

INRC 2025

International Narcotics Research Conference



July 8th – 11th, 2025 | Bologna, Italy

SCIENTIFIC PROGRAM

KEY NOTE SPEAKERS:

- **Plenary Lecture: Prof. Marzia Malcangio** (NIHR Maudsley Biomedical Research Centre (BRC), King's College London), title of presentation TBD.
- **Founder's Lecture: Prof. Lee-Yuan Liu-Chen** (Center for Substance Abuse Research & Department of Neural Sciences Temple University), title of presentation TBD.
- **Young Investigator Award Lecture: Prof. Tao Che** (Center for Clinical Pharmacology Department of Anesthesiology Washington University in St. Louis), title of presentation TBD.

SYMPOSIA:

- **AI-enabled drug discovery targeting opioid receptors.** Chair: Thao Che. Speakers: Tao Che, Marta Filizola, Michael Robertson, Christian Gruber W.
- **Circuits, cell types, and neural dynamics underlying opioidergic neuromodulation.** Chairs: Gregory Scherrer and Michael Bruchas. Speakers: Catalina Zamorano, Hector Yarur, Gregory Scherrer.
- **The Endogenous Opioid System and Chronic Pain: Recent Advances and Therapeutic Potential of Opioid Peptides.** Chair: Bruehl Stephen. Speakers: Stephen Bruehl, Tian Lin, José Moron Conception, Azzurra Stefanucci.
- **Novel Optical and Pharmacological Strategies to Probe the Opioid System In-vivo.** Chair: Luca Posa. Speakers: Luca Posa, Raji Gowrishankar, Miriam Stoeber, Joshua Levitz.
- **Exploring Roles of Habenula in Opioid Signaling and Behaviors.** Chair: Emmanuel Darcq. Speakers: Paul Kenny, Elissa Margolis, Tom Hnasko, Dersu Odzemir.
- **Dynorphin-expressing accumbal neurons promote maladaptive behaviors and reduce reward.** Chairs: Ethan Anderson and Nicolas Massaly. Speakers: Catherine Marcinkiewicz, Ethan Anderson, Ream Al-Hasani, Nicolas Massaly.
- **The Opioid-Nociceptin Framework: Revealing Mechanisms of Neurotrauma.** Chairs: Kelly Standifer and Georgy Bakalkin. Speakers: Kelly Standifer, Wendy Yue, Fereshteh Nugent, Georgy Bakalkin.
- **N/OFQ receptor signaling at different scales: from molecular pathways to pain and stress-related behavior via brain networks.** Chairs: Lionel Mouledous and Chiara Ruzza. Speakers: Davide Malfaccini, Lionel Mouledous, Chiara Ruzza, Elaine Gavioli.
- **Novel insights into fentanyl's diverse effects across central and peripheral systems.** Chairs: Kasey Griven and Daniel Castro. Speakers: Krystal Flores-Felix, Megan Fox, Kasey Griven, Daniel Castro.



- **Exploring the Interplay of Opioids, Cannabinoids, and Neuroimmune Mechanisms in Pain.** Chair: John K Neubert. Speakers: Robert M Caudle, Michael J Iadarola, Jay McLaughlin, Niall P Murphy.
- **Uncovering GPR-Family G Protein Coupled Receptors as Novel Pain Regulators.** Chair: John Streicher. Speakers: Amanda Fakira, Erin Bobeck, John Streicher.
- **From Neural Pathways to Molecular Insights: Advancing Treatments for Opioid Use Disorders.** Chair: Esi Domi. Speakers: Stephen Husbands, Leandro Vendruscolo, Roberto Ciccocioppo.
- **Sex-specific mechanisms underlying opioid reward, motivation, and pain-related outcomes.** Chair: Jessica Higginbotham. Speakers: Emilia Lefebvre, Yanaira Alonso-Caraballo, Tiffany Wills, Jessica Higginbotham.
- **Cortical opioid signaling regulates adaptive and maladaptive behaviors.** Chair: Max E Joffe. Speakers: Hugo Tejeda, Will Birdsong, Max E Joffe, Bruno Munoz.
- **From Pain to Addiction and Back: Unraveling Psychological and Neural Connections in OUD and AUD.** Chair: Jesús Lorente. Speakers: Jesús Lorente, Jessica Cucinello-Ragland, Abigail Kelley, Hannah Harder.
- **Opioids Beyond Pain- Roles in Mood and Motivation.** Chairs: Kathryn Braden and Anne Z Murphy. Speakers: Anne Z Murphy, Kathryn Braden, Gregory Corder, Marie Eikemo.
- **Chemistry and Pharmacology of opioid receptor modulators.** Chairs: Meritxell Canals and Susruta Majumdar. Speakers: Amynah Pradhan, Rob Lane, Cornelius Gati, Marthe Vandeputte.
- **Prenatal opioid exposure and its molecular, cellular, and behavioral outcomes.** Chairs: Julia Ferrante and Brady Atwood. Speakers: Julia Ferrante, Devian West, Anne Z Murphy, Teresa Reyes.

The scientific program will also include:

- **TWO DATA BLITZ SESSIONS**
- **TWO POSTER SESSIONS**
- **HOT TOPICS SESSIONS**
- **A PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SESSION**
- **A LUNCH AND LEARN SESSION ON “THE CLINICAL USE OF OPIOID AND NON OPIOID ANALGESICS”**



PRELIMINARY SCHEDULE

	8 Jul	9 Jul	10 Jul	11 Jul
8.30		Plenary	Founder's	YIA
9.00				
9.30				
10.00		Symposia 1 & 2	Symposia 7 & 8	Symposia 13 & 14
10.30				
11.00				
11.30		Symposia 3 & 4	Symposia 9 & 10	Symposia 15 & 16
12.00				
12.30				
13.00		Lunch & Learn1 "The use of opioid and non opioid analgesics (e.g.: paracetamol) in Italy and Europe"		
13.30				
14.00		Symposia 5 & 6	Symposia 11 & 12	Symposia 17 & 18
14.30				
15.00				
15.30		Hot topics 1	Hot topics 2	Hot topics 3
16.00	Professional development	Datablitz 1	Datablitz 2	Business meeting
16.30		Poster 1	Poster 2	
17.00				
17.30				
18.00				
18.30				
19.00	Opening			
19.30				
20.00				Banquet
20.30				
21.00				
21.30				
22.00				
22.30				
23.00				

