

From the Executive Officer

March 2003

After a long hiatus, here is a new issue of the *e-Newsletter*, with President Ruth Lehmann's message, announcement of SDB awards to winners of poster competitions at the Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minority Students and the First Meeting of the Latin American Society of Developmental Biology, and updates on stem cells and cloning.

What happened in the last year at SDB?

- A major activity was to revamp the Articles of Incorporation and the Bylaws to align us with current best practices, and the members took an active role in this by voting on the changes.
- Thanks to Gary Schoenwolf's (SDB Secretary and Publications Committee Chair) diligent negotiations, an agreement was reached between SDB and Academic Press/Elsevier to include in the 2003 SDB full membership dues the online subscription to *Developmental Biology*.
- The Board of Directors instituted a new award: the *Victor Hamburger Outstanding Educator Prize* to recognize outstanding contribution in educating scientists and non-scientists about developmental biology. The first award was given to Scott Gilbert, whose contribution does not stop with his textbook, which is used by many worldwide.
- The 2002 Annual Meeting organized by President Sean Carroll and held at the University of Wisconsin Madison campus had over 700 participants, and we all enjoyed the very warm (literally) reception the locals offered us.
- A new activity was included in the annual meeting and the very positive response has made it a standing activity at all future meetings: a "meet the SDB Directors reception" for students and postdocs to chat with the elected officials of the Society and tell them what they would like to see done.
- The Education Symposium, organized by the Professional Development and Education Committee, held on the first day of the annual meeting in Madison was very well attended and the "booth" expanded to occupy the entire stage of the Great Hall, with lots of materials for distribution and review.
- The seven Regional Meetings remain the favorites for students and early postdocs to give their first public presentations. Two of these meetings also had successful outreach sessions (Mid-Atlantic and SW-Gulf) for pre-college teachers with participation of the local school districts.
- The Board of Directors approved full-time status for the Executive Officer and the Office Assistant. Yes, we have been functioning under half-time status for both positions for 6 years! As a result, all administrative activities, including the processing of membership dues and optional journal subscriptions (previously done by FASEB) are now handled by the SDB office.

We invite you to participate in YOUR Society's activities and to send us suggestions of what you would like to see included, and maybe you can even offer your expertise to help us launch it!

Ida Chow