

Press Release

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IBRO Governing Council Elects New Leadership

Paris, 15 October 2024 – The International Brain Research Organization (IBRO) Governing Council, representing 69 scientific societies and federations from 57 countries worldwide, has elected new officers during its annual assembly held on 6 October 2024 in Chicago, USA.

Starting on 1 January 2025, the newly elected Officers will join the IBRO Advisory Board with *elect* status for one year before assuming their roles as President, Secretary General and Treasurer on 1 January 2026. Their terms will run until 31 December 2028.

The elected Officers-*elect* are:

- **President *elect*, Prof. Shubha Tole**, the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR), Mumbai, India
- **Secretary General *elect*, Prof. João Relvas**, University of Porto, Porto, Portugal
- **Treasurer *elect*, Prof. David Belin**, University of Cambridge, Cambridge, UK

Upon completion of her term, Prof. Tole will also serve a two-year term on the Advisory Board as Past President.

Each officer-elect brings an extensive background in neuroscience and leadership:

Prof. Shubha Tole, a neuroscience researcher at the [Tata Institute of Fundamental Research](#) (TIFR), received her PhD from CalTech and returned to India in 1999 to establish her research programs. She has held prominent positions within the IBRO Asia-Pacific Regional Committee and the Society for Neuroscience (SfN) and is currently the President of the International Society for Developmental Neuroscience (ISDN). Prof. Tole has also chaired the Women in Science Committee of the Indian Academy of Sciences and actively contributes to the ALBA network, which advocates for diversity in neuroscience.

Prof. João Relvas, a neuroscientist specialized in glial cell biology, conducted his PhD studies at the Imperial College London, postdoctoral research in Cambridge, and was a Junior Group Leader at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Zurich (ETHZ). He currently works at the [i3S Institute](#) and at the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Porto in Portugal. His career includes leadership roles in prominent scientific organizations including the Federation of European Neuroscience Societies (FENS), the International Society for Neurochemistry (ISN) and as a member of the Executive Committee of NetworkGlia, promoting global research on glial cells.

Prof. David Belin, a Behavioural Neuroscientist, holds a PhD from the University of Bordeaux and currently leads interdisciplinary research at the [University of Cambridge](#). He has been a member of the European Behavioural Pharmacology Society (EBPS) Executive Committee, having hosted the biennial meeting of EBPS in 2013, and a founding member of France's Institut de Psychiatrie. He has also served as an organizer for numerous international symposia and is a senior editor for several scientific journals.

Current IBRO President Prof. Tracy Bale, who will continue serving her term until December 2025, warmly welcomed the newly elected officers, stating:

"The remarkable achievements of our newly elected officers, particularly Prof. Tole's leadership in promoting diversity and inclusion on a global scale, give me great confidence in their ability to steer IBRO towards ever-greater impacts in the coming years. Their collective vision and scientific expertise are truly impressive."

In addition to the election of new officers, IBRO saw a record number of nominations for the 2024 elections that also included the election of new [members for its five regional committees](#).

About IBRO: The International Brain Research Organization (IBRO) is the global association of neuroscience societies established in 1961 that aims to promote and support neuroscience around the world through training, education, research, outreach and engagement activities, and the publication of two journals, Neuroscience and IBRO Neuroscience Reports.

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Relevant links

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- **Prof. João Relvas:** [LinkedIn](#)
- **Prof. Tracy Bale:** X: [@TheBaleLab](#)