



Division of Evolutionary Developmental Biology

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DEDB Officers & Representatives

Chris Lowe
Chair 2012-2014

Sally Leys
Chair-Elect 2013-2014

Mark Martindale
Past Chair 2012-2014

Brad Davidson
Secretary 2013-2015

Louise Page
Program Officer 2013-2016

Jacob Musser
*Student/Postdoctoral Affairs
2011-2014*

Message from the Chair

Chris Lowe, Chair.DEDB@sicb.org

I hope everyone had an enjoyable and productive summer. By now everyone is back into the business and distractions of our academic calendars, but it is time to start to think about the approach of our annual meeting.

The program is now settled for the meeting and there is a great lineup of symposia, talks and posters for EvoDevo this year in Austin. Even if you didn't get your abstract in, you can still sign up to participate in the meeting. The combination of great science and the entertainment potential of Austin should not be missed. Start navigating the meeting site to plan the talks and posters you would like to attend.

Last year our divisional meeting was very sparsely attended. I would really like to have broad discussion this meeting about strategies to build membership and how to be more proactive in soliciting organizers for symposia, and to identify new and exciting areas in our field that we can highlight at the annual meeting. I would also like to discuss ways to more officially engage our postdocs and graduate students in symposium organization. Dede Lyons and Mansi Srivastava, both postdocs, are a stellar example of what can be achieved – they have organized a Society-wide symposium on "A Cell's View of Animal Body Plan Evolution" with help from Mark Martindale. **PLEASE COME TO THIS MEETING** and engage in the direction of our Division. If you have ideas and concerns that you would like to add to the agenda, then please email me ahead of the meeting. I am particularly keen to see attendance from postdocs and graduate students – check your program for time and place.

Finally, I have mentioned in a previous newsletter that I was engaging with the Society of Developmental Biology to present feedback to NSF from our membership on the new funding procedures initiated by IOS. By the time of the meeting we will have sent out materials for feedback. Please look out for these in the SICB updates and from the EvoDevo mail server and get back to us with your input.

Looking forward to seeing you all in Texas in 2014.



Message from the Divisional Program Officer

Louise Page, DPO.DEDB@sicb.org

Hello DEDB folks,

I've just returned from the Program Committee meeting in Austin, Texas, which is officially the Capitol of Texas but is unofficially the 'Live Music Capitol of the World.' Although I arrived at the Hilton Austin after midnight, the adjacent 6th avenue with its music venues, bars, and restaurants was still humming with activity. SICB's Program Committee labored diligently to schedule the oral and poster sessions for the very full 2014 annual meeting. The Society received 1574 abstracts for oral and poster presentations for the Austin meeting, only 82 fewer than the society's all time high of 1656 abstract submissions at the 2013 meeting in San Francisco. Submissions from DEDB members totaled 86, distributed as 31 posters and 55 oral presentations. Our division will have a total of 31 students competing for either the best student poster or oral presentation award.

A major highlight of the Austin 2014 meeting will be a society-wide symposium titled **"A Cell's View of Animal Body Plan Evolution."** The symposium is scheduled for Saturday Jan 4th and was organized by DEDB members Deirdre Lyons, Mansi Srivastava and Mark Martindale. Four oral presentation sessions related to this symposium as well as satellite poster sessions have been scheduled. The symposium-related oral sessions are titled: 1) Genomics & Cell Type Evolution, 2) Neural Patterning & Fate, 3) Cell Cycle & Polarity, and 4) Morphogenesis & Regeneration. Other symposia at the Austin meeting that will be of interest to DEDB members include: **"Epigenetics: Molecular Mechanisms through Organismal Influences"** and **"Adaptation or Developmental Constraint? Uniting Evolutionary Theory and Empirical Studies."** In addition to the symposia highlights, there will be five contributed paper sessions and six poster sessions featuring contributions from DEDB members.

The 2014 meeting will be held in the Hilton Austin, which is in the heart of the entertainment district of Austin. The SICB business office (Burk & Associates, Inc) has negotiated a room rate of \$145/night, including multiple occupants. The hotel itself includes a cafe, libations bar, and a restaurant, and there are very many cafes, bars, and restaurants in the immediate vicinity of the hotel. The Hilton provides a

very useful map of these and other attractions within the vicinity of the hotel. The meeting rooms are well consolidated within two, escalator-linked floors of the Hilton. Each floor has a circular plan so if you keep walking the circle you'll find the room where you want to be. A scheduling app for the meeting will be available; the business office and the Program Committee are in the process of choosing an app that will be user friendly. A child care service will also be available.

I would again like to encourage folks to get together with colleagues to discuss ideas for future SICB symposia. To facilitate this process, I am currently consulting with Deirdre Lyons, a co-organizer of one of this year's Society-wide symposia, for the purpose of assembling a set of 'how-to' notes on symposium organization. Symposium organization is a great way to bring together established researchers and entry level researchers with dynamic new ideas in your area of interest. The deadline for submission of symposium proposals is end of August two years prior to the year in which you propose to hold the symposium. For example, proposals for symposia at the 2015 West Palm Beach meeting of SICB were submitted August 2013.

Great places to meet with DEDB colleagues at the Austin meeting will be at the DEDB business meeting, scheduled for Sat. Jan 4th (5:15-6:15pm) and the DEDB social, tentatively scheduled for Sun. Jan 5th (7:30-10:10pm). Finger food will be served at the latter.

I look forward to seeing you in Austin!

Message from the Divisional Secretary

Brad Davidson, Secretary.DEDB@sicb.org

Greetings! Hope you are all enjoying your fall classes and research. The complex apparatus that is our Annual Meeting is all coming together thanks to the tireless efforts of Louise Page and the Program Committee. So please make your way over to Louise to express your thanks and recognition of her work at the upcoming Austin meeting.

New Divisional Secretary-Elect

We have tabulated the results of our Spring 2013 election and congratulate Greg Davis, our new Secretary-Elect of DEDB. Greg will assume his new office after the 2015 annual meeting.



A Field Guide to DEDB Officers

Here, once again, is a few rare photos of our not so elusive divisional officers. Please stop us to express your deep satisfaction with the division! or feel free to gripe or offer constructive criticism and definitely join us for the divisional meeting. We need your input!

Current officers:



DEDB Chair Chris Lowe



DEDB Program Officer Louise Page



DEDB Secretary Brad Davidson



DEDB SPDAC Representative Jake Musser

As both Chris and Louis have mentioned, there are some fantastic symposia lined up for this meeting, so make sure and plan your itinerary carefully so you can take it all in and there are obviously many off conference highlights as well including an outstanding food and music scene... and speaking of food...

Hey Students, Free Dinner!

SICB is a society that genuinely values the participation and contributions of our junior members. For the last two years, we have instituted a new program to help encourage even more interaction between students and faculty. The evo-devo "Dinner Date" program pairs approximately 40 student and 20 faculty members for informal conversation and a meal on the faculty members' dime. Faculty and student participants have greatly enjoyed these meetings so we plan to continue the program at the 2014 meeting in Austin as well. Jake Musser has highlighted this program in his message below. Keep an eye out for an email from Jake or me with sign-up information as the annual meeting approaches.

Message from the Student/Postdoctoral Affairs Committee Representative

Jacob Musser, Jacob.musser@yale.edu

Hello Evo-devo Students and Postdocs!

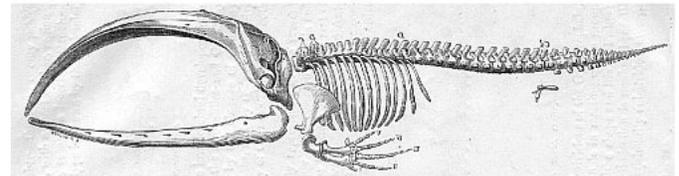
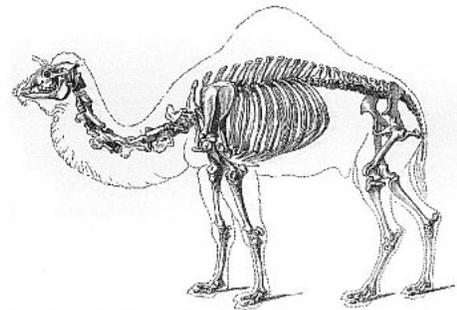
I have some important news to pass on about our upcoming annual meeting in Austin. As always, there will be myriad great events, including several designed specifically for students and postdocs. The most relevant for you is our division-only event, "Evo-Devo Dinner Dates". It has been a great success in past years, and hopefully you have had a



chance to participate. However, if not, or if this is your first meeting, make sure to take advantage of it this year! How does it work? First, we sign up faculty representing diverse research interests across evo-devo. They agree to take out a couple students for a meal and cover the cost. Then, we let you sign up to go out for lunch or dinner with whichever faculty you want. It's a great opportunity to meet with a researcher you're interested in, and get a free meal to boot! If you would like to participate, keep an eye out for the email containing signup information, which we will send out closer to meeting time.

In addition to our division's "dinner dates" program, the conference-wide committee on student and postdoctoral affairs (SPDAC) will also be holding its annual student and postdoc workshop at the meeting. Covering a different topic each year, the SPDAC workshop aims to bring relevant information and practical advice on topics important to students and postdocs. For instance, at last year's annual meeting in San Francisco, we brought in experts to offer advice on giving your "elevator speech". This is a short verbal description of your research and, if done well, allows you to quickly and clearly communicate your research to someone new. In addition to getting general advice, students and postdocs were also provided the opportunity to practice their own "elevator speeches," and received specific advice for improvement. While we are still hammering out the details for this year's workshop, expect it to be useful and interactive! Possible topics include, "Developing a Web Presence for Your Research," and "Running your First Lab." Stay tuned for more information!

As always, our events and community only improve when we hear from you! Please feel free to get in touch with me at anytime (Jacob.musser@yale.edu) if you have thoughts, suggestions, or questions about anything student-related in SICB. See you in Austin!



Mammals have 7 cervical vertebrae, regardless of the length of the neck!
(reproduced from Owen 1866)

Frietson Galis

