



Dear colleagues,

I would like to congratulate Richard Harland and his organizing committees on another very successful and enlightening SDB annual meeting, jointly with our colleagues from Japan. It was great to see so many students and postdocs attending, in addition to faculty at all levels of their careers. The talks were outstanding, and the discussions between sessions - a key reason for attending the meeting - as always inspired new directions in my research. I am excited about organizing the next meeting – the society's 70th! It will be held for the first time in Chicago, July 21-25, at the Hyatt Regency, River Walk. As you know, Chicago is a vibrant city with lots of

cultural attractions to enjoy after the sessions end, including music, restaurants, museums and galleries. We will once again have a Re-Boot Camp for seasoned faculty, and Satellite Symposia before the official start of the annual meeting, as well as an Educational Symposium, Outreach activities, Postdoc Symposium, best postdoc talk and best student poster prizes, Awards lectures and focused workshops during the meeting (more to follow). At the 2011 annual meeting we are especially honored to host the FASEB Excellence in Science Award lecture presented by the 2011 recipient and our past president, Dr. Gail Martin. Members interested in organizing a satellite symposium can find proposal submission guidelines at <http://www.sdbonline.org/2011SatSympProposalGuide.pdf>.



SDB is of course not only about the annual meeting, but also serves as a resource and means of communication for developmental biologist throughout the world. For example, the new WIREs Developmental Biology project published by Wiley in association with the SDB (<http://wires.wiley.com/WileyCDA/Section/id-398166.html>), will be an up to date encyclopedic resource of topics in developmental biology, written by experts (many of whom are SDB members), and citable. Our past presidents, John Gerhart, Gail Martin and Eric Wieschaus have dedicated substantial time to the project as Editors-in-chief. Closer to home, SDB members have been busy developing presentations for the First USA Science & Engineering Festival to be held in Washington, DC Oct. 10-24, including an Exhibit "Where the wild things come from" (<http://www.sdbonline.org/SciFest2010.htm>) on the National Mall. The SDB also provides a forum to discuss government actions taken that impact on developmental biology research, such as the recent ruling barring hES cell research, and provides advice to sister organizations and the government on such issues.

Check out the SDB website for more details (<http://www.sdbonline.org>). I hope it will inspire you to get involved, and to encourage your colleagues to join our society.



I look forward to hearing your suggestions and seeing many of you in Chicago!

Alex
Alexandra L. Joyner
SDB President 2010-2011
<http://www.ski.edu/joyner>