



Division of Comparative Endocrinology

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DCE Officers & Representatives

Stephen McCormick
Chair 2012-2014

Mary Mendonca
Chair-Elect 2012-2014

Rachel Bowden
Secretary 2013-2015

Ignacio Moore
Program Officer 2012-2014

Rosemary Knapp
Program Officer-Elect 2013-2014

Molly Dickens
Student/Postdoc Rep 2013-2016

Message from the Chair

Steve McCormick (Chair.DCE@sicb.org)

It was great to see so many of you in San Francisco. It was a wonderful venue and an exciting, jam-packed meeting overall. Kudos to our Program Officer Ignacio Moore for all his efforts to organize the meeting. Our social was probably the most memorable we've ever had. It was in a beautiful room overlooking downtown San Francisco, there was great attendance and we had some rapid, high energy science. Thanks to Rebecca Calisi-Rodríguez for organizing the data blitz and congratulations to Travis Wilcoxon, the winner by popular acclaim.

A few other highlights and thoughts from the meeting:

* As this year's Bern Lecturer, Ellen Ketterson, gave us an inspiring talk that summarized an incredible career and showed us the power of integrative biology. Thank you Ellen for putting together such an impressive and stimulating lecture.



*Ellen Ketterson,
the 2013 Bern
Lecturer*

* Congratulations to Blake Jones, winner of the Aubrey Gorbman award for best student oral presentation, and Jeffrey Goessling, winner of the Lynn Riddiford best student poster award. Thanks to Mark Hausmann for organizing the judging and to all those who took time out to do the judging.

* At the end of the meeting Erica Crespi completed her two year term as secretary of the Division. Erica was a great help to me personally as I learned the ropes as Chair, and has really been a dedicated and thoughtful force in the division. Thanks so much Erica! You also win the most dedicated award for coming to the meeting with the smallest (and cutest) baby ever.

* I also want to thank Rebecca Calisi-Rodríguez whose term as student/postdoc representative has just ended. Rebecca brought great energy and new ideas, and I want to thank her for her many contributions to the Division.

Judging of student presentations at the annual meeting has always been a challenge because they are spread out over the entire meeting, requiring many judges with somewhat subjective criteria. One of the divisions tried a new way of judging this year; they had students submit an expanded abstract and a small committee chose a select group of 6-8 students that participated in a single session (one for posters and one for oral presentations). This makes for more work for judges in advance of the meeting, but less work during the meeting and potentially greater consistency among judges. Initial feedback was generally positive, and we are



considering moving to this model. Please let me or other members of the executive committee know if you have an opinion on this approach or other suggestions.

The division is in good shape. We have the highest membership we've had in at least ten years and our finances are in well in the black. The Chair has a lot of discretion for how to use those finances, so I hope you will contact me if you have ideas for strengthening the Division and making the annual meeting a better experience for our members.

As of January, Rachel Bowden is our new Secretary and Molly Dickens is our new student/postdoc representative. Henry John-Alder is our new representative to the Society's journal Integrative and Comparative Biology. As you'll see from the biographies later in the newsletter, we have a great slate of folks who have agreed to run for Chair-elect and Secretary-elect. I encourage all of you to VOTE; these are the folks who will take the division to the next level and serve your needs within the society. Thanks to the nominating committee Chair Mary Mendonça, Erica Crespi and Mark Sheridan for their efforts to round up these candidates.

Our next annual SICB meeting (January 2014) is in Austin, Texas, a cultural and music 'capital' of the American southwest. There is a lot going on in the upcoming meeting that will be of interest to DCE members; please see the accompanying message from our Program Officer Ignacio Moore for details. The deadline for nominations for the Bern lecturer for the Austin meeting is June 15, 2013; send me an email if you have a nominee in mind and I will give details of what is needed. And finally, now is the time to put together late-breaking symposia for the meeting, so please contact Ignacio or myself with your ideas.

Message from the Program Officer

Ignacio Moore (DPO.DCE@sicb.org)

I hope that everyone enjoyed the San Francisco meeting. The city was great and I certainly enjoyed more than my share of the great food available. This was the largest SICB conference ever and bodes well for the future.

Dr. Ellen Ketterson's Howard Bern lecture was a wonderful overview of her decades of research on the dark-eyed junco. This was a great example of what we can learn from long-term studies of a

single species. Lots of her work is being made into the film, the Ordinary Extraordinary Junco. Check it out: <http://www.juncoproject.org>. You can also find her lecture on the SICB website (under "Media/Publications").

Congratulations to the winners of the DCE Student Presentation Awards: **Blake Jones** (University of Memphis) won the **Aubrey Gorbman Oral Presentation Award** for "Corticosterone responsiveness and behavioral phenotype reveal learned antipredator behavior is sex specific in Florida scrub-jays (*Aphelocoma coerulescens*)".



Blake Jones



Jeffrey Goessling

Jeffrey Goessling (Auburn University) won the **Lynn Riddiford Poster Presentation Award** for "A meta-analytic approach to comparing indices of stress in vertebrates: Does

heterophil:lymphocyte ratio reveal similar degrees of stress as circulating corticosterone concentration?" These were just two of the dozens of fantastic student presentations at the conference.

Many thanks to Mark Haussmann for organizing the judging of student presentations. In addition, thanks also to all the individuals who take the time to judge student presentations.

I'm already looking forward to the Austin conference next January. Abstract and registration details will be emailed and posted online this summer. DCE will be sponsoring the symposia "Endocrine Disruption in the Ecosystem: Linking Anthropogenic Causes and Effects in Natural Settings" organized by Kevin Kelley, Stephen McCormick, and Tara Duffy. We will



also be co-sponsoring "Methods and mechanisms in ecoimmunology," organized by Cynthia Downs, Jim Adelman, and Greg Demas and "Adaptation or developmental constraint? Uniting evolutionary theory and empirical studies," organized by Haruka Wada and Kendra Sewall.

I encourage any who have thought about organizing a symposium to start planning for our 2014 meeting in Florida; proposals will be due late summer. Feel free to contact me should you have any questions about organizing one.

Message from the Secretary

Rachel Bowden (Secretary.DCE@sicb.org)

My thanks go out to Erica Crespi for her help with learning the role of DCE secretary. She was quite a trooper bringing the "youngest member of SICB" to San Francisco, and has given me a great model for moving forward! And thanks to all of the DCE members that helped make the San Francisco meeting a success, I'm looking forward to another great meeting in Austin next year.

What's free, easy, and will increase the visibility of your research program within DCE? **Submitting your information to the DCE Researcher's Database.** All it takes is a brief paragraph describing your research interests and a picture of your model organism or an exciting graph from one of your publications. So take five minutes to put this together, and send it to me in an email. It'll make you feel good, and did I mention that it's FREE?

Don't forget to check out the DCE Facebook page. We currently have 58 members and it's yet another great way to keep in touch with the comparative endocrinology community. Go to <http://www.facebook.com/groups/104465249680261/>.

In an effort to consolidate emails from the society, SICB will now send out a **Monthly Member Update**. If you have any announcements (upcoming meetings, etc.) that you'd like to have sent out to the DCE membership, please send them to me no later than the 5th of the month. Updates will be sent out at the middle of each month.

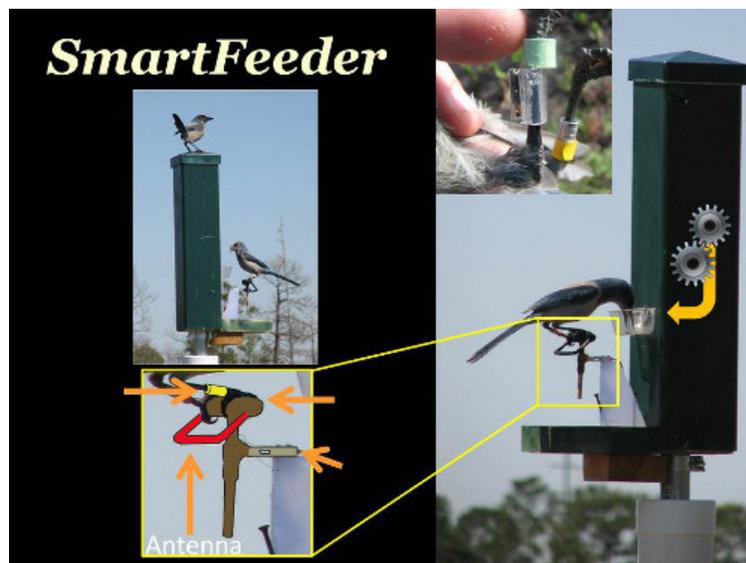
Speaking of meetings, here are some to put on your calendar:

- 2nd meeting of the North American Society of Comparative Endocrinology held at Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Mexico (UNAM), Campus UNAM-Juriquilla, Queretaro, Mexico. May 22-25 2013.
- Endocrine Society Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA June 15-18, 2013
- Society for Behavioral Neuroendocrinology, Atlanta, GA June 23-26, 2013
- 17th International Congress of Comparative Endocrinology, Barcelona, Spain July 15-19, 2013
- Society for Neuroscience, San Diego Nov. 9-13, 2013

Message from the Student/Postdoctoral Affairs Committee Representative

Molly Dickens (m.dickens@berkeley.edu)

Thanks to everyone who made it out to San Francisco for the meeting this year. We had great turnout from the students and postdocs with really impressive talks and posters. Several workshops aimed at specifically addressing the skill set of the young scientist with the Student/Postdoctoral Affairs Committee hosting a helpful workshop on Elevator Talks and the Broadening Participation workshops focusing on developing effective presentation skills and approaching job negotiations.





Another highlight of the meeting was the new addition to the GCE social – the (soon to be annual?) **Data Blitz**. A special thanks to the departing Grad student/Post doc rep, Rebecca Calisi-Rodríguez for firing up the social with this mini-symposium in which participants were asked to bring hilarity and brevity to their research project. Ranging from grad students to postdocs to young faculty, the five participants (myself, Ryan Paitz, Christine Lattin, Liz Carlton, and Travis Wilcoxon) and special surprise guest, Steve Schoech, were allowed two minutes and two slides to share their research with the GCE crowd. Travis Wilcoxon, with his amazing slam poetry approach, won the evening (via applause-o-meter) and was awarded with the grand honor of wearing a princess crown for the rest of the social.



Participants in the first DCE Data Blitz (l-r) Molly Dickens, Ryan Paitz, Christine Lattin, Liz Carlton, Travis Wilcoxon, Rebecca Calisi-Rodríguez (organizer), and Steve Schoech

If you departed San Francisco with any thoughts, comments, suggestions for making next year's meeting even better, please reach out to me. We are always looking for great workshop ideas that are relevant to the grad student and postdoc needs and would love to hear your feedback.

Hope to see you all in Austin next year!



DCE 2013 Minutes of the Business Meeting

Click [here](#).

2013 Officer Elections: And the Nominees Are...

This year DCE members will have the opportunity to vote for Chair-Elect and Secretary-Elect. We thank Mary Mendonça, Erica Crespi, and Mark Sheridan for serving on the Nominations Committee, and the nominees for their willingness to serve DCE. Please take a few minutes to read over the nomination materials provided for each candidate. Elections will take place in the next few weeks, so keep an eye out for an email with a link to the election ballot.

Nominations for DCE Chair-Elect (will serve 2014-2016, will be Chair 2016-2018):

Creagh Breuner

Current Position: Associate Professor, Organismal Biology and Ecology, and the Wildlife Biology Program, The University of Montana

Education: BA University of Washington, PhD University of Washington

Professional Experience:

Assistant and Associate Professor, The University of Montana (2006 to present); Assistant Professor, University of Texas (2000 to 2006); NSF post-doctoral fellow for biosciences in the environment, Arizona State University (1998-2000). NSF Panel Member: DDIG, EEP, PSI, OEI, ModII.

SICB Membership and Activities: Membership 1994 to present; attended and presented at a majority of meetings over that time. Judge of Student oral and/or poster presentations 4 or 5 times in the last 12 years; Chair of the student competition in 2004.

Other Memberships: AAAS, Sigma Xi

Research Interests: I focus on the role glucocorticoids play in mediating tradeoffs between survival and reproduction in free-living animals. From this ecological perspective, I seek to understand how evolutionary pressures have shaped glucocorticoid action at the protein, cellular, plasma and organismal level.

Goals Statement: I would be pleased to serve the division of comparative endocrinology as DCE chair. I have grown up in DCE, and benefitted from the

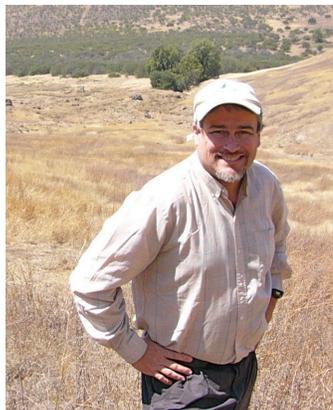


Creagh Breuner



rich diversity of topics and the amazing student support provided therein. I believe DCE continues to be strong because the majority of members feel this way. We started our careers here, and want to continue to the tradition of strong science and student support. Toward this end, I would continue promoting and organizing workshops for graduate student and post-doctoral training. I want to work to ensure that graduate students continue to feel welcome at SICB, and receive the input during meetings to help their development as scientists. I also think it's getting harder and harder to be a post-doc, with the low availability of jobs, and the reduction in NSF funding to post-docs. I would like to develop a workshop for post-docs (and finishing graduate students) that will assist in the job application process, as well as the grant application process. And finally, with the growth of DCE research in ecology and evolution, I see greater possibilities for cross-division symposia, working with DEE, DAB and DCPB. I look forward to the chance to serve DCE.

L. Michael Romero



L. Michael Romero

Current Position: Professor of Biology, Tufts University, Adjunct Professor of Environmental and Population Health, Tufts University School of Veterinary Medicine
Education: BA in Biology, Swarthmore College; MS in Biology, Stanford University; PhD in Biology, Stanford University
Professional Experience: American Psychological Association Postdoctoral

Fellow, Department of Zoology, University of Washington; NSF Postdoctoral Fellow, Department of Zoology, University of Washington; Grant reviewer for National Science Foundation – IBN and IOS; Managing Editor for General and Comparative Endocrinology

SICB Activities: Member since 1996; Judge for “Best Student Paper” awards committee for DCE at 1998 meeting; Chaired “Best Student Paper” awards committee for DCE at 2001 meeting; DCE Program Officer, 2005-2008

Other Memberships: American Physiological Society; Cooper Ornithological Society; Sigma Xi; Society for Behavioral Neuroendocrinology

Research Interests: My research focuses on understanding the vertebrate stress response. Specifically, I am interested in understanding how glucocorticoids interact with other hormonal, physiological, and behavioral systems in creating an integrated stress response that allows wild animals to survive in their native habitats. About 2/3 of the work in my lab focuses on avian species and about 1/3 focuses on various reptiles, amphibians, and mammals.

Goals Statement: I feel that SICB, and especially DCE, serves an important role in promoting integrative and comparative science. Even in this age of genomics, the comparative approach continues to be valuable in attacking many problems in endocrinology. As DCE chair, I would like to work to increase the visibility of our division at the national meeting, assist in the recruitment of timely symposia and lectures, and work to increase DCE membership. DCE has been an important part of my scientific development and I promise to work to ensure that comparative endocrinology continues to thrive.

Nominations for Secretary-Elect (will serve 2014-2016, will be Secretary 2016-2018)
Peggy Biga

Current Position: Assistant Professor, Department of Biology, University of Alabama at Birmingham

Education: B.S. Animal Science, Angelo State University, 1997; M.S. Nutrition, Angelo State University, 1999; Ph.D. Nutritional Physiology, University of Idaho, 2003

Professional Experience: 2003-2005, Postdoctoral Fellow, Marine Biological Laboratory; 2005-2007, Assistant Research Scientist, Great Lakes WATER Institute, University of Wisconsin Milwaukee; 2007-2012, Assistant Professor, Department of Biological Sciences, North Dakota State University

SICB Activities: I attended my first annual meeting in 2004 and have attended every meeting since. Since 2004, I have served as a DCE judge for the best student presentations. In addition, I served as chair of the Student/Postdoctoral Affairs Committee and ex-officio member of the Broadening Participation committee from 2011-2013.

Other Memberships: North American Society for



Peggy Biga



Comparative Endocrinology, World Aquaculture Society

Research Interests: Research in my laboratory focuses on 1) understanding the regulation of muscle growth potential in closely-related organisms, 2) understanding the interactions between endocrine and immune regulation of growth and metabolism, and 3) interactions between the endocrine stress and growth axes. This work is conducted utilizing a comparative approach that utilizes several different organisms that can juxtapose one another, such as comparing across the Salmonid family and juxtaposing the moustached danio with the zebrafish.

Goals Statement: A focus directed on truly integrative and comparative biology, combined with a student-focused platform is why I find the SICB meeting one of the best meetings to attend and participate in each year. As chair of the SPDAC committee for the past 3 years, I have had the pleasure of working with some very talented and innovative students and postdocs, as well as many of their advisors. As a committee, we hosted several unique and rewarding workshops, as well as implemented a new Student/Postdoc Booth in the Exhibit Hall at the 2013 meeting. As secretary of DCE, I would work to communicate effectively with the membership (via the bi-annual newsletter, as well as through novel communication tools) and to promote events that might be of interest to the greater DCE membership. I would work hard to increase participation from students and post-doctoral members, as well as work to highlight their accomplishments throughout the year to our SICB and DCE membership through the SICB website. I would also work with the other officers to increase the visibility of DCE within SICB and other relevant groups outside of SICB.

Sarah Woodley



Sarah Woodley

Current Position: Associate Professor, Biological Sciences, Duquesne University.

Education: 1989, B.S. with honors, Biology, B.A., French, Indiana University; 1992, M.S. Ecology and Evolution, University of Chicago; 1999, Ph.D., Biology, Arizona State University.

Professional Experience: 1989-1992, Graduate Teaching Assistant, University of Chicago; 1992-1994, Research Technician, Arizona State University; 1994-1999, Graduate Teaching and Research Assistant, Arizona State University; 2000-2003, NIH NRSA Postdoctoral Fellow, Neuroscience, Boston University; 2004-2011, Assistant Professor, Biological Sciences, Duquesne University; 2011-present, Associate Professor, Biological Sciences, Duquesne University; 2009-present, Associate Editor, Herpetologica.

SICB Membership and Activities: I have been a member of SICB since 1996 and have attended most meetings, including several Western Regional meetings. From 1997-1999, I served as the DCE representative on the Graduate Student-Postdoctoral Affairs Committee. Over the years, I have served as a judge for best student presentations, and I served on the student support committee from 2009-2011. Other Memberships: AAAS, Animal Behaviour Society, Herpetologists' League, International Association for Ethics Education, Sigma Xi, Society for Behavioral Neuroendocrinology, and Society for the Study of Amphibians and Reptiles.

Research Interests: Effects of Environmental Stressors on Amphibian Reproduction and Health; Neuroendocrinology of Chemical Communication, Science Education.

Goals Statement: SICB is the meeting I attend every year with my students because of the high quality of the presentations and professional interactions, and the focus on students. As secretary, I will keep the divisional webpage up to date and will actively solicit submissions to the research database as a way to keep our members engaged. I will strive to maintain the high quality bi-annual newsletters. In any way that I can, I will support and help grow DCE as a preeminent and vibrant division of SICB.

