

Minutes of the 2012 DCPB Divisional Business Meeting

The business meeting of the Division of Comparative Physiology & Biochemistry was held on 1/04/12 at the North Charleston Convention Center in Charleston, S.C. Chair-elect Don Mykles filled in for Chair Jim Hicks and the meeting was called to order at 5:15. Don introduced Harry Itagaki, Kenyon College as the new coordinator for the annual Best Student Paper competition, and thanked David Tapley for his many years of service coordinating the competition. The Chair-elect then discussed budget- there is approximately \$2000 to support symposia, \$800 for socials, and \$300 to support the Best Student Paper competition for the next meeting (2013 in San Francisco). In addition, member dues increased \$5, which will lead to another ~ \$2200 coming to the Division.

The executive committee then visited the meeting (Ken Sebens, Lou Burnett, Jon Harrison, Brian Tsukimura, Robert Roer, and Bob Podolsky). Bob Podolsky reminded members to update their online profiles with teaching information. The committee then announced the 2015 location of the annual meeting (West Palm Beach, FL), and encouraged members to submit symposia proposals for the 2014 Austin, TX meeting (due August 2012). There was a brief discussion about the symposium selection process. For 2013 (San Francisco), 32 symposia proposals were submitted, and 12 were approved. In 2012, 8 of 9 symposia received NSF support. Future symposium organizers were encouraged to consider the likelihood of a funding from NSF, in addition to choosing speakers at different career levels. These criteria were weighed heavily in approving the 2013 symposia. One member commented that the Society should choose symposia based on merit, without regard to funding potential.

After the executive committee left, Don Mykles announced that DCPB was holding elections for Chair-Elect and Program Officer in Spring 2012, and was seeking nominations. He then moved on to the report from Comparative Biochemistry and Physiology (delivered by Don for the editors):

2011 Annual Report from 'Comparative Biochemistry and Physiology' to SICB-DCPB

Tom Mommsen, Pat Walsh and Göran Nilsson

CBP remains strong as it begins its 'second fifty years' and we appreciate the guidance from the many members of SICB who submit papers and who serve on the Editorial Board, as Associate Editors, and as referees. Numbers of submissions increased again this past year to 1337 manuscripts, a 7% increase over 2010. The rejection rate is approximately 64% with many of these coming as 'desk-rejects' without peer-review when papers are seriously flawed or outside the scope of the readership of the journal (as judged in a pre-screening by the Editors and the Editorial Board). This strategy has enabled *CBP* to only send to referees the manuscripts that will benefit most from peer-review and has minimized referee burnout. We are grateful to the ~1300 referees who helped us this past year; their names are published in the January issue. Selecting only a portion of manuscripts for peer-review also allows us to work more closely with authors and referees in the revision stage to insure the highest quality papers. Indeed, Impact Factors for *CBP* have steadily risen over the past several years and all four parts bracket a solid 2.0 (Part A = 2.134; B = 1.989; C = 2.325; D = 1.800). Other positives include very fast review turnaround times (very rarely does this take longer than 30 days) and very rapid times to e-Publication after acceptance (typically as short as 2 weeks depending upon author proof turnaround). Other features on *CBP*'s website (<http://www.journals.elsevier.com/comparative-biochemistry-and-physiology-part-a-molecular-and-integrative-physiology/>) include regularly updated lists of top downloaded and top cited papers (you might find your paper here!). A collection of perspectives articles celebrating our recent Golden Anniversary will appear soon. Editorial

Board turnover has kept *CBP*'s perspective fresh; we are aiming for a Board with an appropriate gender balance (we still need to improve!) and a good mix of scientists at various career points. We are particularly interested in adding EB members in the areas of 'biochemistry of venoms' and 'avian physiology'. Special Issue and Review Article submissions have been strong, but we remain selective in order to not delay publication times for regular papers. As always, ideas for how we can improve and better serve the membership of sponsoring societies such as SICB are welcomed.

Steve Secor then gave the report for Physiological Biochemistry and Zoology: In 2011, 184 manuscripts were submitted to *PBZ*, which is an increase from 170 in 2010. A majority of those manuscripts (53.5%) originated in N. America, with 19.5% from Europe. The journal accepted 32%, rejected 57%, and the remainder are still in process. *PBZ*'s impact factor has steadily increased from ~1.5 in 2002 to ~2.4 in 2010, which places it in the middle of other journals in the field. Since 2006 the number of days to the first decision has declined from 60 to 40, and days to final decision from 70 to 56 (avg. days with a reviewer 29). For online publication, the number of days between acceptance and online publication has gone from 200 (in 2005) to 50 (in 2011). The editors are currently compiling a focused issue on intraspecific variation in physiology and behavior, and welcome suggestions for focused issues in 2013 or 2014. Steve ended by thanking the Associate Editors (Ted Garland, Jon Harrison, Stephen Secor, and Irene Tieleman), the Editorial Board, and >300 reviewers who reviewed submissions to the journal during 2011.

A member then announced the **First International Conference on Oxidative Stress in Aquatic Ecosystems** November 20-24, 2012, Los Cabos, Baja California Sur, Mexico. <http://www.cibnor.gob.mx/eventos/estres2012.html>. There was a brief discussion about the division supporting travel awards for students to attend the meeting.

John Wingfield, Assistant Director of the NSF Directorate for Biological Sciences, then reported that the 2012 NSF budget was increased by 2.5%, but how much of that would be part of the BIO division was unknown. 2013 budget projections were expected by Feb. 6.

Don Mykles announced that Howard Bern passed away 1/03/12. Jonathon Stillman asked if we would name the student presentation awards, and Don proposed that this year's awards be named in honor of David Towle. The motion was seconded by Nora Terwilliger and passed by assent.

The meeting adjourned at 5:50 PM.