

# SICB Newsletter

Fall 2009 Issue

## Division of Comparative Endocrinology

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### DCE Officers & Representatives

**Stacia A. Sower**  
Chair 2008-2010

**Mark Sheridan**  
Chair-Elect 2008-2010

**Mary T. Mendonca**  
Secretary 2009-2011

**Stephan J. Schoech**  
Program Officer 2008-2010

**Rosemary Knapp**  
Program Officer-Elect 2009-2010

**Alexandra Morgan Class**  
Student/Postdoc Rep. 2008-2011

**Robert John Denver**  
ICB Editorial Board Representative  
2008-2013

### Message from the Chair

*Stacia Sower*

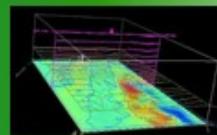
We are looking forward to seeing you in Seattle this January 2010 for a very exciting meeting. As Steve Schoech, our Program Officer, has informed us, we have another near record number of abstracts (1318) for this meeting. This year we are pleased to announce that Professor Carl B. Schreck, PhD, Leader of the Oregon Cooperative Fish and Wildlife, Oregon State University, USA, will be presenting the Howard Bern Lecture. The title of his presentation will be "Haruspication: Why Is The Endocrine System So Similar and Why Is It So Dissimilar Amongst Fishes?" I would like to thank those DCE members who served on the nominating committee. We had a number of outstanding nominations.



2010 Howard Bern  
Lecturer Carl Schreck

Frederick C. Leung hosted the 16<sup>th</sup> International Congress of Comparative Endocrinology at the University of Hong Kong, June 22-26, 2009, a very scientifically rich meeting. There were over 300 participants. There were five plenary lectures given by eminent scientists including James W. Truman (Howard Hughes Medical Institute), Douglas M. Stocco (Texas Tech University), Jae Young Seong, Pickford Medalist Lecture (Korea University College of Medicine), Dan Larhammar, Bargman-Scharrer Lecture (Uppsala University), and Kazuyoshi Tsutsui (Waseda University). There were 16 State-Of-The-Art Lectures and 13 symposia covering various topics in comparative endocrinology.

Our division has made a significant contribution to the continuing series of Grand Challenges in Organismal Biology that is available in the SICB journal, *Integrative & Comparative Biology*. The title of the DCE contribution is "Comparative endocri-



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nology in the 21st century" - by Robert J. Denver, Penny M. Hopkins, Stephen D. McCormick, Catherine R. Propper, Lynn Riddiford, Stacia A. Sower, and John C. Wingfield, published August 7, 2009 *Integr. Comp. Biol.* 2009 49: 339-348. I would like to thank Robert Denver for taking the lead on this important contribution from our division.

We have continued our discussions on forming a new society called North American Society of Comparative Endocrinology. Professors Robert Denver ([rdenver@umich.edu](mailto:rdenver@umich.edu)) and Vance Trudeau ([trudeauv@uottawa.ca](mailto:trudeauv@uottawa.ca)) are leading this effort. Please contact either of them for further information.

Now that you have submitted your abstracts, on behalf of the DCE officers, ONCE AGAIN, we would like to encourage everyone to submit one paragraph and diagram/schematic or photo for the DCE Researchers Database. We are lagging behind other divisions.

Your elected representatives, Steve Schoech and Mary Mendonça have been doing an outstanding job getting us ready for Seattle. We have an exciting program planned and I hope we'll see you at the DCE business meeting and DCE social in Seattle. In the meantime, be sure to send me your thoughts and concerns about any aspect of DCE: [sasower@unh.edu](mailto:sasower@unh.edu)

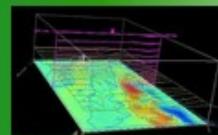
### **Message from the Program Officer**

*Steve Schoech*

I've just returned from the SICB Program Officers organizational meeting in Seattle. There were a total of 1,318 abstracts submitted - close to last year's record of 1,366 at the Boston meeting!

Of the contributed abstracts, 52 oral and 47 poster contributors listed DCE as their primary division. Additionally, our division is sponsoring or co-sponsoring two of the 11 symposia, as well as this year's Howard Bern Lecture by Dr. Carl Schreck from Oregon State University. Although not yet posted, in the near future the complete schedule will be available at the society website <http://www.sicb.org/meetings/2010/>.

In part in response to a 'challenge' from NSF officers for SICB to define the direction and importance of integrative biology and our society's role therein, a series of papers has recently been published in *ICB* on The Grand Challenges for Organismal Biology. To begin discussions of how we implement these Grand Challenges, the SICB has organized a workshop to initiate discussions with the authors of these papers. The Program Committee has also invited leadership from external societies to participate in this discussion on implementation to enhance the scope of discussions and to allow these societal executive officers to take the discussion back to their societies. The societies that have agreed to participate are Sigma Xi, Ecological Society of America, Society for Developmental Biology, American



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Physiological Society, Animal Behavior Society, and American Society for Cell Biology. There will be a workshop on this topic on Wednesday, January 6, from noon to 3 p.m. We hope that you will be able to attend.

Also on the 2010 meeting website is information about funding for student support for meeting attendance. Application deadlines for student support are always at the end of October. As you all know SICB is a very student friendly organization that strives to support graduate and undergraduate students however possible. Speaking of students, a total of 45 students have entered the Best Student Paper competition. One important note for all of these students and their advisors - to be considered for this competition, SICB by-laws require the student to be a member of the society. So, if you are not a SICB member and wish to be eligible for the BSP program it is essential that you become a member as soon as possible as the deadline is 13 November!

For the second consecutive year, Dr. Ignacio Moore of Virginia Tech has kindly agreed to serve as the Chair of the DCE Student Award Committee. To those of you who are able, I strongly encourage you to volunteer as judges to help us award student presentations. As one who has served as a judge, I can assure you that the burden is not great, especially if it is shared appropriately, and one gets the opportunity to see some great talks and posters that otherwise could be missed. Please contact Ignacio at [it-moore@vt.edu](mailto:it-moore@vt.edu). You may also sign up for judging when you register on-line for the annual meeting.

It's never too soon to begin thinking about organizing a symposium for the 2012 meeting in Charleston, SC. Additionally, should you have an

appropriate and timely topic, it's not too late for a late-breaking symposium for the 2011 Salt Lake City meeting. In either case, contact me (Steve Schoech, [sschoech@memphis.edu](mailto:sschoech@memphis.edu)) or our Program Officer-Elect, Rosemary Knapp ([rknapp@ou.edu](mailto:rknapp@ou.edu)), who assumes her duties at the end of the upcoming meeting.

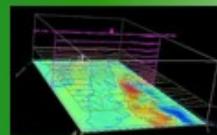
I hope that your Fall terms are proceeding nicely and I look forward to seeing you all in Seattle. As one who spent several years in Seattle, I can assure you that it's a great city that features wonderful seafood and many great regional ales - I'm getting thirsty just thinking about them!

### **Message from the Secretary**

*Mary Mendonça*

We are looking forward to seeing everyone at the upcoming Seattle meeting. Sounds like there will be a big turnout with great papers and exciting symposia to attend. Please be sure to also attend the DCE business meeting as we will be discussing some potential changes to the divisional bylaws concerning eligibility for Best Student Presentation Awards. These changes will affect the wording of the bylaws to make criteria clearer and consistent with SICB by-laws.

Congratulations are in order to Stephen McCormick and Erica Crespi who were elected divisional officers and will begin serving as Chair-Elect and Secretary-Elect, respectively, at the end of the Seattle meeting. Also sincere thanks to Henry John-Alder and Sharon Lynn for agreeing to run for these important positions. We will also be electing a new Program Officer in 2010. If you are



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interested in this position, please contact our Chair, Stacia Sower.

Thanks also to those of you who have already contributed to the DCE Researchers Database. However, we are still behind in number of entries into the database. Please send me a paragraph on your research accompanied with an arresting photo or graphic which illustrates you and/or your work. I would be happy to answer any questions you might have in submitting material. Your information and graphic can also be cross-listed in other Divisions where you have indicated an affiliation. Having your information on the SICB web site is a great recruitment tool for your lab! So please take a few minutes and send your information in (or I may have to twist arms at the Seattle meeting!).

There are a few other meetings of interest to DCE membership:

The Western Regional Conference on Comparative Endocrinology (WRCCE) will be co-meeting with DCE at the SICB meeting in January. I encourage everyone who usually participates in the WRCCE to come to Seattle and make our conference a wonderful opportunity for discussion and collaboration.

The 2010 Gordon Conference on Endocrine Disruptors will be held **May 30- June 4, 2010** in Les Diablerets, Switzerland. The application deadline is May, 9. Further information on this conference can be found at <http://www.grc.org/programs.aspx?year=2010&program=envendo>

The Endocrine Society's annual meeting will be held on **June 19-22, 2010** in San

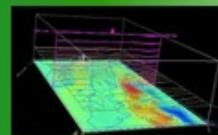
Diego, CA. Abstracts are due February 1. Further meeting information is found at <http://www.endo-society.org/meetings/Annual/index.cfm>

The Society for the Study of Reproduction is meeting **30 July-3 Aug 2010** in Milwaukee, Wisconsin (<http://www.ssr.org/>)

The 18th International Ecdysone Workshop, will be held in České Budějovice, Czech Republic in July, 2010.

The 25<sup>th</sup> meeting of the International Ornithological Congress will be held in Campos do Jordao, Brazil on 22-28 August. Abstract submission deadline has been extended to Nov. 5, 2009. <http://www.acquaviva.com.br/sisconeved/index.asp?Codigo=26>)

If you have any information/announcements you would like to see posted in the Spring, 2010 Newsletter, please let me know, and I will work with secretary-elect Erica Crespi to get it posted there. If you have any information that needs to go out quickly to the DCE membership, also send it to me. I will also be looking forward to receiving your contributions to the Researcher Data Base. See you in Seattle!



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## Message from the Graduate Student and Post-doc Representative

Alexandra M. Class

Hello again to all DCE graduate students and postdocs! The 2010 Seattle SICB Meeting is coming up fast and is again full of informative talks, symposia and student/postdoc aimed events. Be sure to check out the SICB webpage for more detailed information as the conference approaches: <http://www.sicb.org/meetings/>. I also encourage you to attend the SICB and DCE business meetings so you are aware of the inner workings of SICB and can be involved in the processes that run the conference. If you have interest in leadership within DCE please contact me, as I will be finishing my term as student/ postdoc representative this year.

In Seattle this January and new to SICB you should consider attending the *Grad Student/Postdocs Welcome Orientation* at 5:30, January 3<sup>rd</sup>. The society-wide social on January 6<sup>th</sup> in the Sheraton Hotel (from 8-9:30 pm) is a great opportunity to take a break from the conference and enjoy the company of diverse rising scientists that are part of SICB. There are two symposia of particular interest to DCE members entitled: "[Integrative Migration Biology](#)" and "[Insights of Early Chordate Genomics: Endocrinology and Development in Amphiioxus, Tunicates and Lampreys](#)." Also of interest to all of us in the job market, but contemplating a career outside of academia is the grad student/postdoc workshop, "Careers outside of traditional academia." This workshop will include a panel and discussion with professionals representing careers that range from

private interests in scientific pursuits to those that meld academia and government, museums, aquaria, and more.

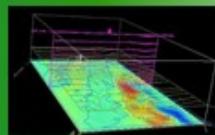
For student support through SICB, see these links:

**Charlotte Mangum Student Support Program Applications** – **Deadline: always the end of October**

**Dorothy M. Skinner Award Applications**  
**Deadline: always the end of October.**

Upcoming grant and fellowship deadlines for students and postdocs (deadline in bold):

- PLEASE SEE <http://www.sicb.org/students/awards.php3> for links to information on all awards
- **DCE** gives two "**Best Student Paper**" awards/ meeting (best oral/ poster presentations). The work must be original and be carried out principally by the student presenting the paper/ poster. In any year, a student can enter either the oral or the poster competition.
- **SICB Grants in Aid of Research**, <http://www.sicb.org/grants/researchgrant.php3>, **30 Oct**
- **SICB Fellowship of Graduate Student Travel**, providing travel and other funding assistance for distant research, <http://www.sicb.org/grants/fgst/>, **30 Oct**



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- **SICB Libbie H. Hyman Memorial Scholarship**, assistance for student coursework or in research on invertebrates at marine, freshwater, or terrestrial field stations. **5 Mar**, but early forms must be sent prior to final deadline <http://sicb.org/grants/hyman/>
- **Sigma Xi: Grants-In-Aid of Research Program**, funding is awarded for field and lab equipment and/ or travel stipend, <http://www.sigmaxi.org/programs/giar/appopen.shtml>, **Mar 15 & Oct 15**
- **National Science Foundation**: funding for new and ongoing graduate students and postdocs: <http://www.nsf.gov/funding/>. There are many links to information on larger fellowships like the **Graduate Research Fellowship or Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Grant**, as well as specialized programs including integrative education and study abroad for doctoral students. **Deadlines ~ early to mid- Nov** for graduate fellowships.