

January 2010

Dear Colleagues,

I would like to extend an invitation to all SDB members and colleagues around the world to **the 69th Annual Meeting of the Society for Developmental Biology**, to be held August 5-9 at the Convention Center in Albuquerque, New Mexico. This will be a **joint meeting with the Japanese Society of Developmental Biologists**, where we hope to strengthen existing and form new collaborations among our members.

All the outstanding invited speakers listed in the preliminary program have accepted the invitation to tell us about some of their most exciting findings in the following areas: *Organogenesis* ▪ *Regulatory Networks* ▪ *Spatiotemporal Control in Development* ▪ *Signaling in Regeneration* ▪ *Cellular Contact in Growth and Differentiation* ▪ *Generation of Asymmetry* ▪ *Integration of Signaling Systems* ▪ *Branching and Migration* ▪ *Evolution of Regulatory Traits*. About **30 additional speakers will be chosen from submitted abstracts** for short talks in these concurrent sessions, allowing the inclusion of “hot” findings. **Priority will be given to junior investigators** in the selection of these talks. Please note that consideration for a short talk is one of the many benefits of SDB membership. So, renew your membership in advance to qualify! If you are not yet a member, I invite you to join us. Both can be done online at our website (<http://www.sdbonline.org>).

The **Education Symposium** *A New Developmental Biology for the 21st Century: How to Inspire Students and the Public?* will address integrative approaches to best achieve this goal. Workshops are planned on tools for science education outreach, the ethical use of social networking in science, and the “new” field of Eco-Devo, how the environment/ecology and epigenetics affect development and disease manifestation.

Postdoctoral members are invited to submit their best work for consideration for one of eight spots at the **Hilde Proescholdt Postdoctoral Symposium**. The best postdoctoral presentation winners at the 2010 SDB Regional Meetings will be automatically entered into this selection process. For faculty, this symposium is an excellent place to **scout potential job candidates** for your department. A **new best postdoctoral talk prize** will be selected from these 8 presentations.

I want to remind student and postdoc SDB members that the best presentation (poster or oral) for each category at the Regional Meetings will receive a **travel award of up to \$1,000** to present the winning paper at this annual meeting. In addition, I encourage student members in good standing and first authors of an abstract to enter their posters for the **Best Student Poster Competition** by checking the appropriate box on the poster submission form. The first prize will be a trip to the British Society for Developmental Biology’s meeting in the United Kingdom.

The Professional Development and Education Committee (PDEC) has instituted the **John Doctor Best Education Poster Award** in memory of this dedicated professor, mentor and active member of the Education Committee. The **\$1,000 cash award** will be given to the best Education Poster presented by an SDB member.

The PDEC will also hold the **Third SDB Boot Camp for New Faculty** one day before the start of our meeting. This one-and-a-half day Boot Camp August 4 -5 will be held in the Biology Department of the University of New Mexico. Recruits will have a chance to learn pointers for their new career, such as hands-on labs with model organisms, teaching and tenure issues, funding, mentoring and lab management. SDB members who are new faculty (up to 5-years in the job or advanced postdocs in the process of job searching) are invited to apply for one of the 20 slots in this camp. Financial assistance for the extra 2-day stay will be available for accepted campers.

Due to the extreme enthusiasm of our local organizers (with my personal thanks), we will have **outreach programs for local undergraduates and high school teachers**. Please check the meeting website for updates and volunteering opportunities.

We offer various forms of **financial support to meeting participants**, all (except for Latin America-Caribbean Scholarships) requiring current SDB membership, that is, 2010 dues paid and processed by SDB office BEFORE you apply. In addition, FASEB-MARC program provides handsome travel assistance to minority student, postdoc and faculty members; details for application are available on its website (<http://marc.faseb.org>).

Information about the meeting program, abstract submission and meeting registration, deadlines, housing, and various application forms are available on the meeting website <http://www.sdbonline.org/2010Mtg.htm>. To ensure consideration for short talk, and publication of your abstract in August issue of our journal *Developmental Biology*, please submit it by the deadline, **March 29, 2010**.

I look forward to an exciting and stimulating meeting and hope to see you in Albuquerque!

Sincerely,

Richard Harland, Ph.D.
SDB President