



## Division of Evolutionary Developmental Biology

### Contents

Message from the Chair .....	1
Message from the Program Officer .....	2
Message from the Secretary .....	3
Message from the Student/Postdoctoral Affairs Committee Representative (outgoing) .....	3
Message from the Student/Postdoctoral Affairs Committee Representative (incoming) .....	4

### DEDB Officers & Representatives

**Cassandra Extavour**  
*Chair 2016-2018*

**Kim Hoke**  
*Chair-Elect 2017-2018*

**Sally Leys**  
*Past Chair 2016-2018*

**Julia Bowsher**  
*Secretary 2017-2019*

**Yui Suzuki**  
*Program Officer 2016-2019*

**Isabel Baker**  
*Student/Postdoc Representative 2017-2020*



*DEDB Chair  
Cassandra Extavour*

### Message from the Chair

*Cassandra Extavour (Chair.DEDB@sicb.org)*

Fall is here, full of lectures, labs, grant review panels, committee meetings and ... planning for the upcoming SICB annual meeting in San Francisco! As you will see in the message from our Program Officer, Yuichiro Suzuki, the upcoming 2018 meeting is going to be spectacular. DEDB has sponsored twice as many symposia as at the last annual meeting, meaning even more research on the evo-devo theme. Yui has listed these symposia below, and I encourage you to check them out. Also, please come by our divisional business meeting (January 4, 5:45-6:30 PM). The divisional business meeting is the best venue for providing feedback to DEDB leadership, raising concerns, or proposing ideas for future symposia or activities. Our photos are included in this newsletter for a reason — do seek us out!

We have a new Student/Postdoctoral Affairs Committee Representative. Izzy Baker served as our Representative since the 2017 annual meeting. However, her research interests have taken her to the field of Geochemistry, and she is stepping down from the position. I am excited to announce that **Amaneet Lochab** will be serving in the role from now on. Learn more about Amaneet below.

Finally, upcoming meetings that will be of interest to SICB members include, but are of course not limited to, the following:

- The seventh meeting of the European Society for Evolutionary Developmental Biology (EED) in Galway, Ireland, is June 26-29, 2018.
- The 77th meeting of the Society for Developmental Biology (SDB) in Portland, Oregon, July 20-24, 2018.
- The European Society for Evolutionary Biology is hosting a joint congress with the American Society of Naturalists, the Society for the Study of Evolution, and the Society of Systematic Biologists in Montpellier, France, August 19-22, 2018. These joint congresses only happen every six years, so don't miss it!

Looking forward to seeing you all in San Francisco in January 2018!



DEDB Program Officer  
Yui Suzuki

## Message from the Program Officer

Yui Suzuki ([DPO.DEDB@sicb.org](mailto:DPO.DEDB@sicb.org))

I am writing to report back on the Program Officers' meeting and to highlight a few events at the 2018 SICB meeting that are relevant to the DEDB community. The Program Officers met in San Francisco on the weekend of October 7 to organize the schedule for the 2018 meeting. We had a very busy but productive meeting.

## Abstracts, symposia and workshop for the 2018 meeting

This year, we had 1940 abstract submissions, which were organized into 142 oral sessions and 66 poster sessions. As you can imagine, this is a challenging endeavor that requires much coordination between various divisions! DEDB received 42 oral and 28 poster abstracts, which I, in collaboration with the DIZ officers, organized into six oral sessions and three poster sessions, respectively. I apologize in advance if the abstracts are not placed in ideal sessions and/or there are potential conflicts with other concurrent sessions.

This year, eight out of 14 oral abstracts submitted for the Best Student Presentation competition were selected by a committee assembled by Julia Bowsher, our Divisional Secretary. These were organized into one DEDB BSP session (Friday, January 5, 1:30-3:30 PM), and the talks will be evaluated by a panel of DEDB judges. Thank you for submitting all your abstracts, and congratulations to those of you who were selected to compete! I look forward to hearing your talks.

In addition, DEDB is sponsoring four exciting symposia at the 2018 meeting:

1. "From Small and Squishy to Big and Armored: Genomic, Ecological and Paleontological Insights into the Early Evolution of Animals," a SICB-wide symposium organized by Erik Sperling & Kevin Kocot (January 4)
2. "Evolution in the Dark: Unifying Understanding of Eye Loss," organized by Megan Porter and Lauren Sumner-Rooney (January 4)
3. "Science Through Narrative: Engaging Broad Audiences," a SICB-wide symposium organized by Sara Elshafie, Stuart Sumida, and Bram Lutton (January 5)

4. "Integrative Biology of Sensory Hair Cells," organized by Duane McPherson and Billie Swalla (January 6).

Finally, Gunter Wagner (Yale University) is organizing a DEDB workshop on January 6, 6:30-9:30 PM. The workshop will focus on the mechanisms of cell type origination.

At the Program Officers' meeting, we also selected the 12 symposia for the 2019 SICB meeting. This year, we received 16 symposium proposals, which is big improvement over last year's 11. Thank you very much to those of you who contributed a proposal. You will be notified of the outcome soon.



Organizing the Program for the annual meeting

## Registration

If you are presenting at the SICB 2018 meeting, please remember that the presenter registration deadline is **November 6, 2017**. For everyone else, the early fee deadline is **December 4, 2017**. Official letters of acceptance should have been sent out by October 15. If you need child care, please complete the [child care survey](http://www.sicb.org/meetings/childcareform/index.php) (<http://www.sicb.org/meetings/childcareform/index.php>) by **November 15**.

## Venue

The SICB 2018 meeting will be held at the Marriott Marquis, which is located conveniently in downtown San Francisco. You can get more information about hotel reservations by visiting <http://www.sicb.org/meetings/2018/travel.php>. You can get to the venue/hotel from the San Francisco Airport by riding BART train (\$8.95 one way) or by shuttle (\$17 one way). The BART train stop is very close to the hotel, so I would recommend this method of travel. You can get more information about ground transportation on [the airport site](https://www.flysfo.com/to-from/ground-transportation): <https://www.flysfo.com/to-from/ground-transportation>.



### DEDB Business Meeting and Social

The DEDB Business Meeting will be held on Thursday, January 4, 5:45-6:30 PM. The DEDB Social will be held on Saturday, January 6, 6:30-8:30 PM in conjunction with DIZ/AMS/TCS. Given the extremely high cost of food at the hotel, we will be holding the social at the Thirsty Bear, a restaurant located close to the conference venue. I strongly recommend everyone to attend these gatherings.

The conference promises to be very exciting and memorable, and I am looking forward to seeing many of you in January! In the meantime, if you have any questions about the program, please feel free to contact me.



### Message from the Secretary

*Julia Bowsher (Secretary.DEDB@sicb.org)*

Thank you to Yui Suzuki and the other program officers! SICB 2018 looks to be another fantastic annual meeting.

### New Officers

In the spring we held elections for the Program Officer and Secretary positions. Congratulations to **Matt Rockman**, our new Program Officer! Matt will start serving in the position after the 2019 annual meeting. Congratulations to **Prashant Sharma**, our new Secretary! Prashant will start serving as Secretary after the 2019 annual meeting. Thank you to everyone who ran for office. We had a strong slate of candidates, and I am thankful that so many people are interested in serving as DEDB leaders. Stop by the divisional business meeting to congratulate Matt and Prashant.

### Hey Students, Free Dinner!

SICB is a society that genuinely values the participation and contributions of our junior members. For the last five years, we have instituted a program to help encourage increased interaction between students and faculty. The "Evo-Devo Dinner Date" program brings approximately 40 students and 20 faculty members together for informal conversation and a meal on the faculty members' dime. Izzy and Amaneet highlight this program in their messages below for students, but I also want to encourage faculty to keep an eye out for an email from Amaneet with sign-up information as the annual meeting approaches.

### Best Student Presentation Oral Session

For the third year, please join us for our special session devoted to the Best Student Oral Presentation. The session will be held Friday, January 5, 1:30-3:30 PM. We had fourteen abstracts submitted for the session, and only had room to invite eight. Congratulations to the students whose abstracts were selected: Anne Frances Armstrong, Univ. of California, Davis; Allan Carrillo-Baltodano, Clark University; Arun Chavan, Yale University; William Colgan, Swarthmore College; Amanda Powers, University of Cincinnati; Amber Rock, Whitney Laboratory for Marine Bioscience, University of Florida; Miguel Salinas-Saavedra, Whitney Laboratory for Marine Bioscience, University of Florida; Connor Sears, University of Cincinnati.

Thanks to all of the students who asked to be considered for the competition and thanks to the DEDB members who were willing to serve on the selection committee. We received more outstanding and deserving abstracts than we could fit into this particular session, so please be sure to attend as many of the DEDB sessions as you can to hear as many terrific talks as possible. In a few months, I will be looking for volunteers to judge the Oral and Poster competitions. Please consider serving in this important role. Judging is an excellent way to support and encourage the newest members of our division.



*DEDB SPDAC  
Rep Izzy Baker*

### Message from the Student/ Postdoctoral Affairs Committee Representative (outgoing)

*Izzy Baker (isabel\_baker@g.harvard.edu)*

Greetings DEDB students and postdocs! I hope that you are all gearing up for what is sure to be a fruitful meeting in San Francisco. One aspect I'm especially excited for is the highly popular faculty/student dinner. This is a great opportunity for students to meet one-on-one with our faculty and learn about their fascinating research. This is also a chance for faculty to learn about your research, hear about the experiences of the next generation of scientists, and potentially discuss career opportunities. An electronic sign-up will be sent out as we get closer to the meeting dates, so be on the lookout for that email! In the meantime, it is worth noting all of the amazing funding opportunities for graduate students and postdocs that are available through



SICB. The Fellowship of Graduate Student Travel (FGST), the application for which was due October 20th, is a great resource for those conducting research at distant museums or remote field sites. The Grants-in-Aid of Research (GIAR) application was also due on October 20th. This grant program awards a total of \$30,000 in support of graduate research done the fields of integrative and comparative biology. Check out the External Grants and Fellowships page (<http://www.sicb.org/grants/externalgrants.php>) curated by the Student/Postdoctoral Affairs Committee (SPDAC) for more funding opportunities outside of SICB. SPDAC will host its annual workshop at the meeting, which focuses on topics relevant to students and postdocs. Definitely come visit both the workshop and the booth for resources in grad school and beyond.

See you in San Francisco!



DEDB SPDAC Rep  
Amaneet Lochab

### Message from the Student/ Postdoctoral Affairs Committee Representative (incoming)

Amaneet Lochab ([alochab@g.harvard.edu](mailto:alochab@g.harvard.edu))

Hi fellow students and postdocs! I'm excited to serve as your new DEDB Student/Postdoctoral Affairs Committee representative and to continue the traditions of this vibrant division of SICB. To introduce myself, I'm currently a third-year graduate student in the Organismic and Evolutionary Biology program at Harvard studying the early development of the germ line in insects. I am looking forward to getting to know you and your research interests in the coming years, and I would love to hear your ideas and suggestions for how I can best represent you.

For starters, I hope you are getting excited for the upcoming meeting in San Francisco. At the meeting we will continue the successful "EvoDevo dinner dates." This is a great opportunity for students to meet and converse with a faculty member to discuss research, career trajectories and life experiences, so I highly recommend you consider signing up. Faculty within DEDB will volunteer to take a couple of students out to dinner. I will be sending out sign-up emails to students in December with the list of faculty who have volunteered. You can sign up to have a *free* dinner with a faculty member of your choice!

For this upcoming meeting, and for future meetings, I welcome your ideas for building upon the traditions of this division and anything you think should be incorporated into these meetings. Feel free to contact me with any comments, questions and suggestions at [alochab@g.harvard.edu](mailto:alochab@g.harvard.edu), or if you're interested in becoming more involved in DEDB. See you in San Francisco!