



Division of Comparative Endocrinology

Contents

Message from the Chair	1
Minutes from the Business Meeting	1
Message from the Program Officer ...	2
Message from the Secretary	2
Message from the Student/Postdoc Representative	3
Howard Bern Lecture Nominations ...	4
Elections	4

DCE Officers & Representatives

L. Michael Romero
Chair 2016-2018

C. Loren Buck
Chair-Elect 2016-2018

Sharon Lynn
Secretary 2017-2019

Ignacio Moore
Program Officer 2016-2018

Brian Walker
Program Officer-Elect 2017-2018

Christine Lattin
*Student/Postdoc Representative
2015-2018*

Message from the Chair

Michael Romero, Chair.DCE@sicb.org

I hope that everyone who was able to attend the meeting in New Orleans came back excited and rejuvenated about their research. It was an excellent meeting. I look forward to seeing everyone next January in San Francisco, CA (2018), and the following year in Tampa, FL (2019).

DCE meeting highlights: The 16th annual **Howard Bern lecture** was presented by Dr. **David Crews**. His lecture, "We Have Soiled Our Nest, Now What?" was a terrific exploration of the underlying endocrine mechanisms that can be disrupted by various human activities. The lecture evoked much discussion, which was continued at our social where the data blitz was again a major highlight. It was also enjoyable to share our social with our colleagues from DEDE.

We also had fantastic student competitions for the Aubrey Gorman Oral Presentation Award won by **Jennifer Merritt** for her talk entitled, "An estrogen receptor alpha polymorphism may mediate behavioral polymorphism in the white-throated sparrow," and the Lynn Riddiford Poster Presentation Award won by **Talia Head** for her poster entitled, "Proteomic analysis of the crustacean molting gland (Y-organ) over the molt cycle." Congratulations to the winners and thanks to all those who participated! Special thanks goes to all those who volunteered their time to judge the presentations, especially Laura Carruth who organized the judging.

We also need to provide a special thanks to **Ignacio Moore** who, as DCE program officer, helped to put together a terrific program.

New Business: The DCE business meeting covered a number of important topics. [Click here](#) for the minutes. The financial status of the division is good. We continued to discuss the endowment fund for the Howard Bern lecture. The fund currently contains approximately \$34,000. However, to fully fund the annual lecture requires the endowment to eventually reach \$75,000 or more. The good news is that we are almost half way to our goal. Please consider donations to the fund – with every little bit we get closer.

We also discussed the two SICB journals, *Integrative and Comparative Biology* (ICB) and the new on-line society journal (yet to be named). ICB has also floated a proposal to include articles from postdoctoral fellows as a way to provide a venue for retrospective or prospective articles from folks early in their careers. If this gets implemented, we will need a mechanism for identifying good candidates from the ranks of DCE. If you have any ideas, please send them to me.



SICB also instituted a new Meeting Code of Conduct. If you haven't already, please read this important document (<http://www.sicb.org/resources/policies.php3#code>).

I also wanted to remind everyone about the upcoming 18th International Congress of Comparative Endocrinology being held June 4-9, 2017, at Chateau Lake Louise, Banff National Park, Alberta, Canada. Several symposia will be hosted by DCE members.

Finally, I wanted to alert everyone to the upcoming election for the DCE chair-elect (**Pierre Deviche** and **Kathleen Hunt** have graciously agreed to run) and DCE secretary-elect (**Tim Greives** and **Michael Sheriff** have graciously agreed to run). I urge everyone to vote. It is also not too early to plan for our next meetings in San Francisco and Tampa. Specifically, if there are any suggestions for nominations for the Howard Bern lecture or for exciting DCE symposia for future meetings, please contact me or any of the DCE officers.

Message from the Program Officer

Ignacio Moore, DPO.DCE@SICB.org

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

Dr. **David Crews** was the **Howard Bern lecturer** and he gave a compelling talk about the dangers of man-made chemicals in our environment. David's long history of diverse studies in comparative endocrinology and curiosity-driven science are a great model for all researchers.

Congratulations to the winners of the DCE Student Presentation Awards. The Aubrey Gorbman award for best oral presentation went to **Jenny Merritt** of Emory University, and the Lynn Riddiford award for best poster presentation went to Talia Head of California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo. There was unanimous consent that all the presentations were high quality and any of them could have won. Many thanks to **Laura Carruth** for organizing the judging of student presentations. In addition, thanks also to all the individuals who took the time to judge student presentations.

I'm already looking forward to the San Francisco conference next January. Abstract and registration

details will be emailed and posted online this summer. DCE will be sponsoring five symposia, including Understanding the Evolution of Endocrine System Variation through Large-scale Comparative Analyses and Behavioral and Physiological Adaptation to Urban Environments.

I encourage any who have thought about organizing a symposium to start planning for our 2019 meeting in Tampa, Florida. Proposals will be due August 24, 2017. Feel free to contact me should you have any questions about organizing one.

Message from the Secretary

Sharon Lynn, Secretary.DCE@sicb.org

I hope you all enjoyed a productive and interesting SICB meeting in New Orleans this year! I am excited to be moving into the position as DCE secretary after **Sarah Woodley's** excellent service in this role.

Unbelievably, it is already time to vote for a new Chair-elect and a new Secretary-elect for our division. We have a slate of four excellent candidates, whose information appears below. Please take a moment to vote and make your voice heard!

Also, if you haven't already, please join our **Facebook group**: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/104465249680261/> This is an excellent venue for asking endocrinology-related questions, connecting with colleagues, and posting announcements about jobs, funding opportunities, and conferences. We currently have over 230 members and would like to keep the group growing!

You can also email me at Secretary.DCE@sicb.org with any announcements you would like to have included in the SICB monthly member update. If you would like to do this, please be sure to do so by the 5th of each month.

Below are some upcoming meetings to mark on your calendars:

- Endocrine Society Annual Meeting: April 1-4, 2017, Orlando, FL.
- Canadian Society of Zoologists Annual Meeting: May 15-19, 2017, University of Manitoba, Canada.



- 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.
- Society for Behavioral Neuroendocrinology Annual Meeting: June 11-14, 2017, Long Beach, California.
- Animal Behavior Society Annual Meeting: June 12-16, 2017, Toronto, Canada.
- Evolution Annual Meeting: June 23-27, 2017, Portland, Oregon.
- Society for Experimental Biology: July 3-6, 2017, Gothenburg, Sweden.
- American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists Annual Meeting: July 12-16, 2017, Austin, Texas.
- Society for Neuroscience Annual Meeting: November 11-15, 2017, Washington, DC.
- 29th Conference of European Comparative Endocrinology: August 2018, Glasgow, United Kingdom.

Wishing you all a safe and productive spring!

Message from the Student/Post-doctoral Affairs Committee Representative

Christine Lattin, Christine.Lattin@yale.edu

We had a terrific turnout of undergraduates, grad students and post-docs at this year's meeting in New Orleans. The meeting featured several events for students and post-docs, including the January 5 workshop entitled, "Low on the totem pole: power structures and power struggles in scientific careers" from the Student/Postdoctoral Affairs Committee. I also organized a new DCE event for students and post-docs this year, "**Lunch with a Comparative Endocrinologist**," which matched ~30 DCE students and post-docs with seven DCE faculty members for lunch during the meeting. Feedback on this new event was very positive (everyone rated it a 4 or 5 out of 5) and there were many requests to do it again next year. Thanks again to everyone who participated, especially to faculty who took time out

of their busy schedules to meet with students and post-docs: **Fran Bonier, Creagh Breuner, Emma Coddington, Erica Crespi, Tim Greives, Ignacio Moore and Michael Sheriff!**

The **5th annual Data Blitz** (organized by **Rebecca Calisi-Rodriguez**) was also a big hit. **Stephen Ferguson, Jenny Merritt, David Ensminger, Conor Taff and Kristy MacLeod** presented hilariously informative rapid-fire science talks that were all so good that everyone was pronounced co-winners. If you are a student/post-doc/young faculty member interested in participating in Data Blitz 6, email the new DCE Student/Post-doc Reps for more information.

Which brings me to the fact that my term as DCE Student/Post-doc Rep is ending (sniff!), and the new DCE Student/Post-doc Rep will actually be two people - **Stephen Ferguson**, PhD candidate at the University of Memphis (s.ferguson@memphis.edu), and **Suzanne Austin**, post-doctoral fellow at the University of California Davis (shaustin@ucdavis.edu). They will be sharing this position partly because Rebecca Calisi-Rodriguez is stepping down from organizing the Data Blitz, and the new DCE Student/Post-doc Reps will take that over, along with organizing other activities around the annual meeting.

If you haven't already, please join the **DCE Facebook group**, and 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.



2017 Bern Lecturer, Dr. David Crews, with DCE Chair Michael Romero.



Everyone's a winner! Participants in the 5th Annual Data Blitz, pictured left to right: Stephen Ferguson (University of Memphis), Conor Taff (Cornell), Jennifer Merritt (Emory), David Ensminger (Penn State), and Kristy MacLeod (Penn State). At the far right is Rebecca Calisi-Rodriguez (University of California, Davis), DCE Data Blitz Master of Ceremonies.

Howard A. Bern Lecture: Call for Nominations

Nominations are sought for the 2018 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) by August 24, 2017.

Spring elections Candidates for Chair-Elect, in alphabetical order

Pierre Deviche



Pierre Deviche, candidate for DCE Chair-elect

Current Position: Professor of Environmental Physiology, School of Life Sciences, Arizona State University.

Education: B.S., Biology (1975), and Ph.D., Behavioral Neuroendocrinology (1980), University of Liege, Belgium.

Professional Experience: Professor and Associate Professor of Zoophysiology, University of Alaska Fairbanks (1988-1999); Professor and Associate Professor of Environmental Physiology, Arizona State University (1999-present); Scientific Program Committee Member, International Symposium on Avian Endocrinology. Member of the Editorial Boards for General and Comparative Endocrinology, Hormones and Behavior, and Frontiers in Endocrinology.

SICB Activities: Society member and annual meeting participant for the past 20+ years; Talk and poster presentations. Session chair; Symposium organizer; Chair, nomination committee for the Comparative Endocrinology Division (2000).

Other Memberships: American Birding Association; American Ornithological Union; Arizona Field Ornithologists; Dragonfly Society of the America; Ornithological Societies of North America; Sigma Xi; Society for Behavioral Neuroendocrinology.

Research Interests: Physiological and behavioral mechanisms of vertebrate adaptations; Neuroendocrine regulation of reproduction and stress responses; Hormonal control of immunity; Urban eco-physiology.

Goals Statement: SICB has long been a strong advocate of using science-based evidence in policy decisions. Doing so these days is more critical than ever



given the current political climate, the pervasive influence of the media, and unrelenting assaults on the role of science in shaping decisions related to many environmental issues. As DCE Chair, a priority will be to develop and help implement new approaches by which DCE can contribute to the above role of SICB. These approaches must be entirely consistent with the overall long-term objectives of SICB as a whole. They may include: (1) new types of formal and informal interactions with other SICB divisions; (2) development of new educational tools for dissemination to educators and their students; (3) approaches aimed at drawing more young individuals into science, as well as encouraging these individuals to develop skills that qualify them for scientific careers; and (4) further interactions with the public at large, e.g., through press releases, videoconferences on specific topics, and the Society web site.

Kathleen Hunt



Kathleen Hunt, candidate for Chair-Elect

Current Position: Research Professor, Biological Sciences Dept., Northern Arizona University.

Professional Experience: Ph.D., University of Washington (Wingfield lab), 1997; Research Scientist, Woodland Park Zoo

(Seattle), 2001-2005; textbook writing & editing, 2000-2007; Visiting Assistant Professor, U. Portland (OR), 2007-2009; Research Associate, Oregon Zoo, 2008-2010; Research Scientist & Senior Scientist, New England Aquarium (MA), 2011-2016; Research Professor, N. Arizona University (AZ), 2016-present.

SICB Activities: Member of DCE and DAB since 1991; judge for DAB student posters and presentations; chair for DCE presentation sessions.

Other Memberships: International Society for Wildlife Endocrinology; Society for Conservation Biology; Society for Marine Mammalogy; International Sea Turtle Society; Association of Zoos & Aquariums.

Research Interests: I am interested in the interactions of environmental and anthropogenic stress with reproduction and health of free-ranging vertebrates,

a field that has led me into development of novel endocrine techniques using alternative sample types (e.g., baleen, feces, hair, feather, respiratory vapor). Current projects include development of hormone assays for whale baleen and artiodactyl horn; assessment of estrous cycling and testosterone cycles in large whales using baleen hormones; nest timing, nest success, and environmental stress in Arctic tundra birds; and the role of corticosterone and thyroid hormones with cold-stunning in sea turtles and with possible goiter in Galapagos tortoises.

Goals Statement: SICB and especially DCE have been a steady guiding presence throughout my entire scientific life, and I have reached that point in my career where I would like to give back to the community in whatever capacity I can. Immediate goals are to help keep DCE running smoothly and efficiently, to continue SICB's longstanding focus on encouraging student participation, and, specifically, to promote and encourage endocrinology-focused symposia in upcoming meetings. Additionally I hope that my diverse background, which has included not only traditional academic jobs but also full-time research at nonprofit organizations and several years in academic publishing, will help me broaden DCE membership. For example, I hope to encourage participation from the growing endocrinology community at AZA-accredited zoos and aquaria. On a broader scale, I believe the time may have come for scientists to speak out more publicly about the value of science, and of evidence-based decision-making in general, for society at large, and I hope to assist and support DCE and SICB in finding the wisest path forward in that arena as well.



Candidates for DCE Secretary-Elect, in alphabetical order

Tim Greives



Tim Greives, candidate for DCE Secretary-elect

Current Position: Assistant Professor, Department of Biological Sciences, North Dakota State University.

Education: B.A. with honors, Biology, Indiana University (2003); B.A., Psychology, Indiana University (2003); Ph.D. Evolution, Ecology and Behavior, Indiana University (2009).

Professional Experience: Research Scientist (2011-2012) and NSF International Research Fellow (2009-2011), Max Planck Institute for Ornithology; Assistant Professor, North Dakota State University (2013-present).

SICB Activities: I have attended SICB since 2004. I have served as a DCE judge for the best student poster and regularly attend DCE Business meetings.

Other Memberships: Society for Behavioral Neuroendocrinology; North American Society for Comparative Endocrinology.

Research Interests: My research focuses on the physiological mechanisms shaping seasonal and daily timing schedules, with songbirds as my primary study system. Nearly all animals in the temperate zone experience dramatic changes in their environ-

ments over the course of ~24h and 365 days. Specifically, my research asks: What are the mechanisms that influence initiation of daily behaviors and initiation of seasonal activation of reproductive physiology and behavior? How does individual variation in timing and endocrine phenotype influence fitness? And, what are the evolutionary pressures, or costs, that have shaped the physiological processes regulating timing phenotypes?

Goals Statement: The support of students fostered by SICB, and DCE in particular, are a core strength, promoting the pursuit of integrative biology and comparative endocrinology. As secretary I will continue to promote comparative endocrinology and support of trainee members, communicate with DCE members and work to extend the reach of DCE through various forms of communication, including the bi-annual newsletters and the DCE Facebook page. I will also work to promote participation and membership in SICB from members of other relevant societies, including SBN and NASCE.

Michael Sheriff



Michael Sheriff, candidate for DCE Secretary-Elect

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

Education: B.Sc., Life Sciences, University of Toronto (2005); 2010 Ph.D., Zoology, University of British Columbia (2010).

Professional Experience: Postdoctoral Fellow, Institute of Arctic Biology, University of Alaska Fairbanks; NSERC Post-Doctoral Fellow, IPY Post-Doctoral Fellow (2010-2013); Assistant Professor, Department of Ecosystem Science and Management, Penn State University (2013-present); invited Fellow in Residency, Israel Institute of Advanced Studies, Hebrew University (2016); handling Editor for *Oecologia*.



SICB Membership and Activities: 2012-present Membership; 2013, 2015-2017 Sessional Chair; 2017 Bartholomew Award recipient.

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 believe the Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology is truly an interdisciplinary and integrative society. It is question-driven, focusing from external influences to mechanisms to fitness regardless of taxa. 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 sym-

posia. As Secretary serving on the executive committee for DCE I will strive to maintain these core values and work hard 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 and visibility, particularly with young and early-career scientists, and raise the profile of our division through current and emerging social media, such as our Facebook page, Twitter, and Snapchat. As Secretary I believe one of my primary roles will be to disseminate information and decisions reached by the executive committee to our members, but I will also work hard to provide information flow in the other direction, from our members to our executive committee. I thank all of you for this potential opportunity.

