



## Division of Comparative Endocrinology

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### DCE Officers & Representatives

L. Michael Romero  
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C. Loren Buck  
*Chair-Elect 2016-2018*

Sarah Woodley  
*Secretary 2015-2017*

Sharon Lynn  
*Secretary-Elect 2016-2017*

Ignacio Moore  
*Program Officer 2016-2018*

Christine Lattin  
*Student/Postdoctoral Affairs  
2015-2018*

### Message from the Chair

Michael Romero, [Chair.DCE@sicb.org](mailto:Chair.DCE@sicb.org)

Although I was not able to attend the meeting in Portland, OR, I heard through the grapevine that it was an excellent meeting. I look forward to seeing everyone next January in New Orleans, LA (2017) and again in San Francisco, CA in 2018.

**DCE meeting highlights:** The 15th annual Howard Bern lecture was presented by Dr. Elizabeth Adkins-Regan. Her lecture, "Comparative Endocrinology of Social Monogamy," was a terrific exploration of the underlying neuroendocrinological mechanisms regulating socially monogamous breeding systems. The social theme was continued at our social where the data blitz was again a major highlight.

We also had fantastic student competitions for the Aubrey Gorbman Oral Presentation Award won by Robert Zinna, and the Lynn Riddiford Poster Presentation Award won by Sarah Guindre-Parker. Congratulations to the winners and thanks to all those who participated! Special thanks go to all those who volunteered their time to judge the presentations.

We also need to provide a special thanks to Rosemary Knapp who, as DCE Program Officer, helped to put together a terrific program. This was the end of Rosemary's term and we are grateful for everything she did for DCE.

**New Business:** The DCE business meeting covered a number of important topics. The financial status of the division is good. A major concern last year was the need to increase the endowment fund for the Howard Bern lecture. The fund required a minimum of \$25,000 to remain solvent, and thanks to tireless work from prior DCE chairs (especially Mary Mendonça and Steve McCormick) and very generous gifts, we have now surpassed that threshold. In the past year we raised over \$20,000, highlighted by a special \$10,000 gift from the Hashimotos of the Zenyaku Kogyu Co. However, to fully fund the annual lecture requires the endowment to eventually reach \$100,000. So our task is not complete and we hope to continue getting donations to grow the fund.

There was also substantial conversation about DCE's role in the international comparative endocrinology society (IFCES). Although there was extensive concern of insufficient interaction with, and inclusion by, IFCES, the consensus was that we should continue to stay involved for the near future. However, there was also a consensus that we would like to see more tangible benefits from membership, such as aid for DCE students to attend meetings. The next international meeting is June 4-9, 2017, at Chateau Lake Louise, Banff National Park, Alberta, Canada. At least two symposia will be hosted by DCE members.



We also have an upcoming election for the DCE Program Officer-Elect. Michael Sheriff and Brian Walker have graciously agreed to run. I urge everyone to vote in May. It is also not too early to plan for our next meetings in New Orleans and San Francisco. Specifically, if there are any suggestions for nominations for the Howard Bern lecture or for exciting DCE symposia, please contact me or any of the DCE officers. See detailed information below.

Finally, I want to thank Mary Mendonça for her excellent leadership as DCE chair for the past two years. She made amazing progress in ensuring the financial health of the Bern lectureship and provided excellent stewardship for DCE. Thanks, Mary, I have big shoes to fill!



Robert Zinna, Gorbman Winner



Sarah Guindre-Parker, Riddiford Winner

### Message from the Program Officer

Ignacio Moore, [DPO.DCE@sicb.org](mailto:DPO.DCE@sicb.org)

I hope that everyone enjoyed the Portland meeting. The city was great, especially the coffee and beer! This was the largest SICB conference ever with 1688 abstracts and approximately 2000 attendees.

Dr. Elizabeth Adkins-Regan's Howard Bern lecture was exceptional and showed a really nice combination of hormones, brain, and behavior.

A highlight of the conference was the Divisional Social which we co-sponsored with the Division of Eco-immunology and Disease Ecology. The Data Blitz talks were again a hit and have become one of the most anticipated events at the conference.

Congratulations to the winners of the DCE Student Presentation Awards: Robert Zinna, winner of the Gorbman Best Student Oral Presentation, and Sarah Guindre-Parker, winner of the Riddiford Best Student Poster. These were just two of the dozens of fantastic student presentations at the conference. Many thanks to Rosemary Knapp for organizing the judging of student presentations, and thanks also to all the individuals who take the time to judge student presentations.

I'm already looking forward to the New Orleans conference next January. Abstract and registration details will be emailed and posted online this summer. DCE will be sponsoring six symposia: *Evolutionary Impacts of Seasonality*; *With a Little Help from my Friends: Microbial Partners in Integrative and Comparative Biology*; *The Development and Mechanisms Underlying Inter-individual Variation in Pro-Social Behavior*; *Integrating Cognitive, Motivational and Sensory Biases Underlying Acoustic and Multimodal Mate Choice*; *Integrative Life-history of Whole-organism Performance*; *Molecular and Neuroendocrine Approaches to the Study of Evolutionary Tradeoffs: Food, Sex, Stress, and Longevity*. (Go to <http://www.sicb.org/meetings/2017/symposia/index.php> for a list of all 2017 symposia.)

I encourage any who have thought about organizing a symposium to start planning for our 2018 meeting in San Francisco; **proposals will be due on 25 August 2016**. Feel free to contact me should you want to propose one or have any questions about the process.



Mary Mendonça, DCE chair, and Elizabeth Adkins-Regan, 2016 Bern Lecturer, left to right

### Message from the Secretary

Sarah Woodley, [Secretary.DCE@sicb.org](mailto:Secretary.DCE@sicb.org)

Portland, OR, was a surprisingly icy venue for our 2016 SICB meeting, but I basked in the efficient public transportation and enjoyed reconnecting with friends and colleagues. As always, there was plenty of integrative biology to enjoy, and I was kept busy running to talks, posters, and social events. If you missed the DCE business meeting, don't panic, the minutes are posted at <http://www.sicb.org/divisions/DCE/DCEMeetingMinutes2016.pdf>.

Membership in DCE remains healthy, with 274 members as of December 2015. Our DCE Facebook group keeps growing, now with 185 members! If you haven't done so yet, check it out at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/104465249680261>. Posting to our Facebook group is a great way to advertise job openings, ask questions, and share professional tips. In addition, you can send me updates by the 5th of each month and they will be part of the SICB Monthly Member Update.

### Meetings to mark on your calendars:

- Evolution Annual Meeting: June 18-21, 2016, Austin Texas.
- 8th International Symposium on Fish Endocrinology: June 28-July 2, 2016, Gothenburg Sweden.
- American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists Annual Meeting: July 15-19, 2016, New Orleans, Louisiana.

- Animal Behavior Society Annual Meeting: July 30-August 3, 2016, University of Missouri, Columbia, MO.
- Society for Behavioral Neuroendocrinology Annual Meeting: August 7-10, 2016, Montreal, Quebec, Canada.
- 28th Conference of European Comparative Endocrinologists: August 21-25, 2016, Leuven, Belgium.
- 8th World Congress of Herpetology: August 15-21, 2016, Hangzhou, China.
- 18th International Congress of Comparative Endocrinology (ICCE) held jointly with the 4th biennial conference of the North American Society for Comparative Endocrinology (NASCE) and the 9th International Symposium on Amphibian and Reptilian Endocrinology and Neurobiology (ISAREN): June 4-9, 2017, Chateau Lake Louise, Alberta, Canada.

### Message from the Student/Postdoctoral Affairs Committee Representative

Christine Lattin, [christine.lattin@yale.edu](mailto:christine.lattin@yale.edu)

Once again, we had a terrific turnout of undergraduates, grad students and post-docs at this year's annual meeting in Portland, Oregon. The meeting featured several student- and trainee-oriented events, including the January 5 workshop on "Academic Transitions: Successfully Navigating from Undergraduate to Professor" from the Student/Postdoctoral Affairs Committee, and the final afternoon's society-wide social event in honor of students and post-docs.

The fourth annual Data Blitz, organized by Rebecca Calisi-Rodriguez, was also a big hit at the DCE social this year. Mikus Abolins-Abols, Medhavi Ambardar, Helen Chmura, Ondi Crino, Loren Merrill and Laura Schoenle presented rapid-fire science talks featuring elements as disparate as light saber battles and Angela Merkel. In the end, Loren Merrill won the most applause for his talk, "The Environment Matching Game: Fit the Past to the Present!" Our very special surprise guest speaker (Bern lecturer Elizabeth Adkins-Regan), also gave a wonderful two-slide talk about the love lives of king quail. If you are interested in participating in Data Blitz 5, email [rmcalisi@ucdavis.edu](mailto:rmcalisi@ucdavis.edu) for more information.



If you haven't already, please join the DCE Facebook group, which has become a great resource where members post information about job opportunities, special events, and research questions related to comparative endocrinology. Also, make sure to check out the comprehensive list of External Grant & Fellowship Opportunities for Students and Postdocs put together by the Student/Postdoctoral Affairs Committee, which can be accessed through the For Students tab on the SICB website.

As part of next year's meeting in New Orleans, I am planning to organize a new student/post-doc DCE event, Lunch with a Comparative Endocrinologist, which will match small groups of students and post-docs with DCE faculty members for lunch or coffee sometime during the meeting. Look for more information about this event as the meeting approaches, and I hope to see you all at SICB 2017!



*Data Blitz 2016: from left to right, Mikus Abolins-Abols, Laura Schoenle, Loren Merrill, Medhavi Ambardar, Helen Chmura, Ondi Crino, and Christine Lattin*

#### **Howard A. Bern Lecture: Call for Nominations**

Nominations are sought for the 2017 Howard A. Bern Lecture. The Howard A. Bern Lecture was created by the Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology (SICB) to honor the outstanding contributions of Professor Howard A. Bern to the field of comparative endocrinology and to the society. Professor Bern delivered the inaugural lecture in 2002. Since then, the lecture is given annually at the SICB meeting by a scientist who has made significant contributions to the field of comparative endocrinology. Scientists from around the world are eligible, and affiliation with SICB is not required. A list of past Bern lecturers is available at <http://www.sicb.org/divisions/dce.php3#bern> and additional information is provided at <http://www.sicb.org/membership/awards.php3#bern>. 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 as a single pdf file to Michael Romero ([chair.dce@sicb.org](mailto:chair.dce@sicb.org)) by **August 25, 2016**.

#### **2016 Officer Elections: And the Nominees Are...**

This year, DCE members will have the opportunity to vote for Program Officer-Elect. We thank the Nominations Committee, and especially 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 May, so keep an eye out for an email with a link to the election ballot.

#### **Nominations for DCE Program Officer-Elect: Michael J. Sheriff**



*Michael J. Sheriff*

**Current Position:** Assistant Professor, Department of Ecosystem Science and Management, Penn State University, State College, PA.

**Education:** B.Sc., Life Sciences, University of Toronto (2005); Ph.D., Zoology, University of British Columbia (2010); Postdoctoral Fellow, Institute of Arctic Biology, University of Alaska Fairbanks, NSERC Post-Doctoral Fellow, IPY Post-Doctoral Fellow (2010-2013).

**Professional Experience:** NSF IOS proposal reviewer (2013); Executive Committee Polar Center, Penn State (2013-2014); NSF IOS CAREER proposal reviewer (2014); Aarhus IAS proposal reviewer; Research Council of Norway proposal reviewer; Guest



Editor *Oecologia* (2014); Interim Director Polar Center, Penn State (2015); Handling Editor *Oecologia* (2015-present).

**SICB Activities:** Member (2012-present); session chair (2013, 2015-2016).

**Other Memberships:** The Wildlife Society; Ecological Society of America; British Ecological Society.

**Research Interests:** I'm fundamentally interested in what limits animals in their natural world. My research bridges physiology, behavior, and ecology to understand how animals interact with the world around them, and how this drives individual fitness and ultimately population demography and community structure.

**Goals Statement:** I attend conferences ranging in scope from the American Society of Mammalogy to the British Ecological Society to The Wildlife Society. However, only at SICB do I feel I truly fit in, and SICB is the one I attempt to attend each year. It is the only conference I feel is interdisciplinary and integrative; it is question-driven, focusing from external influences to mechanisms to fitness, regardless of taxon. It is also extremely inclusive and the best conference I know for student presentations and support, as well as a top venue for pushing the boundaries with new ideas and symposia. As Program Officer for DCE I will strive to maintain these core values. I hope to ensure that DCE is a main player at SICB supporting at least one symposium or special session each year, as well as co-sponsoring others. I will continue to promote and support the Bern Lecture as a venue for mid-career scientists who are at the forefront of our field. I will also investigate ways to actively promote our program and increase our membership.



### **Brian G. Walker**



*Brian Walker*

**Current Position:** Associate Dean, College of Arts & Sciences; Director, Integrated Health Studies Initiative, Marion Peckham Egan School of Nursing & Health Studies; Associate Professor, Department of Biology, Fairfield University, Fairfield, CT.

**Education:** Ph.D., Zoology, University of Washington, Seattle, WA (2003); M.Sc., Biology, Dalhousie University, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada (1992); B.A., Biology, Drake University, Des Moines, IA (1990).

**Professional Experience:** Fulbright Fellowship for Teaching and Research, US Fulbright Program and the Universidade Estadual do Norte Fluminense, Campos dos Goytacazes, Brazil (2013); Post-Doctoral Research Fellow, The Biodesign Institute at Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ (2003); Research Technician, Childhood Asthma Management Program, Northwest Asthma and Allergy Clinic, Seattle, WA (1996); Wildlife Biologist, Antarctic Ecosystem Program, National Marine Mammal Laboratory, Northwest Fisheries and Science Center, NOAA, Seattle, WA (1992-1996).

**SICB Activities:** conference presentations (2016, 2006, 2005, 2004, 2003); Symposium Coordinator, Environmental Endocrinology: A special session honoring John Wingfield (2014); Student Award Judge (2012, 2015).

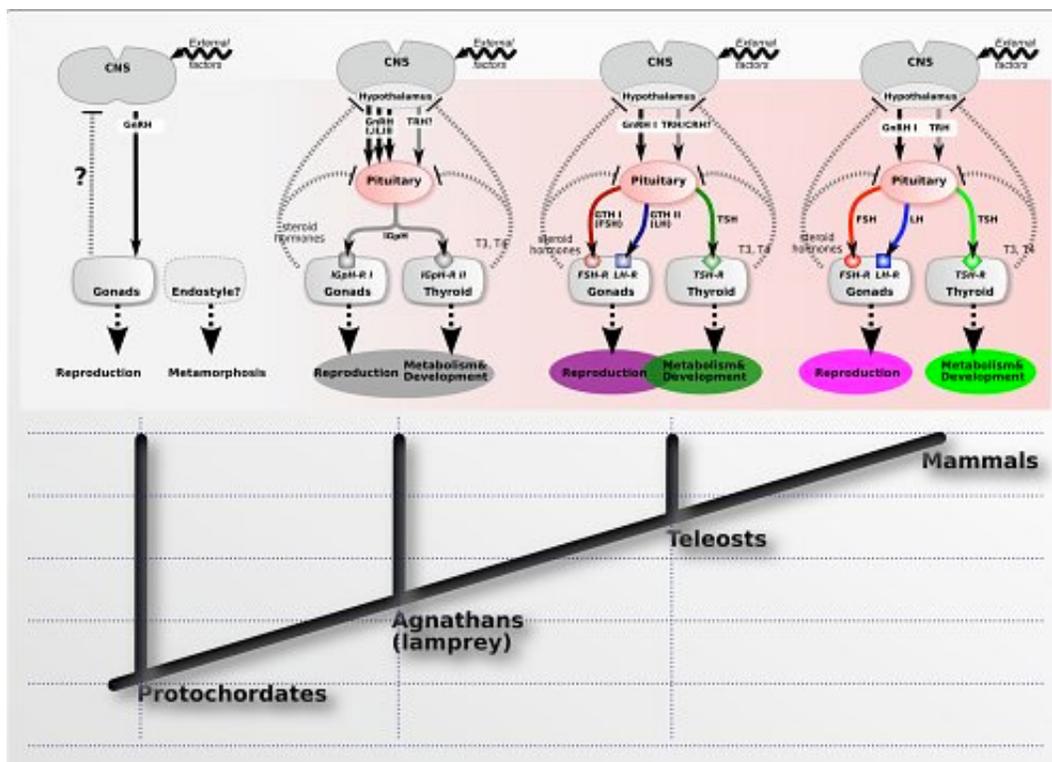
**Other Memberships:** Sigma Xi; AOU; AAC&U.

**Research Interests:** Effects of anthropogenic disturbances on stress response in vertebrates, focusing on birds (historical work) and humans (current developing work).



**Goals Statement:** SICB is one of the conferences I have tried to attend as regularly as possible since my first year in 2003. While developing and teaching a January summer course in Brazil has affected my ability to attend for numerous years, with those class responsibilities now passed to a junior colleague, it is my hope to step into a greater participatory role at SICB and the DCE in particular. Knowing the current and officer-elect holders in the division will allow for a seamless transition from Dr. Ignacio Moore's

excellent leadership. As exemplified by his guidance and that of previous program officers, I have always been impressed with the symposia organized by the DCE, and would be excited to contribute my time and energy to continue this tradition. I will continue to promote specific DCE symposia in future years, and also continue the recent re-invigoration of the Bern Lecture's prominence at the conference.



From the DCE Researchers Database: *Stacia Sower, Molecular Evolution of the Neuroendocrine System*