

Minutes of NgoRS Board Meeting (March 31, 2025, Florence Italy, @IPNC)

Board Members Present (in alphabetical order):

Alison Criss (Treasurer)
Jennifer Edwards (President)
Caroline Genco (Past President)
Odile Harrison (At-large Member)
Trevor Moraes (At-large Member)
Kate Seib (At-Large Member)
Hank Seifert (Ex Officio Member)
Evgeny Semchenko (At-large Member)
Julie Stoudenmire (At-large Member)
Crista Wadsworth (Director of Communications)
Nathan Weyand (Secretary)

Absent Board Members:

Alexis Branch (Trainee Member, not at conference)

Board meeting summary:

1. Financial Summary.

- a. Balance: \$20,313.23.
- b. NgoRS is looking for donations. Donations can be made via ngosociety.org

2. Year in Review.

- a. The third NgoRS Conference was held in June of 2024. It was chaired by Odile Harrison with Myron Christodoulides, Erin Garcia, Kate Seib, and Jenn Edwards. There were about 150 attendees. 89% of attendees rated the conference as very good to excellent. 50% of attendees were first time attendees.
- b. An Election and Expansion of the NgoRS Board took place in April of 2024. Five At-large Members were re-elected or added (with terms commencing in July 2024): Evgeny Semchenko (AUS), Julie Stoudenmire (USA), Kate Seib (elected to 2nd term, AUS), Odile Harrison (elected to 2nd term, UK), & Trevor Moraes (CAN). Other officers include: Director of Communications, Crista Wadsworth (USA); Trainee Member, Alexis Branch (USA); President, Jenn Edwards (USA); Treasurer, Alison Criss (USA, 2nd term); Secretary, Nathan Weyand (USA). Caroline Genco (USA) stepped into Past-President Role. Hank Seifert (USA) retained his position as Past-President, Ex officio member. Some time was taken to express gratitude to, and to publically recognize, Caroline and Hank for their prior leadership of the NgoRS.
- c. Review of NgoRS Initiatives.
 - i. The Voice, an NgoRS newsletter, seeks/needs more feedback from NgoRS members. Questions posed in the Voice are never answered. The Voice tries to post new protocols monthly. The Voice features pertinent announcements, “Clap-worthy” news, with monthly spotlights on published papers as well as young and established member scientists.
 - ii. The Early Career Researcher Outstanding Paper Award is being awarded for papers published in the nine months prior to the award period (Aug 24 -April 25). A goal of this award is to recognize early career researchers and trainees and augment their CVs/dossiers. Currently, there is not a monetary award associated with this honor, but donations are sought for this purpose. This award is currently awarded tri-annually, and the next nomination period ends May 15th, 2025.

- iii. January 2025 NgoRS Workshop. The theme of this workshop was Grant Writing (general information; not NIH centric). This event was organized by Alison, Nathan, Alexis, Julie, Odile, Trevor, Evgeny, and Crista with a focus on general tips and tricks to grant writing, understanding different funding mechanisms, and fitting your science and your story to those mechanisms. There was an open discussion/Q&A. The event was recorded and will soon be available on the NgoRS website for members.
 - iv. ECR Trainee Networking Lunch. This event was held at the 2025 IPNC meeting and was organized by Alexis, Crista, and Julie. NgoRS expressed thanks to the Panel Members who participated: Aimee Potter, David Stephens, Isabel Delany, Odile Harrison, Peter van der Ley, Rob Nicholas, and Sanjay Ram.
 - v. Logo Contest. NgoRS thanked all who submitted logos and all who voted. There were many great submissions. Our winner was Reeham Victor. Members were provided with swag items featuring these new logos (the winning submissions follow below).
 - vi. NgoRS membership. Current registrations will expire on June 30, 2025. Member were asked to please plan to renew their membership. Members were informed that they will be contacted via email when membership renewal is active. Members were asked to wait until July 1 to renew their membership, because early registration creates problems with the NgoRS website.
3. **Open Discussion**. Attendees were asked: What kind of protocols they need and what topic suggestions they had for the Voice and for the NgoRS. Caroline Genco suggested an overview of what is happening in the United States in relation to funding organizations. Linda Hu recommended that articles outside of the NgoRS community be spotlighted (in a potential future journal club format) but that they should be relevant to what we study. Anastasia Unitt asked that older, basic literature be featured to help younger scientists become aware of important studies prior to their entry into the field.

Respectfully submitted,

N. Weyand, NgoRS Secretary.

