

## **Minutes of the Division of Comparative Biomechanics Business Meeting, January 3, 2008, San Antonio, TX**

The Division Chair, Bob Full, called the meeting to order and introduced the elected officers.

The SICB Society officers entered the room and were introduced.

Bob Full listed the symposia being held at the San Antonio meeting that were sponsored by DCB, and revealed that our division had over 100 contributed papers – in one case, we had 5 paper sessions running concurrently – and 50 contributed posters.

Congratulations were offered to Sheila Patek, winner of the Bartholomew Award for this year.

The Program Officer, Frank Fish, spoke next, apologizing to all present for the unavoidable concurrent sessions, and to Dave Carrier in particular for scheduling his two talks at the same time in different rooms. In general, we are victims of our own success – the large number of biomechanics talks made scheduling difficult.

DCB sponsored 3 symposia for the San Antonio meeting. For next year's meeting, the Division is sponsoring Sensory Biomechanics, organized by Matt McHenry and Sanjay Sane.

Frank reminded the attendees that Late Breaking Symposia can be submitted at around the time abstracts are due – however, they are limited to a one half-day session, and must be cutting-edge research.

SICB has set up a “symposium enhancement fund” that can provide up to about \$4000 to bring in a big name (for instance, from Europe) who otherwise wouldn't participate.

Frank urged all division members to attend the DCB/DVM joint social.

Goggy Davidowitz, currently a Program Officer in Integrative Organismal Systems (IOS) at NSF spoke about the Structures, Mechanisms and Materials (SMM) panel – all biomechanics-oriented proposals should go there. The focus of the panel is on “systems related research,” specifically how the particular object of study functions in the system of the whole organism. Current funding rates for IOS as a whole are 17.1% for Fiscal Year 2007, with an average grant amount of \$125,000 per year. The SMM panel funding rate was slightly higher, at 18.7%, and an average of \$141,000 per year.

Goggy stressed that there are several targeted NSF funds that are not being used by SICB members – the NSF booth in the Exhibits Hall had a handout describing these. Additionally, modifications to the web-based “myNSF” now allows you to tailor NSF announcements to your research interests.

Bob Full then reported on information that Bill Zamer of NSF had communicated to the SICB Executive Committee regarding NSF funding of symposia. Specifically, the Society needs to clarify deadlines for funding applications for Late-Breaking Symposia.

In order to get NSF funding for regular symposia in Biomechanics:

1. Preference for funding will be aimed at those topics that are integrative and cross

disciplinary boundaries. To be considered for funding by IOS the focus must be organismal, or include organismal biology topics in an integrative framework. Contact a program director before submitting a full proposal to explore the possibility of funding. Note that the Division of Environmental Biology does not support symposia as a practice, so that symposium topics that focus exclusively on topics usually reviewed in DEB (e.g., ecology and ecosystem science) will not likely be considered for funding.

2. The symposium must have both Divisional and SICB approval ahead of time.
3. It must be “timely” – at least 2-5 years should have elapsed since the last related symposium. If less time than that, you must clearly state how your symposium is different – is there new, revolutionary science, new technology, new societal benefits?
4. The symposium speaker list must include women and/or underrepresented minorities or if they are not included on the speakers list then the PI must describe actions take to identify qualified individuals in these groups and an explanation for their omission. NSF/BIO also has a significant interest in seeing limited funds applied to support of young investigators as participants. These may include graduate students, postdocs, and assistant professors. The funding application must include support for them.
5. Show the idea for the symposium to the NSF Program Officer first, to get feedback on the possibility for funding of the topic.

Bill Zamer also asked SICB Division Chairs to encourage members to take a turn rotating at NSF as Program Officers or Directors. Benefits of serving include the opportunity to set the panel’s scientific agenda. Zamer also encouraged SICB members to consider applying for Research Coordination Network funds (currently not being used by DCB members) – this program provides \$100,000 per year for up to 5 years to promote collaborations between researchers from different disciplines, or in widely separated locations.

Malcolm Gordon spoke regarding the upcoming IUPS meeting, taking place during the last week of July, 2009 in Kyoto, Japan. One of the main themes of the conference is Global Change; a satellite symposium, “Survival in a Changing World,” sponsored by the Journal of Experimental Biology, will take place immediately after the conference. The Thermal Physiology section will hold a satellite meeting just before the IUPS conference. An additional highlight will be the first Schmidt-Nielsen lecture, given by Brian Barnes of the University of Alaska. The website for the conference is: [www.iups2009.com](http://www.iups2009.com). The contributed paper deadline is approaching.

Bob Full reported that the new President of the American Society of Biomechanics, Roger Kram, wants to organize a joint activity with DCB. Please send feedback/comments on this idea to Bob – what sorts of collaboration would our members like to see?

Further new business: the SICB Executive Committee is proposing to standardize division budgets so that each Division would have a total of \$2000 to spend on supporting symposia, and \$800 for socials. Bob speculated that this was a deliberate attempt to get the Divisions to socialize more.

Emily Carrington informed the attendees of 2 courses taking place this summer at Friday Harbor Labs. One is the biomechanics course being taught by Emily, Mark Denny, and John Gosline (information on this has been placed on the SICB website). The second is the fish course being taught by Adam Summers and . Each course is worth 9 credit hours, and consists of half regular lectures and standard lab exercises, and half student projects.

Emily also suggested that for future annual meetings, the DIZ and DVM business meetings ought to be scheduled for the same time, so that DIZ's business meeting wouldn't conflict with DCB's.

John Bertram suggested revisiting the idea of a joint SICB-SEB meeting, recalling that SEB had tried a couple of years ago to organize a joint meeting with SICB.

The business being exhausted, the meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by Secretary Miriam Ashley-Ross