

DCE 2011 Minutes of the Business Meeting

SICB Annual Meeting Salt Lake City Jan. 5, 2011

Steve McCormick, Chair-elect, led the meeting as DCE Chair, Mark Sheridan, could not attend the meeting due to a personal emergency.

Steve introduced the new DCE officers: Rebecca Calisi-Rodriguez, Graduate Student-Post-doc Representative; Erica Crespi, Secretary; Ignacio Moore, Program Officer Elect

Steve also announced that the 2011 Bern Lecture will be given by Dr. John Wingfield of the University of California, Davis. He invited all to attend the much-anticipated talk.

Minutes from the 2010 Business Meeting were unanimously approved.

Rosemary Knapp, Program Officer, made several announcements:

For the Salt Lake City 2011 meeting, there were 59 contributed oral presentations and posters handled by DCE, including 28 student oral presentations/posters. This number does not include environmental endocrinology talks that were listed under different divisions. The symposium that DCE co-sponsored at the meeting, "*Bridging the Gap between Ecoimmunology and Disease Ecology*" (organized by Greg Demas and Susannah French) was a resounding success. The 33 complementary presentations helped make this topic a major theme of the meeting. The new four-full-days format also seemed to have worked well as judged by the attendance at the end of the meeting social.

Rosemary expressed how pleased she was with the Salt Palace as a venue for the meeting, which was echoed by several others in the room, because of the comfortable amount of space for the poster presentations, proximity to lodging and restaurants, and availability of food and drink within the facility. Rosemary announced that DCE is co-sponsoring four symposia for the 2012 Charleston SICB meeting: "*Mangrove killifish: an exemplar of integrative biology*" (organized by Ed Orlando and Ryan Earley), "*The impacts of developmental plasticity on evolutionary innovation and diversification*" (organized by Matthew Wund), "*Comparative proteomics of environmental and pollution stress*" (organized by Lars Tomanek), and "*EvoDevo rides the genomics express*" (organized by Billie Swalla).

She also reminded people to list their talks under Regulatory Biology in the meeting registration box so the presentation will be included within DCE; because of the interdisciplinary nature of many comparative endocrinology talks/posters, they often fall in other divisions. For the 2013 SICB meeting in San Francisco, symposium proposals will be due in August 19, 2011. Late-breaking symposium could still be submitted for the Charleston meeting.

Steve Schoech, a former Program Officer, suggested that the Program Officer position should be longer than 2 years—by the time he learned how to best organize sessions and symposia within the meeting, his term ended. Steve McCormick said other divisions have 3-4 year terms; maybe the division can discuss this idea further at a later time.

Steve McCormick asked if the DCE business meeting could be held after the Bern Lecture at the next meeting; Brian Tsukimura said he would look into the timing of events to see if this is possible.

Mary Mendonça gave the Secretary's Report:

Mary announced that the DCE bylaws needed to be revised to match the wording of the society-wide bylaws concerning student oral and poster presentations. She presented the text that needed to be revised and received feedback from several people. Given this feedback, the re-wording of the bylaws will be announced to members of DCE electronically at a later date and in the newsletter for subsequent voting. Mary made her last plea before leaving office for researchers to submit information to the SICB Researcher Database—all that is needed is a digital picture and a paragraph describing research interests. All submissions should be made to the incoming Secretary, Erica Crespi (erica.crespi@wsu.edu). DCE needs submissions!

2011 meetings of related societies were announced:

- Endocrine Society: June 4-7, Boston, MA
- Society for Behavioral Neuroendocrinology: June 23-26, Santiago de Queretaro, Mexico
- North American Society of Comparative Endocrinologists: July 14-17, Ann Arbor, MI.

At the end of Mary's report, Steve McCormick gave her a Certificate of Appreciation on behalf of the DCE members for the great job she had done during her two years of service as Division Secretary.

SICB Officer Update:

The SICB officers, including Richard Satterlie (President), Robert Roer (Treasurer), Brett Burke (Executive Director), and Brian Tsukimura (Program Officer), made several announcements. They invited everyone to attend the society-wide business meeting, to be held the following evening, where they will discuss the budget and the financial health of the society. They also expressed that many people across the society were pleased with the Salt Palace in Salt Lake City as a venue for the meeting—especially the 15 feet of space between poster boards this year. They also encouraged DCE to submit symposia for 2013 to ensure that Integrative and Comparative Biology journal publish on endocrinology topics. Currently ICB has an impact factor of 1.1.

NSF Update:

John Wingfield, the new director of Integrative Organismal Systems Program addressed the division membership. He wanted to open a dialogue with the members about the direction of funding in IOS. The programs within IOS are: Behavioral Systems, Developmental Systems, Neural Systems, Physiological and Structural Systems, and Plant Genome Research. He said unfortunately the number of proposals has increased and the amount of available funding has decreased to 85% of 2010 level, resulting in lower funding rates (10-15%). He added that the Neural Systems, Behavioral Systems and Physiological and Structural Systems clusters are among the programs with the lowest funding rates. He also encouraged members to contact him about their views on the next frontier of research on organisms and their environments, and identify the roadblocks researchers face when trying to ask questions at the technological edge, including genomics and bioinformatics, epigenetics, and landscape-level analyses.

Steve McCormick led discussion of other business items:

1. The Bern Lecture fund is in need of contributions. We currently have \$1000 that Elsevier has contributed, and we are now at \$7,590 but we need to achieve \$25,000 for the fund to be sustainable. Donations are appreciated!
2. The survey that DCE conducted last year revealed several ways the division can become stronger, including soliciting more molecular and mechanistic endocrinology contributions to the meeting and organizing symposia that focus on endocrinology topics and other "hot topics" in comparative endocrinology.

3. Larry Riley is the new Nominations Committee Chair and they will be seeking candidates for DCE Chair and Secretary for 2013-2014 terms.
4. Naming of the best poster award: Rosemary Knapp, Penny Hopkins, Stacia Sauer, and Ignacio Moore served on a committee to select prominent scientists in the field of comparative endocrinology as candidates who will be honored as the namesake of the student poster award. Lynn Riddleford and David Borst were selected as candidates and a vote among DCE members will be conducted in the next couple of weeks after the meeting.

General and Comparative Endocrinology (GCE) Update:

Bob Does, Editor of GCE, presented an annual report of the journal's activity. In 2010, the journal received more than 400 manuscripts, with a 56% acceptance rate. He compared this figure to 200-250 submissions to the journal 10 years ago. The impact factor of the journal has risen to 2.7, and he is dedicated to continuing the goal of faster processing of papers and shortening the time from submission to publication. The journal has adopted a new format for references, which now are numbered in the text, and now manuscripts include research highlights, a three-sentence description of the research described in each manuscript so readers can quickly get a bit more information than that included in the headline when looking through the Table of Contents. 2011 marks the 50th anniversary of the journal. To mark this event, there will be review articles in every issue that highlight significant areas of study in comparative endocrinology. He also invited anyone with ideas for writing mini-reviews in the areas of environmental endocrinology, behavioral endocrinology, and physiological ecology to submit them to him; manuscripts would be due by June 15.

The meeting concluded with a general discussion among the meeting attendees, with the following topics raised:

1. Erica Crespi suggested that in addition to symposia, it would be good if DCE could sponsor workshops that help scientists learn new statistical methods, bioinformatic tools, or the latest methods for endocrine research (e.g., genomic approaches, computational modeling, molecular techniques, etc.). Rosemary Knapp likened this idea to the "Phylogenetics for Dummies" workshops conducted by DEE. Steve McCormick added that there is some money that DCE could use to at least partially fund a workshop. Brian Tsukimura said a problem in terms of programming is finding timeslots to place these workshops within the course of the annual meetings.
2. Kevin Kelley raised the issue of finding other ways to fund awards for students.