

November 20, 2025

## Personal Note from the IBWS Organising Team

Dear IBWS participants,

as members of the Local Organising Committee, we—Veronika, Ondrej and Martin—would like to take this opportunity to share a few personal words as members of the organising team of IBWS, which spans more than ten years.

After careful consideration, we have decided to step back from the role of organisers and return our focus primarily to our own work and research activities. The growing administrative burden, the decrease in institutional support and the difficulty in communication have made the process more complex, inefficient and less enjoyable. In several situations, this has led to considerable confusion, rework or avoidable complications, which has demotivated the team.

Throughout our involvement, our primary aim has always been to support students as much as possible in their interest in this field, to motivate them and to provide accessible and realistic conditions for participation. With limited resources, possibilities, and opportunities, this was often very challenging — sometimes we succeeded, at other times less so. Unfortunately, the current leadership's approach no longer fully aligns with this philosophy.

As we have always organised IBWS in our free time—outside of our regular employment and often at the expense of family, friends, hobbies, and other responsibilities—these ongoing difficulties have gradually become unsustainable. As a result, it has become increasingly challenging to deliver the high-quality conference experience that we believe IBWS and its participants truly deserve.

For these reasons, we believe it is time to pass the possibility of organising this workshop to someone else in the coming years. We trust that IBWS will continue to thrive in the hands of new organisers who bring fresh energy, ideas and perspectives.

We would like to sincerely thank all of you—current and past participants— for the opportunity to work with all of you, and for your support, kindness, and enthusiasm over the years.

Thank you once again for your kindness and cooperation, and for the many wonderful moments we shared.

With warm regards,

Veronika Maršíková  
Martin Urban  
Ondřej Nentvich