



# *Society for Developmental Biology*

*Established in 1939*

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Dear Colleagues,

I would like to extend an invitation to all SDB members and colleagues around the world to the 67<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Society for Developmental Biology, to be held July 26 to 30, 2008, at the University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA.

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: *RNA, Localization, Translational and Regulation; Neuronal Pathfinding and Identity; Evolution and Diversity of Pattern; Signaling Pathways and Networks; Morphogenesis; Stem Cells and Differentiation; Organ Systems in Vertebrate Development; Gene Expression and Epigenetics; Mitosis and Cell Polarity*. About 30-36 additional speakers will be chosen from submitted abstracts for short talks in the 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.

The "Postdoctoral Symposium" organized by postdoctoral fellows will include, starting this year, some of the best regional postdoctoral presentations. So, SDB postdoc members who are the best regional meeting presenters will have a chance to be selected for a slot at the national meeting's Postdoctoral Symposium. The remaining slots will be selected from the submitted abstracts. This will be an excellent opportunity for recruiters to scout potential candidates for their departments.

If you are a student member in good standing and first author of an abstract, remember to check the box if you want to be in the Best Student Poster Competition. The first prize will be a trip to the British Society for Developmental Biology's meeting in the United Kingdom. Other prizes include your own personal online subscription to the Society's official journal *Developmental Biology*, cash prizes, and other journal subscriptions and books donated by publishers.

The Education Symposium will address the very important topic of "Science Publishing" and editors of top tier journals will tell us what they look for in the manuscripts. Two hands-on web-based biotechnology resources workshops given by the National Center for Biotechnology Information/NIH staff will be open to a limited number of participants. A session on funding opportunities will bring representatives of the various federal and private agencies to inform us of their programs. As usual, the poster sessions will offer unique opportunities for one-on-one conversations and exchange of ideas among participants at all levels of expertise. Commercial exhibits will be available at the poster sessions for those who want to explore new products and technologies.

I am pleased to tell you that the “Second Boot Camp for New Faculty” will be held on July 25 and 26, as a result of the highly successful first camp. Again, recruits will have a chance to learn a lot of pointers for their new career, such as Hands-on lab with model organisms, Teaching and tenure issues, 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. Another benefit of SDB membership! Financial assistance for the extra day stay will be available for the accepted campers.

We will offer, as it happens yearly, various forms of financial support to meeting participants, most of them requiring current SDB membership, that is, 2008 dues paid BEFORE you submit the abstract or meeting registration. Please check details on the meeting awards page at:  
[http://www.sdbonline.org/2008Mtg/Award\\_Info.pdf](http://www.sdbonline.org/2008Mtg/Award_Info.pdf).

Oh, yes, we have arranged on campus housing in air-conditioned suites, at very economical rates for meeting participants. We hope this will allow the labs to send a larger number of students and postdocs to attend the meeting.

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/2008Mtg/webpage.htm>. To ensure consideration to showcase your research, submit your abstract by the deadline, **March 10, 2008**.

I look forward to an exciting and stimulating meeting and hope to see you in the City of Brotherly Love, Philadelphia!

*Eric Wieschaus*  
SDB President