



January 2006

Dear Colleagues,

I would like to extend an invitation to all SDB members and colleagues around the world to the 65<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Society for Developmental Biology, to be held from June 17 to 21, 2006, at The University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, MI.

An outstanding line-up of invited speakers will cover a broad range of developmental biology, from the molecular to the organismal and evolutionary, in model organisms and beyond. In addition to the traditional plenary, concurrent and poster sessions, I am pleased to tell you that a "Boot Camp for New Faculty" will be held on June 16, and 17. Members of our Professional Development and Education Committee organized this new event which will include sessions on Hands-on lab with model organisms, Course design, Mentoring and Lab management. SDB members who are new faculty (up to 5-years in the job) are invited to apply for one of the slots in this camp. The application form is found in this packet, and financial assistance for the extra day stay will be available for the accepted recruits.

Another first-time session will be the "Postdoctoral Symposium," run by postdoctoral fellows, with postdoctoral fellows as speakers. Short talks will be selected from submitted abstracts and winners of postdoctoral presentations at the 2006 SDB regional meetings held before June. The idea for this symposium came from discussions held at the Career Workshop during the 2005 meeting in San Francisco. So, if you have other suggestions for future meetings, please make sure to tell us in Ann Arbor.

I invite you to submit an abstract for either a short talk or a poster ***by February 20, 2006***. This is earlier than in the past because the meeting will be held in June. Please note that starting this year, only current SDB members may request consideration for a short talk in one of the concurrent sessions. So, it is a good idea to make sure your membership is up-to-date before submitting the abstract. As usual, the poster sessions 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.

If you are a student member in good standing and first author of the abstract, remember to check the box if you want to be in the best poster competition, for a chance to win a trip to the British Society for Developmental Biology's meeting in the United Kingdom or one of the other prizes. Information about abstract submission is found in this packet and on the SDB Website. Student and postdoctoral members in good standing may apply for travel awards, which will be awarded based on need and available funds.

I look forward to an exciting and stimulating meeting and hope to see you in Ann Arbor.

Elliot Meyerowitz  
President