



Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

3 January 2020, 2:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. – J.W. Marriott Austin, Brazos Room

3 January 2020: Attendees

Name	Status
Brainerd, Beth	President
Burnett, Lou	Past President
Melina Hale	President-Elect
Gibb, Alice	Secretary
Williams, Susan	Program Officer
Jake, Socha	Program Officer-Elect
Miriam Ashley-Ross	Treasurer
Rivera, Ajna	Member-at-Large
Katija, Kakani	Member-at-Large
Combes, Stacey	DCB, Chair
Buck, Loren	DCE, Chair
Hammond, Kim	DCPB, Chair
Hoke, Kim	DEDB, Chair
Wilcoxon, Travis	DEDE, Chair
Ghalambor, Cameron	DEE, Chair
Halanych, Kenneth	DIZ, Chair
Baltzley, Michael	DNNSB, Chair
Martine, Chris	DOB, Chair
Blackburn, David	DPCB, Chair
Hernandez, L. Patricia	DVM, Chair
Müller, Ulrike	Editor, <i>ICB</i>
Summers, Adam	Editor, <i>IOB</i>
Hutchinson, John	SPDAC Chair
Lutton, Bram	Educational Council Chair
Mehta, Rita	BP Committee Chair
Burk, Brett	Executive Director, SICB
Committee Chairs	
Sanger, Thom	Public Affairs
Others	
Drupa, Jill	BAI, SICB Manager

Miller, Suzanne	ICB Managing Editor
Deery, Cailyn	Oxford Univ. Press
Butler, Marguerite	Incoming Member-at-Large
Whitenack, Lisa	Incoming Ed. Council Chair
MacDougall-Shackleton, Scott	DAB Program Officer

Call to Order

Welcome and introduction of Executive Committee members and Guests. – President Beth Brainerd

1. Record of Executive Committee Actions

- a. Approval of minutes from the 2019 Executive Committee Meeting in Tampa – Brainerd
- b. **Actions of the Executive Committee between Annual Meetings**
 - i. Editorial board appointments
 - ii. Venues 2024 and 2025: Seattle and Atlanta selected for future SICB venues.

2. Officer Reports

- a. **Program Officer – Williams (Appendix 1)**
- b. **Secretary – Gibb**
 - i. Newsletter schedule for 2020.
 1. Spring 2019 (Earlier than in previous years): February 14 - materials due, including candidate biographies
 2. Fall 2019: Oct 9 - tentative submission deadline (depends on Program Committee Meeting timeline)
 - ii. Spring elections 2020
 1. Elections occur in the spring for SICB-wide and divisional elections). The full election schedule is online: go to Resources > Elections > Election Schedule for SICB and Divisions
<http://www.sicb.org/resources/electionschedule.php3>.
 2. Nominating committees may consult the list of candidates who have previously run for offices which is available on the SICB web site under Resources > Elections > Election Candidates for SICB and Divisions or <http://www.sicb.org/resources/electioncandidates.php3>.
 3. Most divisions require a candidate to receive a majority of votes to win, so divisions that nominate only two candidates will simplify the election process.
 4. Graduate student and postdoctoral members are strongly encouraged to participate in voting.

- iii. Spring 2019 Election Results
- iv. Divisional Best Student Presentation awards.
 - 1. Best Student Presentation procedures for administering the awards are posted on the [SICB web site](#) at Resources > Administration, Contacts & Handbooks > Administrative Procedures for Divisional Best Student Presentations. Most divisions now have a selection process for finalists for the BSP oral and some do for posters.
 - 2. Division Chairs - please have **divisional secretaries** report the results of Best Student Presentation awards to Jill Drupa **within 2 weeks** after the annual meeting for posting on the SICB web site and notification of winners.
 - 3. Procedures for processing certificates and checks. Divisional Chairs please sign circulating form – **place your signature inside the box**.
- v. Post-meeting Survey: A draft has been prepared in advance of the meeting. Suggestions for questions are welcome.

c. Treasurer – Ashley-Ross

- i. SICB continues to be on sound financial footing. Our assets total nearly \$2.1 million dollars, most of which consists of investments allocated to our various named funds. Our guiding principles in developing each year’s budget are (1) the Society should be “in the black” each year; (2) the registration fees for the Annual Meeting are set so that the meeting breaks even; and (3) the membership dues are set to fund the non-annual-meeting expenses of the Society.
- ii. One of the main goals for 2019 was to streamline the budget process by moving from Excel spreadsheets to Google sheets, to prevent the problem of having multiple versions being passed around among the members of the Finance Committee. This migration has been accomplished, with the working budget draft now residing in the Google cloud. Further goals were to make the various items in the budget more accurately reflect where they fit in (e.g., the symposia support is now categorized under the Annual Meeting). This has mostly been accomplished as well.
- iii. Because SICB’s finances use a Fiscal Year that runs from July 1 – June 30, the most recent FY that we have final numbers for is FY 2019. The Society’s overall net value increased by slightly over \$46,000 in that fiscal year, attributable to gains in our investments. Breaking down the numbers, the revenues from the annual meeting were slightly below the costs; this is expected, because some of the costs are offset by transfers from the named funds that support specific meeting-related endeavors. For example, the Mangum Fund for Student Support provided approximately \$12,500 to partially cover student rooms at the annual meeting (the rest of the cost coming from the general operations budget). At the 2019 Annual Meeting, the

Executive Committee approved a change in the amount allowed to be transferred from the named funds from 4% of value to 3.5% of the trailing 5-year average fund value, due to volatility in the stock market during 2018. Transfers from named funds and Divisions bring us to just above the “break even” point for the Annual Meeting; further increases in the overall value of Society assets results from investment gains over and above the 3.5% that may be drawn from the funds annually.

- iv. Based on data from the final FY 2019 numbers the Finance Committee (Treasurer, President, Past President, President-Elect, and Executive Director) decided to increase the budget for Mangum student support at the 2021 Annual Meeting from \$40,000 to \$60,000. We also have allocated \$10,000 for costs associated with Code of Conduct training and enforcement. Other costs for the meeting vary based on the venue, and fluctuate slightly from year to year.

d. President-Elect – Hale

- i. As President-Elect, I have been supporting the President, particularly in the areas of nominations, appointments and awards and prizes. In all of these areas, we have given particular attention to issues of diversity of those who serve in leadership and those receiving prestigious Society awards. We are working to ensure processes that are inclusive of SICB’s diverse community.
- ii. SICB relies on the effort and experience of many members of the society on SICB-wide standing committees. Together we have 13 standing committees and other cross-divisional groups with well over 130 members and many other members lead within SICB’s 12 Divisions.
- iii. We are always looking for strong nominees for SICB-wide committees. Engagement is critical to SICB and can also be very rewarding and good experience in administration service. We hope that everyone in leadership will encourage involvement of the next generation of SICB leaders and suggest them for appointments.
- iv. SICB and its Divisions have a number of prestigious awards and honored lectures. We have begun working with Divisions and Committee Chairs early in the process of identifying and selecting awardees in order to discuss the process of developing a candidate pool and considering diversity. Honored lecturers and awards are very visible reflections of the Society and we appreciate the thoughtful work of everyone involved in awards processes.

e. President – Brainerd

- i. We have several new SICB 2020 Code of Conduct Initiatives at this meeting:
 - 1. Code of Conduct Safety Allies
 - 2. Safety Coordinators at the SICB Registration Desk
 - 3. New EthicsPoint online reporting system
 - 4. Poster with highlights of the Code of Conduct near the Registration Desk

5. QR codes for accessing the full Code of Conduct and reporting system
6. Code of business cards with QR codes handed out with name badges
- ii. We also have several LGBTQ+ initiatives to support our LGBTQ+ attendees, with thanks to Outgroup, other LGBTQ+ volunteers, and the SICB Broadening Participation and Public Affairs Committees
 1. Pronouns on badges: look for them in the lower left quadrant
 2. Prominent signage for gender-neutral restrooms
 3. Outgroup-In: a sober social networking event
 4. Outgroup Social: happy hour social event
 5. Out to Lunch: LGBTQ+ Mentor-Mentee lunches
 6. Outgroup badge stickers
 7. Public Affairs Committee Workshop: Embracing Variation Among Humans: Perspectives on LGBTQ+ Experiences in Biology and Academia
- iii. The new Division of Botany has been ramping up over the past year with the founding officers appointed, > 60 members joined, DOB Bylaws written and passed by voting members, and continuing the Rising Star in Organismal Botany Award session this year
- iv. In the past year SICB joined the Societies Consortium on Sexual Harassment in STEMM (STEM + Medicine), a group of more than 120 scientific societies that was created less than one year ago. The goals of this consortium are twofold: (1) to provide practical support for scientific societies to combat sexual and gender-based harassment in their own operations, such as by providing model policy documents, and (2) to combat sexual and gender-based harassment in STEMM fields broadly by “elevating knowledge, establishing stakeholder relationships, and building communities and consensus across STEMM constituencies in the middle term, as foundations for changing climate and culture in the longer-term.”
- v. SICB has several areas related to ethics, equity and diversity that need work in the coming year:
 1. Nomination and selection of Honored Lecturers and Awardees
 2. Nomination of Officers
 3. Reporting Code of Conduct violations back to the membership
 4. Responding to reports of misconduct external to SICB

3. Journal Reports

- a. *Integrative Organismal Biology* – Editor Report, Adam Summers (**Appendix 2**)
- b. *Integrative and Comparative Biology* – Editor Report, Ulrike Müller (**Appendix 3**)
- c. **Publisher’s Report** – Cailyn Deery, OUP

4. Standing Committee and other Reports

- i. Advisory – Burnett
- ii. Educational Council – Lutton
- iii. Membership – Kinsey
- iv. Nominating – Satterlie

- v. Editorial Board, *ICB* –Ulrike Müller (included in Journal Reports above)
- vi. Editorial Board, *IOB* – Adam Summers (included in Journal Reports above)
- vii. Student/Postdoctoral Affairs – John Hutchinson (**Appendix 4**)
- viii. Student Support – Moore (GIAR and FGST awards will be announced at the SICB business meeting) (**Appendix 5**)
- ix. Finance Committee – M. Ashley-Ross (included in Treasurer Report)
- x. Public Affairs (PAC) – Sanger (**Appendix 6**)
- xi. Program – Williams (included in Program Officer Report)
- xii. Development – Burnett (**Appendix 7**)
- xiii. Broadening Participation (BPC) – Mehta (**Appendix 8**)

5. Divisional Reports from Divisional Chairs

- i. Animal Behavior (**Appendix 9**)
- ii. Botany (**Appendix 10**)
- iii. Comparative Biomechanics (**Appendix 11**)
- iv. Comparative Endocrinology (**Appendix 12**)
- v. Comparative Physiology & Biochemistry (**Appendix 13**)
- vi. Evolutionary Developmental Biology
- vii. Ecoimmunology & Disease Ecology
- viii. Ecology & Evolution (**Appendix 14**)
- ix. Invertebrate Zoology (**Appendix 15**)
- x. Neurobiology, Neuroethology, and Sensory Biology (**Appendix 16**)
- xi. Phylogenetics & Comparative Biology (**Appendix 17**)
- xii. Vertebrate Morphology (**Appendix 18**)

6. NSF Report – Donal T. Manahan, Director, Division of Integrative Organismal Systems

7. New Business (Appendix 19)

- a. *Society for Experimental Biology co-sponsorship: Introduction by Craig Franklin, SEB President.*

New Business to be continued on 7 January 2020

5. Adjournment

7 January 2020, 7:45 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. – J.W. Marriott Austin, Room 409

7 January 2020: Attendance

Name	Status
Brainerd, Beth	President
Burnett, Lou	Past President
Melina Hale	President-Elect
Gibb, Alice	Secretary
Williams, Susan	Program Officer
Jake, Socha	Program Officer-Elect
Miriam Ashley-Ross	Treasurer
Rivera, Ajna	Member-at-Large
Katija, Kakani	Member-at-Large
Sewall, Kendra	DAB, Chair
Hammond, Kim	DCPB, Chair
Hoke, Kim	DEDB, Chair
Ghalambor, Cameron	DEE, Chair
Halanych, Kenneth	DIZ, Chair
Baltzley, Michael	DNNSB, Chair
Martine, Chris	DOB, Chair
Hernandez, L. Patricia	DVM, Chair
Müller, Ulrike	Editor, <i>ICB</i>
Summers, Adam	Editor, <i>IOB</i>
Hutchinson, John	SPDAC Chair
Lutton, Bram	Educational Council Chair
Mehta, Rita	BP Committee Chair
Burk, Brett	Executive Director, SICB
Committee Chairs	
Satterlie, Rich	Nominating
Sanger, Thom	Public Affairs
Burnett, Lou	Development
Others in Attendance	
Drupa, Jill	BAI, SICB Manager
Miller, Suzanne	ICB Managing Editor
Deery, Cailyn	Oxford Univ. Press
Butler, Marguerite	Incoming Member-at-Large
Whitenack, Lisa	Incoming Ed. Council Chair
Michele Johnson	Incoming Secretary-Elect
Kenneth Welch	Chair-Elect DCPB
Laura Zimmerman	Chair Elect DEDE

1. Call to Order and Introductions – President Beth Brainerd

2. Vote on Budget

Budget unanimously passed for the upcoming fiscal year.

3. Updates for Committee Reports

- *The Nominating Committee reports a full slate of candidates.*
- *Development committee update: \$30,000+ donations from individuals. Reminder that named awards can be established without working toward a named fund. \$1,000 creates a named award for a year. \$20,000 in fundraising creates an award in perpetuity. Big area of need for development is the Student Support fund. Documents have been developed for estate planning.*
- *President-Elect: working to come up with a more member-driven way for people to indicate to the society that they are interested in assisting with the various tasks and committees of the society.*
- *Educational Council: Reminder of the Morse and Moore events today.*
- *Discussion by the Executive Committee of Mentoring programs in different divisions.*
- *Rita M.: requests extended hours for child care. Jill D. indicates that this is possible.*
- *John H.: Discussion of future workshops for SPDAC. Request for clarification of BSP guidelines.*

4. New Business, continued.

- b. Creation of an Ethics/Equity Committee: Kim Hammond is leading the charge. Committee should be separate from the Executive Officers. Discussion of Ethics vs. Equity in terms of scope, title and mission. Further action is tabled until the mission of the committee is defined.*
- c. Vote on the Society for Experimental Biology co-sponsorship. Unanimously passed.*
- d. Creation of a SICB Communications Editor position. In charge of non-journal communications. Susane Miller, PAC Chair, and Secretary spoke on behalf of the value of the position. Consensus to move forward to create this position in 2020.*
- e. Discussion of recording and posting content from the meeting. Because there is an expense associated with it, there will likely be a fee associated with access. There are potentially accessibility (ADA Law) issues.*
- f. There will be a post-meeting discussion by the Executive Committee about the SICB 2023 Venue (Austin).*

5. Recognition of Executive Committee Members: SICB Executive Committee members completing their terms at the end of the 2020 meeting.

Society-wide Officers:	
Susan Williams	Program Officer
Creagh Breuner	Member-at-Large
Divisional Chairs:	
DCE	Loren Buck

DCPB	Kimberly Hammond
DEDB	Kim Hoke
DEDE	Travis Wilcoxon
Education Council	Bram Lutton

5. Adjournment

Program Committee Report 2020

Susan Williams, Program Committee Chair

I. Program Committee

Susan Williams (Program Officer), Jake Socha (Program Officer-Elect), Scott MacDougall-Shackleton (DAB), Phil Anderson (DCB), Brian Walker (DCE), Kristi Montooth (DCPB), Matthew Rockman (DEDB), Cynthia Downs (DEDE), Michele Nishiguchi (DEE), Linda Walters (DIZ), Jeff Riffell (DNB), Janet Steven (DOB), Todd Oakley (DPCB), Mason Dean (DVM), Brian Tsukimura (AMS), and John Zardus (TCS). In addition, this year we were assisted by Jenny Gumm (DAB)

II. Abstract Submissions and Program Committee Meeting

Abstract submission was generally uneventful but we had a few glitches with the system sending automated e-mail confirmations of acknowledging receipt of the abstracts. As some individuals attempted multiple abstract submissions to ensure success, we had a larger than normal number of duplicate abstracts, which were subsequently removed from the system. There were 2025 total abstract submissions to the online system. After removal of duplications and errors (129), and cancellations (60 through Jan 2, 2019), this reduced the number of presentations in the final program to 1836. The number of submissions and final presentations were slightly higher than the 2019 meeting in Tampa, which had a total of 1806 presentations. Notification of abstract acceptance went out in mid-October, and the hard copy of the final program went to press on December 10, 2019. All subsequent changes to the program were made to the online schedule only.

This year we implemented a rule that students competing in the Best Student Presentation program could not also select to be in a complementary session. This caused a lot of confusion in programming in the past. The result of this new rule was that there were fewer abstract trades after the program meeting after the BSP committees made their selections. Thus the program was more or less finalized for these abstracts earlier in the process.

The Program Committee met in Austin, TX from October 5-7, 2019 to view the venue and to organize abstracts into cohesive sessions, and to select symposia for the 2021 SICB meeting in Washington, DC. At the Program Committee Meeting, we used a new online tool to schedule the sessions. This was the first test-run for the system, designed by the SICB Webmaster, Ruedi Birenheide, and it generally performed well and made it easier to keep track of what abstracts had been assigned to sessions already.

III. Final Programming and Coordination of the 2020 Annual Meeting

The scientific program put together by the Program Committee consists of:

- 1) 140 contributed oral sessions with 956 talks
- 2) 3 poster session with 750 posters
- 3) 11 Symposia (3 SICB-Wide, 125 talks)
- 4) 5 Special Lectures:
 - a. Plenary Lecture: Sheila Patek
 - b. Bartholomew Lecture: Mary Caswell Stoddard
 - c. Bern Lecture: George Bentley
 - d. Moore Lecture: Emily Graslie
 - e. AMS Lecture: Sara Lindsay

I worked with the eleven 2020 symposium organizers to develop their symposium schedules, pick complementary session abstracts and ensure that the symposia were in compliance with ICB requirements. I worked with symposium organizers and the SICB Webmaster to make sure that their symposia were publicized correctly on the web and in the program. I also assisted a few symposium organizers making last minute adjustments to schedules, including finding replacement speakers due to last minute cancellations.

I also worked with the organizers of two Special Sessions in the initial coordination of the following:

1. Celebrating the Scientific Contributions of Rosemary Knapp: Hormones and Alternative Reproductive Tactics
2. Digestive Physiology: A Session in Honor of Bill Karasov

Following the interest expressed by members of the society to conduct workshops unrelated to our SICB committee, we formalized an online workshop application system using Google Forms for workshop proposals, spearheaded by Program Officer-Elect (Jake Socha). All of our committees who offer workshops (Ed Council, Student Support, SPDAC, BPC and PAC) were also asked to use this form as a formality to gather information about event needs. After putting an official call out to the society for workshops, we received a total of 20 responses (5 committee and 16 other). After review by the Program Committee, 11 of the “other” workshops were selected for the annual meeting program. Some workshop organizers had special AV requirements, and they were asked to contribute funds for this. I also separately coordinated with NSF Program Officers for their workshop on grant opportunities and funding mechanisms.

Our Society Committees put together a stellar lineup of workshops for the 2020 meeting. I worked with the BPC, PAC, SPDAC, Student Support and Ed Council committee chairs to coordinate scheduling and space for their events. I committed PO funds to two of the workshops (Broadening Participation and Public Affairs Committee) to support diversity and inclusion initiatives within the society, and worked closely with these committee chairs to coordinate the inclusion of outside speakers. Our Committee workshops for the 2020 meeting are as follows:

1. Broadening Participation Committee: Movie and Workshop: "Can We Talk? Difficult Conversations with Underrepresented People of Color: Sense of Belonging and Obstacles to STEM Fields" with Professor Kendall Moore
2. Student Support Committee: Student Support Committee Brown Bag Workshop for Graduate Students: Writing a competitive GIAR/FGST grant proposal
3. Public Affairs Committee: Embracing Variation Among Humans: Perspectives on LGBTQ+ Experiences in Biology and Academia
4. Education Council: TAL-X Workshop: Teaching critical thinking about science and technology: GMOs as a case study
5. Student and Postdoctoral Affairs Committee: Transitions in Science Careers

The other workshops offered as part of the meeting program are as follows:

1. Symposium 5 Workshop: How to disseminate your research
2. Symposium 7 Workshop: Building Bridges from Genome to Phenome: Molecules, Methods and Models
3. Organizing Meeting for Building Bridges Symposium (Symposium 7)
4. 3D visualization and morphometrics with SlicerMorph
5. Workshop: Spatiotemporal Dynamics of Communication
6. Round-table discussion: Overcoming challenges for testing gene function in post-embryonic life stages
7. Parenting Through Academia
8. Workshop: In honor of Stan Rachootin
9. Workshop: An Introduction to the world of book publishing from editors and authors
10. Workshop: Panel on Research and Working at Primarily Undergraduate Institutions
11. Workshop: Mentorship and sponsorship: how to curate your support team and guide your successful career
12. NSF Program Officers: Funding opportunities, integrative research and education, and Q&A.

Finally, we had a number of additional events for the annual meeting that I helped coordinate as Program Officer. These include the following:

1. Live Recording of the Big Biology Podcast with Dr. Molly Cummings
2. Outgroup-In Sober Social

3. DPCB Ask-An-Expert booth
4. Student Postdoctoral Affairs Committee: "How-To?" Daily Booth

The Meetings Website was overhauled by Burk Inc. and I worked directly with Ruedi Birenheide, Lori Strong, and Cooky Bysura to ensure that the meeting program and information were accurately represented online for the final program. Because there are a number of changes that occur between the program meeting in October and the annual meeting, we have almost daily contact with presenters and the Burk staff to finalize the program. I also worked with Lori Strong and Cooky Bysura to produce the published program.

I also worked with the Program Committee, individual SICB members, and the *ICB* Editorial Board to generate interest from members in proposing symposia for the upcoming 2021 meeting in Washington DC. Reaching out to the Editorial Board at the annual meeting was continued from previous years, intended to reflect that the symposia generate the primary content for the journal. We had a record number of applications (24) for symposia, from which we selected 12. We will continue discussions on strategies to help ensure that a sufficient number of symposia are proposed to allow a full and high-quality program in future years.

Finally, for the first time we hosted a presentation upload site for oral presentations. Speakers were allowed to upload their presentation slides before Jan 3 so that they could be placed on the appropriate computers in the presentation rooms. The intention was to decrease traffic and wait times in speaker ready rooms.

IV. Future Programming Considerations

In keeping with the move to a more digital programming process, there will likely be additional changes to the interface for building annual meeting sessions.

ICB Editor Ulrike Müller has begun discussions about the possibility of holding virtual symposia. I expect these conversations to push forward as planning for 2021 begins. Ulrike initiated this conversation as a potential additional revenue source through more submissions, while keeping with the same model of publishing symposia. It would also decrease timing conflicts with the annual meeting and potentially broaden the audience to include people with travel constraints. Finally, this was also considered to be an option to push forward highly ranked but not selected symposia for the annual meeting.

A report from A.P. Summers to the SICB Executive Committee on the status of the open access journal Integrative Organismal Biology.

The journal's hard launch was at the 2019 meeting. We had 24 manuscripts in the pipeline at that point and six were published on the first day of the meeting. All six of these made a media splash and we had very good Altmetrics for all six of them. For the 12 months of 2019 we had 38 more manuscripts submitted. This is an increase of 58%, but we only had 6 months to solicit the 2018 manuscripts. So, there has been an uptick in submissions, but not a huge one. Instead we are seeing a greater general interest in the journal than we had hypothesized. In our first year we promised Oxford twenty, 40 in the second and 60 in the third. This is a total of 120 and we are half-way there at the end of year one. For the next year I am hoping to see at least 80 manuscripts, and I look forward to working with the treasurer to understand exactly where IOB begins to break even. Below I will highlight as bullet points some important issues with respect to the journal.

- Submissions are higher than we had thought they would be and they appear to be scalable to larger numbers with the associate editor staff we have in place. The average workload for 2019 was four manuscripts for each associate editor.
- We publicized our policy of redacting reviews at the 2019 meeting and got both positive and vehement negative feedback. We had planned to write an editorial on the topic, but it turned out that the number of reviews we had to redact went from about 30% to less than 5%. I suspect the public notice that we are willing to prune reviewer's prose made reviewers think harder about the idea.
- We have representation in the journal of every division in the society. The top divisions are DVM, DCB, and DAB. The least effective marketing was to the DNNSB and BPB. I have recruited another AE in the DNNSB area and that seems to be bearing fruit. The plant issue is harder to tackle and I will be meeting with people at the 2020 meeting to try to get some good submissions and an effective AE in that area.
- There has been great cooperation between IOB and ICB. At least three manuscripts have been passed over from 'over the transom' submissions to ICB that Ulrike Muller, the editor-in-chief, redirected to IOB. But that direct help is small compared to the intellectual synergy that we have with a shared vision of inclusivity and diversity, as well as new ways to communicate science. We are looking forward to planning virtual symposia that will challenge our ideas about how we push science forward and will feed manuscripts to both journals.
- I participated in the Reintegrating Biology program from NSF and am an author on a manuscript that we will submit to IOB in the spring. The topic is structural and cultural barriers to integration/reintegration and solutions to the problems. Tim Wright (AE) was also in the program and may have come away with manuscripts.
- I participated in the International Congress of Vertebrate Morphology and was successful in soliciting manuscripts from the participants. I learned a good deal about how to market the journal and the importance of reaching out in person to prospective authors. I plan to attend the invertebrate congress to recruit papers.

- We have no impact factor and will not have one for at least 4 years. This makes it quite difficult to sell the journal to European and Australasian researchers. They cannot put publications in our journal on the documents they send in for promotions and awards. My instinct is that impact factor is losing ground in importance and will continue to be less and less vital as we go forward, but it is an issue today. Google Scholar will give us a journal based impact factor next year, if I am reading their web pages correctly. Our journal is already showing up on Scholar and we have citations.

Respectively submitted on December 31st, 2019.

A.P. Summers

Integrative & Comparative Biology – 2020 Report to SICB Executive Committee by U. K. Müller (12/31/2019)

Growing in size.

Strengths.

(1) Increase in publications

- 30% increase in submissions in 2019 (174 submissions, 149 publications) compared with previous 5 years (average: 122 submissions); 2020: anticipated at least 173 submissions)
- Hence, *ICB* increased its editorial board from 25 to 30:
 - adding 1 associate editor and 4 assistant editors (3 recruited in 2019, 1 in 2020)
 - new workload: 4 manuscripts for new editors, 7 to 9 manuscripts for all others

(2) Recruiting new editors

- 20 (of 29) members appointed to editorial board in 2019
 - New editor: Ulrike Müller
 - 4 new associate editors: Sharlene Santana, Corinne Richards-Zawacki, Liz Addis, Ajna Rivera
 - 15 new assistant editors (7 divisional, 8 non-divisional)
 - *ICB* is now in the top for gender and cultural diversity among similar journals
 - *ICB* editorial board in 2019: 66% female, 38% culturally diverse
 - gender diversity among 5 sister journals: 15 to 45% (*Zoology*, *J Exp Biol*, *JEZ-A*, *Anim Beh*, *Proc B*)

Growth areas.

- *ICB* will keep an eye on renewal rates of institutional subscriptions (currently above 100%). *ICB*'s subscriptions are concentrated in the US (75% of subscriptions).
- Only 5 of 140 *ICB* authors in 2019 completed OUP's *ICB* performance survey.
- Recruitment of assistant editors in 2020: DCB, 2 non-divisional

Growing in performance.

Strengths.

(3) Faster and more consistent handling times for manuscripts

- Time to first decision:
 - 90% of manuscripts reach first decision within 4 weeks, up from fewer than 70%
 - median time to first decision: 31 days
- Time to print:
 - all 2019 issues submitted to printer ahead of schedule
 - only one symposium submitted all papers in time for the first issue
- Editors largely follow reviewers' recommendations, but convert the majority of "accept as is" to "minor revision" and "reject" to "major revision"

(4) Citations and readership

- Impact factor at record 3.101 for 2018
- Record number of full-text downloads (more than 100,000 by 11/2019)

- Rising in rank among zoology journals (8/170 in 2018)
- Strong social outreach through new initiatives (blog posts, Twitter)

Growth areas.

- Continue to grow social media outreach (such as video abstracts, ‘meet the authors’ blogs and videos).
- Reduce number of revisions to reduce time to publication: train editors in converting peer reviews into prioritized action plans for authors
- Provide professional development for editors on decision making and author mentoring skills.
- Improve coordination and knowledge transfer within the symposium-to-*ICB* pipeline (symposium organizers, program officers, *ICB* editors)
 - improve knowledge transfer from symposium organizers to editors for a timely and competent peer review
 - improve editors’ understanding and appreciation of three-step selection process (3 levels of peer review and selection: 1. symposium organizers issuing invitations to speakers, 2. program officers inviting symposia, 3. editors recommending manuscripts for publication).

Growing service to SICB community.

(5) Synergy with *IOB*

- grow *ICB* and *IOB* content through cross-fertilization on hot topics
 - *IOB* and *ICB* look at *IOB* social media uptake to identify topics for collaborative issues
 - *ICB* identifies topics through *ICB* citation reports
- *IOB* and *ICB* co-organize virtual symposia
 - *IOB* and *ICB* will reach out to symposium organizers whose proposals were not awarded for the 2021 DC meeting
 - pilot virtual symposia through inviting papers around hot topics: 2020 *ICB* issue will have 5 papers on topic “stress”
 - increase author diversity and inclusion through virtual meetings (alleviates time and monetary constraints imposed by traditional symposia)
 - more flexible in timing and size than traditional symposia

(6) Evidence-driven practices

- form task force to increase transparency and inclusion
 - data transparency
 - transparency and inclusion of review process
- create actionable evidence for inclusion and professional initiatives, slated for publication in *ICB*
 - study on effects of diversity guidelines for SICB symposia on speaker diversity (lead PIs: Müller and Telemeco)
 - study on effects of parenting responsibilities on career persistence in academic STEM careers (lead PIs: Janneke Schwaner and Brooke Flammang)

Student and Postdoctoral Affairs Committee

Report by John R. Hutchinson, Chair

I won't re-cover items in the Autumn newsletter but two issues deserving some note or detail are:

1. Briefly, I'd like to raise the issue of SPDAC student/postdoc reps' participation in the committee's affairs. I'd appreciate it if Divisional Chairs could remind their reps that they're expected to participate to some degree in SPDAC efforts. At times it seems that the reps are doing little more than getting a line on their CV and maybe doing the newsletters (as Chair I do not see how many of them do these but I assume they do). It's debatable if that's enough. Almost all of the reps show EXCELLENT participation and it's thanks to them that this year has a lot of good activities. It is just that it is very noticeable to me as Chair that 203 reps barely do anything, even responding to email (or missing SPDAC committee meetings at SICB without notification). I don't think it is appropriate for me to "name and shame" but a nudge from Chairs, perhaps querying what their reps are doing for SPDAC, might be valuable—or I welcome ideas. I think divisions are being let down by reps that don't take the role seriously and perhaps those reps would best be replaced, although I know time management is hard for students and postdocs. I feel uncomfortable raising this issue but feel it's my job and am aware it was a problem previously. But again, our reps in general are wonderful and I'm grateful for them!
2. We have a brown-bag workshop, Jan 7 Noon – 1:30 PM in Lonestar E. We have a banquet setup for 150 planned – so this should be 15 round tables with seating for 10 at each (or it may be fewer or more tables with adjustments for # at the table).

Event Description: "How should you approach making the transition from undergrad to Masters/PhD; or PhD to postdoc; or postdoc/fellow to faculty; or other careers? SPDAC is hosting a roundtable lunch event to facilitate (with expert "hosts") discussion and advice for all those interested." (SPDAC reps will be circulating to facilitate discussions/table topics and assignments of people)

Hosts:

1. Dr. Sandy Kawano, Assistant Prof at George Washington U in DC (new hire)
2. Dr. Nathan Putman, Senior Scientist at LGL (transitioned into a non-academic position)
3. Dr. Sarah Wofford, Assistant Professor at Jacksonville State University (relatively new hire)
4. Dr. Marianne Porter, Assistant Professor at Florida Atlantic University
5. Prof. L Patricia Hernandez, Professor at George Washington University
6. Dr. Nicholas Gidmark, Assistant Professor at Knox College
7. NSF IOS program director - Prof. Sharon Swartz (Brown University)
8. NSF IOS program director - Prof. Kathy Dickson (CSU- Fullerton)
9. Thaddaeus Buser (Doctoral Candidate, has a NSF DDIG) transitioning to the next stage of his academic career
10. Dr. Lisa Whitenack, Associate Professor at Allegheny College
11. Dr. Ana Jurcak-Detter, Associate Professor at Friends University
12. (Prof. John Hutchinson, SPDAC Chair, filling in as needed)

SPDAC Rep Facilitators:

1. Sydney Hope (DAB)

2. Andrea Rummel (DCPB)
3. Emily J. Lessner (DPCB)
4. Kara Feilich (DVM)
5. Maryam Kamran (DNNSB)

Table Topics (and hosts covering them):

How do postdocs and above cope with the increasing loneliness as one moves through a career? - Hutchinson

How to do your best in an academic job interview? - Gidmark, Wofford, Jurcak-Detter

How does one move off the postdoc treadmill onto something else, and how long is too long on that treadmill? - Hutchinson

What are good or bad reasons to pursue a PhD? - Kawano, Buser, Jurcak-Detter

How can you make the transition from a PhD to a non-academic career - Putman, NSF reps

What makes a “good” job opportunity? Should you apply for everything? (there are different takes on this) - Kawano

Getting past a poor advising relationship / what to do if you don’t have a letter of recommendation from your PhD advisor? - Hutchinson

How do you choose a lab/program for your Masters/PhD? - Hernandez

How do you find postdoc opportunities? - Kawano, Putman

How do you navigate the two body problem/opportunity in academia? - Porter

What are ways to deal with mental health issues across a career? - Hernandez, Whitenack

How do you handle career transitions at a liberal arts college? - Gidmark, Whitenack, Jurcak-Detter

January 3, 2020

Marianne Moore, Chair (DEDE, DEE, DCPB)

Recap on funding for the 2018-2019 cycle

Last year, there were a total of 118 grant applications (89 GIAR and 29 FGST), of which 32 (27.1%) were funded (23 GIAR, 9 FGST). The total payout was \$39,758.92, with \$21,803.60 going towards GIAR awards and \$17,955.32 going towards FGST awards. Approximately 31% of awards were made to applicants with DEE affiliation, another ~21% of awards were made to applicants with DAB affiliation. Of the remaining divisions represented (n=8), none were represented by more than ~10% of applicants who were awarded funding. As in previous years, many awardees indicated 2+ divisional affiliations.

Data from this year's funding cycle

This year, we received 130 grant applications. Eight faculty grant reviewers, including the committee chair, are reviewing applications and working on the final list of recommendations on the awardees. Our goal is to submit recommendations to the Executive Committee on January 6th in time for the winners to be announced during the SICB 2020 conference in Austin, TX, with our highest priority being the announcement of the five named awards.

Representation of divisions

Compared to previous years, a less pronounced difference exists among divisions regarding the number of applications received. This suggests improvements in SICB's ability to recruit applicants from across divisions. Students affiliated with DAB and DEE continue to dominate grant submissions, with DVM and DCPB also continuing to submit a good number of proposals; the remaining divisions still submit far fewer proposals, which may continue to reflect the number of students that affiliate with each division and also the history of each division (e.g., from the newer DOB). The 'divisional affiliation' button in the grant applications is enabling us to obtain these data from year to year.

Currently, 8 SSC members provide their services by reviewing grant proposals. More SSC members affiliate with DCB (n=4), DVM (n=3), and DEE (n=3) compared with all other divisions, which are represented by two or fewer members each. DAB, DOB and DPCB have no representation within the SCC.

To improve divisional representation in the applicant pool and on the SSC, I request permission from the executive committee to reach out to each division in 2020 in order to recruit more applicants from a wider variety of disciplines with the goal of supporting grants that reflect the breadth of SICB student interests. I also request to reach out to individual divisions to recruit more SSC members specifically from the less represented divisions (e.g. DAB, DOB, DPCB) and increase the possibility that each proposal can be reviewed by at least one expert in the applicant's field of interest.

Student Support Committee Brown Bag Workshop for Graduate Students: Writing a Competitive GIAR/FGST Grant Proposal

The 2019 brown bag workshop focused on writing proposals for the GIAR and FGST was well-received, with several previous award winners joining to provide their valuable insights and potential applicants asking lots of thoughtful questions. Continuing to offer this workshop will be beneficial to our student population regarding their preparation of applications for SICB awards as well as awards from other sponsors.

SICB Public Affairs Committee Annual Report

1) #SICB2019 workshop – The Art of Persuasive Communication with professional acting coach Eliza Van Cort. Ms. Van Cort informed the room about the ways that body posture, eye contact, and body positioning can have dramatic effects on the power dynamics of professional interactions. We had approximately 75-100 people in attendance.

2) #SICB2020 workshop - Embracing Variation Among Humans: Perspectives on LGBTQ+ Experiences in Biology and Academia. This is a collaboration with NOGLSTP, or the National Organization of Gay and Lesbian Scientists and Technical Professionals. This workshop will include a panel of five SICB members describing their experiences at professional meetings and within academia. It will also provide a time for questions and answer from people that attend the workshop. The workshop is Saturday at 12:00. We will provide a summary of this workshop to the executive officers following the workshop.

I am pleased that the PAC is now interacting with a wider range of students interested in science communication. These students come from institutions across the country and of different sizes.

3) The PAC sponsored five student journalists throughout 2019 with articles posted to the SICB website at the end of the summer, which was later than expected. We usually aim for late spring/early summer. We have four student journalists in the upcoming 2020 cohort.

4) The PAC recently recruited three social media correspondents which will take over the responsibility of maintaining activity on the social media accounts. These students will report directly to the PAC chair. This activity counts towards the service requirements of the Charlotte Mangum Student Support award. The positions will last one year and will start in December of every year.

5) With the help of new student writers, the PAC produced five press releases this year. These students carried out interviews with authors selected by PAC members. Their drafts were then edited and revised before being put up on Newswise. Last year's press releases were picked up by a range of news agencies, but I would like to continue improving the visibility of these articles and the research by SICB members.

Development Committee Report 2020

Lou Burnett, Chair

Development Committee: Miriam Ashley-Ross (*ex officio*), Lou Burnett, Thomas Daniel, Terry Dial, Lara Ferry, Linda Mantel, Nora Terwilliger

The Committee met formally in Tampa and general discussions centered on promoting annual gifts, major gifts, planned (legacy) gifts, and establishing fundraising priorities for the various named funds.

1. The donor recognition program, which was initiated at the 2014 annual meeting in Austin, continues to be successful. Ribbons that were affixed to badges identified donors at five different giving levels.
2. The SICB funds and donations are reviewed routinely by the Committee. There are 12 funds, eleven of which actively receive donations. The purpose of each fund is clearly stated. Four of the funds (Bartholomew, Libbie Hyman, Dwight Davis, Bern) are administered by divisional chairs and the status of these funds (donors, expenditures, and amount available for use) are shared electronically with these chairs.
3. Based on a recommendation from this Committee and the Finance Committee, the Executive Committee changed the formula for dispersing the funds. The funds are now authorized to disburse 3.5% (reduced from 4%) of the principle based on a trailing five-year average. Along with the Executive Committee, the Development Committee analyzed the balances and expenditures of each named fund to establish fundraising goals. Targets to make each fund fully supportive of its mission have been adjusted and appear in the table below.
4. The Student Research Funds (Grants-In-Aid of Research and Fellowship of Graduate Student Travel) have for several years received donations established to honor individuals. The Student Support Committee, a standing committee of SICB, receives applications for the GIAR and FGST programs and selects recipients from the pool of applicants. At this point, five named awards have been established and named after the following individuals in order of their establishment: Steve Vogel, Toby Gaunt, Rosemary Knapp, Steve Wainwright, and Zander Fodor. These named awards are presented at the Society business meeting to the top students selected by the Student Support Committee.

The policy is that a named award is presented for one year for every \$1,000 donated. For example, a donation of \$5,000 can honor an individual with a single named award for five years (or five named awards in one year). An award can be given in perpetuity if \$20,000 or more in donations are received by one or more individuals.

5. During FY 2019 (July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019), donations to the Society totaled \$30,219 from 189 individuals. This includes 74 individuals who contributed through the Double Your Dues (DYD) fund-raising campaign.
6. The Double Your Dues campaign continues. This campaign asked SICB members to contribute the equivalent of their dues to the Student Research Fund over a three-year period. The purpose of the DYD campaign is to raise funds toward making the Student Research Fund fully supportive of student research and to encourage all SICB members, including and especially students, to establish a pattern of giving to SICB. At this point, a total of \$9,190 has been raised from contributions by 149 SICB members. The current balance of the Student Research Fund (GIAR/FGST) is \$303,235; the target of this fund to fully support \$40,000 in grants annually to students is \$1,142,857.
7. The Committee continues to work on documents that will be available to SICB members to engage in estate planning.
8. The Committee revised the SICB web pages for donations (<https://burkclients.com/sicb/sicbcart/donations.php>) showing more clearly the named funds and their purposes.
9. The Committee previously set up an “on-demand” virtual store for SICB apparel with the Queensboro Shirt Company and this continues. There is no up-front cost to the Society and 15% of all sales go to support the Mangum and the GIAR/FGST funds. The url for the store is: <https://sicbstore.qbstores.com/>. Alternatively, go to the SICB website (www.SICB.org) and click on “SICB Apparel” on the right side of the menu tab below the banner.

Fund Name	Target	Current Balance	Available for use in FY2020
George A. Bartholomew Fund	\$217,143	\$195,330.27	\$6,352.59
Libbie H. Hyman Memorial Scholarship	\$200,000	\$163,641.50	\$4,654.90
Dwight Davis Fund	\$28,571	\$39,622.36	\$1,000.86
Wenner Strong Inference Award Fund		\$12,486.35	NA
GIAR & FGST	\$1,142,857	\$300,239.55	\$8,776.58
Charlotte Mangum Student Support Program	\$1,714,286	\$350,931.07	\$11,629.34
John A. Moore Fund	\$121,429	\$66,589.63	\$1,886.22
Dorothy M. Skinner Award Fund	\$40,000	\$30,196.47	\$889.04
Symposium Support Fund	\$685,714	\$159,477.77	\$4,955.71
Carl Gans Award	\$57,143	\$51,044.53	\$1,610.89
C. Ladd Prosser Symposium Fund	\$57,143	\$37,460.55	\$1,165.66
Howard Bern Fund	\$101,286	\$46,987.24	\$1,270.91
Total	\$4,365,571	\$1,454,007.29	\$44,192.69

Broadening Participation Committee Report January 2020

Rita Mehta, Chair

New this year:

BP Travel Awards for SICB 2019

Our travel applications increased in number this year. BP received 90 complete applications. The travel applications were due at the end of October and BP was able to award only 21 travel awards since we had not heard whether the Gans Charitable Fund would be providing us with a donation like they had been doing for the last two years. On November 23rd, I was on an email string that suggested Eva Gans was trying to reach out to provide us with funding. Thus, for the 3rd year in a row, the Gans Collections and Charitable Funds, Inc. supported our travel award program with \$10,500. This money supported another 21 students to bring us up to 42 awards for the 2020 meeting. Another round of Congratulations went to students on November 29th. All awards were for ~\$500 each. Therefore, the committee was able to support 42 of the 90 applicants for the BP travel award, including 16 undergrads, 3 MS, 15 PhDs, 5 Postdocs, 1 Faculty, and 2 Research Technicians (one career and one in between programs). Of the awardees 26 are Hispanic/Latino, 6 are Black/African American, 5 are Asian, 2 are Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander, 2 are American/Alaskan Indian. 31 of the awardees are female and 10 male. One awardee has a disability.

BP Meeting Mentor program

This year, organizing the mentorship program was not successful. The BP committee had the intention of expanding our Meeting Mentorship program. For this program, BP offers to match any interested SICB attendees with a mentor - an experienced SICB-goer that will attend at least 3 SICB events (e.g., poster sessions, socials) with their mentee, to help them navigate the meeting, expand their professional network, and offer general career advice. In recent years, BP surveyed participants in the previous year's program to fine-tune aspects of the mentorship program, asked meeting attendees to indicate their interest on the meeting registration form, and created an on-line matching survey to pair mentors and mentees. Something went very wrong with this year's on line matching survey. Unfortunately, we had only 10 registrants fill out the matching survey. Roughly 150 registrants just checked a box during their registration stating that they would like to participate in the program. Therefore, we matched the 10 people for whom we had complete information and we tried to use responses from the previous year's surveys if people participated last year. Still, we were only able to match just under 50 registrants. The committee is having discussions about the process in order to ensure what happened this year does not happen in future years. We hope to have a formal document outlining the process for future BP committee chairs and members.

SICB 2020 meeting activities:

The BP committee will welcome travel award recipients at a BP Meet & Greet before the plenary lecture, from 6:30-7:30 PM on Friday January 3rd, Room 401.

Sat Jan 4: 7:00 – 9:00 PM, Rooms 301-302

Broadening Participation Movie and Workshop: "Can We Talk? Difficult Conversations with Underrepresented People of Color: Sense of Belonging and Obstacles to STEM Fields" with Professor Kendall Moore. There will be a discussion of the movie afterwards which is limited to about 50 people.

Sun Jan 5: Noon – 1:30 PM, Room 409, Broadening Participation Comm Meeting.

Agenda is available upon request.

Mon Jan 6: 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM, Room 401 (with food setup outside), Broadening Participation Social. At the social our travel award recipients will be honored. All SICB members are welcome to attend and help celebrate the accomplishments of the BP travel award recipients.

We have a full agenda for the BP committee meeting. One item on the agenda is discussion about meeting plans for 2021. Specifically, we will talk about outreach/meeting advertisement to local, minority-serving institutions a few months before abstract are due. At the suggestion of Nick Burnett in 2018, under the Chair Stacey Combs, the BP committee produced an outreach flyer targeting students at minority-serving institutions in Florida, to advertise the benefits of attending the meeting and the affordable one-day registration rates. Flyers were sent to chairs, deans or program directors of the biology and natural sciences departments of 14 schools, including 4 Historically Black Colleges/Universities and 10 Hispanic-Serving Institutions. We did not do this for Austin but would like to pursue this for Washington DC. Stacey Farina reached out about helping to make this happen for 2021 and we hope to collaborate with her.

Annual Report of the DAB 2020

Chair: Kendra Sewall 1/2019 – 1/ 2022

Secretary: Erica Westerman 1/2018 – 1/2021

Program Officer: Scott MacDougall-Shackleton 1/2017 – 1/2020

Student/Postdoc Rep: Sydney Hope 1/2018-1/2021

Division Posts: A huge thank you to Scott MacDougall-Shackleton who has helped lead our division and will be rotating off as Program Officer. He will be replaced by Kathleen Lynch.

Meeting Statistics

At the 2019 Tampa meeting, the DAB co-sponsored 4 symposia and this year (2020) will sponsor 6 symposia. Additionally, for 2020 nearly 400 abstracts for talks and posters were related to animal behavior.

The DAB is piloting a mentoring program this year in which mentors and mentees were matched before the meeting and will meet in person during the DAB social or a poster session. A total of 61 people signed up to participate.

Next Business Meeting

Our DAB Business Meeting for the 2020 Austin meeting will be held on January 4, at 5:45 pm in Lone Star E. At the business meeting, we will announce the winners of the Oral BSP competition. We will host a joint DAB/DCE/DEDE//DNNSB social at the South-East Lobby January 5th from 8-10 pm.

Submitted by Kendra Sewall, Scott MacDougall-Shackleton, Erica Westerman, Sydney Hope.

2019 Report to the SICB Executive Committee

Division of Botany

At SICB 2019, Beth Brainerd led a Special Focus Meeting on Organismal Botany during which plans for a new Division of Botany were formalized. Attendees signed on as the first 25 “Founding Members.” Janet Steven volunteered as Program Chair; Chris Muir volunteered as Secretary. Seeing as no one volunteered as “Founding Chair” of the division, names of potential individuals were taken from the floor.

Morgan Furze reached out to Chris Martine on January 6, followed by a formal invitation and appointment of Martine by President Brainerd in March. With a leadership group in place, the DOB was on the books!

Activities since inception:

- Morgan Furze named DOB’s inaugural representative to the SICB Student-Postdoctoral Affairs Committee (SPDAC).
- First divisional newsletter.
- Established DOB by-laws and election cycles, sought volunteer to serve on Nominating Committee
- Holding first DOB members meeting at SICB 2020.
- Second and final year of **Rising Star in Organismal Botany (RSOB)** award at SICB 2020 (8 individuals will present in the juried session this conference). Also will select Best Student Poster Award
- Co-sponsoring social event with five other divisions, including the Division of Ecology and Evolution and the Division of Phylogenetics and Comparative Biology.
- Morgan Furze organizing a “**Botany Bites**” opportunity for students and postdocs to interact with DOB faculty.
- Began gathering ideas for potential 2022 symposia
- Continuing to promote the Division via social media and recruit members (currently >60)

Submitted by Chris Martine, Bucknell University, 2 Jan 2020

SICB Division of Comparative Biology: 2019-2020 Annual Report
January 2020

Stacey Combes, Chair
John Long, Chair-elect
Sandy Kawano, Secretary
Phil Anderson, Program Officer
Brett Aiello, Student/Postdoc Representative

1. **Change in DCB bylaws** approved at Members Meeting in January 2019:
 - DCB Officers shall be elected by a **plurality vote** of members (rather than majority), to avoid inconclusive results when more than 2 candidates are running for an office.

2. **Elections & appointment of officers**
 - Spring 2019 elections - new **Program Officer Matt McHenry** and new **Secretary Emily Kane**, with terms starting at end of this meeting
 - New **Student/Postdoc Representative Armita Manafzadeh** appointed by current DCB officers, with term starting at end of this meeting
 - Upcoming Spring 2020 election for new Chair-elect: Nominating committee has been formed that includes Marianne Porter (chair), Eric Tytell, and Andrew Clark

3. **DCB Best Student Paper (BSP) Talk/Poster Awards**
 - 2019 winners:
 - Winner of The Mimi A. R. Koehl and Stephen A. Wainwright Award for the Best Student Talk in Biomechanics: **Laura Matloff, Stanford University**, “Feathers of a bird stick together: underactuation and directional adhesion in avian wing morphing.”
 - Winner of The Steven Vogel Award for the Best Student Poster in Biomechanics: **Olga Shishkov, Georgia Institute of Technology**, “Feeding Fly Larvae Form a Fountain.”
 - 2020 finalists for Jan 4th BSP sessions:
 - Finalists for the Mimi A. R. Koehl and Stephen A. Wainwright Award (talks) include Rachel Crane (Stanford Univ.), Jacob Harrison (Duke Univ.), Corrine Jacobs (Tel Aviv Univ.), Armita Manafzadeh (Brown Univ.), Shirel Kahane-Rapport (Stanford Univ.), and David Sleboda (Brown Univ.)
 - Finalists for the Steven Vogel Award (posters) include Andrea Attipoe (Imperial College London), Katherine Galloway (Florida Atlantic Univ.), Frederik Puffel (Imperial College London), Karisa Quimby (William Paterson Univ.), Wael Salem (Pennsylvania State Univ.), and Samantha Smith (Univ. of Texas Austin)

4. **Regional meetings & workshops partially supported by DCB:**
 - Southeast regional SICB meeting Oct 26th (2019) at Wake Forest University
 - Northeast regional SICB meeting Nov 2nd (2019) at Boston College
 - Workshop on Spatiotemporal Dynamics in Communication at 2020 SICB meeting (linked to symposium at 2021 meeting)

5. **Carl Gans award** - for outstanding young investigator *and/or* significant contribution to the literature of comparative biomechanics
 - 2020 award winner – **Alyssa Stark, Villanova University** (young investigator)
 - Received 3 applications for young investigator (2 female, 1 male) and 1 for literature contribution (male)
 - Award to be presented and *new mini-plenary talk* (30-min talk) to be delivered by Gans Award winner at end of DCB BSP student talk session on Jan 4th
 - At 2020 Members' Meeting - Plan to discuss with DCB members how we can best elevate the visibility and status of the Gans award, given that an hour-long evening plenary is not feasible

6. **Changes in DCB/DVM Social to provide a more inclusive environment**
 - In recent years, social has been held off-site and has centered around music/dancing at a bar or club.
 - Issues have arisen with security/safety of our members at these events, difficulty in finding large enough venues (DCB + DVM ≈ 20% of SICB members) given our limited budgets, difficulty providing quieter spaces for conversation
 - DCB officers have discussed how we may be underserving a significant portion of our membership with socials focused solely on music/dancing, e.g.:
 - Members who would like to hold conversations focused on science
 - Newer SICB members who would like the opportunity to meet more frequent or senior SICB attendees they do not know
 - DCB members who do not care for dancing and/or drinking alcohol
 - This year: DCB/DVM social will be held on-site on Monday 1/6, 9 PM – midnight in the South-East lobbies of Marriot
 - Consists of 2 separate spaces – music for dancing will be played in larger space, smaller space will be kept quieter for conversation
 - At 2020 Members' Meeting - Plan to discuss with DCB members what members would most like to see in the social going forward – e.g., on-site vs. off-site, music/dancing vs. conversation, organized networking activities, etc.

7. **Biomechanics Early Career (BEC) Fellows Program**
 - Program description:
 - 3-year trial peer mentoring circle program funded as Broader Impacts of an NSF grant to Andrew Mountcastle & Stacey Combes
 - Focuses on increasing retention of women at higher career levels in biomechanics by providing strong peer mentoring relationships through critical transitions (grad student to post-doc and post-doc to junior faculty)
 - Same group of 5 fellows will remain in the program for 3 years
 - Includes monthly Skype meetings among all participants (5 fellows, Andrew & Stacey) to discuss topics, provide feedback and support on issues
 - Provides funding for all 5 fellows to attend SICB for 3 years
 - Plan to hold a panel/roundtable at SICB during final year where fellows will share their experiences with peer mentoring circle
 - Put out a call for applications in late summer of 2019

- Received 67(!) applications from female biomechanists in the U.S. & Europe
- Interviewed 13 applicants by Skype
- BEC Fellows selected for 2019-2022:
 - a. **Alexus Roberts** (grad student – U.C. Davis, Wainwright Lab)
 - b. **Rachel Crane** (grad student – Stanford, Denny Lab)
 - c. **Samantha Leigh** (post-doc – Cal State Fullerton, Paig-Tran Lab)
 - d. **Carolyn Eng** (post-doc – Yale, Venkadesan Lab)
 - e. **Crystal Reynaga** (post-doc – Duke Univ, Patek Lab; starting as Assistant Professor at Bryn Mawr in Fall 2020)

DCE Annual Report, 2018
C. Loren Buck, Chair of DCE
Loren.Buck@NAU.edu

Symposia

While we have a great suite of talks and posters for 2020, the number of abstract submissions for DCE are slightly down this year. The DCE officers are meeting to discuss how to increase participation in DCE. Additionally, we set up seven oral sessions spread across the four days of the conference:

Aubrey Gorbman Best Student Oral Competition (7 talks)

Reproductive Development: Hormonally Speaking (7 talks)

Growth Factors & Neuropeptides (6 talks)

Comparative Endocrinology (6 talks)

S.T.R.E.S.S. 1 (7 talks)

S.T.R.E.S.S. 2 (7 talks)

How Hormones Make Animals Do What They Do (7 talks)

Celebrating the Scientific Contributions of Rosemary Knapp: Hormone and Alternate Reproductive Tactics (14 talks across 2 sessions)

DCE is co-sponsoring five symposia this year.

1) Epigenetic Variation in Endocrine Systems

Organizers: Tyler Stevenson, Lynn Martin, Haley Hanson

Sponsors: DAB, DCE, DCPB, DEDB, DEDE, DNNSB

2) SICB Wide Symposium: Reproduction: the female perspective from an integrative and comparative framework

Organizers: Virginia Hayssen, Teri Orr

Sponsors: DAB, DCE, DCPB, DEDB, DEE, DEDE, DNNSB, DPCB, DVM, AMS

3) SICB Wide Symposium: Building Bridges from Genome to Phenome: Molecules, Methods and Models

Organizers: Karen Burnett, Jonathon Stillman, Donald Mykles, David Durica

Sponsors: DCE, DCPB, DEDB, DEDE, DEE, DIZ, DPCB, AMS, TCS

DCE has committed to co-sponsorship of 4 of the 12 symposia slated for the 2021 Washington D.C..

Howard A. Bern Lecture

This year's Howard A. Bern Lecturer is Dr. George Bentley, a well-respected comparative endocrinologist SICB-DCE member.

2020 SICB Social event

We have scheduled our DCE Social in concert with DAB, DNNSB and DEDE for 8:00 pm Sunday, January 5th.

Lunch with a Comparative Endocrinologist

For the 2020 meeting, we have organized Lunch with a Comparative Endocrinologist where groups of students are matched with a comparative endocrinologist for a networking lunch. This is a great opportunity for students and researchers to interface.

Data Blitz

We have organized a datablitz event on twitter and Facebook. Students have prepared short videos (3 min max) explaining their research findings. These presentations will be tweeted and posted on Facebook during SICB. This platform promises to advertise student presentations in a fun and progressive way.

Student Awards

We are continuing the tradition of hosting the Lynn Riddiford Award competition for Best Student Poster Presentation which is open to all student applicants and the Aubrey Gorbman DCE Best Student Oral Award.

Special Session

We also have organized a special session entitled Celebrating the Scientific Contributions of Rosemary Knapp: Hormone and Alternate Reproductive Tactics, with 14 talks across two sessions, all honoring the memory of Rosemary and her amazing work. We will miss her and her devotion to our Division! In addition to these nine oral sessions, we have an exciting selection of 44 poster presentations, distributed across the three poster sessions the first three days of the conference.

Committee Positions

This is Loren Buck's last meeting as Chair and Kathleen Hunt will take over Chair and Rachel Bowden as Chair-elect at the culmination of the 2020Austin meeting. Timothy Grieves is our Secretary, Brian Walker is our Program Officer serving along with Officer-Elect Sara O'Brien. Our Student/Postdoc Representative is Carla Mandelaire.