

Continuation of a great
tradition for exchange of
ideas and results on
botulinum neurotoxins in
an informal and
collaborative setting



Evolution of the Neurotoxin

19th Annual Botulinum
Research Symposium

2025

Institute of Advanced Sciences



19th Annual Botulinum Research Symposium - 2025

Program

Wednesday, August 13, 2025 [*US - Eastern Standard Time*]

- 1 - 4 PM Attendees' Arrival and Hotel Check-In
- 4:00 PM Delegate Registration and Opening Assembly, **Wamsutta Club**,
427 County Street, New Bedford, MA, USA
- 6:00 PM Dinner, Networking, and Evening Entertainment
Magic Show – Timothy Su, Department of Chemistry and
Biochemistry, University of Massachusetts Dartmouth, USA
Lab Concert – John Bogdan, Valaria Technical
Consultants/CYGNOS Biotech, Miami, FL, USA (Guitar) &
Rishi Singh (Guitar)

Thursday, August 14, 2025 [*Wamsutta Club, 1st Floor Conference Room*]

- 8:00 AM Delegate Registration and Continental Breakfast
- 9:00 AM *Introduction* – **Bal Ram Singh**, National Botulinum Research
Center, Institute of Advanced Sciences, Dartmouth, MA, USA

Session I

Session Chair – Eric Johnson, Retired Professor, University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI, USA

9:15 AM **Inaugural Symposium Speech – *The Botulism Spectrum: Surprising Insights from Stanford Research in the 1920s***
Jane Talkington, Bradley University, Peoria, IL, USA; author of *Recognizing Botulism: New Insights from Old Narratives*

10:00 AM Q & A

10:15 AM Morning Break

Session II

Session Chair – Klaus Fink, MERZ, Germany

10:30 AM *Synergistic Effects of 3, 4 – DAP and Antitoxin in Treatment of BoNT/A Poisoning – **Patrick McNutt***, Wake Forest University School of Medicine, Winston-Salem, NC, USA

11:00 AM *Identification and Characterization of Botulinum Neurotoxin-like Toxins – **Min Dong***, Harvard Medical School, Boston, MA, USA

11:30 AM *Noncanonical Glial Responses to Different Structural and Compositional Variants of Botulinum Neurotoxin – **Ghuncha Ambrin***, University of California San Diego, La Jolla, CA, USA

12:00 PM *Case Studies on Macular Disease – **Gary Borodic***, Harvard Medical School, Boston, MA, USA

12:25 PM Symposium Luncheon

Session III

Session Chair – Karen Bunting, IPSEN BioInnovation Ltd., UK

1:00 PM **Lifetime Achievement Award Speech – *Botulinum Neurotoxin: A Lifelong Attempt to Understand Its Mysteries and Elegance***,
Michael Adler, US Army Medical Research Institute of Chemical Defense, Aberdeen Proving Ground, MD, USA

- 2:00 PM Group Photo
- 2:15 PM Poster Session, Intermission, and Open Networking
- 3:00 PM Glass Museum Visit (sign up available at registration)
- 6:00 PM Informal Dinner and Digital Experience Sharing, **Institute of Advanced Sciences Conference Room**, 78-520 Faunce Corner Mall Road, Dartmouth, MA, USA (transportation and sign up available at registration)
- 7:00 PM **Dinner Speech – History of the First FDA-Approved Batch of Botox with All the Trials and Tribulations, Eric Johnson**, Retired Professor, University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI, USA

Friday, August 15, 2025 [Wamsutta Club, 1st Floor Conference Room]

- 7:30 AM BRC Board of Advisors Meeting
- 8:00 AM Breakfast

Session IV

- Session Chair – Michael Adler**, US Army Medical Research Institute of Chemical Defense, Aberdeen Proving Ground, MD, USA
- 8:30 AM **Dr. B.R. DasGupta Memorial Lecture – Small Molecule Inhibitors for the Treatment of Botulinum Intoxication, Kim Janda**, Scripps Research, La Jolla, CA, USA
- 9:15 AM Q & A
- 9:30 AM *Botulinum Neurotoxin for Tremor Syndromes – Roopa Ranjan*, All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi, India
- 10:00 AM Morning Break

Session V

Session Chair – Shuowei Cai, University of Massachusetts
Dartmouth, MA, USA

- 10:15 AM *Clostridial Proteins: Unlocking Therapeutical Potential from Bacterial Proteins – Raj Kumar*, National Botulinum Research Center, Institute of Advanced Sciences, Dartmouth, MA, USA
- 10:40 AM *Preeclampsia and the Brain: A New Era – Surendra Sharma*, University of Texas Medical Branch, Galveston, TX, USA
- 11:05 AM *Modeling SBMA Using Isogenic hiPSC-Derived Motor Neurons and Neural Stem Cells – Xia Feng*, Mass General Hospital, Boston, MA, USA
- 11:30 AM *PVX, a Host-Targeting Broad-Spectrum Antiviral Therapeutic Derived from Cobra Venom Toxin – John Bogdan*, CYGNOS Biotech, Miami, FL, USA, and Valaria Technical Consultants, LLC.
- 11:55 AM *Aesthetic Uses of BoNT – Andy Ress*, Liv Plastic Surgery, Boca Raton, FL, USA
- 12:20 PM *Accelerated Reversal of BoNT/A-Induced Paralysis via Super Therapeutic Doses of 3, 4-Diaminopyridine – Travis Wentz*, Wake Forest University School of Medicine, Winston-Salem, NC, USA
- 12:45 PM Symposium Luncheon

Session VI

Session Chair – Robert Hall, Former Program Manager, National Institutes of Health, Rockville, MD, USA

- 1:30 PM Panel Discussion: *Unexplored Aspects of Botulinum Neurotoxin*
- Karen Bunting** – IPSEN BioInnovations Ltd., UK
Klaus Fink – MERZ, DE
Lance Steward – AbbVie/Allergan, USA
John Bogdan – CYGNOS Biotech, USA
Min Dong – Harvard Medical School, USA

- 2:30 PM Conclusion & Networking, and Departure

Zoom Meeting Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89984368528?pwd=XnQx4Kc9FnViccRquhKNrIIInQ3kaac.1#success>

Meeting ID: 899 8436 8528

Passcode: 073750

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