

IABR Newsletter August, 2024

Notes from your Chair, Dr. Jane Hill

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Your IABR Board

Current Chair: [Dr. Jane E. Hill](#)
Incoming Chair: [Dr. Simona M. Cristescu](#)
Outgoing Chair: [Dr. Cristina E. Davis](#)
Secretary: [Dr. Y Lan Pham](#)
Treasurer: [Dr. Veronika Ruzsanyi](#)
Exec. Director: [Marco Freek, LL.M.](#)

Current IABR Board Activities

We meet quarterly. The last meeting was held in-person, in Indianapolis, at the 2024 Breath Summit. There, we had an open meeting with the membership. At that meeting we shared our activities, approved two motions: 1. an update to our bylaws; 2. An increase in membership fee (up € 10 and a change to Euros as a universal basis), and opened the floor to any questions or comments (there were none). In addition, the IABR funded 10 bursaries for attendees of the Breath Summit. Our next ambitions are to review and update our: website, membership process, and to explore scholarships for student exchanges.

2024 Breath Summit, Indianapolis, USA

The 2024 IABR Breath Summit was hosted by Mike Davis in Indianapolis, Indiana, USA from June 2-6th. The Summit was a huge success with over 120 registrants from four continents attending! Over 20 different members of industry and six regulatory agencies sent representatives to attend as well, several of which gave presentations. 59 podium presentations were split between 14 thematic sessions and 60 posters were presented. The IABR and Indiana University (host institution for the Summit) generously provided 10 travel bursaries for early-career attendees. The Journal of Breath Research established an Outstanding Presentation Awards were given to one member of the Rapid Podium Presentation Session each day of the Summit. Those winners were: Antao Gao for, "Assessing response to phage therapy of *M. abscessus* using breath"; Rashmithara Subawickrama Mallika Widanaara for, "Developing an Electrochemical Sensing Platform for the Detection of Ammonia as a Surrogate for Chronic Kidney Disease Screening"; and Jonas Pangerl for, "From Lab to Lungs: Development of Photoacoustic Systems for Isoprene and Acetone Breath Analysis".

Dr. Waqar Ahmed of the University of Manchester received the Anton Amman Award for outstanding achievements in breath-related research.

A Special Issue of the Journal of Breath Research will be assembled in early 2025 from the proceedings of the Summit. Please visit the website for more photographs and the list of abstracts presented at the conference – www.breathsummit.com. The next Breath Summit will be hosted by Chris Mayhew in Innsbruck, Austria, September 14-19, 2025 (<https://www.uibk.ac.at/en/congress/breath-summit-2025/>).

Written by Dr. Michael Davis, Conference Chair.

2024 Anton Amman Award Medalist Waqar Ahmed Q & A.

How did you get into breath research?

The idea of developing a non-invasive diagnostic method for lung infections initially attracted me to breath research. For most of my PhD, the metabolomics approach to research was the main focus, and I applied these principles to our clinical breath volatile studies. Even today, the invaluable knowledge gained is applied to my study designs, experimental plans, and data processing. I was also fortunate to spend a couple of years in Eindhoven during my PhD, through the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions programme, providing a chance to immerse in Dutch culture, like speaking English properly and having my bike stolen (twice!).



What excites you most about your research?

Continuing in academic research offered a dynamic environment where no two days are the same. Collaboration with experts across various scientific and clinical disciplines is a constant, along with training the next generation of scientists. Detecting microbial volatiles in exhaled breath was particularly exciting, and I am keen to explore their underlying mechanisms further. I also enjoy that most of our methodologies and workflows in the analytical lab are driven by clinical studies like RADICA; a fast-track route for people with suspected asthma to be seen by specialist consultants and, at the same time, be part of novel diagnostic research. This is very exciting as the infrastructure is in place; all we need are the validated biomarkers easy!

What does the Anton Amman award mean to you?

I am delighted and honoured to receive the 2024 Anton Amman Award. This recognition not only instills confidence in my abilities as a scientific researcher but also motivates me to continue making meaningful contributions to our research community. When notified of the award, I was able to take a step back and reflect on myself and my research contributions. This is essential for all early career researchers to recognise and celebrate the progress made and the impact, both big and small, on colleagues and the scientific field. Finally, I am truly grateful to my network of mentors, mentees, and peers who have shaped my career, especially to Stephen Fowler and Iain White, whose unwavering support and guidance have been instrumental in my personal and professional growth.

What's hot in the literature? This quarter, we again look at our flagship journal, the *Journal of Breath Research*, to find the articles cited most, according to the Web of Science (as of June 16, 2024). Here they are!

A review of the volatiles from the healthy human body (690 citations)
Costello *et al.*, 13 January 2014

The human volatilome: volatile organic compounds (VOCs) in exhaled breath, skin emanations, urine, feces and saliva (481 citations)
Amann *et al.*, 19 June 2014

The versatile use of exhaled volatile organic compounds in human health and disease (237 citations)
Boots *et al.*, 23 May 2012

Isoprene and acetone concentration profiles during exercise on an ergometer (235 citations)
King *et al.*, 9 June 2009

Is breath acetone a biomarker of diabetes? A historical review on breath acetone measurements (203 citations)
Wang and Wang, 20 August 2013

Breath Summit 2025: International Congress for Breath Research, Innsbruck, Austria

<https://www.uibk.ac.at/en/congress/breath-summit-2025/>

“It’s coming home”



2025 marks the 20th anniversary of the founding of the International Association of Breath Research, which took place at Schönbrunn Palace, Vienna, Austria on the 30th May 2005. Therefore, it is appropriate that the next Breath Summit will return to Austria. In this case, the conference will take place in Innsbruck within the Centre for Chemistry and Biomedicine, University of Innsbruck, Innrain 80-82, from the 14-19 September 2025. The Summit will be hosted by the Institute for Breath Research, which was established by Anton Amann and Marco Freek in 2008 and which formally became part of the University of Innsbruck in 2014.

Situated in the Alps, the medieval city of Innsbruck offers the beauty of a spectacular mountainous environment combined with a vibrant and safe University City that consists of many cultural events, theatres, world-class museums, sporting facilities, street cafes, and a diverse restaurant scene. Whether for sightseeing, shopping, clubbing, strolling, hiking, biking, climbing, or simply resting - the Innsbruck region provides an ideal and beautiful setting for the 2025 Breath Summit.

I look forward to welcoming you to Innsbruck in September 2025.

Chris A. Mayhew
 Director of the Institute for Breath Research
 On behalf of the 2025 Breath Summit Organising Committee

IABR Terms and Roles of Candidates as of June 10, 2024

Position	Term	Election June 2024	Held Until
Past Chair	2Y	Christina Davis cedavis@ucdavis.edu	9/30/25
Chair	2Y	Jane Hill jane.hill@ubc.ca	9/30/25
Chair elect	2Y	Simona Cristescu s.cristescu@science.ru.nl	9/30/25
Auditor	2Y	Sean Harshman sean.harshman.1@us.af.mil	6/15/26
Alternate Auditor	2Y	Renelle Myers renellemyers@icloud.com	6/15/26
Treasurer	2Y	Veronika Ruzsanyi Veronika.Ruzsanyi@uibk.ac.at	6/15/26
Secretary	2Y	Y Lan Pham y.lan.pham@ivw.fraunhofer.de	6/15/26
Election Committee	2Y	Jens Herbig	6/15/26
	2Y	Makoto Sawano election@iabr.at	
	2Y	Dorota Ruzkiewicz	

Photos from the 2024 IABR Breath Summit Conference Indianapolis, Indiana, USA

