



Division of Comparative Endocrinology

Contents

Message from the Chair	1
Message from the Program Officer ...	2
Message from the Secretary	3
Message from the Student and Postdoc Representative	4

DCE Officers & Representatives

Mary Mendonça
Chair 2014-2016

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Rachel Bowden
Secretary 2013-2015

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Molly Dickens
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Message from the Chair

Mary Mendonça, Chair.DCE@sicb.org

I am sure that everyone is looking forward to experiencing the sunny climes of West Palm Beach, Florida for our annual meeting in January. As a Jimmy Buffet fan, I know that the legendary A1A runs through West Palm Beach which leaves me thinking that there might be some Margaritaville-seeking expeditions to the nearby Clematis St. area, which has great music, restaurants, and bars. The venue amenities for the meeting sound great and there are a variety of interesting things to check out in the area for researchers and accompanying family.

We are co-sponsoring 4 excellent symposia this year: *Neurohormones, Brain and Behavior: a Comparative Approach to Exploring Rapid Neuroendocrine Function*; *Thinking About Change: An Integrative Approach for Examining Cognition in a Changing World*; *Physiology in Changing Landscapes: An Integrative Perspective for Conservation Biology*; and *Breaking Boundaries for Evolutionary Synthesis: An Interactive, and Integrative Symposium Linking Crustacean and Insect Physiology*. As befitting SICB and DCE, these symposia topics range from the molecular to the landscape and evolutionary levels and should be of great interest to just about everyone. Additionally, we had a strong response in oral and poster submissions, resulting in multiple Endocrinology sessions, so it sounds like it will be a very exciting (and busy) meeting for us. As a reminder, the Aubrey Gorbman Oral Presentation student competition will again occur in a dedicated session on the first day. I would like to thank **Rosemary Knapp**, **Ignacio Moore**, and **Ryan Paitz** for serving on the selection committee to determine the final competitors. The Data Blitz was a big hit at last year's DCE social and will return for a 3rd year this meeting. DCE will be co-hosting our social with the new Division of Ecoimmunology and Disease Ecology (DEDE). This cooperation will result in much more food and refreshment as well as some more folks to talk to, so please plan on attending. It should be great fun! Please see Program Officer Rosemary Knapp's section below for more details about the symposia, paper sessions, student competitions, and participating in the Data Blitz.

It is my great pleasure to announce that this year's **Bern Lecturer** will be Professor **Randy Nelson** of the Wexner Medical Center, at The Ohio State University. Professor Nelson is the Chair of the Department of Neuroscience at OSU, holds a Brumbaugh Chair in Brain Research and Teaching, and is a Fellow in three societies, *American Society for the Advancement of Science*, *American Psychological Society*, and the *Animal Behavior Society*. Dr. Nelson is internationally recognized for his research in the fields of neuroendocrinology, reproductive biology, and ecoimmunology. His research focuses on



Randy Nelson

how photoperiod influences physiology and has now vastly expanded to include not only reproductive behaviors, but also depression, food intake, metabolic state, and immune function. He has published over 370 scientific articles and book chapters focusing on a variety of model systems and has written 13 books, including *Ecoimmunology*, *Biological Psychology*, and a text used by many of us, *An Introduction to Behavioral Endocrinology*. In 2011, Randy was invited to give a TED talk, entitled *The Dark Side of Light* and he will be returning to this subject for his Bern Lecture. Thanks to **Kristen Navara** for putting together Randy's nomination package, and to Randy for accepting.

The next annual meeting will be held in Portland, Oregon in 2016 and then will return, after a long absence, to New Orleans, Louisiana in 2017. As always, we are looking for people who want to propose and organize symposia as well as workshops for these meetings. So please feel free to discuss potential ideas for these at the DCE business meeting, or social, or just in the hallway. Rosemary Knapp and I, as well as any other members of the DCE Executive Committee, are more than willing to listen and help.

An election was held this spring for the Program Officer position in our division. Thanks to all who ran for office and to the nominating committee (former and current members of the DCE Executive Committee). Congratulations to Program Officer-Elect **Ignacio Moore**. This will be the second time that Ignacio will be serving as Program Officer, which makes him an excellent society citizen as well as mildly masochistic!

Hope to see you soon in sunny West Palm Beach.

Message from the Program Officer

Rosemary Knapp, PO.DCE@sicb.org

The Program Committee just met for the West Palm Beach SICB meeting and it promises to be another great conference. The conference center is very well laid out and will be an excellent venue. We had the third highest total number of abstracts ever (just over 1,500) and thus had quite a challenge to put together the program while minimizing overlap. However, the Program Officers from DAB, DNB, DEDE and I worked together to minimize conflicts. Of course, with an integrative society like SICB, some conflicts are inevitable, but I think we've avoided the most severe ones. Allison Welch (DAB) and I also worked together to group the posters based on topics, so you should find negotiating the posters easier this year both for that reason and for the nice wide aisles we've been promised!

DCE is co-sponsoring 4 symposia this year: *Physiology in Changing Landscapes: An Integrative Perspective for Conservation Biology* (Christine Madliger, Glenn Crossin and Oliver Love); *Thinking About Change: An Integrative Approach for Examining Cognition in a Changing World* (Timothy Roth II and Zoltan Nemeth); *Neurohormones, Brain and Behavior: a Comparative Approach to Exploring Rapid Neuroendocrine Function* (Rebecca Calisi & Colin Saldanha); and *Breaking Boundaries for Evolutionary Synthesis: An Interactive, and Integrative Symposium Linking Crustacean and Insect Physiology* (Jon Harrison and Sherry Tamone). Each of these will run on a different day, so there's no conflict.

DCE members submitted 93 abstracts for the West Palm Beach meeting. For DCE, I programmed the 102 'Endocrinology' presentations into 7 contributed paper sessions and 63 posters based on the main topic that presenters chose when submitting abstract. We will be having a full slate of talks on the final day of the meeting (January 7), so keep that in mind when you make your travel plans.

For the second year, the DCE **Gorbman Student Oral Presentation Competition** will take place in a dedicated oral session on the first day of the meeting. We had 17 applicants and I headed a group of 3 judges that used the abstracts to select the 7 students who will compete for the award. The students who were not selected to compete had the option of moving to a regular oral presentation or to compete in the DCE **Riddiford Student Poster Presenta-**



tion Competition. The 23 students competing for the Riddiford Award will also present their posters on the first day of the meeting and are grouped together. I hope that everyone will make a real effort to see the presentations by the next generation of comparative endocrinologists.

The Bern lecture will be given by Randy Nelson and it ties in nicely with the birth of the new Division of Ecoimmunology and Disease Ecology (DEDE). As per tradition, we will follow the Bern lecture with the DCE social. This year, DCE and DEDE are pooling our resources to be able to provide more food. Prices at the cash bar will be reasonable and Sarah DuRant and I have selected a space that will provide a good venue for the social itself and also the third annual Data Blitz that will take place during the social. Thanks to Rebecca Calisi-Rodriguez for organizing this activity again this year. If you are interested in competing, please contact her at rcalisi@barnard.edu.

It's not too early to be thinking ahead to future meetings. Please plan on talking to Mary or me about planning a symposium for future conferences. DCE will be cosponsoring 6 great symposia planned for 2016 in Portland (more about those in the Spring newsletter) and we need to keep the momentum going for the 2017 meeting in New Orleans!

Looking forward to seeing you all in West Palm Beach!



Sarah Woodley

Message from the Secretary

Rachel Bowden, Secretary.DCE@sicb.org

DCE members, I can't wait to see you all in warm West Palm Beach in January for what I anticipate will be a terrific series of talks and posters on comparative endocrinology. I'd also like to remind you that following the meeting, my term as divisional secretary will be ending and I will be handing over the reins to **Sarah Woodley**. It has been a pleasure serving as secretary of DCE for the past two years!

For those of us that procrastinate, I'll take this opportunity to remind you that the **deadline for early registration is December 2, 2014**. Also, be sure that your SICB membership dues are current to take advantage of the discounted membership rates at registration!

Are you interested in knowing more about the state of DCE? Do you have suggestions or comments about the division? If so, I encourage you to attend the DCE Business meeting, which is held just before the **Bern Lecture**. We look forward to seeing you there!

Check out the DCE Facebook page. We currently have **79 members** and it's yet another great way to keep in touch with the comparative endocrinology community. Go to <http://www.facebook.com/groups/104465249680261/>

Do you need to announce an upcoming meeting, or get other important information out to the DCE membership? Send your announcements to me at Secretary.DCE@sicb.org no later than the 5th of the month and I will have the included in the **SICB Monthly Member Update**.

2015 Meetings to mark on your extended calendars:

- 8th International Meeting Steroids and Nervous System, Torino, Italy February 14-18.
- ENDO 2015, San Diego, CA March 5-8.
- Society for Behavioral Neuroendocrinology, Asilomar, CA June 10-14.
- North American Society for Comparative Endocrinology, Ottawa, ON, Canada June 21-25.



Message from the Student/Postdoctoral Affairs Committee Representative

Molly Dickens, m.dickens@berkeley.edu

Only a few more months until SICB in the Sunshine State! For students and postdocs, here are a few things to check out and some dates to keep track of. For the third year in a row, Rebecca Calisi-Rodriguez will be hosting the always entertaining DCE Data Blitz challenge during the DCE social. Two minutes, two slides, fun times. If you are interested in participating in the Data Blitz (and you are a student, a postdoc, or an assistant professor) please contact Becca (rcalisi@barnard.edu) for all the details.

This year's Student Postdoctoral Affairs Committee workshop topic will be "The 'Ins and Outs' of Writing Fundable Grants". Check in with the SICB schedule to find the date and time for this important workshop. Finally, if you are looking for a roommate to split hotel costs with, please visit the Roommate Matching Service on the meeting webpage. See you all in West Palm Beach!



From the DCE Researchers Database

Robert Denver, Hormone action in animal development