



## Division of Phylogenetics and Comparative Biology

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### DPCB Officers & Representatives

Michael Alfaro  
*Chair 2013-2016*

Patrick O'Connor  
*Past Chair 2013-2015*

Kerin Claeson  
*Secretary 2013-2016*

Rachel Collin  
*Program Officer 2012-2015*

Todd Oakley  
*Program Officer-Elect 2014-2015*

Graham Slater  
*Student/Postdoctoral Affairs  
Committee Representative  
2012-2015*

### Message from the Chair

Michael Alfaro, [Chair.DPCB@sicb.org](mailto:Chair.DPCB@sicb.org)

Hi Division of Phylogenetics and Comparative Biology!

I am looking forward to seeing you all in West Palm Beach. We have a great meeting ahead of us. The venue sounds terrific and we have a fine slate of symposia scheduled. I am especially excited about the 2nd annual Wake Award Best Student Presentation Session. We have some very strong entries into the competition this year so be sure to include this session in your schedule!

This marks my final year as the Chair of DPCB and I would like to thank Rachel Collin, Kerin Claeson, Todd Oakley, and Graham Slater for their help and support in organizing our division. I would also like to congratulate and welcome David Blackburn (DPCB Secretary-elect) and Kerin Claeson (DPCB Chair-elect). I look forward to working with you in the coming years to continue to grow the division. And I would also like to encourage all of our members to attend the business meeting this year. We are especially searching for exciting new ideas for symposia, so if you have one please get in touch with me, Rachel, or Kerin and let us know how we can help.

See you soon in sunny Florida!

### Message from the Program Officer

Rachel Collin, [DPO.DPCB@sicb.org](mailto:DPO.DPCB@sicb.org)

At the beginning of October, the SICB Program Committee met in West Palm Beach to arrange the talks, posters and social events for the 2015 annual SICB meeting. It looks like it will be a great meeting. This will be the third largest meeting ever, with over 1500 abstracts submitted, and over \$100,000 awarded in student support. All of the sessions will be held in the West Palm Beach convention center. Some social events will be in the meeting hotel, the West Palm Beach Marriott and some will be in the convention center. The area is full of interesting restaurants with both indoor and outdoor dining. January daytime temperatures in January are in the low 70s.

This year's DPCB divisional dessert social will be combined with socials from DVM and DCB. Come and enjoy the chocolate fountain and other delicacies, and meet your colleagues. The program highlights this year, in addition to the inspirational Moore and Bern lectures, include a pub crawl, an improved meeting app to help you connect and plan your schedule, and child care for those of your bringing little ones with you.

Don't miss the special Wake Award DPCB best student paper session. If you are interested in judging please contact, Kerin Claeson, [secretary.dpcb@sicb.org](mailto:secretary.dpcb@sicb.org). Please look up this session and give our divisional students your support!



**UPCOMING COMPETITION:** Submit photos! If you use microscopy in your work, please consider submitting an entry to the American Microscopical Society's Ralph and Mildred Buchsbaum Prize for Excellence in Photomicrography. There are separate categories for color and black-and-white photomicrographs. Photomicrographs taken using transmission electron microscopy, scanning electron microscopy, and any kind of light microscopy, including confocal scanning laser microscopy, are eligible. The contest is open to all SICB meeting participants; up to 3 entries each. AMS membership is welcomed but not required. Just bring a hard copy to the meeting to compete. Information about previous winners and the complete rules can be viewed on the AMS website ([http://amics.org/?page\\_id=9](http://amics.org/?page_id=9)).

Some tips for planning your trip in January - The meeting hotel is filling up quickly but SICB has arranged some overflow hotel options near the convention center and downtown restaurants. You can use the Tri-rail train connection to reach West Palm Beach from Miami and Fort Lauderdale airports. The train runs once an hour and is less than \$10 from Miami and both airports run a free shuttle bus to the train stops. This is a great option during the day, but it's best not to travel alone late at night.

Finally this is my last newsletter as DPCB DPO. In January I will turn the position over to Todd Oakley, so please contact him with your ideas for symposia for the 2017 meeting.

### Message from the Secretary

Kerin Claeson, [Secretary.DPCB@sicb.org](mailto:Secretary.DPCB@sicb.org)

The New Wake Award Logo!

Last spring during elections, we asked our members to choose a logo to represent the renamed Wake Award for Best Student Presentation. Your selection is printed in this newsletter (Fig. 1). All future student presentations, oral and poster, must include this logo to identify them during the meeting.



*The official logo for the David and Marvalee Wake Award for Best Student Presentations*

### Congratulations to our new officers-elect.

DPCB would like to congratulate **Dave Blackburn** who will take on the role of Secretary-Elect starting at the January 2015 meeting lasting one year before I step down in 2016. I won't be leaving the committee though because I will begin as Chair-Elect for one year, before Mike Alfaro steps down as chair at the 2016 meeting.

Other news

Check out [this article](#) by our division members. **April Wright** and **David Hillis** compared two popular techniques of phylogenetic reconstruction under various conditions that paleontologists often encounter, e.g., missing data and rate heterogeneity. They find that removing characters of different rate classes, especially for deletion of the slowest-evolving characters, leads to the most negative effects for parsimony analyses compared to Bayesian Mk analysis (although both analyses and show degraded performance with increasing amounts of missing data). They caution that researchers should be especially careful when consider character-sampling design.