

Dear Colleagues,

We are honored and delighted to organize the 2023 Annual *Drosophila* Research Conference.

As we began our work together as a committee, we reflected on what the fly meeting has meant to us over the years. We, each in different ways, are grateful for how the fly meeting enables and fosters a sense of community, sharing of knowledge, and professional growth.

In recognition of this, we are developing the 2023 meeting around the theme of “Pay It Forward.”

We recognize all that we have received from mentors, peers, trainees, and colleagues, and accept responsibility for relaying their gifts of attention, insight, and opportunity to others. We also acknowledge the barriers that many face in joining and participating in our community. We accept responsibility for doing our part to make the fly field a welcoming, creative, and caring community for everyone.

We are excited to work with all of you—speakers, session chairs, and the entire fly community—to develop and integrate this theme into the meeting.

We look forward to seeing you in Chicago In March 2023.

#Dros23 Organizers

Savraj Grewal – Chair, University of Calgary

Angela DePace, Harvard University

Mia Levine, University of Pennsylvania

Jennifer Jemc Mierisch, Loyola University Chicago

Lucy O'Brien, Stanford University