



INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR Viruses of Microorganisms

ISVM NEWS

September
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Viruses of Microbes 2026: *Revealing Novel Interactions, Innovations, and Applications*

Thanks to all for a wonderful conference in Prague! The Viruses of Microbes 2026 Meeting, held in Prague, Czech Republic, from July 6–10, brought together the largest number of participants ever: **more than 900 participated from over 50 countries**, creating an exciting opportunity to connect with a diverse range of people within the international viruses-of-microbes community.



An important ambition of VoM 2026 was to bring science, industry, and business closer together. Over five days, the scientific program reflected the breadth and rapid development of the field, with 50 oral presentations, 45 flash talks, and approximately 750 posters. Topics ranged from fundamental virus–host interactions, ecology, and evolution to phage therapy, biotechnology, bioinformatics, and artificial intelligence.

The conference gave particular attention to Early Career Researchers. With support from ISVM, FEMS, and other conference partners, ECRs benefited from reduced registration fees and dedicated activities that improved their presentation skills and increased the impact of their flash talks. Eight ISVM prizes were awarded for work presented in each of the conference topics, as well as the best overall meeting oral presentation, as follows:

- Bioinformatics and AI: Leighton Payne
- Viral Ecology: Daniel Sin
- Viral Evolution: Matthew Craske

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- Host Interaction: Justine Groseille
- Virus Structure and Function: Murielle Seif el Dahan
- Synthetic virology: Maarten Boon
- Viromes: Kim Kreuze
- Best overall talk: Sabine Schwarzer

Special thanks to our partner **Intralytix** for their generous additional support, providing prizes for the best oral and poster presentation on the topics of phage therapy and Bioremediation/Environmental & Agricultural Applications:

- Phage Therapy Oral: Jose Alejandro Bohorquez
- Phage Therapy Poster: Ivone Martins
- Bio/Env & Agr Applications Oral: Emily Grace
- Bio/Env & Agr Applications Poster: Lucija Nuskern Karaica

Congratulations again to all our deserving winners!

A special award for outstanding contribution to the field of Viruses of Microbes was given to Professor Ian Molineux! We were delighted to celebrate Ian Molineux for a career that has profoundly shaped phage biology. Through more than 35 years of pioneering work on bacteriophage T7, Ian transformed our understanding of viral infection while inspiring generations of researchers. Beyond his scientific achievements, Ian has been a dedicated editor, community leader, mentor, and collaborator. His intellectual generosity, curiosity, and willingness to engage with others have left an enduring mark on the science and the people of our community.



We would also like to acknowledge the contributions of the sponsors! The meeting was supported by 17 sponsors and exhibitors representing biotechnology companies, technology providers, research organizations, and other stakeholders active in the field. We gratefully acknowledge and thank all our sponsors and exhibitors for their active participation, their presence, and contributions, which helped make it possible to bring together leading speakers and created opportunities for researchers and industry representatives to meet directly, exchange ideas, and explore how scientific discoveries can be translated into practical applications and new collaborations.

Thanks to Milan Bunata, the main organizer of VoM2026, for his hard work and contribution to our society! Beyond the formal scientific program, VoM 2026 offered many opportunities for networking and informal interaction, complemented by social activities and the Prague-themed “Discovery of Golem Phage” game. The meeting demonstrated not only the scientific strength and diversity of the international Viruses of Microbes community but also its growing ability to connect fundamental research with innovation, industry, and real-world applications.



Viruses of Microbes 2028 Meeting

The first VOM meeting was held in Paris in 2010, and since then it has been held in Brussels, Switzerland, Liverpool, Poland, Portugal, Georgia, Australia, and Czechia. VOM is an international meeting with global reach. We are excited to announce that the next Viruses of Microbes meeting will be held in Lyon, France, from the 3rd to the 7th July, 2028, with their chosen conference theme, “The invisible architects of life.

Save the date!

ISVM General Assembly 2026: Highlights and Future Directions

ISVM is a society for researchers studying viruses that infect archaea, bacteria, and eukaryotic microorganisms. With a diverse global membership and a commitment to advancing scientific knowledge, ISVM fosters collaboration and supports the next generation of researchers in the field. The ISVM General Assembly, held in Prague, Czech Republic, during Viruses of Microbes (VoM) 2026, provided an opportunity to reflect on the Society’s recent activities, share important updates, and discuss priorities for its continued development.

The meeting highlighted ISVM’s growing international community, now comprising approximately 1,750 members from more than 100 countries, as well as several initiatives to strengthen member engagement and benefits. Updates included the launch of the new ISVM website, continued support for national and regional societies, expanded communication through newsletters and social media, the iVoM webinar series, awards for Early-Career Researchers at VoM, and new collaborations and member benefits, including a new partnership with Frontiers in Microbiology. The 2026

iVoM4 webinar series featured 24 speakers, including 18 early-career researchers, representing 11 countries, and attracted 375 registrants.

An important part of the General Assembly focused on the future direction of ISVM and feedback from our members. Survey results highlighted strong interest in scientific webinars, support for students and early-career researchers, travel awards and scholarships, career development, regional networking, mentorship, special interest groups, and international collaboration. Members also expressed interest in new initiatives, including an Early Career Researcher Network, mentorship and career-development programs, grant-writing workshops, and regional chapters.

The insights gathered through the survey, discussions, and member feedback will be used to develop a 3-5-year strategic development plan, helping us identify priorities, strengthen our programs and services, and ensure we continue to meet the needs of our community. We thank everyone who engaged in the conversation and took the time to provide valuable and timely feedback.



ISVM Executive Board Elections - Call for Candidates

ISVM is pleased to announce the upcoming Executive Board elections. We encourage all members to consider standing for one of the available positions and help shape the future of ISVM.

Key dates:

- Application deadline: October 27th, 2026
- Voting: November 10 - 22nd, 2026
- Results announced: November 30 th, 2026
- Transition period: December, 2026
- New board takes office: January 2027

Available positions:

- President-Elect

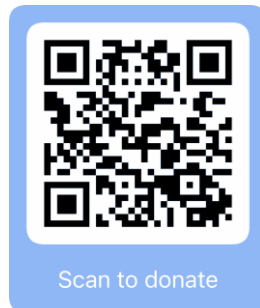
- Vice-President
- Information Officer
- Website Administrator
- Treasurer
- Membership Secretary

All ISVM members are eligible to run for these positions. **Interested candidates should complete the application form that all members will receive by email and submit it to membership@isvm.org by October 27th, 2026, 5 pm CET.**

Please feel free to contact the President-elect, Rob Edwards, robert.edwards@flinders.edu.au, for questions and find more details on <https://isvm.org/#about>

Donate to ISVM

This society is for, and made possible by members like you! Please consider donating to ISVM. The International Society for Viruses of Microorganisms was established as a non-profit organization in 2011 to encourage collaboration among students, researchers, organizations, and companies to advance our understanding of viruses that infect microorganisms. We aim to cultivate networking, learning, and employment opportunities. Our meeting activities, like the Viruses of Microbes conferences and iVoM series, are supported by sponsors and donations.



You can donate at any time using the QR code to the right or by following the link below: [Donate to ISVM](#). **Please feel free to share the QR code** through presentations **and when talking** with colleagues, family, and friends. ISVM thanks you for your support!

ISVM Membership

The International Society for Viruses of Microorganisms boasts an impressive 1,750 members from over 100 countries! We invite you to join this ever-expanding community, where we collectively redefine the possibilities of the world of Viruses of Microorganisms.

Please spread the word and **encourage your colleagues and young scientists to join our global community.** Register today [here](#)!



ISVM Partners

ISVM - Frontiers in Microbiology Partnership

Following an inspiring week in Prague for Viruses of Microbes (VoM 2026), we are delighted to share more details on the new collaboration initiative between Frontiers in Microbiology and our society. Officially announced at the General Assembly at #VoM2026, this collaboration initiative aims to advance open science and support the global community of viruses of microorganisms through joint activities that benefit researchers at all career stages.

Key initiatives include:

🎓 ECR Editorial Academy - a dedicated program designed to support early-career researchers through editorial training, mentorship, and insights into the publishing process.

👉 Support for ISVM members - increasing research visibility, providing exclusive opportunities, including APC discounts, and fostering future collaborative initiatives.

We look forward to working together to strengthen our community and create new opportunities for researchers worldwide. For questions about this collaboration initiative, please get in touch with microbiology@frontiersin.org

Thank you to our partners!

