

Division of Comparative Endocrinology (DCE): 2001 Fall Newsletter

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Message from the Chair

David Norris (david.norris@colorado.edu)

As my tenure as Chair of DCE expires, I want to thank all the present and past officers for their hard work this past two years as well as the many member volunteers that have contributed to help with various DCE activities. The quality of papers, posters, and symposia at the annual meetings keeps improving thanks to the efforts of all of you, our contributing members. We need to continue efforts to rebuild our membership by attracting new members and encouraging former members to rejoin and attend the annual meeting. Your new Chair, Michael Moore, will be taking over at the Anaheim meeting and you need to continue your support of our Division under his leadership. And show your DCE support now by voting for your new officers.

The first Howard A. Bern Distinguished Lectureship in Comparative Endocrinology will be presented this January at the Anaheim meeting and we hope you will all come to welcome Professor Emeritus Howard A. Bern who will be the first Distinguished Lecturer of the series. Meanwhile, we are now soliciting nominations for the Distinguished Lecturer for the 2003 meeting in Toronto. A nomination is not limited to SICB members or even to North Americans, but it should be a person who has had an impact on the field of comparative endocrinology in the spirit exemplified by Howard Bern's career in comparative endocrinology. Nominations may be given to any of the current officers by any means possible prior to December 1 so that the selection can be made by the Executive Committee before the Anaheim meeting.

It is with great sadness that I report the death of a long-time DCE member and fellow scientist, Nancy Barnes Clark. A number of us have known Nancy and her husband George since graduate school days when she was completing her PhD with Aubrey Gorbman at the University of Washington in the early 1960s. Nancy began her endocrine studies on the regulation of calcium physiology in reptiles and later extended her research to birds. She was a strong participant in and supporter of DCE for many years. A memorial service was held last April in Norwich, VT. The following obituary was thoughtfully provided by Kathy Packard.

Nancy Barnes Clark, a long-time member of ASZ and DCE until her retirement in 1994, died at home in Norwich, VT, after a year-long battle with cancer. Nancy received a B.A. magna cum laude from Mt. Holyoke College and the M.A. and PhD. from Columbia University. She worked with Jane Kaltenbach as an undergraduate at Mt. Holyoke and did her graduate work with Aubrey Gorbman. Nancy married George Clark in 1961 and began her career at the University of Connecticut in the mid-1960's. Members of DCE will remember Nancy as a regular participant in the Division (both at the annual meeting of the ASZ and at various regional meetings of the Division). She also served as treasurer of ASZ in the 1980's. Nancy published more than 70 papers in comparative endocrinology, received regular funding for her work from NSF, and served as Program Officer in Regulatory Biology at NSF in 1977/78. Nancy retired from the University of Connecticut in 1994 after

29 years and moved to Norwich, VT. During retirement, she was appointed as Visiting Professor of Biological Sciences at Dartmouth and taught physiology there. Nancy had been an active volunteer in Storrs, CT and she continued those interests in retirement. She was leader of the Northern Foragers 4H Club in Norwich, Secretary of the Ottauquechee Section of the Green Mountain Club, taught a Norwich Recreation Department basketry course, and was a leader in the gardening activities of the Norwich Women's Club. She also was an avid hiker and a Master Gardener.

Message from the Program Officer

Sunny Boyd (boyd.1@nd.edu)

The January 2002 meeting in Anaheim, California, will have the usual strong showing from DCE members. The central symposium for our division this year is "Integrative and Evolutionary Roles of Hormonebinding Proteins", organized by Kevin Kelley of California State University at Long Beach and Cunming Duan of the University of Michigan (www.sicb.org/meetings/2002/symposia/hormone-binding-proteins.php3). The symposium itself includes twelve noted scientists who will speak on Friday, January 4. A keynote address by Dr. Howard A. Bern of the University of California at Berkeley will cap the symposium. Dr. Bern's address is tentatively titled "Emeritus Engagements with Endocrinology." I expect our entire membership will find much of interest on Friday.

A special mini-symposium, to accompany the Hormone-binding Proteins session, further enhances the program for Anaheim. This mini-symposium will consist of contributed papers that relate to the main symposium topic and will feature student and post-doctoral members especially. In addition, we have a full slate of contributed papers and posters integrated throughout the other days of the meeting. Currently, DCE members are primary authors of about forty contributed oral presentations. The poster presentations are still being organized at the time I write. Please plan to stay for the entire meeting because every day will have significant contributions from our membership, as well as members of the other divisions. Student participation in the Best Student Paper and Poster competitions is especially strong this year. I would appreciate hearing from volunteers (at faculty or post-doc level) who could help judge this competition (boyd.1@nd.edu).

Finally, the program for Anaheim includes our annual business meeting on Thursday, January 3. This will be immediately followed by a DCE-sponsored social. I would like to emphasize that all members are welcome at the business meeting. Graduate student and post-doc participation in our program is the key to its success. Likewise, graduate students and post-docs are very welcome at the business meeting. We often make decisions that affect your future! Please come to the business meeting before the social.

Message from the Secretary

Bob Denver (rdenver@umich.edu)

Below are biosketches for DCE candidates for Chair–elect and Secretary–elect. You will be receiving paper ballots in the mail from the SICB office. Please vote!

The 14th International Symposium on Comparative Endocrinology was held in Sorrento, Italy May 26–30, 2001. By all measures the meeting was a resounding success. An excellent scientific program combined with friends, fine Italian food and culture to make for a fantastic meeting. I enjoyed seeing several members of the SICB DCE at the meeting in Sorrento. I welcomed the opportunity to represent the SICB DCE at the International Federation of Comparative Endocrine Societies (IFCES) Council meeting and will now serve as the Secretary/Treasurer of IFCES for the next five years. Thus, feel free to contact me for information about IFCES and its activities, as well as to provide suggestions. Minutes of the IFCES Council meeting are now available online (www.biology.lsa.umich.edu/faculty/labs/denver/IFCESminutes2001.html).

At the meeting in Sorrento Bob Dores convened a meeting of the Editors of General and Comparative Endocrinology. The new editorial structure was described in the [Spring 2001 DCE newsletter](#). Information can also be found on the GCE website (www.apnet.com/www/journal/gc/gcifa.htm).

The 15th International Congress on Comparative Endocrinology will be held in Boston May 23 to 28, 2005. A web site has been established for the meeting: www.bu.edu/ICCE15/. Proposals for satellite symposia are currently being accepted.

ALERT FOR STUDENTS! Stacia Sower announced that there would be a competition for the creation of a logo for the meeting. Students will be invited to submit logos to the competition. The winner will receive free registration for the meeting and \$1000 for travel and expenses. The deadline for the submissions is May, 2002.

The local organizing committee consists of:

Ian Callard (chair)
Stacia Sower
Jennifer Specker
Gloria Callard
Anne McNabb
Mary Wright
Steve McCormick
Martin Schreibman.

The international program committee consists of:

Ian Callard (USA; chair)
Yoshio Takei (Japan)
Kazuyoshi Tsutui (Japan)
Jean Joss (Australia)
Gerd Gade (South Africa)
Hubert Vaudry (Europe)
Liliane Schoofs (Europe)
Stacia Sower (USA)
Frank Moore (USA)

The current IFCES officers will also serve on the international program committee.

The site of the 16th ICCE (Brisbane, Australia) was announced at the Sorrento meeting.

A new divisional website has been established (www.sicb.org/divisions/dce.php3) which is intended to provide current information of relevance to the DCE membership. Suggestions for material to be included on this site are welcome (rdenver@umich.edu).

Upcoming Meetings

The following link provides information on select upcoming comparative endocrinology meetings: (www.sciref.org/links/AEOrgs/compendo.htm)

Fourth Intercongress Symposium of the Asia and Oceania Society for Comparative Endocrinology China, 2002 Info: Jean Joss jjoss@rna.bio.mq.edu.au

21st European Society for Comparative Endocrinology Bonn, Germany August 26–31, 2002
www.esce2002.uni-bonn.de

15th International Congress on Comparative Endocrinology Boston, MA USA May 23–28, 2005
mmcom.bu.edu/comweb/webmaker/misbin/default.html

DCE Candidates for Election

Candidates for Chair–Elect

Catherine Propper

Current Position: Associate Professor, Department of Biological Sciences, Northern Arizona University, Flagstaff, Arizona

Education: A.B. Zoology, University of California, Berkeley, 1982; Ph.D. Oregon State University, Corvallis, 1989.

Professional Experience: NRSA Postdoctoral Fellow, University of Colorado, Mentor: Richard E. Jones, 1989–1990; Assistant Professor, Department of Biological Sciences, Northern Arizona University, Flagstaff, 1991–1996; Associate Professor, Department of Biological Sciences, Northern Arizona University, Flagstaff, 1996–present.

SICB Activities: Member, Graduate Student, Postdoctoral Fellow Representative DCE 1986.

Other Memberships: Sigma Xi, AAAS

Research Interests: Action of endocrine disrupting compounds on reproduction and stress responses; neuroendocrine control of seasonal reproduction and behavior. We use amphibians as model systems to examine the effects of low–level exposure to pesticides on reproduction and behavior. We are also investigating the molecular mechanisms that are involved in the initiation of seasonal reproduction.

Goal Statement: Comparative studies in many fields have often led to outstanding discoveries in basic science. I would like to develop a platform for promoting both historical and current comparative endocrine studies that are important to pushing forward the field. I believe that SICB and the Division of Comparative Endocrinology are positioned to act as the sponsors of such an effort.

David Borst

Current Position: Professor of Biology, and Head of the Cell Biology, Physiology, and Developmental Biology Section, Department of Biological Sciences, Illinois State University, Normal, IL

Education: B.A., Biology, Reed College, 1969; M.A., Zoology, UCLA, 1970; Ph.D., Biology, UCLA, 1973.

Professional Experience: Damon Runyon Postdoctoral Fellow, Dept. Zoology, UC Berkeley, 1973–76; Assistant Professor, Physiology Section, Univ. CT, Storrs, 1976 – 1985; Visiting Scholar, UCLA, 1984; Associate Professor of Biology, Illinois State Univ. (ISU), 1985–1990; Professor of Biology, ISU, 1990 – present; Visiting Scholar, Univ. Washington, 1990 – 1991; College of Arts and Sciences Research Award, ISU 1995, Visiting Professor and NIH–Fogarty International Fellow, Univ. Liverpool, 1997 – 1998; Editorial Board, American Zoologist, 1997 – present; Outstanding University Research Award, ISU, 1999; Associate Editor, Journal of Experimental Zoology, 1999 – present.

SICB Activities: SICB member since 1972. During the past decade my activities in the SICB have included: Chair, Graduate Student Postdoctoral Affairs Committee (1990–1994); Co–Organized, Midwest Regional Endocrinology Conference (May, 1992); Member, DCE Best Student Paper Award Committee (1992, 1995, 1996); Editorial Board, American Zoologist (1997 – present); Chair, Graduate Student Awards Committee (1996 – present); I organized panel discussions on: *The Publication Process: Four Inside Views* (1990); *Life Outside the Ivory Tower: Nonacademic Jobs for Biologists* (1991); *Strategies for Finding an Academic Job* (1992); *How to Shake the Money Tree: a Guide to Research Funding for Graduate Students and Post–Doctoral Fellows* (1993); I co–organized a symposium " *Recent Advances in Crustacean Endocrinology – a symposium in honor of Milton Fingerhann* " (2000).

Other Memberships: American Association for the Advancement of Science, MBL Corporation, Endocrine Society, Crustacean Society, International Federation of Comparative Endocrinology, Sigma Xi, Phi Sigma.

Research Interests: Endocrine regulation of development, growth, and reproduction. Current studies focus largely on the roles of juvenile hormones and ecdysteroids in arthropods and ovarian steroids in birds. In the past, I studied the role of prolactin and insulin related compounds on the growth and differentiation of mouse mammary tissue.

Goals Statement: The SICB has been reinvigorated during the past decade, in part because new molecular and cellular tools have given us a more sophisticated understanding of how organisms integrate their functions. Since endocrine systems have a critical role in such integration, it is not surprising that the DCE has also grown stronger during this period. One goal of our division should be to encourage the further development and use of these molecular and cellular tools. Another goal should be to increase the dialogue between our members and with members of other SICB divisions. These goals can be achieved in several ways. First, we need to increase attendance by new (especially younger) and current members at the national meeting. This can be partly accomplished by the continuing to increase the quality of our symposia, some of which should be focused on the technical developments in our field. Second, we need to continue to improve our journal, since it is a major means of attracting interest to our field. Finally, we need to continue and perhaps increase our financial support of regional meetings.

Candidates for Secretary–Elect

Cliff H. Summers

Current Position: Professor of Biology and Neuroscience, University of South Dakota

Education: Ph.D., University of Colorado, Boulder, 1987

Professional Experience: Postdoctoral training at UCLA, Univ. Tennessee, and Univ. Colorado 1986–1990. Assistant Professor, California State University, San Marcos 1990–1991. Assistant, Associate and Professor, University of South Dakota 1991–2001.

SICB Activities: Life Member, Organized Symposium: Stress – Is it more than a Disease? A Comparative Look at Stress and Adaptation, with James A. Carr for the 2001 annual meetings in Chicago.

Other Memberships: Society for Behavioral Neuroendocrinology, Society for Neuroscience, JB Johnston Club, AAAS.

Research Interests: Neuroendocrinology of stress. Mechanisms for how and why individuals differ, how responses are characterized temporally, and the relationships between stress, learning, biological rhythms, and reproduction.

Goals Statement: I think the objectives for any society, division, or officer should include being: User friendly, effective within a limited scope, and informative. My goal is to apply those principles to the duties of secretary.

James A. Carr

Current Position: Associate Professor, Department of Biological Sciences and The Institute for Environmental and Human Health, Texas Tech University, Lubbock.

Education: B.S., Rutgers University, New Brunswick, 1982; M.A., University of Colorado, Boulder, 1986; Ph.D., University of Colorado, Boulder, 1988.

Professional Experience: Research Associate, Department of Anatomy, University of New Mexico School of Medicine, Albuquerque, 1988–1989; NIH Postdoctoral Fellow, University of New Mexico School of Medicine, Albuquerque, 1989–1991; Assistant Professor, Department of Biological Sciences, Texas Tech University, 1991–1997; Associate Professor, Department of Biological Sciences, Texas Tech University, 1997– Present; Adjunct Faculty, The Institute for Environmental and Human Health, Texas Tech University, 1998–Present.

SICB Activities: Member, 18 yrs. Co–organizer, SICB symposium, "Stress–Is it more than a Disease? A Comparative Look at Stress and Adaptation"; Judge, Aubrey Gorbman Best Student Paper/Poster, Division of Comparative Endocrinology (1996, 1999, 2000); Co–organizer, Southwest Regional Conference on Comparative Endocrinology, Lubbock, TX, 1994.

Other Memberships: Society for Neuroscience, J.B. Johnston Club, American Heart Association,

International Neuropeptide Society, European Comparative Endocrinology Society.

Research Interests: My research focuses on various aspects of comparative neuroendocrinology. I am particularly interested in the physiology and evolution of brain and pituitary melanocortin peptides and the influence of environmental contaminants on endocrine function.

Goals Statement: To maintain the identity of our division while at the same time fostering interaction with other divisions within the society, especially through jointly sponsored symposia. To support and publicize our regional and national meetings as platforms for discussing comparative endocrinology from molecular to behavioral levels, thereby encouraging an integrated approach to the topic.