
The Newsletter of the Society for the Study of Ingestive Behavior

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Letter from the President

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Student involvement and participation has become a major focus of your Society's activities this year. This, of course, should not be surprising given the crucial role students play in the development and life of a scientific field. Nor is a concern for students anything new to SSIB. However, I am struck, and pleased, at how this emphasis on students pervades nearly every aspect of SSIB operations.

In the last issue of *SSIBlings*, I announced that the dues notices now include an option to pay by credit card. You also found something else new on the dues notice: a request for voluntary contributions to SSIB. As authorized by the Board, all of these tax-deductible contributions will be used toward funding Student Travel Awards for the annual meeting. So far, with only about half of the membership responding to the dues notice, sixteen members have generously contributed a total of \$600 (see Supporting Members listed in this issue). This response, which already covers one travel award, is very encouraging.

As Carol Maggio reports elsewhere in this issue of *SSIBlings*, the Board at its last meeting approved the use of Society funds to subsidize student registration fees for the annual meeting in Baton Rouge next October. The reduced registration fees apply to all eligible students. In addition to this across-the-board assistance, SSIB will also provide Student Travel Awards as in the past.

The annual meeting which will be held jointly with the North American Association for the Study of Obesity (NAASO) will also feature student participation. The Student Section of SSIB was asked to organize a symposium for the meeting. They have chosen "Learning and Ingestive Behavior" as the topic and will be inviting senior scientists to speak. A separate oral paper session will also be held in which the Student Travel Awards are presented and awardees present their work.

The work of this year's committees also reflects an emphasis on students. I have combined several committee functions in an Education and Communication Committee (see last issue of *SSIBlings* for committee listings). Among other tasks, this committee will assemble a guide to training opportunities and develop a curriculum guide. This year the Membership Committee has been asked to explore mechanisms facilitating student involvement. Any suggestions regarding these or other activities with an eye toward student participation are welcome.

At the business meeting in McMaster last summer there was concern expressed over the level of dues for newly minted Ph.D.s. In recognition of the fact that the transition from pre- to postdoctoral does not usually imply a transition from poverty to wealth, the Board at its last meeting also approved a motion to hold dues at the student membership level for three years for newly postdoctoral members. This should make it easier for students to maintain their involvement in SSIB after they finish their doctoral work.

Because students are the future of our field, it is also important for SSIB to be setting its sights out into time. SSIB has grown dramatically and has matured rapidly. It is a good time therefore to evaluate its brief past and reflect upon its future. Accordingly, I have asked Harry Kissileff, our Executive Officer, to review and list all previous Board decisions in order to clarify existing policies and procedures and determine what, if any, unfinished business there is. I have also asked Tony Sclafani to have the Long Range Planning Committee address issues pertaining to the Society's growth, international scope and its policies for media relations. The approach SSIB takes in these matters today will shape the Society for years to come.

