

Embargoed until 12 December 2025, 9am GMT

WCSFP Wraps a Landmark Congress '25 in Rio de Janeiro and Bids Farewell to Conference Director Paul Lewis

Congress '25 has officially come to a close, marking one of the most dynamic and internationally engaged editions in the history of the World Congress of Science & Factual Producers (WCSFP). Held in Latin America for the first time, this milestone event opened new doors for collaboration and market growth across global science, history, natural history, and factual content.

More than 400 delegates from over 25 countries gathered in Rio de Janeiro for four days of vibrant programming, networking, and idea-driven exchange. Producers, broadcasters, funders, commissioners, digital creators, and industry leaders converged in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil for four days of dynamic programming and networking that showcased bold ideas, groundbreaking projects, and the future of factual storytelling. Congress '25 also delivered exceptional engagement across its signature initiatives, including over 170 one-on-one Pitch Me! meetings between producers and decision makers, and a record number of submissions for the Buzzies Awards, the Global Career Accelerator, and Pitch Me! – a clear sign of rising demand for international opportunity.

This landmark edition also marks a moment of transition. After seven years at the helm, Conference Director Paul Lewis is stepping down at the end of January 2026.

"I regret to announce that Paul will be leaving his current position as Conference Director of the WCSFP. I'd like to thank him for his many years of service and commitment," says Patrick Hörl, Chair of the Board of World Congress of Science & Factual Producers. "However, I'm pleased that he will continue his long relationship with WCSFP as a Senior Advisor to the Board Chair. In this voluntary position he will use his vast knowledge of the industry and international contacts to help support the Chair and the Board as Congress adapts to industry and market changes."

Paul Lewis adds, "Congress has been such an incredible influence not just on my career but my life. I've had the incredible privilege of travelling the world and meeting wonderful friends and colleagues. So I will continue to attend Congress and other markets as I develop some fun new projects. This is definitely not a goodbye but an opportunity to make an impact on our industry in exciting new ways."

Since 2019, Paul has shaped transformative Congresses across Tokyo, Glasgow, Seattle, Marrakesh, and now Rio, guiding the community through global challenges and new markets with dedication. Paul leaves behind a meaningful legacy, and WCSFP is grateful for his guidance and contributions.

#####

World Congress of Science and Factual Producers is a not-for-profit, member-driven organization dedicated to celebrating the best in factual filmmaking, digital production and the wider industry. WCSFP is the place where science, history and natural history content creators and executives gather to share, explore and reveal how advancements within these industries are communicated to the world. Past Congresses have been held in such cities as Marrakesh, Morocco (2024), Seattle, USA



WORLD CONGRESS OF
SCIENCE & FACTUAL PRODUCERS

(2023), Glasgow, UK (2022); Tokyo, Japan (2019); Brisbane, Australia (2018); San Francisco, USA (2017); Stockholm, Sweden (2016); Vienna, Austria (2015); Hong Kong (2014); Montreal, Canada (2013); Washington, D.C., USA (2012); Paris, France (2011); Dresden, Germany (2010); Melbourne, Australia (2009); Florence, Italy (2008); New York, USA (2007); and others. It is administered by a board of directors and an elected editorial committee that deals primarily with editorial matters. WCSFP is managed by Documentary Campus. For more information, visit <http://www.wcsfp.com>.

Congress '25 is proudly hosted by the Rio Secretariat of Science, Technology and Innovation (SMCT) with support from Rio de Janeiro's Mayor's Office, and participation from members of the local media, culture and scientific community, including Grifa Filmes, Instituto Serrapilheira, LatAm Content Meeting, Rio Market, TV Brasil, and more. Additional thanks to Embratur for their support of Congress '25.

Media Contact:

River Ferris
Communications Manager
rferris@wcsfp.com