

Minutes of the ISDB Board Meeting - August 1, 2003

The International SDB Board Meeting was held at the Copley Hotel on occasion of the joint SDB/ISDB meeting held in Boston. The main purpose was to review the present status of ISDB and to discuss future directions.

Delegates in attendance were: (alphabetical)

Argentina/LASDB:	Pablo Wappner
Australia SDB:	Richard Harvey
Asian-Pacific SDB:	Kiyokazu Agata and Douglas Sipp
Brazil/LASDB:	Jose Xavier Neto
Chile/LASDB	Roberto Mayor and Miguel Allende
Elsevier/MOD:	Hendrik van Leusen
Finland SDB:	Kirsi Sainio and Marjo Salo
French SDB:	Nuno Alfonso
ISDB:	Eddy De Robertis
Israeli SDB:	Abraham Fainsod
Indian SDB:	Moneesha Inamdar
Japanese SDB:	Hiro Takeda
MOD Editors:	Claudio Stern and Marnie Halpern
Mexican SDB:	Luis Covarrubias
United States SDB:	Douglas Melton

Dr. De Robertis thanked the participants for their interest in the affairs of ISDB. He then outlined the present and future activities of ISDB in support of international exchanges in Developmental Biology.

Present activities. The Boston joint meeting with SDB was considered a great success. About 300 international participants were present, by far the largest number present at SDB national meetings. Drs. Ruth Lehmann (SDB President), Brigid Hogan (SDB past-President) and Ida Chow (SDB Business Manager) were thanked for making this wonderful event possible.

Future activities:

- 1) **Joint British SDB/ISDB meeting, Spring 2004.** The BSDS Spring meetings are excellent and ISDB participation will make it available to wider international participation.
- 2) **ISDB Congress, Sydney, Australia, September 3-7, 2005.** Dr. Richard Harvey outlined progress made by the planning committee (Harvey as Chair,

Sally Dunwoodie, Peter Currie and others). The meeting will be held at the Sydney Convention Center, located 5 minutes walk from the Sydney Harbor and Opera House. A professional company (Tour Hosts) has been hired, and seed money contributions secured from the local and national governments, in addition to the ISDB contribution. More funding is needed and plans are in place to convince corporations to sponsor symposia. A website will be in place soon (www.anzscdbi.adelaide.edu.au/conference/). The hope is to have about 1000 participants. Dr. De Robertis explained the importance of speakers funding part of the travel expenses and thanked Dr. Harvey for the excellent work.

- 3) **Second Latin American SDB Meeting, April 2005.** Drs. Roberto Mayor and Xavier Neto reported that the meeting will be held at an attractive location, Guaruyá, in a hotel located on the beach off the Sao Paulo coast. Planning is on track.
- 4) **Asian-Pacific SDB.** It is hoped the first Asian-Pacific SDB meeting will be held jointly with the 2005 Sydney Congress. Dr. Agata represented Masatoshi Takeichi (AP-SDB President) and said that contacts are already in place between Japanese, Australian and Indian scientists. These three countries have strong national SDBs. The aim of the new society is to allow smaller countries without SDBs to participate on an equal footing in international exchanges. Douglas Sipp expressed the strong commitment of the Center for Developmental Biology, RIKEN Kobe to provide the official site for the new society. Dr. Harvey mentioned that he and Dr. Robert Saint will help from the Australian side, Vijay Raghavan on the Indian side, and possibly Dr. Chia from Hong Kong. The identification of active partners in Korea, Taiwan, Singapore and China will be pursued.

The Indian SDB represented by its board member Dr. M. Inamdar, expressed strong support for the AP-SDB initiative. The Indian SDB has 200 members and holds annual meetings. The next meeting will be held in mid-2004 and will be advertised in the ISDB webpage. There is strong interest from the Indian SDB to receive exchange graduate students or postdocs from abroad at their meetings. If national societies could cover travel expenses, local expenses might be taken care of, or would be very small. This was considered a very good suggestion. Dr. Inamdar also commented on current difficulties to obtain visitor's visas to the USA.

Relationship of ISDB and Elsevier. Dr. De Robertis explained that the MOD journal was founded by Alberto Monroy under the name of Cell Differentiation. After Dr. Monroy, for many years the Editors-in-Chief were Drs. Tokindo Okada and Lauri Saxén, who were also ISDB Presidents. The support of Elsevier for ISDB dates from these times, making this a very good example of a publishing house contributing to the good of the scientific community. Dr. De Robertis also said that this relationship flourished during the Presidency of Peter Gruss, who changed the name of the journal to the present-day Mechanisms of Development. The relationship with Elsevier is essential to ISDB, not only for financial support but also because Elsevier maintains an excellent webpage for ISDB. Hendrik van Leusen reaffirmed the strong support of Elsevier for the association with ISDB. Negotiations are under way to reach a formal agreement between the Managing Editors of MOD, Elsevier and ISDB. This more formal relationship would assure a stable income to ISDB in the future. Claudio Stern and Marnie Halpern also expressed support for a formal royalties agreement between Elsevier, MOD Managing Editors and ISDB. The journal continues to improve, now with electronic manuscript handling. After initial hiccups, the new journal Patterns of Gene Expression has been spun off MOD. Editorial preference in the new journal will be given to in depth analyses of gene expression, for example exploring several genes in one tissue, or whole data sets from gene screen resulting from in situ screens or microarrays.

Treasurer election. The position of ISDB Treasurer is not currently filled. Dr. De Robertis explained that the dues of member societies to ISDB are 3 US dollars for each of the first 100 members and 2 US dollars for each additional member. Many societies are in arrears and a Treasurer is needed to remedy this. As no candidates were put forward by the societies, the motion was proposed that the present ISDB officers (Ben Scheres, International Secretary, Paul van der Saag, Business Manager and Eddy De Robertis) in agreement designate an interim Treasurer, until a definite one can be elected formally at the Board Meeting planned for next year at the BSDB/ISDB event. The motion was voted on and passed unanimously.

Expanding Regional Societies. Dr. De Robertis explained that ISDB should emphasize support of Developmental Biologists in underprivileged countries, and that the strong national SDBs can play an important role. Dr. Mayor outlined the success of LA-SDB and the valuable support that the American SDB has provided them through travel fellowships. Dr. Melton (SDB President-elect) expressed the interest in promoting international interactions. SDB would like to facilitate the

attendance of graduate students and postdocs from underprivileged countries to its annual meetings in order to present a first-author poster. The discussion turned to other regions in addition to Latin America and Asian-Pacific, but no practicable opportunities were identified at this point, except for Eastern Europe.

Baltic region SDB. Dr. Kirsi Sainio of Finland proposed the possibility of regional exchanges within the Baltic region. Finland has a long tradition in Developmental Biology (the legacy of Drs. Toivonen and Saxén) and a vibrant FSDB (103 members) that holds annual meetings. Perhaps one of these meetings could provide the nucleus for a new initiative to permit the participation of young researchers from Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland. There is a great need for this by Estonian scientists. Dr. De Robertis suggested that Russia should be included. Dr. Andrea Vortkamp said she would report to the German SDB, and that the proposal is worth exploring. Delegates from Sweden were not present, but the Swedish Developmental Biology Organization has an active group of Developmental Biologists and could help as well. Dr. De Robertis said ISDB would strongly support further exploring this proposal of the Finnish delegation.

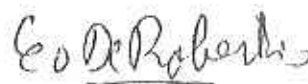
Requests for 2009 ISDB Congress. The ISDB Congress is organized by member Societies. The Australian SDB is doing an excellent job for 2005, but it is not too early for proposals for 2009. ISDB Congress have about 1000 attendees so planning ahead is required. With meetings in Snowbird, Kyoto and Sydney, ISDB feels the Congress should ideally return to Europe in 2009. All proposals will be welcomed.

In a final round of comments, Drs. Stern and Melton commended the way in which the activities of ISDB have developed in recent years. Dr. De Robertis thanked all the delegates for coming, and the meeting was adjourned.

These Minutes were prepared by Eddy De Robertis (ISDB President) and Hiroyuki Takeda (Secretary ad-Hoc, JSDB).



Hiro Takeda



Eddy De Robertis