



## Division of Neurobiology

### *In this newsletter*

- [Message from the Chair](#)
- [Message from the Program Officer](#)
- [Message from the Secretary](#)
- [Proposed Divisional Bylaws Changes](#)
- [Business Meeting Minutes 2009](#)

### **Message from the Chair**

*James Murray*

The Boston meeting went very well and I look forward to reading the publications resulting from some of the sensory biomechanics and psychoneuroimmunology symposium talks that I was not able to attend. At the SICB Executive Committee meeting I learned that the finances of the society are stronger now than in previous years, despite the downturn in our investments. The minutes of those meetings are on the SICB website (<http://www.sicb.org/about/officers.php3>) and I encourage you to look at them. I try to represent the interests of DNB and SICB the best I can, but am always open to input from members. Students and postdocs have an additional representative in Jenna Monroy, so please contact her with any ideas or suggestions. This fall we will be accepting nominations for new DNB officers (who will take over at the end of the 2011 meeting after a spring 2010 election).

If you please, send us an image and a blurb about your research to add to the DNB researcher database. This database can allow SICB to claim expertise to media and to funding agencies. As many of you know, NSF has challenged SICB to draw up a grand plan for funding integrative biology and that work is underway in the short- and long-term. You can contribute to this discussion on the website. We voted to hold the 2011 meeting in Salt Lake City as opposed to New Orleans. Although many favored New Orleans in part to support their rebuilding, one of the Executive Committee members reminded us that Louisiana had recently passed legislation that encourages the teaching of creationism in the public schools, and that turned many members away from NOLA, and towards Utah, which actually has quite solid science standards. The 2012 meeting will be held in the east (as per the west/central/east rotation), and we are considering proposals from Charleston SC and from Puerto Rico. So please send your input. The DNB has also been discussing cooperation with the International Society for Neuroethology to perhaps share member's rates at conferences by being a member of either society. Please contact Duane if you



would like to help plan the 2011 symposium on CPGs, and suggest ideas for a 2012 symposium. See you in Seattle if not before.

---

## Message from the Program Officer

*Duane McPherson*

The 2009 meeting was very successful in terms of member participation. I would like to thank Shaun Cain and Robin Cooper for chairing oral presentation sessions. We had three oral sessions of contributed papers, totaling 16 papers – a large increase over the 11 contributed papers in 2008. The number of posters was 21, similar to that in 2008 (19). Although we did not have a specifically “Neurobiology” symposium, there was an excellent symposium on Sensory Biomechanics, co-organized by division member Matt McHenry and Sanjay Sane. Congratulations, Matt and Sanjay! The contributed paper sessions related to the symposium also included a number of neurobiology talks. So, overall we are growing as a division, which is good.

As noted above, I am organizing a symposium around the theme of central pattern generators. This will take place (if all goes well) at the 2011 meeting in Salt Lake City. It is still in the planning stages, and at this point I am open to suggestions. I do have to submit a proposal to SICB by the end of the summer, and to NSF soon after, so if you have an idea please let me know soon. You could even be a co-organizer! Also, this is a good time to be incubating ideas for future symposia. Since the proposals need to go to the SICB program

committee about 18 months prior to execution, it really takes almost two years to prepare a symposium. Please let me know your ideas for symposia that we could hold in 2012 and after. Especially if you would like to be an organizer!

In general, DNB would like to host a neurobiology symposium each year. However, we did not receive any proposals in 2008 for a neurobiology symposium to take place at the 2010 meeting. We can compensate for that by having a large number of contributed papers in the oral and poster sessions, which will also allow more thematic specialization of the sessions. Please submit an abstract, and encourage your colleagues who are not in SICB to do the same. SICB in Seattle will be a blast, and I look forward to seeing many of you there!

---

## Message from the Secretary

*Tom Pirtle*

Greetings to all members of the Division of Neurobiology and other interested readers. The 2009 meeting in Boston was a great success. There were eleven students competing for the best student award and we congratulate Simon Sponberg of the University of California, Berkeley for best student oral presentation and Allison Sherman of California State University East Bay for best student poster. Please visit the following <http://www.sicb.org/students/bsp2009.php3> to read the abstracts of these best student award winners. We ac-



knowledge Wiley-Blackwell Publishers support of the best student competition and thank them for their participation. Additionally, we want to thank those members of DNB who served in judging these presentations. Finally, we want to thank Ben Miner and Ruediger Birenheide for implementing the web-based service for assigning judges.

The terms for the current DNB officers end this year so a nominating committee needs to be organized and nominees chosen before the fall begins.

---

## Proposed Divisional Bylaws Changes

DNB bylaws and elections need to be discussed. The following are proposed changes in the DNB bylaws. A ballot for these changes will appear later this spring.

deletions are shown as *italics*

Article III. Section 2.

Election of officers shall be by *mail* ballot of the Division. The names of candidates for offices shall be published in advance of a mail ballot. All officers shall assume the duties of their office following the annual Division business meeting.

Article III. Section 6.

*In intervals between meetings*, The management of the Division shall be vested in an Executive Committee consisting of the elected officers of the Division.

## Minutes of the 2009 DNB business meeting.

Present: Brett Szymik, William Zamer, Jim Belanger, Jim Murray, Darcy Kato, Russell Wyeth, Duane McPherson, Mike Baltzley, Allison Sherman, Zen Faulkes, Tom Pirtle

1. Bill Zamer made us aware of a new funding opportunity through NSF. This funding supports research on transitions in life, especially as it relates to mechanisms of adaptation to climate change, energy transduction, and origins of life.

2. The DNB newsletter was discussed.

3. We discussed adding images and video to the SICB website representing DNB.

4. Criteria for judging posters and oral presentations and selection of judges was discussed. The new web-based system for selecting judges during the registration process was as tremendous help.

5. Divisional bylaw changes were discussed.

6. Duane suggested an idea to develop the topic of central pattern generators for the 2011 meeting.

7. We discussed the advantages and disadvantages of holding the next SICB meeting in Salt Lake City or New Orleans.

8. The crowded nature of the poster session was discussed.

9. Ideas for symposia for the 2012 meeting might include sensory neurobiology and the use of multiple sensory cues and their integration.