

## **Minutes of the 2015 DCPB Divisional Business Meeting (West Palm Beach, Florida)**

The business meeting of the Division of Comparative Physiology and Biochemistry (DCPB) was held on 4 January 2014 at the Convention Center in West Palm Beach, Florida. Division Chair Stephen Secor called the meeting to order at 5:45 PM. Stephen introduced past chair Don Mykles, Chair-elect Inna Sokolova, Program Officer Jonathon Stillman, incoming Program Officer Jason Podrabsky, Secretary Deborah Lutterschmidt, and Student/Postdoctoral Affairs Committee Representative Natalie Pitts. The minutes of the 2014 DCPB business meeting in Austin, TX, were approved by assent of those members present. Stephen announced that the finances of both the Society and of the Division are very good, and acknowledged Burk & Associates, Inc. for their important role in this positive standing.

The SICB executive committee joined the divisional business meeting at approximately 5:50 PM; committee members Billie Swalla, Sherry Tamone, Karen Martin, Peter Wainwright, Kathy Dickson, Ken Sebens, Lou Burnett, and Brett Burk were present. The Executive Committee encouraged members to attend the Society-wide Business Meeting on Tuesday, 6 Jan. Overall the Society is doing very well, the endowments are doing well, and the Society's finances are in the black for the second year. The Society's Journal, Integrative and Comparative Biology (ICB), will have a new editor beginning January 2016: Lynn (Marty) Martin, currently Chair of the DEDE. The meeting was then turned back over to the DCPB.

Program Officer Jonathon Stillman provided a report on the West Palm Beach meeting. The DCPB was strongly represented at the meeting, which included 1508 abstracts presented, 111 talks spread throughout 12 symposia, and 611 posters. Sixty percent of the meeting registrants were students or postdocs. One concerning aspect of this year's meeting was the relatively large number of cancellations – a total of 54 presentations, 40 of which were cancelled before 1 Dec. Jonathon discussed the large impact of such cancellations on the overall meeting program, and asked DCPB members to strongly discourage people from cancelling presentations in the future.

A total of 12 symposia are planned for the upcoming SICB meeting in Portland, OR, in Jan 2016. The DCPB has sponsored 5 of these symposia, including: Life on the edge: the biology of organisms inhabiting extreme environments (Organizer: Annie Lindgren); Extraocular, nonvisual, and simple photoreceptors (Organizers: Thomas Cronin and Sonke Johnsen); Integrative and comparative biology of venom (Organizers: Marymegan Daly and Lisle Gibbs); Tapping the Power of Crustacean Transcriptomes to Address Grand Challenges in Comparative Biology (Organizers: Donald Mykles, Karen Burnett, David Durica, and Jonathon Stillman); and Beyond the mean: Biological impacts of changing patterns of temperature variation (Organizers: Michael Dillon, Michael Sears, and Art Woods). The DCPB provided a total of \$400 in support to each sponsored symposium. Jonathon introduced the incoming Program Officer Jason Podrabsky and suggested that any questions about the Portland 2016 meeting be directed to Jason.

Program Officer Jonathon Stillman also broached the subject of the timing of the annual meeting. Many reasons were discussed that make the timing of the meeting difficult, including weather-related travel issues, overlap with busy holidays, cost of travel during the holidays, conflicting family obligations, overlap with the NSF's preproposal deadlines, and the difficulty in mentoring students on research presentations during the holidays. The DCPB wants the SICB meeting to be the primary meeting that its members attend. Chair Stephen Secor stated that this issue was also raised at the Chairs meeting. One advantage to keeping the current early Jan timing of the annual meeting is that housing is

approximately half the cost during this time of year compared to other times of year. In addition, the meeting has grown to more than 2000 attendees, and so locales that can accommodate a meeting of this size are limited. Jonathon asked that members contact Peter Wainwright, the SICB President, if they have opinions about when a better meeting time might be.

Secretary Deborah Lutterschmidt then provided an update regarding general DCPB business and the upcoming officer elections. Deborah alerted members that the minutes of the 2015 DCPB Business meeting in West Palm Beach, FL, would be published with the spring 2015 newsletter in late March. The results of the spring elections were then announced. Jason Podrabsky from Portland State University will serve as the new Program Officer from Jan 2015-2017. Inn Sokolova from the University of North Carolina, Charlotte, will serve as the Chair-elect from Jan 2015-2016, followed by a two-year term as Chair from Jan 2016-2018 and a two-year term as Past Chair. Deborah noted that voting turn out was very low last year, and urged DCPB members to vote in the upcoming elections for a Division Secretary who will succeed Deborah at the end of the Jan 2016 meeting in Portland. Lastly, Deborah reminded DCPB members that the Researcher Database is a great tool for showcasing the research of the DCPB, and urged members to submit a picture and brief research description to increase the size and usefulness of the Database.

Natalie Pitts, the Student/Postdoctoral Affairs Committee Representative, then provided an update regarding the resources provided at the West Palm Beach meeting. In addition to a Facebook page and Twitter account to develop a better sense of community among grad students and postdocs, the Student and Postdoctoral Affairs Committee organized a small-group workshop entitled "How to Write Fundable Grants" that included the participation of NSF Program Officers as well as professors. The topic of the workshop at the 2016 Portland meeting will be "how to transition between different stages of your academic career." Natalie asked that DCPB members consider getting involved to provide faculty support for these important workshops. If members have ideas or suggestions for workshops please contact Natalie or Sean Lema, Chair of the Student/Postdoctoral Affairs Committee.

Anna Jimenez, the new DCPB Student Presentation Judging Coordinator, stated that 73 posters and talks were entered into the best student presentation competitions. Only 30 judges were available to evaluate these presentations, and Anna urged DCPB members to consider volunteering to serve as a judge. This led to a discussion of whether to modify the way the best student presentation awards are handled for the Division. One option discussed was moving to the mechanism that many other SICB Divisions are now using: requiring the submission of an extended abstract to enter the competition. Some related issues about the way the SICB registration is organized were discussed. For example, students currently need only check a box during registration to enter the competition. It was also brought to the attention of the DCPB that, for someone new to SICB, the organization of the Society into different divisions is not immediately clear, and the acronyms make the registration pages, etc., difficult to navigate. It was suggested that the Division acronyms be spelled out on the registration page so that new members know what divisions they are choosing to affiliate their research with.

The journal report from Comparative Biochemistry and Physiology was provided by Chair Stephen Secor. The journal report from Physiological and Biochemical Zoology was provided by Tim Higham, Co-Editor. Both reports are appended to the end of these meeting minutes.

An update was provided about the Bartholomew Award by Sheila Patek, Chair of the Bartholomew Award Selection Committee. Sheila thanked the members of the selection committee Robert Cox, Marty Martin, Adam Summers, and Alison Sweeney for their

assistance with a really competitive applicant pool. After extending the deadline and sending out list-serve emails to recruit additional applicants, a total of 12 highly competitive submissions were reviewed for the award. Program Officer Jonathon Stillman inquired as to whether the selection committee considers if nominees are involved in the Society. Sheila responded that it varies with the composition of the selection committee. The committee usually considers a balance between "honoring our own" and "bringing new great science to SICB." One suggestion for maintaining the participation of Bartholomew Award recipients in future meetings was to incentivize meeting attendance by subsidizing meeting registration for some number of future meetings.

The last item discussed was revisiting the idea of modifying the format of the Best Student Presentation Competitions. At 73 student entries, the DCPB probably had more presentations to evaluate than all of the other Divisions combined. The pros and cons of requiring an extended abstract and bringing all talks into 1 common session were discussed. Two cited benefits of an extended abstract format were that the selection of student candidates as "finalists" in the Division competition would then actually mean something in terms of bolstering CVs, and secondly that the student competition sessions in SICB's other Divisions are very well attended, which would improve students' perception of "belonging" to the Division.

Members were reminded to attend the Bartholomew Award Lecture later the same evening, given by Dr. Jodie Rummer of the ARC Centre of Excellence for Coral Reef Studies at James Cook University. Chair Stephen Secor adjourned the meeting at approximately 6:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted by  
Deborah Lutterschmidt, DCPB Secretary.

## **Report from the Editors of Comparative Biochemistry and Physiology - 2014**

December 22, 2014

Comp Biochem Physiol report to the Div. of Comp. Physiol. and Biochem. (SICB)

As we reported at last year's meeting, Tom Mommsen and Pat Walsh stepped down as Co-Editors of CBP, although Pat continued to serve as EIC of Part D until December 1, 2014. The current EIC's for the four parts of CBP are Mike Hedrick (California State University, East Bay; Part A), Chris Moyes (Queen's Univ., Part B), Martin Grosell (Univ. of Miami; Part C) and recently Matt Rise (Memorial Univ. Newfoundland, Part D) who has replaced Pat as EIC for Part D. The four parts will remain closely linked 'sister journals' and continue to share a single submission system and common referee database. The four EICs also communicate often to ensure that submissions reach the correct journal and editorial team. The editorial office also moved to Queen's University with a new Managing Editor, Marlene Kraml. Chris Moyes, in addition to his role of EIC for Part B, is also 'Coordinating Editor' to ensure coordination of all four parts of CBP.

In addition to changes in EICs over the past year, there have been new additions to the Associate Editors and Editorial Board. New Associate Editors for the coming year include Gary Anderson (Univ. of Manitoba), Frank Seebacher (Univ. of Sydney) and Chris Martyniuk (Univ. of New Brunswick). We have a team of 11 AEs, each mostly identified with a particular part of CBP. The EICs will rely heavily on the AEs to review manuscripts, provide reviewer suggestions and serve as 'tie-breakers' in the case of disparate reviews for a manuscript. We also ask the AEs to assume some of the functions of the former Reviews Editor (this position was eliminated after Goren Nilsson left the journal last year) to solicit review articles and special issues.

We have maintained our connections with our sponsoring societies, including SICB. For example, the journal recently provided support for symposia at the recent comparative intersociety meeting of the American Physiological Society held in San Diego. The journal will publish several review articles in 2015 that emerged from those symposia. We believe that the current slate of Editors, Associate Editors and Editorial Board members continues to reflect this constituency with members from all societies and geographical regions they represent. If DCPB feels that we have underrepresented the SICB, please let us know. Now that the editorial transition is complete, we will continue to make changes in the operation of the journal and would welcome any feedback from the SICB. We feel that the editorial transition has been a smooth one and will continue to provide high quality reviewing, journal standards and rapid turnaround times.

Submissions to the journal remain steady. Last year at this time, we had 1700 submissions compared with 1689 submissions this year for the same time period (Jan 1 to Dec. 22). The 1-year and 5-year Impact Factors are all over 2.0 and have increased over the past couple of years. Overall, we feel the journal is in good shape going forward with the new Editorial team.

With best wishes,  
Mike, Chris, Martin and Matt

2 January 2014

## **Report from the Editor of Physiological and Biochemical Zoology (PBZ) for 2014**

This marks my first report as Editor in Chief of PBZ, as I began my editorial term on July 1, 2014, following the 5-year editorship of Kathleen Gilmour and Patricia Schulte. The Managing Editor, Andrea Canfield, is continuing in her position, due to popular demand. The numbers in this report reflect some months under each editorial team, and an always-tricky transition from one editor to another.

Our editorial team has implemented several changes for PBZ. First, we are now considering new categories of articles, including Brief Communications, Comments on Published Papers, Education and Outreach, and Book Reviews, alongside the existing categories of Research Papers, Invited Perspectives, Reviews, Technical Comments, and occasional In Memoriam articles for distinguished scholars. Second, we are attempting to increase content in such areas as behavioral endocrinology, biomechanics, functional morphology, and genetics -- so long as they retain a strong ecological or evolutionary focus.

PBZ's administrative process has also changed, with the addition of a new role: a Handling Editor for each paper will nominate potential reviewers and make an editorial recommendation based on the reviews, though all final decisions will be made by the Editor in Chief. Handling Editors can be suggested by authors, but will remain anonymous. The Handling Editor role reduces the workload for any one PBZ editor, while providing each paper an additional expert evaluation. For any paper to be rejected without review, two members of the editorial team must concur that the paper should be released from consideration.

In 2014, PBZ received a total of 181 new submissions (up from 163 in 2013) from countries around the world: 44% from North America, 27% from Europe, and remaining submissions from 16 other nations, headed up by China, Australia, South Africa, and India. In addition, during 2014, 131 revisions were submitted.

With the increased submissions and a renewed editorial focus on papers best suited to PBZ's specific niche (including a strong ecological, evolutionary or behavioral focus), the rejection rate has increased as well, to 73%. Of rejected papers, 51% were rejected without review.

The average time to provide a first decision for manuscripts is 44 days (N = 136). Average time with individual reviewers is 23 days (N = 257) (and the Editorial Office sent 612 reviewer reminders!). The average time to final decision is 85 days (N = 136), including time with authors during revisions; we are striving to reduce this number by reducing the time granted for revisions from 90 to 30 days.

The time between acceptance and online publication was 87 days (N = 77) for papers published in volume 87 (2014), an increase from 67 days in 2013. None of us view these numbers as acceptable, and accordingly our publisher, the University of Chicago Press, is making changes to their scheduling and typesetting process that should reduce these numbers for volume 88. Specifically, the team at UCP (Managing Editor Andrea Canfield, our Publisher Jenny Ringblom, Editorial Lead Devon, Operations Manager Ashley, and Production Controller Jeannie) are collaborating for a greatly improved time to publication – and this is a top priority. Beginning when the journal moved to UC Riverside in July, the Press implemented several new procedures (below) that will help PBZ papers move more swiftly through the publication process (which includes two

rounds of copyediting, layout and composition, XML conversion and tagging, DOI registration, ahead of print publication, and finally printing and distribution).

- 1) PBZ has been assigned an editorial lead (Assistant Chief Manuscript Editor, Devon Ritter) who is accountable to meet publication deadlines. What this means is that instead of PBZ papers being spread out amongst multiple manuscript editors and amongst multiple science journals' manuscripts, there will be a PBZ-only track running on its own schedule and with Devon wholly responsible. (Note that she is also incredibly reliable and driven.)
- 2) Four science group manuscript editors are fully versed in PBZ style, and a 5th is being trained now. More expertise = more staff to do the job and faster processing.
- 3) A perspective shift is underway: rather than looking at each issue "getting the issue completed on time," Editorial will now manage PBZ on a manuscript-driven timeline "getting each manuscript completed on time." This may sound insignificant, but it should make a difference.
- 4) PBZ's Publisher (Jenny) is responsible for overall PBZ content, quality, and schedule performance, and will be monitoring times to publication for every issue to make sure PBZ is meeting its marks.
- 5) In addition, UCP has transferred composition/typesetting to an external vendor as of the Nov/Dec 2014 issue (this will ultimately save time and allow for the manuscript editors to focus on their primary responsibility, editing).

Our JCR impact factor for 2013 was 2.456. (For comparison, Am J Physiol-Reg was 3.284, J Exp Biol was 3.236; Comp Biochem Physiol-A was 2.167; J Comp Physiol-B was 2.024).

Papers from our current Focused Issue, on Developmental Physiology, are now available online, for the March/April 2015 issue. We will be taking a year off from Focused Issues, but your suggestions for future topics are always appreciated.

I have negotiated a higher page count for PBZ, adding an additional paper to each issue. I also plan to increase PBZ's presence at meetings and conferences in the coming 5 years.

Publishing PBZ would not be possible without the hard work of a large number of people, and we would like to extend our particular thanks to the PBZ managing editor, Andrea Canfield, and the PBZ Coeditors Mark Chappell, Timothy Higham, and Wendy Saltzman. The 2014 Associate Editors Jon Harrison, Stephen Secor, and Irene Tieleman were instrumental in evaluating manuscripts. As Irene Tieleman retires from Associate Editorship in 2015, we welcome new Associate Editors Daniel Crocker, Thomas P. Hahn, Brent Sinclair, and Joseph B. Williams. Additional thanks to members of the editorial board, which has had many additions in 2014. We very much appreciate the service of the 257 dedicated individuals who provided reviews for PBZ in 2014, of the 485 invited, with a hat tip to the 154 referees who returned reports on time.

Respectfully submitted,



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