



## Division of Evolutionary Developmental Biology

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### DEDB Officers & Representatives

Sally Leys  
Chair 2014-2016

Chris Lowe  
Past Chair 2014-2016

Brad Davidson  
Secretary 2013-2015

Gregory Davis  
Secretary-Elect 2014-2015

Louise Page  
Program Officer 2013-2016

Amanda Kahn  
Student/Postdoctoral Affairs  
2014-2017

### Message from the Chair

Sally Leys, [Chair.DEDB@sicb.org](mailto:Chair.DEDB@sicb.org)

I hope everyone had an enjoyable and productive summer.

Election results arrived in early June and I'm happy to announce our new Chair Elect is Cassandra Extavour and our new Program Officer Elect is Yui Suzuki.

I heartily thank the candidates for running. Next year we are electing a new divisional secretary - SICB election rules are that at least 2 people stand for election, so if you are at all keen to be on the ballot please just make it known to me ([Chair.DEDB@sicb.org](mailto:Chair.DEDB@sicb.org)) or Brad the current DEDB secretary ([Secretary.DEDB@sicb.org](mailto:Secretary.DEDB@sicb.org)).

Election Year	% Voting by Eligible Voters (Society-wide Elections)
2008	30.9
2009	22.1
2010	23.8
2011	19.0
2012	19.2
2013	19.3
2014	9.8

Group in 2014	# voting	# in voting group	Percentage Voting
Society-wide voting	350	3,571	10%
Executive Committee Members voting	14	25	56%
Divisional Officers voting	22	46	48%
Candidates voting	29	46	63%

The number of voters in the society is down from previous years, and overall only 10% of members voted this year... not so good, so if you agree, then take it to heart and remember to vote next year – a small time investment for a large return in the health of the society.

You will be feeling the approach of the annual meeting. A couple of symposia are sponsored by DEDB (Jan 5th [Origins of Neurons and Parallel Evolution of Nervous Systems: The Dawn of Neuronal Organization](#); Jan 7th [Breaking Boundaries for Evolutionary Synthesis: An Interactive, and Integrative Symposium Linking Crustacean and Insect Physiology](#)), but none are run by the division. We did not end up submitting any proposals for next years meeting in Portland; it seems like the Aug 29th deadline catches everyone a bit by surprise. So I'd like to make that a focus of our Divisional meeting this year. If you have an idea for a topic of a symposium, please email me or Louise even before this year's meeting and we can already start to line-up speakers and funding.



We have a new student/post-doc rep this year: Amanda Kahn is taking over from Jake Musser, and will be engaging with you to organize the 'Dinner Date' for this year's meeting. So, remember to sign up for that when you register, and start navigating the meeting site to plan the talks and posters you would like to attend.

Looking forward to seeing you all in Palm Beach in the new year.

### Message from the Divisional Program Officer

Louise Page, [DPO.DEDB@sicb.org](mailto:DPO.DEDB@sicb.org)

I write this missive from the Marriott West Palm Beach Hotel in Florida where the Divisional Program Officers have been working diligently to organize the 1,495 submitted Abstracts for the Jan 3-7, 2015 annual meeting into poster and oral presentation sessions. The average high temperature for West Palm Beach in January is a balmy 75°C, so the SICB meeting should be a welcome respite from the much colder January temperatures that many of us endure.

Two of the symposia at the West Palm Beach meeting will be of interest to many DEDB members. Leonid Moroz has organized: Origins of Neurons and Parallel Evolution of Nervous Systems: The Dawn of Neuronal Organization. Jon Harrison & Sherry Tamone have organized: Breaking Boundaries for Evolutionary Synthesis: an Interactive & Integrative Symposium Linking Crustacean and Insect Physiology. Satellite contributed paper sessions will accompany both these symposia. In addition, there will be eight DEDB oral presentation sessions featuring 50 speakers, 34 poster presentations, and other contributions from DEDB folks distributed throughout various other sessions during the program. Twenty four of our student members will compete for the Best Student Paper Contribution (oral or poster).

Talks and posters will be held at the Palm Beach County Convention Center, which is less than a block from the West Palm Beach Marriott and a block from 'City Place' on Rosemary Avenue where quite a few eating and entertainment venues are located. Both the Marriott and the Convention Center have free WiFi access. Although the Marriott is now full, the SICB 2015 Meeting website provides links to four overflow hotels offering reasonable rates during the SICB meeting. The SICB website also provides a link to a

roommate matching service and for undergraduate and graduate students that hold a 2014 SICB membership there is a link to apply for funding assistance through the Charlotte Mangum Student Support Program. In exchange for financial assistance through this program, students will be asked to provide one half day of technical assistance during the meeting.

DEDB, DIZ, AMS, and TCS combined resources this year to host an evening Social on Jan 5 at 8:30-10:30pm. I hope that all of you that are attending the meeting will also attend the DEDB business meeting on Jan 5 at 5:45-6:30pm in room 2A of the Convention Center.

Finally, the American Microscopical Society asked me to remind you of the Ralph and Mildred Buchsbaum Prize for Excellence in Photomicroscopy. There are separate categories for color and black-and-white photomicrographs. Photomicrographs taken using transmission electron microscopy, scanning electron microscopy, and any kind of light microscopy, including confocal scanning laser microscopy, are eligible. The contest is open to all SICB meeting participants; up to 3 entries each. AMS membership is welcomed but not required. Previous winners and the complete rules can be viewed on the AMS website [http://amics.org/?page\\_id=9](http://amics.org/?page_id=9).

January will be here in a flash (gasp!). I look forward to seeing many DEDB members at that time under the Florida sunshine.

### Message from the Divisional Secretary

Brad Davidson, [Secretary.DEDB@sicb.org](mailto:Secretary.DEDB@sicb.org)

Greetings! Once again, thanks to the heroic efforts of Louise Page and the other program officers, the labyrinthine contraption we call our annual meeting is fully assembled and ready for roll-out. So, as you wander between inspiring sessions, make sure and keep an eye out for Louise so you can thank her for her exceptional commitment. Or, better yet, come by our divisional business meeting where you will be sure to find her and can also act on your gratitude by pitching in with your ideas and suggestions, particularly in regards to potential symposium topics.

### New Divisional Officers

We have tabulated the results of our Spring 2014 election and congratulate Cassandra Extavour, our new Chair-Elect of DEDB and Yui Suzuki our new Pro-



gram Officer-Elect. Cassandra and Yui will assume their new offices after the 2016 annual meeting. We also welcome our new Student/Postdoctoral Affairs Committee Representative, Amanda Kahn.

### A Field Guide to DEDB Officers

Here, once again, are a few rare photos of our not so elusive divisional officers. Please stop by the division business meeting to express your deep satisfaction with the division! Gripes, rants or constructive criticisms are also welcome.

#### Current officers:

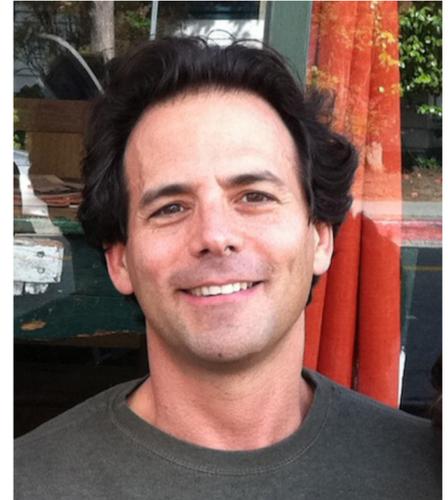


*DEDB Chair Sally Leys*



*DEDB Program Officer Louise Page*

*DEDB Secretary  
Brad Davidson*



*DEDB SPDAC Representative Amanda Kahn*

As both Sally and Louise have mentioned, there are some exciting symposia lined up for this meeting, but none were sponsored through DEDB. It is critical that we re-boot our divisional symposium in order to ensure that SICB continues to be a vibrant meeting place for Evo-Devo researchers. Please contact us if you are interested and want some guidance on how to proceed.



## Hey Students, Free Dinner!

SICB is a society that genuinely values the participation and contributions of our junior members. For the last three years, we have instituted a program to help encourage increased 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 Palm Beach as well. Amanda Kahn highlights this program in her message below. Keep an eye out for an email from Amanda with sign-up information as the annual meeting approaches.

### Message from the Student/Postdoctoral Affairs Committee Representative

Amanda Kahn, [kahn@ualberta.ca](mailto:kahn@ualberta.ca)

Hello DEDB students and post-docs!

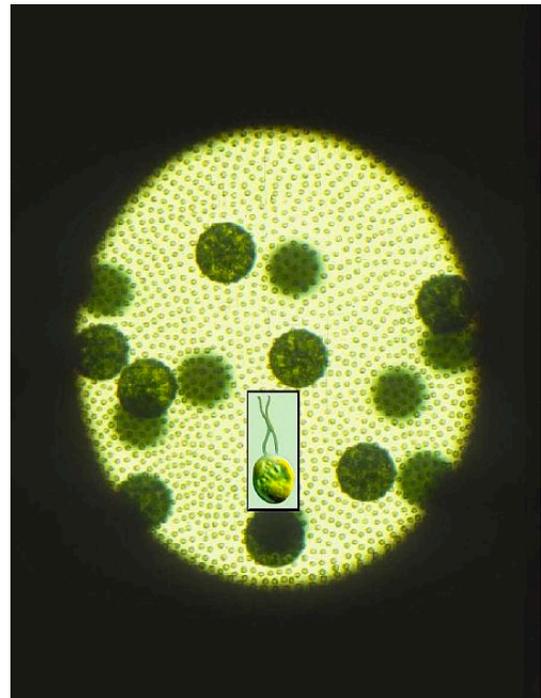
I am your new student/postdoc representative. To introduce myself, I am pursuing my PhD at the University of Alberta focusing on the evolutionary adaptations and energetics of deep-sea sponges and I have been to one SICB meeting previously (San Francisco). The diversity and quality of the talks had me hooked and I am very excited to be involved now in SICB and specifically with our division. I welcome you to email me on how I can best represent and serve you. I am joining in as your representative at a very active time – the annual meeting is coming up quickly – so this newsletter is to alert you of some great upcoming events in West Palm Beach.

First, we will continue our very successful division-only event, "Evo-Devo Dinner Dates." Whether this is your first meeting or you are a seasoned conference-goer, I highly recommend that you participate. How it works: faculty from diverse research areas across evo-devo sign up for the program; they agree to take a couple students out for a meal and to cover the cost. Then, you look through the list of researchers and sign up to go out for lunch or dinner with whichever researcher you are interested in. It's a great way to break the ice and interact with a faculty/researcher you are interested in, in a friendly atmosphere, and gets you a free meal! Keep watch for an email with sign-up information, which we will send out closer to meeting time.

In addition to our division-specific "dinner dates" program, the conference-wide Student and Postdoctoral Affairs Committee (SPDAC) will host its annual workshop at the meeting. SDPAC workshops focus on topics relevant to students and postdocs. This year the topic will be The 'Ins and Outs' of Writing Fundable Grants, which will include a panel of experts and interactive activities. Make sure to visit the SDPAC booth at the meeting and to watch for the SDPAC workshop in the conference program.

Our division thrives because of the activity of its members. Please feel free to get in touch with me any time ([kahn@ualberta.ca](mailto:kahn@ualberta.ca)) if you want to find new ways to get involved within our division, have questions about the annual meeting, or have any student- or postdoc-related suggestions or questions within SICB. I would love to facilitate your involvement in DEDB.

See you in West Palm Beach!



From the DEDB Researchers Database  
David L. Kirk, *The Evolution of Multicellularity and Cellular Differentiation*