

**2007 NATIONAL DROSOPHILA BOARD MEETING AGENDA**  
**March 7, 2007 Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Philadelphia Marriot**  
**Liberty Ballroom, Salon A, 3 – 6:45 p.m.**

		<b>Report</b>
<b>INTRODUCTION &amp; APPROVAL OF THE 2006 MINUTES</b>	<b>3:00 – 3:10</b>	1
<b>MEETING ORGANIZATION</b>	<b>3:10 – 3:40</b>	
<b>2007 PROGRAM COMMITTEE (Steve DiNardo, Liz Gavis, Tom Jongens, Jessica Treisman)</b>	<b>15'</b>	2
2008 PROGRAM COMMITTEE		3
REPORT OF THE GSA MEETING COORDINATOR (Suzy Brown)	10'	4
<b>AWARDS</b>		
SANDLER LECTURESHIP COMMITTEE (Helen Salz)	5'	5
GSA POSTER AWARD (Jessica Treisman)		6
IMAGE AWARD (David Bilder)		7
<b>TREASURER'S REPORT (Michael Bender)</b>	<b>3:40 – 3:50</b>	8
<b>DROSOPHILA BOARD COMPOSITION</b>		
ELECTION REPORT (Lynn Cooley)		9
<b>COMMUNITY RESOURCE REPORTS &amp; PROJECTS</b>	<b>3:50 – 4:30</b>	
BLOOMINGTON STOCK CENTER (Kathy Matthews, Kevin Cook, Thom Kaufman)	5'	10
REPORT OF ADVISORY COMMITTEE (Hugo Bellen)		11
DROSOPHILA GENOMIC RESOURCE CENTER (Justen Andrews)	5'	12
GENE DISRUPTION PROJECT (Hugo Bellen, Allan Spradling, Roger Hoskins)	10'	13
DROSOPHILA INFORMATION SERVICE (Jim Thompson)		14
KYOTO DROSOPHILA GENETIC RESOURCE CENTER (Masa Toshi Yamamoto, Thom Kaufman)	5'	15
TUCSON STOCK CENTER (Teri Markow)	5'	16
SPECIES SEQUENCING PROJECT (Bill Gelbart, Thom Kaufman)	5'	17
FLYBASE (Bill Gelbart)	5'	18
<b>SPECIAL GUEST: Laurie Tompkins, NIH</b>	<b>4:30 – 4:50</b>	
<b>OLD BUSINESS</b>	<b>4:50 – 5:15</b>	19
<b>NEW BUSINESS</b>	<b>5:15 – 6:00</b>	
TRANSFORMATION LIBRARY AND DEFINED X-CHROMOSOME DUPLICATIONS (Bellen, Hoskins and Kaufman labs)	5'	20
RECOVERY OF LAWYERS EXPENSES FOR MINOS MTA (Hugo Bellen and Allan Spradling)	5'	21
DROSOPHILA MEETING POLICY ISSUES (Steve DiNardo)	5'	22
DROSOPHILA BOARD WHITE PAPER 2007 (Trudy Mackay)	30'	23
<b>ADJOURN AND RECEPTION</b>	<b>6:00 – 6:45</b>	

Present: Susan Abmayr, Justen Andrews, Michael Ashburner, Utpal Banerjee, Phil Batterham (for Robert Saint), Hugo Bellen, Michael Bender, Suzy Brown, Ken Burtis, Susan Celnickier, Kevin Cook, Lynn Cooley, Claude Desplan, Barry Dickson, Steve DiNardo, Liz Gavis, Bill Gelbart, Pamela Geyer, Scott Hawley, Yash Hiromi, David Ish-Horowicz, Tom Jongens, Thom Kaufman, Mark Krasnow, Mitzi Kuroda, Chuck Langley, Trudy Mackay, Therese Markow, Kathy

Matthews, Helen Salz, Allan Spradling, Jim Thompson, Carl Thummel, Laurie Tompkins, Jessica Treisman.

Newly elected Board members were introduced: Carl Thummel (President-Elect), Jim Truman (Northwest), Graeme David (California), Liz Gavis (Mid-Atlantic), Phil Batterham (Australia/Oceania), Vijay Raghavan (Asia), Barry Dickson (Europe). Thanks and appreciation were expressed to Board members completing their terms: Mark Krasnow (President), Ruth Lehmann (Past President), Barb Taylor (Northwest), Ken Burtis (California), Claude Despan (Mid-Atlantic), Robert Saint (Australia/Oceania), Yash Hiromi (Asia), David Ish-Horowicz (Europe).

## **1. 2006 MINUTES**

2006 Drosophila Board Meeting Minutes. March 29, 2006, Houston, Texas. Submitted by Mark Krasnow. Posted on Flybase.

Present: Susan Abmayr, Justen Andrews, Michael Ashburner, Utpal Banerjee, Phil Batterham (for Robert Saint), Hugo Bellen, Michael Bender, David Bilder, Ken Burtis, Kevin Cook, Lynn Cooley, Ron Davis, Rick Fehon, Bill Gelbart, Pam Geyer, George Halder, Scott Hawley, David Ish-Horowicz, Gary Karpen, Thom Kaufman, Rebecca Kellum, Mark Krasnow, Mitzi Kuroda, Chuck Langley, Ruth Lehmann, Howard Lipshitz, Trudy Mackay, Graeme Mardon, Teri Markow, Kathy Matthews, Dennis McKearin, Brian Oliver, Helen Salz, Trudi Schüpbach, Allan Spradling, Henry Sun (for Yash Hiromi), Barb Taylor.

## **2. REPORT OF THE 2007 PROGRAM COMMITTEE (Steve DiNardo, Liz Gavis, Tom Jongens, Jessica Treisman)**

The formation of this years program committee started at the 2006 meeting in Houston. Tom Jongens and Steve DiNardo met with Hugo Bellen, Ron Davis, Suzy Brown, Mark Krasnow, Ken Burtis and a few others and to discuss what the organization of the 2007 meeting might involve. Liz Gavis had also agreed join the program committee but could not attend the organizational meeting. Jessica Treisman was recruited to the committee very soon after the meeting.

Overall the organization of the meeting went very well. It was very useful to meet with at least part of last year's committee to get an idea of what the task involves. Suzy Brown has kept all of us well informed of procedures and deadlines and should be commended for her excellent efforts (See below). Due to Liz Gavis being on sabbatical in England and Jessica Treisman being in NY the meeting was organized via email and one conference call.

### **Registration:**

Pre-registration for the meeting was strong. 1,344 people have registered for the meeting (1,275-2006; 1,435-2005; 1,540-2004). So we are up a bit from last year and down from 2004 and 2005. Also, we don't know the late registration numbers. So the comparison to final registration numbers of previous years should fare better. We don't know if having the meeting several weeks earlier than usual is a positive or negative factor for attendance. A more complete picture of the meeting registration and attendance will be given by Suzy Brown.

### **Abstract Submission:**

Abstract submission was very good this year. The count by the due date was 987 (897 last year).

Abstracts were solicited under fifteen areas of primary research interest (same as last year). The list of 2007 topics is shown below, including the number of abstracts submitted in each area, talks requested and the number of talks assigned for the meeting. In total, 987 requests were received for posters and platform talks by the deadline. I do not know how many late abstracts were submitted. This number compares with a total number 910 in 2006, 1043 in 2005, 982 in 2004, 1016 in 2003, 1003 in 2002 and 966 in 2001. There were 425 requests for platform presentations for 156 available slots, allowing accommodation of 36.7% of the requests (this ratio is very similar to that of 2005, we don't have the numbers for 2006).

The choice of session topics worked reasonable well, although there is definitely a higher chance of being chosen for a platform presentation in some areas relative to others (see Table below). This is because of the constraints placed on the number of talks per session, which vary from 14 to 7. The number of speakers for each sub-topic was roughly in proportion to the number of abstracts requesting platform talks in each sub-field. The most popular submission topics were Regulation of Gene Expression and Evolution and Quantitative Genetics.

The organizers noted that although the session on Gametogenesis and Sex Determination was popular, with 51 abstracts submitted and 22 talks requested, only one of the requested talks was in the field of Sex Determination. It seems that many people in the Sex Determination field now submit their abstracts to other sessions, such as Neural Physiology or Gene Expression. This year Gametogenesis and Sex Determination has 8 talks and Organogenesis has 7 talks. One suggestion to consider is to combine these two topics into a single session called Gametogenesis and Organogenesis (which will likely have 14-16 talks), this will reduce the total number of topics to 14 and maybe provide space for a new and growing area of research. Sex Determination could be listed as a sub-field within the other topics. A similar recommendation was also made by the 2005 committee. In addition the committee feels that it is worth considering eliminating one of the two Pattern Formation sessions and one of the two Signal Transduction sessions and creating a second session for Gene Expression. The second Pattern Formation session was bolstered by the addition of several relevant talks that were actually initially assigned to other topic, but received high markers by the chairs of the other sessions. Also for topics that assigned two sessions, the committee felt that it would be best to have one chair for both rather than two, as getting both chairs to agree on the top 14 or so talks adds an additional level of complexity to the organization of the meeting.

<b><u>TOPIC</u></b>	<b><u>ABS-TALKREQ.-TALKS</u></b>
Cell division and growth control	87-39-14 (36%)*
Cytoskeleton and cell biology	83-34-14 (41%)
Genome and chromosome structure	59-22-8 (36%)
Regulation of gene expression	107-47-14(30%)
Signal transduction	65-30-14 (47%)
Pattern formation	70-38-14 (37%)
Gametogenesis and sex determination	51-25-8 (32%)
Organogenesis	38-17-8 (47%)
Neurogenetics and neural development	52-18-8 (44%)
Neural physiology and behavior	60-24-8 (33%)
Evolution and quantitative genetics	94-35-14 (40%)
Immune system and cell death	59-24-8 (33%)
Techniques and genomics	39-16-7 (44%)

Drosophila models of human diseases	70-30-8 (27%)
Physiology and aging	53-26-8 (31%)

\*percentages indicate the success rate of obtaining a requested platform presentation.

### **Invited Speakers:**

The historical speaker was chosen very soon after the Houston meeting and the first choice was Spyros Artavanis-Tsakonas and he gladly agreed to give the talk. Mark Fortini gladly agreed to introduce him. In May, we made a list of suggestions for Plenary Speakers, listed preferences by email (this involved asking advice from colleagues in areas that we lack expertise) and then decided on a primary invitation list via conference call. All of those considered were highly productive in a diverse area of topics that represent the breadth of *Drosophila* research. Additional criteria included trying to represent junior and senior researchers, gender, regional location and we also eliminated choices of individuals that have spoken as a plenary speaker at the fly meeting for the last several years. Everyone we asked agreed to speak at this years meeting. The list of speakers was completed by the end of May.

### **Plenary Speakers:**

Ravi Allada, Thomas Schwarz, Kristin Scott, Thomas Lecuit, Lori Wallrath, Don Rio, Michael Eisen, Mohamed Noor, Ulrike Gaul, Claude Desplan, Pernille Rorth, Eric Rulifson

### **Session Chairs:**

We then decided on a list of session chairs, using the same criteria and method as for plenary speakers, but in general we put a little more emphasis to recruit more junior people (people coming up for tenure) and the areas of recruitment were based on the session topics. Almost everyone we asked gladly agreed to do it (Amy Csink had to decline because of a conflict). The session chairs list was completed by the end of May/early June. In general we found people very enthusiastic about participating in the meeting.

### **This year's chairs:**

David Schneider, Mary Baylies, Justin Blau, David Stern, Stephen Small, Jennifer Zallen, Mark Van Doren, Nancy Bonini (had to be replaced by Mark Fortini), Ilaria Rebay, Angelike Stathopoulos, Kenneth Moberg, Ramanuj Dasgupta, Kenneth Irvine, Kenneth Moberg, Kristi Wharton, Kami Ahmad, Wesley Gruber, Marc Tatar

The session chairs were each sent the list of abstracts for their respective topic that were requesting platform presentations. They were asked to rank order the topic 12 or so talks and then the meeting organizers took these lists to assign platform presentations for each session. We cross-referenced each list to make sure that no lab had excessive representation. All of the chairs did this in a very timely fashion.

All of the meeting organizers, plenary speakers, the historical speaker, the introducer of the historical speaker, and the Larry Sandler memorial lecturer we offered free registration. This is a continuation of what was offered the year before. They all had to cover their room fees.

### **Workshops:**

A total of 10 workshops were organized for this years meeting. This is two less then last year. Only one request for a workshop was denied as its subject matter was not science or teaching based. Most of the workshop topics are repeats of last year's workshops.

The deadline for workshop requests was November 1, but since the number of slots available was 12, the requests were accepted until the end of November.

The programs for each workshop were left in the hands of the organizers. However abstracts for each workshop were mandatory.

The traditional Ecdysone workshop is being held prior to the official start of the meeting. The room and audio/visual support for this workshop is the same as for all of the other workshops that occur during the meeting. The other workshops are: Cell Death, A Dozen Fly Genomes, Drosophila Research and Pedagogy at Primarily Undergraduate Institutions, Immunity, Hematopoiesis and Pathogenesis, Cell Cycle Checkpoints, RNAi High-Throughput Screening, RNA Biology, Extracellular Matrix Interactions and Signaling.

#### **Interaction with the GSA office:**

The organizers would like to thank Suzy Brown and GSA for providing a significant amount of help and information during the organization of the meeting. Most questions were answered rapidly even on weekends and evenings. In addition, Suzy Brown and her staff have handled a large number of tasks so the organizing committee did not have to be involved with such issues as interfacing with the hotel, making room assignments for concurrent sessions, posters presentations and workshops, arranging audio/visual needs, and a whole host of issues we are unaware of.

The GSA also sponsored a **Mentor Roundtable Lunch**, with four tables of 7 students/postdocs and one mentor. The President of the Drosophila Board and Allan Spradling (currently the President of the GSA) will participate as mentors, as will two volunteers from the Board.

#### **Additional suggestions for next years meeting:**

In general no significant changes were made to last year's program. However the committee feels that several changes in the concurrent sessions should be consider for next year's meeting.

We would like to recommend that next year's organizer get a copy of the meeting reports from the last several years at the start of the organization, to enlighten them about all the issues that were considered in previous meetings.

We also would like to recommend taking into consideration the impact of organizing the meeting so early in the year especially this particular weekend in Philadelphia. This year's meeting overlaps with the annual Flower Show which has an international draw and is historically the busiest weekend in downtown Philadelphia this time of year. There might be positive and negative aspects of this timing and this issue should be revisited when Philadelphia is again chosen as a venue for the fly meeting.

#### **I. Updated Plenary Speaker list, thru 2007 Philadelphia (SD)**

Susan Abmayr	1995
<b>Ravi Allada</b>	<b>2007</b>

Kathryn Anderson	1999
Deborah Andrew	1997
Doris Bachtrog	2005
Bruce Baker	1996
Bruce S. Baker	2002
Utpal Banerjee	1997, 2005
Konrad Basler	2003
Amy Bejsovec	2000
Phil Beachy	1998
Hugo Bellen	1997
Marianne Bienz	1996
Ethan Bier	2002
Seth Blair	1997
Grace Boekhoff-Falk	2003
Nancy Bonini	2000
Juan Botas	1999
Andrea Brand	2001
Sarah Bray	2005
Vivian Budnik	2000
Ross Cagan	1998
John Carlson	1999, 2002
Sean Carroll	1995, 2006
Richard Carthew	2005
Bill Chia	2006
Andrew G. Clark	2002
Tom Cline	2000
Francis Collins	2004
Claire Cronmiller	1995
Ilan Davis	2001
Rob Denell	1999
<b>Claude Desplan</b>	<b>2007</b>
Michael Dickinson	1995
Barry Dickson	2006
Chris Doe	1996
Ian Duncan	2001
Bruce Edgar	1997
<b>Mike Eisen</b>	<b>2007</b>
Sarah Elgin	2005
Anne Ephrussi	2001
Mel B. Feany	2002
Martin Feder	1998
Janice Fischer	1998
Matthew Freeman	2004
Minx Fuller	2003
<b>Ulrike Gaul</b>	<b>2007</b>
Elizabeth R. Gavis	2002
Pam Geyer	1996
Richard Gibbs	2003
David Glover	2000
Kent Golic	2001

Ralph Greenspan	2005
Leslie Griffith	2006
Ernst Hafen	2005
Iswar Hariharan	2003
Dan Hartl	2001
Scott Hawley	2001
Tom Hayes	1995
Ulrike Heberlein	1996, 1998
Martin Heisenberg	1998
David Hogness	1999
Joan Hooper	1995
Yuh Nung Jan	2005
Wayne Johnson	2000
Laura Johnston	2005
Gary Karpen	2006
Timothy Karr	2003
Thom Kaufman	2001
Rebecca Kellum	1999
Christian Klambt	1998
Thomas B. Kornberg	2002
Mark Krasnow	2004
Henry Krause	2004
Ed Kravitz	2004
Mitzi Kuroda	2003
Chuck Langley	2006
Paul Lasko	1999
Cathy Laurie	1997
<b>Thoma Lecuit</b>	<b>2007</b>
Ruth Lehmann	2002
Mike Levine	2003
Bob Levis	1997
Haifan Lin	1995
Susan Lindquist	2000
John Lis	2001
Troy Littleton	2006
Liqun Luo	2003
Trudy Mackay	2000
Richard Mann	2006
J. Lawrence Marsh	2004
Erika Matunis	2004
Dennis McKearin	1996
Mike McKeown	1996
Gero Miesenbock	2006
Jon Minden	1999
Marek Mlodzik	2006
Denise Montell	2002
<b>Mohamed Noor</b>	<b>2007</b>
Roel Nusse	1997
David O'Brochta	1997
Michael O'Connor	2005
Terry L. Orr-Weaver	2002

Linda Partridge	2004
Mark Peifer	1997
Trudy MacKay	2000
Nipam Patel	2000
Norbert Perrimon	1999
M. Ramaswami	2001
Robert Rawson	2003
<b>Don Rio</b>	<b>2007</b>
<b>Pernille Rorth</b>	1995, <b>2007</b>
Gerry Rubin	1998, 2001
<b>Eric Rulifson</b>	<b>2007</b>
Hannele Ruohola-Baker	1999
Babis Savakis	1995
Paul Schedl	1998
Gerold Schübiger	1996
Trudi Schüpbach	2004
<b>Thomas Schwarz</b>	<b>2007</b>
<b>Kristin Scott</b>	<b>2007</b>
Matthew P. Scott	2002
John Sedat	2000
Amita Sehgal	2003
Marla Sokolowski	1998
Ruth Steward	1996
Daniel St. Johnston	2005
Tin Tin Su	2002
Bill Sullivan	1996
John Sved	1997
John Tamkun	2000
Barbara Taylor	1996
William Theurkauf	2002
Jessica Treisman	2005
Tim Tully	1995
Talila Volk	2004
Leslie Vosshall	2006
Barbara Wakimoto	2001
<b>Lori Wallrath</b>	<b>2007</b>
Steve Wasserman	1996
Kevin P. White	2004
Kristin White	2004
Eric Wieschaus	1996
Ting Wu	1997
Tian Xu	1997
Philip Zamore	2003
Susan Zusman	1998

**II Session Chairs: only goes back to 2003 (unless someone wishes to look through their books....)**

**Techniques & Genomics**  
2003 Christenson & Dearolf  
2004 Westwood



2005 Amy Kiger  
2006 Chen  
2007 Dasgupta

### **Organogenesis**

2003 Abmayer / Cripps  
2004 Godt  
2005 Frascch  
2006 Debbie Andrew  
2007 Baylies

### **Mitosis, Meiosis & Cell Division**

2003 Su / Johnston  
2004 Campbell  
2005 Scholey  
2006 Thomas Neufeld (called Cell Division & Growth Control)  
2007 Moberg

### **Cytoskeleton & Cell Biology**

2003 Sisson / Miller  
2004 Schoeck  
2005 Helmut Kramer  
2006 Dave Bilder (1/2 session...)  
2007 Zallen

### **Neurogenetics & Neural Development**

2003 Wolff / Seeger  
2004 Yong Rao  
2005 Zinn  
2006 Kwang-Wook Choi  
2007 Grueber

### **Signal Transduction I**

2003 Jiang / Robinow  
2004 Therrien  
2005 Erica bach  
2006 Xinhua Lin  
2007 Rebay

### **Neurophysiology & Behavior**

2003 Smith / Taylor  
2004 Boulianne  
2005 Krantz  
2006 Littleton  
2007 Blau

### **Gametogenesis & Sex Determination**

2003 Matunis / Godt  
2004 Brill  
2005 Arbeitman

2006 Rick Kelley  
2007 Van Doren

### **Signal Transduction II**

2003 Halder / McNeill  
2004 Bruce Reed  
2005 Marques  
2006  
2007 Wharton

### **Immune System & Cell Death**

2003 McCall & Bergmann  
2004 Manoukian  
2005 Brachman  
2006 Bergmann  
2007 Schneider

### **Pattern Formation I**

2003 Horabin & Rogers  
2004 Laura Nilson  
2005 Raftery  
2006 Justin Kumar  
2007 Stathopoulos

### **Pattern Formation II**

2003 Pollack & Jones  
2004 Tepass  
2005 Stuart Newfeld  
2006 Rushlow  
2007 Irvine

### **Regulation of Gene Expression**

2003 Arnosti / Orenic  
2004 Vett Lloyd  
2005 Coury  
2006 Scott Barolo  
2007 Small

### **Genome & Chromosome Structure**

2003 Dernburg / Gallant  
2004 Brock  
2005 Biessmann  
2006 Geyer  
2007 Ahmad

### **Drosophila Models of Human Disease:**

2005 Ming Guo  
2006 Fortini  
2007 Bonini / Fortini?

## **Physiology & Ageing**

2006 Pletcher

2007 Tatar

## **Evolution & Quantitative Genetics**

2003 McAllister & Gleason

2004 Andolfatto

2005 Long

2006 Gibson

2007 Stern

## **III: Past Historical Speakers (should be double checked, especially for Hogness slot and Rubin slot...):**

Spyro Artavanis-Tsakonas – 2007

Thom Kauffman – 2006

Christiane Nusslein-Volhard – 2005

Peter Lawrence – 2004

Michael Ashburner – 2003

Ed Lewis – 2002

David Hogness – 2001

Seymour Benzer – 2000

Gerald Rubin ~1999 (genome sequence?)

Suggestions for future historical speakers: Walter Gehring, Gerold Schubiger, Bruce Baker

## **3. 2008 PROGRAM COMMITTEE**

The 49th annual Drosophila Research Conference is April 2-6, 2008 at the Town and Country Resort and Conference Center, San Diego, California. Susan Celniker volunteered to organize the meeting. Following the Board meeting, Nancy Bonini, Brian Oliver and John Tamkun agreed to co-organize this meeting with Susan.

## **4. REPORT OF THE GSA MEETING COORDINATOR (Suzy Brown, CMP) 48<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL DROSOPHILA RESEARCH CONFERENCE**

### **Registration:**

Total registrations for 2007 (as of the early registration date of February 2) are 1,345. This number is approximately 6% higher than last year at the early registration deadline. Last year we saw an additional 12% who registered after the early registration deadline. Normally we see an increase between 12 and 20%. If we see another 12% this year, our final registration numbers should be at approximately 1,500 attendees.

As with all GSA meetings, a new registration category was added this year for postdocs. The fee reflects a 10% reduction in the normal faculty fee. I had used the assumption (since we hadn't previously collected that information) that 20% of the attendees are postdocs and that with the new fee structure we would see an overall attendee revenue decrease of approximately 1.5%. Currently 22% of the registered attendees are postdocs representing lost attendee revenue of just under 3%.

Registration income at this point is about \$33,000 below the total projected registration income of \$267,000. The number of individuals registering as GSA members, paying the lower member rate, is about the same as last year (792 vs. 778 in 2006). I expect that we will see that late and on-site registrations will bring in enough additional income to make up the shortfall in the actual registration income.

#### **Hotel Rates and Pick-up:**

Hotel room rates for singles and doubles in 2007 are \$169/\$189, about the same as in Houston last year. Pick-up this year was slow initially and then picked up. As of the cut-off date of February 7, our block was sold out. Generally we experience about a 5% slippage (rooms cancelled after cut-off) so some rooms may open up that will be filled again. We have met our commitment of 85% of the block which is important because it directly ties into complimentary space, reduced coffee prices and other contractual obligations.

#### **Exhibitors:**

Fourteen exhibit spaces were sold this year (13 companies total) which is even with last year. All of the companies are commercial companies. We hoped to grow the program this year and Exhibits Manager Toney Vogel did a lot of recruiting. However we will fall about \$10,000 short of our budget of \$30,000.

#### **Donors and Advertisers:**

Two ads were sold including one full color ad for the back cover of the Program & Abstracts book for a total of \$2,000 in revenue.

### **FUTURE CONFERENCES**

The Board decided to continue with the normal three-year rotation (West, Central, East). After site visits to several properties I was able to negotiate favorable contracts at hotels that the Drosophila group had been happy with in the past. Additionally, with the Board's approval, two-year contracts were negotiated at each property to help keep rates down. Detailed below is the schedule for the next six years:

**2008 – 49th Annual Drosophila Conference: April 2-6, The Town and Country Resort Hotel, San Diego.** \$162/\$172/\$182. This property has added some beautiful new space including a new exhibit hall. Attendees will no longer have to visit the parking garage to see posters and exhibits.

**2009 – 50th Annual Drosophila Conference: March 4-8, Sheraton Chicago Hotel and Towers.** \$199/\$219. This property has had a complete renovation – from meeting space to sleeping rooms.

**2010 – 51st Annual Drosophila Conference: April 7-11, Marriott Wardman Park Hotel, Washington, DC.** \$215 (\$2 LESS than 2004). All guest rooms and meeting space will have been renovated by 2010.

**2011 – 52nd Annual Drosophila Conference: March 30-April 3, The Town and Country Resort Hotel, San Diego.** \$176/\$186/\$196.

**2012 – 53rd Annual Drosophila Conference: March 7-11, Sheraton Chicago Hotel and Towers.** \$230/\$253 (\*maximum).

**2013 – 54th Annual Drosophila Conference: April 3-7, Marriott Wardman Park Hotel.**  
 \$235 (\*maximum)

\*Note: Sleeping room rates are also tied to the economy so if the hotel's general (rack) rates fall, so does our meeting rate.

Registrations - 2007		
	<b><u>Number</u></b>	<b><u>Amount</u></b>
Members	345	\$65,550.00
NonMembers	144	\$44,640.00
Postdoc Members	169	\$28,899.00
Postdoc Nonmembers	125	\$34,875.00
Student Members	278	\$22,240.00
Student Nonmembers	261	\$37,845.00
Complimentary	18	0
<b>Advance-Early</b>	<b>1,340</b>	<b>\$234,049.00</b>
Mailings-USA	234	\$4,480.00
Overseas	35	\$0.00
<b>Advance Mailings</b>		<b>\$4,480.00</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>1,340</b>	<b>\$238,529.00</b>

### Registrants breakdown by Country

<b>Country</b>	<b>Count</b>
United States	1061
United Kingdom	61
Japan	41
Canada	31
France	31
Germany	30
Spain	19
Switzerland	13
Taiwan	11
Israel	10
Australia	9
Korea	6
Czech Republic	5
Portugal	5
Austria	3
China	3
Mexico	3
Sweden	3
Argentina	2
Belgium	2
Hong Kong	2
Italy	2
Brazil	1
Chile	1
India	1
Ireland	1
Norway	1
Russian Federation	1
Singapore	1
Slovakia	1
United Arab Emirates	1
Total number of registrants	1362
31 different countries	

### 5. REPORT OF THE SANDLER AWARD COMMITTEE (Helen Salz)

Committee:

Helen Salz, Case Western Reserve University (Chair)

R. Scott Hawley, Stowers Institute (Chair, 2006)

Mariana Wolfner, Cornell University (Chair, 2008)

Jim Erickson, Texas A&M University

Selection Procedure:

- On December 1, 2006 I received **18** nominations that included a Curriculum Vitae, a thesis abstract, and a letter of nomination from the advisor. The nominations were e-mailed to the committee members for evaluation. The 18 applicants were: Dr. Rajulja (Irvine); Dr. Rajpurohit (Parkash); Dr. Fox (Peifer); Dr. Zinzen (Levine); Dr. Radford (Sekelsky); Dr. Siegrist (Doe); Dr. Foltenyi (Greenspan); Dr. Miura (Treisman); Dr. Wang (Montell); Dr. Mazzoni (Desplan); Dr. Komiyama (Luo); Dr. Sigova (Zamore); Dr. Patel (Tamano) Dr. Han (Lin); Dr. Manoli (Baker); Dr. Singh (Petrov); Dr. Wang (Ferguson) and Dr. Mito (Henikoff).
- By December 14th voting for the top candidates for each committee member resulted in the selection of **6** finalists: Dr. Zinzen (Levine), Dr. Wang (Montell), Dr. Mazzoni (Desplan), Dr. Manoli (Baker), Dr. Wang (Ferguson) and Dr. Mito (Henikoff).
- The 6 PhD thesis were provided to the committee members as pdf files by December 22nd. By January 9th, each committee member had read all 6 theses and ranked the nominees. After multiple email exchanges and commentaries, Dr. Yu-chiun Wang (Ferguson) unanimously ranked as number 1. Dr. Mito (Henikoff) was in 2nd place and Dr. Manoli (Baker) was in third place.

Previous Committee Members (to help future chairs select new members)

2000 Committee:

Amy Bejsovec  
Tom Cline  
Joe Duffy  
Chris Field  
Janice Fischer  
Scott Hawley  
Bill Saxton (Chair)  
Bill Sullivan (1999 Chair)

2001 Committee:

Laurel Raftery  
Haig Keshishian  
Susan Parkhurst  
Bill Saxton (2000 Chair)  
Lynn Cooley (Chair)

2002 Committee:

Steve DiNardo, UPenn (Chair)  
Lynn Cooley, Yale Med (2001 Chair)  
Chip Ferguson, U Chicago  
Helen Salz, Case Western

2003 Committee:

Amanda Simcox, Ohio State (Chair)  
Steve DiNardo, UPenn (2002 Chair)  
Celeste Berg, University of Washington

Jin Jiang, UT Southwestern

2004 Committee:

Ross Cagan, Washington University (Chair)  
Amanda Simcox, Ohio State (2003 Chair)  
Susan Abmayr, Stowers Institute  
Tom Clandinin, Stanford

2005 Committee:

Gerold Schubiger, University of Washington (Chair)  
Ross Cagan, Washington University (Chair 2004)  
Seth Blair, University of Wisconsin  
Gertrud Schüpbach, Princeton University

2006 Committee

R. Scott Hawley, Stowers Institute (Chair)  
Helen Salz, Case Western University (Chair 2007)  
Kenneth Burtis, UC Davis  
Susan Abmayr, Stowers Institute

2007 Committee

Helen Salz, Case Western Reserve University (Chair)  
R. Scott Hawley, Stowers Institute (Chair, 2006)  
Mariana Wolfner, Cornell University (Chair, 2008)  
Jim Erickson, Texas A&M University

## 6. GSA POSTER AWARD (Jessica Treisman)

The GSA is sponsoring two awards for the best poster: one for students and one for postdocs. First (\$500), second (\$300) and third (\$200) place prizes will be given in each category. Judging will be based on scientific merit and clarity of presentation. The Poster Prize Committee is co-chaired by one of the meeting co-organizers and the Past-President of the Drosophila Board. Other members of the Poster Prize Committee are the President-Elect of the Drosophila Board, and others chosen by the Chair from the list of faculty registered for the meeting, who have diverse interests and provide subject balance. Platform session moderators have agreed to nominate one graduate student and one postdoc poster from their research topic on the first full day of the meeting. The committee members will evaluate the nominees in each category and select the first, second and third place winners on the second day of the meeting. The winners will be asked to come to the final Plenary Session, where the winning posters will be announced and the winners will be presented with the awards by the Board President. Winning posters will then be displayed outside the meeting room. 2007 Poster Prize Committee: Jessica Treisman (Co-Chair), Mark Krasnow (Co-Chair), Utpal Banerjee, Claude Desplan, Buzz Baum, Trisha Wittkopp.

## 7. IMAGE AWARD (David Bilder)

This year's competition received 30 submissions, down from the high of 2006 but larger than 2004 and 2005. This year's winner is:

***Benjamin Ohlstein***, for his image demonstrating the multipotency of adult stem cells in the *Drosophila* midgut



This year's runners-up are:

- *Nicole Miller for her image showing localization of the proteoglycan Eyes Shut in the lumen of photoreceptor cells*
- *Jie Yao for his live imaging of transcription factor association with polytene chromosomes in vivo*
- *Shunya Hozumi for his image displaying reversed left-right asymmetry in Myo31DF mutant embryos*

Other developments:

-Liqun Luo and Laurel Raftery will both step down from the committee this year; we would like to acknowledge their status as founding members of the committee whose direction over the past few years has helped shape the Award. Ross Cagan (Mt. Sinai) and Michelle Arbeitman (USC) have agreed to replace them.

-We have had much positive feedback about the permanent website for the competition ([www.drosophila-images.org](http://www.drosophila-images.org)), and have received contacts from outside the Drosophila community (including high school students). Again, the community and the Board are encouraged to visit and provide feedback to the committee. Suggestions for relevant sites to link to and be linked from would be welcomed.

-With respect to increasing awareness of the Award and keeping submission numbers and quality high, the committee is particularly interested in hearing suggestions. We note that this year Flybase was willing to send out only a single email in the fall to notify the community about this year's award schedule. While we understand the reasons for so doing, we wonder if there are alternative efficient and timely options to reach the community-at-large. Integrating a section formally into the Call for Abstracts and other official program information would be one improvement; the committee would like to get in contact with the relevant personnel for next year's meeting.

Committee members:

David Bilder  
Brian Calvi  
Peter Lawrence  
Liqun Luo  
Laurel Raftery

Brian Calvi will make the announcement of the image award before the first plenary. The winner probably will not be present but the committee will arrange to get him the physical award.

## **8. 2007 TREASURERS REPORT (Michael Bender) February 16, 2007**

### **A. ANNUAL DROSOPHILA CONFERENCE INCOME/EXPENSE (Data are from the GSA [Chuck Windle, Suzy Brown], 2/12/07)**

	<b>San Diego 2005 (Actual)</b>	<b>Houston 2006 (Actual)</b>	<b>Phil. 2007 (Projected)</b>
<b><u>REVENUE</u></b>			
Registration fees: (increased by \$10 in 2004)	\$297,750	274,350	267,000

Grants and Contributions:	0	1,052	0
Exhibit Fees (increased by \$200/exhibit in 2004)	24,250	22,600	19,600
Advertising/Mail Lists/Other	<u>4,630</u>	<u>640</u>	<u>4,000</u>
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>326,630</b>	<b>298,642</b>	<b>290,600</b>
<b><u>EXPENSE</u></b>			
Salary, Payroll Tax and Benefits	45,532	82,527	83,500
Printing and Mailing	33,173	29,413	28,000
Receptions and Catered Events	71,034	93,345	90,000
Posters and Exhibits	24,030	22,964	32,221
Supplies and Duplicating	2,554	1,977	2,000
Hotel and Travel	6,193	5,457	4,000
Audiovisual services	36,797	37,339	39,000
Other contracted services	5,001	9,380	2,000
Telephone and Fax	1,837	1,382	1,500
Credit Card Fees	9,422	8,013	8,000
Miscellaneous	<u>495</u>	<u>649</u>	<u>0</u>
Total Expense	<b><u>236,068</u></b>	<b><u>292,446</u></b>	<b><u>290,221</u></b>
Net Revenue Over (Under) Expense	<b>\$90,562</b>	<b>\$6,196</b>	<b>\$379</b>

## B. MEETING ATTENDANCE

Pre-registration 2007 (Philadelphia) (Note 1):	1,345	\$234,000
<b>Total registration 2006 (est):</b>	<b>1,500</b>	<b>\$267,000</b>
Pre-registration 2006 (Houston):	1,241	\$222,165
<b>Total registration 2006:</b>	<b>1,402</b>	<b>\$274,350</b>
Pre-registration 2005 (San Diego):	1,451	\$264,440
<b>Total registration 2005:</b>	<b>1,515</b>	<b>\$297,750</b>
Pre-registration 2004 (Wash DC)	1,470	\$266,110
<b>Total registration 2004:</b>	<b>1,617</b>	<b>\$313,645</b>
Pre-registration 2003 (Chicago):	1,488	\$256,130
<b>Total registration 2003:</b>	<b>1,603</b>	<b>\$283,270</b>
Pre-registration 2002 (San Diego):	1,219	\$211,000
<b>Total registration 2002:</b>	<b>1,552</b>	<b>\$290,170</b>
Pre-registration 2001 (Wash DC):	1,372	\$240,240
<b>Total registration 2001:</b>	<b>1,627</b>	<b>\$297,915</b>
Pre-registration 2000 (Pittsburgh):	1,083	\$131,075
<b>Total registration 2000:</b>	<b>1,183</b>	<b>\$167,005</b>
Pre-registration 1999 (Seattle):	1,142	\$156,350
<b>Total registration 1999:</b>	<b>1,366</b>	<b>\$191,425</b>

Note 1. The early registration deadline was 2/2. Historically, 12 to 20% of registrations come in after the early registration deadline (per Suzy Brown of the GSA). Suzy's best guess based on the 2/2 figure is that registration will be around 1500 with revenue matching the budgeted expenses.

### C. ACCOUNT BALANCES

<b>Drosophila Main Fund</b>				
<b>Meeting Year</b>	<b><u>Location</u></b>	<b>Net Income</b>	<b>Fund Balance*</b>	<b># Meeting Attendees</b>
1993	San Diego	\$17,105	\$ 25,146	1,165
1994	Chicago	2,800	27,946	1,222
1995	Atlanta	8,417	36,363	1,103
1996	San Diego	15,035	51,398	1,423
1997	Chicago	31,663	83,061	1,382
1998	Wash DC	21,522	104,583	1,378
1999	Seattle	(6,053)	98,530	1,366
2000	Pittsburgh	(56,060)	42,470	1,183
2001	Wash DC	71,656	114,126	1,627
2002	San Diego	60,661	174,787	1,552
2003	Chicago	(22,993)	151,794	1,603
2004	Wash DC	23,026	174,820	1,617
2005	San Diego	90,562	265,382	1,515
2006	Houston	6,196	271,578	1,402
2007	Philadelphia			

\* The GSA Board (Sept. 2003 meeting) established a required ~\$150,000 *minimum* reserve fund (one-half of meeting expenses). No cap figure stated.

<b>Sandler Lecture Fund</b>					
<b>Year</b>	<b>Investment Gain</b>	<b>Travel expenses</b>	<b>Supplies/ Mailing expenses</b>	<b>Net Income</b>	<b>Balance</b>
1993				1417	25,964
1994				(451)	25,513
1995				1,595	27,108
1996				1,142	28,250
1997				1,119	29,369
1998				1,385	30,754
1999				877	31,631
2000				257	31,888
2001				(234)	31,654
2002				(846)	30,808
2003				(2,431)	28,377
2004				432	28,809
2005	1076	1,208	37	(169)	28,640
2006	1963	469	15	1,479	30,119

### D. SUMMARY AND REMARKS

The 2006 meeting in Houston produced a modest surplus (\$6,192). This continues a pattern of modest gains or losses at the East and Midwest sites and more substantial gains at the San Diego site. This pattern is explained in part by differences in meeting expenses at the different

sites (San Diego has been least expensive for meeting costs in recent history) and in part by attendance patterns. {For example, years in which attendance drops by more than 100 registrants from the previous year (1995 Atlanta, 2000 Pittsburg, and 2006 Houston) tend to be near break-even or loss years as shown in the Drosophila main fund balance table above.} The current 2007 meeting projection is to break even with Philadelphia being an expensive meeting location (especially catering prices and labor costs for the exhibit/poster area, per Suzy Brown) but pre-registration up by 100 compared to last year. Revenues from registration for 2007 will be slightly lower (about \$7,500) due to the new 10% discount for postdoctoral registration adopted this year. Assuming that the 2007 meeting comes close to breaking even, the Drosophila fund has a healthy balance and it appears that registration fees do not need to be increased. The balance in the Drosophila main fund after the 2006 meeting was \$271,578. This is about \$120,000 above the GSA mandated minimum for this fund of one-half of annual meeting expenses. Thus at its current level, the fund could withstand two consecutive losses of the magnitude of the 2000 meeting (\$56,000) before going below the GSA minimum.

Two factors may affect the main fund balance in the near future. The first is whether postdoctoral registration fees are further lowered for future meetings. In August 2006 in response to a GSA request, the board decided to set registration fees for postdoctoral fellows for the 2007 meeting at 10% below faculty/other fees with the intention of discussing a further cut in postdoctoral registration fees for future meetings. (For comparison, per Suzy Brown, two other GSA sponsored meetings have instituted registration fee reductions for postdocs relative to faculty fees, Yeast 2006 by 20%, and 2007 Fungal Genetics by 16 to 22% depending on GSA membership status.) If estimates on revenue reduction from the postdoc fees from this year's Drosophila meeting are correct (about \$7,500 for a 10% discount), we could plan on another \$7,500 revenue decrease for each additional 10% discount relative to faculty/other fees instituted for future meetings. The Board voted to maintain the postdoc registration fee for next year's meeting at 10% less than the faculty registration, and to re-visit the request from the GSA to cut the postdoc registration fee to 20% of the faculty fee (to bring the Drosophila meeting in line with other GSA sponsored meetings) at the 2008 Board meeting.

The second item is the possibility that the board discussed at the 2006 meeting of adding a lunch to a future meeting as a way of increasing informal scientific interactions during the meeting. The 2006 minutes should be consulted for the precise outcome of this discussion. However, my recollection is that there was general board support, given the good state of the general fund, for investigating the pricing of such a lunch, perhaps starting with the San Diego venue where catering costs are lower. The Board voted to support a lunch at the San Diego meeting, with an anticipated cost of approximately \$30,000.

Finally, the Sandler lecture endowment fund showed a modest increase in the past year and should be able to continue its function of providing sufficient income to cover travel expenses for the Sandler lecturer each year. The modest increases seen in this fund since 1993 will also ensure that, in the long run, the fund can keep pace with future increases in travel costs.

## **9. Election Report (Lynn Cooley)**

The Elections Committee consisted of Lynn Cooley (Chair), Kavita Arora, Ilaria Rebay, and two new members Paul Lasko and Dennis McKearin. We collected suggestions from outgoing representatives, the committee members, and past Election Committees, and then ranked them based on previous involvement in the fly community or our perception of their ability to perform the job. The chair contacted the individuals selected by the committee to construct the final ballot.

The following letter was e-mailed to Fly People through FlyBase.

Dear FlyPerson,

Enclosed you will find a ballot on which to cast your vote for new members of the National Drosophila Board of Directors. The Board plays an important role for the Drosophila research community, so please take a few seconds to learn about the Board and cast your vote.

The Board's duties include: overseeing community resource centers and addressing other research and resource issues that affect the entire Drosophila research community. The Board also administers the finances for the annual North America Drosophila Research Conference and its associated awards, and it chooses the organizers and the site of the annual meeting. The Board consists of 9 regional representatives, 8 from the U.S. and 1 from Canada, who serve 3-year terms. It also has 3 elected officers include a President, a President-Elect and a Treasurer. In addition, the Board has ex officio members, who represent Drosophila community resource centers or international Drosophila communities. For more information about the Board and the summaries of the annual Board meetings see:

[http://flybase.bio.indiana.edu/static\\_pages/news/board.html](http://flybase.bio.indiana.edu/static_pages/news/board.html)

This year we are electing the President-elect, who will serve as President starting with the fly meeting in March 2008. We also elect representatives for the California, Mid-Atlantic and Northwest regions, who will serve 3-year terms starting with the fly meeting, March 2007.

Please participate in this election. It is your opportunity to choose the individuals who will help set priorities and garner support for community resources. In order to record your vote: Reply to this email.

Delete the upper portion of the ballot.  
Indicate your selection.

You may vote for candidates in ALL categories even though you do not reside in the region represented by the candidates. Balloting will end February 9, 2007.

**REMEMBER**

Return **ONLY** the ballot portion of the message.  
Reply to the sender of this message, **NOT** to the people below.

Thank you,  
Drosophila Board Election Committee  
Lynn Cooley, Chair  
Kavita Arora  
Paul Lasko  
Dennis McKearin  
Ilaria Rebay

-----cut here -----

**President Elect: VOTE FOR ONE INDIVIDUAL**  
**Ken Irvine (Waksman Institute, Rutgers University)**  
Carl Thummel (University of Utah)  
Steve Crews (University of North Carolina)  
**California: VOTE FOR ONE INDIVIDUAL**

Graeme Davis (University of California, San Francisco)  
Diane O'Dowd (University of California, Irvine)

**Mid-Atlantic: VOTE FOR ONE INDIVIDUAL**

Eric Baehrecke (University of Maryland, College Park)  
Mary Bayles (Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center)  
Liz Gavis (Princeton University)

**Northwest: VOTE FOR ONE INDIVIDUAL**

Hannele Ruohola-Baker (University of Washington)  
Jim Truman (University of Washington)

The votes were totaled by Thom Kaufman, and the winners were:

**Carl Thummel** for President-Elect March 2007- April 2008

**Graeme Davis** for California regional rep

**Liz Gavis** for Mid-Atlantic regional rep

**Jim Truman** for Northwest regional rep

The next Election Committee chair is Mark Krasnow. The President, Utpal Banerjee, should try to remind him to start on the process before the December holiday break.

**Drosophila Board Master List Spring 2006-2007**

flyboard@morgan.harvard.edu

Year indicates the last Fly Meeting through which Board Members will serve as Officers or Regional Reps.

**Officers: Year**

Trudy MacKay President 2010 trudy\_mackay@ncsu.edu  
Utpal Banerjee President-elect 2011 banerjee@mbi.ucla.edu  
Mark Krasnow Past-President 2009 krasnow@cmgm.stanford.edu  
Lynn Cooley Past-President & Elections Chair 2008 lynn.cooley@yale.edu  
Ruth Lehmann Past-President 2007 lehmann@saturn.med.nyu.edu  
Michael Bender Treasurer 2009 bender@uga.edu

**Regional Representatives:**

Howard Lipshitz Canada 2009 lipshitz@sickkids.on.ca  
Amanda Simcox Great Lakes 2008 simcox.1@osu.edu  
Barb Taylor Northwest 2007 taylorb@bcc.orst.edu  
Rebecca Kellum Southeast 2008 rkellum@pop.uky.edu  
Ken Burtis California 2007 kcburtis@ucdavis.edu  
Susan Abmayr Heartland 2009 sma@stowers-institute.org  
Mitzi Kuroda New England 2008 mkuroda@genetics.med.harvard.edu  
Claude Desplan Mid-Atlantic 2007 claude.desplan@nyu.edu  
Pam Geyer Midwest 2009 pamela-geyer@uiowa.edu

**International Representatives:**

Robert Saint Australia/Oceania 2007 robert.saint@anu.edu.au  
Yasushi Hiromi Asia 2007 yhiromi@lab.nig.ac.jp  
David Ish-Horowicz Europe 2007 david.horowicz@cancer.org.uk

**Ex Officio:**

Bill Gelbart FlyBase gelbart@morgan.harvard.edu  
Gerry Rubin BDGP & FlyBase gerry@fruitfly.berkeley.edu  
Susan Celniker BDGP celniker@fruitfly.org  
Thom Kaufman B'ton S.C. & FlyBase kaufman@bio.indiana.edu  
Kathy Matthews B'ton S.C. & FlyBase matthewk@indiana.edu  
Kevin Cook B'ton S.C. & Nomenclature Comm. kcook@bio.indiana.edu  
Teri Markow Tucson Species S.C. tmarkow@arl.arizona.edu  
Masa Toshi Yamamoto DGRC, Kyoto yamamoto@kit.jp

Jim Thompson DIS [jthompson@ou.edu](mailto:jthompson@ou.edu)  
Michael Ashburner Europe & FlyBase [ma11@gen.cam.ac.uk](mailto:ma11@gen.cam.ac.uk)  
Hugo Bellen B'ton S.C. Adv. Comm. & P element project [hbellen@bcm.tmc.edu](mailto:hbellen@bcm.tmc.edu)  
Allan Spradling P-element project [spradling@ciwemb.edu](mailto:spradling@ciwemb.edu)  
Helen Salz Sandler Comm. [hks@po.cwru.edu](mailto:hks@po.cwru.edu)  
Scott Hawley Nomenclature Comm [rsh@stowers-institute.org](mailto:rsh@stowers-institute.org)  
David Bilder Image competition [bilder@socrates.berkeley.edu](mailto:bilder@socrates.berkeley.edu)  
Chuck Langley At large [chlangley@ucdavis.edu](mailto:chlangley@ucdavis.edu)

**Past-Presidents serve as members-at-large with terms ending:**

Ruth Lehmann 2007 [lehmann@saturn.med.nyu.edu](mailto:lehmann@saturn.med.nyu.edu)  
Lynn Cooley 2008 [lynn.cooley@yale.edu](mailto:lynn.cooley@yale.edu)  
Mark Krasnow 2009 [krasnow@cmgm.stanford.edu](mailto:krasnow@cmgm.stanford.edu)

**2007 Meeting Organizers:**

Steve DiNardo [sdinardo@mail.med.upenn.edu](mailto:sdinardo@mail.med.upenn.edu)  
Liz Gavis [lgavis@princeton.edu](mailto:lgavis@princeton.edu)  
Tom Jongens [jongens@mail.med.upenn.edu](mailto:jongens@mail.med.upenn.edu)  
Jessica Treisman [treisman@saturn.med.nyu.edu](mailto:treisman@saturn.med.nyu.edu)

**Drosophila Board Master List Spring 2007-2008**

[flyboard@morgan.harvard.edu](mailto:flyboard@morgan.harvard.edu)

Year indicates the last Fly Meeting through which Board Members will serve as Officers or Regional Reps.

**Officers: Year**

Utpal Banerjee President 2011 [banerjee@mbi.ucla.edu](mailto:banerjee@mbi.ucla.edu)  
Carl Thummel President-elect 2012 [carl.thummel@genetics.utah.edu](mailto:carl.thummel@genetics.utah.edu)  
Trudy Mackay Past-President 2010 [trudy\\_mackay@ncsu.edu](mailto:trudy_mackay@ncsu.edu)  
Mark Krasnow Past-President & Elections Chair 2009 [krasnow@cmgm.stanford.edu](mailto:krasnow@cmgm.stanford.edu)  
Lynn Cooley Past-President 2008 [lynn.cooley@yale.edu](mailto:lynn.cooley@yale.edu)  
Michael Bender Treasurer 2009 [bender@uga.edu](mailto:bender@uga.edu)

**Regional Representatives:**

Howard Lipshitz Canada 2009 [howard.lipshitz@utoronto.ca](mailto:howard.lipshitz@utoronto.ca)  
Amanda Simcox Great Lakes 2008 [simcox.1@osu.edu](mailto:simcox.1@osu.edu)  
Jim Truman Northwest 2010 [jwt@u.washington.edu](mailto:jwt@u.washington.edu)  
Rebecca Kellum Southeast 2008 [rkellum@pop.uky.edu](mailto:rkellum@pop.uky.edu)  
Graeme Davis California 2010 [gdavis@biochem.ucsf.edu](mailto:gdavis@biochem.ucsf.edu)  
Susan Abmayr Heartland 2009 [sma@stowers-institute.org](mailto:sma@stowers-institute.org)  
Mitzi Kuroda New England 2008 [mkuroda@genetics.med.harvard.edu](mailto:mkuroda@genetics.med.harvard.edu)  
Liz Gavis Mid-Atlantic 2010 [lgavis@molbio.Princeton.EDU](mailto:lgavis@molbio.Princeton.EDU)  
Pam Geyer Midwest 2009 [pamela-geyer@uiowa.edu](mailto:pamela-geyer@uiowa.edu)

**International Representatives:**

Phil Batterham Australia/Oceania 2010 [P.Batterham@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:P.Batterham@unimelb.edu.au)  
Vijay Raghavan Asia 2010 [vijay@ncbs.res.in](mailto:vijay@ncbs.res.in)  
Barry Dickson Europe 2010 [dickson@imp.univie.ac.at](mailto:dickson@imp.univie.ac.at)

**Ex Officio:**

Bill Gelbart FlyBase [gelbart@morgan.harvard.edu](mailto:gelbart@morgan.harvard.edu)  
Gerry Rubin BDGP & FlyBase [rubing@janelia.hhmi.org](mailto:rubing@janelia.hhmi.org)  
Susan Celniker BDGP [celniker@fruitfly.org](mailto:celniker@fruitfly.org)  
Thom Kaufman B'ton S.C. & FlyBase [kaufman@bio.indiana.edu](mailto:kaufman@bio.indiana.edu)  
Kathy Matthews B'ton S.C. & FlyBase [matthewk@indiana.edu](mailto:matthewk@indiana.edu)  
Kevin Cook B'ton S.C. & Nomenclature Comm. [kcook@bio.indiana.edu](mailto:kcook@bio.indiana.edu)  
Teri Markow Tucson Species S.C. [tmarkow@arl.arizona.edu](mailto:tmarkow@arl.arizona.edu)  
Masa Toshi Yamamoto DGRC, Kyoto [yamamoto@kit.jp](mailto:yamamoto@kit.jp)  
Jim Thompson DIS [jthompson@ou.edu](mailto:jthompson@ou.edu)  
Michael Ashburner Europe & FlyBase [ma11@gen.cam.ac.uk](mailto:ma11@gen.cam.ac.uk)  
Hugo Bellen B'ton S.C. Adv. Comm. & P element project [hbellen@bcm.tmc.edu](mailto:hbellen@bcm.tmc.edu)  
Allan Spradling P-element project [spradling@ciwemb.edu](mailto:spradling@ciwemb.edu)

Helen Salz Sandler Comm. hks@po.cwru.edu  
Scott Hawley Nomenclature Comm rsh@stowers-institute.org  
David Bilder Image competition bilder@socrates.berkeley.edu  
Chuck Langley At large chlangley@ucdavis.edu

**Past-Presidents serve as members-at-large with terms ending:**

Lynn Cooley 2008 lynn.cooley@yale.edu  
Mark Krasnow 2009 krasnow@cmgm.stanford.edu  
Trudy Mackay 2010 trudy\_mackay@ncsu.edu

**2008 Meeting Organizers:**

Susan Celniker celniker@fruitfly.org  
Nancy Bonini nbonini@sas.upenn.edu  
Brian Oliver oliver@helix.nih.gov  
John Tamkun tamkun@biology.ucsc.edu

It was noted that only 155 people of approximately 3000 contacted actually voted in the election. Mark Krasnow and Thom Kaufman will decide whether or not to instigate electronic voting through FlyBase to increase response in the 2008 election. The Board requested that short biographies of the candidates be made available to the voters for the next election.

## **10. BLOOMINGTON DROSOPHILA STOCK CENTER**

### **Bloomington Drosophila Stock Center Report to the Drosophila Board (March 2007; Prepared by Kathy Matthews, Kevin Cook and Thom Kaufman), as of 2/15/07**

- **Stocks held:** 21,686
- **Registered user groups:** 2,041
- **Registered users:** 4,777
- **Funding:** We are in year 3 of a 5 year grant from NSF+NIH, ~\$442,000 direct costs this year. A similar amount (~\$458,000) was raised through cost-recovery. Managing the cost-recovery program has become burdensome and we are working with IU toward an e-commerce web site that will support a self-service pay-when-you-order option.
- **New stocks:** 2,600 – 3,000 Minos insertions from the Gene Disruption Project are expected to be added in 2007 (the first 400 were just added), along with an estimated 300 – 400 new deficiencies, UAS/GAL4 lines and assorted other stocks from the community.
- **Culls:** We will remove 198 lines, mostly obsolete insertions, from the collection at the end of February. We expect to cull another 200 – 300 lines later this year.

Kathy Matthews reported that the overall stock use has remained steady, and that U.S. usage has dropped relative to non-US users.

## **11. REPORT OF ADVISORY COMMITTEE (Hugo Bellen)**

The board met last year at the fly meeting and we were quite satisfied with the progress (attendees: Susan Parkhurst, Amanda Simcox, Kevin Cook, Thom Kaufman, Hugo Bellen).

Stocks were at ~20,000 and continue to grow by about 5-10% per year after culling of old lines. The most important contributor remains the Gene Disruption Project (Bellen, Hoskins, Spradling). The GDP is anticipated to bring in an additional 3,000 stocks in 2007 as the MTA with Minos Biosystems delayed submission of Minos stocks for almost a year. The MTA with Minos was finally signed in Feb 2007. Hence, this year we will see a higher than usual number of Minos stocks transferred from BCM (Baylor) to BDSC.



One of the challenges that we will soon face is the RNAi strains. Rubin, Zuker, and Perrimon are planning on making 3-5,000 RNAi stocks and Bellen and Jan YN are planning on making 500-1,000. These new stocks should be much more useful than the old ones based on P-element mediated integration. Indeed, they will be based on the phiC31 integration in specific sites that are known to allow high expressing insertions, a requirement for RNAi. The goal is also to make these stocks publicly available.

Another challenge with respect to stock numbers will be based on the observation that Minos may replace P-elements, especially if the new version of Minos will allow RMCE (see GDP report). This may quickly add a few additional thousand insertion lines. It would also be nice to know what is happening with the Harvard collection of PiggyBacs. Although the strains are not nearly as much used as the GDP collection, they are extremely valuable in some contexts!

Hence, we will again have to discuss a capacity issues. There are probably no problems for the next two years, but starting 2009 we may have issues. Again, what will be the maximum capacity of the stock center? If 25-30,000 is the maximum target capacity we will probably run into problems of choices (culling stocks to integrate others in 2008 or 2009).

Funding remains an important issue. If funding is available, there will be space for 35,000 stocks, but additional space for personnel will be needed. We don't think we can expect any increase in NSF/NIH funding, and may face absolute cuts in the next cycle, despite the priorities in the White paper (role of the White paper is ??? as we state every time that it is our highest priority). Will people have the funds to pay fees that cover a ~60% increase in the size of the collection? How does the board think about this? In the end NSF and NIH pay, but each individual grantee gets less money.

Laurie Tompkins reported that NIH may allow some increases in budget amounts to support the Stock Center, perhaps 10% to help defray the costs, and noted that the White Paper must include maintenance of the Stock Center as a number one priority. It is important for the fly community to argue persuasively for maintenance of our living stock center to funding agencies. Ultimately researchers may end up paying more for stocks as a consequence of growth of the stock center.

## **12. DROSOPHILA GENOMICS RESOURCE CENTER (Justen Andrews, Thom Kaufman, and Peter Cherbas)**

### **A. INTRODUCTION**

The Drosophila Genomics Resource Center (DGRC) exists to ensure that the research community has access to high quality Drosophila genomics resources. We were funded in July 2003 for a period of four years and have now been distributing reagents for three years (2/2004-2/2007). We have continued to expand activities. Briefly, we now have 4,092 registered users from 1,763 laboratories; and have distributed a total of 22,658 individual reagents (microarrays, vectors, clones, and cell lines) in 7,923 individual orders. Our most pressing issue is the potential imminent loss of NIH funding. In this report we briefly summarize the activities in the year since our last report to the Drosophila Board, and then summarize the funding situation.

### **B. MICROARRAYS**

We have been distributing full transcriptome amplicon microarrays and amplicon test arrays since 2004. We also began distributing new oligonucleotide transcriptome microarrays in March 2006. In the previous year, we have distributed 310 full and 65 test amplicon arrays, and 255 full

and 65 test oligonucleotide arrays. We continue to provide gene lists, deconvolution files, and regularly updated protocols for download on the web site.

### **C. CELL LINES**

During the past year, the cell line collection has been expanded by only 7 new lines, now totaling 115; we believe that the bulk of available cell lines are now in the collection and accessible to the community. We have concentrated on the following activities:

1. Distributing the existing cell lines – we shipped 326 samples during the past year.
2. Characterizing the available lines – see Section F.
3. User support - many of the lines, particularly the disc and CNS lines, are difficult to grow, and we have devoted considerable time to thawing particularly troublesome lines in-house for re-shipment and answering user queries.

### **D. VECTORS AND CLONES**

We currently house over 1,000,000 vectors, cDNAs, and fosmid clones. Our activities in the last year are as follows:

1. Distributed 6,314 vectors and clones
2. Increased the vector collection from 235 to 256 common vectors.
3. Continued to annotate and publicly provide information on incoming vectors and some older vectors for which little is known.
4. Acquired and begun distributing the In-Fusion ORF collection (ca. 8,000 with another 2,000 expected).

### **E. USER SUPPORT**

Our efforts in the last year have been focused on responding to users' enquiries to our help desk (telephone and email) and further improvements to our web site and user support. To this end, we have achieved the following in the last year:

1. The number of registered users has increased from 3,253 individuals in 1,417 laboratories to 4,092 individuals from 1,763 laboratories.
2. We have responded to users enquiries with a total of 11,043 email messages (total received and sent), covering 1,905 different issues.
3. We have continued to streamline web development, which ensures that website materials (e.g., sequence files, protocols, MTAs) are always current. This includes a recent large overhaul that allows staff to more easily post information, including images and user feedback, regarding individual resources.
4. We have provided users with access to customized instance of BASE an open source software package for warehousing and analyzing microarray data.
5. We hosted an information booth at the 2006 Annual Drosophila Research Conference.

### **F. DEVELOPMENTS AND EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES**

In the last year, our efforts to facilitate the community's adoption of new genomics technologies have included the following:

1. We have expanded support by including frequently asked questions and a script (BHA) with associated documentation to help users judge the success of their hybridizations.
2. We completed development of a new method, ArrayLOD, for analyzing microarray data.
3. In collaboration with Maurizio Gatti we are characterizing the cell lines. We are examining both karyotypes and ploidy, the latter through flow cytometry. The data will be made available on the DGRC website following publication.
4. We have a project in collaboration with the laboratory of Marc Muskavitch to optimize transfection procedures for CNS and imaginal disc lines.

5. We have an ongoing project to describe the transcriptomes and early ecdysone responses of selected cell lines. We have expanded this to include proteome data. All the data will be made available on the DGRC website following publication.
6. We completed development of the oligonucleotide platform. We have posted recommended protocols and a technical report comparing the relative performance of amplicon and oligonucleotide microarrays.
7. We have begun distribution of genome tiling path microarrays produced by Kevin White's group.

## **G. FUNDING**

Our current grant runs through to the end of April, 2007 and we submitted a competitive renewal in June 2006. This was a strong application – *compelling* in the words of the reviews-- with 81 letters of support. We are grateful for the strong support and include a few excerpts that capture its enthusiasm:

- *We have made extensive use of the DGRC and we think you guys do a superb job!*
- *It is hard for me to express the value of the DGRC since they have become so central to our research.*
- *We cannot imagine doing research without the DGRC.*
- *The DGRC has become an invaluable resource to the research community.*
- *The DGRC is an indispensable resource for the fly community. It is responsive, efficient, and known for a high quality of service.*

The reviewers agreed and were enthusiastic about the achievements and significance of the DGRC, for example “*The significance of this resource is evidenced from the user base they have built over a relatively brief period where a broad array of researchers in the field continue to receive essential support..... This is an excellent application for continuing a valuable resource in support of the Drosophila research community.*” However, the lower than expected use of the microarrays was seen as a significant specific concern, and the application received a priority score of 181 and was not funded.

We plan on submitting a revised application, with the microarrays section excised, in May 2007. We are currently requesting bridge funding from NCRR and NIGHMS. If this is granted at requested level then we expect to be able to operate as follows:

- No microarray distribution (we are looking into the possibility of running this as a separate entity on a full cost recovery basis).
- Continue distribution of most clones and vectors while temporarily suspending the distribution of low volume / high labor resources: yeast two hybrid clones and bulk collections.
- Continue the distribution of most cell lines while running down the inventory of frozen cells. During the bridging period we will only prepare new batches of the lines in greatest demand.
- Suspend the acquisition of new resources.

If the requested bridging funding is cut then the distribution services will need to be further curtailed. In the event that we do not receive bridge funding, then we will have no alternative but to cease distribution until competitive funding can be restored.

## **H. ADVISORY BOARD**

Ken Burtis, University of California  
 Reed George, University of California  
 Alex E. Lash, Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center

Brian Oliver (Chair), NIDDK, NIH  
Susan M. Parkhurst, Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center  
J. Tim Westwood, University of Toronto  
Kevin P. White, University of Chicago

### **13. GENE DISRUPTION PROJECT (Allan Spradling, Roger Hoskins and Hugo Bellen labs, supported by NIGMS 2003-2011).**

The gene disruption project will no longer utilize the P element as its major vehicle for insertional mutagenesis. After obtaining insertions in about 65% of the fly loci, P element insertions in new, not previously hit genes, became too infrequent (3-4 per 100) to continue the project. We therefore switched to piggyBac. However, the jumping frequencies for piggyBac were too low. We then decided to test Minos. This transposable element has so far has been quite successful as it transposes efficiently (30-40%), the insertions are mostly single and stable, they excise imprecisely at a reasonable rate, and they insert randomly (~ 50% are in genes and ~ 25-30% are in introns). The latter is the main reason why we hit so many new genes not previously hit by P elements: 17 per 100 for Minos (17 versus 3-4 is a huge difference and we anticipate that that this figure (=17) will drop slowly). So far, about 6,500 insertion stocks (Feb. 2007) have been generated, ~5,500 have been sequenced, and ~1,600 are anticipated to be saved for distribution. Hence, we should now have insertions in 75% of all the genes. Currently, 400 Minos insertions are available via the Bloomington Stock Center and 820 Minos insertions are available via the GDP website.

Koen Venken has generated a new Minos element (Minos Mediated Integration Cassette or MIMIC) that functions as a protein trap. One of the major drawbacks of P elements is that they do not insert frequently enough into introns to function as protein traps for genome wide screens. Since more than 25% of the Minos insertions insert into introns, we hope to generate about 5,000 Minos insertions in introns. We would like to keep an insertion in the first intron of every gene that has introns. RMCE (Bateman et al. 2006) will allow us to exchange DNA in the locus in vivo and create different alleles. Preliminary data indicate that all the individual steps are effective. The MIMIC element is currently being tested in a pilot screen and we hope to integrate it in the GDP after we have shown that it is functional.

### **14. DIS REPORT (Jim Thompson)**

Volume 89 (2006) of Drosophila Information Service was published on schedule in January 2007. Since most contributions are received between mid November and the end of December in response to our traditional annual "Call for Papers", this is a relatively rapid publication rate. The 153 page volume included all articles accepted in the 2006 calendar year, including reports of new techniques, research articles, teaching activities, and various special reports such as conference summaries. An important achievement this year was the redesign and expansion of the DIS web page ([www.ou.edu/journals/dis](http://www.ou.edu/journals/dis)). The 2006 issue is already being uploaded, and the full issue or major portions of the last 8 years are now on-line free of charge. Recent and future on-line issues will have full color illustrations, which was not possible in the printed version. This means that new articles can be accessed rapidly and without cost. Among other things, the web site has a key word search tool. Thus, a new goal for this year is uploading all Tables of Contents for previous issues, so they can be searched by key word in titles. Until on-line archiving of back issues is complete, we will provide free pdf copies or photocopies of individual pre-2000 articles on request. Although we have actually been doing this for some time, the new key word search capability should make locating relevant early articles much more convenient for the community. The cost of this year's issue is unchanged at \$12.00, and

the shipping and handling costs did not increase this year. Submissions are accepted at any time. Manuscripts and orders can be sent to James N. Thompson, jr., Department of Zoology, University of Oklahoma, Norman, OK 73019; jthompson@ou.edu.

#### **15. KYOTO DROSOPHILA GENETIC RESOURCE CENTER (Masa Toshi Yamamoto, Thom Kaufman)**

Report to the Drosophila Board (March 2007 prepared by Masa-Toshi Yamamoto), as of 2/26/2007

The Drosophila Genetic Resource Center (DGRC) of Kyoto Institute of Technology (KIT) is the core institute of Drosophila resources for National Bio-Resource Project (NBRP "Drosophila"). It has been run by the Japanese government since 2002. Three sub-institutes, the National Institute of Genetics, Ehime University, and Kyorin University, work with the DGRC in order to help maintain a wide range of genetic resources. The first NBRP will be finished at the end of March, Japanese fiscal year, and the second five-year-project will be continued to run from April this year. Application has been completed and hopefully it will be funded.

**Stocks held:** 35,650

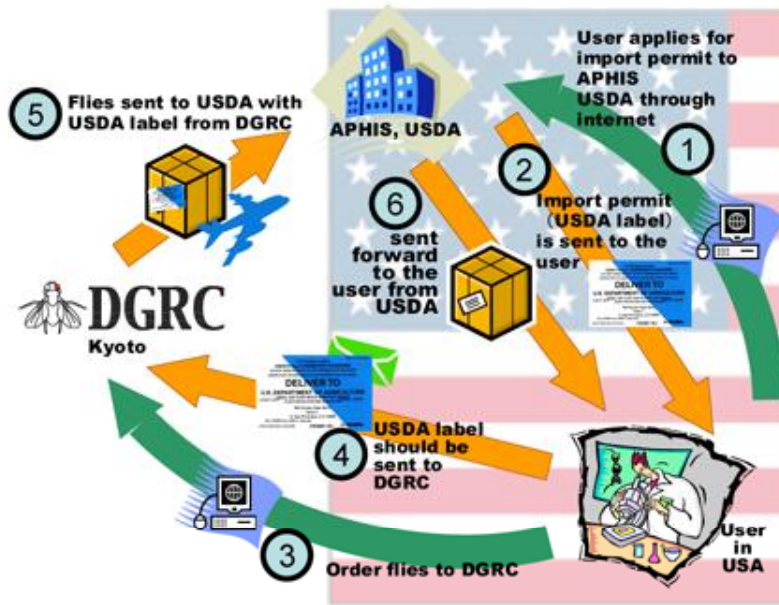
**Registered user groups:** about 1,470

**New stocks:** We are collecting about 4,000 GS lines whose insertion sites are clear at the nucleotide level. These are maintained as a complete set by discarding those which have insertion sites overlapped or in the close vicinity at DGRC Kyoto. 13,000 RNAi stocks will be available by the end of this year, although 7,200 RNAi lines have been made available already at National Institute of Genetics.

**Other species:** 1,650 lines (53 species collected in Japan, and mutant strains of 6 species) at held at Ehime University and Kyorin Universities.

**Other resources:** BAC libraries of 5 species (melanogaster, simulans, sechellia, ananassae, auraria), and cDNA libraries will be ready by the end of this year.

Since DGRC Kyoto itself is capable of maintaining about 50,000 stocks, we have about 25,000 more capacity to maintain new stocks. American Drosophilists may find it difficult to rely heavily on our collection because of your new importation rules due to "Homeland Security" laws. The ordering flow as illustrated in the attached figure looks complicated but not many problems have happened so far. In two to three cases all flies arrived dead and we had to send the same stocks later. It is onerous but functions OK.



## 16. TUCSON STOCK CENTER (Therese Markow)

The Tucson Stock Center collection consists of 1800 stocks (representing 248 species). In 2006, the Tucson Stock Center acquired 223 stocks from 60 species. *Drosophila mauritiana* and *D. simulans* were 27.8% and 15.2% respectively. Six stocks (representing 6 species) died, and 7 were removed from our customer database because they are undergoing taxonomic review.

The collection has always consisted of a permanent collection of both ethanol-stored and living stocks. As of 9 Feb 2007, the ethanol-stored collection consisted of 262 wild-type and 32 mutant stocks.

As of 9 Feb 2007, our living collection:

1112 wild-type stocks (includes both multi-female and isofemale lines)

305 mutant allele stocks

89 transgenic stocks

Additionally, in 2006, we began a duplicate freezer collection of adults where 27 stocks are stored at -80°C.

A varying number of recently-caught isofemale lines have always been available on a temporary basis to our customers as living stocks. During the past few years, we have been making an effort to make these isofemale collections “permanently available” by storing adults in ethanol or at -80°C. For 2006, we added 38 isofemale lines from 4 species to our ethanol collection of isofemale lines, bringing the total to 752 lines. *D. sturtevantii* represented 71.1% of these samples. Our freezer collection has a total of 657 lines. During 2006, we added 422 isofemale lines from 21 species where *D. ananassae*, *D. melanogaster*, and *D. malerkotliana* represented 22.0%, 17.3% and 13.7% respectively. We hope to continue increasing both of these collections during the next year.

Use of the collection July 1, 2005 – June 30, 2006 (both living stocks and ethanol collections):

295 shipments

1693 stocks

Funding received July 1, 2005 – June 30, 2006 (FY 06):

\$136,916 in direct costs from NSF

\$40,176 one-time supplement from NSF

\$29,593 in revenue from user fees

-----

\$206,685 total income

\$246,088 current annual rate of spending FY 06

We had a rate increase Jan 15, 2007. This should increase the revenues for the second half of FY 07.

Supported personnel:

Director Teri Markow @ 8%

Manager: Stacy Mazzalupo @ 100%

Curator: Sergio Castrezana @ 100%

Stock keepers (all students): 2 full-time equivalents

Advisory Committee:

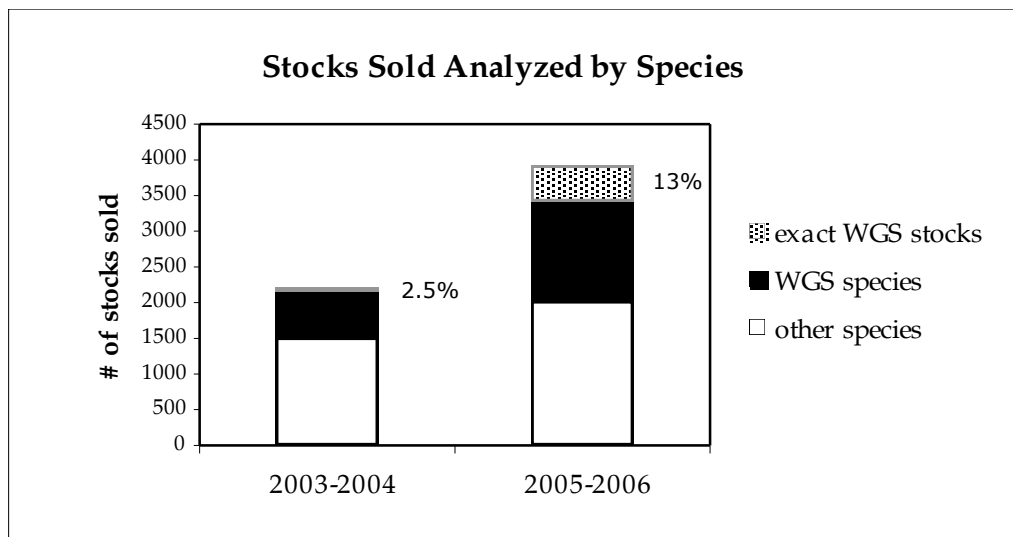
An annual meeting is held every year in conjunction with our species identification workshop (see below). Our 2006 meeting was held October, 2006 in Tucson, AZ.

Thom Kaufman, Bryant McAllister, Trudy Mackay, Patrick O'Grady are advisors.

Sergio Castrezana, Therese Markow, Stacy Mazzalupo are Stock Center personnel.

Biocomputing Core Facility Director, Nirav Merchant and Arizona Research Laboratories Interim Assistant Director of Finance & Administration, Lisa Laatsch, also attended to provide IT and accounting reports respectively.

We have seen that an increasing number of stocks purchased are from the sequenced genome species. Below is a graph showing the stocks which we sell from the twelve species with whole genome sequence available (WGS species) and the sequenced stocks themselves (exact WGS stocks). The WGS species stocks were 32% and 48% of the of the 2003-2004 and 2005-2006 stocks sold, respectively.



In 2006, we began offering the purchase of highly purified genomic DNA from adults in the lines that were part of the genome sequencing efforts. We sell the DNA in 20 mg aliquots and sold 19 of these in 2006.

In October 2006, our sixth annual *Drosophila* Species Identification Workshop was held. We expanded the course to thirteen participants, and we have implemented an online application to increase exposure. Concurrent with the Species Workshop, a meeting was held to discuss the chromosome paper related to the sequencing of the 12 species genomes.

The Tucson Stock Center re-submitted its R01 grant application to the NIH because demand is increasing, and in all likelihood, because the sequencing and BAC projects are completed, will grow even more. We are also beginning to receive transgenic lines and stocks from large-scale screens. At the same time, we are, in effect, losing person-hours, as university fringe benefit rates have increased. The personnel needs cannot be met by cost recovery. Due to budget constraints we are only keeping duplicates for a subset of our collection, primarily those from genome projects, but we would prefer to have duplicate stocks for our collection in its entirety. We also would like to upgrade the antiquated system used for cataloging stocks and ordering. If the NIH proposal is funded we can meet these critical needs.

## **17. SPECIES SEQUENCING PROJECT (Prepared by Bill Gelbart & Thom Kaufman)**

At the time of this report (02/16/2007), the production of the two main papers is in its final phase, and they are being targeted for submission at the end of Feb 2007. The timetable has had to go through several extensions, all necessitated by important data analysis issues to ensure that the initial analyses were producing high quality assemblies, automated annotation sets and coherent downstream analyses. Current activities focus exclusively on manuscript preparation.

The "conservation" manuscript concerns the use of nucleotide alignments of the 12 genomes to improve the annotations of *Drosophila melanogaster*. This includes identification of protein coding genes, micro-RNAs and their targets, other RNA genes and potential regulatory elements. The manuscript is being coordinated by Manolis Kellis (MIT).

The "evolution" manuscript describes the assembly, alignment and annotation of the new genomes, and investigates many different aspects gene and genome evolution across the 12 species. It is being coordinated by Michael Eisen, Andy Clark and Casey Bergman.

These two papers will be submitted for back-to-back publication in Nature.

A spate of companion papers to be published in coordination with the main papers have been submitted to GENETICS, Genome Research and PLoS Biology.

A third community manuscript relating the sequence maps to the genetic and/or cytogenetics of the dozen species is in preparation for GENETICS. Not all of the necessary data for all of the species' map correlations has yet been obtained and so this manuscript will be submitted at a date later than the initial publications. This manuscript is being coordinated by Thom Kaufman and Teri Markow.

We are holding a workshop at the DRC on Friday afternoon to discuss what we have learned from the analysis of the 12 species. The goal of this workshop is to define future needs for



sequencing new species, improving existing assemblies and functional genomics platforms to annotate melanogaster and to understand genome evolution within the genus *Drosophila*.

## **18. FLYBASE (Bill Gelbart)**

### **FlyBase Report to the Drosophila Board (March 2007; Prepared by Bill Gelbart, Michael Ashburner, Rachel Drysdale, Thom Kaufman, Kathy Matthews)**

During 2006, FlyBase completed the initial implementation of our new web site (FB2006\_01) and the fully integrated chado database that is used to populate the web reports. This has required a massive sustained effort by the entire project group and we want to recognize their dedication and skill.

Some of the salient features of the new FlyBase web site are:

- The reorganization of the home page to highlight major entry points into FlyBase.
- The integration of classical and molecular data, including gene models into the Gene page reports.
- A standard style sheet and template for all pages, including a common navigation bar and nested sections that can be opened singly or *en masse*.
- Incorporation of new data types such as clones and new genomic features such as RNAi amplicons and mapping of mass spec identified peptides onto the *D. melanogaster* genome.
- BLAST and GBrowse access to the dozen sequenced *Drosophila* genomes and their annotations, as well as BLAST access to the genomes of other sequenced insects.
- Simplification of query tool options.

We have been getting considerable feedback from the community and these have been invaluable. Based on this feedback and our continual internal evaluation, we are making steady improvements to the web site. We are in the process of conducting a user survey and professional usability analysis as additional sources of input in optimizing the web site.

By summer 2007, we are targeting:

- Implementation of all necessary tools and procedures to enable regular monthly updates of FlyBase, including our on-going literature curation and manual annotation of the *D. melanogaster* genome.
- Full incorporation of the genome annotations from the analysis of the 12 sequenced *Drosophila* species coordinated by the AAA group, including submission of the high confidence consensus annotation sets to GenBank.
- Inclusion of data from high-throughput functional genomic analyses, including transcriptional arrays, proteomics, cell-based dsRNAi and protein-protein interaction screens.
- Clean-up of a variety of data classes to bring them up to standardized syntax and structure.
- Continual improvements to the organization, navigation and query capabilities of the FlyBase web site.
- Re-prioritization of our curation efforts to ensure that we are up-to-date on the most important classes of FlyBase data.

We will also continue collaborations with natural language processing groups to explore opportunities for automatic text-mining as a supplement to manual literature curation and to provide additional query tools to our community.

*Funding issues:* FlyBase has begun the fourth year of the current 5 year funding period. Commitment to FlyBase by NHGRI remains strong, but as with other continuing NIH grants, our budget has been flat for the last 2 years. Since our personnel require annual raises (both for job retention and university regulations, we can anticipate that the funding reductions below recommended levels will take their toll. Given the expanded responsibilities for FlyBase, an independent funding stream for 2-3 additional positions will be important to maintain, let alone extend, FlyBase services into the indefinite future. Where this independent funding stream might come from in the current environment is of course totally unclear.

FlyBase funding continues through December 31, 2008. Our 5 year competitive renewal is due at NIH in January 2008. We are entering the phase of planning the renewal. We welcome input from the Board and the community on priorities for FlyBase during our next 5 years. Indeed, we deem such input essential to the success of FlyBase.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Gelbart  
Michael Ashburner  
Rachel Drysdale  
Thom Kaufman  
Kathy Matthews

## **LAURIE TOMPKINS DISCUSSION**

Laurie Tompkins reiterated the importance of the bi-annual Drosophila White Paper for NIH funding decisions, as well as an example to other communities. She ensures that the White Paper is disseminated widely at NIH. She also stressed the importance for Drosophila researchers on all Study Sections, since Drosophila grants are now spread over many study sections, and the presence of two permanent Drosophila members on a study section can make a big difference to the success of a Drosophila proposal.

## **19. OLD BUSINESS**

A. Update on Board request for Kyoto DGRC to make their stock nomenclature compatible with the nomenclature of Flybase and the other stock centers (Thom Kaufman, Kathy Matthews). Kathy Matthews and Thom Kaufman reported that this continues to be a struggle.

B. Update on White Paper on priorities for insect genome sequencing (Bill Gelbart)  
Bill Gelbart reported that this effort has not progressed. He noted that there will be possible funding for sequencing insect vectors of disease. However, it will be difficult to get support for sequencing insects that are not medically relevant until the new sequencing technologies are more mature.

C. Postdoc registration discounts for future Drosophila meetings. The Board voted to maintain the current 10% discount for postdocs for one further year, and to re-evaluate whether to increase the discount further at the 2008 Board meeting.

D. Camera ban at Drosophila meeting (David Bilder proposal; email vote 10 in favor, 3 against). The Board again voted in favor in favor of posting signs banning photography at sessions and posters.

E. Update on lobbying for removal or easing of restrictions on importing *Drosophila* (Mark Krasnow).

Mark Krasnow and Kevin Cook reported that the USDA requires import permits for every organism to enter the US. The USDA issues these permits, and the inspections are done by the Department of Homeland Security. The consensus is that it is not going to be possible to obtain an exemption for *Drosophila* from the Department of Homeland Security.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **20. TRANSFORMATION LIBRARY AND DEFINED X-CHROMOSOME DUPLICATIONS (Bellen, Hoskins and Kaufman labs)**

Last year we published a new methodology to transform flies using a series of new vectors, named P[acman] (Venken et al., 2006). P[acman] permits recombineering technology, and hence allows one to integrate and manipulate (deletions, duplications, point mutations) small to large pieces of DNA independent of restriction enzymes. Given the versatility of these vectors, we decided to adapt the vector (to allow efficient blue/white screening in single copy plasmids) and create genomic libraries in collaboration with Pieter de Jong (BACPAC resources) and Roger Hoskins.

We proposed the creation of a 100 kb library. Clones of this library could be integrated in specific docking sites in the genome and allow rescue of almost all fly mutations. In addition, we specifically proposed to integrate about 350 overlapping DNA clones covering the entire X-chromosome into an attP docking site engineered on the Y-chromosome. The resulting "duplication kit" was to be characterized and placed into the collection at Bloomington for distribution and use by the entire community. Such a "duplication kit" would allow rapid fine mapping of X-linked lethal mutations, after rough mapping using about 20 large overlapping X-chromosome duplications that are being synthesized on the Y-chromosome by Kevin Cook. Moreover, the tools generated by both projects would provide rescue of both essential and viable mutations on the X-chromosome as well as allowing for complementation of X-linked lethals and steriles. The 100 kb project got a high score in the study section as an R01 (3-4%) but the NIGMS council refused to support the project, despite the high priority score, despite the statements in the white paper, despite the endorsement of the fly community, despite the significant cost savings, and despite the usefulness of the resource. It was argued (by council, not the study section) that the proposal was too expensive (even though the total cost was a typical R01 grant to be divided among three labs, or \$133,000 per lab per year for three years), and that we already get support from NIGMS. This project could save many dollars for many labs as genomic rescue constructs would be available for all genes and to the entire fly community. In addition, it would have a significant effect on our ability to do X-chromosome genetics. We will continue to lobby for the creation of this library and for the X-chromosome duplication project. We still hope to get support from NIGMS or NCRN to be able to accomplish this project but we may also need to seek support from other sources.

Suggestions, critiques, support are welcome...

The Board recognized the problem was to cap on total R01 funding by NIGMS for individual PIs. The Board suggested that the application be re-submitted under the P40 resource mechanism, which is not subject to this cap.

### **21. RECOVERY OF LAWYERS EXPENSES FOR MINOS MTA (Hugo Bellen and Allan Spradling)**

The gene disruption project has experimentally determined that insertion mutation vectors based on Minos have significant advantages for further manipulation of the *Drosophila* genome compared to P elements or PiggyBac elements (see report). A necessary requirement for using Minos is that lines constructed by Minos insertion be freely available via the Bloomington Stock Center for the fly community. It is also necessary that no limitations on use, publication, pass-through-rights or other claims derive from the use of Minos-containing strains. We initiated discussions with Minos Biosystems in the summer of 2005 and they informally indicated their agreement to relinquish any such rights that might accrue to them under issued and pending patents regarding Minos and its applications. Minos Biosystems is a virtual company with a virtual CEO (Roger Craig) who ensures that the patents which protect Minos technology are enforced. We agreed early on that Minos would be freely available for academic use. However, the process to draft a document that all parties agreed between Minos Biosystems and Indiana University encountered difficulties because Minos Biosystem did not wish to accrue a substantial legal bill in the execution of an agreement for which it was deriving no financial benefit. In the fall of 2006, Minos Biosystems indicated that they were willing to proceed further only if a third party agreed to pay the fees of their lawyer (\$3,000-\$4,000). Because of the perceived importance of this agreement to the *Drosophila* community, Bellen and Spradling agreed to pay these legal fees upon completion of a successful agreement.

We are pleased to report that the agreement has now been completed and signed. It allows distribution of Minos-containing lines without charge to the academic research community and imposes no subsequent limitations on their use (see Bloomington Web Site). A bill will be submitted by Minos Biosystems covering all remaining costs associated with the agreement. Because the benefits will accrue to the entire academic *Drosophila* research community, we respectfully request that these costs be reimbursed by the Fly Board.

The Board voted to reimburse Hugo Bellen and Allan Spradling for lawyers' expenses.

## **22. DROSOPHILA MEETING POLICY ISSUES (Steve Dinardo)**

(1) This year, there were at least two requests from folks at local COLLEGES, asking if it was possible to have their students attend one session. They wished to have a prorated registration good for one day or afternoon, which is not currently possible. Can the Board devise a mechanism for this kind of flexibility, restricting applications for such privileges to undergraduates? This might be a great idea in terms of the Fly Community fostering broad support (community relations), and also in terms of mentoring young scientists. Would there be a way to provide for this?

(2) Should the *Drosophila* Board President introduce the meeting? A Welcome Address from the *Drosophila* Board President may help tie the community to the society and its governing board. Most fly workers have little idea of the board, nor of its President, nor their (important) roles. A presidential Address can be a time to touch on more broad themes, rather than limiting it to themes particular to this specific meeting and its venue. Those themes can include the philosophy of the board with regard to the fly community, the tremendous work done to enable the generation, maintenance and dissemination resources, or it can touch on one or two great issues of the day that appear under attack (NIH funding, evolution, stem cell research, anti-intellectualism in the US), and that are of concern to the community as a whole. Discussing whatever major issues the board is currently facing / wrestling with would be an excellent idea.

This was tabled for discussion either by email or at the 2008 Board meeting.

### **23. DROSOPHILA BOARD WHITE PAPER 2007 (Trudy Mackay)**

Trudy Mackay noted that past White Papers were crafted by the President, but that this was too great an undertaking to reside in the hands of one person. Lynn Cooley had suggested that the White Paper be the responsibility of the past, current and future Presidents. Trudy Mackay suggested a different strategy, whereby the major items to highlight be identified by the Board, followed by drafting individual sections by Board members and appropriate members of the community with expertise in each topic. The Board agreed on the primary topics and rankings for the 2007 White Paper based on revising the 2005 White Paper. Board members Justen Andrews, Hugo Bellen, Sue Celniker, Bill Gelbart, Trudy Mackay, Allan Spradling and Carl Thummel agreed to draft major sections of the 2007 White Paper, to be collated by Trudy Mackay. The initial draft will be circulated to the Board for comment, and then posted on FlyBase for community input. Following amendment based on comments from community members, the White Paper will be circulated to the Board for final comments, before posting on FlyBase. The Board agreed that the language of the White Paper must support particular prioritized objectives and not state any specific technologies to be used to achieve these objectives.

#### **TABLED FOR DISCUSSION AT 2008 MEETING**

- A. How can we become more effective at making sure NIH appreciates the value of Drosophila research? (Lynn Cooley suggestion from 2006 meeting, item 22B)
- B. Should we institute a quarterly or semi-annual Drosophila community newsletter with science announcements (White Paper drafts and other Drosophila Board news, stock center news, grant opportunities, meetings, etc), personal announcements/transitions (job moves, retirements, deaths), and listing of job openings for Drosophila research assistant, postdoc, and other positions and listing of Drosophila biologists looking for jobs. Would need volunteer or part time paid editor/curator?