ISN
International Society for Neurochemistry



Welcome to our March edition of *What's on ISN*!

March is a month of transition. At ISN, this sense of renewal is reflected in new initiatives and continued global engagement across our community.

This month, we share more about the newly launched ISN Early Career Committee initiative and the strong community response it has received. We also highlight two upcoming ISN-supported Schools in Africa, continuing our commitment to supporting neurochemistry education and collaboration worldwide.

From the Journal of Neurochemistry, we feature two notable papers from the latest issue, including one highlighted on the February cover, and remind our community about two upcoming Special Issue deadlines in April.

Here's what's new this March at ISN and JNC:



The International Society for Neurochemistry has launched a new **Early Career Committee (ECC)**, a major step toward strengthening support for researchers in the early stages of their independent careers. The initiative builds on discussions from ISN Strategy Workshops, which highlighted junior full members (researchers within ten years of their PhD) as an important group within the ISN community. The ECC will bring together representatives from different global regions, including junior full members as well as Student and Postdoc members. The committee will help develop initiatives that support early-career researchers, contribute to ISN communications and activities, and create opportunities for networking, leadership development, and community engagement across the Society. We would like to thank all members who applied to be part of this new initiative! The strong response reflects the enthusiasm and commitment of the ISN community to shaping the future of neurochemistry.

ISN-SUPPORTED SCHOOLS

Through its **Schools Support Grant**, ISN continues to strengthen neuroscience education and research capacity worldwide, particularly in emerging regions. The program provides funding for international neurochemistry schools that bring together experts and early-career researchers to share knowledge, develop technical skills, and foster scientific collaboration. In 2026, two Schools in Nigeria supported through this initiative will offer participants across Africa valuable opportunities for advanced training and networking in key areas of neurochemistry and neuroscience:

ISN School - Neurogenetics for Brain Health

University of Port Harcourt, Nigeria l 25-30 October 2026

This ISN-supported School will train young African scientists in latest neuroscience research using Drosophila melanogaster as a powerful and accessible model system. The program will cover topics including neurodegenerative disease models, genomics, bioinformatics, functional genetics, and behavioral phenotyping, alongside emerging approaches such as machine learning for biomarker discovery. Participants will also gain practical experience through laboratory sessions focused on fly handling, DNA extraction, neurotoxicity assays, and innovative low-cost laboratory tools. Organized by Dr. Chinna Orish, the School aims to equip postgraduate students, postdoctoral fellows, and early-career researchers with both theoretical knowledge and practical skills to advance neurodevelopmental and neurodegenerative disease research in Africa.

Deadline: March 20, 2026

Apply here: https://forms.gle/cuS72DcHUUNx8Qw89

ISN-ABUAD Advanced School - Stroke Neurochemistry and Cerebrovascular Resilience

Afe Babalola University, Ado-Ekiti, Nigeria | 3-10 August 2026

This ISN-ABUAD advanced School will focus on the molecular basis of stroke vulnerability and recovery, bringing together expert lecturers and hands-on training sessions for early-career researchers across Africa. Participants will explore topics such as neurotransmitter dynamics, neuroimmune signaling, cerebrovascular resilience, and brain-body cross-talk, while gaining exposure to clinical perspectives on stroke diagnostics and patient pathways. Practical sessions will include molecular assays, experimental design, and the exploration of neuroprotective compounds derived from African medicinal plants. By combining systems neuroscience, translational research, and African biodiversity, the School aims to build sustainable research capacity in stroke and neurovascular science.

Deadline: April 20, 2026

Apply here: https://tinyurl.com/ISN-ABUAD-ADVANCED-SCHOOL-2026



The new ISN Membership Year for 2026 is now open. Becoming an ISN member means joining a global neurochemistry community, with access to training opportunities, grants and awards, meetings, and exclusive member benefits throughout the year. If you haven't yet renewed or joined, now's a great time to be part of what's ahead in 2026.

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CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Have a position to share?

We're happy to help! ISN members are welcome to send us a brief description and link to any open positions they'd like to promote. Whether you're recruiting or seeking your next career step, we're here to support the community in making meaningful connections.

To have a position featured, please contact **Daniel Gospodinov** at **dgospodinov@kenes.com**.



AAV-Driven miR-146a Promotes Neurite Outgrowth and Axonal Regeneration in Cortical Neurons

Featured on the cover of the February issue of the Journal of Neurochemistry, this study highlights the therapeutic potential of miR-146a in central nervous system repair. Using an AAV-driven approach in primary cortical neurons, the authors show that overexpression of miR-146a promotes neurite outgrowth, increases branching complexity, and enhances both neurite and axonal regeneration after injury. Their findings also identify TRAF6 as a key downstream target, offering insight into the molecular mechanisms that may underlie these regenerative effects. Together, the work positions miR-146a as a promising candidate for future strategies aimed at improving axonal repair and recovery in the injured CNS.

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Neuroprotective Effects of Strength Training on Behavioral Deficit, Oxidative Damage, Astrogliosis, and Neuronal Death in a Bipolar Disorder Model

This study explores the neuroprotective potential of strength training in bipolar disorder (BD) using a well-established ouabain-induced rat model. The authors show that an eight-week strength training protocol prevented manic- and depressive-like behaviors, cognitive impairments, and several neurobiological alterations associated with BD. Notably, exercise reduced oxidative stress, suppressed inflammatory signaling through NF-κB, limited astrogliosis, and decreased neuronal degeneration in the cortex and hippocampus. By restoring antioxidant defenses and preserving neuronal integrity, the findings highlight structured strength training as a promising, low-cost adjunct strategy for managing bipolar disorder, offering new insights into how physical exercise can influence the molecular pathways underlying neuropsychiatric conditions.

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Call for Papers: Neurochemistry of the Chromaffin Cell

Submission deadline: 1 April 2026

The Journal of Neurochemistry invites submissions for a Special Issue focused on the adrenal chromaffin cell and the synaptic, cellular, and molecular mechanisms that regulate its secretory function.

This issue will explore membrane trafficking, exo- and endocytosis, calcium signaling, lipid dynamics, metabolism, neurotransmission, and stimulus–secretion coupling, as well as insights from related systems such as neurons and pancreatic beta cells. By bringing together diverse model systems and perspectives, this collection aims to deepen our understanding of the fundamental neurochemical processes that underpin autonomic physiology. Guest Editors: Prof. Arun Anantharam, Prof. Michael Cousin, and Prof. Rajesh Ramachandran.

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Call for Papers: Neurochemistry of Autonomic Regulation

Submission deadline: 30 April 2026

We also invite contributions to a Special Issue dedicated to the neurochemistry of autonomic regulation. With modern genetic, molecular, and high-throughput approaches reshaping the field, this issue will highlight advances in autonomic circuit organization, neuro-glial interactions, synaptic plasticity, afferent–efferent integration, and disease-related remodeling across the lifespan. Topics span autonomic profiling, circuit connectivity, disease impact, and emerging therapeutic strategies targeting autonomic dysfunction in metabolic, cardiovascular, and stress-related disorders. This collection aims to capture the evolving complexity of ANS regulation in health and disease. Guest Editors: Prof. Andrei V. Derbenev and Prof. James H. Peters.

Learn More

Want your JNC paper featured?

Increase your research's visibility by sharing it on social media and tagging us (**@jneurochem.bsky.social** on *Bluesky*, **@ISN_society** on *Instagram*). Or, email Daniel Gospodinov at **dgospodinov@kenes.com** with your social media handles and a suggested caption - we'd love to help spread the word!





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