

Contents

Chair's Message	1
Medical Section	2
From the Editor	4
Member News & Publications	6



Message from the Chair

Tony Stankus

**DBIO works best when members all do their part,
or:
What the Chair has done and hopes to do as
Past Chair**

Our Biomedical and Life Sciences Division (DBIO) has never been short of brainpower, but it is sometimes short of “person-power”. As with most professional associations, our officers are unpaid volunteers, and they step up to do their part largely, if not solely, for the good of their colleagues. (Admittedly, holding office can also do wonders for one’s resume.)

Just what do division chairs do? In DBIO, most serve for three-year terms, although there is some flexibility.

The Chair serves a first year as Chair-Elect. In DBIO, the Chair-Elect is also the head of the Fund Development Committee, which is generally composed of some past and present officers with some experience and comfort level in asking publishers and other vendors for contributions to fund-specific events at the annual conference. In this task, the Chair-Elect coordinates closely with the Program Committee Chair, so that the ideas for programs can be matched intelligently with the revenue sources being tapped. The Chair-Elect also cooperates with the Vendor Relations Committee, who solicit and screen potential presenters at one of our most well-attended conference events, the Vendor’s Round Table Luncheon. The Chair-Elect typically has a vote along with the Chair at the leadership summit and the annual conference in association matters that go to a vote before the Division and Joint Division/Chapter cabinets of SLA. The Chair-Elect also contributes some fairly brief information to the annual report submitted to SLA Headquarters by the Chair at the end of the year.

In the second year, the Chair drops the “Elect” designation, officially presides over the division, and serves as the principal

Continued on page 2

contact of the division with SLA Headquarters. While the Program Committee Chair and the various committees and other officers have specific and much appreciated responsibilities, it is ultimately the Chair who is responsible that these events happen, that the bills (upon a vote from what is called the executive committee) get paid by the Treasurer, and that vendor revenues are realized and deposited. This is important because the division Treasurer must submit an audited financial report before year's end so that the division will get its annual member dues allotment. The Chair writes up the agenda and calls to order the annual business meeting and the officers' meeting that precedes it. The Chair goes through the agenda, encourages discussion, takes and gives reports to the other officers and the membership, and, at the end of the year, submits a report to SLA Headquarters on the health of the division. This is another requirement for the division to get its allotment.

In the third year, the Chair adds the designation "Past " to "Chair," and serves in a largely advisory capacity to the Chair. In DBIO it is also generally the Past-Chair and other past officers who staff the Fund Development Committee along with the Chair-Elect. In addition, past-chairs are tasked with recruiting new candidates for elected office and for encouraging the talent that is so evident among our members to step up and serve as an officer or as one of the many dedicated individuals who serve on committees, run our website, publish this newsletter, maintain contact with the membership, screen potential award winners, and comply with the SLA mandates to have an ethics panel and to revise and adhere to a strategic plan. As I head into my own Past-Chair status, I will be looking for smart people to fill committees and to serve in more senior positions such as Treasurer, Secretary, Director, and the like. I know you are out there ... start thinking now of what you might do in the coming year. Financial reimbursement for some of the expenses of the senior leadership to attend the leadership summit and the annual conference is now standard.

There is a peculiarly warm sense of camaraderie when all the officers and committee chairs get together for dinner and socializing, traditionally on the Saturday night before the conference, after we have gotten each other up-to-speed at the board meeting. The dinner is at division expense as a thank-you to our volunteers and officers, current and past. We realize just how lucky we in DBIO are to be able to work with this group of people. I know, at least for myself, nothing makes me feel more alive than listening and learning at table once a year with some of the best and brightest people I will ever meet. Won't you join us? There is always a place for you ...

From the Medical Section

Tallie Casucci

It was a blessing to serve you as the 2014 Medical Section Chair. I hope you enjoyed the Medical Section's "Learning and Libations" event at the Special Libraries Association Annual Conference in Vancouver earlier this year. I know that, during the event, many members were already planning and developing ideas for the 2015 annual conference in Boston, Massachusetts. We hope to see everyone there!

Our 2014 secretary, Elaine Dean, is transitioning to the role of the Medical Section Chair for 2015. Elaine is the Clinical Librarian at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Edward L. Pratt Research Library. As the Clinical Librarian, some of her duties include teaching evidence-based searching skills, working with the hospital's Evidence Collaboration Team, and performing clinical literature searches. I know she will be a wonderful Medical Section Chair!

If you are interested in assisting Elaine as the Medical Section Secretary, please volunteer for service on the Biomedical and Life Science Division [website](#).

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From the Editor

Susan Kendall, *Biofeedback* Editor

I'm writing this final column as Editor of *Biofeedback* to say how much I've enjoyed working with so many of you to produce this newsletter for the past ten years. Many things have changed about *Biofeedback* since I took over in 2004. It has gone from being a printed, two-column, black-and-white newsletter to an online-only newsletter with screen-friendly full page format, color, multiple paid advertisements, and links. Buzz Haughton joined me as an Associate Editor in 2006, and we experimented with a few font and masthead changes over the years before settling on *Biofeedback's* current look. Some content has remained the same, and other content has changed. New columns added over time included the Medical Section area to raise the profile of that group and a Member News column to celebrate and highlight the awards, publications, and activities of DBIO members. Other content such as the product reviews lasted for only a while. Each year brought a new set of board members, a new division Chair with a fresh message, and new ideas to promote through the newsletter. It has been exciting to be involved in the division at such a core level for so long, and I truly think that the archive of *Biofeedback* issues provides an historical record of division priorities and activities over this period of time.

Tony's chair's message at the top of this issue talks about how lucky he has felt to work with such a stellar group of librarians. I agree with him. The best part of editing *Biofeedback* for ten years has been the opportunity to meet and collaborate with leaders in the field of biomedical and life-sciences librarianship. It's time for me to move on to other service and scholarship activities and give someone else the opportunity that I have had. I'm pleased to announce that Grace Romund, Health Science Centre Librarian from the Neil John Maclean Health Sciences Library, University of Manitoba, has agreed to take over as Editor in 2015. Grace has journalism and editing experience and will have the opportunity, if she likes, to take the newsletter in new directions.

So, it's farewell as Editor of this newsletter. I'm taking a break for a while due to many other professional association commitments, but I'm sure I will be active in the division in some other capacity in the future. I will be on the listserv and also see many of you around at various conferences. Thank you for all the support you've given me, and please support Grace as she takes over the reins.

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Member News and Publications

Lori Bronars, DBIO Member

DBIO members have been busy lately presenting at conferences or writing:

Bonnie Chojnacki presented “Breast Cancer, Affordable Care, and Politics” at the annual conference of the Association for Politics and the Life Sciences, Emory University, Atlanta, Georgia, October 17-18, 2014.

Recent publications and reviews by members include:

Crampon, Jean E. 2014. Review of *The Human Age*, by Diane Ackerman. *Library Journal* 139(15):101. Sept. 15.

Crampon, Jean E. 2014. Review of *Fish in the Forest*, by Dale Stokes and Doc White. *Library Journal* 139(15):103. Sept. 15.

Crampon, Jean E. 2014. Review of *Extreme Life of the Sea*, by Stephen R. Palumbi and Anthony R. Palumbi. *Library Journal* 139(2):94. Feb. 1.

Hsieh, Ma Lei, **Dawson, Patricia H.**, Hoffmann, Melissa A., Megan, L., Carlin, Michael T. 2014. “Four pedagogical approaches in helping students learn information literacy skills,” *Journal of Academic Librarianship*, 40(3-4):234-46. doi:10.1016/j.acalib.2014.03.012

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For a complete list of current board and committee members, see the Division Website at: <http://dbiosla.org/inside/officers/officers.html>

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