

# *A Quick Summary of the SDB 62<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting*

*Ida Chow*

This year's annual meeting attracted the largest number of participants ever, 1,289! This was in part due to the participation of the International Society of Developmental Biologists, almost doubling the number of international scientists at the meeting. The city of Boston was an added attraction because of easy access for travelers and the large number of academic and research institutions in the area. The major factor, we believe, is the excellent meeting program and speaker line-up Ruth Lehmann and the organizing committee (Phil Benfey, Steve Burden, Eddy De Robertis (ISDB President), Marc Kirschner, Doug Melton, Lee Niswander, Gary Ruvkun and Alex Schier) arranged.

The cheerful assistance from local students and postdoctoral fellows and two early-arriving Brazilian students was crucial to the smooth on-site registration process. Many thanks to: Juliana Rosebud Brown, Hozana Andrade Castillo, Ondine Cleaver, Yuval Dor, Amy Greenwood, Nancy Huang, Maya Kumar, Christina Molodowitch, Jayaraj Rajagopal, Arleide Santiago Filha, Ben Stanger, Peter Woolf, Amanda J. Wright and Bree Zucker. The unfailing and calm presence of SDB Administrative Assistant Jon Grunspan was reassuring to us all and highly appreciated.

## **MEETING STATS**

**Attendance:** Total- 1289

Full members - 469

Student members - 139

Non-members - 384

Student non-members - 251

Exhibitors and guests - 46

US-based participants: Total - 968

MA – 284

CA – 98

NY – 83

MD – 74

TX – 42

UT – 33

NC – 31

CT – 28

PA – 27

TN – 26

IL – 25

OH – 22

MO, VA – 18

NJ – 15

MI, WI – 13

ME, MN – 11

IN, RI – 9

CO, GA, WA – 8

DC, OR – 7

IA – 6

KS – 5

HI, KY, LA, NV – 4

FL, NE, WV – 3

AL – 2

AZ, SD – 1

International participants: Total – 275

Canada – 51

Japan – 45

UK – 42

Germany – 22

Italy – 13

Australia - 12

Hong Kong, Netherlands, New Zealand, Korea - 2

Denmark, Greece, India, Portugal, Singapore, Taiwan, Turkey – 1

Israel, Sweden – 10

Switzerland – 9

Chile, France, South Korea, Spain - 7

Brazil, Finland – 5

Belgium – 4

Argentina, Mexico - 3

## ***Abstracts***

Total abstracts submitted on time - 719

Total late abstracts submitted - 75                      accepted - 49

Total posters scheduled for presentation - 680

Total short talks selected from submitted abstracts - 31

## **AWARDS**

### ***Viktor Hamburger Outstanding Educator Prize***

Lewis Wolpert, Professor of Biology as Applied to Medicine in the Department of Anatomy and Developmental Biology of University College London, is the second recipient of the Hamburger Outstanding Educator Prize. He is a fellow of both the Royal Society and the Royal Society of Literature, awarded the CBE and was the Chairman of the Committee for the Public Understanding of Science. He contributed significantly to the understanding of the process of pattern formation and positional information during development through his own research and training of several leading developmental biologists. As a science educator, in spite of claims of not liking to teach and not knowing how to teach, Dr. Wolpert has done a lot for public understanding of science through his popular books, newspaper column, radio and television programs, and by asking pointed questions to scientists and non-scientists alike (make them think!). Among his books are *Principles of Development*, *The Triumph of the Embryo*, *The Unnatural Nature of Science* and *Malignant Sadness, the Anatomy of Depression*. His advice for scientists to communicate with non-scientists about science is to “talk directly to them, on a one-to-one basis, make them see you are just like them.” Of course, being totally enthusiastic about science also helps, as Wolpert himself is.



<http://www.nobel.se/medicine/articles/wolpert/cv.html>

<http://ylem.anat.ucl.ac.uk/brochure/page54.htm>

### ***Elsevier-SDB Lifetime Achievement Award***



In order to recognize the long time relationship the Society has had with the journal *Developmental Biology*, owned and published by Elsevier, previously Academic Press, the SDB Board of Directors decided in its July meeting that this award will be renamed to reflect this continuing relationship.

The first recipient of the award under the new name is Shirley M. Tilghman, President of Princeton University, an outstanding developmental biologist who has contributed significantly to the understanding of the mechanism of genetic imprinting and has mentored many successful scientists. Her advice to faculty about

how to be a good mentor is that “there is no substitute for attention paid to the educational needs and empathy coupled with straight talk; and that the student’s success is a positive reflection on the mentor.”

[http://www.molbio.princeton.edu/research\\_facultymember.php?id=35](http://www.molbio.princeton.edu/research_facultymember.php?id=35)

<http://www.princeton.edu/pr/pwb/01/0521/1a.shtml>

### ***E.G. Conklin Medal***

Allan C. Spradling, Director of the Carnegie Institution of Washington's Department of Embryology in Baltimore, MD and a past-president of SDB (1990-1991), is the 2003 recipient of this award. He is recognized for many of his contributions in the field of developmental biology, including understanding P elements and oogenesis in *Drosophila*, as well as the long line of scientific offspring who have made their own marks in the field. Allan has definitely fulfilled requirements for this award: continuing extraordinary scientific contributions and excellence in mentoring and training the next generation of outstanding scientists.

<http://www.ciwemb.edu/labs/spradling/A.%20Spradling.pdf>

<http://www.bio.jhu.edu/directory/faculty/spradling/default.html>



### ***Best Poster Competition***



Cathy Krull, Junior Faculty Representative on the SDB Board of Directors, organized the competition, which this year had 74 eligible entries. She and ten hard working judges who interviewed the presenters in the myriad of posters (340 each session!) completed the difficult task and the winners are listed below.

Reminder of the simple rules of eligibility: Undergraduate and graduate students who are SDB members in good standing, ie, membership for the year paid at the time of abstract submission, first authors of the abstract, have checked the box for poster competition on the abstract submission form

and have submitted the abstract on time.

Undergraduate awards, in recognition of their contributions to the poster competition:

Thanh Dinh (UC-Davis), winner of the SDB-sponsored "Best Developmental Biology Poster" at the 2002 Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minority Students – "Sequences determining RNA movement"

Arleide C. Santiago Filha (Univ. Fed. de Paraná, Brazil) – "Presence of cadherin during oogenesis in the brown spider *Loxosceles intermedia*"

Tyler Prestwich (Univ of Utah) – "Anterior-posterior limb position is dependent on the relative timing of key embryonic events"

Prizes were books donated by publishers.

Honorable Mentions:

Hila Barak (The Faculty of Biology Technion, Israel) – "Cell fate specification along the A-P axis of the intermediate mesoderm"

Samantha Brugmann (George Wash Univ.) – "Induction and function of *Xenopus* SIX1 in cranial placodes"

Roger Ilagan (Duke Univ.) – "Fgf8 is required for nephrogenesis in the developing mouse kidney"

Prabhat Kunwar (Skirball/NYU) – “Thesus, an orphan G-protein coupled receptor, is required for transepithelia migration of *Drosophila* germ cells”

Diana H. Lee (Skirball/NYU) – “Mesoderm induction by the BMP, FGF, and Nodal pathways”

Risa Shapiro (Sloan Kettering) – “Roles of *ik2*, a *Drosophila* IκB kinase, in anterior-posterior and dorsal-ventral embryonic patterning”

Rolf Stottman (Duke Univ.) – “BMP receptor 1A is required in mammalian neural crest cells for development of neural crest derivatives and normal heart function”

Prizes were books donated by publishers.

3<sup>rd</sup> Place:

Rafael Hernandez (Fred Hutch. Cancer Ctr.) - "Vhnf1 plays multiple roles in development of the posterior hindbrain”

Prizes: *Developmental Biology* online subscription, *Development Cell* online subscription, *Principles of Developmental Biology* by Fred Wilts and Sarah Hake, *Developmental Stages in Human Embryo* or the “Carnegie Stages” by O’Rahilly and Müller (Gift of Maxine Singer, past president of the Carnegie Institution of Washington).

2<sup>nd</sup> Place:

Maya Kumar (Harvard Univ.) - "Signals from lateral plate mesoderm instruct endoderm towards a pancreatic fate”

Prizes: *Developmental Biology* online subscription, *Development Cell* online subscription, \$100 (sponsored by Intavis), signed copy of Lewis Wolpert’s book “Principles of Development”

1<sup>st</sup> Place:

Huw Williams (Wellcome Trust, U.K.) - "Visualizing long-range movement of TGF-B proteins”

Prizes: *Developmental Biology* online subscription, trip to SDB 2004 Annual Meeting in Calgary! (sponsored by Company of Biologists)

#### Contributors for the prizes

Cambridge University Press, Company of Biologists, Elsevier/Academic Press, Intavis Bioanalytical Instruments, John Wiley & Sons, Oxford University Press, Springer-Verlag, Karger Publishers, W. W. Norton & Co.



Thanh Dinh happily accepts her books



Huw Williams listens to details of his award

*Photo credits: Yumiko Saga (Wolpert and Williams), Ida Chow (the rest)*