

## Division of Ecoimmunology and Disease Ecology

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### DEDE Officers & Representatives

Lynn Martin  
*Chair 2014-2018*

Travis Wilcoxen  
*Secretary 2014-2017*

Sarah DuRant  
*Program Officer 2014-2017*

Cynthia Downs  
*Student/Postdoc Representative  
2014-2017*

### Message from the Chair

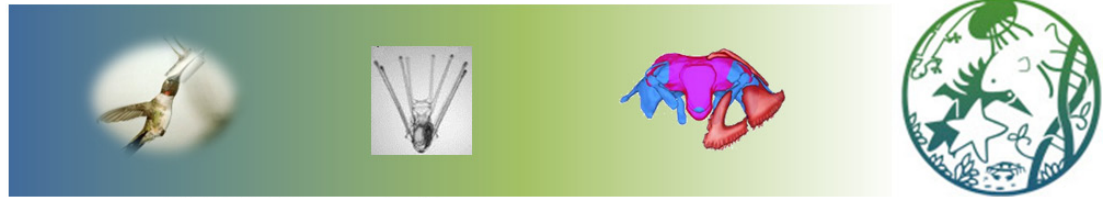
Marty Martin, [Chair.DEDE@sicb.org](mailto:Chair.DEDE@sicb.org)

SICB West Palm Beach was an excellent inaugural meeting for DEDE! We were lucky to have warm weather, tropical breezes, sand, sun and sea and a ton of great science. Our next meetings in Portland (2016) and New Orleans (2017) promise to be exciting too, and there's even been talk that another West Palm Beach visit is on the horizon.

There were several firsts for DEDE at the 2015 meeting. We co-sponsored our first symposia, which were very well attended and generated a lot of good discussion. We co-hosted our social with DCE and, although a DCE member won the Data Blitz, Hannah Peck put on a great performance as our sole contestant. Next year, expect a special event unique to DEDE, one you won't soon forget. Perhaps most importantly for 2015, we had our first Best Student Presentation competition, in which 7 folks competed for best poster and 12 competed for best talk. Cynthia, our Student/ Postdoctoral Affairs Committee rep, gives details below about our winners, but a HUGE thanks goes to Loren Merrill for coordinating the event and the judging. We couldn't have done it without his generosity! Thanks also to all of the judges who invested their time in making the event a huge success. We hope all eligible DEDE members will consider judging in 2016.

Going forward, I expect amazing things for DEDE. In just our first year, we had an incredible number of contributed talks and posters. I don't think anyone expected such a huge turnout in the first official year of the group. To keep our growth strong, please send us your ideas. We already have the website, [www.ecoimmunology.org](http://www.ecoimmunology.org), going strong, but other efforts in the works include a Facebook page and Twitter feed. Another major way to grow our division is to submit and convene lots of symposia. In 2016, we're proud to sponsor two symposia. If you have ideas for symposia, please let me or another DEDE officer know.

Finally, I'll close by saying what a short but sweet ride Chair of DEDE has been. As of 2016 though, I'll turn over the position to a new chair, as I have the honor of taking over for Hal Heatwole as Editor of ICB. One can't have two seats on the executive council; otherwise, I'd hang around as long as you'd have me. I'm leaving DEDE in great hands though, with Travis as Secretary and Sarah as Program Officer. We will soon elect a new Chair, which Travis tells you about below, and we'll tap a new Student/Postdoctoral Affairs Committee representative, as Cynthia has recently earned a faculty position. Way to go Cyn! As described below, both candidates for Chair are great people, exceptional scientists, and have a passion for SICB that will ensure DEDE continues to do well.



Thanks to all of you and the DEDE leadership for putting this division on a great path. I look forward to seeing it flourish and will do all I can to help as ICB Editor and a member of the division.

### Message from the Program Officer

Sarah DuRant, [DPO.DEDE@sicb.org](mailto:DPO.DEDE@sicb.org)

SICB 2015 in West Palm Beach was the 3rd largest conference in SICB history; 1508 abstracts were submitted, including 12 symposia and 611 posters. While the SICB conference has grown, it continues to have strong student participation; roughly 60% of presenters were students. DEDE had a great first meeting at SICB due to lots of member participation at the joint DEDE-DCE social, student participation in the Oral and Poster presentation competition, and lots of folks willing to serve as volunteer judges.

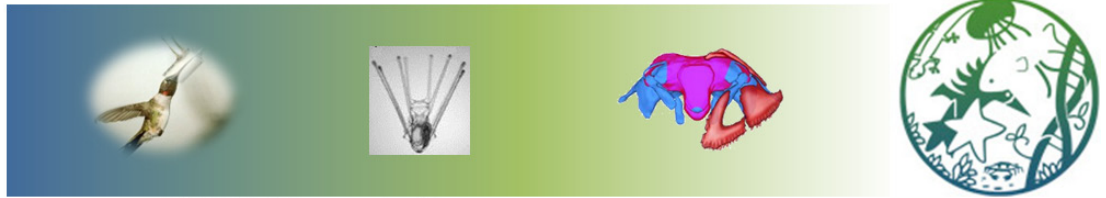
SICB 2016 in Portland is already shaping up to be a great meeting. There are 12 great symposia slated for next year, but I want to highlight two of particular relevance to DEDE members. "Parasites and Pests in Motion: Biology, Biodiversity and Climate Change" organized by Christopher B. Boyko and Jason Williams and "Are migratory animals superspreaders of infection?" organized by Alexa Fritzsche and Bethany Hoye. A full list of the 2016 SICB symposia can be found below.

To ensure that DEDE continues to grow, it is important that members continue to host disease-related symposia. Symposia are eligible for NSF funding, and symposia that have associated complementary sessions or workshops, and invite speakers from diverse institutions across a range of career stages, are most likely to receive NSF funding. If you have a symposium idea, please start thinking now about submitting a proposal. You can contact me at [dpo.dede@sicb.org](mailto:dpo.dede@sicb.org) or the SICB program officer at [programofficer@sicb.org](mailto:programofficer@sicb.org) for more details.

Thanks again for your participation this year at DEDE events and to all those who volunteered to judge student presentations! We look forward to seeing you next year in Portland!

1. **Neuroecology: neural mechanisms of sensory and motor processes that mediate ecologically relevant behaviors** Organizers: Jeff Riffell & Ashlee Rowe; Sponsors: DAB, DCB, DCE, DEE, DNB, AMS

2. **Life on the edge: the biology of organisms inhabiting extreme environments** Organizer: Annie Lindgren; Sponsors: DCPB & DVM
3. **Parasites and Pests in Motion: Biology, Biodiversity and Climate Change (SICB wide)** Organizers: Christopher B. Boyko & Jason Williams; Sponsors: TCS, DEDE, DEE, DIZ
4. **Extraocular, nonvisual, and simple photoreceptors** Organizers: Thomas Cronin & Sonke Johnsen; Sponsors: DCPB, DIZ, DNB, AMS
5. **Building an Extravagant Toolbox: The Morphological Diversity of Intromittent Organs** Organizers: Brandon Moore & Diane Kelly; Sponsors: DCB, DCE, DIZ, AMS
6. **Evolutionary Endocrinology: Hormones as mediators of evolutionary phenomena (SICB wide)** Organizers: Robert Cox, Joel McGlothlin & Frances Bonier; Sponsors: DAB, DCE, DEDB, DEE, DPCB
7. **Are migratory animals superspreaders of infection?** Organizers: Alexa Fritzsche & Bethany Hoye; Sponsors: DAB, DEDE
8. **Integrative and comparative biology of venom** Organizers: Marymegan Daly & Lisle Gibbs; Sponsors: DCPB, DEE, DIZ, DNB, DPCB
9. **Beyond the mean: Biological impacts of changing patterns of temperature variation** Organizers: Michael Dillon, Michael Sears & Art Woods; Sponsors: DAB, DCE, DCPB, DEE, DIZ
10. **A bigger picture: Organismal function at the nexus of development, ecology, and evolution** Organizers: Sharlene E. Santana & Paul Gignac; Sponsors: DCB & DVM
11. **Tapping the Power of Crustacean Transcripts to Address Grand Challenges in Comparative Biology** Organizers: Donald Mykles, Karen Burnett, David Durica & Jonathon Stillman; Sponsors: TCS, DCE, DCPB, DEDB, DIZ, DNB
12. **New Frontiers in the Integrative Study of Animal Behavior: Nothing in Neuroscience Makes Sense Except in the Light of Behavior (SICB wide)** Organizers: Suzy Renn, Hans Hofmann & Dustin Rubenstein; Sponsors: DAB, DCE, DEE, DNB



*Picturesque beach surroundings of West Palm Beach, FL*

### Message from the Secretary

Travis Wilcoxon, [Secretary.DEDE@sicb.org](mailto:Secretary.DEDE@sicb.org)

It was great seeing everyone in West Palm Beach and I appreciate the opportunity to serve as the Secretary of this new division! The weather in West Palm Beach was certainly beyond reproach and the scientific program within our division was quite strong. I am sure we will have another excellent meeting in Portland next January. I am very excited about my first ever trip to Portland and I cannot wait to experience its funky atmosphere and, of course, Voodoo Doughnuts!

As you will see in this newsletter, we need to elect a new Chair to replace Marty Martin as he transitions to the role of Editor of *ICB*. Please review the profiles of our candidates, Raoul Boughton and Carol Fassbinder-Orth, and do not forget to vote! This is our only vacant position for which we must vote this year, but next year, we will be electing a new Program Officer-Elect and Secretary-Elect. Although we will form a nominating committee to seek candidates for those positions, please feel free to let me know at any time if you are interested in an officer position within DEDE. We've gotten off to a great start and we want to keep the momentum that we have maintained through our first year as a division!

I know others have said this elsewhere in the newsletter, but Loren Merrill deserves so many thanks for his hard work coordinating the judging for student pre-

sentations within the division. I also join the other officers in extending congratulations to our Best Student Presentation Award winners! I ask that PIs continue to encourage their students to participate in SICB so we can build upon the excellence demonstrated by this year's winners. Award winners in DEDE receive \$150 and a subscription to *Functional Ecology*.

I would also like to encourage you to take some time to submit your information for the DEDE Researcher's Database. As the RCN funding and activities fade out and are effectively integrated into this division of SICB, we can simply transfer information from the RCN website to the DEDE Researcher's Database. However, if you did not have a profile through the RCN or would like an updated profile submitted for our division with SICB, please send the following information to me: a title, paragraph describing your research interests, and a picture of your model organism or a figure from one of your publications.

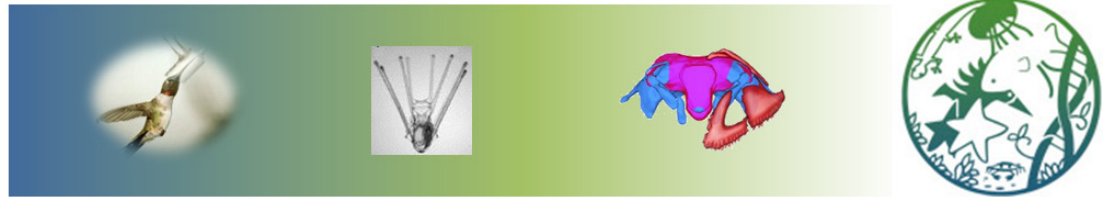
We will always use this newsletter space as well as the Monthly Member Updates to share information about upcoming meetings, workshops, or opportunities for involvement in the fields of ecoimmunology and disease ecology. If you would like announcements and information sent out to the DEDE membership, please ensure that I have that information no later than the 4th of the month. I will then make sure the updates are sent by the middle of the month.

Have a great Spring!

### Message from the Student/Postdoctoral Affairs Committee Representative

Cynthia Downs, [downsc@gmail.com](mailto:downsc@gmail.com)

This year's SICB meeting at West Palm Beach was another outstanding success. The Student/Postdoctoral Affairs Committee hosted a successful workshop about the "Ins and Outs of Writing Fundable Grants." This year the workshop included breakout groups so that smaller groups at similar career stages could meet and discuss the appropriate grants associated with that career stage. There was positive feedback about this more interactive style workshop that will be used to help shape the next year's workshop. I'll send more details as things develop. In addition, in West Palm Beach the Broadening Participation Committee hosted the successful workshop "Speak your Science: How to Engage Policy Markers."



DEDE hosted its first Best Student Presentation competition this year. The student presentations were outstanding, and a highlight of the meeting. A big thank you to all of the participants.

Congratulations to Laura Ferguson from Western University for winning best talk and Laura Schoenle from Virginia Tech for winning best poster. We look forward to having another batch of presentations next year. In West Palm Beach one student from DEDE participated in the data blitz at the joint DEDE-DCE reception. She did an awesome job! Keep the data blitz in mind for next year if you'd like to participate.

That's all for now. Keep collecting data and we look forward to seeing you at next year's meeting in Portland!

## [Minutes of the 2015 DEDE Business Meeting](#)

### 2015 Officer Election Nominees

This year DEDE members will vote for a Division Chair to replace Marty Martin. We are very grateful for Marty's leadership as the founding chair of DEDE and know that he will be very active in our division despite moving off of the board. We also thank the two nominees for the Division Chair position for their willingness to serve. Please read over the nomination profiles for each candidate. Elections will take place in May, so be on alert for an email with a link to the election ballot.

#### Dr. Raoul Boughton, DEDE Chair Candidate



**Current Position:** Assistant Professor, University of Florida, Department of Wildlife, Ecology and Conservation, Range Cattle Research and Education Center, Ona, FL.

**Education:** B.App.S., Southern Cross University, Australia; Ph.D., University of Memphis (2007); Postdoc, Archbold Biological Station (2007); Postdoc, Morris

Animal Foundation (2009).

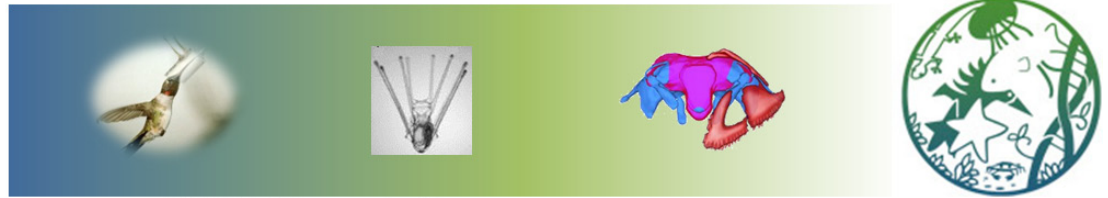
**Professional Experience:** Bird Australia Observatory Manager (1994-1999); Director of Disease Ecology Program, Archbold Biological Station (2011-2013); Member, NSF Research Coordination Network in Eco-immunology (2011-2014); Assistant Professor, University of Florida (2014-present).

**SICB Activities:** Member of DCE, DEE, and DAB. Developed and wrote the inaugural By-Laws for the DEDE.

**Other Memberships:** American Ornithologists' Union; Ecological Society of America; member of American Ornithologists' Union graduate research awards committee for 5 years.

**Research Interests:** Interactions of stress, immune function and disease in wild animals; epidemiology of wildlife-livestock disease transmission; global change ecology of host-parasite relationships.

**Goals Statement:** The SICB DCE was the first research society that funded my first work as a graduate student on ecoimmunology 14 years ago. You could say that SICB started me down the path of integrative biology and, as a chair for the division, my number one priority will be supporting graduate students and early stage researchers in advancing the integration of ecoimmunology and disease ecology, and making SICB their home. During early discussions, I wholeheartedly supported the idea that SICB become the home of a new division called Ecoimmunology and Disease Ecology and as such took on the responsibility of writing the by-laws for the division. To me SICB has also been a society with an enormously diverse membership, is a place where your ideas are challenged and woven anew, and you come away from meetings a better, more well rounded scientist. Therefore my second priority as chair is to make sure DEDE emulates that SICB environment and to advertise the division and continually increase its diverse membership. I will actively develop strategies with DEDE members that will make the division visible and welcoming to parasitologists, immunologists, disease ecologists, and organismal biologists whose interests fundamentally fit DEDE, and who should be attracted by such a division and society. With ecoimmunology and disease ecology as continually rapidly growing areas of research, it is our job as current members of DEDE to make SICB a preferred organization for participation and advancement of the field. My overall goal is to lead that grand challenge.



**Dr. Carol Fassbinder-Orth, DEDE Chair Candidate**

**Current Position:**

Associate Professor, Biology Department, Creighton University, Omaha, NE.

**Education:** B.S., Genetics, Iowa State University (2003); Ph.D., Zoology, University of Wisconsin-Madison (2008).

**Professional Experience:** Assistant Professor, Creighton University (2008-2014); Associate Professor, Creighton University (2014-present).

**SICB Activities:** Meeting participant since 2006, Member of DCPB and DEDE, Student Presentation Judge since 2011.

**Other Memberships:** American Physiological Society; American Society for Virology.

**Research Interests:** My primary research interests center around host-pathogen-vector interactions of birds, RNA viruses, and their insect vectors. I am interested in how these viruses persist in insect vectors, and how interactions of avian hosts with insect vectors alter arboviral infections. Furthermore, I am interested in understanding more about the avian antiviral immune response, and how arboviral infections affect avian development and physiological function.

**Goals Statement:** SICB is a society that promotes collaboration of biologists at all levels, from undergraduates to postdocs to faculty, and is receptive to new ideas and approaches in biology. Our new fledgling division, DEDE, illustrates the forward-thinking approach of both SICB and the PIs of the recently completed NSF Research Coordination Network in Ecoimmunology - an RCN that can be credited with more firmly solidifying the common goals of both ecoimmunologists and disease ecologists and promoting collaborations and training of scholars in these areas. It is exciting to be a part of this new division. I believe that, in order to ensure the long term success and strength of this division, officers and members of DEDE need to work together to encourage students and colleagues in our field to participate in SICB, be-

come members of DEDE, and also develop and promote DEDE symposia and workshops. As chair, I will work to promote connections and activities with other SICB divisions, and will work to increase both DEDE visibility and membership from individuals in other societies (e.g., American Society for Virology). Additionally, I strongly believe that recognition and involvement of trainees (undergraduate and graduate students and postdocs) is essential for the long-term success of the division and our field, and I will work to increase student involvement and networking opportunities for these students at SICB. Lastly, I will encourage the development of symposia that will help to advance and promote the rapidly developing fields of ecological immunology and disease ecology.

