



## Division of Neurobiology

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### DNB Officers & Representatives

Paul Moore  
*Chair 2015-2018*

Lisa Mangiamele  
*Secretary 2014-2019*

Charles Derby  
*Program Officer 2014-2017*

Alexandra Kingston  
*Student/Postdoctoral Affairs  
2016-2019*

### Message from the Chair

Paul Moore, [Chair.dnb@sicb.org](mailto:Chair.dnb@sicb.org)

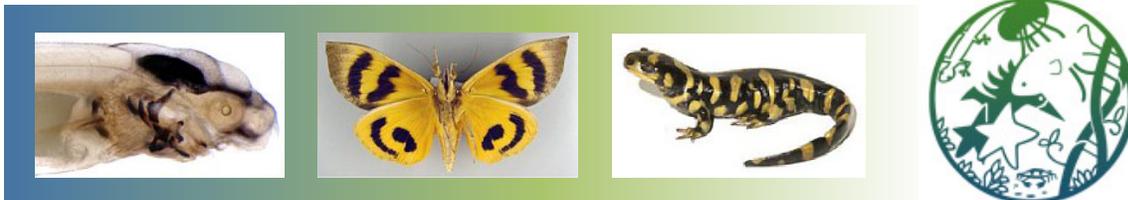
I believe it was another excellent SICB meeting in Portland despite the freak ice storm at the beginning of the meeting. During the meeting, we rolled out our first ever Best Student Presentation symposium and we had an excellent set of talks. In addition, the session was well attended with members from other divisions present. Behind the scenes, the coordination of the judges and scoring went smoother than our West Palm Beach meeting. Overall, I was pleased with the first symposium and results from the entire process. I also want to thank all of the attendees, judges, and student presenters for their individual efforts in making this event as successful as it was.

As Chuck Derby notes, we are electing a new program officer. This is an important position for our Division as this person will seek out and coordinate future symposia. This requires some negotiation with other divisions and some vocal support for symposia that are neurobiologically inclined.

I will continue to reach out to the International Society for Neuroethology in efforts to draw some of those members to our meeting during their off years. Our hope is that we can offer SICB meeting registration at the member rate if an attendant is also a member of ISN. This issue is now currently under discussion at the ISN annual meeting.

As a result of feedback that we received from the 2016 Portland meeting, the executive officers of DNB considered a potential name change for our division. The feeling that we received is that some members, who contribute regularly to our meetings, don't fit within the umbrella term of neurobiology. For example, a biomechanist who works on the fluid dynamics of olfaction might identify as a sensory biologist, but not a neurobiologist. As a result of this feedback and discussions between both SICB and Division leadership, we felt that we needed to gather information from our members. So, we designed a survey and sent that out to the membership.

We have now received the results of the recent survey seeking feedback on a potential name change for our Division. We received a total of 81 respondents that included members from across our different membership categories. Fifty responses were received from full members. I would like to personally thank all of you for taking the time to provide feedback on this issue. The survey results are published below for each of you to examine. As you can see from the results, a clear majority (68%) favors a name change and, although lengthy, a majority supports the new name of Division of Neurobiology, Neuroethology, and Sensory Biology.



The next step is the initiation of a bylaws change initiated by the Division officers (Chuck Derby, Lisa Mangiamele, and myself) as outlined in Article VIII, Section I of the bylaws of SICB. We will initiate that formal change now and you, as members of our division, will get a chance to vote yes or no on the new name in May when SICB voting for division positions occurs. Please see **Proposed Bylaws Change** below.

Again, I want to thank you all for the tremendous and sincere feedback provided through our survey process. If you have any concerns, questions, or comments, please feel free to contact me.

If you have further thoughts or ideas on what our Division needs to move forward, please email them to me ([Chair.DNB@sicb.org](mailto:Chair.DNB@sicb.org)). I am looking to serve the needs of our researchers and students and to continue growing our division.

#### Message from the Program Officer

Charles Derby, [DPO.DNB@sicb.org](mailto:DPO.DNB@sicb.org)

#### The 2016 Meeting in Portland: Cold on the Outside, Hot on the Inside

Despite the weather, DNB as well as the rest of the divisions offered excellent science. DNB co-sponsored five symposia. We were the primary sponsor of two of them, both superb: "*Neuroecology: Neural Mechanisms of Sensory and Motor Processes that Mediate Ecologically Relevant Behaviors*," organized by Jeff Riffell and Ashlee Rowe, and "*Extraocular, Nonvisual, and Simple Photoreceptors*," organized by Tom Cronin and Sönke Johnsen. Many thanks to Jeff, Ashlee, Tom, and Sönke for their work. It's a big job, and important, as the symposia are a cornerstone of successful meetings. At this meeting, DNB had its inaugural dedicated session for the Best Student Oral Presentation, with six presentations. Congratulations to Kyle McCulloch of the University of California Irvine, for his winning presentation, "*Photoreceptor cell sensitivity and sexual dimorphism in the compound eye of the butterfly *Heliconius erato**." Based on feedback, this new format for showcasing our DNB students was a success. The format for our Best Poster Presentations remained the same, and this year's award went to Katelyn Suchyta of Bowdoin College for her presentation, "*Mechanisms of stretch feedback and interaction with neuromodulators in the cardiac ganglion of the American lobster*." DNB students, postdocs, and faculty also presented in other sessions throughout the meeting. Thanks to all for sharing your work at this year's meeting.

#### Symposia for the 2017 Meeting in New Orleans

DNB will co-sponsor 7 of the 11 symposia at the 2017 meeting in New Orleans. Most noteworthy is the symposium on which we are the primary sponsor, "*Low Spatial Resolution Vision - Function and Evolution*," organized by Anders Garm. Details about all the symposia are available at <http://sicb.org/meetings/2017/symposia/index.php>.

#### Submit Proposals for Symposia at the 2018 Meeting in San Francisco

Proposals for symposia for the 2018 meeting in San Francisco are due August 25th, 2016. I urge you to submit a proposal. If you want feedback about your ideas, please contact me. The call for proposals can be found at <http://sicb.org/meetings/2018/callsymp.php>, and guidelines for the process of developing proposals can be found at <http://sicb.org/resources/SICB%20Symposium%20Policies%20and%20Guidelines%20Final.pdf>.

#### Election for a new DNB Program Officer

We have two stellar candidates for the election of our new DNB Program Officer: Tom Cronin of the University of Maryland Baltimore County, and Jeff Riffell of the University of Washington. Election materials are posted elsewhere. Please be involved in DNB by voting!

#### The Future?

Please contact me if you have any ideas about DNB related activities at our annual meeting.

#### Message from the Secretary

Lisa Mangiamele, [Secretary.DNB@sicb.org](mailto:Secretary.DNB@sicb.org)

First, and most importantly, as Paul noted above, there are some divisional changes on which our members need to vote. We are proposing a divisional name change and we are electing a new program officer this year, so please see below for more information on both and don't forget to vote in May!

#### Minutes of the 2016 DNB Business Meeting: click [here](#)

We recently conducted a survey of our members to get some feedback on the issue of a divisional name change. Eighty-one members responded. Here are those results:



Q1: What is your current SICB membership status?

<u>Member Category</u>	<u>% of Respondents</u>
Student-in-Training	1%
Graduate Student Member	22%
Postdoctoral Member	11%
Full Member	62%
Life Member	2%
Emeritus Member	1%

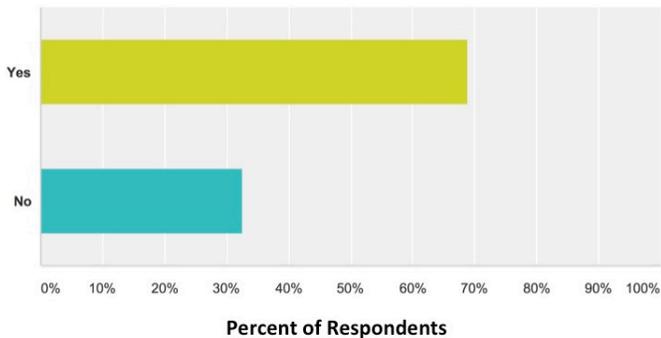
Q2: How long have you been a member of DNB?

<u>Answer Choices</u>	<u>% of Respondents</u>
Just joined, < 1 year	14%
1-4 years	36%
5-10 years	30%
11-20 years	15%
> 20 years	6%

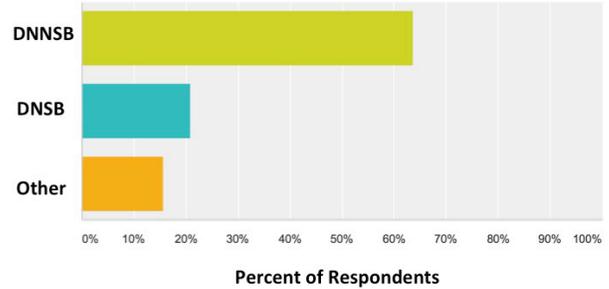
Q3: With what other SICB divisions are you affiliated? Top 6 affiliations reported below (note that DCE was inadvertently left out as a choice in the survey):

<u>Division</u>	<u>% of Respondents</u>
DAB- Div Animal Behavior	54%
DIZ – Div Invertebrate Zoology	31%
DCB – Div Comparative Biomechanics	21%
DCPB – Div Comparative Physiology & Biochemistry	20%
DEE – Div Ecology & Evolution	20%
DVM – Div Vertebrate Morphology	16%

Q4: Would you like to see the Division of Neurobiology consider a new name?



Q5: If the Division decides to go forward with a name change, I would prefer the following name:



DNNSB = Division of Neurobiology, Neuroethology, and Sensory Biology  
 DNSB = Division of Neurobiology and Sensory Biology

Second, keep checking your email inbox for the society-wide news and announcements via a Monthly Member Update email. On the occasion that there is something to report, divisional news will also be included in that email. If you have anything that you would like to be communicated to DNB members, or to all SICB members, please contact me and I will have it added to the update.

Finally, please see the feature below highlighting some of the work of our Best Student Presentation competition winners. I am always looking for ways to keep members better informed about research going on within the Division. If you would like your work to be featured in the fall newsletter, or would like to nominate a colleague's or student's work to be featured, please email me at [Secretary.DNB@sicb.org](mailto:Secretary.DNB@sicb.org).

**Divisional Elections and Ballot Items (1) Proposed Bylaws Change**

**Rationale:** In order to be more inclusive of members who do not strictly identify as neurobiologists, but who regularly associate with the Division and whose work is commonly featured in symposia sponsored by the Division, the DNB executive officers, in consultation with the SICB Executive Officers, propose the following name change to our Division. To change our name, the Division members must vote to modify our bylaws accordingly. Below is the current language of the affected sections of our Division bylaws. Old language is indicated by strikethrough; the proposed new language is indicated in bold underline text.



## Article 1. Name and Purpose

### Section 1. Name

The official name of this division of SICB shall be "The Division of Neurobiology" "**The Division of Neurobiology, Neuroethology, and Sensory Biology**" hereafter called "Division."

### Section 2. Purpose

The study of neurobiology, **neuroethology, and sensory biology** is basic to theoretical and empirical biology. The purpose of this Division shall be to advance, coordinate and assist research and publication of this subject **these subjects**, and to act as a liaison between workers in the various scientific fields involved.

## Article VI. Best Student Presentation Awards

Two awards will be made for Best Student Presentation at each Annual Meeting, one for the best oral presentation and one for the best poster presentation. Each awardee will receive a certificate and a monetary prize. Eligibility will include undergraduate students and graduate students who have not yet been awarded the PhD, as well as new PhDs who have received the degree within the 12 months prior to the meeting. The work must be original and must have been carried out primarily by the student presenting it. The prize can be awarded only once to any student, and each student competing must be a member of the Division of Neurobiology. The Chair shall be responsible for organizing a committee of judges to review the presentations.

## (2) Divisional Officer Elections

This year we are electing a Program Officer for a 3-year term. See below for the candidates' statements.

## Program Officer Candidate:

Jeff Riffell



**Current Position:** Associate Professor of Biology, University of Washington

**Education:** B.A. UC Santa Cruz (Biology, 1997); Ph.D. UC Los Angeles (Biology, 2004), Postdoctoral Associate, University of Arizona (Neuroscience, 2004-2010).

**Professional Experience:** Faculty of the Graduate Program in Neuroscience, University of Washington (2010-present); Associate Editor of *Frontiers in Ecology and Evolution*; Associate Editor of *Frontiers in Behavioral Neuroscience* (2012-present); Postdoctoral Fellow, Center for Insect Science, University of Arizona (2004-2010).

**SICB Activities:** Member since 2000; current member of DNB, DAB, and DIZ; co-organizer of Symposium (2016).

**Other Memberships:** International Society for Neuroethology; Society for Neuroscience; Association for Chemoreception Sciences; Entomological Society of America; International Society of Chemical Ecology

**Research Interests:** The sensory and neurophysiological bases of behavior underlie nearly every critical ecological and evolutionary interaction. Research in my lab seeks to link these different disciplines by examining the neurophysiological bases of behavior with how behavior controls population- and community-scale interactions in the field. Specific topics include the olfactory basis of plant-pollinator interactions, and sensory fusion in insects.



**Goals Statement:** I joined SICB as a graduate student in 2000 and was instantly captivated by the interdisciplinary research presented at the annual meeting. I believe that continuing the growth and integrative nature of the Society and DNB is vital. Towards that end, I have three goals. My first goal is to increase participation of neuroscientists in other fields by attracting new members and creating an interface with related societies (e.g., ICN). I believe that SICB and DNB can fill a number of gaps in various societies because of their narrow focus, or alternately a research field's rapid growth and interest in neuroscience. My second goal will be to broaden symposium themes to integrate with other SICB divisions – for example, developing interdisciplinary themes such as neuromechanics, neuroecology, molecular neuroscience, and neuroethology – as well as advocating for symposia and developing sessions that are cutting-edge and diverse in different types of organisms, research laboratories, and age/rank of presenters. An important component of this is to make sure that there is little temporal overlap in related sessions and symposium. My third goal is to ensure that we continue to attract young, interdisciplinary, scientists and feature their work.

**Program Officer Candidate:**

Thomas W. Cronin



**Current Position:** Professor of Biological Sciences, University of Maryland Baltimore County.

**Education:** PhD Duke University (1979); Postdoc Yale University (1980-1982).

**Professional Experience:** In my department at UMBC since 1983.

**SICB Activities:** Member and meeting attendee up to now.

**Other Memberships:** AAAS (Fellow); International Society for Neuroethology (Fellow); The Crustacean Society.

**Research Interests:** Vision science and visual ecology, mostly of marine invertebrates, but of many other types of aquatic and terrestrial animals as well (e.g., fishes, cetaceans, birds, amphibians).

**Goals Statement:** I have been a member of SICB since my graduate student days, when the society was still named ASZ and was far more limited in international membership and size. I've watched it grow and develop over more than 30 years, and began attending regularly again in recent years. My students and postdocs have been active in presenting talks and posters over the last decade or so, and many have been awarded prizes or honorable mentions within the Division or from The Crustacean Society. It would be an honor and a privilege to be involved in organizing Division of Neurobiology programs and events in future meetings of the Society and to partially pay the Society back for all it has done for the neurosciences and for my laboratory's research over the years. As a sensory biologist, I am in favor of adding this to the Division's name and effort, and would work to promote both general comparative neuroscience and sensory neurobiology. I also favor partnering with the International Society for Neuroethology, which (like SICB) is a strongly comparative society working in the classical philosophy of focusing on the neurobiology of organisms in the light of their natural behavior and ecology.



**Focus On DNB: Best Student Presentation Winners**

Congratulations to the winners of the Best Student Presentation competition!

**Best Student Talk**

**Kyle McCullough**, University of California, Irvine

Kyle is a Ph.D. candidate in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology. Kyle describes his research interests as follows: "I am broadly interested in the physiology and evolution of visual systems. Currently my research focuses on the questions of how opsin evolution affects visual system diversification during speciation, and how evolution results in differences in spectral sensitivity and color vision of extant species. To address these questions, I use the neotropical genus of Heliconius butterflies and a combination of intracellular recording, immunohistochemistry and phylogenetics. Using these multiple lines of evidence I have begun to elucidate the diversity and sexual dimorphism found across species in this colorful and iconic genus."



**Best Student Poster**

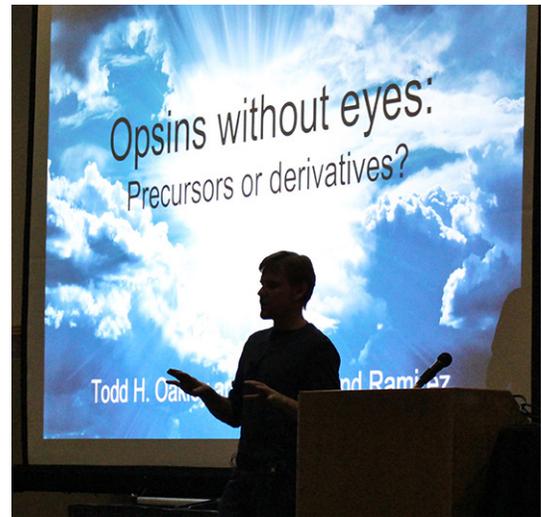
**Katelyn Suchyta**, Bowdoin College

Katelyn is an undergraduate at Bowdoin College studying neuromodulators in the lobster with Dr. Patsy Dickinson.

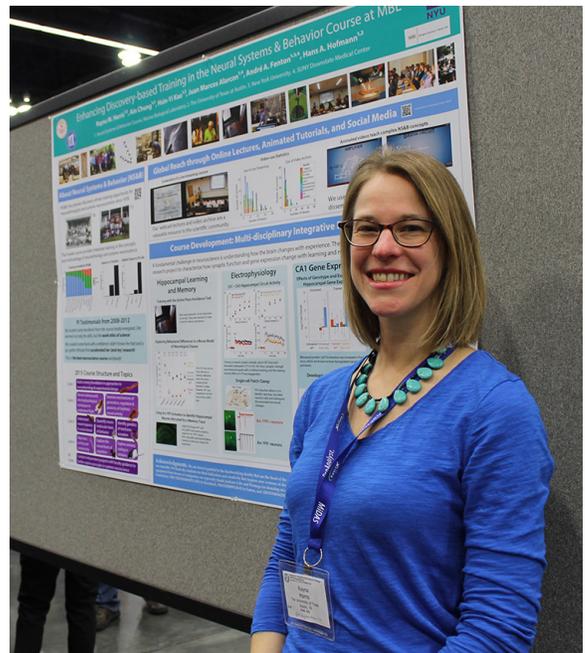


**SICB DNB Facebook and LinkedIn Groups**

- o To join the Facebook group, go to: <http://www.facebook.com/groups/42744755545/>
- o To join the LinkedIn group, search for "SICB Division of Neurobiology" using the **Search Groups** box.



*Todd Oakley, University of California Santa Barbara, presenting in the Extraocular, Nonvisual, and Simple Photoreceptors Symposium in Portland*



*Rayna Harris, University of Texas Austin, presenting her poster in Portland*