

From: International Union of Basic and Clinical Pharmacology <admin@iuphar.org>
Sent: Monday, 30 March 2026 10:28 PM
To: ASCEPT Secretariat
Subject: IUPHAR News, Articles, and Updates

Categories: Jess

IUPHAR News

2026 | March



IUPHAR Quick Links

[News Page](#)

[WCP 2026](#)

[Membership](#)

[Upcoming Society Conferences](#)

[IUPHAR Website](#)

[Executive Office Email](#)

A Letter from Prof. Francesca Levi-Schaffer, IUPHAR President

2026 is already an exciting year for IUPHAR, filled with new initiatives, collaborations, and opportunities to celebrate excellence in pharmacology.

Preparations for the 20th World Congress of Basic and Clinical Pharmacology (WCP2026) in Melbourne are well underway. The Congress, to be held July 12–17, will feature a rich program of symposia, workshops, and networking sessions. We are delighted to announce that Michael Spedding will receive the Lifetime Achievement Award and deliver a lecture recognizing his outstanding contributions to the field.

Early-career researchers are playing a prominent role in the Congress, both through abstract submissions and dedicated mentoring sessions.

We are grateful to ASCEPT for their commitment in making this event possible.

Our Sections and Committees continue to lead important initiatives. The Clinical and Translational Section is coordinating World Smart Medication Day (May 7, 2026), themed “Race, Ethnic and Socioeconomic Influences on Clinical Pharmacology.” Member societies are encouraged to engage through the student poster competition, the global webinar, and local activities, helping to raise awareness of safe and effective

medication use while fostering international collaboration among students and early-career researchers.

IUPHAR's educational programs remain a core focus of IUPHAR. The education section is doing a remarkable work including a workshop in WCP and a satellite meeting. The webinar series in collaboration with Elsevier is now in its second year, attracting growing participation and providing high-quality, accessible learning opportunities for both established and emerging scientists.

Another milestone for our community is the Concise Guide to Pharmacology 2025/26, recently published in the British Journal of Pharmacology. This resource, curated by NC-IUPHAR and the Guide to Pharmacology database team, provides authoritative guidance on pharmacological targets, supporting both new and experienced researchers.

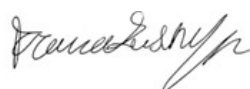
We are also pleased to report that the IUPHAR website is now live, offering improved navigation, accessibility, and expanded digital resources to enhance engagement and communication across our global network.

I also want to acknowledge the challenges faced by pharmacologists working in low-income countries. Limited resources and infrastructure can create significant barriers, but these colleagues continue to demonstrate remarkable dedication. IUPHAR remains committed to supporting them through educational initiatives, mentorship programs, travel grants, and open-access resources.

Looking ahead, we will continue to focus on fostering collaboration across basic, translational, and clinical pharmacology, supporting early-career scientists, and promoting rigorous, evidence-based research that benefits patients globally. I encourage all members and affiliated societies to engage actively in our initiatives as we approach WCP2026.

Thank you for your continued commitment to IUPHAR. I look forward to seeing many of you in Melbourne, where we will celebrate our shared achievements and the future of our global pharmacology community.

With warm regards,



Francesca Levi-Schaffer
IUPHAR President

Upcoming Events



WCP2026 Melbourne

The 20th World Congress of Basic and Clinical Pharmacology (WCP2026) is fast approaching! Join us from 12–17 July 2026 in Melbourne, Australia, for six days packed with cutting-edge science, innovation, and collaboration across the pharmacology and therapeutics community. The preliminary program is now live and full of exciting opportunities: world-class keynote lectures, dynamic symposia, hands-on workshops, and presentations showcasing the latest research in drug discovery and development.

Don't miss this chance to connect with leading academics, clinicians, and industry innovators from around the world.

Register now and secure your spot at WCP2026!

[Register Now](#)

IUPHAR Happenings

IUPHAR Lifetime Achievement Award: Michael Spedding

The International Union of Basic and Clinical Pharmacology proudly awards **Michael Spedding** the 2026 Lifetime Achievement Award for his outstanding contributions to neuropharmacology, mentorship, and global scientific leadership.

He will present his **lecture at WCP 2026 in Melbourne**, titled:

“Fifty years of pharmacology, and sports science: leading to hope for amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS)?”

Congratulations to Michael Spedding for a remarkable career that continues to inspire innovation and hope in pharmacology!



Michael Spedding

Michael Spedding earned his BSc and PhD at the University of Sunderland, where he also taught. He spent eight years at the Merrell Dow Research Institute in Strasbourg and later became Director of Pharmacology at Syntex, Edinburgh.

He established research centers for Servier in Paris and Budapest and has spent the past decade leading an international consortium developing new approaches for amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS). He is the outgoing Secretary General of the International Union of Basic and Clinical Pharmacology (IUPHAR) and served as Chair of its Nomenclature and Standards Committee from 1990 to 2015.

Currently, he leads Spedding Research Solutions SAS in Paris, focusing on challenging diseases such as ALS and long COVID, developing therapies including ambroxol, now in phase IIB for ALS. Michael has been a member of the British Pharmacological Society (BPS) since 1976 and was awarded Fellowship in recognition of his contributions to pharmacology.

New IUPHAR Website: LIVE NOW

We are delighted to announce that the new IUPHAR website is now live. This important milestone follows a period of transition made possible thanks to the valuable collaboration and support of the IUPHAR Officers, Executive Committee, and Section Chairs.

The renewed website has been developed to provide a more accessible and dynamic platform for our community, making it easier to find information, share updates, and stay connected with IUPHAR activities around the world. We hope it will serve as a useful resource for members and partners alike, and we invite you to explore the new platform.

www.iuphar.org

IUPHAR

Section Spotlights

Early Career Researchers Section Update



Liz Johnstone

IUPHAR Early Career Researchers
Member

ECR member Liz Johnstone is chairing a workshop at the upcoming WCP meeting in Melbourne, Australia. Please encourage students and early career researchers to attend! This interactive workshop is designed for early career researchers in pharmacology seeking to broaden their career horizons beyond academia. Featuring a panel of professionals from diverse sectors, including publishing, editing, peer review, pharmaceutical industry, regulatory agencies, government policy, and consumer advocacy, this session offers practical “how-to” talks on transitioning into these fields. Speakers will share insider tips, career paths, required skills, and strategies for success in their respective domains. Attendees will gain actionable insights, expand their professional networks, and leave with a clearer understanding of the wide range of impactful roles available to pharmacologists outside of academia.

Clinical and Translational Section Update

The IUPHAR Clinical and Translational Section is delighted to invite your societies to participate the International Union of Basic and Clinical Pharmacology (IUPHAR) **World Smart Medication Day on May 7th 2026**. The theme is **‘Race, Ethnic and Socioeconomic Influences on Clinical Pharmacology’**. <https://iuphar.org/pages/world-smart-medication-day?>

The IUPHAR initiated the World Smart Medication Day (WSMD) in 2021. The WSMD aims to raise awareness on safe and effective medication use and to encourage the development of clinical pharmacology globally. On WSMD, the IUPHAR organises a webinar and student poster competition around an annual theme. In the past two years, commentaries of the webinars have been published open access. Educational video resources from the webinars and copies of the winning student posters have been made freely available on the IUPHAR website.

Opportunities for your society to participate include:

(1) International Student Poster Competition on the theme, ‘Race, Ethnic and Socioeconomic Influences on Clinical Pharmacology’.

There are three categories of poster entries:

- a. General posters: open to all medical, pharmacy or pharmacology pre-graduate students.
- b. Research posters: open to all medical, pharmacy or pharmacology pre- and post-graduate students.
- c. International collaborative posters: open to all medical, pharmacy or pharmacology pre- and post-graduate students for collaborations between students who are each affiliated with different member societies.

Please disseminate the call for posters through your membership several times between now and March 2026 to capture a wide range of student availability. Please help link students with those of international colleagues for the International Collaborative Poster category.

Please organise judging for your society’s winner in each category. Please **send the nominated winners from your society to the IUPHAR by April 6th 2026** using this link: IUPHAR WSMD

2026 – Local Winners Submission Form. <https://iuphar.org/pages/2026-world-smart-medication-day-poster-competition>

All posters received will be judged for originality, relevance, message, universality by the IUPHAR Executive Committee and members of the IUPHAR Medical and Clinical Pharmacology Committee, who will nominate the international winners.

Winners will be invited to present at the World Smart Medication Day **webinar on May 7th 2026**. **Six prizes** will be awarded by IUPHAR, 2 prizes in each category.

(2) Disseminate information on webinar on the IUPHAR World Smart Medication Day on May 7th 2026. International pharmacologists and experts with related expertise will provide education and research on the theme, 'Race, Ethnic and Socioeconomic Influences on Clinical Pharmacology'. This is a free event, open to your members and their networks.

(3) Organise local seminars and other events to celebrate and promote clinical pharmacology on May 7th 2026.

Thank you for your support of this initiative to promote clinical pharmacology internationally.

World Patient Safety Day 2025 Webinar on Goal 2: Enhance medication safety

WEBINAR

Karel Allegaert, chair of the paediatric committee, represented the IUPHAR on the panel.

Basic and Translational Section Update

Find out more about the Basic and Translational Section on the new website!

Visit our Website

NC-IUPHAR Section Update

The seventh Edition of the Concise Guide to Pharmacology 2025/26 was published in the British Journal of Pharmacology in December 2025. This is a major output of the GuidetoPharmacology.org database every two years since 2013. The current editorial group numbers six (Steve Alexander [Nottingham], Alasdair Gibb [London], Kelly [Bristol], Mathie [London], Peach [Nottingham] and Veale[Greenwich]) providing expert oversight of the major pharmacological targets. The Editors of the Concise Guide compile individual records, in concert with the team of Curators of the GuidetoPharmacology.org database in Edinburgh (Elena Faccenda, Simon Harding, Chris Southan and Jamie Davies), drawing on the expert knowledge of the subcommittees of the Nomenclature and Standards Committee of the International Union of Basic and Clinical Pharmacology (NC-IUPHAR).

The Concise Guide is intended as a 'starting point' resource, to provide researchers new to the area links to timely reviews and further resources for greater depth of information. The tables in the Concise Guide indicate the nomenclature status for the group of targets listed, which is often published as an IUPHAR review in Pharmacological Reviews. Pharmacological and structural data focus primarily on human gene products, with links to HGNC gene

nomenclature and UniProt IDs. Pharmacological tools listed are prioritised on the basis of selectivity and availability (by donation or from commercial sources).

The Concise Guide is divided into seven articles:

Alexander SPH et al. (2025)

The Concise Guide to PHARMACOLOGY 2025/26: Introduction and Other Protein Targets.

Br J Pharmacol **182 Suppl 1**: S1-S23

PM:41461576

Alexander SPH et al. (2025)

The Concise Guide to PHARMACOLOGY 2025/26: : G protein-coupled receptors.

Br J Pharmacol **182 Suppl 1**: S24-S151

PM:41461581

Alexander SPH et al. (2025)

The Concise Guide to PHARMACOLOGY 2025/26: Ion channels.

Br J Pharmacol **182 Suppl 1**: S152-S241

PM:41461580

Alexander SPH et al. (2025)

The Concise Guide to PHARMACOLOGY 2025/26: Nuclear hormone receptors

Br J Pharmacol **182 Suppl 1**: S242-S258

PM:41461582

Alexander SPH et al. (2025)

The Concise Guide to PHARMACOLOGY 2025/26: Catalytic receptors.

Br J Pharmacol **182 Suppl 1**: S259-S306

PM:41461584

Alexander SPH et al. (2025)

The Concise Guide to PHARMACOLOGY 2025/26: Enzymes.

Br J Pharmacol **182 Suppl 1**: S307-S403

PM:41461578

Alexander SPH et al. (2025)

The Concise Guide to PHARMACOLOGY 2025/26: Transporters

Br J Pharmacol **182 Suppl 1**: S404-S496

PM:41461579

Some statistics associated with the CGTP 2025/26

28 Countries of residence of the authors

54 Concise Guide articles since 2013
207 Locations (Universities/companies/institutes) of the authors
384 Authors
496 Pages of the Concise Guide 2025/26
1 900 The approximate number of human drug targets described
4 400 The approximate number of ligands described
7 000 The approximate number of drug:target interactions described
7 360 References cited
11 980 Citations to the Concise Guides since 2013 (SCOPUS, March 2026)

Education Section Newsletter

The latest news and updates from the Education section.

[SEE THE QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER HERE!](#)



Resources

Upcoming IUPHAR National Member Society Meetings

- May 17 - 20, 2026: American Society of Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics (ASPET), Minneapolis, MN, USA
- June 3 - 5, 2026: HUPHAR 2026 International Conference of Pharmacology, Drug Research and Development, Mátraháza, Hungary

[VIEW ALL UPCOMING MEETINGS >](#)

Guide to Pharmacology (GtP)

The Guide to PHARMACOLOGY is an expert-curated resource of ligand-activity-target relationships, the majority of which come from high-quality pharmacological and medicinal chemistry literature. [LEARN MORE >](#)

Guide to Immunopharmacology (GtoImmuPdb)

The development of GtoImmuPdb aims to provide improved data exchange between immunology and pharmacology expert communities, so to better support research and

development of drugs targeted at modulating immune, inflammatory or infectious components of disease. [LEARN MORE >](#)

Guide to Malaria Pharmacology (GtoMPDb)

The Malaria Guide is an extension to the existing Guide to PHARMACOLOGY (GtoPdb), with funding from Medicines for Malaria Venture (MMV). This resource has the aim of providing optimised access to GtoPdb data for the malaria research community.

[LEARN MORE >](#)

Pharmacology Education Project (PEP)

Free resource to support education and research to the international pharmacological community. PEP is intended to support those who are just starting to get to grips with the worlds of pharmacology and clinical pharmacology. [LEARN MORE >](#)

In Memoriam

IUPHAR remembers those who contributed to the pharmacological community.

[READ READ MORE >>](#)

IUPHAR Dues

Member society dues help to fund the expansive work of IUPHAR. If your national member society has not paid 2025 dues or received the 2026, please [contact us](#).

Are you the right contact?

It's time to update the IUPHAR member database. We are asking each member society to email a leadership list to the IUPHAR Executive Office.

[Email the Executive Office](#)



PHARMACOCAREERS FOR EMPLOYERS AND JOB SEEKERS

Finding the next expert for your team can be hard. Pharmacocareers has many recruiting resources for employers. Put your job opening in front of the right audience. Job seekers can search for openings and receive a free resume review.

[VIEW OPENINGS NOW >](#)

MEMBERSHIP OR IUPHAR QUESTIONS?

Please reach out to the IUPHAR Executive Office at admin@iuphar.org.



Follow us

Connect on social media

 @IUPHAR

 @IUPHAR

 @IUPHAR



International Union of Basic and Clinical Pharmacology | Viale della Giovine Italia, 17 |
Florence, 50122 IT

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email marketing for free today!