

Dear **SBIC members, colleagues and friends,**

Welcome to the 2021.01 edition of the quarterly newsletter published by the Society of Biological Inorganic Chemistry (SBIC), which aims to keep you up to date with important developments in our society, award deadlines and other opportunities we are supporting! We hope you have all had a good start into the new year despite the ongoing issues. Here, we provide you with the latest information from your society and we hope that you will continue to support or join SBIC as a new member. We would also like to invite you to pass the newsletter on to your students and colleagues and if you have news to share, please get in touch. Stay safe!

A Note from our President

The year 2020 will not be remembered fondly by most of the human race. Sadly, 2021 has started with mixed reviews as new, more aggressive strains of SARS-Cov2 are emerging, while hope for some relief from this global pandemic comes from the outstanding progress made on vaccine development. Over the past year, international conferences have been canceled, research progress has been stymied and, most important, lives have been lost. At the Society of Biological Inorganic Chemistry, we have attempted to mitigate the damage that this new coronavirus has had on our membership, while seeking to develop new opportunities to provide value to our members and enhance the study of metals in biology.

Our Past-President, Sue Berners-Price, ably led the society through several major transitions including negotiating a new **5-year contract with Springer-Nature to publish JBIC**, smoothing the transition to a new Editor-in-Chief (Nils Nolte-Metzler), moving the management of the society **from FASEB to MCI**, launching a new website through MemberClicks and developing a New Logo for the 25th Anniversary of the Society. With these foundational achievements, SBIC has been placed in a far superior position to weather the storm brought by the novel coronavirus. None-the-less, there still have been major obstacles to overcome over the past year and for our future. Many of the regional BICs (EuroBIC, AsBIC and LABIC) as well as related bioinorganic meetings were cancelled, postponed or presented in virtual formats that we were all previously unaccustomed to organizing or attending. Sadly, this trend continues as ICBIC20 in Adelaide, Australia has been postponed to 2023 and the subsequent conferences in California and England have been shifted to 2025 and 2027, respectively. As SBIC membership is highly correlated to meeting attendance and because of the hardships associated with the downturn in the global economy, we have experienced what is likely a temporary decrease in the size of our Society. For these reasons we have **lowered and streamlined dues for the society in 2021** and will re-evaluate the dues structure for future years. Details for all these issues can be found on the new SBIC website (<https://sbic.memberclicks.net/>).

Despite these setbacks, one should not feel that the future of our field or our society is all doom and gloom. While many research programs had a temporary stoppage, most scientists have been able to return, at least in part, to the laboratory. This will allow students to progress to their degrees and new job opportunities to arise. It also will lead to a return to the previous level of productivity, which has understandably diminished for many these past 6 months, that we are accustomed to. I encourage you to **support JBIC, our society's journal**, by submitting high quality manuscripts, refereeing articles and referencing the work published in this venue as these actions benefit our Society scientifically, economically and with enhanced prestige. Many meetings occurred in a highly successful manner in a virtual format. Our first **virtual General Assembly**, with a presentation by Chris Chang, was held in October, 2020 and was well received. Those interested in this event (<https://sbic.memberclicks.net/member-content> and log in with your membership credentials) as well as lectures from the **electronic EuroBIC** (<https://sbic.memberclicks.net/key-initiatives>) can see recordings on the SBIC website. Our Society is also supporting conference organizers through providing economic support, a Zoom subscription to disseminate lectures and also a platform to archive lectures on our website.

In order to obtain greater member input, we have organized a **Presidential Commission** (chaired by previous SBIC President Mike Hannon) to explore areas where SBIC should be more actively engaged in providing

member benefit. We hope to develop several exciting new initiatives that will increase the participation of existing members as well as encourage recruitment of young members to the society. We are also starting a major program to provide **educational resources** to our global bioinorganic community. We will serve both as an aggregator that provides to the public links to previously established educational resources that promote biological inorganic chemistry and special member resources such as lectures, flash cards and other materials that can be accessed solely by SBIC members. We also plan to document the history of our field and, specifically the people and events that led to SBIC and JBIC, that will be called **Conversations in Biological Inorganic Chemistry**. Finally, we hope to launch job resources that will benefit the younger members of our Society. Please visit the SBIC website in order to see the implementation of these new initiatives. Finally, I would like to announce that SBIC has agreed to host a **virtual Biological Inorganic Chemistry meeting (eBIC)** at some point during July/August 2021. Specific details will appear on the SBIC webpage, but we can say at this point that we would like to have a continuous presentation of seminars, posters and the general assembly over a 48 hour period in order to serve our international community equitably and fully. The organizers of the meeting will be selected from members across all geographic regions of our community. We plan that this event will be made available **free of a registration fee to all SBIC members**. Again, check the SBIC webpage for updates and do not hesitate to contact us regarding any of these proposed programs with your suggestions.

I believe that despite these times of adversity, we should as a community be able to expand and enhance the impact of the Biological Inorganic community across the world. SBIC hopes to be a leader in this endeavor. We hope that we can count on your solidarity in these efforts.

Vincent L. Pecoraro

SBIC President 2020–2022



SBIC Early Career Award 2021

The SBIC Early Career Award 2021 is open for nominations – due to the postponement of ICBIC 20 (see below), we have more time to select this year's winner and, therefore, the deadline for nominations has been extend to **February 28!**

Nomination Procedures

Letters should be addressed and the following nomination materials submitted electronically in one PDF file to the contact at the bottom of this page.

- 3 Letters of nomination/support (not to exceed 2 A4 pages) describing the accomplishments of the candidate that meet the criterion of "distinguished research in biological inorganic chemistry." Self-nomination is permitted. If submitted, up to two additional letters of support will be considered.
- Curriculum vitae of candidate, including list of publications (year of award of Ph.D. must be included)

- Copies of no more than two publications by the candidate as primary author that support the nomination

Check out this [link](#) for details!

Reminder re Membership!

Many of you will have received reminders to renew your membership with SBIC. When you do so, we would like to ask you to update your details and in particular opt in to receive emails from SBIC and the newsletter. If you haven't received an email, please follow the link below and renew or join SBIC. SBIC is highly appreciative of your ongoing support! You will also find your benefits listed for joining our society on that webpage and an active membership will also give you free access to eBIC later this year.

JOIN TODAY: <https://sbic.memberclicks.net/join-today>

One of the benefits of being an SBIC member is that you have full text access to JBIC. In order to access JBIC, log in using the link below with your SBIC credentials, and find the link to your **JBIC full text access** on that site:

<https://sbic.memberclicks.net/members-only>

Updates on Conferences

ICBIC20 – see you all in Adelaide in 2023!

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the local and international organizing committees have made the decision to postpone the Adelaide ICBIC20 from July 2021. To maintain the scheduling of the ICBIC series and timing against cognate conferences, ICBIC20 will now take place in Adelaide in July 2023. The subsequent ICBICs will be postponed accordingly by 2 years. Updates regarding details for ICBIC20 in 2023 will appear on <https://icbic2021.org/>.

eBIC – Electronic Biological Inorganic Chemistry Conference

As ICBIC20 has been postponed to 2023, SBIC will host a virtual Biological Inorganic Chemistry meeting (**eBIC**) during July/August 2021 to ensure that our community can remain connected and active through this period. More details will be announced in due course on the SBIC webpage and *via* the SBIC newsletter. We plan for a continuous presentation of seminars, posters and the general assembly over a 48-hour period in order to serve our international community equitably and fully. The organizers of the meeting will be selected from members across all geographic regions of our community. We plan that this event will be made available **free of a registration fee to all SBIC members**. Check the SBIC webpage for updates and do not hesitate to contact us regarding any of these proposed programs with your suggestions.

LABIC

LABIC will be held as an electronic conference April 6-9, 2021. Check out their webpage for further updates <https://labic2020.org.uy>.

Congratulations

We are keen to profile the success of our SBIC members and highlight recent awards and accolades. If you have received an award or know of someone who has received recognition for their work, please email the information to [Christian Hartinger](#). Great to see how many bioinorganic chemists are recognized for the hard work and achievements – congratulations everyone!

Congratulations to **Joan Broderick** (Montana State University), **Paul Dyson** (EPFL) and **Janet Morrow** (University at Buffalo, the State University of New York) who have been elected Fellows of AAAS.

Elizabeth New (The University of Sydney) was selected as the recipient of the 2020 Young Investigator Award of Chemosensors.

Congratulations to **Peter Lay** (The University of Sydney) who is the recipient of the Australian Synchrotron Lifetime Contribution Award.

Isabel Moura (Universidade Nova de Lisboa) was elected corresponding member of the Chemistry Section of the Academia das Ciências de Lisboa and **José Moura** (Universidade Nova de Lisboa) was promoted from corresponding to effective member.

Tom Ward (University of Basel) is the recipient of the ACS Lectureship 2021.



Joan Broderick
Montana State
University



Paul Dyson
EPFL



Janet Morrow
University at
Buffalo



Peter Lay
The University of
Sydney



Elizabeth New
The University of
Sydney



Isabel Moura
Universidade
Nova de Lisboa



José Moura
Universidade
Nova de Lisboa



Tom Ward
University of Basel

JBIC Update

Don't be surprised if the 2021 issues of JBIC will look a bit different to previous years! Some of you may remember that JBIC called for suggestions of images for their front cover. The winner has been chosen - watch out for the new journal cover with graphics contributed by the Sadler group!

JBIC will run a "JBIC Cover Competition" again in 2021: Corresponding authors of any paper published in JBIC in 2021 are encouraged to make a suggestion for a cool JBIC cover art. The winning cover art will be shown on the cover of JBIC throughout 2022 (*i.e.* on eight issues of our journal), completely free of cost for the authors! The only condition is that the corresponding author is a member of SBIC. JBIC is looking forward to receiving your designs – so get creative everyone!



Journal of Biological Inorganic Chemistry (JBIC) highlights

JBIC is the well-reputed journal of our society. Nils Metzler-Nolte is the Editor-in-Chief and in this role serves as a member of the SBIC Council. Nils always welcomes manuscripts with high impact results for publication in our journal. By submission of impactful articles to JBIC you demonstrate your active support of SBIC, our global learned society, regardless of whether you are a member of SBIC or not!

Here are some of the paper highlights recently published in JBIC and their full text is available free of charge until the end of March. These articles have been selected by the journal Editor-in-Chief for their exceptional interest to members of the biological inorganic chemistry scientific community.

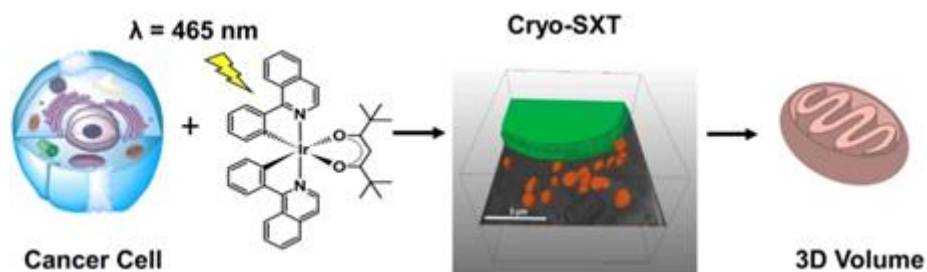
Functional mononuclear molybdenum enzymes: challenges and triumphs in molecular cloning, expression, and isolation

Breeanna Mintmier, Samih Nassif, John F. Stolz, Partha Basu

X-ray tomography of cryopreserved human prostate cancer cells: mitochondrial targeting by an organoiridium photosensitiser

Elizabeth M. Bolitho, Carlos Sanchez-Cano, Huaiyi Huang, Ian Hands-Portman, Matthew Spink, Paul D. Quinn, Maria Harkiolaki, Peter J. Sadler

Top tip: check out the [Supporting Information](#) for cool videos, very nicely illustrating the results of the X-ray tomography studies and a feature of JBIC that could also enhance the visibility of your article!



For your diary: Upcoming conferences supported by SBIC

- LABIC 7, April 6-9, 2021 in Montevideo, Uruguay (<http://www.labic2020.org.uy>).

- The International Symposium on Bioorganometallic Chemistry 2021 (ISBOMC21) in Braunschweig was postponed to 2023 and will be replaced by three ISBOMC webinars to be held on April 28, June 16 and October 13, 2021 (<https://www.tu-braunschweig.de/en/pharmchem/isbomc21>)
- 12th [International Copper Meeting](#), Sorrento, September 19-24, 2021.
- 2022 Gordon Research Conference – Metals in Biology (<https://www.grc.org/metals-in-biology-conference/2020/>)
- 2022 Gordon Research Conference – The Roles of Tetrapyrroles in Catalysis, Regulation, Metabolism and Disease (<https://www.grc.org/chemistry-and-biology-of-tetrapyrroles-conference/2020/>)

Call for applications for conference support

SBIC financially supports international meetings on subjects related to Biological Inorganic Chemistry organized by members of our society. At many of these conferences, SBIC members will pay special, discounted registration fees and students and early career members may be eligible for travel awards.

In order to be eligible for conference support, the conference organizers need to be SBIC members. Applications need to be sent to the SBIC Treasurer [Charles G. Riordan](#). Please include a detailed conference program. Diversity in gender, age, race, ethnicity, geography and research topics covering a broad range of biological inorganic chemistry is a prerequisite to obtain SBIC funding. Adequate representation from underrepresented groups, including women for Plenary and Keynote lectures in particular, and the program in general, must be demonstrated. A maximum of 2,000 US\$ (conferences) or 3,000 US\$ for student workshops will be granted to non-BIC conferences. All SBIC financial support is exclusively given out as SBIC travel bursaries to be awarded to young researchers (PhD students and postdocs), being SBIC members, and the financial support by SBIC must be acknowledged.

For ICBIC, AsBIC, EuroBIC and LaBIC, special funding rules apply. Please contact the SBIC Treasurer [Charles G. Riordan](#) for details.

National meetings and those organized by national chemical societies are not eligible for SBIC support, including Pacificchem Symposia.

DEADLINES for applications: March 1 and October 1 each year.

Stay in touch with SBIC: Follow us on our Social Media channels!

You have been included in this mailing list as a current member of the society or because you have attended a conference of the BIC series (ICBIC, EuroBIC, AsBIC, LABIC). If you would prefer not to receive this information, please let us know and we will remove your email address from the distribution list. If you would like to receive the latest SBIC news on your social media feeds, like us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/officialSBIC/>, or follow us on Twitter <https://twitter.com/sbicofficial/>. If you would like to advertise your events or anything biological inorganic chemistry-related, please email [Christian Hartinger](#) with all the relevant information.

