



2nd Roundtable of ISC unions and associations

17 September, 12:00 – 14:00 UTC

Zoom ([view the recording](#))

Minutes

🔊 Next roundtable: **12 November, 12:00 – 14:00 UTC (Zoom) – [Register](#)**

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I. Attendees




Chair: Edoardo Costantini, President, International Union of Soil Sciences (IUSS)

Organization	First name	Last name	Position
German Research Foundation (DFG)	Priya	Bondre-Beil	Senior Policy Officer
International Association of Applied Psychology (IAAP)	Lori	Foster	President
International Brain Research Organization (IBRO)	Angeliki	Lorents	External Relations & Events Coordinator
International Council for Industrial and Applied Mathematics (ICIAM)	Kenji	Kajiwara	Officer-at-Large
International Geographical Union (IGU)	Phil Michael	McManus Meadows	Vice President Past President
International Statistical Institute (ISI)	Conchita	Kleijweg	Director
International Union for Physical and Engineering Sciences in Medicine (IUPESM)	Shankar	Krishnan	Vice President
International Union for Pure and Applied Biophysics (IUPAB)	Gabriella	Viero	PhD, Senior Researcher and PI
International Union for Quaternary Research (INQUA)	Sebastian	Richiano	Vice President
International Union History and Philosophy of Technology (IUPHST)	Marcos	Cueto	President
International Union of Basic and Clinical Pharmacology (IUPHAR)	Emilio Francesca Michael	Clementi Levi- Schaffer Spedding	Secretary General President Outgoing Secretary General
International Union of Biological Sciences (IUBS)	Nathalie	Fomproix	Executive Director



International Union of Crystallography (IUCr)	Hanna	Dabkowska	Immediate Past President
International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics (IUGG)	Athena Priscilla Jan	Coustenis Grew Krynski	IUGG Bureau Member IUGG Finance Committee Member IUGG Finance Committee Chair
International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS)	David Hassina	Cohen Mouri	Treasurer President
International Union of Immunological Societies (IUIS)	Monicah	Andefa	Manager, Association Management (Grants & Partnerships)
International Union of Materials Research Societies (IUMRS)	B.V.R.	Chowdari	Director Head Office
International Union of Nutritional Sciences (IUNS)	Hyun-Sook Erica	Kim Ng	President-Elect Secretariat
International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC)	Javier Ehud	Garcia Martinez Keinan	Past-President President
International Union of Soil Sciences (IUSS)	Victor	Chude	President-Elect
International Union of Speleology (UIS)	Johannes	Mattes	Secretary General
Society for the Social Studies of Science (4S)	Marko	Monteiro	Council Member
International Science Council (ISC)	Maria	Paradiso	Governing Board Member
International Science Council (ISC)	Ana	Rada	Co-chair, Liaison Committee LAC
International Science Council (ISC)	Vanessa	McBride	Science Director
International Science Council (ISC)	Megha	Sud	Senior Science Officer
International Science Council (ISC)	Anne	Thieme	Membership Liaison Officer

II. Agenda

12:00 – 12:15	<p>1.1 Discussion on Company Associate Programmes and low-cost global online activities</p> <p>Presenter: Javier Garcia Martinez, Past President, International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC)</p> <p> View the presentation slides</p>
12:15 – 12:30	<p>1.2 Discussion on Funding through Gates foundation, income through prizes with corporate sponsors</p> <p>Presenter: Monicah Andefa, Association Management (Grants & Partnerships), International Union of Immunological Societies (IUIS)</p> <p> View the presentation slides (Please visit the Gates Foundation website for the most up-to-date information.)</p>
12:30 – 12:45	<p>1.3 Discussion on Income through investments</p> <p>Presenter: Conchita Kleijweg, Director, International Statistical Institute (ISI)</p>
12:45 – 12:55	<p>1.4 Discussion on Open science and the Future of Scientific Publishing</p> <p>Presenter: Megha Sud, Science Officer, International Science Council (ISC)</p> <p> View the presentation slides</p>



12:55 – 13:00	1.5 Discussion on Ethics of Fundraising Presenter: Anne Thieme, International Science Council (ISC)
13:00 – 13:15	2. Initiative on environmental pharmacology Presenter: Michael Spedding, Past Secretary General, International Union of Basic and Clinical Pharmacology (IUPHAR)
13:15 – 13:30	3. Incorporation of international organizations in particular countries Presenter: Phil McManus, Vice-President, International Geographical Union (IGU)
13:30 – 13:55	4. Any other business – Input to the agenda for the next roundtable – Input to the agenda of the category 1 Members forum during the General Assembly
13:55 – 14:00	5. Wrap up

III. Minutes

Welcome and Introduction

Anne Thieme

For questions, please contact anne.thieme@council.science

- This meeting is the 2nd edition of the roundtable series for ISC unions and associations, objective of the series: provide a platform for representatives of ISC unions and associations to network and exchange ideas on topics of common interest
- This meeting is a continuation of the [1st roundtable in June](#), where funding and resource challenges for unions were discussed
- Session is recorded for the purpose of writing minutes

Edoardo Costantini

For questions, please contact eac.costantini@gmail.com

- Thanked the ISC secretariat for convening the roundtable series for ISC unions and associations
- Mentioned the importance of such meetings for collaboration between unions, emphasized that it was a collective effort to share experiences, challenges, and solutions.
- Introduced the format of the discussion, reminding speakers to keep their presentations brief to allow time for questions.

1.1 Discussion on Company Associate Programmes and low-cost global online activities

Javier Garcia Martinez

 [View](#) the presentation slides

 For questions, please contact j.garcia@ua.es



- Presented an overview of the fundraising efforts at the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC), using their website as a guide to explain related IUPAC programmes. Key points included:
- **Company Associate Program:**
IUPAC partners with the chemical industry for mutual benefits, including collaboration and funding. Companies can nominate individuals to committees and submit proposals. The website allows potential sponsors to easily express interest and contribute funding. [Read more](#)
- **Global Women's Breakfast:**
Held annually on February 11th, this event promotes gender diversity in science. It has grown significantly, with over 1,500 events across 100 countries. Sponsors are invited to support the event, and the website provides an easy process for them to sign up. [Read more](#)
- **Periodic Table Challenge:**
A global trivia game on the periodic table that engages participants worldwide. It serves both educational purposes and as a sponsorship opportunity, attracting a wide range of corporate partners. [Read more](#)
- **Top 10 Emerging Technologies in Chemistry:**
This initiative invites nominations of cutting-edge technologies, promotes awareness, and attracts sponsors. [Read more](#)
- **Awards and Publications:**
IUPAC offers several prestigious awards and publications, such as the Solvay International Award for young chemists, which brings in revenue and increases visibility. [Read more](#)
- **Grants and Online Store:**
IUPAC has also secured significant European grants (e.g., €2 million from the European Commission for a project on digital chemistry formats). They further raise funds through an online shop that sells branded merchandise. [Read more](#)
- Emphasized the role of **volunteers** in making these initiatives successful.

Conchita Kleijweg

- Asked about the resources needed to create such a polished presentation of activities, noting how professionally presented the website and initiatives were.
- Javier responded that while initial investments in marketing and web design were significant, the projects became self-sustaining over time, largely due to volunteer efforts.

Priscilla Grew

- Asked how these initiatives first emerged from a traditional union.
- Javier explained that the [International Year of the Periodic Table](#) (2019) was a significant driver, leading to new ideas like the Periodic Table Challenge and the Global Women's Breakfast.

1.2 Discussion on Funding through Gates foundation, income through prizes with corporate sponsors

Monicah Andefa

👉 [View](#) the presentation slides

! Please visit the [Gates Foundation website](#) for the most up-to date information

✉ For questions, please contact mandefa@kit-group.org

- Discussed the process of securing grants from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, highlighting their approach to funding global health, education, and poverty alleviation projects:
- **Funding Approaches**
Direct solicitation by the foundation; invitations to consortia of organizations; official grant applications through their website
- **Application Process**
Applicants work with the foundation through an extensive proposal and budget preparation process; the foundation conducts due diligence before deciding whether to fund the proposal



- **Post-Grant Process**
After approval, the grantee is responsible for reporting regularly on progress and maintaining communication with the foundation
- **Generating Income through Awards and Prizes**
Monicah shared strategies for securing corporate sponsors for prizes, which involve identifying sponsors aligned with the organization's goals and promoting the prize through testimonials, videos, and other media

Anne Thieme

- Asked for specific examples of grants IUIS had received from the Gates Foundation
- Monicah explained that IUIS had primarily received funding for travel grants linked to conferences but had not yet pursued larger research grants.

Shankar Krishnan

- Asked about the foundation's impact on medical technology, particularly in ultrasound and medical devices
- Monicah mentioned the foundation's initiatives in post-partum haemorrhage management and vaccine development but did not have specific figures at hand

Hyun-Sook Kim

- Asked for specific examples of contacting companies to find sponsors for prizes and awards.
- Monicah recommends researching the foundation and its interests and reaching out to staff who are knowledgeable about the focus of the award.
- She gave an example of an immunology award valued at \$40,000 and explains that benefits such as public recognition and visibility are provided in return for the sponsorship.
- Monicah emphasized the importance of aligning the prize with the sponsor's interests and priorities.

1.3 Discussion on Income through investments

Conchita Kleijweg

 For questions, please contact c.kleijweg@cbs.nl

- Described how the International Statistical Institute (ISI) manages its investment portfolio:
- **Investment Strategy**
ISI holds an investment portfolio of €2.6 million, previously managed by the organization, but as of January 2024, now fully managed by a Dutch bank.
- **Green Investments**
The portfolio is focused on sustainable investments aligned with ISI's values.
- **Moderate Risk Profile**
The institute takes a moderate approach to investment risk and focuses on long-term growth, using dividends as part of their annual income.
- **Challenges**
In 2022, ISI faced significant losses due to market fluctuations, but overall, the strategy has been profitable.

Shankar Krishna

- Asked about the management fees associated with their investment strategy and about the bank selection process, and whether the fees depend on portfolio performance.
- Conchita confirmed that while there are fees, the bank's expertise justifies them, given their ability to respond to market changes quickly, and explained that the ISI consulted a finance committee with financial experts, statisticians and central bank staff to select a suitable bank.



Edoardo Costantini

- Asked whether there was resistance from the ISI leadership to the proposal to delegate the management of investments to a bank.
- Conchita reported that the leadership understood the reasons for the proposal and acknowledged the long decision-making process in self-government. Leadership members were uncomfortable with investment decisions and were happy to have a professional organization take care of it.

Michael Spedding

- Inquired about the mechanisms for monitoring the bank and ensuring that the ISI's ethical principles are adhered to
- Conchita explained that the ISI maintains a regular dialogue with the bank to review the performance of the portfolio and ensure that investment guidelines are adhered to. The Finance Committee of ISI plays an active role in monitoring the bank and reviews its investment decisions.

1.4 Discussion on Open science and the Future of Scientific Publishing

Megha Sud

 [View](#) the presentation slides

 For questions, please contact megha.sud@council.science

- Spoke about Open Science, a topic relevant to many organizations present as publications are an important source of funding.
- Presented ISC resources that provide an overview of open science and encouraged feedback and participation in ISC initiatives.
- **ISC commitment to Open Science:** focuses on three main areas
 1. Normative Principles: [Working with UNESCO](#) to develop recommendations for Open Science, to which ISC Members have provided extensive feedback.
 2. Open Data: Work on FAIR data principles and data interoperability through the ISC [Committee on Data](#).
 3. [Future of scientific publishing](#): A special project that addresses the challenges and opportunities of open access and open science.
- **Key ISC publications and projects**
 - [Opening the record of science](#): Provides a comprehensive analysis of the open science landscape and key challenges, based on feedback from ISC members.
 - Publication on the history and background of the Open Science movement "[Open Science for the 21st Century](#)": Contains recommendations for various interest groups on how to deal with Open Science.
 - Discussion papers on [business models and market structures](#), [preprints](#) and [research integrity](#): Deepen specific aspects of Open Science.
 - [Scientific Publishing Reform Document](#): Summarizes the key challenges and [principles](#) for Open Science adopted by ISC Members at the last General Assembly.
- Sud emphasized the importance of managing the dissemination of science and giving the scientific community a say in shaping open science.
- ISC's 8 principles, adapted by Members provide a solid basis for work on reform of scientific publishing.
- **Research assessment and Open Science:**
 - Highlighting the connection between Open Science and research assessment reform, arguing that the two topics are intertwined with each other.
 - Referred to ISC's collaboration with the Global Young Academy (GYA) and the InterAcademy Partnership (IAP) to analyze the current discussion on research assessment and identify best practices; two reports resulting from this collaboration:
 1. "[The future of research evaluation](#)" - a synthesis of current debates and developments in the field of research assessment.
 2. "[Snapshots of reform: Researcher evaluation within science organizations](#)" - an analysis of ISC, IAP and GYA members' experiences with research assessment reform, highlighting lessons learned, gaps and challenges.



- **Preprints campaign**
 - ISC's campaign on preprints is aimed at early-career researchers in various regions and aims to dispel myths and demonstrate the benefits of preprints.
 - Preprints are not the only solution, but are a good starting point for involving researchers in the open science discussion.
 - **Forum for the Reform of Scientific Publishing**
 - ISC's Scholarly Publishing Reform Forum aims to bring together diverse stakeholders to promote coordinated action and information exchange.
 - Forum aims to universalize the discussion on Open Science, avoid duplication and learn from each other.
 - Most important topics discussed: Access to scientific findings, open data, peer review, research evaluation and the management of scientific publishing.
 - **Collaboration with scientific associations**
 - Importance of collaboration with scientific associations in shaping open science and refers to a joint paper by the ISC and several associations that emphasizes the need to involve the scientific community in the open science discussion.
 - Composition of the forum includes funders, infrastructure experts, alliances and scientific communities, and encourages scientific associations to actively participate.
 - **Opportunities for participation**
 - Active participation in the forum for the reform of academic publishing: contributing to fundamental discussions about the future of academic publishing.
 - Participation in a series of interviews about the challenges and insights from publishing specialist journals: exchanging experiences and networking with other associations.
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1.5 Discussion on Ethics of Fundraising

Anne Thieme

✉ For questions, please contact vivi.stavrou@council.science

- Anne spoke on behalf of her colleague Vivi Stavrou about the topic of ethics of fundraising
- The ISC Committee for Freedom and Responsibility in Science (CFRS) has recently put together a working group on "funding transparency" with the possibility of developing an ISC statement or position
- Anne asked for input from participants on the most important related ethical concerns and encouraged those interested in contributing input to contact Vivi Stavrou
- Related blog post "[Fighting disinformation with sunshine: promoting funding transparency in science](#)" by Craig Callender

Edoardo Costantini

- Asked whether the ISC will publicize the initiative through its regular Members newsletter
 - Anne will contact Vivi to clarify whether planning is advanced enough to launch an open call; if so, the ISC will certainly publicize the initiative through its weekly mailings
-

2. Initiative on environmental pharmacology

Michael Spedding

✉ For questions, please contact michael@speddingresearchsolutions.fr

- Environmental pharmacology initiative that aims to change the way pesticides are evaluated.
- Of interest to various scientific associations, and many have already pledged their support.
- **Key points of the initiative**
 - Proposes to establish environmental pharmacology as an integral part of pesticide risk assessment with the aim to better understand the effects of pesticides on non-target organisms, including humans.



- **Current status and next steps**
 - [Joint paper](#) was written by IUPHAR and will be submitted for publication in the journal "Science"; final version will be submitted to the editorial team shortly
 - Michael expects that the paper can be forwarded in a few weeks to other scientific associations that wish to co-sign it.
 - **Significance of the initiative**

Michael emphasized that the initiative represents a significant step as it could change the way pesticides are assessed and lead to a more comprehensive understanding of their impact on the environment and human health.
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3. Incorporation of international organizations in particular countries

Phil McManus

✉ For questions, please contact phil.mcmanus@sydney.edu.au

- IGU is un-incorporated and maintains accounts in three different countries, which creates challenges in managing finances.
- Current situation is not sustainable and depends on the preferences of individuals within the IGU
- **Looking for strategic advice**
 - Phil/IGU seek advice and information from other international organizations that have had similar experiences with onboarding and managing accounts in different countries
 - He acknowledges that the IGU is a small organization with limited resources, which makes decision-making on this matter difficult.

Priscilla Grew

- Suggested that IGU could consider registering in a country with a stable political and legal environment, such as Denmark, where the IUGG has used the same bank for many years; advantages: clear legal frameworks, tax advantages and easier financial management.

Conchita Kleijweg

- ISI's experiences with integration in the Netherlands: Labour/staff costs are high but ISI knows the national regulations and it's a stable country
- Emphasizes the importance of transparent and accountable financial management.

Johannes Mattes

- Highlights the challenges associated with high bank fees for international transfers, which is why the UIS (whilst based in Slovenia) has bank accounts on different continents (USA, Europe)

Edoardo Costantini

- IUSS is registered in the USA, rules and regulations are "easier and friendlier" compared to Europe
 - Bank and Treasurer based in Austria
 - Moved IUSS secretariat recently to Italy because salaries are lower compared to other European countries
 - Highlights that national legislation can change and organizations need to be flexible to adapt to new requirements to comply with relevant laws and regulations in the registered country (Italian IUSS national society had to change their statutes several times to comply with rules that changed at the national level)
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4. Any other business

Discussion about the decline in membership numbers in unions and associations



Priscilla Grew

- Addressed concerns about declining national membership within the IUGG and global declining interest in financially supporting the union, and asks whether other unions and associations are experiencing similar trends
- Explained that IUGG depends primarily on dues from member nations and that the decline in paying members is affecting the association's financial situation. It has been suggested that countries not paying dues for many years should have their contact information deleted from the IUGG Yearbook.

Edoardo Costantini

- Suggested to include this topic on the agenda of the next roundtable
- Does not have the realistic figure of individual members of IUSS' members, which are national societies
- IUSS national society membership is slightly increasing

Shankar Krishnan

- Shared the IUPESM experiences challenges in collecting membership fees particularly from national societies in low-income countries
- IUPESM created regional representative groups to try and solve the issue of membership dues payment

Hanna Dabkowska

- IUCr has, like IUSS, national societies as members, and national society membership is slightly increasing
- IUCr regional associates (which deal with individual members) membership is low

Hassina Mouri

- IUGS is facing decline in membership, like IUGG, and Hassina suggests that this could be the result of overlap of topics of interest between unions
- Suggests that unions consider merging to strengthen their membership base and financial resources.
- IUGS managed in attracting new members, particularly from Africa
- Lack of knowledge of the existence of unions

Johannes Mattes

- UIS also has national societies as members, and whilst membership is slightly increasing in general, there is high fluctuation among low-income countries and countries with geopolitical conflicts
- Another issue: the UIS is struggling to mobilize presidents and members to work within their 20 scientific commissions

Edoardo Costantini

- IUSS faces similar challenges whereby sometimes the positions of officers are taken just for the curriculum, without realizing that it implies a lot of work, on a voluntary basis

Michael Meadows

- Expressed concern about the IUGG considering to remove from its website the contact information of countries in long term observer status that have not paid their membership dues for many years.
- Argued that this measure could be counterproductive and that IUGG should instead try to maintain communication with these countries.

Nathalie Fomproix

- IUBS introduced an "associated" free memberships for countries that cannot afford the regular contributions, to trial membership and be part of the network, however, this system is not always effective as countries can enjoy the benefits of membership without paying contributions for many years if they remain unable to pay

Edoardo Costantini

- Stresses that the challenges related to membership are linked to the overall problem of fundraising
- If associations have sufficient funds from donors, they could waive or reduce fees for low-income countries



- Highlighted the importance of enabling members from countries with limited resources to participate in conferences and other activities.

Sebastian Richiano

- Described his role as INQUA Vice President and INQUA liaison for Latin America, and his efforts to increase the participation of researchers from the region and integrating Latin American countries into the association (most relevant scientific associations in the LATAM region are unable to pay INQUA dues)

5. Wrap-up

Anne Thieme

- Mentioned the role that national ISC Member (academies, research councils, etc.) could help drive membership for international unions and associations
- Reminded that everybody is welcome to submit ideas for topics for this roundtable series on a rolling basis
- Reminded that [registration](#) for the “Muscat Global Knowledge Dialogue and Third ISC General Assembly” (26 - January 30, 2025, Oman) is open until 30 November

Edoardo Costantini

- Thanked everybody for their contributions

IV. Follow-up actions

- **@all – Ethics of fundraising:** As a follow-up to agenda item “1.5 Discussion on Ethics of Fundraising” – The ISC [CFRS](#) is considering the possibility of developing a relevant ISC statement or position: Please contact vivi.stavrou@council.science if you are interested in contributing inputs on “funding transparency” and “ethics of fundraising” to the working group
- **@all – environmental pharmacology:** To contact michael@speddingresearchsolutions.fr should your organization wish to support the [joint paper](#) by IUPHAR.
- **@all – GA category 1 Members forum:** Please send any input/suggestions for topics for the forum of category 1 Members on 29 January at the [ISC General Assembly](#) (Oman) to anne.thieme@council.science.
- **@all – Input to next roundtable:** Please send any ideas for topics for the roundtable series on a rolling basis to anne.thieme@council.science.
- **@all – GA registration:** A kind reminder to those who are planning to attend to please [register](#) for the “Muscat Global Knowledge Dialogue and Third ISC General Assembly” (26 - January 30, 2025, Oman) by 30 November.
- **@ISC secretariat – Next roundtable:** To be scheduled in November (actioned – 12 November)
- **@ISC secretariat – WhatsApp group:** Create a WhatsApp group for representatives of ISC unions and associations within the ISC WhatsApp community (actioned – join via <https://chat.whatsapp.com/DtWaZwyjJTS1zLiAYLG55R>)
- **@ISC secretariat – Shared folder:** Create a shared folder to make all documents related to the roundtable series available to representatives of ISC unions and associations
- **@ISC secretariat – Table with unions data:** As a follow-up to agenda item “3. Incorporation of international organizations in particular countries”, create a shared spreadsheet to collect data on the registration and financial information (location of accounts/Treasurer) of ISC international unions and associations



V. Suggested topics for future meetings

- Using New Technology and AI for Fundraising, Recruitment, and Retention: Explore how digital platforms, new technologies, and AI can be leveraged to enhance fundraising efforts, member recruitment, and retention. Discuss successful case studies and practical implementations.
- Evaluating and Reporting on Ethical Investments: Investigate how unions and associations assess and report the ethical aspects of their investments. Discuss best practices, challenges, and the impact on governance and transparency. Share experiences with external evaluations and how these findings are communicated to boards and stakeholders.
- The Psychology of Motivating Donations: Explore the psychological principles that drive individuals and organizations to donate. Discuss effective strategies and approaches for soliciting donations, including insights from psychological science and practical examples.
- Trust in Science: Exploring the psychological factors influencing public trust in scientific research and how to enhance it.
- Behavioural Science and Policy: How behavioural science can inform and improve policy-making processes.
- Gender Equality in STEM: Psychological strategies for promoting gender equality and inclusivity in science and technology fields.
- Ensuring the next generation of scientists