

Secretary's Notes from the DEE Members Meeting

2022 Annual SICB Meeting

Zoom - January 21, 2022.

Secretary: Christine W. Miller

Fran Bonier called the meeting to order at 2:00pm.

NSF Announcements

Present were Ted Morgan: IOS, Leslie Rissler: DEB Evol Proc, and Matt Herron: DEB Biological Infrastructure

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.
- NSF Program Directors will present **an informational workshop** and be available to answer questions on **Thursday, January 6, 12:00-1:30 pm in room West 102A.**
- **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.
- 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, and read the BIO and Divisional Blogs:
 - Directorate for Biological Sciences: <https://oadblog.nsfbio.com>
 - Division of Biological Infrastructure (DBI): <https://dbiblog.nsfbio.com/?wref=bif>
 - Division of Environmental Biology (DEB): <https://debblog.nsfbio.com/?wref=bif>
 - Division of Integrative Organismal Biology (IOS): <https://iosblog.nsfbio.com/?wref=bif>
 - Division of Molecular and Cellular Biosciences (MCB): <https://mcbblog.nsfbio.com/ref=bif>

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 at the NSF booth at the SICB meeting or on the NSF website www.nsf.gov)

- **[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.
Proposal Deadline: March 25, 2022.
- **[Organismal Response to Climate Change \(ORCC\): Expanding Understanding and Improving Predictions of Life on a Warming Planet Solicitation 22-513](#)**
ORCC replaces the two IMAGiNE Dear Colleague Letters and 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 (ORCC) 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.
Proposal Deadline: March 1, 2022; subsequent deadline: November 15, 2022.
- **[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.
- **[NSF-wide Understanding the Rules of Life \(URoL\) - Current topic: URoL: Emergent Networks \(NSF 22-532\)](#)**. One of NSF's Big 10 Ideas, research activities under Understanding Rules of Life (URoL) should lead to new and predictive understanding of how higher-order structures and functions result from the interactions of heterogeneous biological components with the environments in which they are found, and the associated evolutionary changes. NSF seeks to identify rules for phenomena that cross spatial or organizational levels and/or temporal scales. **Proposal Deadline: March 1, 2022.**
- **[Mid-Career Advancement \(MCA\)](#)** – 2nd year of a new cross-directorate solicitation
The MCA (NSF [21-516](#)) 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. 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 Target Date: February 7, 2022. Also, **NSF's Virtual Office Hour Webinar on the MCA program on Jan 10, 2022, at 1-2 pm.** Please register for the Jan 10th option at

https://nsf.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN_xLmrYjP7RRyCkX2yGuzymg

- **[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. **Two annual submission windows: January 3-31, 2022, and June 1-30, 2022.**
- **[Research and Mentoring for Postbaccalaureates \(RaMP\) in Biological Sciences Solicitation 22-506](#)**
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: January 20, 2022.**
- **[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, 2022.**
- **[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 1, 2022.** Send questions to BIO-LEAPS@nsf.gov

Other information and highlights:

- **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, 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.

Ended with a brief Q&A session.

SICB Executive committee

Take home message: the SICB Executive Committee would very much like some feedback from the community on the introduction of SICB+ and other new ways of doing things that have been put together recently.

Melina Hale, SICB President, joined the call. How to get involved using forums. We wish to be there throughout the year, workshops, panels, for early-career members in particular. Look for this! Doing a lot of work this year to talk about the in-person and online components. What did you like or not like about the virtual components? Please give feedback on the survey. Please go onto SICB+ to check things out! Give feedback!

From the chat: Tarah Foster: For freshwater and marine habitats... there currently aren't any virtual components. Would love to see some :)

Patricia Hernandez, President Elect

Handles the standing committees. She is looking for new people for the committees.

Thom Sanger, incoming program officer

He is organizing both Austin and Seattle meetings. This has been a year of experimenting. He is looking for your feedback. What can we incorporate into the future? New pushes for symposium engagement. New incentives for symposium organizers. Please reach out. There is a new push to invest in those that organize symposia.

Jake Socha, program officer for next few minutes. SICB+ is going on right now, full week's delay. Hopefully everything is as good as it's going to be now. Content loading is slow (yes, he knows that).

People are now using this SICB+ in their classroom!

If you want to be part of program using SICB+ in the classroom, we want to learn how they are using the content, want to learn how it can be used in future years.

In person, we had 920 total attendees. That's 1/3 of attendance in December. However, was a robust conference. People there had a good experience! There is great value of in-person activities, proved in the in-person SICB and in-person classrooms. Jake sees SICB+ as complementary to the in-person version. Again, really really want feedback (message again and again).

DEE Secretary's Report (Christine Miller)

Elections: would like to have some names now! Send me a direct message in the chat. Self-nominate. We will form a committee to consider these self-nominations and nominations of others.

- Dr. Ryan Earley starts in the Secretary Elect role after the meeting this year and will become Secretary next year.
- We are looking for a new program officer and a new chair who will start the position as PO-elect and Chair-elect after the SICB 2023 meeting. They will start in full role in 2024. We need names now, and candidate statements will be in the newsletter.

Newsletter and webpage: we wish to make these great, useful, something people want to read.

- For the newsletter: photos, art, stories!
- Fall 2022: will highlight several graduate students and postdocs. Please self-nominate. A way to introduce yourself to the community. A way to network in a time where it is a little hard to network. Help people get to know you and your research!
- For the webpage: bare bones right now. I welcome ideas on how to make this a welcoming, exciting webpage that brings in new members and gives existing members the content they need.

Program Officer's Report (Sarah Diamond)

Prior to the 2022 in-person meeting, 208 presenters selected DEE as their primary SICB divisional affiliation (compared to 191 at the 2021 virtual meeting). These submissions break down to 142 oral, 47 poster, 19 that elected to do either a poster or oral presentation, and 14 symposium presentations given by 82 full/postdoctoral/emeritus members, 80 graduate students, 22 undergraduate students, 1 member of affiliate/cosponsoring society and 23 non-members of DEE.

With folks needing to update plans around the pandemic, we are currently, now that we are into the SICB+ phase, at 201 presenters with DEE as their primary SICB divisional affiliation. So the numbers have decreased slightly, but we are still at a net gain with respect to last year's meeting.

At the 2022 meeting DEE is sponsoring a total of 7 symposia including one on DNA metabarcoding, ecoimmunology, transitions across environmental gradients, mechanisms of metabolic scaling, phenological plasticity, integrating ecology in biomechanics, and shifts between marine and freshwater habitats

For the 2023 meeting, DEE is sponsoring 6 symposia including one on Pathways to adulthood, one on Torpor across birds and mammals, Micro-scale life, Inclusive & Safe Field Biology, Bridging the gap between applied and conceptual research, Sex Diversity and Variation

This is my last meeting as DEE divisional program officer, so as you are gearing up for symposia submissions for the 2024 meeting, please get in touch with Martha Munoz who is the incoming DEE divisional program officer.

Student/Postdoctoral Affairs Committee Representative (Anusha Shankar)

Beers and Brains this year was held in person and outdoors in Austin, Texas. 90 people signed up and 60 showed up. Were able to be outside in a nice venue. We had 3 mentors meet with each mentee. In spite of not everyone showing up, attendance was higher than ever. With the new addition of member fees, the event can increase more in the future. Nice to meet Donald Miles who started the event.

President (Fran Bonier)

Topic #1: Beers and Brains: should we change the name?

Fran Bonier: We've used this name since 2019, though we've heard from our membership that this name is not the most inclusive. For some people having "beers" in the name is off-putting. For others it is "brains" because in the past some members have referred only to the mentors as brains, while the others are?? Dues will be going into effect this year, \$5, for supporting B&B, for expansion.

From the Chat, Anusha Shankar:

We did a Twitter poll, got 131 votes:

Beers & Brains: keep it!

41.2%

Brie & Brains

10.7%

Nachos & Networking

27.5%

Change it, but not these!

20.6%

Don Miles (one of those who started the event), for the record, says that the name doesn't matter. Just need to keep it informal, relaxed, with a bit of structure for circulations. Others chimed in saying that if people are having difficulties with the name, it's just not a big deal to change it. It's better to try to strive for a name that is not problematic.

Fran: We will continue to discuss and solicit feedback

Topic #2: Discretionary funds

A question right now is how to spend the discretionary funds. We are eager to support this very popular event (now called Beers & Brains). We are excited for the days ahead where we will not need to turn anyone away.

Worth revisiting: how should we use discretionary funds that we have now? We have some extra cash because of the pandemic.

Chat: From Tarah Foster to Everyone:

would love several small grants for research.

From Ryan Earley to Everyone:

Wonder if you can work with the grant awards committee to have a DEE-specific spot or two for the GIAR/FGST.

From Martha Muñoz to Everyone:

Grants in aid of research

From Ryan Earley to Everyone:

Fellowship for grad student travel

From Martha Muñoz to Everyone:

I think, say, two \$500 annual grants for research would make a huge impact, especially over a few years

Bob Cox: originally saw that all members can't be in B&B, so any extra funds, try to benefit larger community. Co-sponsor socials with other divisions. Suggestions for student grants for research or travel grants.

We will continue to discuss and solicit feedback

Additional topics, from the floor

Martha Munoz: 15 minute time limit might be too short for Huey Awards. Maybe do fewer with 17 for the talk and 3 for Q&A. Might be interesting to see how things transform.

Amanda Cicchino (current winner) thinks this is a great idea to expand either on the broader context or the details of the work. Pro-expanding. Have 6 finalists instead. Martha says that it is less of a strain on the judges. But, does mean fewer finalists. Let's trial it this year. Other

students in the Zoom room indicated their support. We will need to make the process and rules more apparent, starting with the webpage and registration.

Bob Cox: Really great to have the longer talks, but it does put additional pressure on the abstracts for evaluation. Not everyone who signs up understands how important that abstract is. If it goes in that direction, we need to find a way to be clearer about that stage of the application process. Include a sample of the extended abstract on the webpage (from Sarah) or link to the sample abstract. Make the webpage as crystal clear as possible about expectations.

We can make access to rules, newsletters, etc. very straightforward from our webpage. We will work to share the rubric and post rubric for extended abstract. Could help make things more transparent.

Chat: From Ryan Earley to Everyone:

That's what we did for the GIAR/FGST - revamped the webpage to make it 100% transparent about the expectations.

From Anusha Shankar s/her, DEE postdoc rep to Everyone:

I support posting the rubric!

Jason Macrander (new SPDAC chair) mentions interest in reforming the society-wide welcome meeting to support more networking, and that they might look to the B&B event for ideas on how to structure this new format. SPDAC can work as a framework for the socials.

Anusha Shankar: agrees that it can be structured to give people a great networking opportunity immediately upon starting the conference. It's useful to move away from expecting people to mingle completely on their own.