

October 8, 2004

Dear SDB Member,

It is that time of year again – time to renew your membership in the Society for Developmental Biology. I hope you have enjoyed the advantages of SDB membership during this year, and will join us again for the coming year.

The SDB 64th Annual Meeting will be held in San Francisco (July 27-August 1, 2005). The San Francisco meeting will be a day longer than recent annual meetings — starting with the President's Symposium on the evening of July 27 and ending with the Awards reception and SDB Banquet on the evening of July 31. We hope that this longer format will give you plenty of time to enjoy great science and see this beautiful city. For those of you who want to stay a day or two longer, the San Francisco bay area offers tremendous opportunities for sight seeing and visiting colleagues, as I am sure you know!!

One key role of the Society for Developmental Biology is to serve as a central hub for the discipline of developmental biology. I am delighted to report that the SDB has taken an important new step in that direction. Just in the past month, Dr. Nipam Patel, an evo/devo expert, HHMI investigator and professor at UC-Berkeley, agreed to become Scientific Director of our SDB web site. In addition, Dr. Kathryn Tosney, a developmental neurobiologist and professor at the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor, agreed to become Coordinator of the Education Webpage. Nipam and Kathryn have already started to brainstorm, and plan to unveil their proposal for a new and improved web site in the near future. But it is not done – just beginning! So it is the perfect time for your suggestions and ideas. Please let us know what is important for you to have at this web site. You can email suggestions to Nipam (nipam@uclink.berkeley.edu), Kathryn (ktosney@umich.edu), myself (jekimble@wisc.edu) or Ida Chow, who is the SDB Executive Officer (ichow@faseb.org). Dr. Laurie Iten, who created and then managed the SDB web site, has resigned due to an increased teaching load. I am sure I can speak on behalf of the membership in thanking Laurie for all her efforts.

I am also excited to report that the SDB is launching new programs to fund additional activities that are central to developmental biology. These include funds for non-SDB meetings and courses, and funds for increased cooperation with the International Society of Developmental Biologists (ISDB). Specifics of these programs and guidelines for applications will be posted on the SDB web site. The first round of application deadlines will be in December, 2004.

And one last announcement! I am pleased to tell you about an upcoming event with an international flavor, a collaborative project between the SDB and the Latin American Society for Developmental Biology (LASDB). Together, we will sponsor a short course to be held in conjunction with the LASDB 2nd International Meeting in São Paulo, Brazil, April 27-May 4, 2005. The course is entitled “Model Organisms and Innovative Approaches in Developmental Biology,” and it will be funded primarily by NSF's Pan-American Advanced Studies Institute Program. Fifteen US-based and fifteen Latin America-based students will be selected to attend the course. The course description and student application form are available on the SDB Website.

In closing, let me encourage you to attend the San Francisco meeting. The scientific program is in its final planning stages, and will be up on the SDB web site soon. We will send an email when it is posted so that you can check it out and make travel plans. Let me remind you that SDB members are eligible for a number of different travel awards. SDB members who are students, postdocs, or faculty at colleges that are primarily undergraduate teaching institutions can apply for funds to attend the annual meeting. In addition, developmental biologists from institutions in Latin America or the Caribbean can apply for travel funds. Application instructions and deadlines for these various travel awards to attend the annual meeting will be in the Call-for-Paper/Registration package, to be mailed and posted December 2004.

We very much hope you will join us as SDB members for the coming year. And we also hope that you will encourage your colleagues to join. We need your support in our efforts to promote developmental biology and make SDB the central hub for developmental biologists.

See you in San Francisco!!!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Judith Kimble', written in a cursive style.

Judith Kimble, Ph.D.
President of the Society for Developmental Biology

P.S. Please email me (jekimble@wisc.edu) or Ida (ichow@faseb.org) with suggestions for SDB – about any topic. We welcome your views!