



Division of Evolutionary Developmental Biology

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Message from the Chair

Linda Holland

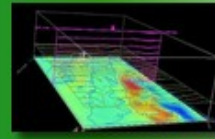
Our program officer, Wendy Olson, visited the 2010 meeting site in Seattle in early October with the other SICB program officers. Her report in this newsletter indicates that the Seattle site has more to offer in the way of restaurants and shopping than that in Boston. I'm hoping for a Seattle equivalent of Legal Sea Foods. Because more abstracts than in previous years have been submitted for the meeting, I urge you to book your hotel rooms early.

The Seattle meeting promises to have a strong devo-evo component. As Wendy mentions, DEDB is sponsoring three symposia, Animal Regeneration—Integrating Development, Ecology and Evolution (Alex Bely, organizer), Spiralian Development—Conservation and Innovation (Dave Lambert, organizer) and Insights of Early Chordate Genomes, Endocrinology and Development of *Amphioxus*, Tunicates and Lampreys [Stacia Sower (DCE) and I are organizers]. Please urge your colleagues to attend. I contacted a few new assistant professors, and one, who had never been to a meeting before, has promised to come. If each of us could do the same, DEDB will surely prosper. The early registration break in fees is good through Nov. 30.

I brought up the issue of NSF's "Grand Challenges" at the last annual meeting. The SICB Executive Committee selected a sub-committee to formulate a grand challenge statement(s), which was submitted to NSF. Wendy discusses the next step in her portion of the newsletter. There is a Grand Challenges Workshop to be held during the meeting. As I see it, all this is in response to NSF's push for cross-disciplinary science (integrative and comparative, i.e. systems biology), the idea being that more insights can be gained from cross-disciplinary studies than can come from narrowly focused ones. Evidently, the symposium that Stacia Sower and I are organizing fits the bill as NSF is providing generous funding for it.

This is my second and last meeting as DEDB chair. At the end of the Seattle meeting, Mark Martindale takes over from me. I want to thank the other DEDB officers, Wendy Olson, program officer and Marcus Davis followed by Elaine Seaver as secretary. Frankly, their jobs require far more work than mine. Keep that in mind when the call for nominees for the next slate of DEDB officers comes around in the spring.

See you in Seattle.



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P.S. It really ought not to snow as it did last year. Snow in Seattle in early January is a rare phenomenon.

Message from the Program Officer

Wendy M. Olson

There were 1318 abstracts submitted for the 2010 SICB Annual Meeting in Seattle, WA, which has the potential to make it the second largest meeting on record. Definitely check the schedules ahead of time. Between the symposia, complementary-to-symposia and regular contributed sessions, this meeting will be busy for DEDB! Fortunately, all the meeting rooms are on one level in the convention center, and it should be relatively easy to move from room to room.

The meeting location really is perfect. The hotel is wonderful and should be large enough to accommodate everyone. Best of all, it is right downtown - shopping, groceries, restaurants (cheap and expensive), and cafes within easy walking distance, not to mention the amazing Pike Street Market and (of course) the aquarium. It's a fairly small aquarium, but it has otters (both sea and river), and really, what more could a person want?

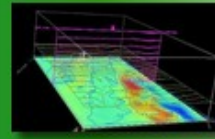
DEDB is formally supporting three symposia: Animal Regeneration - Integrating Development, Ecology, and Evolution (org. by Alexa Bely); Spiralian Development - Conservation and Innovation (org. by David Lambert); and Insights of Early Chordate Genomes - Endocrinology and Development of Amphioxus, Tunicates and Lampreys (org. by Linda Holland and Stacia Sower). There are several additional symposia that should be of interest to DEDB, including one on the cnidarian tree of life project, the evolution of fish body plans, and one honoring the work of Richard Strathmann. As I mentioned above, this will be a strong year for DEDB. Please refer to the DSEB newsletter

for information on the two Phylogenetics for Dummies workshops.

There will also be an NSF Grand Challenges workshop, 12-3pm on Wednesday, January 6. Having identified some Grand Challenges (see the SICB web page), we are now charged by NSF with formalizing how we will implement them. The workshop will consist of panel presentations and discussion. The panel will include some authors of the grand challenges plus the presidents (or past-presidents) of six other societies; outcomes will include a white paper and some sort of national panel tour. You are all strongly encouraged to attend! As a division, we need to think about how we will tackle these challenges. NSF is interested in symposia that are "forward-looking," integrate multiple divisions, stretch the boundaries of collaboration, etc.

Once again, I tried to avoid overlap as much as possible when sorting abstracts. Please realize that it is literally impossible not to have any overlap whatsoever, especially given the size of the meeting, three DEDB-related all-day symposia, and the breadth of evo-devo. Be forewarned that there will be a strong DEDB session on the last day, so you should all plan to stay through the end of the meeting; talks run up to noon, on that day.

And finally, we have 18 students signed up for the BSP competition. Yikes, that's a lot. If anyone is interested in being a judge, please let me know ASAP. (There is also a mechanism for judges to volunteer when registering for the meeting.) The more volunteers we have, the less any one of us has to do (i.e. the more flexibility we have individually to get to the talks we especially want to see). I will be sending out a mass email to ask for volunteers, as the meeting draws closer. It's great that the BSP numbers are finally increasing for DEDB, but it also means that I really need people to be willing to step up and judge. The students always appreciate the feedback, so please get involved.



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This is my last year as program officer. At the end of this meeting, the responsibilities will pass into the capable hands of Patricia Hernandez. Thank you all for your patience. It has been an honor to serve in this position, and I hope that I will have the opportunity to do it again.

Best wishes, and I hope to see you all in Seattle.

Message from the Secretary

Elaine Seaver

Aloha DEDB members,

The highlight of the news is the upcoming SICB meeting in Seattle. As you have heard from Linda and Wendy, DEDB is sponsoring three symposia this year, which will make it an especially exiting meeting. The symposia that the DEDB division are sponsoring are 'Animal Regeneration: Integrating Development, Ecology, and Evolution' organized by Alexa Bely and Sarah Linsay and 'Spiralian development: Conservation and innovation' organized by Dave Lambert and I, and 'Insights of Early Chordate Genomes - Endocrinology and Development of Amphioxus, Tunicates and Lampreys' organized by Linda Holland and Stacia Sower. There will be a lot going on, and we hope to have high attendance in Seattle from folks in our division. Encourage your colleagues with interests in the field of Evolution and Development to attend!

Be sure to check out the Grand Challenges workshop that will be held at the Seattle SICB meeting. Many of you have probably been reading the series of Grand Challenges articles published in SICB journal over the past several months. This series and upcoming discussion is a great way to get inspired to think about the integrative nature of your own research and/or potential future directions that incorporate new

collaborations.

Please consider volunteering to serve as a judge for student papers when Wendy sends out the request for help. SICB has been making efforts to standardize and streamline the judging process. The more folks that are willing to help out, the easier the job is!

And finally, encourage your students and postdocs to join SICB and to register for the Seattle meeting. It is only \$36/year for undergraduate and graduate students.

I look forward to seeing you all in Seattle!