

## **Animal Section Report to the SEB Annual General Meeting - Glasgow, 2011**

The Animal Section has had a productive and busy year. The Section was actively engaged in the activities of the SEB

The Section welcomed two new convenors:

John Speakman - *Ecophysiology* and Peter Aerts - *Biomechanics*

These appointments round off a diverse and enthusiastic team encompassing the various research interest groups within the Animal Section: Holly Shiels (*Thermobiology*), Lynne Sneddon (*Neurobiology*), David McKenzie (*Conservation Physiology - Deputy*), Michael Berenbrink (*Respiration*), Kath Sloman (*Osmoregulation*), Nic Bury (*Endocrinology*). Completing the Animal Section team are Rod Wilson and Lewis Halsey.

Summarised below are the key initiatives and outcomes of the Animal Section:

### **1. Animal Section Strategic Plan**

The strategic plan for the Animal Section was presented at the September Council Meeting. The Animal Section of the SEB identified the following objectives for the next four years:

1. Increase awareness of the relevance of Animal Physiology in 21<sup>st</sup> Century
2. Further develop strategies for fostering and promoting the careers of young scientists
3. Support and Develop Increased membership and Internationalisation of SEB
4. Develop Communication Skills of Members

and, thereby

5. Increasing the awareness, visibility and value of the SEB

### **2. Vice-President Nomination**

It was the Animal Section's turn to provide a new vice president. We were pleased that Prof. Tony Farrell has agreed to take on this important role.

### **3. Young Scientist Award Scheme**

The Animal Section was instrumental in reviewing and revising selection and assessment criteria for the Award, as well as working with Talja to improve the running of this event at the main meeting.

### **4. 2010 Animal Symposium on Intra-specific Diversity in Aquatic Animals**

The SEB Animal Symposium on Intra-specific Diversity in Aquatic Animals was held from the 25<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> June 2010 in Sète, France, at the Station Méditerranéenne de l'Environnement Littoral, the University of Montpellier's marine research station. The objective of the symposium was to promote knowledge exchange amongst the research fields of population genetics, evolutionary ecology, ecophysiology and behaviour. The programme comprised both talks and posters, on an impressive range of subjects, with just over 50 delegates from 11 countries, and a good mix of established researchers and early-career scientists. The

symposium promoted knowledge exchange among scientists working in the diverse research fields, but possibly raised more questions than it provided answers about the complex links between genotypes, phenotypes and environments in aquatic animals.

**5. American Physiological Society Meeting August 2010**

The SEB provided support for the APS meeting on “Global Change and Global Science: Comparative Physiology in a Changing World”. Support and activity within the emerging field of Conservation Physiology has been an important initiative of the Animal Section and is gaining increasing interest among our members.

**6. Developing stronger links with the Education and Public Affairs Section (EPA) of SEB**

The Animal Section recognised and emphasised the importance of working with the EPA Section and, in doing that, working at adding value in keeping with the Animal Section's Strategic Plan.

Finally we welcome Paul Hutchinson as the new CEO of the SEB executive and extend our thanks to the entire executive team (Paul, Talja, Sabina, Colette) for their support, commitment and assistance over the past year. The Animal Section looks forward to continuing to contribute to the SEB achieving its goals over the coming years.

Professor Craig E. Franklin  
Chair of Animal Section