



Division of Ecoimmunology and Disease Ecology

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DEDE Officers & Representatives

Travis Wilcoxon
Chair 2018-2020

Carol Fassbinder-Orth
Past Chair 2016-2018

James Adelman
Secretary 2017-2019

Gregory Demas
Program Officer 2017-2019

Laura Schoenle
Student/Postdoc Representative 2018-2021

Message from the Chair

Travis Wilcoxon (Chair.DEDE@sicb.org)

Thanks to all of you who participated in the 2018 SICB Annual Meeting in San Francisco. It was great to see so many of you and to learn about the great science coming from your research teams. The end of the 2018 meeting marked the end of Carol Fassbinder-Orth's term as Chair of DEDE, and I want to take this time to truly thank her for her leadership during her time as Chair. She delivered successful ideas, fruitful collaborations, and was a great communicator as our division grew from its infancy into the toddler years. Over that time period, we also grew in the number of members in our division. I began my term as Chair of DEDE at the end of the 2018 meeting and I look forward to working to continue the momentum that has been built by Carol. I hope to generate even more interest in participation in SICB activities among our division members.

While two years seems like a long time between turnover of officers, we will be electing new officers every year into officer-elect positions, and the elected member will serve for a full year prior to taking over as an officer at the end of the subsequent meeting. As you will see in this newsletter, we currently need to elect a Chair-Elect, who will take over as Chair of the division following the 2020 meeting in Austin, Texas. Following the 2019 Annual Meeting in Tampa, we will need to elect both a Secretary-Elect and a Program Officer-Elect. With the exception of students and post-docs, anyone who feels called to serve and help lead this division is encouraged to let me, or any of the other officers, know of your interest in serving as an officer so that we may discuss the responsibilities of that position with you and work towards getting your candidate profile in the newsletter and your name on the ballot. As you can see from our current and past officer slates and candidate profiles, officers come from large universities, small universities, government agencies, and other research institutions. We simply need people who genuinely care about the future of DEDE and who are willing to commit some of their time to leading us into that future.

Some of our current goals are to promote and share the great work of our division members. In that spirit, we are excited to celebrate the work of our student members and are pleased to have great participation in our best student presentation competitions from each students and judges. One of the topics that is often discussed at SICB meetings is the format for the best student oral presentation competition. Some divisions have a single, focused oral presentation session, featuring talks from students whose abstracts were selected by judges for the oral presentation competition. Currently, all students who indicate that they would like to be considered for a DEDE award are assigned judges, and best oral presentation talks are spread among many sessions. In our DEDE Business Meeting in San Francisco, there were



no strong opinions for or against either format. However, our business meeting was poorly attended, so there may be DEDE members who have a vision for a best student paper format that is different from the one we currently use. If you have ideas for changing the competition, please contact me to share your ideas and suggested changes.

Our Lunch with an Ecoimmunologist program at the 2018 meeting was successful, and I encourage more DEDE members to participate in those activities in the future. Our sincere thanks to Daniel Becker for organizing this event, which allows trainees to interact with established leaders in the field. I was one of the PI's in this program this year and I met with three early-career ecoimmunologists: a Master's student, a Ph.D. student, and a Postdoctoral Scholar. We had a very productive conversation about career goals and career paths over breakfast. While I hope I offered valuable input, the interactions among the other three participants were clearly of great value to them and helped them develop their understanding of their (sometimes simultaneous) roles as mentee and mentor.

I also encourage each of our members to utilize social media outlets to promote activities and research from division members. The live-Tweeting efforts at the San Francisco meeting were well received by members who could not attend the meeting and by attendees who had to choose between concurrent sessions. More importantly, the sharing of short, informative summaries of the presentations on social media platforms, allows us to reach additional ecoimmunologists and disease ecologists who have not yet joined SICB and SICB members who have not joined DEDE. I want to thank Dan Becker for organizing the live-Tweet process and all those who participated. If you are not currently following DEDE on Twitter and Facebook, I would encourage you to do so.

I recently sent an email to DEDE members who are listed on the SICB DEDE Division web page encouraging everyone to consider symposia proposals for the 2020 Austin, Texas meeting. The symposium proposal due date is 24 August 2018. The call for symposia and instructions for submitting proposals are posted here: sicb.org/meetings/2020/callsymp.php.

Have an excellent 2018 and I will see you in Tampa!

Message from the Program Officer

Greg Demas (DPO.DEDE@sicb.org)

Despite the 4.4 magnitude earthquake that rocked the Bay Area the first night of the meeting this past January, SICB 2018 in San Francisco was incredibly successful, with 2,497 registered attendees and 1,833 submitted abstracts; DEDE had 42 talks and 37 posters. DEDE also continued its strong and vibrant growth within the society by growing to nearly approximately 260 members, which represents a remarkable 60% increase from the division's inception in 2014. Perhaps most heartening is that two thirds of our members are students or postdoctoral fellows, which should ensure the continued infusion of new ideas, talent, and innovative research within the division in the coming years. DEDE continues to make key contributions to the overall SICB meeting as well, by hosting six oral sessions and three poster sessions this past year. We also co-sponsored two disease ecology/ecoimmunology-related symposia and two society-wide symposia. A big thank you to the organizers for developing such interesting and intellectually stimulating symposia. Finally, many DEDE members were able to come and unwind at the division social held at the Thirsty Bear Organic Brewery, an event co-sponsored by DAB, DCE and DNNSB.

SICB 2019 in Tampa, Florida is shaping up to be yet another outstanding meeting. There are 12 great symposia slated for next year and I would like to call your attention to two that will be co-sponsored by DEDE: *The scale of sickness: how immune variation across space and species affects infectious disease dynamics*, organized by Daniel Becker, Laura Schoenle, Cynthia Downs and Lynn Martin and *Chemical responses to the biotic and abiotic environment by early diverging metazoans revealed in the post-genomic age*, organized by Paul Long, Laura Mydlarz and Beth Okamura. A full list of the 2019 SICB symposia can be found below and on the SICB Tampa meeting webpage.

To ensure that DEDE continues to grow and thrive, it is important that DEDE members continue to host ecoimmune/disease-related symposia. Please send us your symposium ideas! Even if you are not in a position to organize a symposium yourself, but think you have a good idea for one that would be relevant to the division, please let us know. Symposia are eligible for NSF funding, and symposia that have complementary sessions/associated workshops and invite speakers from diverse institutions across a range of career stages are more likely to receive NSF funding. If you have a symposium idea, please start thinking now about submitting a proposal for Austin 2020. You can contact



me at dpo.dede@sicb.org or the SICB program officer (Susan Williams) at programofficer@sicb.org for more details.

Thank you for your ongoing participation and support DEDE events and thanks to all those who volunteered to judge student presentations. Now on to Tampa!

Message from the Secretary

Jim Adelman (Secretary.DEDE@sicb.org)

Wonderful seeing everyone this year in San Francisco! I'll be brief, as the other officers have covered the updates quite well.

First, many thank yous! A huge thanks to Carol Fassbinder-Orth for her stellar job as Chair over the past two years. And a big welcome back to Travis Wilcoxon, who will take over as chair after serving as divisional Secretary before me. Additionally, thanks to all who served as judges for the best student presentation

2019 Tampa Tentative Symposium Schedule

Integrative Plant Biology (SICB Wide)

Organizers: Matt Ogburn, Beth Brainerd, Erika Edwards
Sponsors: DAB, DCB, DCE, DCPB, DEDB, DEDE, DEE, DIZ, DNNSB, DPCB, DVM, AMS, TCS

The Scale of Sickness: How Immune Variation Across Space and Species Affects Infectious Disease Dynamics

Organizers: Daniel Becker, Laura Schoenle, Cynthia Downs, Lynn Martin
Sponsors: DAB, DCE, DEDE, DEE

Playing with Power: Mechanisms of Energy Flow in Organismal Movement

Organizers: Jeffrey Olberding, Michael Rosario, Stephen Deban
Sponsors: DCB, DNNSB, DVM

Adaptation and Evolution of Biological Materials (SICB Wide)

Organizers: Rob Campbell, Mason Dean
Sponsors: DCB, DCPB, DEDB, DEE, DIZ, DVM, AMS

Stress Phenotype: Linking Molecular, Cellular, and Physiological Stress Responses to Fitness

Organizers: Haruka Wada, Britt Heidinger
Sponsors: DAB, DCE, DCPB, DNNSB

Beyond the Powerhouse: Integrating Mitonuclear Evolution, Physiology, and Theory in Comparative Biology

Organizers: Justin Havird, Geoffrey Hill
Sponsors: DCPB, DIZ, DPCB, TCS

Comparative Evolutionary Morphology and Biomechanics in the Era of Big Data (SICB Wide)

Organizers: Martha Muñoz, Samantha Price
Sponsors: DCB, DCE, DEDB, DEE, DNNSB, DPCB, DVM

Multifunctional Structures and Multistructural Functions: Functional Coupling and Integration in the Evolution of Biomechanical Systems

Organizers: Stacy Farina, Emily Kane
Sponsors: DCB, DEDB, DVM, AMS, TCS

Chemical Responses to the Biotic and Abiotic Environment by Early Diverging Metazoans Revealed in the Post-genomic Age

Organizers: Paul Long, Laura Mydlarz, Beth Okamura
Sponsors: DEDE, DNNSB, DPCB, AMS

The World is Not Flat: Accounting for the Dynamic Nature of the Environment as We Move Beyond Static Experimental Manipulations (SICB Wide)

Organizers: Timothy Greives, Rachel Bowden
Sponsors: DAB, DCE, DCPB, DEDE, DEE, DNNSB

Allometry, Scaling and Ontogeny of Form

Organizers: H. Frederik Nijhout, Kenneth McKenna
Sponsors: DEDB, DIZ

The Path Less Traveled: Reciprocal Illumination of Gecko Adhesion by Unifying Material Science, Biomechanics, Ecology, and Evolution

Organizers: Tim Higham, Alyssa Stark, Anthony Russell
Sponsors: DCB, DEE, DVM



awards and participated in DEDE events. We're a young division, but we're developing a really active and engaged community, thanks to you.

Second, we will be having elections for Chair-Elect this May (see below), so be sure to vote when you see that email notification.

Finally, although our newsletter only appears twice a year, we can use the Monthly Member Updates to share information about meetings, workshops, or other opportunities in ecimmunology and disease ecology. If you have announcements or information you'd like to share with DEDE members, please send that to me (Secretary.DEDE@sicb.org) no later than the 4th of any given month and I'll make sure your information gets into the Monthly Member Updates.

Looking forward to seeing everyone next January and, in the meantime, have a safe and productive spring!

Message from the Student/Postdoctoral Affairs Committee Representative

Laura Schoenle (schoenle@usf.edu)

We had a great turnout of students and post-docs at SICB 2018 in San Francisco! The meeting featured multiple events for students and post-docs, including two brown bag lunch workshops: "Just publish papers vs. outreach & advocacy" offered by the Student/Postdoctoral Affairs Committee and "Writing a competitive GIAR/FGST grant proposal" hosted by the Student Support Committee. Stay tuned for information about similar events for SICB 2019 in Tampa!

Dan Becker, our last student/post-doc representative, organized the live-tweeting of DEDE sessions at the 2018 SICB meeting and at least one person was tweeting during each session. If you don't already, please follow us on [Twitter](#) (@SICBDEDE) and [Facebook](#). Throughout the year, please tag us in your posts and tweets where you share papers, grants, post-doc or student opportunities, and other news.

In February, the Student/Postdoctoral Affairs Committee met to discuss future topics for discussion at SICB meetings and future articles for the newsletter. Some ideas included using social media as a scientist, authorship expectations, and organizing a SICB symposium as a student/post-doc. If there are any topics you would like to see addressed by the committee at the annual meeting or in a newsletter, please send me an email at schoenle@usf.edu.

Best Student Paper Awards

DEDE would like to congratulate our best student paper award winners, Tosha Kelly for best oral presentation and Ashley Love for best poster. The competition was tight, with excellent work all around. Well done to all and congratulations to Tosha and Ashley! Many thanks to our Program Officer-Elect, Cynthia Downs, for organizing this year's competition and thanks to all who judged posters and presentations.



*Best student presentation winner,
Tosha Kelly with best presentation
subject, the song sparrow.*



*Best student poster winner,
Ashley Love.*

2018 Officer Election Nominees

This year DEDE members will vote for a Chair-Elect who will begin this role in 2019, with the duties as Chair to begin in 2020. We are thankful to have such a large pool of talented and dedicated nominees willing to serve in these positions. Please read over the nomination profiles for each candidate. Elections will take place in early May, so be on alert for an email with a link to the online election ballot.





*Chair-Elect Candidate,
Dr. Fran Sandmeier*

Chair-Elect

Fran Sandmeier

Current Position: Assistant Professor, Biology, Colorado State University-Pueblo, Pueblo, CO.

Education: B.A. University of California, Berkeley (2001); Ph.D. University of Nevada, Reno (2009).

Professional Experience: Assistant Professor, Colorado State University-Pueblo (2016-present); Assistant Professor, Lindenwood University-Belleville (2013-2016); Postdoctoral Researcher, University of Nevada, Reno (2010-2013; advisor: C. Richard Tracy).

SICB Activities: Member, DEE (2001-present), DEDE (2013-present). Participated as a symposium speaker in "Mechanisms and Methods in Ecological Immunology" (2014).

Other Memberships: American Society of Herpetologists and Ichthyologists, Society for the Study of Amphibians and Reptiles, Wildlife Disease Association.

Research Interests: My research focuses on how the immune system of reptiles influences disease ecology within populations. In particular, I am interested in how trade-offs between induced and constituent immune function may be mediated by metabolism, seasonality, and temperature — and how that affects the prevalence of common pathogens in natural populations of North American tortoises.

Goal Statement: SICB was my first exposure to scientific meetings in 2003, and I consider the society as having influenced both my decision to become a professor and my general passion for research. Having worked as an assistant professor at a small, undergraduate institute, as well as at a Hispanic-serving institute (currently), I see one of my roles as encouraging underrepresented students (broadly defined) to engage in research at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. SICB offers terrific opportunities for students to enter the research community early on in their academic careers, and DEDE (in particular) offers exciting opportunities for collaboration in a new and growing field. Some of my goals as chair include working closely with the other divisions within SICB, encouraging the submission

of new symposia proposals, supporting symposia according to my knowledge of the field, and encouraging diversity in the DEDE membership-base. As a growing division, diversity in all of its forms will assure the growth of this division, foster collaborations, and encourage the diversity of thought that is so crucial to the development of nascent fields of research. I would be honored to serve DEDE, and hope to have the opportunity to serve in this position.



*Chair-Elect Candidate,
Dr. Laura Zimmerman*

Laura Zimmerman

Current Position: Assistant Professor, Biology Department, Millikin University, Decatur IL.

Education: B.S., Millikin University (2006), M.S. Illinois State University (2009), Ph.D. Illinois State University (2013).

Professional Experience: Assistant Professor, Millikin University (2015-); Adjunct professor, Millikin University (2014-15), Watershed coordinator, Champaign County Soil & Water Conservation District (2014-15), Visiting Assistant Professor, Wofford College (2014).

SICB Activities: Member of SICB since 2007. DEDE Best Student paper judge 2016.

Other Memberships: Beta Beta Beta.

Research Interests: My research interests mainly focus on B cell and antibody function in ectothermic vertebrates and factors that may affect that function such as temperature and aging. I am also interested in developing new techniques for use in non-model systems.

Goal Statement: SICB has always represented to me an opportunity to learn from a variety of disciplines, develop collaborations, and share in the excitement of research with friends and colleagues. My main goal as Chair would be to build on the work being done in DEDE to present innovative symposia that reflects the wide range of research in ecoimmunology and disease ecology. My goals also include supporting undergraduate research and education while also enhancing opportunities for professional development.