



European Drosophila Society

Annual Newsletter 2026

Dear Members of the European *Drosophila* Society (EDS),
As the New Year begins, we would like to send you our best wishes for 2026. Hopefully, it will be filled with stimulating scientific discussions, ideas, and exciting discoveries. 2026 will be a particularly intense year, with many significant events for the European *Drosophila* Society.

A successful European *Drosophila* Research Conference (EDRC2025) in Alicante



Firstly, we would like to give a HUGE THANKS and congratulate organizers (led by María Domínguez and Javier Morante, and including Pepe Pastor-Pareja, Ana Carmena and Juan Antonio Sánchez-Alcañiz) of the **European *Drosophila* Research Conference (EDRC 2025)** for a wonderful

job in putting together a highly successful four-day-long meeting in beautiful **Alicante**. The meeting was attended by more than 800 people, included 12 invited speakers, and covered many research topics, such as evolution, development, neurobiology, immunology, metabolism, and cancer research. We are looking forward to the **next EDRC meetings** that will take place in **Bonn** (Germany) in September **2027** and in **Szeged** (Hungary) in September **2029**. A new call to organize the EDRC 2031 will open at the end of this year.

JEDI revival

Looking back on 2025, we were particularly pleased to witness the activities of the Junior European *Drosophila* Investigator (JEDI) community, exemplified by the revival of the JEDI meeting after lying dormant for over 10 years! **JEDIs**, early career scientists working on *Drosophila* in Europe and having recently established their independent research group, met in Paris in June 2025. The next **JEDI meeting** is already planned and will take place in Lisbon June 1 - 3, 2026. Attendance will be limited to 50 participants, so mark your calendars and check back soon for more details at <https://fly-jedi.org/meetings/>



Upcoming *Drosophila* Meetings in 2026

Although no EDRC takes place in even years, 2026 offers diverse meetings, workshops and gatherings that hopefully cater to everyone, independently of topic, geography, or scientific inclination.



DrosoSpain opens the season with a three-day meeting from April 9 - 11, 2026, in Sant Joan d'Alacant, Spain. From molecular and cell biology to development, neurobiology, evolution or systems biology, Spain has a long-standing tradition built upon the shoulders of great Spanish *Drosophilists* that contributed to the development of many biological fields. The second edition of *DrosoSpain* aims to showcase the breadth of science currently done using this model system, fostering interactions among young scientists and promoting *Drosophila* as an essential organism to tackle complex biological questions. Registration is open until February 20th, 2026.

For more information and registration, please visit: <https://drosospain.umh.es/en/>



European Drosophila Population Genomics Consortium

The **16th DrosEU meeting** and satellite *Drosophila suzukii* international conference is taking place from April 13 – 17, 2026 in Montpellier. The European *Drosophila* Population Genomics Consortium (DrosEU) is a collaborative consortium of scientists and laboratories interested in evolutionary genetics and genomics of *Drosophila* species. Its main objective is to cooperate closely in collecting, generating and analyzing

genomic and environmental data for several *Drosophila* populations across the globe. For program details and registration, please visit the [DrosEU website](#).

The annual **Swiss *Drosophila* Meeting**, organized by Emi Nagoshi, Robert Maeda, Vladimir Katanaev, and Mikhail Savitskiy, will take place on Monday June 29, 2026 at the University of Geneva, Faculty of Sciences. Registration and abstract submission will open in early 2026.

For the *Drosophila* immunology community, the **Jacques Monod Conference 'Insect immunity: the guardian of homeostasis and symbiosis'** will take place at Roscoff, Brittany, on June 22 to 26, 2026. Registration and full program details are available [here](#).

The biennial **(XXI) Italian *Drosophila* Research Conference**, organized by Daniela Grifoni, will be held on July 7–9, 2026 at the University of L'Aquila.

The **21st Biennial European *Drosophila* Neurobiology Conference – NeuroFly 2026** – will come to the University of Cologne from September 7 until 11. The organising team around



Kei Ito is putting together a wide range of sessions that will cover diverse fields of neuroscience from neuronal circuits, synapses, the connectome, signal transmission, modulation, biochemistry, metabolism, behavior, ethology, ecology, development, degeneration, regeneration, aging, injury, and disease models to computational modeling, simulation, image/video analysis, and big-data analysis. The majority of the talks will be selected from submitted abstracts, allowing a range of emerging research to be presented from junior and senior researchers. Registration opens in April 2026 at <https://neurofly.org/y2026/>.

In autumn, the Rennes *Drosophila* community is cordially inviting you to the **36th French *Drosophila* meeting** taking place on October 5 – 8, 2026 in Trégastel, Brittany. The organizing committee around Hadi Boukhatmi, Régis Giet and Roland Le Borgne have put together an exciting line-up of invited speakers from France and abroad, so save the date! Registration and conference details are coming soon!

At the end of the year, the Portuguese *Drosophila* community is inviting to **DrosTuga 2026**. Stay tuned for details coming soon.

EDS endorsement of national *Drosophila* meetings

One of EDS' missions is to promote *Drosophila* research in Europe. To this aim, EDS can provide financial backing to the various national *Drosophila* meetings. We can advance funds and offer safekeeping of conference profits between events. In return for this financial support, EDS-endorsed conferences are encouraged to provide visibility to EDS sponsors. In 2026, we endeavor to establish written endorsement agreements with national conference organizers to guarantee our sponsors maximum visibility. If you are organizing a conference for your local *Drosophila* community, and would like to be endorsed by the EDS, please get in touch with your [area representative](#)!

Changes to the EDS board

In terms of organization, the 2025 elections brought changes in the composition of the EDS Board of Directors. We would like to especially thank Virginie Courtier (Inst. Jacques Monod, France), Alex Gould (Crick Inst. London, UK), Ilona Grunwald Kadow (Univ. of Bonn, Germany), Gábor Juhász (Szeged Inst. of Genetics, Hungary), Bruno Lemaitre (EPF Lausanne, Switzerland), Daria Siekhaus (IST Vienna, Austria), and François Leulier (ENS Lyon, France) for their commitment and valuable contributions during the last four years of service as board members. And we are delighted to welcome Magali Suzanne (Centre de Biologie Intégrative de Toulouse, France), Julia Cordero (Univ. of Glasgow, UK), Marion Silies (Inst. of Molecular Biology Mainz, Germany), Rita Sinka (Univ. of Szeged, Hungary), Richard Benton (Univ. of Lausanne, Switzerland), Allison Bardin (Curie Inst., France) and Nicolas Gompel (Univ. of Bonn, Germany), who are taking over as representatives for France, UK and Ireland, Germany, Eastern Europe, Switzerland and Austria, EDB American Fly Board and EDRC organiser, respectively.

EDS best PhD Thesis Prize

As part of its long-term mission, the EDS established the best PhD Thesis Prize to support, promote and recognize researchers at the early stages of their scientific careers. We are delighted to announce that the first call for the best PhD Thesis Prize received submissions of excellent quality. The **winner** was **Jack Holcombe**, for his work entitled "Dissecting Stress Resilience Mechanisms During Epithelial Homeostasis and Repair," conducted in the lab of Helen Weavers at the University of Bristol. Jack gave a plenary talk at EDRC 2025 in Alicante. We also had two **Runners-up**: **Krish Sanghvi**, for his doctoral work entitled "Causes and consequences of male reproductive senescence", conducted under the supervision of Irem Sepil and Tom Pizzari at the University of Oxford, and **Gabriela Krejčová**, for her doctoral work entitled "The role of macrophages in the regulation of systemic metabolism in *Drosophila*", conducted in the lab of Adam Bajgar at the University of South Bohemia. Congratulations to the winner, runners-up, and many thanks to all those who submitted their fantastic work for consideration! A new call will open in December 2026.

Drosophila community resources: FlyBase

It's great to start 2026 with good news from Flybase! On the one hand, the **Cambridge FlyBase team** is extremely grateful to everyone who financially contributed or attempted to contribute during 2025. This community support, together with donations (some small and a few very large ones) and a Wellcome Trust Discretionary Award is keeping Cambridge Flybase going. On the other hand, the Cambridge Flybase team is close to setting up an annual payment system that will accommodate purchase orders and invoices where required. They will build on the information they have already gathered about requirements and work with labs and institutes to make the annual payments work smoothly. FlyBase will share further details about the payment process soon. The EDS encourages the European *Drosophila* community to continue lobbying funding bodies to allow payments from grants for essential data- and knowledgebases such as FlyBase that are not behind a paywall and will not be able to continue without sustainable financial support and contributions.

Drosophila community resources: VDRC

There are also good news from the Vienna *Drosophila* Resource Center (VDRC) regarding measures that will help ensure its long-term sustainability as an essential resource for the fly community in Europe and worldwide. First, VDRC is pursuing a strategy to enhance its attractiveness by increasing the number of **unique stocks** in its collection with broad appeal or high value for current and/or future research (found here). To contribute to this invaluable resource, you may deposit your most popular stocks, especially comprehensive sets of lines for studying specific pathways or mechanisms. Interested contributors may contact the VDRC at office@vdrc.at. Second, a **new VDRC Scientific Advisory Board** (SAB) has been established to help advise which stocks to maintain, acquire and discard. Internal members: Julius Brennecke (IMBA, Vienna), Vivian Lu Tan (Managing Director, Vienna Biocenter Core Facilities). External members: Frank Schnorrer (IBDM, Marseille), Filip Port (DKFZ, Heidelberg), Katja Röper (University of Cambridge). Third, to facilitate the ordering procedure and accommodate all users the VDRC now offers alternative payment options upon special request.

EDS visibility

We have also reinforced the **EDS'** presence on our communication channels. As always, we encourage you to follow us and actively participate via **BlueSky** ([@fly-eds.bsky.social](https://fly-eds.bsky.social)) and the **EDS website** (<https://europeandrosophilasociety.org/>), and to send us news, laboratory achievements, courses, or activities that deserve promotion (europeandrosophilasociety@crick.ac.uk).

Finally, we would like to express **our most sincere thanks for your support and for keeping the European *Drosophila* Society alive with your participation**. The society grows when its members propose, share, organize, and feel part of it. Count on the Board (<https://europeandrosophilasociety.org/board-members>) to continue promoting initiatives that are useful and representative of our community.

We wish you a 2026 full of discoveries, collaborations, and good times.

Warm regards,

Marco Milán, President of the EDS, and Mirka Uhlirova, Vice-president of the EDS, on behalf of the European *Drosophila* Society Board

EDS thanks its 2025 sponsors !

We are indebted to the following companies for their unwavering support to the *Drosophila* research community. Their generous sponsorship ensures that EDS can promote exchange of cutting-edge knowledge through our flagship international meetings, maintain and develop valuable community resources, and foster promising young scientists.



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