President's Report

In preparing to write this annual President’s Report, I reread the past two Presidents’ Reports to get a flavor of where we, as a society, have come from. In 2010, our Past-president Todd Jones spoke of the challenges that SIVB had faced during his term and how we had succeeded in overcoming those daunting challenges. He spoke of the hard work of putting together the 2010 combined SIVB-IAPB meeting in St Louis. He also talked of concerns with diminishing membership. For all the possible downsides, he spoke of the tremendous efforts expended by the officer, committee chairs, Section chairs, and others who allowed him to conclude his letter with very positive thoughts. For the 2 years of my presidency, I never lost sight of the outstanding work that Todd and his Board of Director’s did in getting SIVB on solid ground and paving a path forward for our society. If I had to define my two years as president I would simply say it was fantastic, wonderful, and no work at all. I guess if you paid the president you would have to take my money and give it to Todd.

OK, so maybe the concept of no work at all may be an understatement. Your Board of Directors worked diligently for 2 years. They provided an environment wherein I, as president, simply had to monitor activities and smile at successes. Our finances are rock solid. Barbara Doonan did a magnificent job as Treasurer. Our membership is finally showing some upward trends. Marietta and the office staff along with Membership Chair John Finer have put in place everything necessary to continue our growth. Speaking of John Finer, to Membership Chair add SIVB Secretary and Editor, In Vitro Cellular and Developmental Biology – Plant. I am really pleased that John doesn’t need sleep to excel. We are looking forward to an exciting World Congress because of a great Program Committee chaired by Fredy Altpeter, who also moonlights as Chair of the Plant Biotechnology Section. Starting to see a trend here? The World Congress has a secure financial base because Greg Phillips, our Vice President also chairs the Development Committee. Also, I want you to know that your incoming President, Dave Songstad has been my right hand as President-Elect. He also chaired the Long-range Planning Committee, guided the establishment of a new Endowment fund, and edited a book on food sustainability. Surround by these folks and others such as Members-at-Large Mark Jordan, Lucy Lee, Wayne Parrott and Liz Roemer, Publications Chair Barbara Reed, Public Policy Chair Pam Weathers, and the always present advice of Todd Jones, the best thing I did during the past 2 years was stay out of the way and let them fly. My thanks are boundless and the memories irreplaceable.

I already mentioned the Plant Biotechnology Section Chair Fredy, and need to add the IVACS Chair Michael Fay who also edits the In Vitro Report. The activities of our Sections are expanding and the other section officers have worked with the Program Committee to make the 2012 World Congress have a great promise of success. Our two journals are increasing both in articles and impact factors, this is due to our outstanding Editors John Finer for In Vitro - Plant and Tetsuji Okamoto for In Vitro - Animal. There are many more individuals that I haven’t mentioned by name that serve this society and without whom SIVB could not have flourished. I hope to personally thank all of them while at the World Congress. To all the members of SIVB I wish to say thank you for having the confidence in me and giving me the privilege to serve as your President. SIVB is strong and will continue to grow under your new President, Dave Songstad, and the new Board of Directors.

It has been a pleasure,
Bill Smith
SIVB Member and (soon to be) Past President

William J. Smith, SIVB President
william.j.smith3@us.army.mil
Secretary’s Report

As I complete my 2nd term as Secretary for the society, I have learned much from the experience. Immediately capturing the essence of the discussion and identifying information that qualify as Action Items in the minutes has been challenging and quite intense at times. I appreciate the support and composure of both presidents during my terms, Todd Jones and Bill Smith, during board meetings. Their abilities to provide oversight and keep the board on track during discussions are noteworthy and valued. I am especially grateful to Marietta Wheaton Ellis, who showed patience and understanding beyond belief as society deadlines approached and my duties backed up. I personally would have been lost without her.

Treasurer’s Report

While the global financial scene continues to be more negative than positive, it is my pleasure to report that the financial picture for the Society for In Vitro Biology is positive. As can be seen in the Treasurer’s Summary Report, included as part of this SIVB Annual Report, 2011 has again ended on a very positive note. Looking at the year end Activities Statements for December 31, 2010 and 2011 it can be seen that total net assets for 2011 exceed those for 2010 by $146,692 and unrestricted net assets for 2011 exceed those for 2010 by $109,426. The breakdown into restricted and unrestricted net assets is dependent upon their degree of liquidity and specificity of purpose, such as ready availability to pay bills or as investments for our future. It is quite clear that the pleasing 2010 financial picture has improved even further in 2011. A solid investment strategy plays an important role in maintaining a positive financial result for our organization. Matthew Topper, an associate of Morgan Stanley Smith Barney, has been our advisor for a while now, and has continued to identify investments in keeping with our specific needs and goals. These are then carefully reviewed before commitments are made. In the current economic situation, we are confident that the best investments available to us have been selected.

Over the past ten years we have traveled some rocky roads as an organization and we can be justifiably proud of our progress. We have shown that we are not only able to successfully produce our own annual meetings, but are also able to maneuver the often tricky financial aspects of joint meetings, bringing these to mutually successful conclusions. Instrumental in our success are our Officers, Board of Directors, Committee members and not to be forgotten, the New Beginnings Management staff who diligently represent our needs and interests on a daily basis. We are a unique society, bridging a broad range of disciplines, with a diverse membership representative of and responsible for the true team spirit that abounds across the society.

Barbara B. Doonan, Treasurer
doonanbarbara@yahoo.com

The task of the office of Secretary is to provide a written and accurate record of discussions and motions made at all Board of Director’s meetings, and to provide that record to the board and the society membership. Essential to directing the board’s activities are the “action items”, which are also assembled and incorporated into the minutes. Action items provide documentation for important issues and actions which need to be resolved in a timely fashion. All the minutes from board meetings have been posted on the website for review by the SIVB membership.

John J. Finer, Secretary
finer.1@osu.edu

SIVB members explored the Duke Homestead on Tuesday evening.

Meeting guests enjoyed this cake at the Welcome Reception.

Attendees of the Duke Homestead evening learned about the history of tobacco in Durham, NC.

Volunteers at the 2011 Meeting included (L to R) Sylvia Mitchell, Magnolia Ariza-Nieto and Rashmi Komal.
Business Office Report

The Business Office activities focused on the 2011 In Vitro Biology Meeting, preparations for the 2012 World Congress, publications, and membership.

2011 In Vitro Biology Meeting

The 2011 In Vitro Biology Meeting was held in Raleigh, North Carolina from June 4 – 8, 2012 at the Raleigh Convention Center and Raleigh Marriott City Center. The meeting highlighted a keynote presentation by Dr. Gale A. Buchanan, former Undersecretary of Agriculture under the Bush Administration (2006-2008), former Dean of Agriculture at the University of Georgia and Past President of the Council for Agricultural Science and Technology (CAST). He spoke on an "Agricultural Research and the Next Green Revolution: Increased Productivity and Food Security." Also during the Opening Ceremony, William J. Smith, PhD presented Distinguished Service Awards to Cynthia L. Goodman, PhD; Brad L Uphaum, PhD; Kan Wang, PhD; Todd J. Jones, PhD; Paul J. Price, PhD; Michael J. Fay, PhD; Barbara M. Reed, PhD; Barbara M. Reed, PhD; J. Denny Sato, DPhil; David D. Songstad, PhD; Carol M. Stiff, PhD; Dwight T. Tomes, PhD; Marietta Wheaton Ellis; Michele Schultz and Michelle Stevenson for their support of the Society and its activities. Special recognition was also presented to outgoing journal Editors-in-Chief, J. Denny Sato, DPhil and Dwight T. Tomes, PhD for their extraordinary work in revitalizing the SIVB journals. During the Plant Biotechnology Section Business Meeting, the 2011 Fellow Awards were presented to John J. Finer, PhD, and Valerie C. Pence, PhD.

Special events held at meeting included a special workshop at Cotton Incorporated, tour of the Plants for Human Health Institute in Kannapolis, North Carolina, an evening at the Duke Homestead in Durham, and the City of Oaks Silent Auction.

At the 2011 In Vitro Biology Meeting, the attendance reached 420. There were 170 members, 35 non-members, 30 post docs, 73 student, 10 one-day, 1 emeritus, 1 accompanying guest, 1 welcome reception, 2 guests, 10 volunteer and 61 speaker registrants. Also, there were 4 staff registrants and 15 Exhibitors with 22 staff members in attendance.

The Business Office and Local Organizing Committee worked with the North Carolina Biotechnology Center to bring additional awareness of the event to the local scientists in the RTP and other biotech regions in the state. SIVB designed broadcast emails that were sent to all the NC Biotech members and specialty emails sent specifically to potential student and post doctoral members. The Business Office worked intensively to prepare a grant to the North Carolina Biotechnology Center which raised over $8,000 to support the general program for the 2011 Meeting.

With the Program Committee, they assisted in the preparation of a grant with the National Science Foundation to support the Student Initiative and student travel awards at the meeting. SIVB used the NSF money to support the registration and membership fees for students who attended the 2011 In Vitro Biology Meeting.

The success of the 2011 In Vitro Biology Meeting was due to a number of factors: accessibility of the city (close to airport, location walking distance to restaurants and local color); large biotechnology community (RTP and 4 major biotech universities) in the local area of the event; active participation from NC Biotech (statewide internet biotech community) in advertising the event to local organizations and specifically to student and post doc members; support of NC Biotech in providing a grant to support the event; active participation from the local C&VB in welcoming attendees at the airport and local restaurants; a cohesive team approach with the local C&VB, hotel, and convention center working together to assure a smooth experience; and more active usage of SIVB broadcast email communication with members. To create a successful meeting in the future, the most important issue is in choosing the right location: find cities that combine interesting history and walk-ability to restaurants, shopping, and more; for affordability, the city should not be a MAJOR city (NYC, Los Angeles) but rather a second tier city (Raleigh, Providence) or suburb of a major city (such as Bellevue to Seattle); the city needs to be near a major airport; there needs to be a strong Local Organizing Committee who can spread information about the event on a grass roots level; the chair and committee should be determined significantly in advance of the meeting, as we do for the Program Chair; and the city should have a biotech community nearby, hopefully, with an organization that can also help spread news about the event. In advance of researching future cities, it would be helpful for the board to discuss where the strongest In Vitro/biotech communities are located and focus future meetings. The venue should avoid solitary resort locations that do not include the ability to travel cheaply to restaurants and shopping and, if possible, should include both meeting and rooms in the same venue, though in the right circumstances, convention center/hotel combinations can be workable. Often, it can be beneficial to build a rapport with a specific city and return to it. This provides the opportunity for better negotiations as well as offering a comfort and familiarity with our members. Given the success of this meeting, SIVB could choose to set a pattern to revisit Raleigh every 3-4 years. ie: 2012 West Coast - World Congress (Bellevue, WA); 2013 East Coast (Providence); 2014 Middle country (Savannah, New Orleans); 2015 Raleigh; 2016 West Coast, World Congress.

2012 World Congress on In Vitro Biology

The upcoming 2012 World Congress on In Vitro Biology is an international event held once every 4 years focusing on the science, novel technologies and advances of in vitro biology for both plants and animals. The Hyatt Regency Bellevue on Seattle’s Eastside will be the site of the congress. Bellevue is the Gateway to the entire Puget Sound and only nine miles east of Seattle. Nestled between two mountain ranges on the shores of glittering Lake Washington, this walkable city offers some of the best of the Pacific Northwest! Visit retail legends like Nordstrom and Eddie Bauer, eat at romantic bistros, hike along miles of nature trails, explore museums, art galleries and gardens or take a short trip to out of town to see Wine Country or sight-see in Seattle. The 2012 World Congress on In Vitro Biology will highlight a keynote presentation by Institute for Systems Biology President and Co-founder, Dr. Lee Hood. He will be presenting a talk on “Systems Approaches to Disease and the Emergence of Proactive P4 Medicine.” There will also be presentations of the Lifetime Achievement Awards during the meeting to Niels Bolås, PhD and Wallace L. McKeehan, PhD. Tetsuji Okamoto, DDS PhD, Peggy Ozias-Akins, PhD and Dannette Ward will be receiving the SIVB Fellow Award. There are a host of additional awards being presented at the congress.

The 2012 Puget Sound Silent Auction will begin during the Welcome Reception on Sunday, June 3 and will end on Wednesday morning, June 6, 2012. Additionally, attendees will be invited to enjoy a host of special activities including the 13th International Conference on Invertebrate and Fish Cell Culture on Sunday, June 3; a special evening event on Wednesday, June 6 at Chateau Ste. Michelle Winery; and afternoon tours on Thursday, June 7 of the Institute of Systems Biology plus Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center and the Weyerhaeuser Pacific Rim Bonsai and Rhododendron Gardens.

The Student Initiative Program continues to grow with the continuation offer of free student membership including online access to the journals for all students who register and attend the SIVB Annual Meeting. The Student Committee is organizing symposia and workshops during the annual meeting to encourage growth and participation of its student members, both graduate and undergrad. In 2011, both sections offered Oral Presentation Competitions. The IVACS section offered a joint Post doc/Student competition and the PBS section presented separate Student and Post Doc Oral Presentation competitions.
Membership

Membership numbers increased significantly this year, which is due in part to the SIVB being able to offer combination meeting registration/membership options at the 2011 In Vitro Biology Meeting. Membership numbers increased 19.3% for overall membership and 5.7% for regular membership.

Membership initiatives included the extension of the Member-get-a-Member campaign as well as a special drawing for members who renewed by December 31. The winners of the 2010 “renew before December 31” contest were drawn during the 2011 SIVB Business meeting and were: 3rd place, Holly Tuttle, who won a $50 Gift card; second place, Yin Fu Chang, who won 1 free year of SIVB membership; and first place, Robert Lawrence, who won a Nintendo Wii system. The 2011 contest winners will be drawn during the 2012 World Congress Business Meeting and prizes include a gift card, year of membership with SIVB, and a new Kindle Fire.

Social Marketing has become an essential part of sharing any organization’s message and In Vitro continued to work with the Publications Committee to re-activate our Facebook page to go along with the already existing Student Committee Facebook page and our Linked In presence. If you haven’t friended us on Facebook yet, please do. We provide timely reminders about upcoming deadlines and other member benefits throughout the year.

And speaking of member benefits, the SIVB Career Center site is also available for members and offers free or significantly discounted services to employers who are SIVB members. These listings are also linked to our Facebook page. Don’t forget to check it out under Employment on the SIVB website.

With the online database, members are able to use their email and a personalized log in to renew their membership or purchase meeting registrations online. They can also log in to update their contact information. If you wish to access your record on the membership database, but do not have a log in and password, please contact the office at sivb@sivb.org for more information.

Publications

The Business Office’s Publications Department’s continued to support the SIVB’s print and online publications while looking for ways to enhance the organization’s marketability.

The journals have also moved forward to deal with the changing needs of scientists. SIVB worked with Springer and the Publications Chair, Executive Committee, and IAPB to sign new six year contracts for both In Vitro journals; worked with the Publications Committee to review and update the policy for copyright transfer forms and are now accepting emailed pdfs of forms rather than requiring authors to fax or mail the paperwork to the Business Office, which is helping to speed up production.

In Vitro - Animal continues to show steady growth and 2011 with submissions growing along with our impact factor. Tetsuji Okamoto completed his first year as Editor-in-Chief and spent 2011 by encouraging active participation from the Associate Editors and greater submission activity.

In Vitro – Plant started the year by publishing its second special issue, this time on Biodiversity. Editor-in-Chief, John Finer completed a successful year by working with the IVP editors, Publications Chair and the Business Office to update the Instructions for Authors. Submissions continue to be heavy and with the help of the Associate Editors.

With the growth in submissions, both journals have had to address the issues of plagiarism and questionable or duplicated data. They have followed the COPE (Committee on Publication Ethics) policies to address these issues as they have arisen.

The In Vitro Report continues to publish content of interest to our members and requires your support to make the issue as relevant. Members are encouraged to forward their news and information to either of the Co-Editors-in-Chief. Information for submission can also be forwarded to sivb@sivb.org.

The In Vitro journals still receive income from SIVB’s previous arrangement with BioOne and its continuing agreement with JSTOR. This income becomes part of the overall revenue stream for each respective journal published with Springer.

New Beginnings Management, Inc. manages the day-to-day operations of the Society. Both Michele Schultz and I comprise the major staff of New Beginnings Management. Having both been long-standing employees of SIVB in the past, we appreciate SIVB’s continuing support of NBM and its efforts on behalf of the Society and look forward to the continuation of our work with SIVB’s Executive Committee, Board of Directors and Section Officers in the upcoming years.

We offer our thanks to those members whose efforts have been integral to the continuing health of the Society and its endeavors. I would like to personally thank the outgoing 2010 – 2012 Board of Directors, Committees and Section Chairs for their constant care and concern in supporting the future of the SIVB. Additional thanks are due to the incoming 2012-2014 Board of Directors, Committees, and Section Chairs for their enthusiasm and vision for the Society’s future potential. Lastly, a special thanks to the volunteers who offered their assistance during the 2011 In Vitro Biology Meeting, many working hours beyond what was required of them. We greatly appreciate all of their efforts on behalf of the SIVB. We greatly appreciate their efforts and those of all who volunteer their time on behalf of the SIVB and its mission.

We welcome your ideas and suggestions in promoting and supporting the Society for In Vitro Biology. Please contact us at sivb@sivb.org.

Marietta Wheaton Ellis
sivb@sivb.org

IVACS Members, Lucy Lee, Brad Upham, and Guy Smagghe take time to catch up during the Opening Reception

The IVACS Student and Post Doc Oral Presentation Competition Winners were (from L to R) Anna de la Fuente (2nd Place); Sung-Yong Hwang (1st Place); and Vinita Daniel (3rd Place).
The 2011 Society for In Vitro Biology Meeting took place on June 4 – 8, 2011 in Raleigh, North Carolina. The IVACS annual business meeting took place on Monday June 6th from 6:00pm – 7:30pm. The business meeting started with the recognition of IVACS members who have made outstanding contributions to the Society through their leadership and service. The following individuals were recognized:

- William Smith – SIVB President
- Lucy Lee and Liz Roemer – SIVB Board of Directors
- Michael J. Fay – IVACS Section Chair
- Cynthia Goodman – IVACS Secretary & 2011 Program Chair
- Brad Upham – Vice Chair-Program
- Yvonne Reid – Vice-Chair-Membership
- J. Denny Sato – Past Editor-in-Chief of In Vitro Cellular & Developmental Biology-Again
- Tetsuji Okamoto – Editor-in-Chief of In Vitro Cellular & Developmental Biology-Again

We also recognized and thanked John Harbell and all of the IVACS members who helped to raise funds for the 2011 SIVB Meeting. We thanked the following sponsors for their generous financial support of the 2011 SIVB Meeting.

- GeneCopoeia, Inc.
- L.C. Sciences
- Medicis, The Dermatology Company
- Molecular Devices
- National Anti-Vivisection Society in cooperation with the International Foundation for Ethical Research
- RegeneMed, Inc.
- The P & G Company
- Thermo Fisher Scientific

The 2011 SIVB Meeting was an outstanding success because Cynthia Goodman (2011 Program Chair), Brad Upham (2011 Vice Chair Program), and the entire Program Planning Committee did an excellent job of planning the IVACS Sessions and the joint IVACS-Plant Biotechnology sessions at the 2011 SIVB Meeting. The sessions at the 2011 meeting included: RNAi in Plant Biotechnology, Insect Control, and Human Health; Basic Research for Development of New Drugs Using Embryonic Stem (ES) Cells and Induced Pluripotent Stem Cells (iPS); Student and Postdoctoral Oral Presentation Competition of In Vitro Animal Cell Sciences; Single Molecule Sequencing Technology: The Applications and Implications for Biological Research; Imaging Technologies for Live Cells; Scientific and Regulatory Perspectives on Cellular Identity and Culture Contamination; Functional Bioengineered Tissues: Cells, 3D Scaffolds, Environmental Cues and Beyond; Herbal Medicines: In Vitro and Clinical Validation; In Vitro Animal Cell Sciences and Education Poster Session; Engineering of 3-D Functional Tissues: Powerful Tools for Cancer Biology, In Vitro Toxicology and Regenerative Medicine; Quality Control of Cultured Cells: Addressing Authentication, Adventitious Agents, and Phenotypic Characterization; Bioinformatics/Statistics Tools in Biological Research and Product Improvement; Functional Neurotoxicology in Cell Culture: New Approaches for the 21st Century; Small RNAs: Research Tools with Big Potential; and Current Topics in Systems Biology. Thank you to the following Conveners for facilitating the success of these excellent sessions: Michael J. Fay, Harold Trick, Guy Smagghe, Hajime Koijima, Brad Upham, Lisa Campbell, Todd Jones, Thomas M. Gurganus, Yvonne Reid, Eugene Elmore, Barbara Reid, Addy Alt-Holland, Michael K. Dame, Angelia Lorence, Thomas Flynn, John Harbell, Pierre Busnel, Leping Li, Prakash Lakshmanan, David North, Patrick McNutt, Lyle Burgoon, and T. Michael Spencer.

Students were an integral part of the 2011 SIVB Meeting. At the 2011 Student and Postdoctoral Oral Presentation Competition Sung-Yong Hwang (NIHES, Research Triangle Park, NC) was awarded first place for his presentation titled "Orai1-Mediated Calcium Entry Regulates Differentiation and Function of Osteoclast Cells: Implications in Drug Development for Bone Diseases Such as Osteoporosis and Rheumatoid Arthritis"; second place was awarded to Anna de La Fuente (Midwestern University, Downers Grove, IL) for her presentation titled "Identification of Cadmium-regulated miRNAs in Rat Renal Proximal Tubule Epithelial NRK-52E Cells"; and third place was awarded to Vinita Daniel (Midwestern University, Downers Grove, IL) for her presentation titled "Cullin-5 Knockdown Affects Gene Expression in Human Breast Cancer Cells". Student Travel Awards were awarded to Sachiko Yamasaki (Hiroshima University), Anna de la Fuente (Midwestern University), and Vinita Daniel (Midwestern University). Anna de la Fuente (Midwestern University) was also awarded the Honor B. Fell Award, and Vinita Daniel (Midwestern University) was awarded the Toxicology Award. The Education and Student Committees also organized the following sessions: Student Networking Symposium: Writing and Submitting a Scientific Paper; Career Expo/Workshop; and the Student networking Lunch.

At the 2011 Opening Ceremonies, SIVB President William Smith, presented Distinguished Service Awards to several IVACS Members. Cynthia Goodman and Brad Upham received Distinguished Service Awards for their outstanding contributions to the 2011 SIVB Program. Paul Price received a Distinguished Service Award for his Service as Past President of the Society. Michael J. Fay received a Distinguished Service Award for his contributions as co-editor of the In Vitro Report, and J. Denny Sato received a Distinguished Service Award for his contributions as past editor-in-chief of In Vitro Cellular & Developmental Biology-Animal. William Smith also presented Distinguished Service Awards to the Marietta Wheaton Ellis, Michele Schultz, and Michelle Stevenson of the SIVB Business Office for their dedicated service to the SIVB.

While the finances for the IVACS section have improved in recent years, the issue of declining membership continues to be one of the major issues facing our section. As members of IVACS we all need to be active in the recruitment of new members. Encourage your colleagues and students to become active members of SIVB and to participate in our annual meetings. Remember that the Society also has several incentives to encourage the recruitment of new SIVB members.

The 2012 World Congress Program Chair (Fredy Alpeter), Co-Chair (J. Denny Sato), Vice Chair Program (Brad Upham), the Program Planning Committee (Addy Alt Holland, Vinita Daniel, Thomas J. Flynn, John W. Harbell, Lucila E.J. Lee, Kerri Neugebauer, Paul J. Price, Jessica L. Rupp, Guy Smagghe, David D. Songstad, Vibha Srivastava, John Thompson, Kan Wang, Zeng Yu Wang, and Margaret Young), and the local organizing Committee (Delene J. Oldenburg, George M. Martin, Barbara M. Reed, and Jyoti R. Rout) have been working hard to organize an outstanding meeting for the 2012 World Congress in Bellevue, WA (June 3-7, 2012). We look forward to seeing a strong participation by the IVACS Section at the 2012 World Congress.

The IVACS section welcomes the newly elected IVACS members who will be transitioning into their elected positions in the near future. The newly elected IVACS Officers include: Brad Upham (Chair), Addy Alt-Holland (Vice Chair-Meeting), Michael Dame (Vice Chair-Membership), and Magnolia Ariza-Nieto (Secretary). Also, the following IVACS Members were elected to SIVB Officer Positions and Committee Chairs: Eugene Elmore (President Elect), Lia H. Campbell (Secretary), Elizabeth J. Roemer (Member-at-Large), Amy A. Wang (Awards Chair), and Linda B. Jacobsen (Constitutions and Bylaws Chair). The success of the IVACS Section and the SIVB is due to dedication and hard work of our Membership and our Business Office at New Beginnings Management, Inc. Thanks to you all the IVACS and Plant Biotechnology members who have contributed to our success, and thank you to Marietta Wheaton Ellis (Meeting Secretariat), Michele Schultz (Publications Manager) and the entire staff of New Beginnings Management, Inc. for their dedicated service to the SIVB.
Plant Biotechnology Section

The 2011 In Vitro Biology Meeting was held from June 4 – 8 in Raleigh, NC. This meeting was an excellent showcase for plant biotechnology research and a great success for the entire Plant Biotechnology Section of SIVB (PBS).

Kan Wang (2011 PBS Program Chair), along with the entire Program Planning Committee worked extremely hard and they created an outstanding scientific program. Plenary sessions included: RNAi in Plant Biotechnology, Insect Control and Human Health; Scientific and Regulatory Perspectives on Cellular Identity and Culture Contamination; Bioinformatics/Statistics Tools in Biological Research and Product Improvement; and, Current Topics in Systems Biology. Sixteen PBS symposia, workshops and interactive poster sessions offered an abundance of diverse and exciting research topics. Additionally, two joint sessions were convened that discussed cross-discipline technologies and applications.

Additional highlights of the PBS program were the Postdoc and the Student Oral Presentation Competitions in Plant Biotechnology coordinated by Sukhpreet Sandhu and Jeff Adelberg. Sukhpreet and Jeff did an outstanding job in advertising the competition, inviting participation of student and postdoc contestants, recruiting judges, preparing a list of finalists for the inclusion in the program, moderating the sessions and presenting the awards. The student contestants were judged by Prakash Lakshmanan, Ian Curtis and James Register. The postdoc contestants were judged by John Finer, Nancy Reichert and Prakash Kumar. The cash awards for the student winners (1st Place: Sarah H Holt, Virginia Polytechnic Institute & State University, VA; 2nd Place: Man Zhou, Clemson University, SC; 3rd Place: Jessica L. Rupp, Kansas State University, KS) and postdoc winners (1st Place: John Finer, Nancy Reichert and Prakash Kumar. The following awards were presented to PBS students by Argelia Lorence (Chair of PBS business meetings. Fellow awards were presented to John Finer (the new Editor-in-Chief of In Vitro Cellular and Developmental Biology – Plant) and Valerie Pence for their great impact on their profession and the SIVB.

Several very deserving PBS members were recognized with awards during the 2011 SIVB or PBS business meetings. Fellow awards were presented to John Finer (the new Editor-in-Chief of In Vitro Cellular and Developmental Biology – Plant) and Valerie Pence for their great impact on their profession and the SIVB. Kan Wang, Todd Jones, Barbara Reed, David Songstad, Carol Stiff and Dwight Tomes received the SIVB President’s Distinguished Service Award in recognition for their dedicated and continued support of SIVB.

The following awards were presented to PBS students by Argelia Lorence (Chair of the Student Affairs/ Award committee): The Wilton R. Earle Award to Khanh Tran Nguyen, Worcester Polytechnic Institute, MA; The John S. Song Award to Deepak Kumar, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, India; The Philip R. White Award to Hyeong Jung, University of Florida and the Hope E. Hoppes Award to Liwen Fei, Worcester Polytechnic Institute, MA; The Student Travel Awards were presented to Khanh Tran Nguyen, Worcester Polytechnic Institute, MA; Liwen Fei, Worcester Polytechnic Institute, MA; Sarah H Holt, Virginia Polytechnic Institute & State University, VA; 2nd Place: Man Zhou, Clemson University, SC; 3rd Place: Jessica L. Rupp, Kansas State University, KS) and postdoc winners (1st Place: John Finer, Nancy Reichert and Prakash Kumar. The following awards were presented to PBS students by Argelia Lorence (Chair of PBS business meetings. Fellow awards were presented to John Finer (the new Editor-in-Chief of In Vitro Cellular and Developmental Biology – Plant) and Valerie Pence for their great impact on their profession and the SIVB.

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A premier international scientist, inventor, academician and mentor known by his signature cowboy boots, safari vest and Texas drawl, Dr. McKeehan was a major historical contributor, not only as a Sons of Dewitt Colony Texas, but to the development of the original Tissue Culture Association (TCA). Prior to joining the ICBT, Dr. McKeehan held scientific positions at the Basel Institute of Immunology, Switzerland, Department of Molecular, Cellular & Developmental Biology, University of Colorado, Boulder, CO and the W. Alton Jones Cell Science Center in Lake Placid, New York, that were instrumental in the historical significance of our Society. In his role as senior scientist and Deputy Director of the W. Alton Jones Cell Science Center and co-founder of Upstate Biotechnology, Inc., Dr. McKeehan worked with Dr. Gordon Sato and other pioneers in vitro biologists in developing and promoting TCA advancement in scientific and educational venues, that are the current SIVB signature mission and goals, as well as his contributions to the global Manzanar Project.

As editor of In Vitro Cellular & Developmental Biology Animal (IVCDB-A) for over 14 years, the SIVB reaped the benefits of the Journal’s growth and profitability during a time of change and chaos in the scientific publishing industry. Dr. McKeehan’s legacy to the SIVB is his leadership and guidance to bring the Society’s journals into the electronic scientific publishing industry with ASAP (as soon as published) online publication, as well as PubMed and other listing indices. As Emeritus IVCDB-A Editor-in-Chief, Dr. McKeehan continues to challenge for profit publishers to maintain the niche and fundamental long-term values of the not-for-profit Society’s journal.

In addition to Dr. McKeehan’s pivotal role in the SIVB history and continued contribution as a member of the Society’s History Society/Committee, he has a record of significant scientific excellence in preventative molecular medicine, fundamentals of cancer biology and developmental in vitro technology.

The scientific community and in vitro biology mourns the loss of scientific mentors and pioneers of developmental cellular biologists, Dr. Richard G. Ham on October 28, 2011 and Dr. Renato Dulbecco on February 19, 2012. Richard G. Ham, PhD, Professor Emeritus, Department of Molecular Cellular and Developmental Biology, University of Colorado at Boulder, was a world-renowned pioneer in the development of media for culturing animal and human cells. Dr. Ham’s major contributions to in vitro biology were the development of culture media nutrients to achieve optimal cell growth and differentiation. Author of more than 89 scientific papers, Dr. Ham devoted his research career to the development and commercialization of media for culturing normal human cells, to include skeletal muscle cells. A pioneer of cell culture technology and scientific advisory to a number of biotechnology companies, Dr. Ham received the SIVB Distinguished Lifetime Achievement Award in 1991, at the World Congress on Cell and Tissue Culture.

A colleague and scientific mentor to numerous national and international TCA/SIVB members, Dr. Ham’s legacy to in vitro biology will be documented in a forthcoming In Vitro Cellular & Developmental Biology Animal publication, edited by Dr. Wallace G. McKeehan. The History and Records Committee members remember, each with their own story, the quiet and humble scientist who contributed to their development and expertise in defining the control, function and gene expression in cellular systems.

Renato Dulbecco, M.D., a virologist and former president of the Salk Institute for Biological Research, San Diego, shared the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine 1975 with David Baltimore, PhD and Howard M. Temin, PhD for their studies that viruses carry genetic information in the form of RNA that triggers uncontrolled cell growth in cancer. Dr. Dulbecco later pioneered a technique for identifying breast cancer cells by their unique genetic proteins, as a contribution to the Human Genome Project. Dulbecco’s pioneering scientific contributions in animal cell culture, cellular differentiation and carcinogenesis were influenced by fellow colleagues and collaborators: Rita Levi-Montalcini, Salvador Luria, Herman Muller, Marguerite Vogt and James D. Watson.

The History Committee continues to explore options and venues to find institutions willing to protect and archive the historical artifacts and records of the pioneering founders of in vitro biology.

Sandra L. Schneider, History and Records Committee Chair
drsandra@stic.net
Standing Committees

Awards

The Awards Committee, comprised of Maud Hinchee, Michael Fay, Fredy Altpeter, and Bill Smith, was pleased to receive multiple meritorious nominations for the Fellow Award. The Fellow Award was created to recognize the outstanding professional accomplishments in in vitro biology and service to the Society. This year we received no nominations for the Lifetime Achievement Award, which recognizes and honors those who have achieved academic excellence and who have made significant contributions to the field of in vitro biology, or the Young Scientist Award which recognizes professionals who have contributed significantly to advancement of the in vitro sciences within ten years of completion of their terminal degree.

Fellow Award

We selected Dr. John Finer and Dr. Valerie Pence to receive the Fellow Award based on their accomplishments as well as their enthusiastic and dedicated service to the Society.

Dr. John Finer has had a long and distinguished career in the In Vitro Plant Sciences as well as having an active career in SIVB. He has worked on several important crop species, though he is perhaps best known for his work on soybean. He developed many of the procedures that have made soybean transformation a routine procedure in this day and age. He is also known for development of the particle inflow gun, which made biolistic technology accessible to any lab as well as many other scientific successes. Along the way, he has authored about 60 refereed publications and over 10 book chapters that have had a high impact on the field. Eleven of his publications have been cited over 75 times each, with two of these cited over 200 times each. The SIVB is Dr. Finer’s home society, and he has served it in several capacities over the years including: Secretary of SIVB, Board of Directors (2008-2012), Plant Section Chair (1992 – 1994), Associate Editor of IVP (1991–1999), Vice Chair of the Plant Section (1990–1992), Student Affairs and Awards Committee Member, and more. For Dr. Finer, research is not just about tools and biology, but also about students and postdocs he mentors and trains in the process, and who are now employed both in industry and academia. He ensures they have opportunities to network with the community and is always encouraging them to enter various competitions and other activities to enhance their professional development.

Dr. Valerie C. Pence more than meets the criteria for the Fellow Award. She is the Director of Plant Research, Center for Conservation and Research of Endangered Wildlife, Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Garden and adjunct research professor at the University of Cincinnati. Dr. Pence has been an active member of SIVB since the 1980s and for many years has been active in planning and convening symposia at the annual meetings. Without her continued commitment the micropropagation/conservation/genetic diversity sessions would not have been as frequent or as interesting. She has organized or contributed to sessions on cryopreservation, in vitro collecting or in vitro conservation at most of the meetings for the last 10 years. Dr. Pence is currently the Vice Chair of the Plant Biotechnology Section (2008–2012). She served on the SIVB Plant Program Committee from 1989–92, 1998–03 and continues to contribute almost yearly. She is an active reviewer of manuscripts for In Vitro-Plant as well as many other plant journals. Dr. Pence has a lengthy research and publication record that show her stature in the in vitro culture and cryopreservation of endangered species. She pioneered the concept of field collecting for in vitro culture and is at the forefront of reintroducing endangered species after multiplication in vitro. Dr. Pence embodies the values of critical scientific thought and solid research and she provides quiet but effective support for the SIVB and the science of in vitro biology.
Student Awards

The student awards committee this year consisted of Argelia Lorenze (Chair), Craig Meyers, Pamela Weathers, Carol Stiff, Sylvia Mitchell, Esther Uchendu, Nirmal Joshee, Cindy Goodman, Guy Smagghe, Elizabeth Roemer and William Smith.

The following student awards were presented at the 2011 meeting: Khanhvan T. Nguyen, Worcester Polytechnic Institute, Worcester, MA was granted the Wilton R. Earle and SIVB Travel Awards for, “Rooting for Artemisinin in Artemisia annua shoots”. Deepak Kumar from Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi, India was granted the John S. Song and SIVB Travel Awards for, “The Role of Antioxidant Vitamin E Supplementation In Brassica juncea Plants: Regulation and Function under Abiotic Stress”. Honor B. Fell and SIVB Travel Awards went to Anna de La Fuente, Midwestern University, Downers Grove, IL for, “Identification of Cadmium-regulated miRNAs in Rat Renal Proximal Tubule Epithelial NRK-52E Cells”. Hope E. Hoppes and SIVB Travel Awards were won by Liwen Fei, Worcester Polytechnic Institute, Worcester, MA for, “From Cells to Field-ready Plants: One-step Micropropagation in a Mist Bioreactor”. Cellular Toxicology and SIVB Travel Awards went to Vinita C. Daniel, Midwestern University, Downers Grove, IL for, “Cullin-5 Knock-down Affects Gene Expression in Human Breast Cancer Cells.” The 2011 Phillip White Memorial and SIVB Travel Awards went to Je Hyeong Jung - University of Florida, Gainesville, FL for, “RNA Interference Suppresses Lignin Biosynthetic Genes Caffeic Acid 3-O-methyltransferase (COMT) and/or 4-coumarate-CoA Ligase (4CL) in Sugarcane”. SIVB Travel Awards were also granted to:


Fundraising for the 2011 meeting generated $54,801 in contributions received, and $38,250 in contributions promised, for a total of at least $93,051 to support the general meeting, specific sessions or specific sections within the SIVB. Funds promised include over $30,000 in NSF and Burroughs Wellcome Fund grants to support the student initiative and the education fund. The committee extends special thanks to those individuals who wrote and submitted these grant proposals to support these initiatives.

The companies and organizations that contributed to the 2011 Annual Meeting include: Monsanto, BASF Plant Sciences, Syngenta, Dow AgroSciences, Bayer CropScience, Pioneer Hi-Bred Intl., ArborGen, The Scotts Miracle Gro Company, National Anti-Vivisection Society/International Foundation for Ethical Research, the Gale and Robert Lawrence Foundation, the Arkansas EPSCoR NSF Plant Powered Production (P3) Center, LC Sciences LLC, GeneCopoeia Inc., the Medicis, RegeneMed Inc., ThermoFisher Scientific, and Molecular Devices. The amount listed above does not include the “in kind” contributions from invited speakers who were able to obtain funds to pay for their expenses while at the 2011 annual meeting. The Development Committee would like to express special thanks to these donors because these contributions allow us to help fund the program and our many initiatives during our annual meeting.

Contributed by Greg Phillips, Development Committee Chair and Marietta Wheaton Ellis gphillips@astate.edu

2011 Student Award winners (from L to R) Je Hyeong Jung, Ergun Kaya, Deepak Kumar, Anna de la Fuente, Khanhvan T. Nguyen, Vinita Daniel, Liwen Fei, Sachiko Yamasaki, and Debora Araujo Esposito.


**Education**

The year 2011 proved to be an exciting time for the Education Committee in conjunction with the Student Committee, with us fulfilling many of our goals in our 3 year strategic plan. We were able to offer an interactive hands-on science workshop for high school and undergrad educators at the conference in Raleigh, NC, on Saturday, June 4th. This workshop focused on in vitro animal and plant based kits that were donated by several educational science companies. Special thanks goes to Burroughs Wellcome Fund who sponsored the event ($7,500); and the companies, Carolina Biological Co. (6 kits); Ward/Sargent Welch (4 kits); The Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Gardens (1 kit) and Nasco Science (a gift certificate), who donated supplies. We had 17 participants and most left the event with a kit (these were freely raffled off at the end of the demonstration). Surveys from the event demonstrated enthusiastic support for this event with all participants indicating continued interactive workshops at future conferences. The participants were particularly enthused about the ease of the kits (simple instructions were provided); and most indicated their adoption in their courses/classes. We would like to also thank Dr. Ron Blackmon (co-chair) and Mr. Moses McDaniel, who demonstrated the in vitro animal kits.

In 2011, the student committee held two sessions during the SIVB Meeting in June. The first session was entitled “How to write a scientific paper.” Twelve outstanding scientists from SIVB served as panelists and the session was moderated by Jessica Rupp. The student committee also sponsored a student networking luncheon. The luncheon provided a venue for students to get to know each other as well as professionals in the society. Various topics of current scientific interest were discussed as well as ideas for the future of the student group. Also during the SIVB Annual Meeting, Jessica Rupp became the serving past-chair and two new co chairs were elected. Kerri Neugebauer from Kansas State University became the Plant Student Co-chair, and Vinita Daniel, from Midwestern became the Animal Student Co-Chair. Twelve additional committee members also volunteered their time to help out at the 2012 World Congress.

This year the student committee has planned two events to be held during the World Congress. The first is the student networking symposium entitled “How to write and submit a grant”. Five panelists will be present to discuss the key components of a successful grant and to answer questions from the audience. The Student Committee has also planned another student networking luncheon. Eight professionals will be present to lead table discussions with students.

Margaret Young, Education Committee Chair  
mmyoung2@mail.ecsu.edu  
Jessica Rupp, Student Committee Chair  
jessicarupp@rocketmail.com

**Laboratory Materials and Biosafety**

The Laboratory Materials and Biosafety Committee (LMBC) provides a mechanism within the Society for In Vitro Biology (SIVB) to promote laboratory standards, biotechnology practices, laboratory materials, safety equipment, and facilities that constitute biosafety levels 1–4 associated with in vitro and biotechnology methodology. The goals of the LMBC are: 1) to provide an educational process and format to distribute information regarding potential hazards and risk assessment associated with: the cell culture process, the use and handling of biological agents, quality control of biomaterials, and updates on federal regulation pertinent to research, industry and clinical biotechnology applications; 2) to recommend laboratory practice, operation, or materials based on risk assessment of the agent/material and the laboratory activity involved; and 3) to promote the interaction of committee members with national and international scientists, professional groups, and manufacturers regarding the design, processing, and use of material for in vitro and biotechnology methodology.

The LMBC committee members represent government, university/academia, private industry and include: Linda B. Jacobsen (chair); Sandra L. Schneider (co-chair), Research and Clinical Laboratory Systems; Walter Finkbeiner, University of California-San Francisco; Thomas Goodwin, Johnson Space Center, NASA; John Harbell, Mary Kay, Inc.; John Masters, University College London, Institute of Urology-UK; Tohru Masui, JCRB Cell Bank, Division of Bioresources, National Institute of Biomedical Innovation, Osaka, Japan; Colette J. Rudd, Xenopont, Inc; Lynn Rutsky, The University of Texas Health Science Center Houston; William J. Smith, U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Chemical Defense; Glyn N. Stacey, National Institute for Biological Standards and Control-UK; and Alda Vidrich, University of Virginia Health Sciences Center.

The SIVB Laboratory Materials and Biosafety Committee is a forum to lead the discussion on setting industry standards and guidelines for world-wide compliance of cell line authentication, tissue engineered and cell-derived products. The use of adipose-derived stem cells has evolved as promises of the growing regenerative medicine and cosmetic medical practice industries. These stem cell therapy claims are criticized by bioethics, stem cell scientists and health law as by-passing clinical research necessary to ensure patient safety and efficacy. Adipose derived stem cells are human cells, tissues, or cellular and tissue-based products (HCT/Ps as defined in 21 CFR 1271.3(d) that must meet all the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, FDA criteria in 21 CFR 1271.10(a)(1) as a cellular product. To lawfully market adipose stem cells, as a biological product, the manufacturer must have a valid license in effect {21 U.S.C. 355(a); 42 U.S.C. 262(a). While in the developmental stage, i.e., removal from adipose tissue, the resulting adipose stem cells may be used in humans only if the sponsor has an investigational new drug (IND) application in effect, as specified by FDA regulation {21 U.S.C. 355(i); 21 CFR Part 312}.

As the FDA has not provided a definitive statement about the medical use of autologous adult stem cells, the LMBC supports the International Society Stem Cell Research (ISSCR) clinical use guidelines.

Margaret Young and Yvonne Reid enjoy a moment of conversation during the Welcome Reception.
Long Range Planning

The Long Range Planning Committee (LRPC) is a standing committee of the Society and is chaired by the President-Elect of the Society. The LRPC is charged, as the name implies, with developing strategies for the long-term vitality of the SIVB. The LRPC met and has developed an initial mechanism by which SIVB members can establish an “Endowment Fund” through our organization. A big “Thank You” goes to John Finer for providing the impetus for the concept of the Endowment Fund within the SIVB and leading the way with the Roberta Smith Endowment Fund.

Membership

SIVB membership numbers began to grow this year as we offered combination/meeting registration options to our meeting attendees. While numbers are looking better, we continue to look at ways that we can grow the list of members who join the Society, but only keep their membership for one year when they attend the annual meeting, and those who have left the society for various reasons over the years. These groups of members can become key in the growth and expansion of our organization and it is important to look for ways to encourage their interest and understanding of our organization and its value to the scientific community.

Our membership at the end of 2010 was lower than in prior years, finishing at 521 members. End of year numbers included: 96 Emeritus Members, 9 Honorary Members, 9 Life Members, 331 Regular Members, 69 Student Members and 7 Post Doctoral Members. At the end of 2011, our numbers increased to 561 members, which included: 96 Emeritus Members, 8 Honorary Members, 9 Life Members, 395 Regular Members, 48 Student Members and 5 Post Doctoral Members. 109 of the 561 members in 2011 were new to the Society.

In 2010, SIVB offered an incentive program to encourage members to return their 2011 membership renewals by December 31 to win a prize. This program was highly successful and the following members were announced as winners at the 2011 SIVB Business Meeting during the 2011 In Vitro Biology Meeting: 3rd place ($50 gift card), Holly Tuttle; 2nd place (free membership) YinFu Chang; and 1st place (Wii Game console), Robert H. Lawrence, Jr. The program was very successful and we offered it again in December of 2011. SIVB will be awarding prizes to the 2011 winners at the 2012 World Congress on In Vitro Biology.

In 2011, we continued our Member-get-a-Member campaign. When an SIVB member recommends a person to join the SIVB as a regular member, SIVB contacts the potential member and offers them a $10 discount to join the Society. If a member recommends 5 potential members and they all join, the SIVB member receives free registration to the upcoming SIVB Annual Meeting. Over the years, we have seen that the encouragement of a current member to join the Society and show the potential member the benefits they receive as part of membership creates new members who have a much stronger commitment to the organization upon joining. We will continue to offer these SIVB programs to encourage our members to bring in new members and new members to become more involved in the SIVB in the future.

We persist in encouraging more student member participation. In 2011, we raised money to support our student initiative which provided free registration to attend the 2011 In Vitro Biology Meeting and free membership to the students in 2012. We have continued to solicit funds to offer free registration and membership to students who wish to attend the 2012 World Congress on In Vitro Biology. We also work to enhance student opportunities through the Student Awards and both Student and Post Doctoral Oral Presentation Competitions. Student and Postdoc members are the Society’s future and should be recognized as such. Many student and Postdoc members join to participate in the annual meeting, and it is our hope that once they see the benefits of membership, they will be encouraged to remain with us as we head toward the future.

Lastly, we are beginning to review the makeup of the Membership Committee to determine whether there needs to be a restructuring of the committee. This discussion is ongoing and will be discussed further in 2012.

Contributed by Marietta Wheaton Ellis and
John J. Finer,
Membership Committee Chair
finer1@osu.edu

Nominating

The SIVB Nominating Committee consisted of Todd Jones (chair), Fredy Altpeter (PBS) and Michael Fay (IVACS). The Nominating Committee developed a slate of candidates for open Board of Director positions and Section officers that were up for election in 2011. The slate of candidates was presented to the SIVB Board of Directors at the October, 2011 board meeting and the list of candidates was approved. The election of new SIVB officers was held at the end of 2011.

The results of the election are:

SIVB Officers and Committee Chairs:
- President Elect: Eugene Elmore
- Vice President: Ted Klein
- Secretary: Lia Campbell
- Treasurer: Barbara B. Doonan
- Member-at-Large: Dwight Tomes
- Member-at-Large: Elizabeth J. Roemer
- Publications Chair: Barbara Reed
- Public Policy Chair: Nancy Reichert
- Awards Chair: Amy A. Wang
- Education Chair: Sylvia A. Mitchell
- Constitutions and Bylaws Chair: Linda B. Jacobsen

In Vitro Animal Cells Sciences Section Officers:
- Chair: Brad L. Upham
- Vice Chair-Membership: Addy Alt-Holland
- Vice Chair-Meeting: Michael Dame
- Secretary: Magnolia Ariza-Nieto

Plant Biotechnology Section Officers:
- Chair: Harold Trick
- Vice Chair: T. Michael Spencer
- Secretary/Treasurer: Valerie C. Pence

Todd Jones, Nominating Committee Chair
todd.j.jones@pioneer.com
Program

The 2011 In Vitro Biology Meeting was held on June 4 – 8 at the Raleigh Convention Center in Raleigh, NC. With the invaluable assistance of Brad Upham and Kan Wang, Section Program Chairs for IVACS and PBS, respectively, and their committees, we were able to put together a strong program that was wide ranging in scope and expertise. Our keynote speaker was Dr. Gale Buchanan, former Under Secretary of Agriculture, who gave an informative presentation entitled "Agricultural Research and the Next Green Revolution: Increased Productivity and Food Security". Plenary sessions included: RNAi in Plant Biotechnology, Insect Control and Human Health; Scientific and Regulatory Perspectives on Cellular Identity and Culture Contamination; Bioinformatics/Statistics Tools in Biological Research and Product Improvement; and, Current Topics in Systems Biology. Additionally, two joint sessions were convened that discussed state-of-the-art technologies as well as important nutrition-related breakthroughs (single molecule sequence technologies; herbal medicines). More than twenty other sessions were convened that featured a variety of research topics in addition to the ones introduced in the plenary and joint sessions. These sessions included symposia and workshops covering topics such as biotechnology, toxicology, tissue engineering, plant physiology, imaging technologies, stem cells, plant transformation technologies, and micropropagation.

An important part of the organization of any meeting is not only the work performed by the Program Committee, but also the efforts put forward by numerous other society members and committees [some of which are discussed elsewhere in this report]. The Education Committee and the Student Committee were intimately involved in the development of the 2011 program by organizing stimulating sessions for educators and students. These sessions complemented the oral presentation competitions for students and post-docs planned by the PBS and IVACS sessions. Awards for these competitions were presented to the winners during the business meeting. Additionally, the Business Office assisted in program development by planning an evening out at the Duke Homestead and, with special assistance by Mary Ann Lila, organizing a tour of the Plants for Human Health Institute at North Carolina State University.

A major consideration for the planning of a program is its financing. Funds are generated both from registration fees as well as fundraising efforts. In the past four years, we have seen a slow but steady, increase in the number of SIVB meeting registrants, including paid registrants: from 395 total registrants in 2008 to 452 registrants in 2011. The number of exhibitors has also been increasing: from 8 in 2008 to 14 in 2011. There are many people who can be thanked for this increase in exhibits, but I want to especially recognize meeting attendees who visited the exhibits and made an effort to converse with the exhibitors and invite them back – as well as the members who initiated invitations to exhibitors. Additionally, fundraising commitments, even in this difficult economic atmosphere, have remained steady: from $98,104 in 2008 to $111,526 in 2011. Special thanks goes to the Development Committee for this effort.

Time is quickly approaching for the 2012 World Congress on In Vitro Biology June 3 – 7 in Bellevue, Washington. The World Congress only occurs every four years and is a “must-see” event. I encourage all to participate!

Cynthia Goodman, 2011 Program Chair cindy.goodman@ars.usda.gov

Publications

This was a year of change for the publications committee. Our new editors have taken over the reins and the journals are moving ahead at a good pace. Our reviewers and associate editors are providing rapid reviews, allowing our authors a faster turnaround time. Both journals have increased impact factors that we expect will improve even more in the next few years. In light of several fraudulent manuscripts received by the journals, Springer has recently provided us with plagiarism detection software to assist our editors in detecting problems with manuscripts. Our online "In Vitro Report" continues to provide news to the members in a timely fashion and we hope to soon add a section for peer reviewed science education related studies. Our society is composed of an excellent group of researchers and we encourage more submissions from our members. We also encourage all our members to cite pertinent papers from our journals in your manuscripts.

In Vitro – Plant Report

As I have assumed my position as Editor-in-Chief in January of 2011, I appreciated the significant guidance of past Editor-in-Chief, Dwight Tomes, who assisted me in the transition. As during Dwight’s tenure, the objectives for the journal have been to increase the number of review manuscripts based on topical subject matter in the Plant Biotechnology Sciences while continuing to emphasize novel scientific content of the manuscripts submitted to the journal. A special issue (Volume 47.1) devoted to biodiversity, edited by Prakash Lakshmanan, SIVB reviews editor with Barbara Reed and V. Sarasen as guest editors was published in February 2011. The impact factor of the journal increased significantly from 0.853 to 1.060 based on manuscripts published in 2010. In addition, issue 47.2 contained invited papers highlighting subject areas central to the IAPB Congress which took place in St Louis, June 2010.
A total of 77 manuscripts were published in volume 47 of which 22 were published in our sister journal IAPB (International Association of Plant Biotechnology). The number of downloads of specific manuscripts has increased substantially compared to previous years with the top five articles showing downloads from approximately 477 to 1382. All of these manuscripts were review articles with 40% among the reviews from the special biofuels volume (45:3). Dr. John Forster took over the position of the Editor of IAPB issues from Nigel Taylor at the beginning of 2011 and I have worked closely together to insure timely publication of the different issues. Our support from Springer staff with the web based editor software and with the final publication process has been professional and excellent. I strongly encourage our society membership to submit their manuscripts In Vitro – Plant, as the level of science in the submissions has improved, the quality of the published manuscripts is elevated and the impact factor for the journal continues to increase.

In Vitro-Animal report

(For the year 3/1/11 through 2/22/12)

The journal experienced an increase (52%) in total submissions of new manuscripts over the comparable period last year (181 compared to 119 in 2010-2011) following one year of decreased submissions. The numbers of submitted manuscripts for the past year compared to the prior year were: 146 regular papers (82 in 2010-2011), 29 Reports (32 in 2010-2011), 4 Reviews (3 in 2010-2011), 2 opinion Letters-to-the-Editor (2 in 2010-2011), and no book reviews (0 in 2010-2011). Of the 181 submissions, 64 (35.4%) were accepted 45.4% acceptance rate), 77 (42.5%) were rejected, 7 (3.9%) was withdrawn, and 33 (18.2%) were still in review or revision.

In addition to the USA, 24 countries were represented in the submissions received in 2010/2011. Average time from receipt to first decision in the review process was 6.41 weeks compared to 11.74 weeks overall last year. All new submissions were received through the online system. The In Vitro–Animal journal published 10 issues combined in 9 mailings. The journal is continuing to publish on schedule. The 2011 impact factor for IVA was 0.914, which is increased from the 2010 impact factor of 0.791. A significant proportion of submissions came from outside the US so there is an awareness of and a market for In Vitro-Animal beyond the US and North American research communities.

In Vitro-Animal continues to publish papers in traditional areas such as cell line derivation and toxicology, but we are also receiving increasing numbers of submissions in the areas of adult and embryonic stem cell biology, tissue engineering, cell signaling, and methods development for cell line characterization.

In the past year several submissions included irregularities (e.g., duplication, manipulation or misrepresentation of data) that were discovered by editors, reviewers or readers. IVA will take quick and decisive action in such cases to maintain the integrity of the journal and to retain the trust of its authors.

In Vitro Report

The In Vitro Report is the quarterly newsletter for the membership of the Society for In Vitro Biology which is published on the Society’s website (www.sivb.org). The format and design of the online In Vitro Report has been updated, and we are currently soliciting input from the SIVB membership for future improvements on the design and content of the In Vitro Report. The co-editors are Michael Fay and Sylvia Mitchell who represent the In Vitro Animal Cell Sciences (IVACS) and Plant Biotechnology sections, respectively. The co-editors work closely with the publications manager, Michele Schultz, to facilitate the editorial and publication process. A major focus of the In Vitro Report is to promote the Society’s journals by publishing editor-selected Journal Highlights from In Vitro Cellular and Developmental Biology-Animal and In Vitro Cellular and Developmental Biology-Plant. Additional content includes: The SIVB President’s Report; ExPlants; SciNews; Research and Education News; Updates on the SIVB annual meeting; New Members Welcome; and articles highlighting the award winners from the annual meeting. An ongoing goal of the In Vitro Report is to provide more information on career and professional development for student members of the Society, and information about workshops and funding opportunities related to in vitro research. If you have suggestions for improving the In Vitro Report please contact the co-editors (mfayxx@midwestern.edu; sylviamitchell.biotech@gmail.com) or the publications manager (Michele@sivb.org).

Public Policy

The Public Policy Committee is a standing committee of the Society and is designed to aid its members and the general public to obtain a more informed understanding of in vitro biology and its research process and progress. The Committee is charged to aid the Board of the SIVB in their dealings with members of Congress and other governmental officials for the purpose of giving advice on funding priorities and other relevant matters. With the assistance of other associations the Public Policy Committee’s goal is to actively educate its members about current issues affecting the scientific community and society as a whole. To assist the Society in this mission it is currently a member of the following associations that work with legislators to affect national and international scientific policy: AIBS, American Institute of Biological Sciences provides a variety of public policy services for their members and the biological community at large; CAST, Council for Agricultural Science and Technology assembles and communicates science-based information regionally, nationally, and internationally on fiber, food, natural and agricultural resources and environmental issues to its members including legislators, media, regulators, policy makers, private sector, and the general public; AAAS, American Association for the Advancement of Science examines science-related questions of concern to world citizens and their governments.
Representatives of the SIVB

Amerian Type Culture Collection (ATCC)

While there are now methods capable of rapidly identifying human cell lines, their misidentification and cross-contamination remains a major concern for the Cell Biology community. In 2009, the ATCC Standards Development Organization formed an International Workgroup to develop a consensus standard to provide guidance on the use of STR profiling for authenticating human cell lines.

The workgroup is Chaired by: John R.W. Masters, Ph.D., Professor of Experimental Pathology, Institute of Urology, University College London and Yvonne Reid, Ph.D., Collection Scientist, ATCC. The Standard: ASN-0002: Authentication of Human Cell Lines: Standardization of STR Profiling was released in 2011. The workgroup continues to publish on the benefits of using authenticated cell lines and the serious consequences of misidentified cell lines. The quality and validity of funded and published research should benefit greatly as a result of the reduction in frequency of use of misidentified human cells.

Yvonne Reid, Representative of ATCC YREID@atcc.org

Council for Agricultural Science and Technology (CAST)

The Society for In Vitro Biology is a long-term member of CAST, which is a nonprofit 501 [C](3) organization of scientific societies, nonprofit and trade organizations, and commercial companies charged with the task of proactively educating the non-science general public on relevant issues, such as agricultural technology, plant and animal sciences, and biotechnology. Like the other members of CAST, SIVB joined this organization because we are particularly concerned about communicating credible, science-backed information to legislators, regulators, the external media, and policymakers.

CAST produces and disseminates science-backed documents (Issue Papers, Commentaries and Special Publications) which are geared to informing the consumer and to interpret issues that are linked to the agricultural sciences, and may be misconstrued by the popular press. The 2011 Annual Meeting of the CAST Board of Directors and Board of Representatives took place in Des Moines, Iowa, October 18–21, 2011. Guest presenters included Iowa Governor Terry Branstad; Cath erine Woteki, Chief Scientist and Undersecretary for Research, Education, and Economics; Mary Wilson, DuPont Agricultural Biotechnology Group; Frank Mit loehner, University of California–Davis; Ambassador Kenneth Quinn, The World Food Prize; Wendy Winter steen, Iowa State University College of Agriculture and Life Sciences.

CAST has commissioned an excellent series of videos and publications within the past year which are relevant to SIVB members in their roles as educators (great classroom resources) or speaking to the public as advocates for in vitro biology and its scientific advances. A complete listing is available online: http://www.cast-science.org/publications.asp

David Songstad, CAST Board of Representatives, SIVB davidsongstad@aol.com

International Association for Plant Biology (IAPB)

At this time, the official report is not available for the US Chapter of the IAPB. As we have done in the past, the SIVB is currently accepting IAPB Membership dues for SIVB Members who live in the USA. Those members who have joined or renewed their IAPB Membership through SIVB will be sent their journals from the SIVB office.
# Treasurer's Summary Report

**Society for In Vitro Biology**

**Statements of Financial Position**

**December 31, 2011 and 2010**

## Assets

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<td>Furniture and Fixtures</td>
<td>161,657</td>
<td>161,657</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accumulated Depreciation</td>
<td>(161,657)</td>
<td>(161,657)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Property and Equipment</strong></td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Other Assets:</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investments</td>
<td>130,701</td>
<td>102,894</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Other Assets</strong></td>
<td>130,701</td>
<td>102,894</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Assets</strong></td>
<td>$563,886</td>
<td>$418,085</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Liabilities and Net Assets

<p>| | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Current Liabilities:</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accounts Payable</td>
<td>$2,337</td>
<td>$2,163</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Accrued Expenses</td>
<td>1,563</td>
<td>1,389</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deferred Dues and Subscriptions</td>
<td>36,403</td>
<td>37,642</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Current Liabilities</strong></td>
<td>40,303</td>
<td>41,194</td>
</tr>
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</table>

<p>| | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Net Assets:</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unrestricted</td>
<td>234,719</td>
<td>125,293</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Temporarily restricted</td>
<td>288,864</td>
<td>251,598</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Net Assets</strong></td>
<td>523,583</td>
<td>376,891</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<p>| | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Liabilities &amp; Net Assets</strong></td>
<td>$563,886</td>
<td>$418,085</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## TREASURER'S SUMMARY REPORT

**SOCIETY FOR IN VITRO BIOLOGY**

**STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES**

**FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2011 AND 2010**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Unrestricted</th>
<th>Temporarily Restricted</th>
<th>Total 2011</th>
<th>Total 2010</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Revenue:</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In Vitro-Animal</td>
<td>$119,279</td>
<td>$</td>
<td>$119,279</td>
<td>$104,437</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In Vitro-Plant</td>
<td>59,461</td>
<td></td>
<td>59,461</td>
<td>62,507</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Newsletter</td>
<td>8,925</td>
<td></td>
<td>8,925</td>
<td>6,960</td>
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<tr>
<td>Meetings</td>
<td>155,561</td>
<td>71,313</td>
<td>226,874</td>
<td>131,896</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administrative</td>
<td>46,093</td>
<td></td>
<td>46,093</td>
<td>50,773</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other income</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>574</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total revenue</strong></td>
<td>389,319</td>
<td>71,313</td>
<td>460,632</td>
<td>357,147</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Program services:</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In Vitro-Animal</td>
<td>7,341</td>
<td></td>
<td>7,341</td>
<td>11,445</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In Vitro-Plant</td>
<td>11,620</td>
<td></td>
<td>11,620</td>
<td>12,736</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual meeting</td>
<td>55,218</td>
<td>34,047</td>
<td>89,265</td>
<td>97,103</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total program services</strong></td>
<td>74,179</td>
<td>34,047</td>
<td>108,226</td>
<td>121,284</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Supporting services:</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administrative</td>
<td>200,788</td>
<td></td>
<td>200,788</td>
<td>200,047</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total expenses</strong></td>
<td>274,967</td>
<td>34,047</td>
<td>309,014</td>
<td>321,331</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Change in net assets before unrealized gain/(loss) on investments</strong></td>
<td>114,352</td>
<td>37,266</td>
<td>151,618</td>
<td>35,816</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Unrealized gain/(loss) in fair value of investments</strong></td>
<td>(4,926)</td>
<td></td>
<td>(4,926)</td>
<td>(503)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Change in Net Assets</strong></td>
<td>109,426</td>
<td>37,266</td>
<td>146,692</td>
<td>35,313</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Net assets, January 1</strong></td>
<td>125,293</td>
<td>251,598</td>
<td>376,891</td>
<td>341,578</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Net assets, December 31</strong></td>
<td>$234,719</td>
<td>$288,864</td>
<td>$523,583</td>
<td>$376,891</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>