



January 2011

Dear Colleagues,

I am honored to extend an invitation to all SDB members and colleagues around the world to **the 70th Annual Meeting of the Society for Developmental Biology**, to be held July 21-25 at the Hyatt Regency (River Walk) in Chicago, Illinois. We once again have a list of outstanding invited speakers (see [Speakers](#)) that have accepted our invitation to present some of their most exciting findings. In addition to Plenary lectures, there will be Concurrent sessions focusing on the following areas: *Specification and Lineage allocation* • *Cell and tissue polarity* • *Cellular mechanism driving developmental events* • *Morphogenesis and organogenesis* • *Extracellular influences on tissue development* • *Translating developmental concepts to disease* • *Systems and network biology* • *Developmental principles underlying stem cell biology* • *Evolution and development*. Nearly **30 additional speakers will be chosen from submitted abstracts** for short talks in the concurrent sessions, allowing the inclusion of “hot new” 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. Therefore, renew your membership, or become a member in advance, in order to qualify! Both can be done online at our website (<http://www.sdbonline.org>).

We are fortunate this year to have two Satellite Symposia, enthusiastically organized by SDB members. The symposia will be held during the day of July 21, prior to the start of the meeting with an evening Presidential Symposium. Registration to one of the Symposia is free to anyone who has registered for the annual meeting! The two Symposia will cover very timely and interesting areas: *Frontiers in Imaging: Visualizing Complex Cell Dynamics in the Embryo* and *Translating Pancreatic Development to Treat Diabetes*. See our meeting website (<http://www.sdbonline.org/2011Mtg.htm>) for more details, and find out about opportunities to give a short talk or present a poster.

Training of the next generation of developmental biologists and continuing development of seasoned faculty are central to SDB's mission and the PDEC will hold the “**Second SDB Faculty ReBoot Camp**” prior to the start of the annual meeting. This is open without cost (yet another benefit of SDB membership!) to SDB members attending the annual meeting who are mid-career faculty and want to reinvigorate their teaching, research and related activities. It will start the afternoon of July 20 and end after lunch on July 21. Financial assistance with housing for the extra night stay will be available upon request for accepted campers. Teaching faculty travel grants will also be available for the campers and others who carry a heavy teaching load. Please see details on the [meeting website](#).

An **Education Symposium** on “undergraduate teaching in an era of exponential expansion of knowledge” and an evening roundtable on “new electronic media in developmental biology education” are being planned by the PDEC. Other workshops discussing “ethical use of social networking means in science” and “best practices in scientific publishing” are also being considered. The traditional session on “funding opportunities” will bring representatives of federal and private agencies to tell us about their programs and the many rule changes that have taken place recently.

Similar to last year, the **poster sessions will be held at lunch time** with box lunches, but with additional time to eat lunch or browse the posters before presenters are available at their posters. There will be additional opportunities for one-on-one conversations and exchange of ideas among participants at all levels of expertise during breaks. Commercial exhibits will be available at the poster sessions for those who want to explore new products and technologies. Besides the scheduled session times the posters will remain open for informal viewing, as usual.

I invite postdoctoral members to submit their best work for consideration for one of the eight spots at the **“Hilde Mangold Postdoctoral Symposium”** organized by two postdoctoral fellows selected by the Program Committee Co-chairs. The best postdoctoral presentation winners at the 2011 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. Hone up your presentation postdocs, and make this a practice talk for your future job seminar! There will once again be a **best postdoctoral talk prize** to be selected from the 8 presentations by fellow postdoctoral fellow judges.

With respect to the regional meetings, I would like to remind the student and postdoc SDB members that the best presentation for each category (poster or oral) in each region will receive a **travel award of up to \$1,000** to present the winning research as a poster at the 2011 annual meeting. In addition, I encourage student members who are first authors of an abstract to enter their posters for the **Best Student Poster Competition** at the annual meeting 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. Other prizes include a personal online subscription to the Society’s official journal *Developmental Biology*, cash prizes from *Genesis* and SDB, and other journal subscriptions and books donated by publishers.

John Doctor was an enthusiastic and dedicated professor at Duquesne University in Pittsburgh who loved teaching and was an excellent educator and mentor, as well as an active member of our Education Committee. In his memory the Professional Development and Education Committee (PDEC) instituted the **“[John Doctor Best Education Poster Award](#)”** which carries a **cash award of \$1,000**. If you have developed an innovative or effective way to teach developmental biology and/or related topics at all levels, please share it with us and you may even win this award. All the Education posters by SDB members will be entered automatically to this competition and the winner will be announced at the end of the meeting.

We will offer various forms of **financial support to meeting participants**, all (except for Latin America-Caribbean Scholarships) require current (2011) SDB membership dues to be paid and processed by the SDB office BEFORE you apply. In addition, the FASEB-MARC program provides handsome travel assistance to minority student, postdoc and faculty members - details for application process 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 our [meeting website](#). To ensure consideration for a short talk, and publication of your abstract in the July issue of our journal *Developmental Biology*, you must submit it by the deadline, **March 21, 2011**.

I am looking forward to an exciting and stimulating meeting and hope to see you in Chicago!

Sincerely,

(Alex)andra Joyner
SDB President