

Message from the President

Dear Members of the SBIC Community,

As we step into the new year, let us take this opportunity to reflect on the remarkable progress and achievements of our community over the past year. Biological inorganic chemistry continues to thrive as a dynamic and interdisciplinary field, "*bring inorganic chemistry to life*". Together, we've made strides in uncovering the fundamental roles of metals in biology, advancing cutting-edge technologies, and fostering innovative applications that address global challenges in human health, energy, and sustainability.

SBIC, which was founded 30 years ago (i.e. in 1995), is proud to foster the exchange of ideas, promote mentorship, and recognize excellence within our community. We are especially thankful for your active participation in our conferences and publications (e.g. the society's flagship journal JBIC), which have strengthened our shared mission to advance understanding at the interface of biology/medicine and inorganic chemistry. Please continue to send your best work to JBIC for publication.

Looking ahead, 2025 promises to be a year of continued growth and opportunity. We are excited to support initiatives that amplify diversity, equity, and inclusion in science, expand educational resources for junior researchers, and enhance our global outreach. Together, we will continue to build a thriving community that shapes the future of our field including with the help of AI.

We are also celebrating the 30th anniversary of SBIC this year. As we embark on this new chapter, let us continue to work together to advance science and make meaningful contributions to the society. We wish you a year filled with discovery, inspiration, and success!

May the Year of the Snake bring you prosperity and good fortune throughout the year!

Hongzhe Sun, President of SBIC

Dear SBIC members, colleagues, and friends,

We are pleased to provide the first edition of our newsletter in 2025 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 in biological inorganic chemistry. We provide you in this newsletter 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.

Upcoming Conference: Get Ready for ICBC-21!



The 21st International Conference Biological Inorganic Chemistry will be held at the Long Beach Convention Center in California, USA, Monday July 28 – Friday August 1.

Registration, hotel reservations, and abstract submission are now open at <https://www.icbic21.org/>. Registration is discounted for SBIC members.

Key dates:

28 March 2025: Abstract submissions closed

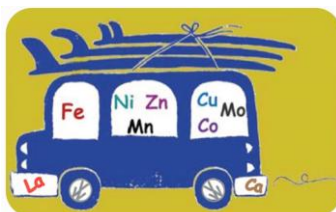
28 April 2025: Abstract results notified

2 May 2025: Early bird registration closes

13 July 2025: Regular registration closes

15 July 2025: Late registration rates applicable

Please keep an eye on <https://www.icbic21.org/> for ongoing updates. We hope to see you there!



SBIC Early Career Researchers Committee Update

We are delighted to announce that the Society of Biological Inorganic Chemistry (SBIC) Early Career Researcher (ECR) Committee was established in August 2024. This followed an open and transparent call for applications from SBIC ECRs to join this Committee. The ECR Committee is dedicated to providing a platform for the professional development of ECRs in biological inorganic chemistry. Operating under the leadership of the SBIC Council, the Committee is committed to advancing the careers of ECRs through targeted networking and career-building initiatives while championing diversity, inclusion, and representation in our community. Ultimately, the Committee aims to support the next generation of researchers in advancing the frontiers of biological inorganic chemistry.

In the inaugural meeting of the SBIC ECR Committee, the following key Committee roles were defined:

Co-Chairs: Professor Celine J. Marmion (RCSI University of Medicine and Health Sciences, Ireland, SBIC Council member 2020-2024 and Professor of Bioinorganic Chemistry) and Dr. Matthew P. Sullivan, (Lecturer, School of Biological Sciences, University of Auckland, New Zealand)

Secretary: Dr. Marian Hebenbrock (Senior Scientist (*Akademischer Rat*), Institute of Inorganic and Analytical Chemistry, University of Münster, Germany)

Communications Officer: Dr. Kushal Sengupta (Group Leader, Department of Inorganic Chemistry, Max Planck Institute for Chemical Energy Conversion, Germany)

Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) Officer: Victoria Müller (recent PhD graduate, University of Würzburg, Germany)

During the inaugural meeting, the ECR Committee developed and finalised the Committee's Terms of Reference, outlining its objectives, responsibilities, and governance structure. The work of the Committee will now focus on hosting career-building and networking events, providing mentoring opportunities, advocating for ECRs within SBIC governance, and promoting equality & inclusivity. Looking ahead, the ECR Committee is preparing to build an SBIC ECR professional network and engage with the biological inorganic chemistry community through events centred around key biological inorganic chemistry conferences.

The Committee is excited to work together to support the next generation of researchers and look forward to providing regular updates via the SBIC Newsletter and on the SBIC website.

The SBIC Council is actively seeking 2-4 additional members to expand this Committee – to ensure representation across the entire SBIC community (to include gender, diversity, career stage, geographic location, and research areas). Interested parties should submit your CV to SBIC Secretary Kara Bren at Kara.Bren@Rochester.edu



Inaugural meeting of the SBIC ECR Committee

Educational Resources for SBIC Members

We encourage you to visit our [educational resources webpage](#) where we have accumulated links to important pedagogical information and lectures to aid in teaching inorganic and bioinorganic chemistry. We will be uploading new content to this area over the next year which includes for example advanced lectures on metalloprotein design. If you are an SBIC member, you also have access to members-only content which is continuously growing. Follow this [link](#)!

Congratulations

We are happy 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 Kara Bren (kara.bren@rochester.edu). It is great to see how many bioinorganic chemists are recognized for the hard work and achievements – congratulations everyone!

The following awards were presented at AsBIC 11 in Guilin, China, in December 2024:

Takahiko Kojima (University of Tsukuba, Japan): AsBIC Outstanding Achievement Award

Jaeheung Cho (UNIST, Korea), **Guangyu Zhu** (City University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong): James Hoeschele AsBIC Award

Debasis Das (Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, India), and **Muniyandi Sankaralingam** (National Institute of Technology Calicut, India): Graeme Hanson AsBIC Early Career Researcher Award



Cho



Das



Kojima



Sankaralingam

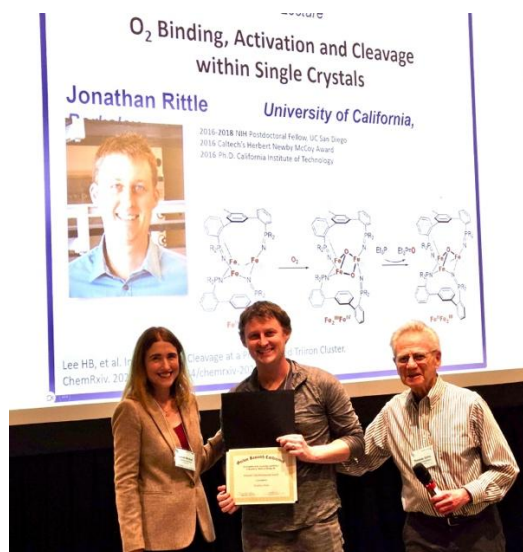


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The following awards were presented at the Metals in Biology GRC 11 in Ventura, CA, in January 2025:

Ambika Bhagi-Damodaran (University of Minnesota): Paul Saltman Award

Jonathan Rittle (University of California, Berkeley): Stiefel Award



Sarah Michel (Metals in Biology Chair) and Tom Spiro present the Saltman Award to Ambika Bhagi-Damodaran (left) and the Stiefel award to Jonathan Rittle (right)

Congratulations to all!

Conference Highlight – EuroBIC 2024

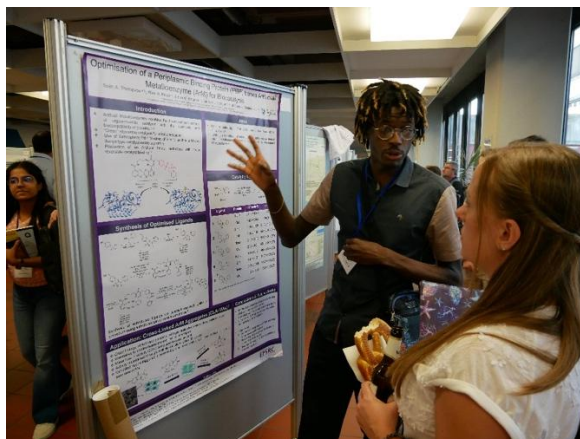
The 17th European Biological Inorganic Chemistry Conference (EuroBIC-17) took place from 25-29 August 2024 at the Institute of Inorganic and Analytical Chemistry at the University of Münster, Germany, chaired by Jens Müller, Sonja Herres-Pawlis and Nils Metzler-Nolte. A total of 422 participants from six continents presented and discussed current research from various fields of bioinorganic chemistry. Four parallel sessions with 160 lectures were offered, including 28 keynote lectures and 42 invited lectures. In addition, there were six plenary lectures and two extensive poster sessions with 212 poster contributions. As part of the poster flash presentations, 28 selected doctoral candidates and postdocs were given the opportunity to present their posters to the plenum.

One aim of EuroBIC-17 was to promote early career scientists. Hence, an entire block of 16 presentations was dedicated exclusively to doctoral students, with four prizes awarded afterwards for the best presentations based on audience votes. In addition, a networking dinner was organised for around 100 early career researchers. The SBIC Early Career Researchers Committee, dedicated to networking and promoting young scientists, was also founded during the conference.

A highlight of EuroBIC-17 was the awarding of the EuroBIC Medal to Gustav Berggren from Uppsala University (Sweden) in recognition of his outstanding scientific work in the field of biological hydrogen production. The EuroBIC Medal is a prize awarded every two years to recognise up-and-coming young scientists who are conducting innovative research in the field of bioinorganic chemistry in a European laboratory. Lastly, the conference concluded with a memorable social evening. After the conference dinner in the University student restaurant, early career researchers and veteran PIs alike retreated to the downstairs dance floor to battle out dance skills and bar perseverance until the early morning.

During the organisation of the conference, attention was paid to diversity in every respect. Even though EuroBIC is strictly speaking a European conference, scientists from all over the world were welcome. In the end, the participants came from more than 35 countries (in addition to the European countries, also from Australia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, China, India, Israel, Japan, Mexico, New Zealand, South Africa, Taiwan, Uruguay, and the USA). The proportion of women among the lecturers totalled 40%.

After an all-round successful conference, Gerard Roelfes invited the bioinorganic community to participate in EuroBIC-18, which will take place in Groningen in July 2026.



26 August Poster session



Plenary Lecture, Kylie Vincent



Early Career Researchers Networking Dinner

Updates from the Journal of Biological Inorganic Chemistry (JBIC)

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 for the next months. These articles have been selected by the journal Editor-in-Chief for their exceptional interest to members of the biological inorganic chemistry scientific community.

Tumor selective Ru(III) Schiff bases complexes with strong in vitro activity toward cisplatin-resistant MDA-MB-231 breast cancer cells: [10.1007/s00775-023-01989-0](https://doi.org/10.1007/s00775-023-01989-0)

This edition of the JBIC Newsletter features two articles from European groups, highlighting the diversity of our authorship as well as topics. First one is a great collaboration between several groups from Serbia, Croatia, and Bosnia-Herzegovina, featuring Ru Schiff base anticancer compounds, however in the oxidation state +III.

Bioactive apatite-wollastonite glass ceramics coating on metallic titanium for biomedical applications: effect of boron: [10.1007/s00775-023-02032-y](https://doi.org/10.1007/s00775-023-02032-y)

This paper by authors from Turkey is in the area of materials for biomedical applications. We would love to have more papers in this area in JBIC, with solid structure-activity relationship and inorganic chemistry.

For your diary: Upcoming conferences

- CANBIC-9, Parry Sound, Ontario, Canada, May 20-24, 2025
- 17th International Symposium on Applied Bioinorganic Chemistry (ISABC-17), Uppsala, Sweden, June 15-18, 2025
- ICBIC-21, Long Beach, CA, USA, July 28-Aug 1, 2025
- Gordon Research Conference on Cell Biology of Metals, University of Southern Maine, August 3-8, 2025
- International Symposium in Metallomic (ISM-10), Paris, France, October 26-31, 2025.
- AsBIC-12, Jaipur, India, January 7-11, 2027
- ICBIC-22, York, UK, 2027
- ICBIC-23, Jeju Island, South Korea, 2029

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 Janet Morrow. 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\$ for 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 Janet Morrow 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!

Prof. Abhishek Dey, IACS, Kolkata is managing the SBIC social media presence. Suggested contributions may be directed to him at abbeyde@gmail.com or to SBIC Secretary Kara Bren at Kara.Bren@Rochester.edu

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 "X" (formerly Twitter) <https://twitter.com/sbicofficial/>. If you would like to advertise your events or anything biological inorganic chemistry-related, please email [Kara Bren](mailto:Kara.Bren@Rochester.edu) with all the relevant information.

