

Dear members of the European *Drosophila* Society (EDS),

The goal of this message is to give you an update from the [European *Drosophila* Society](#). You receive this newsletter because you have registered on the EDS website. Feel free to share it with colleagues even if they are not registered.

1. 2023 European *Drosophila* Board elections

The aim of the European *Drosophila* Board (EDB) is to represent the full diversity of the European *Drosophila* research community (list of representatives can be found [here](#)). In the Spring of 2023, we held the first EDB elections and the new members were announced at the EDRC in Lyon, on 21st September 2023. We are delighted to welcome Mirka Uhlirova (CECAD Cologne, Germany representative), Giorgio Gilestro (Imperial College London, UK representative), Sofia Araújo (Barcelona University, Iberia representative), Osamu Shimmi (University of Helsinki, Nordic/Baltic/Netherlands/Belgium representative) and Thomas Vaccari (Milan University, Mediterranean representative) as new EDB members. We thank outgoing board members Ruth Palmer (Gothenburg University), Michael Boutros (DKFZ), Eileen Furlong (EMBL), Estee Kurant (Haifa University), Luis Teixeira (IGC) and Nic Tapon (Francis Crick Institute) for their great service as board members! Nic will become an *ex officio* EDB member to run the EDS web site, X account and elections.

Elections will be held every two years, corresponding with EDRC years, so look out for a new call for nominations by email, on the EDS site [elections page](#) and on X in March 2025! In the meantime, you don't need to be a board member to participate in promoting European fly research, so if you want to help, please contact our [working group leads](#).

2. A non-profit association 'European *Drosophila* Society' has been created

One of our priorities was to consolidate the EDS by establishing it as a charity with a legal status and a formal bank account. We are glad to inform you that the European *Drosophila* Society now exists as an official non-profit organization registered in Switzerland. The EDS Board is assisted in administrative matters by a part-time secretary. If you have registered to EDS via the website, you are automatically a member of this association. The statutes of the association can be found [on the website](#). Please read them carefully – if you feel you cannot adhere to them, you may deregister via the website. Membership remains free; members are allowed to vote for the Board and attend and vote at the annual general assembly (the last of which was held at EDRC 2023 in Lyon).

3. Sponsors

To keep EDS membership free, we are planning to raise funds from sponsors (suppliers, journals, societies) to support activities of the European *Drosophila* Society. Please [contact us](#) if you know donors, sponsors or foundations that are willing to help us, or of local start-ups in the fly field that would benefit from exposure. Our first mission will be to secure enough funds in the coming years to better support the EDRC meeting series, but we hope to launch soon other specific activities to support our communities.

4. Fly shipping

Open exchange of *Drosophila* stocks between labs in different countries is the lifeblood of our research community. To help with issues arising from the absence of coherent international regulations for sending *Drosophila* across borders, the EDS established a [Fly Shipping working group](#). Please check out their new [Fly Shipping](#) page on the EDS website. This web page contains important tips, regulatory and legal information about how

best to send *Drosophila melanogaster* across international borders. Please also take a look there at the new list of [National EDS Fly Shipping Representatives](#). A huge thanks to the 25 fly folk who have volunteered for this, which gives us coverage across the majority (but not all) countries in wider Europe. You can now contact your national rep to get up-to-date and country-specific information on how to import and export flies. Please [contact us here](#) if you would like to represent a country that does not yet have a named rep.

5. European *Drosophila* Research Conference series

The [27th European *Drosophila* Research conference](#) (EDRC) was held in Lyon on October 20-23rd and attracted over 900 participants. A massive thank you to the Lyon organizing committee that put together this vibrant scientific gathering! The 28th EDRC meeting will be taking place in Alicante, Spain (main organizers María Domínguez and Javier Morante Oria) on September 25-28th 2025. Following the call launched last year and after an open selection organized by Marco Milán, the city of Bonn, Germany (main organizers Ilona Grunewald Kadow and Nicolas Gompel) was selected for 2027.

As a community, we would like to stay informed about national and regional meetings too! Please [contact us](#) if you would like a meeting to feature on the [EDS News and Events page](#).

6. Relationship between EDS and other European *Drosophila* communities

The EDS board and Neurofly are currently exploring whether there is interest in merging some of our activities (for instance, sponsoring). The EDS can also help with national *Drosophila* meetings and other events related to *Drosophila*. These questions and others will be discussed at the next EDS board Meeting in August 2024.

We would like you to encourage your students and post-docs to register with EDS ([here](#)) as this will reinforce the strength of our association. Finally, we also want to thank all of you who contributed to FlyBase by paying your annual fee - this is an essential contribution to sustain this critical resource. FlyBase will also be very grateful if you continue your support in 2024; for administrative reasons, please contribute after 1 April 2024, when the new 5-year grant funding from NIH will start.

It is a bit late to wish you a Happy New Year 2024 but we hope you have a great time in your research!

With best regards,

Bruno Lemaitre (President) and Marco Milan (Vice-President), on behalf of the European *Drosophila* Society Board

EDS is on X: [@Fly_EDS](#) Please follow and retweet/reply to help spread community news.