

Secretary's Notes from the DEE Members Meeting

2023 Annual SICB Meeting

January 6, 2023

Secretary: Christine W. Miller

President: Fran Bonier

AGENDA

- Chair's Report
- Secretary's Report
- Program Officer's Report
- SPDAC Rep's Report
- Other Business
- Executive Committee Visit
- NSF Visit

Our officers:

- Chair: Fran Bonier (1/2021 – 1/2023)
- Chair-Elect: Tonia Schwartz (1/2021 – 1/2023)
- Secretary: Christine Miller (1/2021 – 1/2023)
- Secretary-Elect: Ryan Earley (1/2022 – 1/2023)
- Program Officer: Martha Muñoz (1/2022 – 1/2024)
- SPDAC Representative: Anusha Shankar (1/2021 – 1/2023)

Finances:

- DEE Discretionary Fund Balance, as of 1 July 2022, was \$6,956.96
- This balance does not include (most of) the added divisional dues
- Discretionary funds were allocated to support Beer & Brains
- Other SICB financial support for DEE: \$2,000 for symposia, \$800 for the DEE social, \$300 for BSP awards

Secretary's Report

- Outcome of recent elections:

- Upcoming Chair-Elect: Christian Cox (1/2023 – 1/2025)
- Upcoming Program Officer-Elect: Kristi Montooth (1/2023 – 1/2024)
- Thanks to Eric Gangloff and Lauren Cirino for accepting nominations to run for these offices!
- Nominations Committee is looking for people to run for Secretary-elect this spring
- Contact Tonia Schwartz if you are interested in being a SPDAC rep
- Follow DEE on Social Media – Twitter, @SICB_DEE; and Facebook, DEE Division of Ecology and Evolution (& possibly soon on Mastodon)

Program Officer's Report

- 2023 meeting (SICB & SICB+): 262 presenters selected DEE as their primary divisional affiliation (compared to 208 in 2022)
 - 65 oral, 97 poster presentations
 - DEE is co-sponsoring 5 symposia at the Austin meeting:
 - 1) S3. *Wednesday*; Sexual diversity and variation (SICB-wide)
 - 2) S4. *Thursday*; Daily torpor across birds and mammals: Recent progress and how do we advance the field?
 - 3) S5. *Thursday*; Pathways to adulthood: environmental, developmental, and evolutionary influences on the ontogeny of form and function
 - 4) S6. *Thursday*; Large-scale biological phenomena arising from small-scale biophysical processes (SICB-wide)
 - 5) S9. *Friday*; Envisioning a Diverse, Inclusive & Safe Future for Field Biology (SICB-wide)
 - Ideas for symposia for upcoming meetings?

The PO Martha Muñoz encouraged DEE members, particularly early-career members, to reach out with symposium ideas. The PO can help interested members plan out their proposals and provide advice on how to get outside financial support.

The PO also engaged the DEE members on a discussion regarding whether or not the length of the Huey award talks should be extended to 20 minutes. Several pros and cons to this modification were discussed. Ultimately, the general consensus was that the length of the talks was preferred to be 15 minutes each, as is currently done. No change to the length of the Huey award talks will be made.

SPDAC Rep's Report

- Beer & Brains 2022
 - 3 hours, offsite
 - ~90 people signed up, ~60 people attended: 40 mentees & 20 mentors (lots of covid-related last-minute cancellations)
- Beer & Brains 2023
 - 2 hours, hosted at the JW Marriott
 - space for 60 mentees, 20 mentors
 - 25 waitlisted mentees, 31 waitlisted mentors (RSVPs open 1 week)
 - hoping for fewer cancellations/no-shows – contact us if you can't make it!
- Beer & Brains going forward – ideas? suggested changes?

Other Business

- 1) *Discretionary funds & divisional dues* – changes likely coming. Divisional dues might be a thing of the past, which could influence our division's discretionary funds (and, as a result, Beer & Brains)
- 2) *Proposal to host the 2028 meeting in Los Angeles* – Executive Committee has to vote on this on Saturday, and would like member feedback on the idea before then. (upcoming meetings: '24 Seattle, '25 Atlanta, '26 Portland, '27 TBD, '28 LA?)

NSF Updates for the SICB Divisional Member Meetings

- **Thank you:** We would like to offer our sincere thanks to the large number of SICB members who serve as reviewers or panelists for NSF. Community involvement is the core of our gold standard merit review system, and we greatly appreciate your willingness to participate.
- **NSF has an Exhibitor Booth** at this meeting, where you will find links and downloadable information about NSF programs and can make individual appointments with NSF Program Directors from DBI, DEB, IOS, and NEON, and speak with other NSF staff.
- **For SICB Divisional Member Meetings on Jan 4th only:**
On Jan 5th, noon-1:30, an NSF workshop on Accessing and Working with NEON Small Mammal Data will be presented in Lone Star C by Sara Paull from the NEON program (the NSF National Ecological Observatory Network); Sara is also presenting a talk on the Assignable Asset Program at NEON, Jan 5th at 0945-1000 in room 201-202.

- To keep up with NSF news, we encourage you to **sign up for NSF notifications** on the NSF website at <https://service.govdelivery.com/accounts/USNSF/subscriber/new>, attend the **Virtual Office Hours** – once a month in each BIO Directorate – and read the BIO and Divisional Blogs:
 - Directorate for Biological Sciences: <https://oadblog.nsfbio.com>
 - Division of Biological Infrastructure (DBI): <https://dbiblog.nsfbio.com>
 - Division of Environmental Biology (DEB): <https://debblog.nsfbio.com>
 - Division of Integrative Organismal Biology (IOS): <https://iosblog.nsfbio.com>
 - Division of Molecular and Cellular Biosciences (MCB): <https://mcbblog.nsfbio.com>
- **Recruiting Program Directors:** mention the availability of these positions, info on the NSF website about rotator positions; permanent positions advertised in USAJobs; you can fill out a survey at the NSF Exhibitor Booth at this meeting about your interests for this and serving as a reviewer or panelist or at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/VXWZZNF>.

What's new at NSF-BIO?: (PDs may include information on whichever programs listed below are of interest to a given Division, or any others of relevance; additional information on continuing programs available on the last page below or at the NSF booth)

Two climate change research programs in their second year:

- **[Biodiversity on a Changing Planet \(BoCP\) Solicitation 22-508](#)**
 The new BoCP program addresses the study of functional biodiversity within the context of a changing and dynamic environment. BoCP builds on and expands the former Dimensions of Biodiversity program. It also incorporates elements of the Bridging Ecology and Evolution (BEE) track which had been in the Division of Environmental Biology. The program supports both US-only collaborative proposals and proposals with international partnerships with the National Natural Science Foundation of China (NSFC), the São Paulo Research Foundation (FAPESP) of Brazil, and the National Research Foundation (NRF) of South Africa. There are two proposal tracks: Design and Implementation, and proposals must include both a Recruitment, Training and Mentoring Plan and a Project Management Plan.
Next Proposal Deadline: TBA.
- **[Organismal Response to Climate Change \(ORCC\): Expanding Understanding and Improving Predictions of Life on a Warming Planet Solicitation 22-513](#)**
 ORCC focuses on the synthetic integration of organismal mechanism and eco-evolutionary approaches and models in order to improve our understanding and ability to predict and manage organismal responses to changing climates. This program invites mechanistic studies of organismal response to climate change as a **foundation** that, when integrated with research at other levels of organization, will lead to a deeper understanding and **better predictions** of the integrity, the resilience, and the adaptation of biological systems to climate change. Proposals are encouraged to include collaborative teams with an overarching goal of using approaches across biological disciplines to anticipate more accurately adaptive and maladaptive organismal responses to future and novel

environmental conditions.

Next Proposal Deadline: November 21, 2023.

New Program in 2023:

Using the Rules of Life to Address Societal Challenges (URoL:ASC) [23-512](#)

This program seeks to apply lessons learned from studying rules of life across a broad array of living systems to tackle pressing societal concerns.

Proposal Deadline: February 15, 2023.

Recent Programs, continuing in 2023:

- **[Organismal Systems and Infection Biology \(OSIB\) Dear Colleague Letter \(DCL\) 22-016](#)**
The Division of Integrative and Organismal Systems is calling for proposals, to be submitted to IOS core programs ([NSF 21-506](#)) or for workshop proposals, to move forward our understanding of infection processes in natural systems. All study systems are appropriate, except those that focus solely on human diseases. Proposals that focus on building a mechanistic understanding are encouraged.
No Deadline.
- **[Mid-Career Advancement \(MCA\)](#)** – *year 3 of a cross-directorate program, with **an updated solicitation***
The MCA (NSF [22-603](#)) offers an opportunity for mid-career scientists and engineers at the Associate Professor rank, with at least three years at that rank, to substantively advance their research program through synergistic partnerships. **The new solicitation adds a pilot track for Full Professors (or equivalent) at Primarily Undergraduate Institutions (PUIs) only, in the Directorates for Biological Sciences and Directorate for Geosciences.** A primary objective is to ensure that faculty remain engaged and active in cutting-edge research at a critical career stage replete with constraints on time that can impinge on research productivity, retention, and career advancement. The grant provides up to 6.5 months of salary and \$100K in direct costs.
Proposal submission window: February 1 to March 1 annually.
- **[Building Research Capacity of New Faculty in Biology \(BRC-BIO\) Program Solicitation 22-500](#)**
The focus of BRC-BIO is on increasing research capacity and broadening participation of new faculty of biology at minority-serving institutions (MSIs), predominantly undergraduate institutions (PUIs), and other universities and colleges that are not among the nation's most research-intensive institutions. Awards will provide the means for new faculty to initiate and build independent research programs by enhancing their research capacity. **Submission windows: June 1-30, 2023.**
- **[Research and Mentoring for Postbaccalaureates \(RaMP\) in Biological Sciences Solicitation 23-514](#)**
RaMP invites proposals to establish networks to support full-time research, mentoring, and training for recent college graduates who have had few or no research or training opportunities

during college in research fields typically supported by the Directorate of Biological Sciences (BIO). This program will provide **postbaccalaureate research experiences for cohorts of trainees**, either in ongoing research programs, existing networks, or in new research projects designed specifically for the RaMP networks.

Proposal Deadline: February 16, 2023.

- **[Research Experiences for Teachers Sites in Biological Sciences \(BIORETS\)](#)**

Solicitation [21-584](#)

The goal of the BIORETS program is to enable active research by cohorts of middle school teachers, high school teachers and/or community college faculty. BIORETS may be based in a single discipline or department or may offer interdisciplinary or multi-department research opportunities with a coherent intellectual theme. An important goal of the program is to increase the participation of underrepresented groups in biological research and those from geographically underrepresented areas in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. **Proposal Deadline: July 31, 2023.**

- **[Leading Culture Change Through Professional Societies of Biology \(BIO-LEAPS\)](#)**

Solicitation [22-542](#)

The BIO-LEAPS program aims to advance diversity, equity, and inclusion in the biological sciences broadly by leveraging the leadership, broad reach, and unique ability of professional societies to create culture change in the life sciences. NSF BIO will support awards that leverage the work of professional societies towards facilitating necessary culture change in the biological sciences to advance diversity, equity, and inclusion at the broad and deep scales that are required to address this systemic issue.

Proposal Deadline: July 3, 2023.

Other information and highlights:

- **New NSF PAPPG** (Proposal and Awards Policies and Procedures Guide), [NSF 23-1](#), **effective Jan. 30, 2023.**
- **NSF support for SICB Symposia:** NSF does have limited funds to support SICB symposia. We are most interested in supporting:
 - a. **Forward looking**, not retrospective, symposia, that will advance a field
 - b. **New topics that get groups together that don't usually interact**
 - c. Must include participation of women and URM on the invited speakers' lists, and a description of efforts made to include them
 - d. IOS has posted guidelines for Conference proposals on the web site (<https://www.nsf.gov/bio/ios/confworkshopguidance.jsp>)
 - e. Contact the appropriate NSF Program Director(s) by ~March 1 preceding the symposium to discuss funding possibilities.
- **Supplement Requests:** (<https://www.nsf.gov/bio/ios/suppopp.jsp>)
 - a. Most supplement requests, such as REU, RET, REHSS, REPS, ROA or IOS Mid-Career Investigator Supplements **should be incorporated into new grant proposals at the time of submission.**
 - b. All additional supplement requests of these types should be submitted by March 1.
 - c. Supplemental funding to offset COVID related impacts are being considered.
 - d. In all cases, contact the relevant NSF Program Director(s) before submitting.

- **Broadening Participation:** (<https://www.nsf.gov/od/broadeningparticipation/bp.jsp>)
We support the significant efforts of SICB to broaden participation of underrepresented groups in SICB's annual meeting.

End with a brief Q&A session.

The following are continuing programs in NSF-BIO of interest to SICB; some are fairly new (additional information on continuing programs available at the NSF booth at the meeting)

- **[Integrative Research in Biology \(IntBIO\)](#)**
The goal of the IntBIO program (NSF [21-622](#)) is to support collaborative teams of researchers who will address bold, compelling biological questions that cannot be addressed effectively without the synergy from integrative approaches combining biological subdisciplines. A graphical illustration to convey how integration will be accomplished is required, as is a training, diversity, and inclusion plan. The team effort is at a smaller scale than the larger Biological Integration Institutes (see below).
Proposal deadline: January 24, 2023.
- **[Biology Integration Institutes \(BII\)](#)**
The aim of the BII program (NSF [23-511](#)) is to bring researchers together around the common goal of understanding how the processes that sustain life and enable biological innovation operate and interact within and across different scales of organization, from molecules to cells, tissues to organisms, species, ecosystems, biomes and the entire Earth. The Biology Integration Institutes (BII) program supports collaborative teams of researchers investigating questions that span multiple disciplines within and beyond biology. **Next proposal deadlines: February 21, 2023; February 18, 2025.**
- **[Enabling Discovery through GENomics \(EDGE\)](#)**
Through the EDGE program (NSF [21-546](#)), the NSF and the National Institutes for Health (NIH) support research to advance understanding of comparative and functional genomics. The EDGE program supports the development of innovative tools, technologies, resources, and infrastructure that advance biological research focused on the identification of the causal mechanisms connecting genes and phenotypes. The EDGE program also supports functional genomic research that addresses the mechanistic basis of complex traits in diverse organisms within the context (environmental, developmental, social, and/or genomic) in which they function. **General inquiries regarding this program should be made to: BIOEDGE@NSF.GOV Proposal Deadline: February 16, 2023.**
- **[Ecology and Evolution of Infectious Diseases \(EEID\) Solicitation 22-620](#)**
The multi-agency EEID program supports research on the ecological, evolutionary, organismal, and social drivers that influence the transmission dynamics of infectious diseases. The central theme of submitted projects must be the quantitative or computational understanding of pathogen transmission dynamics. The intent is discovery of principles of infectious disease (re)emergence and transmission and testing mathematical or

computational models that elucidate infectious disease systems.
Proposal Deadline: November 15, 2023.

- **[Opportunities for Promoting Understanding through Synthesis \(OPUS\) Solicitation 22-591](#)**

The OPUS program provides an opportunity for an individual or a group of investigators to revisit and synthesize a significant body of their prior research in order to enable new understanding. The synthetic activities should produce unique, emergent insights useful to the scientific community, now and in the future. **No Deadline.**

- **[Macrosystems Biology and NEON-Enabled Science \(MSB-NES\): Research on Biological Systems at regional to Continental Scales Solicitation 22-504](#)**

This program supports quantitative, interdisciplinary, systems-oriented research on biosphere processes and their complex interactions with climate, land use, and changes in species distribution at regional to continental scales, as well as training activities to broaden participation of researchers in Macrosystems Biology and NEON-Enabled Science. Proposers are encouraged to use NEON resources, and proposals for substantive and innovative NEON-enabled research will be prioritized for funding. The program continues to welcome proposals for [Research Coordination Networks \(RCNs\)](#) driving convergent science with the [National Ecological Observatory Network \(NEON\)](#).
Proposal Deadline: November 13, 2023.