



Division of Comparative Endocrinology

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DCE Officers & Representatives

Mary Mendonça
Chair 2014-2016

L. Michael Romero
Chair-Elect 2014-2016

Rachel Bowden
Secretary 2013-2015

Rosemary Knapp
Program Officer 2014-2016

Molly Dickens
Student/Postdoctoral Affairs
2013-2016

Message from the Chair

Mary Mendonça (Chair.DCE@sicb.org)

I think we can all agree that Austin, Texas was an excellent site for this year's SICB meeting. The hotel facilities were great, the venue layout was easy to navigate, and the restaurants, bars, and live music of 6th Street were fantastic (and sampled by many SICBers). Hope we can go back there soon. Upcoming meetings will be West Palm Beach, FL (2015) and Portland, OR (2016). In 2017, SICB will return to New Orleans. SICB had been boycotting New Orleans because the state legislature passed a law that allowed teaching creationism in public school science classrooms. However, the New Orleans City Council and the Orleans Parish School Board both rejected teaching creationism in science classes and SICB wanted to show support for this stand. Now might be a good time to start planning Science Education Symposia for the return to New Orleans! So the upcoming meetings will be in some very interesting locales... mark your calendars now!

There were two main DCE meeting highlights. First, the 13th annual Howard Bern Lecture, presented by Dr. Lou Guillette, Professor, Medical University of South Carolina, and entitled *The Fragile Fetus*. Not only was Lou's truly excellent talk a tribute to Professor Bern's pioneering work on developmental effects of synthetic estrogens, he highlighted his own equally ground breaking (and, frankly, alarming) work on environmental endocrine disruptors. Second, a special session, entitled *Environmental Endocrinology*, honoring John Wingfield. Many former graduate students and post-docs showcased Professor Wingfield's profound influence on our field through his extensive research in stress physiology and expansive mentoring. DCE also co-sponsored three symposia and our oral and poster presentations covered a broad range of comparative endocrinology. Our Program Officer, Rosemary Knapp, will highlight the DCE contributions to the Austin meeting and the 2015 meeting below. We are always eager to discuss your ideas for symposia for Portland or New Orleans.

Rosemary will give details below on the DCE Best Paper competitions (oral and poster) but major thanks are due to Mark Haussmann, chair of the judging committee, for coordinating the assessment process. Thanks are also due to the people who were willing to donate their time and serve as judges (Morgan Benowitz-Fredericks, Francis Bonier, Rachel Bowden, Rebecca Calisi, Joe Casto, Mark Haussmann, Britt Heidinger, Rosemary Knapp, Ignacio Moore, Katie O'Reilly, Ryan Paitz, Steve Schoech, Travis Wilcoxon and Tony Williams). Also major kudos to our winners: Carolyn Bauer (Aubrey Gorbman Oral Presentation Award) and Brian Vassallo (Lynn Riddiford Poster Presentation Award).

This year was the first time we tried a new format/requirement for



judging submissions: presentation types were grouped together in single sessions and there was a requirement of a submission of an extended abstract for the oral presentation. There was a general agreement that having grouped oral and poster presentations highlighted the competition, allowed better comparison of the presentations, and was more logistically feasible for the judges. However, having the requirement for an extended abstract may have led to lower oral presentation numbers. We will advertise the new requirement even more aggressively than we did last year (more DCE member announcements by email and on the Facebook page).

I hope that we will be posting more items focusing on the upcoming meetings (Data Blitz submissions!), comparative endocrinology, as well as general scientific interests on the DCE Facebook page (<http://www.facebook.com/groups/104465249680261/>) and encourage your participation.

Sarah Woodley was elected DCE Secretary last year and will start her duties January 2015. We have two excellent candidates for the critical position of Program Officer (Ignacio Moore and Creagh Breuner) and I urge DCE members to participate in the election process.

Finally, I want to thank Steve McCormick for his excellent leadership as Chair for the last two years. Under his watch, we began the Data Blitz at the DCE Social, named the annual Best Student Poster Award as the Lynn Riddiford Poster Award, and changed the format of the Aubrey Gorbman Award Best Oral Presentation to enhance its prestige in SICB. Thanks, Steve!

Message from the Program Officer

Rosemary Knapp (DPO.DCE@sicb.org)

The Austin meeting seems a distant but fond memory at this point. It was great to see so many people there. The meeting was the second largest in recent history. DCE co-sponsored three symposia and hosted the symposium-like "Environmental Endocrinology: A Special Session Honoring John Wingfield" that featured 14 speakers. The three symposia we cosponsored were "Stress, condition and ornamentation," "Adaptation or developmental constraint? Uniting evolutionary theory and empirical studies of phenotypic plasticity," and "Methods and mechanisms in ecoimmunology." In addition to presentations in the complementary sessions to the three symposia, there were 64 posters and 63 talks organized by DCE, including 5 posters and 23 talks complementary to the Wingfield special session.

Dr. Lou Guillette's Howard Bern lecture "The Fragile Fetus" - The Environmental Endocrinology of the Developing Reproductive System" was an inspiring reminder about the important role integrative biologists, and comparative endocrinologists in particular, can and should play in understanding and helping to ameliorate various challenges humans and wildlife face as a result of exposure to chemicals that become ubiquitous with modern living.

Congratulations to the winners of the DCE Student Presentation Awards: Carolyn Bauer (Tufts University) won the Aubrey Gorbman Oral Presentation Award for "Maternal effects of stress in a plural-breeding rodent." Brian Vassallo (Bucknell University) won the Lynn Riddiford Poster Presentation Award for "In ovo movement and metabolism of corticosterone throughout avian development." This was the first year of grouping together the presentations being considered for the awards. There will be some tweaks to the process going forward, but I think the consensus was that the changes did indeed raise the profile of these presentations, as had been our goal.



Carolyn Bauer

Many thanks to Mark Haussmann for organizing the judging of student presentations and tallying the scores, despite being thwarted in attending the start of the meeting by the weather. I



Brian Vassallo

also want to thank the actual judges: Morgan Benowitz-Fredericks, Francis Bonier, Rachel Bowden, Rebecca Calisi, Joe Casto, Mark Haussmann, Britt Heidinger, Rosemary Knapp, Ignacio Moore, Katie O'Reilly, Ryan Paitz, Steve Schoech, Travis Wilcoxon and Tony Williams.

Please join me in thanking Ignacio Moore for his service as our Division Program Officer the past two years. He did a wonderful job, including organizing the sessions for the Austin meeting while on sabbatical in Ecuador! I am honored to be beginning a second term as DPO



and plan to continue Ignacio's support of your ideas to improve the meeting experience and communication among division members throughout the year. So start planning ahead for how you might share your research at next year's Data Blitz during the division social, and see Mary Mendonça's comments in this newsletter regarding our Facebook page.

I'm already looking forward to the West Palm Beach meeting next January, and not just because this has been a long, cold winter for so many of us. Abstract and registration details will be emailed and posted online this summer. DCE will be co-sponsoring four symposia "Physiology in Changing Landscapes: An Integrative Perspective for Conservation Biology," "Thinking About Change: An Integrative Approach for Examining Cognition in a Changing World," "Neurohormones, Brain and Behavior: a Comparative Approach to Exploring Rapid Neuroendocrine Function," and "Linking Insects and Crustaceans: Comparative Physiology of the Pancrustacea." There will be several other symposia that are also likely to be of great interest to a number of DCE members. I encourage any of you who have thought about organizing a symposium to start planning for our 2016 meeting in Portland; proposals will be due late summer. Feel free to contact Mary Mendonça or me with any questions about organizing one.

Message from the Secretary

Rachel Bowden (Secretary.DCE@sicb.org)

If you're like me, and flew south for the meeting in Austin, it was great to escape the cold for a few days and join in another excellent SICB. I hope everyone took some time out to explore the capital city and take advantage of good food, live music, or both. As DCE members we had a terrific selection of talks, posters, and symposia to attend and I look forward to more exciting comparative endocrinology offerings in West Palm Beach in 2015.

I'd like to remind you to take a few minutes and **submit your information to the DCE Researcher's Database**. All it takes is a title, a brief paragraph describing your research interests, and a picture of your model organism or a graph from one of your publications. So take five minutes to put this together, and send it to me in an email. Thanks to all of you that have already contributed to the database!

Don't forget to check out the DCE Facebook page. We currently have **79 members** and it's yet another great way to keep in touch with the comparative endocri-

nology community. Go to <http://www.facebook.com/groups/104465249680261/>

As a reminder, SICB now sends out a **Monthly Member Update**, to cut down on the number of emails you receive from the society. 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:

- 16th European Congress of Endocrinology, Wroclaw, Poland May 3-7.
- Joint meeting of the International Congress of Endocrinology and the Endocrine Society, Chicago, IL June 21-24.
- Joint meeting of the Society for Behavioral Neuroendocrinology and the International Congress of Neuroendocrinology, Sydney, Australia August 17-20.
- Society for Neuroscience, Washington, DC November 15-19.

Message from the Graduate Student and Postdoc Representative

Molly Dickens (m.dickens@berkeley.edu)

The city of Austin hosted another great SICB meeting with excellent representation from the students and postdocs. Workshop highlights included the Student/Postdoctoral Affairs workshop "Developing a web presence" and the Broadening Participation Committee workshop "Writing grants and manuscripts in a timely manner." In addition, this year's meeting hosted the first special session for finalists of the Aubrey Gorbman Best Student Oral Presentation Competition. Congratulations to Carolyn Bauer for winning that prize as well as Brian Vassallo for the winning the Lynn Riddiford Award for best poster presentation. Students, remember for next year that if you are interested in participating in the Aubrey Gorbman competition, be sure to check on the additional requirements when submitting your abstract in the fall.

Additionally, the DCE social brought out the crazies with the second annual **Data Blitz** hosted by Rebecca Calisi-Rodríguez. Five brave young researchers (Devaleena Pradhan, Carolyn Bauer, Nicole Perfito, Jesse Krause, Sunny Scobell) stepped up to the plate to offer



a rapid fire glimpse at their research. In addition, the surprise guest was none other than this year's symposium honored John Wingfield. The applause-o-meter broke with all of the enthusiasm and everyone was declared a winner in the end. In addition, inspired by the rule breaking stop-motion animation from Nicole Perfito, the rules for next year will be changing from two minutes, two slides to two minutes, anything goes! If you are interested in participating next year, shoot an email to rcalisir@barnard.edu.

Participants in the second annual DCE Data Blitz (l-r) Devaleena Pradhan, Carolyn Bauer, Nicole Perfito, Jesse Krause, Sunny Scobell, and this year's surprise senior guest speaker, John Wingfield.



As always, if you left Austin with any thoughts, comments, suggestions for improving next year's meeting, please reach out to me, m.dickens@berkeley.edu. 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.

Looking for funding resources? The Student/Postdoctoral Affairs Committee (SPDAC) has put together a comprehensive list of External Grant & Fellowship Opportunities for Students and Postdocs. It can be accessed through the Members tab on the SICB website.

Finally, if you are on Facebook, please join SICB Division of Comparative Endocrinology group and feel free to post anything and everything that your fellow DCE members may enjoy to the group's wall. Recent publications, fun stuff in the news? Post it!

Hope to see you all in West Palm Beach next year!

DCE 2014 Minutes of the Business Meeting ([click here](#)).

Howard Bern Lecture Nominations

DCE is soliciting nominations for the 2015 Bern Lecture honoree. Nominations should include the following items: 1) a letter that highlights the nominee's contributions to the field of comparative endocrinology (e.g., significance and impact of work, publication record, mentoring, professional service to the discipline) and indicates how these contributions merit selection, 2) a one-page profile of the nominee, and 3) a curriculum vitae of the nominee. Nomination packages should be sent electronically to Mary Mendonca (Chair.DCE@sicb.org) by August 22, 2014.

2014 Officer Elections: And the Nominees Are...

This year DCE members will have the opportunity to vote for Program Officer-Elect. We thank Rosemary Knapp, Michael Romero, and Rachel Bowden 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 Program Officer-Elect \(will serve 2015-2016, will be Program Officer 2016-2018\):](#)

Ignacio T. Moore



Current Position: Associate Professor, Department of Biological Sciences, Virginia Tech

Education: 1994, B.S., Biochemistry, University of Arizona; 2000 Ph.D. Zoology, Oregon State University. Porter Predoctoral Fellow American Physiological Society; 2000-2004 Postdoc, Zoology and Psychology, University of Washington, NSF Postdoctoral Fellow, Society for Neuroscience Postdoctoral Fellow



Professional Experience: 2005, 2006 NSF IOS panelist; 2011- present Associate editor for General and Comparative Endocrinology; 2013- present Associate editor for Functional Ecology; 2014- present Advisory Editorial Board Member for Journal of Experimental Zoology- Part A

SICB Membership and Activities: Co-organized the society-wide symposium "Hormonal regulation of whole-animal performance: implications for selection" in 2009; Student presentation judge in 2004, 2005, 2007, 2008, 2012, 2013, and 2014; Chaired the Student Presentation committee in 2009 and 2010; Member of the Howard Bern Lecture nominating committee in 2008; Member of the DCE Nominating Committee in 2010; Member of the Student Support Committee for the society (2008-10); DCE program officer for the 2013 and 2014 conferences.

Other Memberships: AAAS, American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists, Animal Behavior Society, Association for Tropical Biology and Conservation, Sigma Xi, Society for Behavioral Neuroendocrinology, Society for Neuroscience

Research Interests: Behavioral endocrinology of vertebrates with an emphasis on stress and reproduction in unique physical and social environments.

Goals Statement: My first scientific conference was the 1994 ASZ meeting in Los Angeles. I remember thinking that I didn't have to be limited to a single taxon or discipline and that integrative biology would allow me to pursue my interests without barriers. SICB is the only conference I try to attend every year. It is a great atmosphere for a student's first presentation as well as the venue for many exciting new ideas and symposia. As Program Officer for DCE, I will do my best to ensure that future conferences maintain their inclusive and integrative nature. Symposia on broad topics are the heart of what makes our society special and I have both organized and helped others organize symposia as the program officer. I think that every year we should have at least one DCE focused symposia or special session as well as others that we co-sponsor. I will also continue to promote the Bern Lecture as a venue for a mid-career scientist whose work is at the forefront of our field.

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 postdoctoral 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 Program Officer. I have grown up in DCE, and benefitted from the 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 the tradition of strong science and student support. With the growth of DCE research in ecology and evolution, I see greater possibilities for cross-division symposia, working with DEE, DAB and DCPB, and as GPO, would promote these type of symposia. I would also continue promoting and organizing workshops for graduate student and post-doctoral training. I 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 I look forward to the chance to serve DCE.