Greetings!

Along with the start of a new academic year comes preparation for our annual meeting in Seattle! This year's full day symposium entitled: Animal Regeneration: Integrating Development, Ecology & Evolution was born from our Division of Developmental and Cell Biology! Because of its broad impact, this exciting symposium was expanded to a full day event with an associated oral session on Regeneration Complementary to the Symposium and a poster session focusing on Regeneration in the Classroom. It has gained co-sponsorship through SICB by the DEDB, DIZ, DEE, and has external support from the National Science Foundation, Society for Developmental Biology and the American Microscopical Society.

The credit for this extraordinary program belongs to its two wonderful organizers, Alexa Bely (University of Maryland) and Sara Lindsay (University of Maine). I am especially grateful to them both for spearheading this effort from inception to reality. Please talk to them in January about ideas you might have for future symposia. I expect that having so recently gone through the process of planning, building a program and preparing symposium/meeting proposals and successful grants, that they are great sources of information regarding this process. I would also like to thank Billie Swalla for her willingness to share previously successful grant proposals and for serving as a resource to us during this process. Our program officer, Scott Gilbert, related that Alexa and Sara did such an outstanding job of presenting this idea to the program committee that it quickly grew to be a society wide day-long symposium!

A preview of their impressive list of speakers can be found
In addition to this all day event on Regeneration, our group is also co-sponsoring a second symposium being organized by David Lambert (University of Rochester) entitled Spiralian development: Conservation and Innovation. So, our involvement in the annual SICB meeting is growing and I strongly encourage members of the Division of Developmental and Cell Biology to attend these exciting programs, in addition to our Business meeting in Seattle this January.

Divisional Elections. With this renewed activity within our group, it is time for our Program Officer Scott Gilbert and current Chair, Karen Crawford, to step away and make room for new leadership within our Division. Ideally according to SICB Bylaws, this transition should have occurred last year, but with so much just getting started within our Division, it was decided that Scott and I would stay on to allow the current symposia for Seattle to play out and to provide one more year of stability to the Division. Over the fall season, we will be contacting the membership of our Division independently to seek your assistance in service to SICB either within a nominating committee for these positions or more directly through your willingness to run for the position of either Chair or Program Officer. Please contact either Scott or me directly through email if you have interest in serving on either the nominating committee or running for a particular office. We stand ready to assist anyone with the continued growth, development and regeneration of this Division. Moreover, with the recent model put forward by Alexa Bely and Sarah Lindsay for new symposia, we are confident that we have a strong foundation to build upon to help make new ideas for future meetings a reality.

Sending you every good wish for a healthy, successful and happy fall and holiday season.