



# Business Meeting

27 July, 2023

13.30 CET

AD-A2, Ferrara, Italy



# Your Council 2023

**Kateryna D. Makova, *President***, Penn State University, State College, PA, USA

**James McInerney, *Past President***, University of Nottingham, UK

**Stephen Wright, *President-Elect***, University of Toronto, Canada

**Emmanuelle Lerat, *Secretary***, Lyon 1 University, France

**John McCutcheon, *Treasurer***, Arizona State University, AZ, USA

**Rebecca Zufall, *Councillor***, University of Houston, TX, USA

**Christian Landry, *Councillor***, Université Laval, Quebec, Canada

**Josefa González, *Councillor***, Institut de Biologia Evolutiva (CSIC-UPF), Spain

**Katerina Guschanski, *Councillor***, Uppsala University, Sweden

**María C. Ávila Arcos, *Councillor***, UNAM, Querétaro, Mexico

**Jeffrey Ross-Ibarra, *Councillor***, University of California, Davis, CA, USA

**Claudia A. M. Russo, *Editor, MBE***, Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

**Brandon Stuart Gaut, *Editor, MBE***, University of California, Irvine, CA, USA

**Laura A. Katz, *Editor, GBE***, Smith College, Northampton, USA

**Adam Eyre-Walker, *Editor, GBE***, University of Sussex, UK



# SMBE financial overview for 2019-23

MBE revenues 2019	\$563,487.00	
GBE revenues 2019	\$258,452.00	
Total journal revenues 2019	\$821,939.00	
2019 total expenses	-\$905,777.30	(1)
net assets as of 31 December 2019	\$3,890,074.74	
MBE revenues 2020	\$674,638.00	
GBE revenues 2020	\$323,887.00	
Total journal revenues 2020	\$998,525.00	
2020 total expenses	-\$411,261.91	(2)
net assets as of 31 December 2020	\$3,544,932.22	(3)
MBE revenues 2021	\$1,085,368.00	(4)
GBE revenues 2021	\$432,515.00	
Total journal revenues 2021	\$1,517,883.00	
2021 total expenses	-\$449,705.09	
net assets as of 31 December 2021	\$4,648,637.09	
MBE revenues 2022	\$562,992.00	
GBE revenues 2022	\$226,268.00	
Total journal revenues 2022	\$789,260.00	
2022 total expenses	-\$723,018.30	(5)
net assets as of 31 December 2022	\$4,747,352.93	



(1) Last in-person meeting, Manchester. (2) Quebec meeting cancelled, includes ~\$100k penalties.

(3) Includes deferred journal revenue, a one-time large payment was made in 2021.

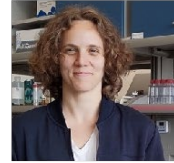
(4) First year all OA for MBE, inflated due to carry-forward from 2020 deferred revenue.

(5) Large final payment to S. Kumar, in-person 2023 meeting seed money, satellite meetings back.

# SMBE Graduate Student Excellence (GSE) award winners



## Congratulations to the SMBE Graduate Student Excellence Award Winners 2023 (in order of Abstract number)



Marianne Dehasque  
Stockholm University/ Swedish Museum of Natural History,  
Sweden  
@MarianDehasque  
*Temporal dynamics of woolly mammoth genome erosion prior to extinction*



Margaux Aubel  
University of Münster, Germany  
@AubelMargaux  
*Comparing de novo emerged proteins with their uninvolved random-sequence counterparts*



Carlos R. Cortez-Romero  
University of Chicago, USA  
@carway2nar  
*Simple mechanisms for the evolution of heterospecificity in the hemoglobin complex*



Ujani Hazra  
Georgia Tech, USA  
*Differences in disease burdens across human populations are governed more by neutral evolution than by recent polygenic selection*



Harvinder Pawar  
Institute of Evolutionary Biology (UPF-CSIC), Spain  
*Ghost admixture in eastern gorillas*



Aurora Alvarez-Buylla  
Stanford University, USA  
@aurorasbuylla  
*Dealing with a steady diet: toxin binding proteins in poison frogs*



Matteo Sebastianelli  
University of Cyprus, Cyprus  
@Matteo\_sbs  
*Genome-wide association study reveals the polygenic nature of rhythm in a wild non-passerine bird*



Carmina Barberena-Jonas  
Unidad de Genómica Avanzada (UGA), Mexico  
@BarjonCar  
*Analyzing IBD Segments in the MX Biobank to track the Genetic Structure of Mexico Through Time*



Kai Yan  
Kunming Institute of Zoology, China  
*Modification of Maternally Defined H3K4me3 Regulates the Inviability of Interspecific Xenopus Hybrids*



Join us for the GSE symposium during SMBE2023 in Ferrara, Italy in July. <https://www.smb2023.org/>

# SMBE Faculty Awards 2023



Lifetime achievement:  
Mid-career

James Lake



Kayla Kin



Early-career:

Amy Goldberg



# SMBE Community Services Award 2023



Council is awarding Mary O'Connell and Beth Shapiro this award in profound appreciation of their services to us especially during 2021's first online annual meeting.





# SMBE Undergraduate Mentorship awards 2023

Valeria	Añorve-Garibay
Serah	Osborn
Ángel	Ojeda
Uchenna	Nwaege
Maddie	Olvey
Leo	Camino
Miguel	Navarro García
Lada	Isakova
Viktoria	Bednarski
Yu En	Lin

Justin	Gupta
Thomas	Decroly
Anastasia	Yankovskiy
Louise	Dupont
Sofia	Sabbagh
Christina	Pleschka
Camille	Bédard
Molly	Miraglia
Elpida	Skarlou



Membership Category	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Gratis Membership (Council and Editorial Teams)	138	133	122	122	122	
Lifetime Member	87	94	109	116	126	
3-YEAR Society Membership Worldwide	1293	1297	1697	1336	1576	899
SMBEv2021 Press Pass Membership			2			
3-YEAR Society Membership Student Worldwide	887	834	1328	1131	1204	510
1-YEAR Taster Membership Worldwide No Journal	124					
1-YEAR Taster Membership Student Worldwide No Journal	45					
	2574	2358	3258	2705	3028	1409

### 2023 Membership Update (data as of July 14, 2023)

- With 3,028 current members, SMBE membership is up 12% from 2022.
- SMBE will begin 2024 with more than 1,400 members by default due to the multi-year membership cycle.
- Membership renewals will be sent in the late fall to the 1600+ members who will lapse at the end of 2023.
- 40% of members are students (remained static since 2022).



# Benefits of Membership

- Reduced registration at the annual meeting
- Eligibility for travel awards and registration waiver awards
- Eligibility for prizes (Best Graduate Student paper in MBE and GBE; Graduate Student Excellence Award)
- Eligibility for career achievement awards
- Eligibility to apply for funds for satellite meetings
- Eligibility for caregiver support (child, adult dependent, or self)
- Eligibility to benefit from IDEA initiative
- Discounted publication charges for MBE and GBE
- Being part of a community

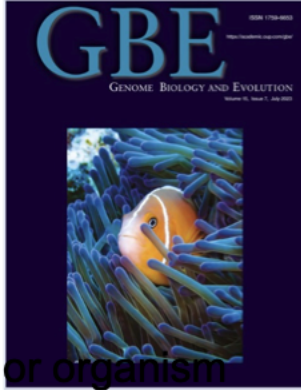


# Molecular Biology and Evolution (MBE)

- MBE's transition from issue-based hybrid to fully open access, continuing publishing model, from January 2021 was successful, with submission rates in 2021 comparable to (slightly higher than) those in 2020: 1,247 original submissions in 2020, 1312 in 2021, 1101 in 2022.
- The official 2022 IF, released in June 2023, increased to 10.7.
- We added 10 members to the Editorial Board in 2023, which mainly increased the number of editors from Southern and Central America.
- We hired Casey McGrath in 2023 to write a handful of highlights about our papers and to manage social media accounts. The impact has been immediate.
- In 2022, MBE generated a profit of \$562,992 for SMO, to spend mostly on travel for speakers and awardees. By comparison, income in 2022 was essentially identical to income in 2018 and 2019 (~\$560,000 both years), but it is lower than 2017 (\$596,625), 2020 (\$676,624) and 2021 (\$1,084,188). Overall, our income remains strong despite the transition to Open Access in 2021.



# Genome Biology and Evolution



- **EiCs:** Adam Eyre-Walker (Uni Sussex) and Laura A. Katz (Smith College)
- **Data:** 178 articles published in 2022, including numerous Reviews and Perspectives
- **Commitment:** Publish excellent science irrespective of the size of community or organism
- **Gender as one metric of inclusivity:**
  - Editorial board has been majority women since 2021 (currently 53% women)
  - GBE is gender neutral with respect to acceptance rate, number of revisions and referee requests
- **New and ongoing initiatives**
  - Data availability checked prior to publication
  - Biography section - five published Harmit Malik, Marta Wayne, Martin Embley, Emilia Huerta-Sanchez, Brandon Ogbunu
  - Linking three SMBE 2023 symposia to special issues
  - Generous waiver policy (see instructions to authors)



## 2023 ELECTION: From the Report of the SMBE Nominations Committee:

**Aoife McLysaght** (Chair), Trinity College Dublin, Ireland

**Deepa Agashe** NCBS, Bangalore, India <https://adaptationlab.in>

**Sandra Baldauf**, Uppsala University, Sweden, <https://www.iob.uu.se/research/systematic-biology/baldauf-eng/>

**Rosa María Fernández**, Institute of Evolutionary Biology, Barcelona, Spain <https://www.metazomics.com>

**Barbara Holland**, University of Tasmania, Australia <https://www.utas.edu.au/profiles/staff/math-physics/Barbara-Holland>

**Yuseob Kim**, Ewha Womans University, Korea <http://home.ewha.ac.kr/ykim/>

**Wojciech Makalowski**, University of Muenster, Germany <https://bioinformatics.uni-muenster.de/home/index.hbi?>

**Juan C. Opazo**, Universidad Austral de Chile, Chile <https://sites.google.com/view/opazolab/home>

The SMBE Secretary, **Emmanuelle Lerat** (<https://lbbe.univ-lyon1.fr/en/annuaire-des-membres/lerat-emmanuelle>) also joined the committee ex officio

Nominations for the post of President, Treasurer, and two councillor positions were solicited from the membership. Sixteen valid nominations were received (for 14 individuals, two being nominated for either position). Six individuals were nominated for the President role, and 10 for the councillor positions. Nominators were asked to provide a few relevant details to accompany their nomination, and for the position of President this was to include any prior involvement with SMBE.

The Nominations committee was tasked with ensuring a diverse slate with respect to gender, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, ability, and geography.

## 2023 Election Summary

For the 2023 Election, 487 members voted which equated to a 16.26% participation rate.

5-year historical participation analysis:

Year	Number Invited to Vote	Number that Voted	Participation Rate
2019	2261	599	26.49%
2020	2242	534	23.82%
2021	2563	545	21.26%
2022	2587	378	14.61%
2023	2995	487	16.26%



2995 members were sent a link to the online ballot and 487 members voted (16% participation).

Congratulations and welcome to the new Council members from 2024:

- President Elect - Ziheng Yang
- Treasurer - Aline Muyle
- Councilors - Elena Gómez-Díaz and Juliana Vianna

# SMBE2023 Virtual Experience



**ATTEND SMBE2023 ON GATHERTOWN!**

**<https://www.smb2023.org/copy-of-registration-and-fees>**

All registered participants have access to all talks and posters after the end of SMBE23 (for 12 months).

Whether you are in Ferrara and cannot manage to reach another venue in time to listen to your favorite talk, or if you want to read the posters during your lunch break or after their session is over, if you could not join in person but you still want to ask questions to the speakers and interact with other attendees, or if you simply want to have access to all the content even after the congress is over...

Contact us at: **[smb2023@unife.it](mailto:smb2023@unife.it)**

**SMBE Liaison officers:**

Josepha Gonzalez Perez, Kateryna Guchanski.

**Local Organizing committee:**

Giorgio Bertorelle (President), Omar Rota-Stabelli (vice-president), Andrea Lucchetti (councilor), Emiliano Trucchi (councilor), Luca Pagani (councilor), Silvia Ghirotto (councilor).

**Thank you to all organisers**

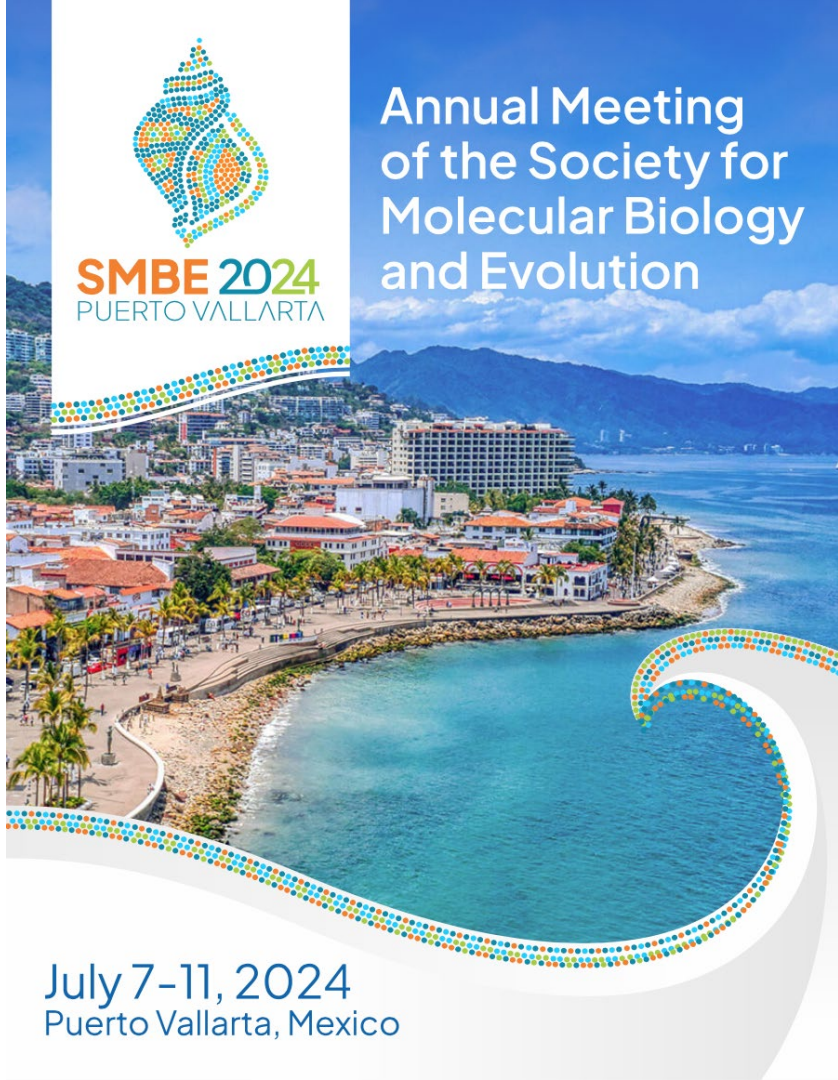






**SMBE 2024**  
PUERTO VALLARTA

# Annual Meeting of the Society for Molecular Biology and Evolution



July 7-11, 2024  
Puerto Vallarta, Mexico

## SMBE 2024 in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico

- SMBE has never been hosted in mainland Latin America.
- Mexico harbours one of the fastest growing scientific communities interested in genomics, evolution and molecular biology, with several world-class research centres created in the past 15 years.
- It's one of the most diverse regions in terms of biological, ethnic and cultural diversity, which naturally connects with SMBE's objectives and vision.
- Bringing a world-class conference to Latin America will boost SMBE's global exposure, training opportunities for students and, ultimately, local capacity building for the region.
- PV is surrounded by nature and cultural diversity, offering attendees a unique, yet safe, experience taking advantage of existing infrastructure for international conferences.
- Venue and local OC are prepared to host virtual (online) components of the meeting as needed.
- Destination is well connected with direct flights from the US and Europe.



- Local costs are lower than traditional SMBE destinations, increasing feasibility without losing quality.
- Local OC has a solid trajectory in the field and experience organizing in-person and virtual international conferences (e.g., **mexpopgen** annual meetings since 2015).
- Puerto Vallarta has been waiting for SMBE since 2017, now is the time!



SMBE 2024  
Mexico bid



## Future SMBE meetings



- 2024 Americas (Mexico) #SMBE2024
- 2025 Beijing, China #SMBE2025
- 2026 Online or in Europe

Proposals for SMBE 2026  
will shortly be sought and considered  
and will be announced in 2024.

# UPCOMING REGIONAL & SATELLITE MEETINGS

**Regional meeting: Mexico Population Genomics Meeting 6 (MexPopGen6)**

**Dates:** October 12th and 13th, 2023

**Location:** Center of Genomic Sciences, Cuernavaca, México

**Website:** <https://www.mexpopgen.com.mx/>

**Registration deadline:** 26th of June

**Invited speakers:** Genevieve Wojcik, Jeffrey Ross-Ibarra and Ella Vázquez Domínguez

**Organisers:** Miriam Bravo-López, Diego Ortega-Del Vecchyo, Federico Sánchez-Quinto, Mashaal Sohail, Viridiana Villa-Islas, Idalia C Rojas-Barrera, Verónica Reyes-Galindo, Nancy Saavedra-Sotelo

# UPCOMING REGIONAL & SATELLITE MEETINGS

**Regional Meeting: Molecular mechanisms in evolution**

**Dates:** December 16th-17th, 2023

**Location:** Dehradun, India

**Website:** TBA

**Registration deadline:** Not announced yet

**Invited speakers:** Jordi Van Gestel (Plenary speaker), Helen Alexander (Plenary speaker), Sabari Sankar Tirupathy, Nishad Matange, Riddhiman Dhar, Deepa Agashe, Krishna Swamy, Laasya Samhita, Janhavi Joshi, Imroze Khan

**Organisers:** Laasya Samhita, Shraddha Karve

# UPCOMING REGIONAL & SATELLITE MEETINGS

## **Regional Meeting in China (Shanghai)**

**Dates:** October 20th-22nd, 2023

**Website:** <https://pog.fudan.edu.cn/smbeshanghai2023>

**Invited speakers:** Jonathan Pritchard and Xiaomei Fu

**Organisers:** Daniel Falush

# UPCOMING REGIONAL & SATELLITE MEETINGS

## **Satellite Meeting on De Novo Gene Birth**

**Dates:** November 6-9, 2023

**Location:** Texas A&M University, College Station, TX - USA

**Website:** <https://agriferegister.tamu.edu/website/56645/>

**Registration deadline:** June 30th.

**Keynote Speakers:** Anne-Ruxandra Carvunis, Erich Bornberg-Bauer

**Invited Speakers:** David Begun, Christina Cheng, Manyuan Long, Christian Rödelsperger, Jorge Ruiz-Orera, Alan Saghatelian, Gisela Storz, Yusuke Suenaga, Diethard Tautz, Eve Wurtele

**Organisers:** Claudio Casola, Texas A&M University; Li Zhao, Rockefeller University; Victor Luria, Yale University; Nikolaos Vakirlis, BSRC “Alexander Fleming”

# UPCOMING REGIONAL & SATELLITE MEETINGS

**Satellite meeting: SMBE Satellite Meeting on Mechanisms of Cellular Evolution**

**Date:** November 8th – 11th, 2023. **Location:** Arizona State University

**Time and timezone:** 8AM - 7PM, MST

**Website:** [https://na.eventscloud.com/ereg/newreg.php?eventid=746305&eb=&ebs=\\*/encrypted\\_id/\\*](https://na.eventscloud.com/ereg/newreg.php?eventid=746305&eb=&ebs=*/encrypted_id/*)

**Registration deadline:** September 1, 2023 (for abstract submission), October 30, 2023 (for attending only)

**Invited Speakers:** Georg Hochberg, Christian Landry, Lillian Fritz-Laylin, Sonja-Verena Albers, Kazuo Inaba, Sri Iyer Biswas, Suckjoon Jun, Anja Spang, Shelley Copley, Alan Moses, Sandy Johnson, Audrey Gasch, Brian Metzger

**Organizers:** Kerry Geiler-Samerotte, Wei-Chin Ho, Michael Lynch, Wayne Frasch, George Hochberg, Ke Hu, John McCutcheon, and Jeremy Wideman





# Progress on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

The launch of the ***SMBE IDEA (Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Access) Initiative*** in 2022 had a very broad set of tasks:

1. to increase representation and inclusion in our membership along all axes of diversity
1. to collect data on and/or address systemic racism, sexism, colonialism, and other exclusion in our society





# Progress on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

The IDEA proposal call was launched in April 2022, 19 proposals were received that were filtered down to 7 using the following rubric:

- Does this benefit SMBE (yes/no)
- Does this benefits a diverse audience (yes/no)
- How does this align with IDEA goals (1-5)
- Do the organizers bring a diverse perspective (yes/no)

Of these, 3 proposals were selected:

- 1) Virtual Lab Meeting Training Program (proposed by Joanna Kelley)
- 2) Applying feminist / anti-oppressive lenses to evolutionary genetics (proposed by Emily Josephs and Daniela Palmer)
- 3) EvoBio Crash Course: Bridging the Knowledge Gap, proposed by Sergio González and colleagues.





# Progress on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion.

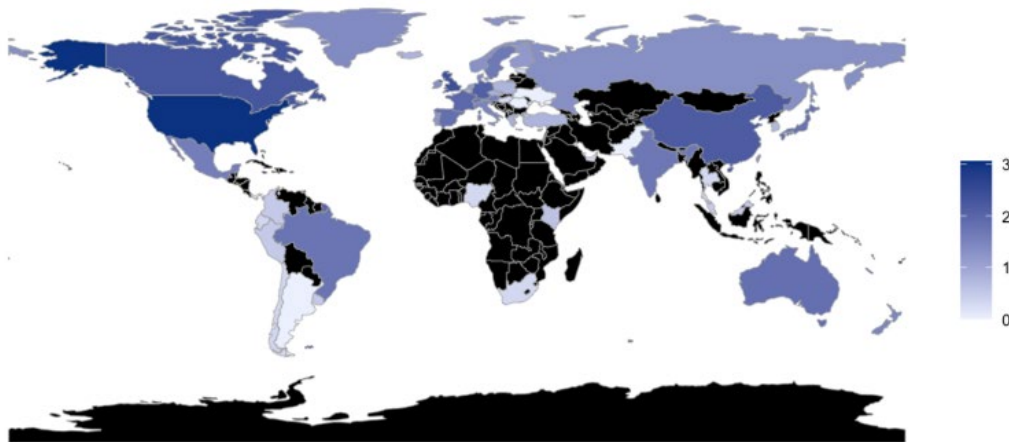


## Other achievements in 2022

- **Website, logo, twitter/social media** – all to raise an awareness of SMBE’s commitment to this initiative
- **Global Symoisum 1 of SMBE 2022** on Parachure Science was very successful
- **Liasing with other societies** (such as GSA DEI, and JEDI at EDP)
- **Understanding the demographic makeup of the society -**

A questionnaire (anonymous) has been set up which members are being asked to complete,  
 From anonymised membership information SMBE current global distribution looks like this:

log10 members



(black represents no members),



# Progress on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

## GOING FORWARD...



Immediate priorities for the IDEA committee:

1. Call for proposals to improve IDEA in SMBE and the field of MBE.
2. Analyses of data within the society (membership composition through the questionnaire, journal submission/acceptance rates) to identify potential sources of bias.
3. Setup collaborations with DEI initiatives from other societies

### **More members for the task force**

#### **Create separate sub-committees for**

- a. Parachute science – 8 individuals +2 IDEA members (\$25k)
- b. Outreach – 8 individuals + 2 IDEA members (\$15-25k)



# Progress on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

## **IDEA task force members**

Chairs: Ravinder Kanda. Senior Lecturer. UK.

Samantha Clinton. MSc Student. UK.

Federico Hoffmann. Assoc Prof. US.

Eduardo Amorim. Assistant Professor. US.

Irene Gallego Romero. Senior Lecturer. AU.

Grace Lee. Asst Prof. US.

Mirima Miyagi. PhD student. US.

Chris Robles. PhD student. US.

## SMBE council members:

Jeff Ross-Ibarra. Professor, US.

Josefa González. Tenured Res Scientist. Spain.

# A Summary: SMBE 2022-23 Developments

- New EICs for MBE started in July 2022
- MBE successfully completed its second year as fully Open Access
- First new Initiatives started under 'IDEA' to further increase diversity and to counteract racism in our community
- Second online-only SMBE conference completed as Global Symposia throughout the year
- First in-person conference post pandemic planned and now ... almost completed! Thank you all for coming!