly, in addition to numerous PhD students and postdocs, Dr. Greenbaum has trained over 100 undergraduate students in her research lab, many of whom have gone on to pursue PhD or MD-PhD degrees. Dr. Greenbaum also serves as the Coordinator of the CUNY Intensive Research Experience (CIRE) Program at Hunter College, aimed at preparing undergraduate students from less favored communities for careers in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Medicine) research.



# NOTES ON RNA 2025

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



In the last week of May, the RNA Society gathered to celebrate the 30<sup>th</sup> meeting of our membership—a highpoint of the scientific year. The meeting was attended by over 1000 scientists, representing 30 countries and five continents. The Town & Country Resort and Convention Center venue in beautiful Mission Valley within San Diego and lovely southern California weather fostered extensive interactions among meeting participants of all career stages as they shared conversation (and beverages) around the meeting rooms and in outdoor seating areas throughout the facility. As always, the science showcased, from the four Keynote presentations and ~150 talks to more than 500 posters, was simultaneously innovative and rigorous as we expect from our community. We kicked off the meeting the first night with two outstanding Keynote Talks. Dr. Erin Schuman (Max Planck Institute for Brain Research, Germany) presented her ground-breaking research studying translation in living neuronal cells, which also introduced one of the new plenary session areas for RNA 2025, RNA in Neuroscience. Dr. Tracy Johnson (University of California, Los Angeles, USA) then provided insight into links between chromatin and RNA splicing that have emerged from her elegant studies in yeast. Later in the meeting, additional keynotes from Dr. Ling-Ling Chen (Shanghai Institute of Biochemistry and Cell Biology, China), who described key insights

into circRNAs, and Dr. Matthew Disney (University of Florida Scripps Institute, USA), who provided insights into RNA in medicine, illustrated the breadth of RNA biology. We continued with an inspiring talk on CRISPR biology past, present, and future from 2024 Lifetime Achievement in Science winner and Nobel Laureate, Dr. Jennifer Doudna. The 2025 winner of this notable award, Dr. David Tollervey, will present his lecture at RNA 2026. We congratulate all the RNA Society award winners, including the 50 poster prize winners who received \$200 each thanks to sponsorship from Moderna (see the full list at <https://www.rnasociety.org/rna-2025-poster-prize-winners>). Several events highlighted the commitment of the RNA Society to the future of science including a robustly attended new session focused on Training Future Scientists through RNA. To cap off the scientific events, we enjoyed a lovely evening at the venue sharing food, beverages, ample conversation, and incredible dance moves. The success of the meeting is largely due to efforts of the RNA Society officers, Simple Meetings, which provides 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. We look forward to welcoming everyone to RNA 2026 in Montreal. Mark your calendars for May 26–31, 2026.

### The RNA 2025 Organizers

Katrin Karbstein, Vanderbilt University, USA  
Atlanta Cook, University of Edinburgh, UK  
Anita H. Corbett, Emory University, USA  
Jorgen Kjems, Aarhus University, Denmark  
Zefeng Wang, Chinese Academy of Sciences, China



RNA 2025

# 30TH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE RNA SOCIETY



Photos by Anita Corbett and Kristian Baker



# RNA 2025 PRE-MEETING WORKSHOP

## BRIDGING THE GAP IN RNA EDUCATION

In advance of the RNA 2025 Annual Meeting, more than 100 participants took part in the pre-meeting workshop Bridging the Gap in RNA Education. The session brought together a diverse RNA community committed to address challenges and share strategies to strengthen RNA-focused education.

Organized by Amy Cooke, Nik Tsotakos, Meg Filbin, Julianne Strauss-Soukup, and Sean McClory, the workshop featured talks from Tracy Johnson (UCLA), Aaron Hoskins (University of Wisconsin), and Eric Wagner (University of Rochester). Each speaker shared their own experiences and challenges followed by interactive discussions, which gave attendees the opportunity to exchange ideas and offer feedback. The organizers are now compiling input from these sessions to inform future initiatives and develop shared resources for the broader community.

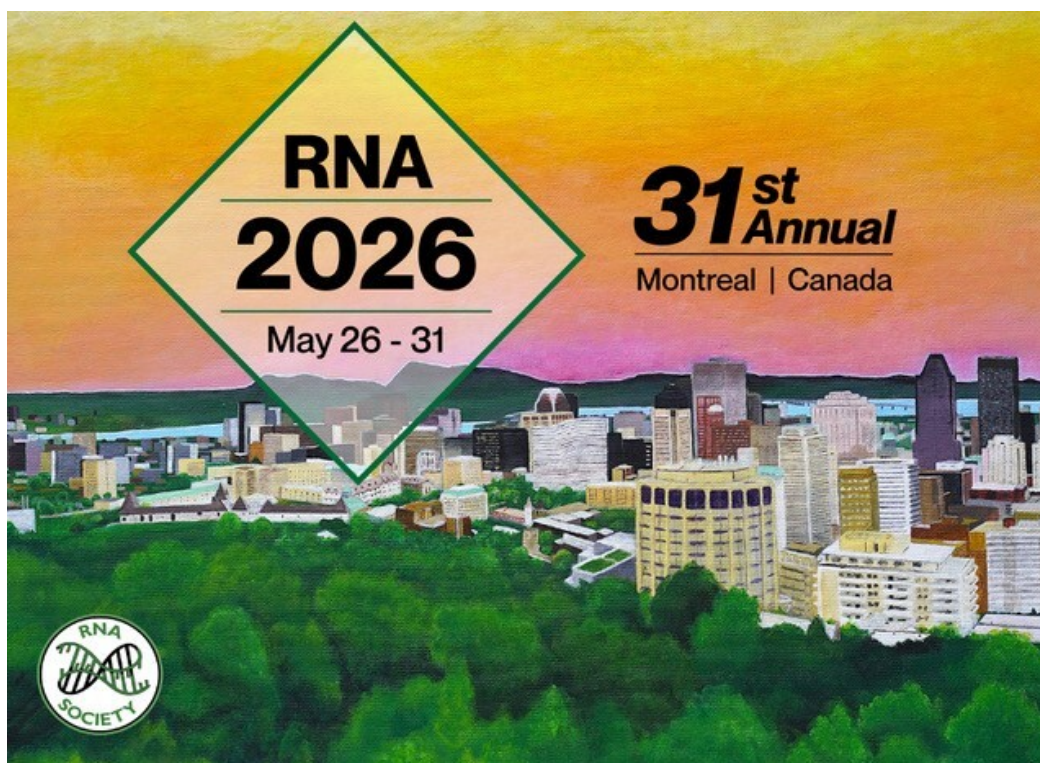
Post-event survey responses reflected enthusiasm for the format, with many participants calling for even more time dedicated to peer engagement. The event served as a catalyst for collaboration and helped advance the goals of the OpenRNA network, which aims to support inclusive, innovative RNA education for the next generation of scientists.



Amy Cooke  
For the Organizers of the "Bridging the Gap in RNA Education"



# RNA 2026: SAVE THE DATE!



## RNA JOURNAL

### RNA Impact Factor increases to over 5.0!

Wide readership and highly respected

Exceptional pricing (with discounts  
for current **RNA Society** members)

Editors are active researchers and  
academic leaders in their fields

Fast submission-to-first-decision times

Extensive Social Media promotion

*Meet the First Author Features*





# EDUCATION COMMITTEE

## Manny Ares

The Education Committee was very pleased with the outcomes of the two activities it helped support during the 2025 RNA Society annual meeting in May. Our members are both great researchers, and skilled and committed to RNA education in their various teaching roles formal and informal. In retrospect the enthusiasm for the two new meeting activities should not have been surprising but it was gratifying, nonetheless. In the pre-meeting workshop "Bridging the Gap in RNA Education", more than 120 participants heard from speakers Tracy Johnson, Aaron Hoskins, and Eric Wagner. Their thought-provoking presentations provoked spirited discussions and the organizers (Amy Cooke, Nik Tsoakos, Julie Strauss-Soukup, Meg Filbin, and Sean McClory) were pleased and got useful post-meeting survey feedback as well. (Pre-meeting Workshops have now been run twice, and although both have been on educational topics, future such workshops could be on any topic.)

For the first time, one of the within-meeting concurrent sessions had an educational theme "Training Future Scientists through RNA Research" which was chaired by Suzanne Lee (with thanks to the meeting organizers in particular Katrin Karbstein and Anita Corbett). This session was well-attended and eye-opening. Many of the presenters described formal laboratory-based undergraduate level courses they had taught in which they integrated sophisticated leading edge experimental design and technical approaches on key open questions in RNA science. Plans for the coming RNA Society meeting include having an education-themed session on a different topic (to be determined). Hearing about impactful educational

studies at the meeting better reflects the important work we do beyond discovery.

This was also the first meeting in which a concerted effort was made to identify and celebrate our pre-graduate school (undergraduate and postbaccalaureate) presenters. There were 13 poster presenters and 1 speaker this year. Posters were judged and prizes for this newly recognized group were handed out.

Coming this fall, the Education Committee is going to have an "Infographics" contest. An infographic is a visually engaging and informative poster or image that presents a coherent message, in our case about RNA. At this important time, accurate information about RNA and its beneficial medical and agricultural applications are greatly needed in a form that the general public around the world needs to understand. We are hoping to find enthusiastic, well-informed and artistically creative people to submit their infographics to our board of reviewers. They will select the best and the RNA Society will be able to use them to promote the value of RNA. Stay tuned for this, coming soon!



Manny Ares  
Chair of the Education Committee

# RNA SALONS

## Minna-Liisa Änkö

### *The first decade of the RNA Salon program*

As I am writing this, the tenth call for RNA Salon applications is about to close. I am excited to start reading about the amazing programs that prospective RNA Salon organizers have planned for their local and regional RNA communities. This is my third season as the program coordinator, and it is wonderful to see the continued interest into the program. I am privileged to engage with many of the RNA Salon organizers as they contact me during the year. I was also happy to join the one of RNA Salon events remotely, and an on-site visit to another RNA Salon is planned for the coming season.



The RNA Salon program saw further growth last season and we now have 64 RNA Salons across the world, engaging >7,000 RNA researchers. Some RNA Salons are already celebrating their 10-year anniversary this year while others are only emerging. In the current round, we will again award both one- and two-year funding. The two-year funding is intended for well-established high-quality RNA Salons that have demonstrated strong commitment to the RNA Salon program goals of enhancing interaction between RNA researchers, facilitating communication and training

opportunities in RNA research and/or promoting scientific professional development for RNA scientists. We are happy to continue our partnership with our industry sponsor

Lexogen also for the coming season.



In the past RNA Salon season, I organized both in-person and virtual get-together for the RNA Salon organizers with the goal to exchange ideas and receive feedback to further develop the program. The second RNA Salon luncheon was held at the RNA Society meeting in San Diego that was followed by two virtual sessions. One of the recurring themes in the discussions with the RNA Salon organizers was the interest in interacting with other RNA Salons in the and globally. I encourage all RNA Salon organizers to reach out and make this happen.

I hope that most RNA Society 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

# SPOTLIGHT SERIES

## Daniel L. Kiss

The RNA Society Member Spotlight Series details the lives and accomplishments of, and passes on advice from, our members. I assumed the role as the Editor in Chief of the Spotlight Series at the start of 2024. Fortunately, I don't do all the work alone. I'm lucky to have five experienced Spotlight writers (Dr. Anna Sherwood, Dr. Jennifer Porat, Dr. Julieta Rivosecchi, Dr. Paula Groza and Dr. Mai Baker) that also serve as Editors to help our volunteer writers refine their pieces. We usually publish about 2 spotlights each month and do our best to alternate spotlights by featuring an established RNA Society member (like a faculty member) and an early career member such as a student or post-doc each month. We also try to feature members from all around the world.

Importantly, we've been listening to feedback from our members and as such, we have been including a wider array of spotlight features to ensure that we highlight individuals that better represent the RNA Society's broadening membership. For example, only a few years ago every single spotlight featured a member on the traditional academic research-intensive career track. We've changed that and now include features covering faculty in primarily undergraduate student-serving institutions, non-tenure track researchers (like staff scientists), and non-academic members including Society members from industry, in science writing, and an upcoming spotlight focused on a lawyer at a biotechnology-focused patent law firm. Lastly, the Spotlight team has been making a concerted effort to write pieces on students, as postdocs have historically been featured much more often.

As a final note, all spotlights are written by volunteers. Writing a spotlight is a fun way to engage with other members of the RNA Society from around the world. If you are interested in volunteering, please send us an email to [rnapotlight@rnasociety.org](mailto:rnapotlight@rnasociety.org) and let us know.



Daniel L. Kiss

Editor in Chief of the Spotlight Series

# RNA SOCIETY JUNIOR SCIENTIST GROUP CORNER

Belén Moro, Laura Hertz, Morghan Lucas & Cameron Berry



Science, sunshine, and community—that's what defined RNA 2025 in San Diego! The meeting was packed with energy, from cutting-edge talks to spontaneous hallway conversations that sparked new ideas. We learned so much from our expert panelists (Dr. Jim McSwiggin, Dr. Meredith Corley, Dr. Georges Belfort, Dr. Nora Safa, and Dr. Gene Yeo) discussing the 'Current and Future State of RNA Medicine'. Outside the lecture halls, we kept the momentum going with a coastal hike and an exploration of San Diego's Old Town, blending science, sunshine, tacos, and laughter. It was the perfect reminder that some of the best science happens when the community comes together, with friends and colleagues old and new.

On August 1<sup>st</sup> we marked RNA Day with our annual Art & Baking Contest, showcasing the creativity of our members. This year's winners wowed us: Visual Art: Nurseda Yilmaz's 'It's Complicated' (1<sup>st</sup>), Yulnus Sahin's 'Wrapped in Silence' (2<sup>nd</sup>), Kalika Pai 'Lab Notebook' (3<sup>rd</sup>) & Culinary Art: Cameron Berry's 'Macaro-Molecular Machines' (1<sup>st</sup>), Gianpiero DiLeva's 'single cake RNA, scRNA' (2<sup>nd</sup>), and Laura Hertz's 'Taste the rainBOW Plot, RNA Hairpin' (3<sup>rd</sup>). Huge thanks to GenScript for sponsoring these contests and to everyone who shared their stunning work, and we can't wait to see what brilliant RNA creations are in store for 2026!

Want to get involved? Applications for the next RNA Society Junior Rep cohort will open soon, come join us and help shape the future of our RNA Society community!

RNA Society Junior Scientists

Belén Moro, Laura Hertz, Morghan Lucas, Cameron Berry



Photos by Patricia Baldrich





Exclusive industry sponsor  
of the 2025 RNA Society  
RNA Day Art & Baking  
Contests

# RNA Day 2025

## AUG 1<sup>st</sup>

### Bakers Artists



1<sup>st</sup>

'MacaroMolecular  
Machines'

By: Cameron Berry



1<sup>st</sup>

'It's Complicated'

By: Nurseda Yilmaz



2<sup>nd</sup>

'scRNA'

By: Gianpiero DiLeva



2<sup>nd</sup>

'WrappedInSilence'

By: Yunus Sahin



3<sup>rd</sup>

'Taste the rainBOW Plot  
of an RNA hairpin'

By: Laura Hertz



3<sup>rd</sup>

'LabNotebook'

By: Kalika Pai



# RNA SOCIETY—OFFICERS & CONTACTS

## President

Fátima Gebauer

Centre for Genomic Regulation, Barcelona, Spain

fatima.gebauer@crg.eu

## Past President

Sandra L. Wolin

National Cancer Institute, Frederick, USA

sandra.wolin@nih.gov

## Chief Executive Officer

Kristian Baker

Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, USA

ceo@rnasociety.org

## Chief Financial Officer

Kelly Campbell

Tucson, Arizona, USA

cfo@rnasociety.org

## Secretary

Hua Lou

Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, USA

secretary@rnasociety.org

## Directors

Tsutomu Suzuki

University of Tokyo, Japan

ts@chembio.t.u-tokyo.ac.jp

Neva Caliskan

Helmholtz Institute for RNA-based Infection  
Research, Würzburg, Germany

neva.caliskan@helmholtz-hiri.de

Aaron Hoskins

University of Wisconsin-Madison, USA

ahoskins@wisc.edu

Marina Chekulaeva

Berlin Institute for Medical Systems Biology,  
Germany

marina.chekulaeva@mdc-berlin.de

Andrzej Dziembowski

International Institute of Molecular and Cell  
Biology, Warsaw, Poland

andrzejd@ibb.waw.pl

Olivia Rissland

University of Colorado, Aurora, USA

olivia.rissland@cuanschutz.edu

# RNA SOCIETY—COMMITTEES & CONTACTS

## **Awards Committee**

Ambro van Hoof, Chair  
Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio  
awards@rnasociety.org

## **Business Development Committee**

Gianpiero Di Leva, Chair  
University of Salford, Manchester, UK  
bd@rnasociety.org

## **Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee**

Kehinde Ross, Chair  
Liverpool John Moores University, UK  
DEI@rnasociety.org

## **Education Committee**

Manny Ares, Chair  
University of California, Santa Cruz, USA  
RNAeducation@rnasociety.org

## **Fundraising and Development**

VACANT

## **Media and Communications Committee**

Daniel Kim, Chair  
University of California, Santa Cruz, USA  
mediacomm@rnasociety.org

## **Meetings Committee**

Adrian Ferré-D'Amaré, Chair  
National Institute of Health, Bethesda, USA  
meetingscommittee@rnasociety.org

## **Membership Committee**

Kristin Koutmou, Chair  
University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, USA  
membership@rnasociety.org

## **RNA Salon Coordinator**

Minna-Liisa Änkö  
Tampere University, Finland  
rnasalon@rnasociety.org

## **Jr. Scientists: Graduate Student and Postdoc Representatives**

Belén Moro  
Laura Hertz  
Morgan Lucas  
Cameron Berry  
junior\_scientists@rnasociety.org

## **Jr. Scientists: Faculty Advisors**

Carol Lutz  
Rutgers-New Jersey Medical School, Newark, USA  
lutzcs@njms.rutgers.edu

## **Patricia Baldrich Gonzalez**

Genome Center at the University of California–Davis  
pbaldrich@ucdavis.edu