

Minutes of the DCPB BUSINESS MEETING, JAN 4, 2007, Phoenix.

Pat Walsh (Chair) called the meeting to order by introducing the DCPB Executive Committee plus Nora Terwilliger and Lou Burnett, mentioning that Joanna Joyner Matos was not in attendance since she was at home taking care of her new baby (congrats Joanna!). Pat then presented the minutes from the DCPB Business meeting in Orlando, January 2006. The minutes were approved unanimously. Following this, the fact that a new Secretary will be elected for 2008-2009 was discussed, and the nominating committee for that election is headed by Donna Wolcott and two other people. Candidates for the Secretary position are presented below.

SICB society officers Sally Woodin, Bret Burke, Ron Dimock, Linda Walters and John Pearse stopped by to relate the following information and give the DCPB members an opportunity to ask questions.

1. SICB has initiated a new endowment fund to support foreign speakers, which hopefully will overcome difficulty in getting federal funding to support non-USA participants in meetings. Names for this fund are currently being accepted; one offered at the meeting was STIRR (Symposium Talks Inspire Research Revolution). [This Secretary thinks that SICB and DCPB members should be able to invent a more dynamic name.] Donations to the endowment fund are gladly accepted, and currently the fund is just over \$100K and earning 8% interest. Ideally, this endowment would be used to support 2-4 international speakers at the annual SICB meeting.
2. The SICB Journal Integrative and Comparative Biology is all caught up in publishing backlogged manuscripts (why we had such a thick issue at the end of the year). During 2007, the plan is to publish print versions in July through December to finish 2007 symposium papers in December.
3. Membership database analyses suggest that the retention of student and postdoc members is good. Although many people do not pay membership dues in successive years, over a seven year running average, those people remain in the membership database, suggesting that those members may pay dues and attend meetings intermittently. From the past 7 year period, three datasets have been generated: those individuals who have been members once, those individuals who were members for 2+ years but are not currently members, and those individuals who were members for 2+ years and are current members. Overall, membership is increasing, but analysis of long-term members is complicated by graduate students. Importantly for DCPB, membership status appearing on SICB website is currently undergoing some "construction" to fix some bugs.

Next, Bill Zamer from NSF stopped by the meeting to give DCPB some information about current things going on at NSF that would be relevant to DCPB members. Firstly, Bill said that he wants a better budget - currently things aren't looking good and as of the meeting, they did not have a final budget. Secondly, Bill announced organizational changes at IOB that are pending final clearance. (N.B., by the time that you read this newsletter, the below changes should have already been implemented at NSF) In February 2007, IOB will change to IOS (Integrative Organismal Systems) and there will be a new cluster: PSS (Physiological and Structural Systems). No panels for PSS have been developed yet, but panels will be established based on proposals received and this will be done with as much flexibility as required. These changes at NSF are new, so there are no real data on how this will impact proposal submission and/or review. For January 2007 submissions, clusters will be as they have previously been, but proposals will be reviewed in newly developed panels. Finally, Bill announced that Jim Collins (Assistant Director For Biological Sciences at NSF) will talk later in the evening about NSF BIO Directorate directions and changes, and on Saturday at Noon, Bill and others will talk about changes at NSF and funding opportunities that DCPB members are under-targeting. Jim's talk can be seen here: <http://www.sicb.org/meetings/2007/jcollins/>

The 2007 Bartholomew Award Winner was then announced: Dr. Douglas Altshuler. Congrats Doug! If you missed Doug's presentation, you missed a great integration across physiology and behavior and a great educational opportunity to learn about work-force loops. Nominations for the 2008 Bartholomew Award are due late in the summer (see below).

Lou Burnett then gave his report at the representative for the International Congress for Comparative Physiology and Biochemistry (ICCPB) and the International Union of Physiological Sciences (IUPS). Lou's message is above, so I won't repeat what he has written here. The next ICCPB is in Salvador Bahia Brazil, August 12-16 2007. The meeting website and registration information is just starting to come online, but is not yet fully functional. E-mail notification will occur when the website is fully functional. As the 2006 DCPB Spring Newsletter included a comprehensive list of DCPB sponsored events, I will not repeat those here, but please see that newsletter for information (LINK). Malcolm Gordon is the APS representative to the ICCPB, and DCPB will likely have a small amount of financial support available to defray costs of attending the ICCPB in Brazil. **Of great importance**, Lou is ready to find his successor as ICCPB representative. This individual would be required to travel to the next IUPS congress in Kyoto Japan (see below) where the next ICCPB will be planned. If you are interested in succeeding Lou, please contact Pat Walsh or any other member of the DCPB Executive Committee.

Malcolm Gordon then presented as the APS representative to the 36th IUPS congress to be held in Kyoto, Japan in August 2009. This is not to be confused with the next ICCPB to be held also in Kyoto, Japan in August 2011. (So, you have two chances to go to Kyoto!). The second brochure for the IUPS meeting has just come out and there is still time to prepare symposia for the meeting. Go to <http://www.iups2009.com> for information and copies of the brochure for the meeting. Planning for the next ICCPB (2011) will happen at the 2009 IUPS meeting

Kim Hammonds then reported on DCPB symposia planned for the 2008 SICB meeting in San Antonio. Sadly, there aren't any. However, there is a PharmEcology symposium planned for the meeting that is DCPB related. There is a need for greater DCPB participation in planning symposia, and our new program director, Don Mykles is eager to hear from you if you have ideas for symposia. Funding is a real issue for getting participants for symposia. SICB can offer about ~\$500/symposium, but other sources of funding (e.g., NSF, industry, foundations) should be considered. Wear your ingenuity cap!

Although any chance for submitting a symposium for San Antonio has passed, Don Mykles suggested that DCPB could organize contributed paper sessions that focus on a particular common theme. This could increase visibility of the contributed paper session giving it a symposium-esque quality. Pat Walsh also discussed how symposium planning has a long lead time - historically this has been so that funding to support the symposium could be obtained. However, a long lead time can diminish the immediate nature of some work (i.e., what is hot right now), and SICB is working to develop a quick mini-symposium format that would involve submission of proposals in July and organization for that year's meeting during the fall Program Officer's meeting. Start thinking about what symposia you'd like to plan for Boston 2009!

Last year, DCPB members voted to approve by-law changes to assess a \$5 dues fee (recall, 1 Disney) to help commit funds to international meetings, especially for un- or under-funded students and postdocs to get to those conferences. About \$2,000-\$2,500 will be collected each year. The DCPB Executive Committee would decide on year-to-year use of the funds at the annual SICB meeting. Funds may be rolled over to the next year and accumulated if upcoming meetings (e.g., ICCPB or IUPS) would warrant saving up the funds.

A special thanks to Dave Tapley for organizing the judging of student presentations and to Don Lovett for providing forms and on-site logistics at the meeting. This year's "in memorium" award will be the "Peter Hochachka" award, which comes with a \$100 cash prize and a 1 year SICB membership, as well as a copy of the obituary of Peter written by George Somero. Next year's award will be in memorium of Bob Terwilliger.

Finally, Jon Harrison announced that the 2007 APS Experimental Biology meeting in Washington DC (late April) will have a "Physiology InFocus" section on experimental evolution (<http://www.the-aps.org/meetings/eb07/abs/pif-rose.htm>). Early career scientists are encouraged to apply for awards (<http://www.the-aps.org/meetings/eb07/awards/comparative.htm>) if they present at the meeting. To date, only one application has been received for both the research and young faculty awards!

Editorial Reports:

Comparative Biochemistry and Physiology: Pat Walsh

The January 2007 issue has a list of referees. The new Editorial Express MS online tracking system is fully functional and has streamlined the MS Flow process greatly. CBP is now fully electronic. Special issues are in the works, and Göran Nilsson is the new editor of special issues and review articles. There will be 9 new editorial board members (7 of which are female) invited for 2007. The new part D has four issues in 2006, and will be listed in ISI for citation tracking after 2007 (2 years of data are required for calculation of impact factor). After the mandatory 1-year waiting period, it will be listed in Pubmed beginning in 2007. CBP has second pickings for SICB symposia (after ICB).

Here are official statistics for CBP:

CBP's impact factor is steady at approximately 1.5 for Parts A, B, and C.

CBP (parts A-D) received 1148 manuscripts received in 2006. 119 of these were rejected after review, 260 were desk-rejected, 11 were withdrawn, 348 are pending, and 418 are already accepted. Conservatively assuming that about 30% of pending manuscripts are going to be rejected, this would put another 104 manuscripts into the 'rejected column' and make the total rejected 494 for a total rejection rate of: 43% (acceptance rate 57%).

Between July 2005 and June 2006 we had 1296 willing reviewers who supplied a total of 2955 reports (an average of 2.28 reports per manuscript).

Physiological and Biochemical Zoology: Jim Hicks

Jim presented a nice powerpoint of the evolution of PBZ covers. The biggest change is that PBZ now has photographs of animals in their natural setting on the cover. Got a great animal pic from your latest field trip? Send it in and see it in print (high-quality photos required, so no cell phone pics, please).

In 2006, 182 manuscripts were submitted required 116 editorial decisions. 60% of those manuscripts were from international authors. 159 research papers. 70% rejection rate currently, but about 60% is generally expected. 60% of the rejections are without review. The average # of days to reach a final decision is 70, and an online review system is upcoming.

PBZs impact factor in 2005 is ~2.2. This increase in impact factor is directly related to an increase in the number of papers submitted.

A new section, "PBZ in the news" has been launched, where the Univ. of Chicago press will publicize both the journal and media-appealing scientific content to media outlets (e.g., NPR, National Geographic news, Science, Nature). As a consequence of increased press attention, the Univ. of Chicago press has decided to redesign the PBZ website, and changes are forthcoming.

2007 marks the 80th anniversary of PBZ, and to commemorate this, the top 80 most cited papers of all 80 years of the journal will be made available online during 2007. A special issue during 2007 will be on experimental evolution. Open access may reach PBZ, and if that happens costs of \$2-3K will be passed along to authors, a cost that many of us do not wish to bear, but that would be necessary if subscription revenues disappear.

The meeting convened at 5:16 PM and adjourned at 6:13 PM.