

Minutes of 2010 DCE Business Meeting – Seattle, 5 January 2010

The Business Meeting was called to order by DCE Chair, Stacia Sower.

Introductions: Stacia Sower then introduced the new divisional officers, Mark Sheridan, incoming Chair, Rosemary Knapp, incoming Program Officer, and Chair-elect, Steve McCormick and Secretary-elect, Erica Crespi.

Announcements: This year's honoree to give the Howard Bern Lecture is Dr. Carl Schreck from Oregon State University. Stacia noted Carl's many accomplishments that made him the choice for the honor of being chosen as the Bern Lecturer. She also thanked the members of the Howard Bern Lectureship Nominating Committee for their work. This is now the second year we have used this process. The committee received excellent nominations and it seems to be an excellent forum by which to select the Howard Bern Lecturer.

Program Officer Steve Schoech announced that this year's Seattle meeting is second in attendance only to 2009's record-setting meeting in Boston. There were 1318 abstracts submitted to this year's meeting. There were 52 oral presentations and 47 posters that listed DCE as their affiliation and DCE sponsored or co-sponsored two symposia: *Insights of Early Chordate Genomics: Endocrinology and Development in Amphioxus, Tunicates and Lampreys* and *Integrative Migration Biology*. He reminded members that they should be sure to pick DCE as their affiliation when future abstracts are submitted. He also emphasized that DCE needs to sponsor more symposia. Late breaking symposia can still be proposed in the next month for next year's meeting in Salt Lake City and symposia can be proposed until mid-August for the 2012 Charleston meeting.

Steve then said there were 24 talks and 21 posters competing for Best Student Paper or Poster in DCE. The Chair of the Judging Committee for Best Student Oral and Poster Presentations was Ignacio Moore (for the 2nd consecutive year!) and we thanked him and his judges for their hard work. Wiley Science is providing \$300 for the student award winners. The names of the winners of the student competitions will be posted on the SICB web site as soon as possible and they will also be posted in the Spring Newsletter along with the names of the judging committee.

Secretary Mary Mendonça then announced that there has been discussion by the SICB Executive Committee to standardize the eligibility requirements for student competition participants across the different divisions. The proposed revised SICB By-Law, Article XVI, was displayed which explicitly stated that a competing student must be a graduate student member or student-in-training member of SICB as well as a member of the division in which he/she was competing. A student that has won a competition (i.e., best oral or best poster presentation) in one division cannot compete for that specific award again in that same division. That student could compete in another division for best oral or poster competition. Mary then displayed the current DCE By-

Law Article XVIII, which was vague as to whether the student competitors had to be members of DCE and had no restrictions as to whether students could compete again after winning.

There was a general discussion about the change and it appeared that there was no objection to the proposed SICB By-Law revision because it did not overly impact what was written in the specific DCE Student Awards By-Law. There will be a ballot on the proposed By-Law change this spring. A question was raised as to why the Best Oral Presentation was named the Aubrey Gorbman Award whereas the Best Poster Presentation Award had no name attached to it. Mary Mendonça said that was a good question and maybe we should consider having it be a named award.

Mary then listed several upcoming meetings and others were mentioned from the floor. The following is a list of upcoming meetings that were mentioned:

- The 14th International Congress of Endocrinology (ICE 2010) will be held in Kyoto, Japan from March 26-30.
- The 12th European Congress of Endocrinology (ECE 2010) in Prague, Czech Republic, April 24-28.
- The 2010 Gordon Conference on Endocrine Disruptors will be held May 30- June 4 in Les Diablerets, Switzerland.
- Neurobiology of Stress Workshop 2010 is scheduled for June 15-18 in Boulder, CO.
- The Endocrine Society's annual meeting will be held on June 19-22, 2010 in San Diego, CA.
- The 43rd Annual Meeting of the Society for the Study of Reproduction is meeting 30 July-3 Aug 2010 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin
- The 9th International Congress on the Biology of Fish in Barcelona, Spain (July 5-9) will feature numerous symposia of relevance to comparative endocrinologists (Sexual Dimorphisms: Known and Unknown, Stress Axis Regulation: From Molecules to Fish, Zebra Fish Endocrinology, etc).
- The 18th International Ecdysone Workshop, will be held in the Czech Republic in July, 2010.
- The 25th Conference of the European Comparative Endocrinologists (CECE 2010) is scheduled for August 31-Sept 4, 2010 in Pecs, Hungary
- The 25th meeting of the International Ornithological Congress will be held in Campos do Jordao, Brazil on 22-28 August, 2010

The chair of this year's Nominating Committee is Steve McCormick. He and his committee are seeking nominees for the position of DCE Program Officer.

The minutes from last year's DCE business meeting in Boston, which had been posted in the Spring 2009 newsletter on the SICB web page, were then unanimously approved.

The SICB Executive Officers (Richard Satterlie, Lou Burnett, Brian Tsukimura, Ed Rosa-Molinar, Ron Dimock) visited the DCE meeting. Richard Satterlie encouraged DCE members to attend the Grand Challenges Workshop on Wednesday which will begin discussions on how to implement the Grand Challenges. Ron Dimock also encouraged us to attend the general SICB business meeting and to donate to the various Endowed Funds: there are presently 10 endowed funds (like Grants In Aid of Research and Fellowship of Graduate Student Travel) and there are plans for an eleventh fund to support the Bern Lecturer Award. Ed Rosa-Molinar was very complimentary of Stacia Sower and Linda Holland for organizing DCE's late breaking symposium on *Insights of Early Chordate Genomics* and Stacia and Linda were thanked to great applause. Brian Tsukimura encouraged us to propose other late-breaking symposia. The deadline for submitting symposia for the 2012 Charleston meeting is mid-August. There are already 11 symposia scheduled for the 2011 meeting in Salt Lake City but if there was a pressing enough topic, a late-breaking symposium could still be proposed in the next few weeks. The SICB officers then left the meeting.

Stacia Sower again urged that members submit an entry to the Researcher Data Base on the SICB web site. She pointed out that there were only three DCE contributions to the data base which puts us far behind the other divisions. This entry could be a picture of you or your students or some interesting graphic of your research. Having these contributions increases the number of hits on the other Division sites. She told people to send their contributions to Mary Mendonça who will get it uploaded to our Division page.

Bob Dores, Editor-in-Chief of *General and Comparative Endocrinology*, gave a report on the status of the journal. He stated that GCE's impact factor has risen, that they have been publishing a number of great papers and it is an exciting journal to read. In the last 2 years, they had hoped to receive 300 manuscripts and in fact have received 400. There will 3 special issues of GCE this year: 2 symposia from the International Congress of Endocrinology will be published and a special issue on Amphibian Endocrinology. Additionally, the Profiles in Comparative Endocrinology series will continue with tributes to Carl Schreck and Glen van der Kraak. Next year will be GCE's 50th anniversary and there will be many special features to celebrate that.

He also talked about DCE's contribution to the Grand Challenge's series in *Integrative and Comparative Biology* by Bob Denver, Penny Hopkins, Steve McCormick, Cathy Propper, Lynn Riddiford, Stacia Sower, and John Wingfield entitled "Comparative Endocrinology in the 21st century". Bob Dores said it was a great manifesto and there will be an editorial in GCE talking about it. A PDF of it is available on the SICB web site.

Mary Chamberlin, NSF Program Officer for Processes, Structure, and Integrity announced that there was no more stimulus money for NSF grants. She also announced that NSF would no longer accept the 2-page updates for submitted grant proposals (though, if there was an important update, a PI could still contact the Program Officer and let them know the

information). She also reminded people that the “Life in Transition” interdisciplinary funding program is still encouraging proposal submission to obtain matching funding for a successful proposal. If a proposal covers the LIT’s focus areas, then place the letters LIT in front of the proposal’s title so it can be considered for matching funds. Finally, Dr. Chamberlin announced that she will be stepping down as Program Officer of PSI this year. She will still be at NSF as a rotator and coming back for panels. She stated NSF is seeking Program Officers as well as reviewers.

Action Items:

1. Mark Sheridan announced that he is spearheading the effort to establish a Howard Bern Lecturer Endowment Fund. The series was formerly supported by Elsevier since 2002. Establishing the endowment fund will allow us to officially solicit contributions. We have \$0 now but hope to have \$25,000 by this time next year. He asked the members to spread the word as well as contribute.

Steve McCormick suggested that Howard Bern has many international collaborators and that we should contact them. Stacia Sower thanked Mark for taking the lead in this endeavor.

2. Bob Denver had two announcements: one concerning the journal *Integrative and Comparative Biology (ICB)* and the second about the establishment of a new comparative endocrinology society. The impact factor of *ICB* has gone up to 2.74 but it is still not listed in PubMed. There have been three attempts to list it, and they will try again in July. The editorial board of *ICB* has made some key contacts to get it on and Bob is hopeful that they will succeed.

He then went on to discuss the establishment of a North America Society for Comparative Endocrinology (NASCE). He said a group of people at an endocrine meeting 3 years ago in Berkeley talked about establishing a society similar to the European Society of Comparative Endocrinology. It would include researchers from Canada, US, and Mexico and, in the future, South and Central America. It would also bring in people from other disciplines that do not belong to DCE. It will incorporate this year as a non-profit organization. It will meet every two years in the summer. The first meeting will be in Ann Arbor, MI, July 15-19 2011 concurrent with ISAREN (International Symposium on Amphibian and Reptilian Endocrinology and Neurobiology). It will also have a special symposium to celebrate the 50th anniversary of GCE.

Bob Does said that this was a great idea and they should try to get support of Elsevier to support the meeting.

The point was raised that this will make DCE attendance go down. Bob Denver said that having this society will give Comparative Endocrinology a higher profile than just being

a Division in SICB. Also he said he is not convinced that it would detract from this group that attends DCE already.

Steve Schoech said: It *will* be competing. He gave the example of Society of Behavioral Neuroendocrinology and how its formation really hurt this division.

Stacia Sower: We have tried to increase membership but it is already down. There used to be 500 members of DCE in the eighties and the Western Regional hasn't had a meeting in two years.

Peter Thomas: Comparative Endocrinology does not have the presence it needs to the funding agencies. A separate society will raise our profile.

Cunning Duan also supported the formation of a separate society and said a successful example is the Japanese Society of Comparative Endocrinology.

Bob Denver states he goes to European Comparative Endocrine meetings and it is nice to have a meeting of only comparative endocrinologists with links to other meetings.

Peggy Biga said SICB is very friendly to young investigators and students and that she wondered how the new society would treat new investigators and students. Bob answered that it would equally friendly.

Bob then stated they were just trying out this idea and seeing if it would work.

The meeting then drew to a close. Mark Sheridan presented the outgoing officers, Chair Stacia Sower and Program Officer Steve Schoech with certificates for their dedicated service and they were thanked with much applause for all their excellent work.

Submitted by Secretary Mary Mendonça

