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Message from the Chairs



Neyda Gilman & Peggy Murphy

We would like to begin by highlighting the events, decisions and news that made 2019 memorable. DBIO remains fiscally strong. Our many talented and hard-working members stepped up once again to lead programs and tours, offer wisdom, and donate their time. None of our accomplishments could have been achieved without the support from many of you.

For the 2019 annual conference, DBIO hosted eight successful educational sessions, a CE course, a museum tour, and a reception in beautiful downtown Cleveland.

A committee of volunteers from DBIO and the Pharmaceutical & Health Technology division met to discuss a merger between the two units. After careful consideration, the units decided to continue as separate divisions pending further investigation.

Candidates for DBIO's board of directors were successfully recruited for 2020, allowing us to continue on strong footing.

Our attention now turns to Charlotte for the 2020 annual conference and we have several programs in the works that are both interesting and educational. The full lineup will be shared as we get closer to June. We also look forward to continue serving our members in 2020. With the changes going on in SLA, our focus and priority is DBIO, and what we as a group do for each other. To that end, we want to hear from you and encourage you



to share your thoughts, concerns, questions, ideas, etc. We also encourage you to become as active as you are inclined. There are plenty of opportunities to become involved in the division, from becoming a member of the board to helping with smaller projects or tasks. If you are interested in becoming more active just let us know – we will find something for you to help with! DBIO is successful due to its members and we once again thank you for that.

We will be sending out a survey to gauge members' interest in continuing our newsletter, *Biofeedback*. Please keep an eye out for that.

Thank you for all you do for DBIO and SLA. If you have questions or suggestions, feel free to reach out to us at any time: pegannmurph@gmail.com and ngilman@binghamton.edu.

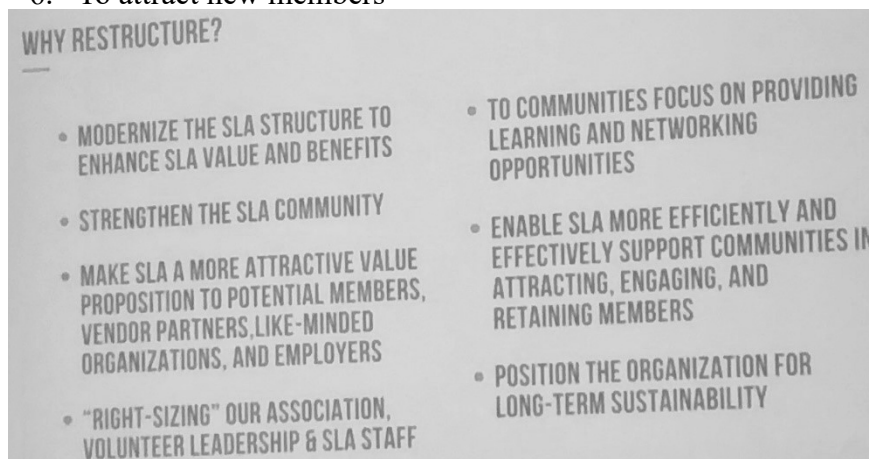
SLA Restructuring – A View from the Leadership Symposium

The restructuring plan recently announced by SLA leadership and headquarters has been the subject of much discussion in the past few weeks. Here we are providing a recap of the major features of the plan and some possible implications for DBIO and its members. Thank you to Ruth Gustafson for attending the Leadership Symposium on behalf of DBIO and taking detailed notes.

Background

The SLA Board of Directors and Headquarters have been considering a major restructure of the association for several years; they have also shared iterations of the plan with members during open board meetings. SLA leaders and staff give numerous reasons for the restructuring (see slide below for the full list):

1. To simplify and modernize the association's structure
2. To maximize member services during a time of plummeting member numbers
3. To allow member involvement in as many SLA communities as they wish
4. To maintain communities with no minimum number of members and fewer required officers
5. To pool funds and resources as a cost-savings mechanism
6. To attract new members



How DBIO will be affected

Some of the effects that DBIO will experience in the immediate and short-term include:

1. Transfer of the DBIO account to Headquarters
2. Headquarters pays all expenses that DBIO incurs

3. Officer title changes – from Chair and Chair-Elect to President and President-Elect
4. Change in officer requirements – President, President-Elect, and Secretary
5. DBIO name change: Biomedical & Life Sciences Community?

How these changes will impact our community are mostly unknown. What we do know at this point is that the restructuring will be a mixed bag. While we anticipate fewer burdens to be placed on leaders of the communities, access to funds, tools, and headquarters assistance may suffer. A question that comes up in nearly all discussions so far is that of finances. HQ will take over finances for all of the communities but it has been emphasized that the communities can continue spending as they have in the past. The primary difference now is that in order to actually pay we will need to go through HQ first. While this is an extra step and may take some getting used to, it will hopefully be a minor inconvenience. We want to reassure everyone that things such as the DBIO website will continue!

Discussions, questions and comments are being posted to the [SLA Open Forum](#) and to a newly formed [2020 SLA Restructuring Initiative](#) forum. We encourage you to join this new community and participate in the conversation.

Your Thoughts

More than anything, we would like to hear from you. Given that we cannot relitigate the past, let's concentrate on how we can move forward successfully. We are hopeful that the future of DBIO will be bright. Please send comments to us individually or on an SLA Connect forum.

Looking Ahead to the SLA Annual Conference

An SLA member-driven committee has greenlighted several DBIO programs for the upcoming conference in Charlotte, June 6-9, 2020.

Demystifying Peer Review: Problems, Trends, and Best Practices

According to Wikipedia, "Peer review is the evaluation of work by one or more people of similar competence to the producers of the work." Increasingly recognized as a flawed system, peer review has come under scrutiny as a gold standard for evaluating the value of scholarly work. Because this system is used to make decisions for grant allocation, publication, tenure, promotion, and award recognition, peer review should be understood by information professionals. We will discuss the flaws, alternative models and best practices for information professionals, authors and reviewers.

Innovation Incubators: What Do They Do and How?

North Carolina is home to many innovation centers and entrepreneurs. In this session, we will introduce projects and their creators and follow their inception, development and introduction to the marketplace. Opportunities exist for information professionals to become involved in innovation incubators: find out how!

The New PubMed: An Essential, Innovative and Mobile Friendly Tool for Biomedical Research

Beginning in 2020, PubMed, the world's largest biomedical literature database, will debut both internal (operating system) and external (search interface) changes. Participants in this session will see a demonstration of the new, mobile-friendly interface, updated features including advanced search, clipboard, options for sharing results, and the new "cite" button. PubMed comprises more than 30 million citations for biomedical literature from MEDLINE, life science journals, and online books. Citations may include links to full-text content from PubMed Central and publisher web sites.

We are excited to continue the ever-popular Vendor event. This year, DBIO's Business Meeting will occur online in order to allow any member to tune in and participate. More information about all these events will be forthcoming once the details are finalized.

Call for Volunteers

We encourage DBIO members who wish to join a vibrant, friendly and innovative group of volunteers to assist with the work of the division. The following opportunities are available:

Biofeedback Associate Editor - Join Lori Bronars to develop a newsletter that is released four times per year. Solicit members for news and flex your writing / editing / creative muscles to work on a very popular newsletter.

Biofeedback Vendor Relations - Work with vendors and publishers on ads featured in *Biofeedback*.

Membership Chair - Be a force for growth and member engagement by recruiting new members and keeping current members involved in DBIO.

Thank you for all you do for DBIO and SLA.

Book review of *Humans and Lions: Conflict, Conservation and Coexistence* (London and New York: Earthscan from Routledge/ Taylor & Francis Group, 2020). 233p. Reviewer: Lori Bronars

Humans and Lions is written by Keith Somerville, a professor at the University of Kent's Centre for Journalism in the U. K. He is a member of its Durrell Institute of Conservation and Ecology as well as a Senior Research Fellow at the Institute of Commonwealth Studies and a Fellow of the Zoological Society of London. He has written several other books on Africa including: *Ivory: Power and Poaching in Africa* (Hurst & Company, 2016) and *Africa's Long Road Since Independence: The Many Histories of a Continent* (C. Hurst & Co., 2015).

The text does a good job of reporting on various population surveys of lions in many countries in Africa and in the Gir Forest in India in recent years. Professor Somerville provides statistics of killed lions, estimates for retaliatory killings for livestock losses by farmers and pastoralists, lions killed by poacher's snares, trophy hunters, manhood initiation rituals, and by poisoning. Historical statistics from the colonial era and early days of settlement are provided along with discussion of even earlier interaction between Hominids and ancestors of the modern lion.

Professor Somerville tells us "The evolutionary cradle for the birth of the modern lion was in East and Southern Africa" (p. 12). He goes on to describe the evolution of carnivores with climatic and environmental changes, citing important fossil finds.

In his discussions of contemporary times, he brings out the complexities of human-lion problems. With the fees paid for hunting licenses and safaris in some cases, conservation efforts and habitat are supported and wildlife more tolerated among local people. He quotes from well-known author George B. Schaller's *Golden Shadows, Flying Hooves* (Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 1983 edition): "Indeed, the animals often benefit to some extent from hunting" (p. 20). In some areas it seems that better husbandry for livestock such as building lion-proof enclosures for nights have been seen to make a difference. Not everyone who needs them can afford to build them however. The costs are subsidized for some.

Another problem is created when herders illegally graze their livestock in lion-protected game reserves or national parks and then kill or poison lions in retaliation for loss of livestock to lions. Corruption is a problem in some areas, with few wildlife tourist dollars reaching local communities. Sometimes the lion's normal prey is depleted by human hunting or dispersed with seasonal rainfall. *Humans and Lions* also provides statistics on humans killed by lions over time.

This is an interesting book with heavily-referenced statistics. Sadly, the only illustration is the head of a male lion in black and white on the cover. This reviewer noticed eight obvious typos in the book which does not say much for its editing.

Executive Board 2020

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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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