**Biography:** James Potash, ISPG Treasurer

Dr. Jimmy Potash took over as Chair and Department Executive Officer of the University of Iowa Department of Psychiatry in 2011, after 23 years at Johns Hopkins in Baltimore. He is a graduate of Yale College. Following graduation, he served in the Peace Corps in West Africa. He completed his master’s degree in public health at John Hopkins, and went on to do his medical school and residency training there. He joined the faculty at Hopkins in 1998, helped to create a Mood Disorders Center there and directed research within it, and was named to the Arlene and Robert Kogod Professorship.

Dr. Potash’s work has focused on research regarding the genetic and epigenetic basis of depression and bipolar disorder. These efforts have resulted in over 150 publications. He has been the principal investigator on grants from the National Institute of Mental Health aimed at studying the genetics of bipolar disorder, and the epigenetics of stress and depression. In addition to his research endeavors, Dr. Potash is also an active clinician who sees mood disorders patients in the inpatient setting and the outpatient clinic.

At the University of Iowa, Dr. Potash served on the College of Medicine’s Executive Committee, and helped to create a Neuroscience Institute. Nationally, he co-leads the Bipolar Sequencing Consortium, and is a member of the Executive Committee for the National Network of Depression Centers and of the Council on Research for the American Psychiatric Association.

Dr. Potash attended his first World Congress of Psychiatric Genetics (WCPG) in 1998 in Bonn, Germany. He found it an exhilarating and energizing experience to be in the presence of the world’s leading investigators in the field. He has since been a regular at WCPG, and presented often at the meetings. He began serving on the Awards Committee in 2009, and became chair of that committee in 2012. He served on the Program Committee in 2011, 2014 and 2016. In 2014, he was elected to the Board of Directors.