Divison of Comparative Physiology & Biochemistry

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DCPB Officers & Representatives

Kimberly Hammond
Chair 2018-2020

Inna Sokolova
Past Chair 2018-2020

Marshall McCue
Secretary 2018-2020

Wes Dowd
Program Officer 2017-2019

Catherine Dayger
Student/Postdoc Representative 2015-2018

Message from the Chair

Kim Hammond, University of California Riverside (Chair. DCPB@sicb.org)

I am looking very much forward to the trip and to the annual SICB meeting in Tampa, Florida. The meeting promises to be another success for SICB. The SICB Program Committee has received a record number of submissions for the 2019 meeting, with over 1835 abstracts. The Program Committee met to organize the sessions and develop the schedules. DCPB continues to be an important presence in SICB as one of the largest SICB divisions and a significant contributor to the meeting’s scientific program.

In 2019, DCPB is sponsoring seven symposia that provide focused platforms for extensive scientific discussions and networking on topics, ranging from integrative plant biology, evolution of biological materials, responses to stress, mitonuclear evolution in comparative biology, chemical responses in early metazoans, moving beyond static experimental evolution, and comparative biology in an era of big data. Wes Dowd will fill you in with more details on the Tampa program in his Program Officer’s report.

DCPB also sponsors the society-wide George Bartholomew Award that recognizes a young investigator for distinguished contributions to comparative physiology and biochemistry or to related fields of functional and integrative biology. This year, the award goes to Dr. Ben Dantzer from the University of Michigan in recognition of his unique integration of lab-based techniques with field work and encapsulating the scientific vision of George Bartholomew. Manny Azizi, Chair of the George Bartholomew Award Committee, will provide more details on this year’s award. I would like to sincerely thank Manny and the other members of the Bart Award committee for their time and effort in reviewing applications for this highly prestigious award. I cordially invite you to the George Bartholomew Award lecture, which will be presented at 7 pm on Friday, January 4.

I would like to congratulate Kenneth Welch (University of Toronto) on being elected as DCPB Chair-elect. Ken will take on the Chair-elect office at the SICB meeting in 2019 in Tampa and will fully take over the DCPB Chair reins in January 2020 in Austin Texas. My congratulations also go Kristi Montooth (University of Nebraska) for her election as DCPB program officer, with her term beginning at the end of the Tampa meeting. I welcome Ken and Kristi aboard and look forward to working with them. I also would like to take this opportunity to thank Wes Dowd (Washington State University), who is nearing the end of his two-year term as DCPB Program Officer and will be stepping down at the end of the Tampa meeting. I was very fortunate to overlap in my service with Wes and I benefited greatly from his experience and knowledge, and I thank him for his hard work in organizing symposia and scientific sessions for DCPB.
Marshall McCue (Sable Systems International) continues his service to DCPB as the Division’s Secretary and Andrea Rummel (Brown University) will serve as the Division’s representative to the Student/Postdoctoral Affairs Committee (SPDAC) — thank you both! I also want to thank Valentina Di Santo (Harvard University) for serving as the coordinator of the judging of the DCPB Best Student Oral and Poster Presentations. The Division traditionally has a very large number of student applicants for this competition, a significant effort and time commitment was required on Valentina’s part to organize the judging. This competition is extremely important to our students and the Division, and it cannot be accomplished without your active participation!

Please plan to attend the DCPB business meeting, which will be held prior to the Bartholomew Award lecture on Friday, January 4 (5:45-6:30 pm). This is a great opportunity for both new and seasoned DCPB members to learn about the ongoing activities and future plans of the DCPB, as well as to become actively engaged in the Division’s activities and leadership. During the DCPB business meeting, the Division’s officers and committees will provide their reports, discuss future meeting venues and programs, the Division’s support for symposia, and other meetings and journals. Editors of Comparative Biochemistry and Physiology, Physiological and Biochemical Zoology and Integrative Organismal Biology (SICB’s new, open-access journal) will present their annual reports. Please bring along your questions and concerns, as well as new ideas and suggestions for improvement, to the business meeting. I am looking forward to your input. Please feel free to contact me with your ideas, suggestions, and any questions at Chair.DCPB@sicb.org.

I thank you for your support of SICB and look forward to seeing you in Tampa!

Message from the Program Officer
Wes Dowd, Loyola Marymount University, DPO.DCPB@sicb.org

Upcoming Meeting Highlights: January 3-7, 2019, in Tampa, FL
I write this update from the SICB Program Committee planning meeting in steamy Tampa. We’ll be meeting along the Riverwalk, with views of the canals, seafood restaurants, and professional hockey all in easy walking distance. The Tampa Convention Center is completely above grade, sunny, and relatively compact. Please make your hotel reservations and pay your registration fees soon via the SICB meeting website.

There will be free childcare offered at the convention center, as part of a broader effort by the Society to increase family friendliness of the annual meeting. If you are interested in this service, please register for it in advance of the meeting. In addition, there will be a dedicated, tranquil mothers’ room.

DCPB once again will have a strong showing in the program for Tampa:

- Approximately 9% of the annual meeting program is made up of DCPB-affiliated abstracts, with 89 talks and 76 posters spread over the 4 full days of the meeting;
- 12 oral sessions, with topics ranging from immune function to the energetics of endothermy to the ecological and evolutionary implications of metabolic diversity;
- 41 DCPB oral abstracts submitted by Graduate Student members; nearly half (47%) of all oral abstracts affiliated with DCPB are from our student members!
- DCPB is co-sponsoring 4 symposia this year (see www.sicb.org/meetings/2019/symposia/index.php). For scheduling reasons beyond my control, three of these are on the same day:
  - Adaptation and Evolution of Biological Materials, Sat Jan 5 (Organizers: Robert Campbell and Mason Dean)
  - The world is not flat: Accounting for the dynamic nature of the environment as we move beyond static experimental manipulations, Mon Jan 7 (Organizers: Tim Greives and Rachel Bowden)
  - Beyond the powerhouse: Integrating mitonuclear evolution, physiology, and theory in comparative biology, Sat Jan 5 (Organizers: Justin Havird and Geoffrey Hill)
  - Stress phenotype: Linking molecular, cellular, and physiological stress responses to fitness, Sat Jan 5 (Organizers: Haruka Wada and Britt Heidinger)

There are also a number of professional development workshops that may be of interest, particularly to our student and postdoctoral members. Please reference this page (sicb.org/meetings/2019/workshops.php) and note that some workshops require advance registration.
Spend Friday evening, January 4th, with DCPB and the Bartholomew Award Winner

Please make plans to attend the DCPB business meeting on Friday, January 4, from 5:45-6:30 pm. This is your best chance to have your voice heard regarding the future activities and direction of the Division. Students and postdoctoral members are welcome!

The Bartholomew Award winner’s lecture immediately follows at 7pm and will be given in conference center rooms 14-17. The DCPB/Bart Award Social will be held immediately after the Bartholomew Award lecture on the outdoor, riverfront boardwalk of the convention center. Catering prices in Florida are much more reasonable than in San Francisco, so please come to socialize with the winner and to help us eat this year!

Develop Your Symposium Ideas for Future SICB Meetings

The Society and DCPB are constantly soliciting and encouraging your ideas for future symposium topics. Symposia are the life-blood of SICB, in terms of both anchoring the annual meeting and generating revenue for the Society. If you have an idea that you would like to explore, please contact me at the email above, or track me down at the Tampa meeting. This year there were 12 proposals for the 2020 meeting in Austin, of which 4 successful proposals had physiological or biochemical components and received DCPB support. Please help us to sustain this momentum for DC in 2021 and beyond! Student and postdoc members are also encouraged to take part in organizing a symposium; it is a great way to increase the visibility of your work and to network. Of particular note is that, starting with the 2019 annual meeting, SICB will reimburse registration fees for all SICB symposium participants after they submit their paper for publication in ICB. The Executive Committee has made this large investment in recognition of how pivotal symposia are to the overall health of the annual meeting and to the society’s journal Integrative and Comparative Biology.

Message from the Secretary

Marshall McCue, Secretary.DCPB@SICB.org

Please know that we have our own Divisional Facebook Group: www.facebook.com/groups/Div.Comp.Phys.Biochem

This page is a great way to communicate informally with other group members (e.g., share information about events, open positions, or ask questions of interest to DCPB members). Just click to ‘Join Group’ and I will approve your request.

Currently we have only seven scientists featured on our DCPB Researchers Database www.sicb.org/divisions/DCPB/researchers.php3, and only one of these is an early-career scientist. As such, I welcome each of you to send me (via email) a research-related photo of you, your organisms, or your research team, along with a ~200-word summary of your research projects/findings (written in 3rd person). We will also accept a graphical abstract if you are photo-shy. We can add links to a video or online reprints (e.g. through the publishers’ websites, Researchgate.com, Academia.com, or similar). The DCPB is lagging far behind the other Divisions in this area, so I will be contacting many of you directly to improve our on-line visibility.

Message from the Student Postdoctoral Affairs Committee Representative

Andrea Rummel, andrea_rummel@brown.edu

This year, the Student-Postdoctoral Affairs Committee (SPDAC) will host a brown-bag lunch workshop to help you improve the quality of your poster presentations. This workshop will be led by Dr. Zen Faulkes who has created a blog called ‘Better Posters’ (betterposters.blogspot.com) that gives examples of how to make your poster both informative and beautiful. During this workshop, he will cover the basics of poster design, go through the process of modifying and critiquing posters (students will walk through their own poster transformations), and help students critique their own posters. More information about the time and location of this workshop will be circulated before the meeting. Check out Zen’s blog before the conference to get some tips on making your poster the best it can be. Hope to see you there!

If you are interested in other resources that SPDAC has to offer, check out our link on the SICB website for advice on applying to postdocs and grant and fellowship opportunities: www.sicb.org/resources/studentpostdoc.php3.