

## Committee Reports

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### Educational Council

*Wendy L. Ryan, Chair*

**The SICB Award for Excellence and Innovation in Science Education will be awarded for the first time at the annual meeting in Toronto.** The award will be given in recognition of the outstanding presentation, whether poster or paper (oral) format, given at the annual meeting in any area pertaining to science education. Competition will be open to all presenters, with one of the criteria favoring newer faculty and/or students. The intent of this award is to increase the profile of innovation in science education within and beyond SICB, and also to attempt to highlight the contribution of such activities towards the goal of increasing science literacy in the general population. A general email will be coming out soon to let you know how to have your educational presentation considered for this award, or you can contact me directly. This will be an exciting opportunity to highlight some of the excellent efforts of SICB members in the area of science education, and we look forward to the challenge of identifying just one presentation. We hope that this award becomes a highlight of the SICB annual meeting and that you will all consider future opportunities to participate in this unique award program.

The Education Council has generated a list of additional ways in which we might support science education within SICB, which we will discuss during the annual meeting in Toronto. We seek additional input from the general membership as we move toward implementation of some of these ideas. If you have suggestions for activities or programs that we could implement to improve support of science education within SICB, please forward your ideas to any council member or consider joining our council meeting in Toronto.

The annual meeting also marks the end of terms for some Council members. If you are interested and willing to serve on the Council please let me know so that I can discuss the commitment and responsibilities of the Council with you and hopefully fill any vacancies in a timely fashion. We are always looking for new members who represent the diversity of disciplines within SICB, so if your division is not represented on the Council and you have an interest in science education we would be particularly interested in having you join us.

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### Student/Postdoctoral Affairs Committee

*Kevin M. Kelley, Chair*

At all SICB Annual Meetings, the SPDAC hosts three larger events, the **First Timer Orientation**, the

**Student/Postdoc Luncheon**, and the **Student/Postdoc Workshop**. At the First Timer Orientation, we serve as one of the first official voices of the SICB, and thus we make every attempt to make new attendees feel welcomed, well-supported, and connected to the Society via our committee. The Student/Postdoc Luncheon provides for a great opportunity for all of the student and postdoctoral members to convene over lunch, meet new colleagues, and provide direct input to the SPDAC. The 'main event' for the SPDAC at annual meetings is the Student/Postdoc Workshop, with its subject matter changing every year.

For the January 2003 meeting in Toronto, the SPDAC is organizing a workshop on the subject of successfully landing academic job opportunities. We will be tapping into the experience of SICB faculty members who have been on faculty search committees at their universities. The title of this year's workshop is "**Views from Inside the Faculty Search Committee: What Works and What Doesn't**". Students and postdocs who are working toward landing faculty positions in academia will have an opportunity to interact directly with invited panel members who are charged with the task of providing a candid perspective on what search committee's typically like –and don't like– in the applications they receive. Tips on the written application (e.g., how to get attention without overdoing!) will be given first, followed by some discussion of the interview process itself. Faculty representing various types of academic institutions will be present to share what they know. These popular workshops have always been considered to be very informative and useful by SICB's student and postdoc members. See you there!

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**To All Student & Postdoctoral Members of the SICB ——— Keep an eye on us! The SPDAC has some new developments underway, including the development of an SICB web-page oriented around your specific interests.**

#### **USEFUL WEBSITES FOR SICB's STUDENT AND POSTDOC MEMBERS:**

- SICB's Student/Postdoctoral Affairs Committee (this site currently only lists contact information of the Committee Members, so look for future developments!):  
[www.sicb.org/committees/studentpostdoc.php3](http://www.sicb.org/committees/studentpostdoc.php3)
- Natl. Acad. Sci. USA: Web Guide to Enhancing the Postdoctoral Experience:  
[www4.nas.edu/pd/postdoc.nsf](http://www4.nas.edu/pd/postdoc.nsf)
- Natl. Acad. Sciences USA "Postdoc Resources":  
<http://www4.nas.edu/pd/postdoc.nsf/web/resources?OpenDocument>
- "Postdoctorate.net": [www.postdoctorate.net/](http://www.postdoctorate.net/)
- "Postdoc Jobs Online" (& University Job Bank): [www.post-docs.com/](http://www.post-docs.com/)
- "University Job Bank": [www.ujobbank.com/](http://www.ujobbank.com/)
- Science –Careers webpage: [recruit.sciencemag.org/](http://recruit.sciencemag.org/)

For further contact or additional information, contact the Student/Postdoctoral Affairs Committee Chair ([kmkelley@csulb.edu](mailto:kmkelley@csulb.edu)) or see the Committee's SICB webpage (given above)