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Message from the Chair

Howard Fuller

One recent morning I spent a maddening amount of time in one of those crazy computer vortices, trying to redo what should have been a really simple thing I had done successfully a couple hours before but now couldn't reproduce for the life of me. If this has ever happened to you, you know how easy it can be to get frustrated and, well, experience more frustration, or, worse, become overwhelmed and exhausted. On that morning **I hit the wall**. So, later in the day, I tried an experiment. I telescoped upward and outward until I saw myself doing the little tasks that make up all our days and nights. I saw the computer and the program vexing me earlier in the day, oddly-groomed twenty-some-things skateboarding San Francisco's South of Market neighborhood, myself foreseeing that I would, one day, have to migrate a document from format A to format B, and myself designing a tool with which I could perform such a task. I saw many things spanning a continuum of time in which my minute moment was a fractal in a complex world of moments, each playing its part and each related (or interconnected).

Now I am going to say something that will make some of you uncomfortable. We are all interconnected or entangled in some way or another. (Physicists know this but are often reluctant to express it out loud.) People are often uncomfortable with this idea, perhaps because of the negative connotations it can invoke. The *Merriam-Webster Dictionary* (accessed via *Britannica Online, Academic Edition*) defines *entangle* as "to involve in a perplexing or troublesome situation;" *interconnected* as "having internal connection between parts or elements;" and *relation* as "the act of telling or recounting" or "an aspect or quality that connects two or more things or parts as being or belonging or working together or as being of the same kind (the ~ of time and space)." In our culture of individualism we have no interest in learning about interconnectedness—it is, after all, a constriction to freedom to choose. Again, physicists have known this for a long time. Einstein talked about feeling of separateness as "a kind of optical delusion of consciousness." (1)

Science writer Brian Greene stated "... there can be strange, weird, and spooky quantum connections between things over here and things over there..." (2)

If you are familiar with Systems Thinking (DBIO hosts a Systems Thinking area on its web site), the above ideas and concepts will sound familiar. Many of the same concepts have appeared in *Information Outlook* articles, sometimes with titles containing the words *complex systems* or *complex adaptive systems*. As we move through this coming year I'd like to revisit the Systems Thinking work started by Lorri Zipperer and Sara Thompson for DBIO and SLA.

During these times of austerity, I am hoping it may be helpful for us all to telescope outward and upward and take a Systems look at the Division, SLA, our workplaces, and ourselves. When you observe those around you, what is the quality of your/their relationships? Are you able to telescope up to see the meta-picture of your work or organization? How are you learning, and how much of what you are learning is experiential (learning takes time and space)? When things go wrong at work, how are you and others responding? And, if you continue down this path of Systems Thinking, will your team, knowledge center, library, organization, or company, etc., be functioning at a higher level in another year?

1. Radin, Dean. 2006. *Entangled Minds: Extrasensory Experiences in a Quantum Reality*. Paraview Pocket-books, p. 131.

2. Radin, p. 231.

San Diego Conference Preview

**Rebecca Kuglitsch, 2013 Program Chair,
and Howard Fuller, Division Chair**

The SLA Annual Meeting is sneaking up on us again. DBIO planners have, once again, put together a stellar program to enlighten and delight all SLA members. Here's a sneak peak of some programs to look forward to this June in San Diego.

1 **Science of Wine** (Sponsored in conjunction with Chem, FAN, SciTech)

Speaker: Dr. Ernie Simpson

Tuesday, June 11, 2:00 p.m.-3:30 p.m.

Sponsor: ProQuest Dialog

This year in the popular "Science of..." series, we'll learn about the science of wine. An oenophile and chemist explains the science behind wine making, tasting and blending. You'll leave entertained and edified!

2. **Systems Thinking in Libraries** (Sponsored in conjunction with Engineering)

Speakers: Sara Thompson and Lorri Zipperer

Sunday, June 9, 3:30 p.m.-5:00 p.m.

In an increasingly complex information ecosystem, it's no longer enough to address problems on their own. It is necessary to solve problems within a larger context, and that's where systems thinking comes in. Learn how to avoid unintended consequences when working in complex situations by developing

your systems thinking capacities. Attendees will leave the session able to apply the lens of systems thinking to their own knotty problems.

3. DBIO Contributed Papers

Tuesday, June 11, 8:00 a.m.-9:30 a.m.

This session presents original research and innovative projects and professional activities of interest to information professionals in the biomedical, life and natural sciences. Attendees will learn from presenters' experiences and take home ideas to apply to their own research and practice.

4. Vendor Relations Lunch

Participating vendors: PubGet, Quertle, Springer, and Mendeley

Sunday, June 9, 11:45 a.m.-1:15 p.m.

Learn about the latest products and developments from four companies selected for their forward-thinking products in the areas of biomedical, life and natural sciences. Meal will be provided at no charge to attendees.

5. Business Meeting

Monday, June 10, 12:00 p.m.-1:30 p.m.

6. Medical Section Reception and Business Meeting

Speaker: Amy Donahue

Sunday, June 9 1:30 p.m.-3:00 p.m.

DBIO and Medical Section members, please join us for a post-lunch light dessert reception and section business meeting to discuss the future of the Medical Section and its role in DBIO.

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Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Press announces the launch of a new monthly online publication, *Cold Spring Harbor Perspectives in Medicine*. Covering everything from the molecular and cellular bases of disease to translational medicine and new therapeutic strategies, each issue offers reviews on different aspects of a variety of diseases and the tissues they affect. The contributions are written by experts in each field and commissioned as Subject Collections by a board of eminent scientists and physicians. These Subject Collections gradually accumulate articles as new issues of the journal are published and, when complete, each Subject Collection represents a comprehensive survey of the field it covers. *Cold Spring Harbor Perspectives in Medicine* is thus unmatched for its depth of coverage and represents an essential source for informed surveys and critical discussion of advances in molecular medicine.

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Book Review

The Prize Fight

Meyers, Morton A.

Palgrave MacMillan, New York, 2012

ISBN: 0230338909, ISBN-13: 9780230338906

Reviewed by Diane Hummel

Dr. Morton Meyers describes his account of scientific ambition in his book, *Prize Fight*, as the race and the rivalry to be the first in science. He could have more aptly subtitled it *Scientific Achievements – the Good, the Bad, and the Ugly*, with emphasis on the Bad and the Ugly.

Meyers acknowledges that conflict to credit the first individual to identify a scientific revelation has evolved over centuries when he quotes Nobel laureate Leon Lederman as saying, “Yes, Virginia, scientists do love recognition, but only since Pythagoras.” This dubious phenomenon has not resulted from the 17th through 20th century British and American endeavors to establish scientific societies, peer review, and editorial criteria, but is traced back to Sir Isaac Newton’s machinations to establish his own primacy in the invention of calculus before Robert Hook. The unanimous verdict of the Royal Society of London was “We reckon Mr. Newton the first Inventor”, not immediately disclosing that the report was issued by the society’s president, Isaac Newton.

Meyers chronicles a path of fiercely competitive scientific inquiry fraught with theft, greed, and hubris. He reveals the chicanery involved in claiming credit for the discovery of the MRI, insulin, the Salk polio vaccine, streptomycin, as well as the identification of the DNA structure. He also recognizes the ethics and integrity of some scientists, citing the deeds of Willem Einthoven, winner of the 1924 Nobel Prize in physiology or medicine, for the development of the string galvanometer, the predecessor of the EKG machine. After receiving the Nobel cash award, Einthoven shared the award with the sisters of his chief technical assistant who had died.

Prize Fight is a compelling overview of the fallacy of attributing the motivations of scientists as strictly for the benefit of mankind.

Member News and Publications

Lori Bronars, DBIO Member

The breadth of activities of DBIO members never ceases to amaze me. See below for the latest from DBIO.

Lori Bronars co-curated an exhibit, “Research at Yale: Shaping the Future”, profiling over 40 Yale faculty members accompanied by an image from their research. On display at the media wall of the Center for Science and Social Science Information, Yale University. The exhibit will be made into an online version when the display changes, in February or March 2013.

Susan Kendall curated an exhibit, “The 50th Anniversary of *Silent Spring*: The Power of a Book”, on display at the Michigan State University Main Library from October through December, 2012. This was in conjunction with several campus activities celebrating the book’s 50th anniversary and influence in the environmental movement.

There were also several recent member publications:

Kendall, Susan. 2012. Strategies of health sciences librarians working without a traditional health sciences library. *Journal of Hospital Librarianship* 12(4): 363-371.

Lascar, Claudia. 2012. “Urban ecology: An analysis of interdisciplinarity.” *Science & Technology Libraries* 31(4):426-441

Pollock, Ludmila, Carol Feltes, Donna Gibson, Holly Miller and Cathy Norton. 2012. “Librarians or science informationists?” *Nature* Oct. 18, 490(7420):343

Rader, Ronald A. 2012. “Charting the Biosimilar and Biobetter Development Pipeline.” *First Word*.

Biotechnology Information Institute is an authorized reseller of this report. Please contact President Ronald Rader (biotech@biopharma.com) if you are interested in this 428-page report.



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DBIO Membership Report

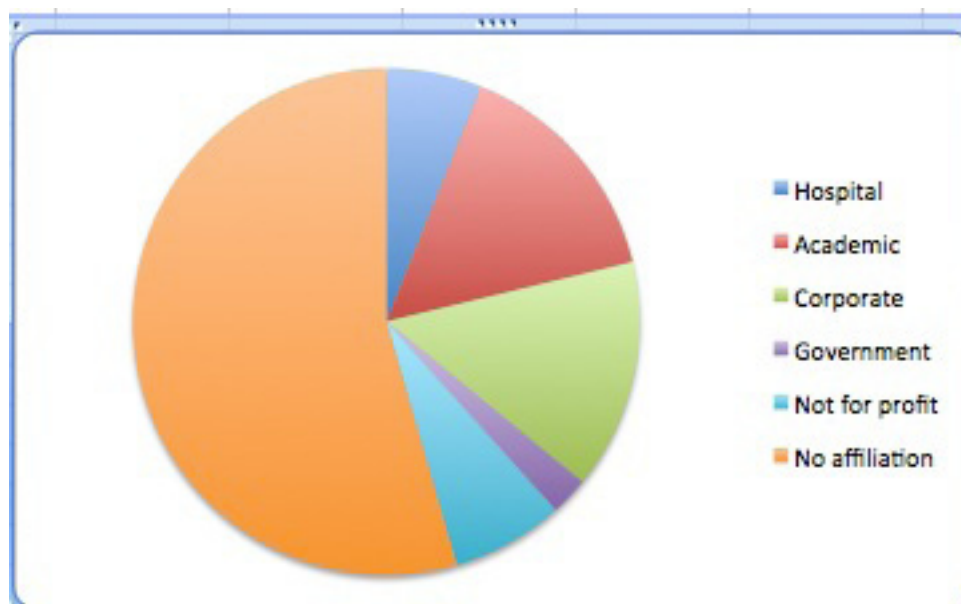
Dorothy Barr, Membership Chair

As of December 1, 2012, DBIO membership stood at 490. This compares with 540 in December 2011.

Our members are distributed across the globe. Of the 490, 62 live outside the US. Thirty-seven of these are from Canada; six are from the United Kingdom; four are from Oman and three from Australia. New Zealand and India both have two members, and Denmark, Germany, Qatar, Spain, Switzerland and Zambia each have one. It is encouraging to note that although the number of international members remained the same, the percentage rose slightly, from 11.5 percent in December 2011 to 12.7 percent.

In 2011, 55.5 percent listed no employment, and this remained the same at the end of 2012. This certainly does not mean that over 50 percent of our members are unemployed, merely that they chose not to give an affiliation.

Other affiliations: 15.1 percent of members (74) listed an academic institution; 72 (14.7 percent) indicated that they worked in a corporate institution. Thirty-five (7.1 percent) are affiliated with not-for-profit organizations, 30 (6.1 percent) with hospitals, and 12 (2.5 percent) with government.



Breakdown of DBIO Members by Affiliation

Whatever the reason for our numbers dropping, we all need to encourage friends and colleagues to join the Division, and to work to make our programs and our listserv vibrant and useful.

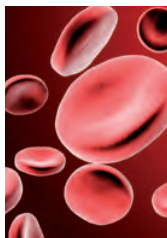
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Clinical Science Archive

Portland Press is pleased to announce the launch of its new legacy product "Clinical Science Archive". Following the recent digitization of the Clinical Science catalogue back to 1970, over 40 years of high-quality research of continuing significance (Cited Half - 9.2 years) to both clinician scientists and research scientists working in medical research, institutions are now able to upgrade their subscription to include access to the entire back catalogue for a small top-up fee or purchase the archive outright, in its entirety.



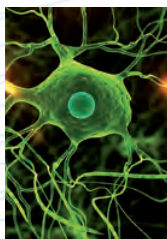
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For a complete list of current board and committee members, see the Division Website at: <http://dbiosla.org/inside/officers/officers.html>

Biofeedback

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