

DEDB Business Meeting at the SICB 2025 Annual Meeting
January 4, 2025 5:45-6:45 PM

Approximately 25 members in attendance

1. Chair's welcome

Prashant Sharma welcomed attendees and welcomed incoming DEDB officers:

- a. Chair-elect: Kim Cooper (will become Chair in 2026)
- b. Dave Plachetski: Program Officer (2025)
- c. Heather Bruce: Secretary (2025)

2. Visit from NSF Program Director Kim Hoke

Announced NSF events at the SICB 2025 Annual Meeting; introduced some funding mechanisms and answered questions relevant to division members' interests

3. SICB Officers Visit

Patricia Hernandez discussed the SICB 5-year strategic plan, which has been written to the "objective" stage of development, organized into 4 "Bold Steps"

4. DEDB Program Officer's Report:

Allison Edgar delivered content prepared by Frank Smith (outgoing PO)

- a. 2025 Annual Meeting symposia supported by DEDB:
 - i. Cities as a natural experiment: how organisms are finding different solutions to the same urban problems
 - ii. Organismal Systems Biology
 - iii. Pollinator-plant interactions in a changing landscape: embracing integrative approaches across scales
 - iv. Integrative Organismal Biology at HBCUs: Highlighting the effectiveness of HBCUs in training the next generation of organismal biologists
 - v. Cnidarian sensory systems as comparative models for the evolution of complexity
 - vi. Microbes matter: Phenotypic effects of microbiota on wild animal hosts
 - vii. Energetics, sexual selection and ecological innovation
 - viii. Identifying the physiological mechanisms that underlie phenotypic responses to rapid environmental change
- b. 2026 Annual Meeting symposia proposed (funding not allocated as of meeting date)
 - i. Integrating integration: How cellular mechanisms of trait covariation shape evolutionary patterns of phenotypic integration
 - ii. Animal collective movement in complex environments

- iii. Behavioral and environmental monitoring with open-source, low-cost tools
- iv. Sex across origins: Questioning animal-centric assumptions and developing integrative frameworks
- v. Needle in the haystack: Finding tools to study puncture and injection mechanisms in parasites
- vi. Disabled and Neurodivergent Perception, Community, and Identity in the Biosciences
- vii. Dinosaurs to Drones: Comparative Approaches to Understanding Flight
- viii. Holobionts across phylogeny
- ix. Spotlighting the role of behavior in a rapidly changing world
- x. Animals at the interface: locomotion, sensing, and behavior between air and water
- xi. The evolutionary consequences of life cycle complexity
- xii. Hormones at sea: New frontiers in marine mammal endocrinology and ecophysiology
- c. DEDB members strongly encouraged to consider organizing a symposium or workshop for 2027 (Pittsburgh)
- d. Acknowledgment of generous support from Pan-Am Evo-Devo in honor of BSP winner and reminder that the bi-annual PASEDB meeting will be July 22-25, 2025

5. DEDB Secretary's Report (Allison Edgar)

- a. Membership and health of the Division
- b. Upcoming Elections
 - i. 2025 (that's now!) – Secretary-Elect
 - ii. 2026 – Chair-Elect and Program Officer-Elect
 - iii. 2026 – SPDAC Representative (appointed by a separate process rather than elected; please reach out if interested)
- c. Recent updates to bylaws: Minor changes we approved in last election to promote clarity on voting procedures, continuity between terms of the DEDB Executive Committee members, and the process of establishing nominating committees were approved in 2024
- d. Proposed bylaw change 2025: Rename DEDB's Best Student Oral Presentation Award
- e. Thank you for participating in activity of society, especially by:
 - i. Serving as BSP judges
 - ii. Symposium and workshop proposals
 - iii. Attending this and future DEDB meetings, voting, and encouraging lab members to vote, submit abstracts, etc.
- f. The division is seeking:
 - i. Social media management assistance
 - ii. Prior symposium and workshop organizers' notes/advice for future organizers

6. DEDB Chair's Report (Prashant Sharma)

- a. DEDB Strategic Plan 2030:
 - i. Undertake membership survey: To better understand how DEDB can serve our membership
 - ii. Develop persistent resources: offer the DEDB membership a place to collect community content and foster increased connections
 - iii. Continue our commitment to membership with increased career advising and networking opportunities
 - iv. Become a forum for the future of evo-devo
- b. DEDB membership survey on evo-devo journal health
 - i. Members report increased submissions of “evo-devo” work to general journals over last 10 years
 - ii. Discussion of survey responses
 - iii. Connection to “Future of Evo-Devo” Roundtable event at Annual Meeting 2025
- c. Presentation of the first “Billie J. Swalla Award for Best Student Presentation”