

Minutes of 2009 DCE Business Meeting – Boston, January 2009

The Business Meeting was called to order by DCE Chair, Stacia Sower.

Introductions: Stacia Sower then introduced the new divisional officers, Mary Mendonça, Secretary, and Rosemary Knapp, Program Officer-Elect. Outgoing DCE Secretary Cathy Propper was thanked by great applause for all her excellent service during her term and, especially, for her willingness to serve an extra year as Secretary.

Announcements: The minutes from last year's DCE business meeting in San Antonio, which had been posted in the Spring 2008 newsletter on the SICB web page, were then unanimously approved.

The Chair of this year's Nominating Committee was Michael Romero. He and his committee are seeking nominees for the positions of DCE Chair and Secretary for elections this spring.

This year's honoree to give the Howard Bern Lecture is Dr. Peter Sharp from Edinburgh University. It was announced that there is now a Nominating Committee to determine who will be chosen to deliver the Bern Lecture and Dr. Sharp was the first person to be chosen under this new process.

It was announced that now one can, when registering on line for the annual meeting, sign up to judge Divisional Best Student papers much like one signs up to chair a session. People were encouraged to do so. The Chair of the Judging Committee for Best Student Oral and Poster Presentations is Ignacio Moore and we thanked him and his judges for their hard work. Wiley Science is providing \$300 for the student award winners. The names of the winners of the student competitions will be posted on the SICB web site as soon as possible and they will also be posted in the Spring Newsletter along with the names of the judging committee.

Steve Schoech, our Program Officer, then announced that DCE was associated with four different Symposia and seven Oral Sessions. Additionally, there were 40 oral presentations and 31 posters that listed DCE as their affiliation. He reminded members that they should be sure to pick DCE as their affiliation when future abstracts are submitted. This year there were 16 talks and 26 posters competing for Best Student Paper or Poster in DCE. Steve also urged people to think of Focus Sections or Mini-Symposia for the 2010 Seattle meeting as well as to submit Symposia topics for the 2011 SICB meeting.

Stacia Sower also stated that there is a proposal for a Late Breaking Symposium for the 2010 meeting entitled *Insights of Early Chordate Genomics: Endocrinology and Development in Amphioxus, Tunicates and Lampreys* which will be partly sponsored by DCE and the SICB Program Officer will attempt to get funding from the NSF Research Coordination Network.

She also reminded us that the Western Regional Conference on Comparative

Endocrinology (WRCCE) will be co-meeting with DCE at the SICB 2010 meeting in Seattle. Therefore, WRCCE will not have a Spring meeting in 2009. She encouraged everyone who usually participates in the WRCCE to come to Seattle and support our conference. Additionally if people are interested in organizing a focus type contributed sessions please notify Stacia and/or Steve.

Cathy Propper, our Secretary, announced several meetings of interest to our division: 16th International Congress of Comparative Endocrinology in Hong Kong, June 22-26
The Endocrine Society's annual meeting in Washington, DC June 10-13,
The Society for the Study of Reproduction's meeting July 18-22, in Pittsburgh,
6th International Symposium on Amphibian and Reptilian Endocrinology and Neurobiology in Berlin on September 20 – 23, the 25th International Ornithological Congress, Brazil, August, 2010, and the **18th International Ecdysone Workshop, České Budějovice, Czech Republic, July, 2010.**

She also mentioned that the Divisional Newsletters are not being widely read and said there were discussions about sending the Newsletter as an attachment to the membership along with putting it on the SICB website.

Finally she urged that members submit an entry to the Researcher Data Base on the SICB web site. This could be a picture of you or students in the lab or field or some other interesting graphic about your research and a brief paragraph on your research. Having these have increased the number of hits on the other Divisions sites. Please send your entry to Mary Mendonça who will get it uploaded to our Divisional page.

Mary Chamberlin, the NSF Program Officer for Processes, Structure, and Integrity, talked to us about a new interdisciplinary funding program entitled “Life in Transition”. There is a Dear Colleague letter of the NSF web site (<http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2008/nsf08078/nsf08078.jsp?org=NSF>) that provides more details about the program. The three focus areas are 1) how the living world adapts to and transforms the earth's climate, 2) how energy transduction is managed by living systems in a diverse range of physiological environments, and 3) origin of life. To be considered for this funding, place LIT at beginning of proposal title. The normal target dates apply.

Cathy Propper asked for more information about the RCNs (Research Coordination Networks). Mary Chamberlin replied they are looking for proposals that advance a field, a technology, archive data, etc.

SICB Executive Officers (John Pearse, President, Rich Satterlie, President Elect, Ed Rosa-Molinar Program Officer, Lou Burnett Secretary) visited the DCE meeting:

Ed announced that there will now be \$100 cap for registrations costs for symposium speakers from the Society. O Symposium organizers must find alternative support for the rest of the registration costs. The Society is trying to set up a Symposium Enhancement Fund to assist international presenters in paying the remainder of the registration. The

Society is trying to get funds from NSF as well as place any surplus money into the Fund.

Action Items:

1. Cathy Propper announced that there are two proposed minor changes in Divisional By-Laws which will make our Division's by-laws consistent with those of other Divisions. They involve clarifying how officers will be chosen if one of them is unable to complete his/her term and removing a dollar amount from an annual DCE member fee. The old and new wording for the by-laws will be posted in the Spring Newsletter and after about 60 days they will be voted on by DCE members.
2. The Howard Bern Lecture Series will no longer be supported by Elsevier after this meeting. The Division is trying to establish a Howard Bern Lecturer Endowment (that would pay \$2,000/yr and have a minimum \$25,000 starting base) and is seeking funding suggestions. A possible idea would be to ask Academic Press.

Steve McCormick said, "What does it hurt to ask?"

Rosemary Knapp said that we might want to wait until the economy returns.

John Wingfield said we should see if we can come up with SICB sponsored matching funds to add to the principal.

Ignacio Moore suggested asking other publishers too.

3. NSF has issued a Grand Challenge to the SICB membership to provide guidance on where the field of Organismal Biology is going. NSF wants the unique perspective of integrative biology and this call goes across Division lines. Examples of questions are:

What major questions in IOB would advance and promote the principals of regulatory networks?

What other system approaches?

What are long standing questions that can now be answered because we have the technology? Or what are still the challenges?

Also it would be helpful to have a catchy phrase for the general public.

Examples: Organism and Environment, Life in the changing environment, Ark, Earth, the Living Ark, IPlanet, Environmental Systems Biology, molecules to ecosystems

Mary Chamberlin from NSF said to also think beyond Biology. It would be good to link to the Physical Sciences and Engineering

Erica Crespi mentioned that computational aspects should be added.

Stacia will send a Powerpoint on this to DCE members. There will be a white paper on this from the SICB Executive Committee.

4. Stacia asked whether we should consider a changing the name of our Division to be more in line with what we do (much as ASZ became SICB). Examples of possible names: Hormonal Regulation and Integration Environmental and Molecular Endocrinology; Environmental Endocrinology and Endocrinomics; Systems Endocrinology

Discussion on whether people understood the term “Comparative”

Rosemary Knapp stated there could be consequences for staying the same.

Anne McNabb asked for a straw vote about whether to discuss changing the name.

Vote was taken and there was general support to start the discussion.

Steve McCormick suggested Evolution be kept in the name, perhaps Division of Environmental and Evolutionary Endocrinology. It was also suggested not to have Molecular in title but to keep Endocrinology

This question will be put on a SICB discussion board for input from DCE members.

We again thanked Cathy Propper for her excellent service over the last three years.

Submitted by Secretary Mary Mendonça