



2017 Executive Election

NOMINEE STATEMENTS

Secretary

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President

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Secretary Nominee – **Rebecca Craft** – Personal Statement

For over 20 years my lab has studied sex differences in behavioral effects of drugs, primarily cannabinoids and opioids. Since 2001 I have published 17 peer-reviewed articles, given 5 invited lectures, and co-authored 23 posters on cannabinoid effects presented at national and international conferences, including ICRS. I joined ICRS in 2011. I am keenly interested in the therapeutic potential of cannabinoids, and currently direct an interdisciplinary research effort at Washington State University to develop greater preclinical and clinical research capacity to test cannabinoids, involving faculty from over a dozen different departments and disciplines. In regard to administrative experience, I have served on several committees of the College on Problems of Drug Dependence (e.g., membership, program, animal use), and in leadership capacities at my own institution, including doctoral program director (2007-11), department chair (2011-15), and associate dean (2014-16). I am well-organized, responsive and highly effective working with many types of people. I welcome the chance to become more involved in the ICRS by serving as its next secretary, to promote the ICRS mission of providing a forum for all cannabinoid researchers as well as serving as a balanced source of evidence-based information regarding medical and recreational use of cannabinoid drugs.

Secretary Nominee – **Khalil Eldeeb** – Personal Statement

It's been 10 years since I started to learn about cannabinoid research when I started my Ph.D. at Nottingham University, the UK under the supervision of Drs. David Kendall and Steve Alexander. I completed my postdoctoral training in Dr. Howlett laboratory at Wake Forest University, USA and now I'm an Assistant Professor of Pharmacology at Campbell University School of Osteopathic medicine.

During these years the ICRS meetings were the ones I always looked for to present my work and interact with the researchers' from all over the world. I think ICRS membership was a tremendous help in my career development and now I would like to be more involved with ICRS by serving as the society secretary.

I feel ICRS is a key international group to effect positive change in cannabinoid research and legalization and to provide value to members. If elected I promise to bring my fresh viewpoint, excitement, and enthusiasm as well as my experience to the ICRS Board of Directors. With your vote today this can be possible.

Presidential Nominee – **Alessia Ligresti** – Personal Statement

In 2001, after I achieved my BS degree (Chemical and Pharmaceutical Technologies), I was granted a fellowship with the Endocannabinoid Research Group (ICB-CNR) under the supervision of Dr. Vincenzo Di Marzo. I earned my Ph.D. at the University of Naples in 2005, and in the same year I was a Visiting Researcher at the Department of Biological Science, Allergan Inc. (Irvine, California). In 2006 I began my post-doctoral training under the mentorship of Dr. Vincenzo Di Marzo at the Endocannabinoid Research Group. In 2008 I obtained a tenured position as Ricercatore (equivalent to Research Investigator) at ICB-CNR and I became Primo Ricercatore (equivalent to Associate Research Professor) in 2010. I gained the habilitation as Associate Professor in Biochemistry and Clinical Biochemistry from the MIUR (Italian Ministry of Education, University and Research) in 2014. Since 2004 I have been working as a Preclinical Research Collaborator for GW Pharmaceutical (London, UK) and, from 2012 to 2016, I held a position as a Scientific Consultant for Allergan Inc.

My current research program focuses on the following areas: 1) understanding the role of the endocannabinoid system in various diseases (i.e. cancer and obesity); 2) elucidating the mechanism of action underlying the pharmacological effects of plant-cannabinoids; 3) developing cannabinoid- based therapeutic agents by targeting key elements of this system; 4) advancing our knowledge on biosynthesis, bioactivity and inactivation of prostaglandin-ethanolamides.

I have been an active member of the ICRS since 2003, when I attended the First European Workshop on Cannabinoid Research in Madrid. That meeting gave me the great opportunity to join the “Cannabinoid Research People”, a group of scientists linked together by their genuine interest in cannabinoids and dedicated to the same goal: the expansion and development of this fascinating research field. My enthusiasm for this society was satisfied, and in 2004 I was asked to take part in the organization of the annual meeting held in Paestum (Italy). From 2005 to 2007 I served as Student Representative and later on I took part on several committees at the ICRS Symposia, including student awards and program committees.

If elected, I will strive to increase memberships, to encourage the presence of young researchers and support the collaboration among groups working in this field. Last but not least, I will be pleased to promote activities with the aim of identifying the possible future leaders in the cannabinoids research area.

I am very thankful for the nomination and I would feel extremely honored to serve as President of ICRS.

Presidential Nominee – **Saoirse O'Sullivan** – Personal Statement

I first joined the society in 2003 and attended my first ICRS conference at Cornwall Ontario. Since then, I have been a passionate cannabinoid researcher and a regular member of the society and attendee of the annual meeting and have 34 cannabinoid pharmacology research papers published. I am delighted to accept the nomination for ICRS President and think there are a number of strategies that could be undertaken by the Society to lead to greater financial stability and independence, and to enhance the profile of the Society within the scientific community and publically. My goals as ICRS president would be to increase our visibility through better online and social media presence (including more user-friendly and publically accessible information for patients and carers), introduce regular newsletters to the membership, increase membership numbers particularly early career researchers, and to look at fundraising strategies. I am really enthusiastic about the future of the ICRS and would be honoured to be part of the board of directors to help the ICRS achieve every success.

For details on my research profile, please see my online profiles:

https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Saoirse_OSullivan/?ev=hdr_xprf

<http://scholar.google.co.uk/citations?user=HPKoM08AAAAJ>

Presidential Nominee – **Pal Pacher** – Personal Statement

I am honored to be nominated as President Elect/President. I am a Senior Investigator at NIAAA/NIH, <https://irp.nih.gov/pi/pal-pacher> . If elected, I will be ICRS President in 2019, when the annual meeting will be in Bethesda, MD, a suburb of Washington DC and my current hometown. I would use my hometown knowledge to organize an excellent scientific meeting in Washington DC at a time of the National Independence Day festivities, and encourage participation of investigators from various NIH Institutes, other government agencies, and from industry.

I joined ICRS over a decade ago. Over the years I was not only privileged to collaborate with many of you, which contributed to better understanding the regulatory role of peripheral CB1/2 receptors in inflammation and tissue injury, development of novel CB2 agonists, and demonstration of the translational potential of certain non-psychoactive phytocannabinoids, but was also lucky to gain your friendship. I participated in program committees, chaired sessions on meetings, and was recipient of the ICRS Young Investigator Award.

As President I would facilitate collaborative efforts between industry and academic research to develop and share better research tools, and ultimately effective medicines.

I would support development of various opportunities for young researchers.

The widespread legalization of marijuana for medicinal use may lead to important therapeutic opportunities to ease human sufferings, but without rigorous regulation and quality control it can also open a Pandora 's Box endangering previous remarkable research achievements. I would facilitate better outreach to other organizations and public/media and educate/share/represent the knowledge based on rigorous scientific/clinical evidence.

Trainee Rep Nominee - **Haley Vecchiarelli** - Personal Statement

I am a 3rd year PhD Candidate at the University of Calgary, studying with Dr. Matthew Hill. I have been engaged in cannabinoid research for the past 5 years, specifically looking at interactions between stress/anxiety, endocannabinoids and inflammation, as well as sex differences in the endocannabinoid system. I have been a member of ICRS since 2013 and since then, I have immensely enjoyed attending the ICRS meetings. In fact, they are the best scientific meetings I have ever been to! I know that this is due to the incredibly supportive and collaborative environment, especially for trainees. If I were elected as Trainee Representative, I would work to facilitate this environment at the upcoming annual meetings. I have a lot of experience planning and facilitating meetings locally, and I will use that to enhance your enjoyment of the meeting. Additionally, I would work on your behalves to bring any concerns or feedback to the ICRS board. I would be a passionate advocate for trainees and your voices should I be elected to serve. I currently advocate for trainees at the University and provincial level and will use those skills with the ICRS BoD. I hope to see many of you at this year's ICRS Meeting in Montreal and thank you for your consideration!