

Minutes of the 2021 DCPB Divisional Member Meeting (held via Zoom)

The member meeting of the Division of Comparative Physiology and Biochemistry (DCPB) was held on January 14th, 2021, via a Zoom meeting through the Pathable virtual meeting platform. Division Chair Ken Welch started the meeting at 3:05pm EST, and began with a request to approve last year's minutes. Kim Hammond made a motion to approve; Bernard Rees seconded the motion. Members voted to approve the minutes from last year's divisional meeting.

The DCPB Executive Committee members introduced themselves. Ken Welch is the current chair and will serve as chair through the 2022 meeting, after which Jon Harrison will assume the role as DCPB chair. Kristi Montooth is our current program officer, and she put in an enormous amount of work for this virtual meeting; Mike Sears will begin as DCPB program officer at the end of February 2021. Heather Liwanag is the current secretary and will serve through the 2022 meeting; the election for the new DCPB secretary will take place this year. Andrea Rummel is the outgoing DCPB representative on the Student & Postdoctoral Affairs Committee (SPDAC); Maria Stager is the incoming DCPB representative for SPDAC. Thanks to Emily Ruhs for organizing this year's DCPB Best Student Paper competition, and thanks to past chair Kim Hammond for her service.

It was announced that the nominations committee did find candidates for this year's election for DCPB secretary. (More on this later.)

Congratulations to Roslyn Dakin, this year's winner of the BART award!

Best Student Paper Competition Discussion

Ken initiated a discussion of the Best Student Paper (BSP) Competition. We managed to get 4 quality reviews per presentation this year. Thanks to the folks who put in the time to judge! The poster competition had 6 entries, and the winner was Daniel Stanton (University of Florida), "Developing circadian clock reporter cell lines using a CRISPR gene editing knockin approach." The oral presentation had 13 entries, and there were several high-quality presentations. The oral BSP winner was Jordan Glass (Arizona State University), "Interactive effects of air temperature and density on flight physiology of honey bees."

We then discussed the fact that the other divisions had their BSP symposia at the beginning of the meeting, but the BSP presentations for DCPB were interspersed among the regular schedule. This resulted in less fanfare for our students and made it more difficult for the judges to interact with the students in a consistent way. Ken noted that there will likely be a virtual component to next year's meeting, and we should consider whether to have a consolidated BSP symposium. Jon noted that it would be easier to compare the presentations if they were all together. If we do decide to have a single symposium, we may need to implement a screening process to reduce the number of oral presentations because we cannot accommodate 13 talks in a single session.

We also discussed whether and how to name our BSP awards. We could decide upon a static name that remains the same into the future, or we could name the award after scientists on a rotating basis. The latter option provides more flexibility to celebrate the diversity of scientists in our division. We could celebrate recent retirees or folks who have recently passed away. It was suggested that we regularly solicit nominations at the member meeting and vote on a name during the election cycle. Kim noted that we have been naming the award annually, but it has been determined (often last-minute) by the division executive committee members. Several people noted that we could list nominees in the newsletter so the whole division could choose. Barbara Joos suggested that we consider the person's record as a mentor of students when deciding whom to nominate. Jon suggested that we ask the honoree to donate to support the students, but Kim and others noted that we should invite or encourage rather than asking for donations. Kristi noted that student awards are already supported by the journal, and we might instead encourage nominees to contribute to other SICB funds if they are so inclined. Posthumous nominees would not be able to make any financial contributions, and we cannot assume the financial status of others. George Glichrest, who recently passed, was suggested as a potential nominee.

We concluded the BSP discussion with the understanding that folks were generally in favor of having a dedicated BSP session at future meetings, and that we will try to codify a process for nominating and voting upon a rotating naming scheme for the BSP awards.

Discussion of Meeting Symposia

Kristi Montooth reminded us of the importance of symposia. They help to structure our annual meetings, provide folks with the ability to present across divisions of SICB, and contribute to the health of our journal. There have historically been large fluctuations in the number of symposium applications. The decision-making process for next year's symposia is a bit delayed this year, which means there is still time to apply for symposia. Younger members (postdocs and grad students) are encouraged to participate in the process of developing symposia, as they bring fresh ideas and new perspectives. Anyone interested in developing a symposium should contact the program officer early (at least a month before the deadline) for guidance. In particular, symposium developers are encouraged to think about including a diversity of presenters and a broad scope of research. Ulrike Muller suggested that folks think about which 12 people they'd like to bring together to talk about their research; then get feedback from your program officer on the speaker list before sending out invitations.

PBZ Update

Marshall McCue gave the annual report on PBZ (standing in for Stephen Secor). PBZ has an upcoming focused collection of papers: "Time out for survival: hibernation and daily torpor in field and lab studies." Marshall reminded us that PBZ also publishes review papers, methods papers, and education research papers. There were 2 additional submissions this year (143 total), and the acceptance rate was 13%, which is quite selective. (Acceptance rate was 29% in

2018.) Turnaround times increased in 2020, mostly due to extension requests from reviewers or author revisions, with a mean of 52 days to first decision. There is an inaugural position for a book review editor, and the journal is soliciting a wide range of titles that will resonate with our readership. PBZ's impact factor for 2019 was 2.25, which is a healthy number (up from 1.87 in 2018 and similar to 2.29 in 2019). PBZ is ranked 46th of 81 physiology journals and 22nd of 169 zoology journals. Marshall offered his congratulations to the top 5 most accessed papers.

SICB Executive Officer Updates

Beth Brainerd, current SICB president (through end of February) introduced president-elect Melina Hale. She expressed gratitude for the 180 people who volunteer their time for SICB in some capacity, and noted that we are always looking for more people to get involved.

Interested folks can fill out the SICB volunteer Google form:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1_JeSAr5TSW0wxEdRTS8D2FOCDaaOvzquVma-oP4o6pw/edit

Brett Burke, executive director, noted that 2021 was our biggest meeting ever, with people from 37 countries attending the meeting. This indicates that we are keeping engaged, with no loss of membership. Looking to the future, we need to carefully consider what virtual components to keep in an effort to increase our outreach (but still keeping costs manageable).

Secretary-elect Michele Johnson, who is succeeding Alice Gibb, noted that this year's elections will take place in April. All members of the society will be able to vote, including undergraduates, graduate students, and even high school students!

We have a new position: Communications Editor. Molly Jacobs will fulfill this role. The Communications Editor helps ensure communication between the divisions and SICB leadership.

There is a new website coming – watch for that!

Editor of ICB, Ulrike Muller, reminded us to keep those symposium ideas coming.

Lou Burnett is stepping down from 15 years of SICB service, and we are grateful for his contribution.

Jake Socha, the current program officer, did SO MUCH work to pull off this year's meeting, and we are so grateful. He noted that a hybrid meeting may be too expensive, and he is worried about increasing registration fees. **Feedback is needed in the attendee survey** to help guide decisions about what virtual components to include in future meetings.

Adam Summers is the editor of IOB, our new open access journal. It was indexed in PubMed in very little time!

NSF Updates

Kathy Dickson and Sharon Swartz delivered the NSF updates. They expressed thanks to all who serve as reviewers, panelists, and rotating program officers. They also expressed thanks to those who contributed to Reintegrating Biology. One new funding opportunity: Biology Integration Institutes. This is a new program taking the place of the Rules of Life track, funding integrative research in biology by assembling new teams of people to work on a critical question. **Note that NSF has a booth in the Exhibitor Hall with downloadable documents.** IOS has a new program: Imagine Functional Genomics. Note that some solicitations still do have deadlines, so check the RFP. There is a new NSF-wide program: Mid-career Advancement, supporting folks who have been Associate Professors for at least 3 years; target date for that program is February 1. It funds up to 6.5 months of salary so Assoc. Profs can acquire new skills to boost their careers midway. The NSF Informational Workshop is January 19th (<https://sicbannualmeeting.pathable.co/meetings/virtual/AXRaTi7RMB4GiK27y>). As always, please reach out to your program officers with inquiries about where your research best fits in the NSF funding opportunities.

DCPB Social

The DCPB social will take place through the wonder.me platform, which has different “tables” with themes. If you have ideas for themes or are interested in helping with the social, please contact Ken Welch. The date of the social will be determined by the end of the week.

Division Finances Update

There were no costs for the BART awardee, so the division finances are in good shape.

Nominations

The nominations committee is always looking for nominations for divisional officers. E-mail kimhammond@ucr.edu with ideas. We currently have two nominees for Secretary, but they may not accept the nomination.

Contact Ken Welch for nominations to name the Best Student Paper awards, with 2-3 sentences explaining why you think the person deserves that honor.

Marshall McCue moved to adjourn, and Kim Hammond seconded.

Respectfully submitted by
Heather Liwanag, DCPB Secretary