

**Minutes of the DIVISION OF COMPARATIVE ENDOCRINOLOGY BUSINESS MEETING, January 4, 2008, San Antonio, TX**

Introductions: Bob Denver introduced the new divisional officers: Stacia Sower, Chair; Steve Schoech, Program Officer, Mark Sheridan, President-elect, and Mary Mendonça, Secretary-Elect. Much thanks to Bob Denver for serving as Chair, Michael Romero as Program Officer, and Darrin Lerner as Post-doctoral/Graduate Student Representative.

Bob Denver gave a short presentation regarding the recent passing of Dick (Richard) Peters (1943-2007). Dr. Peters had recently retired from University of Alberta, Edmonton, Canada. He was a wonderful mentor and friend.

Bob announced that Sherry Tamone, Chair of the Student Support Committee needs volunteers to serve on this committee. If you are interested, please let Sherry know.

*Cathy Propper made several announcements:*

Minutes: Cathy called for the approval of the minutes from the 2007 business meeting. They were unanimously approved.

Cathy announced the results of the election during the past election cycle: Mark Sheridan will be President-elect and Mary Mendonça is Secretary-Elect. Also, Alexandra Class from Virginia Tech has volunteered to serve as the Graduate Student/Post-doctoral Representative.

There will be some minor changes to the Divisional by-laws Articles VI and XIV. Cathy presented the changes to the members for a quick overview (now available at: <http://sicb.org/about/bb1/>). Once these changes are approved by the Executive Committee, members will be notified by e-mail that the changes will be posted on the society website, and there should be an on-line discussion board for those interested in contributing (please see announcement below). Following discussion, we will be asked to vote on these changes.

Several announcements were made regarding SICB's webpage. First, Louis Burnett, the SICB Secretary, has developed a calendar for SICB with a number of important deadlines. This calendar is available on the SICB web site under Resources. The specific link is <http://www.sicb.org/resources/calendar.php3>. Please have a look.

There is a researchers' database also available. We request that you submit to me (Cathy Propper) a short title of your work, a short description, any pictures and links to your website(s). I will forward them onto the Webmaster for publication in our database.

Also for future Newsletters, please feel free to submit any pictures from the meetings, awards, meeting announcements or other general information important to the DCE membership.

The SICB Business meeting will be on Jan. 5 at 5:15 pm in the Convention Center.

Much thanks to David Borst for putting together the list of past officers of DCE. Lou Burnett is pulling this information together for all divisions and it is available at the SICB website <http://www.sicb.org/resources/electioncandidates.php3>.

Dave Borst (Chair), Creagh Breuner and Thane Wibbels were also in charge of the nominating committee for the up-coming election for Program Officer Elect. Please vote!

Jobs and positions can be announced on the SICB website by sending the information on through the Webmaster link. Please check and let Cathy know if they have not been posted within a couple of days.

Several upcoming conferences are now listed on the DCE webpage, please go there to see those that were announced at the meeting. Also, Malcolm Gordon from DCPB announced the International Congress of Physiological Sciences (IUPS2009). The Congress will take place in Kyoto, Japan during the last week in July 2009. See <http://www.iups2009.com>.

*Michael Romero's announcements:*

This year DCE had 66 abstracts. Also DCE sponsored or co-sponsored two symposia: Consequences of Maternally-Derived Yolk Hormones for Offspring: Current Status, Challenges and Opportunities, and Advances in Neurobiology.

Next year in Boston DCE is sponsoring or co-sponsoring at four symposia: Hormonal Regulation of Whole-Animal Performance: Implications for Selection (Jerry F. Husak, Organizer), Psychoneuroimmunology Meets Integrative Biology (Lynn B. Martin II, Organizer), Evolution of Mechanisms Controlling Timing of Breeding in Animals (Michaela Hau and Tom Hahn, co-organizers) and Cell-cell Signaling Drives the Evolution of Complex Traits (John Torday, Organizer).

All ideas for future symposia can be discussed with Steve Schoech.

Bob then thanked Michael for his outstanding service to the DCE and presented him with a certificate of recognition.

*Alexandra Class announced* the student workshop that was to occur on Saturday.

*Bob Denver then made several announcements:*

As Bob Dores was unable to attend, Bob Denver updated us on how General and Comparative Endocrinology is doing. It has an impact factor of 2.5, there were nearly 300 manuscripts submitted. CECE (Manchester) triple issue was a big special issue.

Also, the health of DCE is strong. There are 403 members. SICB's financial health is excellent, and the society's journal Integrative and Comparative Biology is doing well.

There will be some minor changes to student support for meeting attendance. It will be capped at 3 years unless there are enough left over funds available.

If you have any "Just-in-Time" symposia you would like to see in Boston, please let Steve Schoech know as soon as possible. For 2010, please plan early and apply for outside support funds.

Next year the meeting is in Boston.

The Howard Bern Lecture will be given by Peter Thomas and please attend the social following the lecture.

Goggy Davidowitz, the National Science Foundation Representative made several announcements:

The IOS is restructured to move towards Integrated and Systems Biology approaches. Please see the NSF website for information.

The impression is that funding is about 8%, but in reality the funding rate for IOS is 17% with an average annual award rate of \$125,000. Even with this funding level only about 60% of the highest ranking proposals are funded.

There are CD's targeted to SICB members available regarding NSF funding.

Dr. Davidowitz mentioned several funding opportunities that are not being taken advantage of by SICB members. These include Research Coordination Networks (RCN) which bring people from other fields together to establish networks for Central themes. These proposals are funded from a different pool of funds from regular proposals. The second opportunity funds workshops to bring people together for getting ideas organized, and the third is FIBR or Frontiers in Biological Research which are multimillion, multi-investigator proposals around a core focal issue. Although the original funding period has ended, it is expected to be renewed in the future.

MyNSF is changed so that investigators can modify their interests so as to get updates for new funding opportunities.

David Borst asked whether the funding rate % represented only regular research grants.

Dr. Davidowitz answered that yes, SUGR's and symposia proposals were not included in that rate.

David Borst asked if there is an estimate on how many proposals resubmitted get funded.

Dr. Davidowitz said that they do not have that number, but that it sometimes 4-5 resubmissions prior to funding, so be persistent and when a grant is returned, call your program officer to have them talk to you from their notes on the panel discussion.

Stacia Sower asked about whether the NSF is addressing the issue of the increased cost of having graduate assistants.

Dr. Davidowitz suggested that students take advantage of Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Awards.

John Pearse, President of SICB came in and introduced the Executive Committee. He announced the meeting in Boston, 2009 will be in the new convention center. The 2010 meeting

will be in the West.

*Dave Borst provided an update on the society journal, Integrative and Comparative Biology:*

The journal is in good health and is published by Oxford University Press. All symposia will be published this year. Last year's journal published 75 papers. The impact factor is near that for GCE and Journal of Experimental Biology. Coming this spring, it will be included in Pubmed. Please make sure that we cite papers in the journal to improve its visibility. Last, paper subscriptions are down, but on-line subscriptions are up.

A discussion begun by Michael Romero regarding whether ICB should publish the Just-in-time, late breaking symposia as well. Dave said that this would be discussed at the *ICB* meeting, but that it was possible. Diana Hews suggested that the journal should be given the first right of refusal on these symposia.

We again thanked Bob Denver for his service as President.

Matters Arising: None.

Submitted by Secretary Cathy Propper