

Division of Neurobiology, Neuroethology, and Sensory Biology

Thursday, Jan. 4, 2024, 5:45-6:45, Arch Building - 6th floor: 608

Agenda and Minutes (plus visit from NSF program officer)

JLF notes will be in italics: Visit from SICB leadership with many messages! Strategic plan for SICB. Come up with 2-4 goals for SICB that would help out division, write a 1-page description, by June 1. SICB is solvent! Please have students apply for student support. Submit manuscripts to ICB! 5 years, 200 papers, 2k citations. Journal has opportunities to get involved. Consider running for a SICB office! Contribute to the newsletter! Volunteer for committees! SICB has a BIO-LEAPS award to increase inclusion and diversity. Please fill out survey.

Mel Coleman from NSF: Chat with Mel and Paul Forlano at this meeting. There's a new call for Neurobiology in Changing Ecosystems (NICE), co-funded by Kavli, no deadlines as usual. Thanks for reviewing! Reviews are all virtual for now.

a) Introductions

- Jim Newcomb — Chair
- Megan Gall – Chair-Elect – welcome!
- Jessica Fox – Secretary
- Dan Speiser – Secretary-Elect – welcome!
- Jamie Theobald — Program Officer
- Loranzie Rogers – SPDAC representative

a) Best Student Presentations & DNNSB Membership

- i. Thanks for judging!
- ii. Enter scores via GoogleForm
 - The link was sent out by Jessica, via email
- iii. Oral presentations
 - Session was on Wednesday
 - 7 student presenters, selected from 29 submissions

Year of Meeting	Number of Student Applicants for Oral BSPs
2016	6
2017	7
2018	15
2019	7
2020	21
2021	31
2022	15
2023	18
2024	29

iv. Poster presentations

- Poster session is on Friday
- 37 this year!

Year of Meeting	Number of Student Applicants for Poster BSPs
2018	17

2019	20
2020	20
2021	6
2022	21
2023	41
2024	37

- We are considering incentivizing judges, especially from the post-doc ranks. Drink ticket to the social? Other thoughts?
- This year, we will have a DNNSB poster BSP session for the first time, rather than having them spread out. Let us know what you think of this, so we know if we should continue to do this or not, at future meetings.

Question from Paul Katz: *Is it an honor to be selected for the competition? Would students like to be selected for the posters? We were fairly certain last year that we didn't want to limit their chances to compete so we will continue to keep posters open.*

v. DNNSB Membership

- Increase from 131 in 2021, to 288 in 2022, to 349 this year, probably due to increase in meeting attendance
- However, it does appear that our division is growing, as a percentage of the society, since the pandemic

Year of Meeting	Number of DNNSB Members	% of Society
2018	269	10.1
2019	258	9.7
2020	278	10.1
2021	131	5.6
2022	288	12.5
2023	349	

SICB would like to grow from ~2500 to ~3500. Growing our division would be great! This is such a good meeting for students and postdocs.

b) Update on SICB Executive Committee meeting (agenda can be found [here](#))

- a) Upcoming meeting locations: '25 Atlanta, '26 Portland OR, '27 Pittsburg, '28 Los Angeles
SICB is also looking for ideas and plans for social media presence. It was mostly run by volunteers and the communications editor and they are looking for ways to grow it. Reach out to Molly Jacobs with ideas. There's a new PPAPG at NSF for grant structure, be aware of that. Please fill out demographic survey.
- b) New Society-wide BSP guidelines
- c) Conflict of interest policy approved for awards and nominations – basically people should not be judging/nominating current or prior mentees, collaborators, or colleagues from their own department
- d) Finances
 - a. Memberships & registrations will be increased annually at least at the rate of CPI, to prevent occasional big increases
 - b. Meetings will be budgeted NOT to break even, but to generate an X% net increase - not as a policy, but as a philosophy (about 8% this year)
 - c. This year (FY2024) we will see the first version of the larger divisional allocations. These are done at the end of the year based on membership numbers
- e) SICB Board
 - a. Currently is Executive Committee, which is quite a bit larger than most other similar entities, and involves Chairs coming with interests of divisions but supposed to vote based on best interest of society as a whole, often without all of the information to make informed decisions
 - b. EOs meet once a week, but whole EC only meets a few times a year
 - c. Considering changes to current setup, possibly with EO becoming EC/board and current EC becoming an advisory council
- f) Social media

- a. PAC took over SICB Twitter & Social Media accounts, with the help of student social ambassadors, but these people getting burned out and stopping
- b. Options for dealing with social media
 - i. Twist arms of current PAC members, to get new people to take over, but having trouble with this
 - ii. Add workload to Communications Editor (would be a significant change and may not be very doable)
 - iii. Add new Editor position
 - iv. Hire professional freelancer

- g) National Science Foundation
 - a. New Dear Colleague Letter – Neurobiology in Changing Ecosystems (NiCE) - talk to Suzy Renn, at this meeting, with any questions
 - b. New Proposal and Award Policies and Procedures Guide (PAPPG) effective as of 1/30/24
- h) BIO-LEAPS NSF award to SICB – two-year \$500K grant related to DEI efforts
 - a. Training for Division Chairs next fall around PO meeting and then after Atlanta meeting
 - b. Need demographic and other data so reply to survey at registration desk, on app, etc.
- i) Development committee
 - a. Down from over \$270K last year to \$30+K this year (there were two big donations last year)
 - b. Will see more aggressive solicitations, rather than relying on passive donations
- j) SICB 5-Year Strategic Plan
 - a. Led by current President, Patricia Hernandez
 - b. Division ECs will be responsible for drafting 1-page, division-specific, 5-year strategic plan with 2-4 goals by June of this year
 - c. Thoughts?
- k) Spring elections—Program Officer-Elect
 - a. By-laws state we expect to have 2 candidates for each position
 - b. Is anyone interested? Recommendations? Please point potential candidates or their names to anyone on DNNSB Executive Committee
- l) Symposia [update from Jamie] *Insect flight will be really good! For next year 2025, there are several good ones. Cnidarian sensory systems, Cities as a Natural Experiment, [and one I missed]. We are looking for proposals for 2026. PO's now review proposals as a group across the society and provide feedback. They choose 12 per year (24 entries last year).*

Loranzie SPDAC update: there's a lunch tomorrow for job seekers to form writing groups for job applications. They have a booth in the poster hall- stop by for tips on AI in research. There's a banquet also. Any tips or ideas for supporting students and postdocs are welcome! Loranzie is working across SICB to improve student experience.

- m) Funds
 - i. SICB general funds
 - a. \$2000 to support symposia, distributed by Division Program Officer
 - b. \$800 to support social *We don't see this money, and we can't bank it*
 - c. \$300 for Best Student Presentation awards (\$150 each) and subscription to *J of Experimental Zoology Part A: Ecological Genetics and Physiology*
 - ii. DNNSB – discretionary funds - we now get \$10(was \$5)/DNNSB member or portion of that \$10 if one is a member of other divisions (we have typically gotten about \$600/year, but that number will go up) *This we can bank, and it's been growing. Mostly from divisional dues but those have been eliminated. They still give money to each division based on membership, and this is more than we used to get. What are the best uses for this money? Jim is an editor for IOB. We don't have many submissions to IOB from this division. It costs less to publish in IOD if you're a SICB member (~25% discount). We could fund one submission per year, make it a competition for students/postdocs. Journal is indexed in PubMed. DVM does this and they have a procedure in place for aligning the timing of this publication.*

Jim Murray: More student awards! We could supplement. Maybe have a runner-up. There was a competition at SICB+ and we used discretionary funds to award a winner there.

An award for postdocs would be good also! We could do both if we pay for half the publication fee, for example. Or, an award for the best ICB paper (but these are mostly not postdocs because they are symposium participants).

Megan Gall: The way we spend our money and our strategic plan and priorities should be aligned. We should look for gaps in our membership demographics (e.g. do we have low participation from assistant professors?) and use funds to recruit there.

Travel funds for students, or for caregivers, might be another place we could support. SICB does already support student housing and travel pretty well though.

- a. We can spend that money on regional conferences, supporting external conferences, extra \$ on social, increasing student awards, etc.
 - b. DNNSB balance as of 6/30/23 = \$4990.19 (down about \$350 from prior year)
- Used additional \$150 to support SICB+ BSP award at last year's meeting
 - c. possible uses?
- n) Integrative Organismal Biology
- i. Open-access journal for SICB
 - ii. SICB members get discount on pricing (\$2032 – typical cost; only \$1423 – for SICB members)
 - iii. Double-blind peer review
 - iv. Available in PubMed
 - v. Would like more submissions, especially for DNNSB-related manuscripts
 - vi. Would DNNSB consider using divisional funds to contribute to publishing cost for DNNSB members?
 - a) Maybe one such “award” could be provided each year, with preference for early-career scientists
 - b) Another division (DVM?) has started to do this, so we could look at their procedures that they have implemented
- o) SPDAC [update from Loranzie]
- p) Social—soon after this meeting (8:30 pm) in 4th floor atrium; combined with DCE, DEDE & DAB
- q) Other thoughts or questions?

Immediate thoughts on strategic plans:

A named early career award would be good for the division

Paul Katz: We can integrate neuroscience into a larger context better than ISN or SFN can. What kind of science are we trying to promote? SFN is very clinical, and ISN also has its limitations.

Jim Murray: Public Affairs Committee tomorrow at 12:15 room 602.