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## WCSJ Opening plenary details and a special offer



### Opening plenary: Giving & taking scientific advice: why inclusiveness matters

This high-level panel brings together speakers from four continents to examine models of how scientific evidence feeds into policy-making and the tensions that can arise between scientific information and societal and political priorities. Countries large and small, developed and

securing the right to science for citizens and our most vulnerable populations.



**Distinguished speaker:** Professor Rémi Quirion, Chief Scientist of Quebec and President of the International Network for Governmental Science Advice (INGSA)

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sciences research. He was the scientific director of the Douglas Mental Health University Institute Research Centre, a full professor in the department of psychiatry at McGill University and the executive director of the International Collaborative Research Strategy for Alzheimer's Disease of the Canadian Institutes of Health Research. Professor Quirion was the first scientific director of the Institute of Neurosciences, Mental Health and Addiction (INMHA), one of Canada's 13 health research institutes.

Professor Quirion chairs the boards of directors of the three Fonds de recherche du Québec and advises the Minister of Economy and Innovation on research and scientific development issues. He is the president of the International Network for Governmental Science Advice (INGSA)

### **New addition to parallel programme**

#### **Why the youngest children should be on every science journalist's radar**

Where children are the subjects of journalistic reportages, they are typically secondary or tertiary considerations or lines of inquiry. This panel will explore how child-centred reporting, and the lens of early childhood is – or should be – a priority for journalists on every beat, and especially science journalists'.

For example, explaining that a mother's well-being is crucial to a child's upbringing can better inform a conversation about parental leave. Similarly, reporting on the health implications of early childhood adversity and trauma on the developing brain can help to underscore the importance of investing in early education and social programs – and better inform our reporting.

This panel is established by the [Dart Center for Journalism and Trauma](#), as part of their [International Early Childhood Journalism Initiative](#).

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**Moderator:** Irene Caselli, early childhood journalist & senior advisor to the Dart Center, Columbia Journalism School

**Speakers:**

Mariana Lenharo, freelance science journalist, [2021 Dart Fellow](#)

Alla Katsnelson, freelance science journalist, [2022 Dart Fellow](#)

Rhithu Chatterjee, health correspondent, NPR, [2022 Dart Fellow](#)

**Valentine's promotion for one week only**



Valentine's day is a huge celebration in Colombia, and for the week of Monday 13-Sunday 19 February, WCSJ is offering a 15% discount on registration. So, if you missed out on the early bird promotion, make the most of this offer and [sign up](#) next week!

The [full parallel programme](#) is on the website, and we are announcing more plenaries each week. We look forward to seeing you in Medellín.

## Partner Universities

WCSJ Medellín has partnered with three local universities for the 2023 meeting. Information about each is below.

### **University of Antioquia: An Innovative University for the transformation of territories**

The University of Antioquia, founded in 1803, is the oldest public university in Colombia and the second largest in the country. It is home to more than 41,000 students and provides higher education based on academic excellence, ethics and responsibility. It is committed to the welfare of society, scientific production and education, which is reflected in its three core missions: research, teaching and extension.

As well as its [portfolio of research capabilities](#) and their contributions to the Sustainable Development Goals, the university has a [technological portfolio](#) of its developments that are close to transfer and or commercial licensing and scaling to production.



### **EAFIT Inspires, Creates, Transforms**

EAFIT is a university located in Medellín- Colombia, that inspires the current generation to embark on a life project that maximises its potential. It contributes to the sustainable development of humanity by offering programs that stimulate lifelong learning, promote science, technology and innovation, and encourage interaction with the environment with a spirit of integrity, audacity, excellence, pluralism, and inclusion.



At EAFIT you will find a community with a global vision and regional and local impact that adapts, mobilises, reinvents and innovates, partners with other organisations, and provides timely and pertinent responses to the challenges of the environment and the needs of stakeholders. EAFIT promotes the generation of knowledge, technological development and innovation, technology transfer, academic training, public communication and public engagement, across the full range of academic disciplines. To find out more there is a [video available here](#).

### **Universidad Nacional de Colombia**

Since 1967, the Universidad Nacional de Colombia has been the first and largest university in Colombia. Its mission is to promote access to quality higher education for all Colombians. There are currently almost 50,000 undergraduates, over 7,000 postgraduate students and 984 research groups spread across nine campuses in Colombia.

The Medellín campus houses the science schools, as well as architecture, agricultural sciences and human and economic sciences.

There are many research groups on campus, with outputs from research papers, patents and licences, with a handful of start ups too.



**Last chance to apply for WCSJ2023 Nature Travel Grant!**

# SPRINGER NATURE

Applications from the global south, from reporters who have a proven track record of producing high-quality, accurate, and engaging science journalism are invited. To apply, please send your CV and three representative samples of your work to [office@wfsj.org](mailto:office@wfsj.org). The subject of your email should contain the following information WCSJ2023 – Nature Travel Grant – Country. Please mention your country of residence in your application. All information required **MUST** be contained in a single email for your application to be considered.

Before applying, you must ensure that you will be available for the dates from March 27 to March 31, 2023, that you have all the travel documents required by public health authorities and if you need a visa to enter Colombia please indicate in your application letter.

The deadline for applications is **12 February 2023 at 11:59 pm EDT**

**The World Conference of Science Journalists** (WCSJ, [www.wcsj.org](http://www.wcsj.org)) is the biggest global event on science journalism, attracting approximately 1,200 journalists covering science and medical issues, as well as international experts, scientists, and communicators, among others.

The 10th World Conference of Science Journalists (WCSJ2017) in San Francisco (26–30 October 2017) and the 11th World Conference of Science Journalists (WCSJ2019) in Lausanne



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**WFSJ**

World Federation of  
Science Journalists



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