President’s Report

This has been a very busy year for your Board of Directors (BOD) and its Executive Committee. Thanks to the hard work of Past-President, David Altman, and Treasurer, Richard Heller and the BOD, the steady reduction in capital that had plagued the Society in many of the preceding years was brought to a halt through tight budget management, control of expenditures, hard work by the Development Committee and realistic planning for the Annual meeting. Over the past year the Society’s financial picture has continued to improve with further deficit reduction and we may even see a surplus in the second half of 2007.

The SIVB now consists of only 2 sections, Plant Biotechnology and In Vitro Animal Cell Sciences (IVACS) which combined the Vertebrate, Invertebrate and Cellular Toxicology groups into a single section. A close working relationship between the animal and plant sections has not always been the norm for our Society. Through the hard work of Wayne Parrott (Plant) and David Jayme (IVACS), we are now functioning smoothly as one Society. Among other projects the two of them worked together to reestablish the Young Scientist award to recognize scientific excellence and active Society participation among this group of members.

Today, as in its infancy, our Society has emphasized education. Elizabeth Roemer and her Education subcommittee continue to work closely with the host cities to offer workshops for high school teachers at our annual meetings. A lunch session entitled “The Academic Industry Partnership: Training Students to Fill a Need” for teachers and SIVB members has been put together by Liz Roemer and Todd Murphy for the Indianapolis meeting. The Indianapolis meeting will also host the first meeting of the SIVB ad hoc Student Committee.

A major emphasis of this administration is to increase membership and membership retention. To this end efforts are being made to both attract young members and to stimulate continued active involvement in the Society. At the Indianapolis meeting, Randy Santiano, Scott Stewart and their committee will introduce a unique internet accessible mentoring program for career development through their session entitled “Student Professional Development-Mentoring”. We now have a job site link on our web site and Annie McGill and Carol Stiff have resurrected a list server on Yahoo for student members.

I would like to thank my hard-working and highly dedicated Executive Committee consisting of Todd Jones (President-Elect), John Harbell (Vice-President), Nancy Reichert (Secretary), Richard Heller (Treasurer) and David Altman (Past-President) and the rest of the BOD consisting of our Members at Large (Dan Brown, Dennis Laska, Guy Smagghe and David Ellis), Michael Horn (Publications) and Pam Weathers (Public Policy). Your BOD has worked selflessly and smoothly for the continued viability of our Society. A special thanks to Dennis Laska, Mark Jordan and the local committee for their hard work and persistence to make the annual meeting a success. I also thank Marietta Ellis, our Managing Director, and her staff. Without their long history on how to get things resolved and their dedication to the Society, my job as President would have been far, far more difficult.

Paul Price, President
p.price05@comcast.net
Secretary’s Report

The Secretary’s role is to provide a continuum of information to the Board, by producing a written record of the Board meetings. A related, crucial role is to also share this information with all SIVB members by having the Board meeting minutes posted on our website. Yet another role is to be part of the nomination/election process. David Altman, Chair of Nominations Committee, has already begun the nomination process. Being involved in suggesting names for my replacement has been fun. Please consider me as a resource person for the Society and contact me with your questions, comments and concerns. If I can’t help you, I’ll find out who can.

Nancy Reichert, Secretary
nreichert@pss.msstate.edu

Treasurer’s Report

I am pleased to once again report that we finished 2006 on a positive note. While we are still at an overall deficit in our unrestricted accounts, this represents the second consecutive year that we have reduced that deficit and were in the black for the individual year. We started 2006 with a deficit net asset of $101,815 (unrestricted accounts) and we ended the year with a deficit net asset of $53,039 (unrestricted accounts). Over the past two years we have reduced our overall deficit by close to $120,000 and our moving in the right direction to have the Society on solid financial ground. As I have stated previously, this positive turnaround was made possible through the combined efforts of the Board of Directors, the Finance Committee, Development Committee and the Publications Committee who all worked diligently to keep costs under control, stay within our budget and to have a successful fund raising effort. The positive financial outcome for 2006 was also due to our having a positive financial outcome from our annual scientific meeting due to the efforts of our outstanding Program Committee and our dedicated members. All members of the Society have played some role in this turn around and we should all be proud of these efforts that have turned the financial fate of the Society around. With that said we still must maintain our diligence and keep this trend going and move us completely out of the red. As I stated in previous year’s reports, it will be critical to increase our revenues through our membership, publications, and annual meeting and as such it is imperative that we all continue to work together to find ways increase our revenue and contain our costs. I would like to once again commend the efforts of the section chairs and their membership as well as the development committee for their efforts in finding ways to resolve our current financial situation. John Harbell has picked up where David Songstad left off and has continued to do a tremendous job as Vice President and Development Committee Chair. The 2006 Annual Report includes a Treasurer’s Summary Report consisting of a Statement of Financial Position and Statement of Activities for the year. The full report is available from the business office on request.

Richard Heller, Treasurer
rheller@health.usf.edu

Business Office Report

The Business Office activities focused on the 2006 In Vitro Biology Meeting, publications, and membership. The 2006 In Vitro Biology Meeting was held in Minneapolis, Minnesota from June 3 – 7, 2006 at the Hilton Minneapolis. The 2006 Meeting highlighted Dr. Ronald L. Phillips, PhD, of the University of Minnesota. He spoke on Ever-expanding Horizons. Also during the Opening Ceremony, the Lifetime Achievement Award was presented to both Bob V. Conger, PhD, and Wei-Shou Hu, PhD. These emeritus scientists were being honored for their years of exemplary research, achievements, and pioneering contributions to the field of cell culture.

The 2006 Fellow Awards were presented to Guido F. Caputo; Dennis A. Laska; Shirley A. Pomponi, PhD; Nancy Reichert, PhD; and Amy A. Wang. Dr. Reichert’s award was presented during the Plant Biotechnology Section Meeting. The other awards were presented during the In Vitro Animal Cell Sciences Business Meeting and Social. Distinguished Service awards were presented to Delia R. Bethell, PhD; Nancy A. Reichert, PhD; and David D. Songstad, PhD.

Special events held during the meeting were: an afternoon tour of the Center for Microbial and Plant Genomics on Wednesday, June 7, 2006, an Evening at the Mill City Museum on June 6, 2006, and a silent auction which ended on Tuesday, June 6, 2006.

At the 2006 In Vitro Biology Meeting, the attendance reached 360. There were 141 members, 13 non-members, 19 post docs, 3 emeritus, and 4 one-day registrants. Also, there were 77 student registrants, 9 volunteers, and 62 speakers. For the third year, SIVB offered all students free registration to the scientific sessions of the 2006 Meeting and free membership to the Society in 2007.

The 2007 In Vitro Biology Meeting focuses on issues pertinent to Plant and Animal research and will give participants a unique learning experience on plant and animal cell culture and biotechnology. The Westin Indianapolis will be the site of the 2007 In Vitro Biology Meeting. Ideally located in the heart of the city, the Westin Indianapolis is connected via covered skybridge to the Indiana Convention Center,
RCA Dome and Circle Center Mall, which boasts hundreds of specialty shops, restaurants and attractions for any need. The hotel is within a short walk of the NCAA Hall of Champions and nearby to many of Indianapolis' most prestigious companies. The City of Indianapolis is home to some of the country's best sports and entertainment venues. Annual events include the Indianapolis 500, Brickyard 400, and Formula One's US Grand Prix. Indianapolis boasts of being the Amateur Sports Capital of the World as each year Indianapolis hosts some of the most prestigious events in the world. The plant biotechnology and animal cell science fields are well represented among some of Indianapolis' top 25 employers: Eli Lilly and Company, Roche Diagnostic Corporation, and Dow AgroSciences. Indianapolis is the perfect balance of cosmopolitan style and small-town charm that makes it a successful destination for leisure travel, science and research, catering to more than 20 million visitors a year.

The 2007 In Vitro Biology Meeting will highlight Dr. David A. Wolf, PhD, American Astronaut and Chief of the NASA Astronaut Office Extravehicular Activity Branch. He will be presenting, “NASA Space Based Research: Challenges and Benefits for Tissue Engineering,” and will discuss the challenge encountered in developing the rotary-walled bioreactor which simulates zero-gravity on earth as well as other life science experiments conducted during his many space missions. There will also be a presentation of the Lifetime Achievement Award during the meeting to Drs. Indra and Vlma Vasil, PhD, Barbara Doonan, PhD; Todd Jones, PhD; J. Denny Sato, PhD; and Guy Smagghe, PhD, are to receive the SIVB Fellow Award. Additionally, Dr. Robert Lawrence, Jr., who has recently retired from his position at UST, is being recognized by the Society for his service to the Society during the Opening Ceremony. There are additional awards winners being finalized at this time.

Arrangements have been finalized for tours of Dow AgroSciences on Saturday afternoon, June 9, 2007 and Eli Lilly and Company on Wednesday afternoon, June 13, 2007. Additionally, the 2007 America’s Crossroads Silent Auction will begin during the Opening Reception on Saturday, June 9 and will end on Tuesday morning, June 12, 2007. Lastly, attendees will be invited to enjoy a special evening event on Tuesday, June 12, at the Indiana State Museum.

Business Office’s Publications Department had a very busy year with the transition of the In Vitro Journals to Springer during the second half of the year. The Business Office continued to partner with both CABI Publishing and Allen Press through the end of 2006 to publish the In Vitro Cellular and Developmental Biology journals and worked closely with the Publications Committee to assist in keeping the Committee abreast of the current state of the publications industry and future publishing opportunities.

In the beginning of the year, the SIVB finalized its contract with Springer. The transition began to Springer in earnest in the summer of 2006. Materials were processed so that all of the SIVB In Vitro journals would be fully available on the Springer Link website as soon as possible.

To further increase visibility to the journals, the Publications Committee agreed to move forward with placing the back history of the journals on JSTOR. There is still discussion about placing materials on PubMed, but there is to be further discussion with Springer before that moves forward with the Animal journal.

By the end of 2006, both of the In Vitro Cellular and Developmental Biology journals had fully functional manuscript tracking systems on Editorial Manager and the Animal Editorial Office completed the transitioning of the manuscripts from Allen Track, their previous online system to the new system. In its second full year participating in BioOne, the Plant journal has shown a preliminary income of $13,536. A second revenue check for 2006 will be forwarded later in 2007 for the 2006-year. This revenue will be applied to the closing accounts with CABI.

In Vitro –Animal has shown additional online subscription income from BioOne as well. The first installment of revenue from BioOne for 2006 was $13,210 and a secondary smaller payment is expected in June of 2007 for the 2006-year. In Vitro –Animal has continues to have articles listed in the top 25 most requested articles’ list in BioOne. The Society continued to display abstracts from its published Animal journals on the Pub Med website the day after their appearance on the ASAP site or upon publication.
With the transition to Springer, the Business Office worked on setting up a new system for member access to the journals. Soon after each member’s renewal, they are forwarded an email with a token provided by Springer. This token allows you to access the journal online anywhere in the world by using your email address and a password you set up for yourself. If you are a current member and do not have this information and wish to receive it, please contact the business office at sivb@sivb.org.

The In Vitro Report continues as a quarterly online publication. David D. Songstad was the Editor in Chief for the first 2 issues of 2006 and, upon the installation of the new officers for the Society, Carol Stiff and Michael Fay took over as joint Editors-in-Chief.

The SIVB website continued to show activity via bi-weekly changes to the site throughout the year. The greatest changes were found on the meetings section, updates of the rest of the approved board minutes to the website, Officer and Committee listings as the new officers and committee chairs assumed their offices after the June meeting, updates to the Awards section on the website which included new information for the Phillip White Award and the new Young Scientist Award as well as the criteria for the other SIVB Awards available to members. The Business Office added the Constitution Updates approved by the Membership and Bylaws updates made since that time.

In 2006, the meeting’s abstract issue was again held for publication until the actual meeting. This latest possible publication date was to allow participants the most possible time to submit abstracts and to present the most accurate program available. Abstract issues were handed out at the meeting to all participants, while those not attending received their issues in the mail. The final program was placed online and abstracts were uploaded as pdf’s for member’s review on the website a few weeks prior to the event.

Since the meeting, there was a great deal of activity on both the web and in the publications for the Society’s meetings. The 2006 meeting’s final program and abstracts were moved on the meeting site, where they are still available. The 2007 Calls for abstracts are continuing to be published as part of the In Vitro – Animal and – Plant journals with regular updates being made biweekly on the website and prior to the publication of the Calls and the exhibitor’s brochure.

The Business Office continued to assist the Society in its membership initiatives of encouraging new members and extending services to current members. In 2006, the Business Office activated a new classified section on the website which allows members to both post new job opportunities as well as giving them the ability to upload their personal resumes for prospective employers to review. There has been more accessible information to membership with the extended use of broadcast emails sent to members about upcoming public policy issues as well as reminders of meeting deadlines and membership renewals.

The Student Initiative Program continues to grow with the continuing offer of free student membership including online access to the journals for all students who register and attend the prior SIVB Annual Meeting. In addition, the Business Office has assisted membership in the creation of the mentoring program for the members of the Society.

Membership initiatives will continue to encourage activity of current members as well as bringing new young scientists into the Society. Some of these new initiatives will include: recognition of number of years of continued SIVB membership for those attending the Annual Meeting, increased activity of the Student Mentoring program, and additional emailing and advertising of SIVB membership through the new journal pages on Springer.

In 2006, the Board decided to renew its contract with the management company, New Beginnings Management, Inc., to run the day-to-day operations of the Society. The Executive Committee, comprised of the President, President-Elect, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer, hold bi-weekly conference calls with the head of New Beginnings Management to review the status of the Society and its upcoming needs. Both myself and Michele Schultz, both long-standing past employees of SIVB, comprise the major staff of New Beginnings Management.

The Business Office would like to thank all the members of the Society who have given of their time to support the Society for In Vitro Biology. A special thanks to the Board of Directors, Committees, and Section Chairs for their support to the vision of the Society. As always, thank you to the volunteers at the 2006 Meeting. We welcome your ideas and suggestions in promoting the Society for In Vitro Biology. Contact us at sivb@sivb.org.

Marietta Wheaton Ellis, Managing Director
sivb@sivb.org

In Vitro Animal Cell Sciences Section

Formation of the In Vitro Animal Cell Sciences (IVACS), as proposed during discussions at the 2005 Annual Meeting, was ratified by vote of the membership. This consolidated “Animal” section was formed by merger of the Vertebrate, Invertebrate and Cellular Toxicology sections.

Recognized as outgoing officers were:
Vertebrate Section
William Smith – Chair
Lia Campbell – Co-chair
Kim O’Connor – Secretary

Invertebrate Section
Guy Smagghe – Chair
Ray Hakim – Co-chair
Guido Caputo – Secretary

Cellular Toxicology Section
Gordana Vunjak-Novakovic – Chair
David Jayme – Co-chair
Kim O’Connor – Secretary
Installed as officers of the merged IVACS section were David Jayme (Chair), Lia Campbell (Vice-Chair) and Kim O’Connor (Secretary). At a spirited assimilation exercise during the Annual Meeting, the IVACS membership confirmed that the consolidation reflected both historical consistency and an authentic overlap in the vertebrate, invertebrate and cellular toxicology fields and noted many anticipated benefits from the merger, including increased attendance in scientific sessions; streamlined meeting program; consolidated administrative and fund raising efforts; attractiveness to potential new members and sponsors; exposure to a broader range of research topics; increased interaction with more SIVB members and greater cross fertilization of ideas and synergy. Potential concerns expressed were: Will there be adequate and equitable representation of different scientific fields in the leadership and policy-making councils and in development of the scientific program?

To address these concerns and to maximize the potential for enjoying the benefits, it was proposed that an IVACS Operating Charter be drafted. Guido Caputo, Cynthia Goodman, David Jayme, Dennis Laska, Missy Santiano and Randy Santiano agreed to serve on the task force to draft the Operating Charter. The stated purposes were to achieve a written agreement of consolidation intents, to formalize the mission, objectives and operating strategies of IVACS; and to articulate our purpose and function to enhance our ability to recruit and retain new members, attract interesting scientific speakers, develop stimulating workshops and attract financial support. The resultant document was approved unanimously by the SIVB Board of Directors and is posted on the SIVB website. The IVACS membership will vote to ratify this Operating Charter at the 2007 Annual Meeting in Indianapolis.

One element of the Operating Charter resulted from an evaluation of the duties of IVACS officers. We determined that the responsibilities were inappropriately distributed and that there existed inadequate focus on two essential ingredients for the long-term vitality of the IVACS section: scientific program and membership. Accordingly, the IVACS Operating Charter proposes expanding the number of elected officers to include a Chair, a Vice-Chair (Program), a Vice-Chair (Membership) and a Secretary. The duties of each officer, as described in greater detail in the proposed IVACS Operating Charter, would include:

- **Chair** – IVACS administration, SIVB Board coordination, participation on the Finance, Development, Nominating and Long Range Planning committees, and planning of the IVACS annual meeting.
- **Vice-Chair (Program)** – planning and implementation of the scientific program for the annual meeting including session development and fund-raising activities, and working with PB to plan the social event.
- **Vice-Chair (Membership)** – sustaining, recruiting and recognition of membership, and participation on the Education, Membership, and Awards and Recognition committees.
- **Secretary** – recording and corresponding functions to ensure effective member communication.

The 2006 Annual Meeting provided an excellent venue to recognize the scientific contributions of both young and established investigators. Professor Wei-Shou Hu (University of Minnesota) was awarded the SIVB Lifetime Achievement Award. Recipients of the SIVB Fellow Award were Guido Caputo (Canadian Forest Service), Dennis Laska (Lilly), Shirley Pomponi (Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institution), and Amy Wang (GlaxoSmithKline). Vanessa Franssens (KU Leuven, Belgium) received a Student Award.

To fill a gap between students and more established investigators, it was proposed at the 2006 Annual Meeting that we institute a Young Investigator Award. Wayne Parrott (PB) and David Jayme (IVACS) drafted award criteria for this recognition, which was unanimously approved for implementation by the Board of Directors.

The scientific program, both for the 2006 annual meeting (Minneapolis) and for the upcoming 2007 meeting (Indianapolis), are described elsewhere in this report in greater detail. Suffice to say that feedback from the 2006 meeting was excellent and we are anticipating a quality scientific program and an enjoyable opportunity to associate with colleagues at the 2007 meeting. Following the lead of PB, IVACS will hold a 2008 program planning kick off breakfast during the 2007 Annual Meeting. All IVACS members and interested guests are encouraged to attend and provide your input.

A final highlight worthy of mention has been the enhanced level of cooperation and collaboration that we have enjoyed with our fellow scientists in the Plant Biotechnology section. We have continued the recent format of joint trans-disciplinary plenary sessions, enjoyed fruitful interactions in the development of the Young Investigator Award and the IVACS Operating Charter document, and look forward to creating and renewing friendships through our joint social event at the 2007 Annual Meeting. Many thanks to Wayne Parrott and his leadership team!

*David Jayme, In Vitro Animal Cell Sciences Chair*  
jaymed@byuh.edu
The year 2006 was another good year for the Plant Biotechnology Section (PBS), which continued to experience stable membership and a solid annual program. The 2006 annual meeting in Minneapolis was well attended by the PBS membership—PBS members contributed 169 of the 218 abstracts submitted. Our program chair, Peggy Ozias-Akins, coordinated and planned an outstanding scientific program, with assistance in vigorous fund-raising from the program co-chair, Baochun Li.

Our PBS Program Planning Breakfast filled the room, even though it was at its usual 7 am Sunday morning slot. We are convinced that such participation from the members in planning and executing the annual program is a key element to having timely topics that serve the membership’s needs. However, we realize that not everyone can attend the annual meetings—yet, we welcome everyone’s input. Anyone who cannot attend the annual meeting in Indianapolis should send suggestions for session topics to our incoming program chair, Heidi Kaeppler, <hfkaeppl@wisc.edu>.

At our annual business meeting, Nancy Reichert, outgoing PBS Chair, was honored as an SIVB fellow. Bob Conger received the Lifetime Achievement Award for his work on tissue culture and transformation of grasses. Student Travel Award recipients were Abhilasha Khattri, Erica Daniel, Ahmad A. Omar (in addition to receiving the Earle Award), Hesham Farouk Oraby, and Joann M. Lau. Matthew Cousins was awarded the Phillip White Award, and Edward Anino was awarded the Song Award.

The business meeting was followed by the PBS social. Having our members provide musical entertainment at the PBS social has become a tradition, and this year, Greg Philips, Jerry Ranch, and David Altman did not disappoint.

In the mean time, the reserve fund for the PBS section continues to be a cause for concern. The PBS had approximately $95K in reserve in 2003; $63K in 2004; $54K in 2005. Following adjustments in reimbursement procedures, the latter figure remained stable for 2006. To further protect the PBS fund reserves, the PBS policy for speaker reimbursements has been further adjusted—non-member speakers will now only be eligible for reimbursement for two nights, rather than three. Additional cost-cutting measures, such as a joint social with IVACS, and more active fund-raising, should help maintain a balanced budget. Nevertheless, our ability to continue to host outstanding scientific programs will require a group effort to ensure sufficient funds are available. To quote Nancy Reichert from last year’s report, “Members, we will increasingly have to rely on your organizations, and you as contacts, to help us raise the funds necessary to put on the scientific programs in the future.”

On the positive side, several new projects were initiated that are expected to have an impact on 2007 and beyond. First, PBS worked closely with the IVACS section to re-establish the Young Scientist Award, targeted to professionals at the early stages of their career. With addition of the Young Scientist Award, the SIVB now has a complete portfolio of awards that target members at all stages of their careers.

In the same spirit, a Best Poster competition has been introduced for the PBS graduate students. We hope to expand this award to oral presentations as well by the 2008 meeting. Thanks are due to Fredy
Altpeter, our junior Program co-chair, for organizing the efforts.

A revision of the PBS bylaws is also underway. These revisions re-intended to more closely reflect how PBS is actually managed, and to more closely synchronize the PBS with our IVACS, our sister section within SIVB.

Last but not least, the PBS officers are here to serve the membership. Do not hesitate to contact any of them with any question, comment, suggestion, or concern. Their email addresses are listed in the officers section of the SIVB website. For next year, the officers are: Chair: Wayne Parrott; Vice Chair: Mark Jordan; Secretary: Carol Stiff; Program Chair: Heidi Kaeppler; Sr. Program Co-Chair: Fredy Altpeter; Jr. Co-Chair, Michael Spencer.

Wayne Parrott, Plant Biotechnology Section Chair
wparrott@uga.edu

History and Records

The History Society was established in 1979 at the Seattle Washington Tissue Culture Association (TCA) meeting as the Records and Historical Committee. The charge of the committee is to preserve historical information concerning the growth, maintenance and in vitro experimental use of cells, tissues and organs. The History Society, in conjunction with the Records and Historical Committee oversees contributions to the SIVB archives located in the main library of the University of Maryland, Baltimore, MD. This archived material is available to all that would like to acquaint themselves with the history of tissue culture and scientific application to in vitro biology. Members of the History Society and Records and Historical Committee include: Sandra L. Schneider (Chair), Gertrude Buchring (Co-Chair), June Bradlaw, Ian Freshney, Leonard Hayflick, Karl Maramorosch, Jon Ryan, Yvonne Reed, Leonard J. Schiff, and Just Vlak. The 2004 World Congress symposiums, co-sponsored by the History Committee, highlighted and recognized the pioneering work of Drs. Ian Freshney, Leonard Hayflick, Karl Maramorosch, Walter Nelson-Rees and Thomas Grace, to include the recognition of Lifetime Achievement Awards to Drs Nelson-Rees for his lifetime efforts in identification of cell line contamination. The recent Science February 2007, Volume 315 article “Case of Mistaken Identity” premiered the history and efforts of SIVB pioneer Walter Nelson-Rees and contemporary scientists (Gertrude Buchring, John Masters, Roderick MacLeod, Hans Drexler, Yoshinobu Matsuo, Roland Nardone and others) to bring renewed recognition to the issues of cell line mis-identification and challenges of cell line contamination. The History Committee continues to actively explore the issues of promoting and archiving historical materials through the Smithsonian and other U.S. and international Universities who would benefit from the SIVB historical events. Members or interested parties having historical records, materials or information related to the pioneering events of In Vitro Biology can contact Dr Sandra Schneider or the SIVB office.

Sandra L. Schneider, History and Records Chair
drsandra@stic.net
STANDING COMMITTEES

Awards

With this article, please put the following pictures: Fellow caputo, fellow laska, fellow Reichert, Fellow wang, Lifetime Winners, Distinguished Winners, Student Award Winners

The Society was proud in 2006 to recognize the remarkable contributions and accomplishments of the following scientists who have made a lasting impact in the realm of in vitro biology, and the dedicated Society members who have provided exceptional support to the SIVB.

Two awardees were honored with the Lifetime Achievement Award in 2006: Dr. Wei-Shou Hu, and Dr. Bob Conger. The Lifetime Achievement Award recognizes those who have achieved academic excellence in their field of study and to honor those who have made significant and contributions to the field of in vitro biology and/or in the development of novel technologies that have advanced in vitro biology.

Dr. Wei-Shou Hu was jointly nominated by David Jayme, Paul Price, and Stephen Gorfien. Dr. Hu is recognized as a major leader in ideas and innovations, and a strong educator in the areas of bioproduction and tissue engineering using cultured eukaryotic cells.

Dr. Bob Conger was nominated by the team of David Songstad, Martha Wright, Allan Wenck, and Dennis Gray. One of Dr. Conger’s notable contributions was the development of a novel cultivar of Orchardgrass known as ‘Persist’ that is now available to farmers. He is widely known as a leader in the area of monocot tissue culture and genetic transformation.

SIVB Fellow Awards were presented to Nancy A. Reichert of the Plant Biotechnology Section and Guido F. Caputo, Dennis A. Laska, Shirley A. Pomponi and Amy A. Wang of the In Vitro Animal Cell Sciences Section. The Fellow Award recognizes members who have made outstanding contributions to in vitro science research, teaching, or administration. The fellow is presented to SIVB members who have been active for at least 10 years and who have made contributions to the Society.

Distinguished Service Awards were presented by President David Altman to Nancy Reichert, David Songstad, and Delia Bethell. The Distinguished Service Award recognizes individuals who are hand-selected by the SIVB President, and who have given extra effort in support of the SIVB programs and endeavors.

The Student Affairs Committee this year consisted of Pamela Weathers (Chair), Craig Meyers, Suzanne Rogers, and Elizabeth Roemer. The following awards were presented at the 2006 meeting: Ms. Vanessa Franssens received the Cell Toxicology, the Hope F. Hoppes, and the Honor B. Fell Awards for “Determination of the Effects of Ecdysteroids and JH on Nodulation Responses.” Ahmad A. Omar was granted the Wilton R. Earle Award for “Biotechnology and Its Uses in Improvement of Canker Resistance in Citrus Trees.” Edward Anino was granted the John S. Song Award for “Characterization of Populus tremuloids COMT, 4CL1, and 4CL2 Gene Promoters to Identify Regulatory Elements.” Other SIVB Student Travel Awards were presented to Hesham Farouk Oraby for “Production of Biologically-active Acidothermus cellulolyticus endo-1, 4-B-glucanase (E1) Enzyme in Transgenic Rice Plants for Alcohol Fuels and Cleaner Environment”, Abhilasha Khattri, for “Evaluation of Inducible Cre/lox and FLP/FR T Recombination Systems for Marker Gene Deletion in Rice”, Erica Daniel for “Rapid Screening of Silent Mutations for Cell-free Production of the Plant Lectin Nicataba.”, and Joann M. Lau for “Expression and Stability of the Respiratory Syncytial Virus-F Gene in Advanced Generations of Tomato.” The Joseph F. Morgan Award provides travel funds for Canadian students to attend the annual meeting, however, for two years now we have had no Canadian student applicants. Canadian members are urged to encourage their students to apply.

The 2005 Philip White Memorial Award went to Matthew Cousins for the “In Vitro Production of Turmeric (Curcuma longa L.) Microrhizomes as a Potential Source for Secondary Metabolites.” The review committee was made up of Carol M. Stiff (Chair, non-voting), Hideka Kobayashi, Dorothy Gillespie, John Lunghusen, Ray Shillito, Esther Uchenda, and Richard Wallace.

Mary Ann Lila, Awards Committee Chair
imagemail@uiuc.edu

Pamela J. Weathers, Student Affairs Committee Chair
pweathers@astae.edu

Carol Stiff, Phillip White Award Committee Chair
kck@turbonet.com
CONSTITUTIONS AND BYLAWS

Following the 2006 SIVB meeting in Minneapolis Minnesota, I assumed responsibility as chair of the Constitution and Bylaws Committee. Past president, Mary Ann Lila and Delia R. Bethel, remain on the committee. Marietta Wheaton Ellis continues to serve as the committee Liaison.

In November 2006 the Board recommended two changes to the SIVB Bylaws to allow the proposed Operating Charter of the In Vitro Animal Cell Sciences (IVACS) Section, formerly know as the Cellular Toxicology and the Vertebrate Sections, to allow more than one Vice Chair, a structure conflicting with the then SIVB By Laws. The second issue addressed harmonization of the timing Section and the SIVB Officers take office. Upon review Section 5.C. and 5., as amended, the Constitution and Bylaws Committee found the amendment acceptable and recommended the change be incorporated into SIVB Bylaws documentation.

My thanks to the committee members for their timely review. We look forward to serving the Society and the Board over the coming year.

Janis Demetrulias, Constitution and Bylaws Chair
janisd@technikos.com

DEVELOPMENT

2006 Development Committee consists of the following members: Janis Demetrulias, Barbara Doonan, Raziel Hakim, John Harbell, David Jayme, Mark Jordan, Nancy Reichert, Elizabeth Roemer, Ray Shillito, Guy Smagghe, William Smith, Amy Wang, Allan Wench, and David Songstad (Chair). Fundraising for the 2006 meeting was successful in that $115,000 was raised to support the general meeting or specific sections within the SIVB. The companies that contributed to the 2006 Annual Meeting are: 3M, Alternatives Research & Development, BASF Plant Science L.L.C., Biolex, Colgate-Palmolive Company, Dow Agrosciences, General Mills, IconGenetics, Institute for In Vitro Sciences, International Foundation for Ethical Research/National Antivivisection Society, Invitrogen, Johnson & Johnson, Land O’Lakes, Mary Kay, Monsanto (multiple), Phyton Biotech, Pioneer, SemBioSys, Syngenta, The Procter & Gamble company, The Scotts company, UST and Ventria. Funds were also received from the USDA. The amount listed above does not include the “in kind” contributions from invited speakers that were able to obtained funds to pay for their expenses while at the 2006 annual meeting. The Development Committee would like to express its thanks to all of these donors for it is these contributions that allow us to fund the program and the many initiatives during our annual meeting.

John W. Harbell, Development Committee Chair
john.harbell@mkcorp.com

EDUCATION

The Education Committee was involved in a number of activities during 2006, primarily focusing on the roles that our SIVB student members play in the Society. The 2006 annual meeting in Minneapolis, MN featured an Education Committee supported student professional development workshop. This session, organized by student Mary Ann McGill, was an interactive panel presentation designed to address many of the questions that students face as graduation approaches. There was a large and very enthusiastic audience, with much lively discussion. A big thank you to all of the panelists: Michael E. Kane, University of Florida; Mary Ann McGill, University of Wis-
As an outcome of both of these sessions, as well as discussions during the Education Committee meeting, the Education and Long Range Planning Committees have joined in seeking the support of the society in developing new models for ongoing student participation. As the first result of this endeavor, our President, Paul Price, has appointed an ad hoc Student Committee. Scott Stewart will convene this newly formed committee for the first time at the 2007 meeting, immediately following the Student professional development session on Sunday, June 10. The initial agenda will include the definition of a structure, mission, and goals for the ad hoc Student Committee. Anyone who is interested in participating is encouraged to attend. A second result has been the generation of a proposal by Randy Santiano to establish an online mentoring program. The Board of Directors has unanimously and enthusiastically endorsed this concept. It is expected that the online mentoring program will be introduced at the 2007 annual meeting. Come to the Sunday evening Student Professional Development Session to learn more about it!

Other activities in 2006 included an Education Poster: Use of Lettuce Tissue Culture for Developing Transformation Techniques in High School, Carol A. Harrison, Tuskegee University, M. Egnin, J. Scofield, and B. Bey. We also sponsored 7 high school student award winners as silent abstract publications. These were: Mary E. Crowther Kent: Resistance of Serratia marcescens, Caren Michelle Collins: The Effects of Road De-icer (MgCl²) on Plant Germination, Simran S. Grewal: Herbal Alternatives to Antibiotics and Their Effects on E. coli, Vitor Hugo Fernandes: Microbiology Evaluation of Toothbrushes, Michael McCord Polmear: Proteomics Analysis of Osteosarcoma Cells, Amanda Marie Thomas: Determining the Effects of Vitamin A on Short-term Memory Ability, and Jason Chao Zhang: The Development of a Novel Gene Knockout Technique Utilizing RNA-interference.

Thanks to the efforts of Dennis Laska, (2007 Local Organizing Committee) the Education Committee received a significant grant from the Indiana Department of Education to develop and run a hands-on workshop for Indiana high school teachers in conjunction with the 2007 Annual meeting. We have been working in partnership with Todd Murphy’s program at Ivy Tech, and together we will be running a full week program in Indianapolis in June 2007. Friday and Saturday will be full-day intensive workshops run by Mike Kane, Bernadette Plair and Pat Bossert. But on Sunday through Tuesday the 20 teacher participants will spend a portion of their day at the SIVB meeting. I encourage everyone to take the time to welcome and share our science with them.

Elizabeth Roemer, Education Committee Chair eroemer@notes.cc.sunysb.edu

**Program**

The 2006 In Vitro Biology Meeting was held at the Minneapolis Hilton Hotel in Minneapolis, Minnesota from June 3-7. The meeting focused on a wide range of topics and issues of interest to both Plant Biotechnology and In Vitro Animal Cell Sciences Sections of the Society. A total of 331 scientists from 15 countries attended the scientific meeting and interacted with exhibitor representatives. This year SIVB again offered free registration to Students and 77 took advantage of this opportunity. Continuing the successful format first started in 2005 the meeting was kicked off each day by a Society wide plenary session highlighting cross-disciplinary subjects of interest to all members. In 2006, these sessions included Molecular Nutrition, Bioreactors for Pharmaceutical production, and Controlling Transgene Delivery and Integration.

The Keynote presentation was the highlight of the first day as Dr. Ron Phillips of the University of Minnesota spoke on “Ever-Expanding Horizons” in which he linked his involvement in many key achievements in the field of plant biotechnology to future research directions which need to be undertaken to ensure food security and proper nutrition for all people - food for thought indeed. This was followed by the Opening Reception in the Exhibit Hall and was a positive forum for participants to meet with the exhibitors and poster session presenters.

The Meeting Program consisted of 17 Symposia, 4 Contributed Paper sessions, and 6 Interactive Poster sessions. In all, 218 abstracts were received, of which 109 were presented as posters. The sessions illustrated the wide range of interests and expertise of Society members covering such diverse research areas as bioinformatics, conservation of endangered orchid species, stem cells, alternative crops and invertebrate immunity. A new session for 2006 was Student Professional Development, which provided an expert panel, combined with audience participation to discuss issues facing students as they consider various career options in In Vitro Sciences. The meeting ended with a Distinguished Plant Symposium in which plant transformation pioneer Dr. Marc Van Montagu of the University of Ghent, Belgium, highlighted the past, present and future of Agrobacterium transformation.

Once again the Society demonstrated that it is not all work and no play with several entertaining evenings including an evening of dinner and drinks at the historical Mill City Museum and evening socials for both sections. The Plant Biotechnology social once again featured stellar entertainment provided by the guitar stylings of SIVB’s own Greg Phillips, David Alman and Jerry Ranch.

The SIVB is deeply indebted to a large list of individuals who put this program together. These individuals include convener, fund-raisers and corporate sponsors, presenters, moderators and exhibitors. As Meeting Chair, I would especially like to thank the Committee Chairs from
each section and the Meeting Co-chair (Peggy Ozias-Akins, Guido Caputo, and John Harbell) as well as the rest of the Meeting Program Committee for putting together a stellar program. And something that cannot be overlooked, the office staff of SIVB that pulled the meeting and programs, meeting facilities and events all together into a positive experience for all that attended. My thanks to all for making this meeting a great success and I look forward to seeing you all in Indianapolis in 2007.

Mark C. Jordan, 2006 Program Chair
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MEMBERSHIP

At the Membership Committee meeting in Minneapolis [Michael Fay, Richard Heller, Paul Price (ex officio), Nancy Reichert (Chair), Missy Santiano, Randy Santiano, Harold Trick, Margaret Young], we discussed initiatives for the Indianapolis meeting. Also discussed were student presentation awards and the initiatives previously submitted to the Board and Program Committee that will be resubmitted for consideration.

An initiative that was planned to begin at the Minneapolis meeting was to recognize/identify long-serving members. The Board of Directors passed a motion to identify the number of years of membership on each person’s meeting registration badge. These members are the Society’s jewels and should be recognized as such. They can also be wonderful resources to talk with non-members at the Indianapolis meeting about the SIVB.

Nancy Reichert, Membership Committee Chair
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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 or 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), Roche Diagnostic Corporation; Sandra L. Schneider (co-chair), Research and Clinical Laboratory Systems; June Bradlaw, International Foundation for Ethical Research; 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; Colette Rudd, Rudd & Associates; Lynn Rustly, The University of Texas Health Science Center Houston; William J. Smith, U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Chemical Defense; Glynn N. Stacey, National Institute for Biological Standards and Control-UK; and Alida Vidrich, University of Virginia Health Sciences Center.

During the 2006 the LMBC supported a booth at the SIVB 2006 annual meeting, Minneapolis, MN, on the topic of occupational dermatitis. Dr. Sandra L. Schneider presented a plenary symposium “The Impact and Current Challenges of Cell Culture Technology on Biomedical Applications” at the 79th Annual Meeting of the Japanese Tissue Culture Association, Tokyo, Japan. In addition, Dr. Schneider toured The University of Tokyo, Graduate School of Medicine, Department of Immunology tissue culture facilities, and the state-of-the-art Department of Radiation Research radiation biology facilities. Scheduled for 2007, LMBC members will participate in the “Expert Forum on Misidentification and Cross-Contamination of Cell Lines.” This forum is part of the appended call for action white paper, “Eradication of Cross-Contaminated Cell Lines” by Dr. Roland M. Nardone (see Public Policies page at www.SIVB.org) and will establish a working strategy and document to be used as an industry standard. As the biotechnology industry strives to address cross-contaminated cell lines, it is noted that there is a global agreement between the ATCC (American Type Culture Collection) and Roche Applied Science to link specific protocols and information around transfection using Roche Applied Science’s transfection reagents with genuine cell lines from ATCC. The SIVB 2007 In Vitro Biology meeting symposium “Characterization of Eukaryotic Cultures and Identification & Contaminates will be convened by Dr. Yvonne A. Reid, ATCC, to address optimized identification and contamination detection systems, and lessons learned in the biotechnology industry. The LMBC continues to actively promote topics related to tissue engineering, public health policy and risk analysis. Toward this goal, Committee members support the efforts of the FDA Center for Devices and Radiological Health in the area of regulatory and standardization for biomaterials and tissue components; the American Association Advancement of Science (AAAS) and American Institute Biological Sciences (ABS) for standardization of in vitro technologies.

Linda B. Jacobsen, Laboratory Materials and Biosafety Chair linda.jacobsen@roche.com

Sandra L. Schneider, Laboratory Materials and Biosafety Co-Chair drsandra@stic.net

The Nominating Committee was established for 2006-2008 and is composed of the following members: David Altman (Chair), Linda Jacobsen, David Jayme, Wayne Parrott, Paul Price, and Nancy Reichert. Potential candidates for the Society Officers and Committee Chairs and the Section Officers were solicited and vetted during the course of the year.

The Committee selected a preliminary slate of nominees that will be submitted to the Board for approval at the Annual Meeting in June 2007. The recommended slate is composed of the following members who also have confirmed their acceptance:

SIVB Officers and Committee Chairs
President-Elect - David Songstad, William Smith
Vice President - Dwight Tomes, Ted Klein
Treasurer - Harold Trick, Barbara Doonan
Secretary - Lia Campbell, John Finner
Public Policy - Neil Stewart, Pam Weather
Awards Chair - Prakash Kumar, Jerry Ranch
Members At Large - David Jayme, Carol Stiff, Elizabeth Roemer, Mark Jordan
Education - Todd Murphy, Marceline Egnin
Publications - Eugene Elmore, Barbara Reed, Michael Fay
Constitution and By-laws - Randy Santiano, Lisa Lee

IVACS Officers
Chair - Linda Jacobsen, Dennis Laska
Vice Chair - Program - David Tan, Allen Eaves
Vice Chair - Membership - Craig Meyers, Melissa Santiano
Secretary - Brad Upham, Guido Caputo, Art McIntosh

PBS Officers
Chair - Delia Bethell, Peggy Ozias-Akins
Vice Chair - Valerie Pence, Zengyu Wang
Secretary - Sylvia Mitchell, Kan Wang

David W. Altman, Nominating Committee Chair iprconsulting@comcast.net

Publications

In Vitro-Plant Report

During the 2006 calendar year, In Vitro Cellular & Developmental Biology-Plant (IV-P) underwent a series of transitions. Effective January 2007, IV-P is being published by Springer. As part of the transition, Springer made Editorial Manager, their online manuscript submission and evaluation system, available to IV-P in early 2006. For much of 2006, both the traditional paper submission and online submission systems were operated concurrently, with a complete transition to online only submissions by the end of the calendar year. There are still glitches in the online system to be worked out, but the Editorial Manager staff has been responsive and helpful.

IV-P SIVB division received over 170 manuscript submissions, maintaining the volume of recent years. This number included six invited review articles. Manuscripts continue to be submitted from around the world. The rejection rate was over 60%, an increase from previous years at around 50%. Due to the higher stringency of review, the average number of articles per issue declined to 16.75 for 2006, from a high of 23.5 for 2005. Our goal is to maintain in excess of 15 articles per issue.

The most recent journal impact rating for IV-P rose to 0.660 based on year 2005 data, from 0.386 for 2004 data, similar to 0.697 for 2003 data.

The Secretariat for IAPB transitioned from China to the USA during the 2006 IAPB Congress. IAPB made a commitment to continue publishing with In Vitro Plant for the next four years. The new Editor-in-Chief for the IAPB issues is Dr. Nigel Taylor, Danforth Center. The two Editors-in-Chief for SIVB and IAPB have initiated joint editorial board discussions utilizing email. The editorial boards are striving to bring the manu-
script evaluation procedures closer together to make a more seamless and consistent journal across issues. The boards are discussing a single list of Matrix Categories for all issues, more stringent assessment criteria to be used by both boards, and a common list of Reviewing Editors. These objectives are aimed toward achieving the goals of improving the journal impact factor for IV-P and establishing IV-P as the leading journal in this discipline.

**In Vitro-Animal Report**

The journal In Vitro-Animal (IVA) experienced a slight decrease in total submissions of new manuscripts over the comparable period last year (76 compared to 85 in 2005-2006). The number of submitted manuscripts for the past year compared to the prior year were: 58 regular papers (66 in 2005-2006), 13 Reports [formerly scientific Letters-to-the-Editor] (11 in 2005-2006), 1 Review (2 in 2005-2006), 2 opinion Letters-to-the-Editor (1 in 2005-2006), plus 2 book reviews (3 in 2005-2006). Of the 76 submissions, 34 (66%) were accepted, 18 (33%) were rejected, 2 were withdrawn, and 34 were still in revision.

In addition to the USA, 21 countries were represented in the submissions received in 2006/2007. Average time from receipt to first decision in the review process was 6.9 weeks compared to 6.1 weeks overall last year. While online submission and review began in November 2002, we switched systems in November 2006 and are now working with Editorial Manager. Nearly all of the new submissions received are sent through the online system, or, when sent in hardcopy, authors were requested to submit their paper through the online system as well.

Although the number of submissions has not increased significantly over the previous year, several encouraging signs were observed. The transition to electronic submission of manuscripts is essentially complete including those submitted from abroad. A significant proportion of submissions came from outside the US so there is an awareness of and a market for In Vitro beyond the US research community. In addition, many of the submissions were in topical areas of research such as stem cell biology and tissue engineering.

In January 2007 Springer became the publisher of In Vitro-Animal. Our partnership with Springer, which is one of the largest scientific publishing houses in the world, should improve both the visibility and quality of In Vitro-Animal in the coming years.

**IAPTC&B Publications through IV-P**

In 2006, a total of 54 manuscripts were processed. These manuscripts were submitted by authors from 14 different countries, with the highest submission (21) from India that accounted for 38.9% of the total submission. The next highest submission was 15 manuscripts (27.8%) received from China. This was followed by 1-3 submissions from other countries.

Of all manuscripts submitted, 18 (33.3%) of which was rejected, while a total of 36 (66.7%) articles were accepted and published in the two IAPTC&B issues of In Vitro-Plant. The March/April (volume 42 number 2) issue published 19 papers, including 2 Feature Articles, 9 Protocols/Methods and 8 Research Reports. In the September/October (volume 42 number 5) issue, 17 papers were published. It includes 6 Protocols/Methods and 11 Research Reports.

The duration between the date of received and date of acceptance/rejection of manuscripts varied considerably, ranging from 1 to 57 weeks, with an average of 26 weeks. The delay was due mainly to the late return by the authors.

**In Vitro Report**

In 2006, the In Vitro Report was turned over to new co-editors: Dr. Carol M. Stiff and Dr. Michael Fay. Carol, kck@turbonet.com was involved in research and teaching in her previous life and now is President and CEO of her company, Kitchen Culture Kits, Inc. (www.kitchenculturekit.com). Michael, mfayxx@midwestern.edu, is an Associate Professor of Pharmacology at Midwestern University in Downers Grove, IL. Carol and Michael have faced the ups and downs that any editor faces but have appreciated the cooperation of members of the Society volunteering information to the newsletter. They are looking forward getting acquainted with more members and helping to bring a sense of community to the society with increased professional and “family” information in the newsletter.

**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 effect 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, America Association for the Advancement of Science examines science-related questions of concern to world citizens and their governments including human rights and ecosystem protection, federal spending, ethics, and equity; IFER, International Foundation for Ethical Research is a non-profit group that is dedicated to finding non-animal alternatives for scientific research. As of the summer of 2006, David Songstad replaced Todd Jones, the SIVB President-elect, as the society’s CAST representative.

Public Policy also provided public comment on the Environmental Assessment conducted by USDA and Ventria Bioscience for field trials of genetically engineered rice.

The following were forwarded to SIVB members for information or action:

- requested members to participate in a salary survey of biologists,
- requested members to comments on the new NSF strategic plan,
- informed members about 3 stem cell research bills under review by the US Senate and requested they contact their Sena-
tors,
- informed members about two issue papers on Biotechnological Approaches to Manure Nutrient Management, and Safety of Meat, and Eggs from Animals Milk, Fed Crops Derived from Modern Biotechnology
- sent links to websites where members could review Congressional candidates’ positions on science issues to education SIVB members in advance of the November 2006 election
- requested members to contact their Congressional representatives to support increases in NSF funding for FY 2007.

One item of particular interest to our members was the attention that the issue of cross contamination of cell lines received. If you recall, last year we reported on a White Paper by Roland M. Nardone on the “Eradication of Cross-contamination” that proposed convening of an NIH Consensus Development Conference to evaluate ways to achieve the goal of authentication of cell lines used for biomedical research. The SIVB Public Policy committee helped a writer from AAAS, Rhitu Chatterjee, to develop an in depth news story on the topic by connecting her with Roland who was working to raise public awareness of the contamination problem within the scientific community. Her story helped to more broadly alert the scientific community to the problem (R. Chatterjee (2007) Cases of Mistaken Identity. Science 315 (5814) 928-931) while also mentioning the SIVB and giving us a little public relations plug in a sidebar on Walter Nelson-Rees on page 930!

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INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF PLANT BIOTECHNOLOGY

Every four years, the IAPTC&B (now IAPB) has a World Congress. In 2006, the 11th International Association for Plant Tissue Culture & Biotechnology World Congress was held in Beijing, China from August 13-18, 2006 at the Beijing International Convention Center. The theme of the Congress was “Biotechnology and Sustainable Agriculture 2006 and Beyond”. There were several distinguished speakers from around the globe who gave outstanding seminars. Plenary sessions covered various aspects of plant tissue culture and biotechnology. Turnout was outstanding with virtually all sessions well attended. I attended as the new US Correspondent in place of Mark Bridgen who did a fantastic job as US Correspondent from 2002-2006. Thank you, Mark!

The US branch of the IAPTC&B sponsored some day tours prior to and after the meetings and they were a big hit, very well attended. Several $1,000 travel fellowships were provided to US members to attend the meeting. Some members including myself stayed after the meeting to tour several provinces in China. Some photos of the meeting and my travels after are included here.

At the IAPTC&B Business Meeting it was decided a majority vote by the Correspondents from all countries that the Society change its name to the International Association for Plant Biotechnology or IAPB. We also voted in favor of approving the contract negotiated with Springer Verlag to publish the two issues of In Vitro – Plant per year that are under the auspices of the IAPB, with an Editor-in-Chief and an Editorial Board distinct from the other issues of In Vitro – Plant. This arrangement with In Vitro – Plant has worked very well in the recent past and, now with Springer as the publisher, the exposure and reach of our journal should expand significantly.

Also announced at the Business Meeting was the ascension of Dr. Roger Beachy, President of the Donald Danforth Plant Research Center in St. Louis, MO, as the new President of the IAPB for 2006-2010. His tenure as President of the IAPB will culminate in the next world congress to be held in St. Louis in early summer of 2010.

Anyone in the US wishing to join the IAPB can do so through me. Just send an email to the address above and you will be sent the application with instructions. Dues are only $45 per year for which you receive the above mentioned two issues per year of In Vitro - Plant and a newsletter planned to be published quarterly.

In my opinion, it is important that American plant scientists reach out to our colleagues around the world. One way to do this is to join an international society such as the IAPB where friendships can be cultivated across the seas and across our political divisions. I urge all SIVB plant members to seriously consider joining the IAPB!

The International Association for Plant Biotechnology (IAPB) was founded in 1963. The primary activities of the IAPB have been to organize international congresses of plant tissue culture and biotechnology every four years, and to publish a newsletter/journal for its membership. The IAPB is the oldest and the largest international professional organization to represent plant biotechnology. It has more than 2,500 members in over 80 countries. Each year, members receive two issues of the journal In Vitro – Plant.

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REPRESENTATIVES OF THE SIVB
AMERICAN TYPE CULTURE COLLECTION

The ATCC Cell Biology Collection has distributed over 70,000 units during 2006 and has replenished about 700 Working Cell Banks (WCBs) prepared from animal and hybridoma cell lines. During this period, Cell Biology Collection personnel have acquired, expanded, authenticated, characterized, and cryopreserved 24 new items.

The issues of misidentification and cross-contamination of cell lines still remain a major concern of the ATCC Cell Biology Program and of the larger scientific community. We remain vigilant in the monitoring of cell lines to ensure that they are well characterized, authenticated and consequently, will provide reliable, consistent and reproducible scientific data.

Many cell lines in the ATCC Cell Biology Collection are widely used as reference materials in life science research and development. To support their use, the ATCC Cell Biology Program continues to spread the word about the importance of authenticated cell lines along with the ATCC Standards Program. In addition, the Cell Biology Program promotes knowledge of authentication through publications, seminars,! and participation in scientific meetings.

In addition, ATCC has taken the initiative to remove all “HeLa” contaminated cell lines from its webpage. Investigators who request these cell lines will be asked to sign off on a sales permit before buying the cell line. ATCC strongly advises against the use of these cell lines as models of the original tissues.

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