

Minutes Life Science Business Meeting

Mary Ann Horn, SIAG/LS Chair, chaired the business meeting. She presented a set of slides covering the topics the officers wished to cover. She thanked Tim Fest for helping put together the set of slides.

Horn noted that the SIAM website is transiting but we'll be able to share slides. She noted that SIAM News and SIAM Blogs are always seeking good stories about the topics covered by this SIAG. SIAM News is a good place to write and draw people from other areas. She encouraged suggestions for topics and potential authors. And she noted that SIAM is also looking for bloggers.

Horn mentioned the SIAG/LS members who were elected Fellows in 2017 and 2018.

Horn noted that the SIAG/LS Early Career Prize was awarded for the first time at LS18. Sean Wale was the 2018 winner. Horn encouraged people to submit nominations for the next prize for this important recognition.

The presentation then moved to the conference history for this conference, with data on conference attendance. It was noted that attendance is very high when the SIAG/LS meeting is aligned with the SIAM Annual Meeting, but usually similar in this size to LS18 when meeting on its own. LS18 has 346 attendees thus far.

The discussion then led to LS20. Horn sought suggestions for topics and for organizing committee members.

She noted that the officers wish to consider AN22 to meet with the SIAM Annual Meeting.

Next was a call for proposals for the SIAM Gene Golub Summer School. It was noted that this is an excellent opportunity for anyone who wishes to run a summer school in the life sciences. If the proposal is selected, SIAM provides generous support [on the order of \$100,000].

Horn made a pitch for ICIAM 2019 in Valencia. She noted that SIAM will not have an Annual Meeting in 2019 but will encourage people to submit sessions to ICIAM. Jim Crowley mentioned that SIAM has received a grant from the NSF to support travel of selected students and early career professionals to ICIAM. People were encouraged to submit mini-symposia proposals now under "SIAM/LS" and students were encouraged to submit travel applications this fall.

Also on the horizon is the Second joint CAINM/SIAM Annual Meeting in 2020 in Toronto. The SIAG/LS members are encouraged to participate.

Horn also covered the standard pitch to encourage membership in SIAM.

Next she covered some of the data on SIAG/LS membership.

SIAG/LS is the 5th largest among the SIAGs. Membership is strong and increasing, especially among students. Membership among non-students is steady. The SIAG is seeking growth in industry and national labs; she encouraged members to speak with colleagues and reach out to prominent figures outside academia. Also, 23% of the membership is outside the US.

This ended the presentation. Horn opened it up to the floor for suggestions and comments.

A question was raised from the floor about the subfields represented at this conference and in the membership. Math Bio? Others? Can SIAM investigate and see what info we can discern? Horn noted that the conference themes reflected an attempt to avoid conflict with the Society for Math Biology (SMB) meeting which was held only a few weeks prior. There was little coverage of ecology, for example, at LS18 for this reason.

The discussion then moved to possible locations for LS20. Suggestions from the floor included: Denver, New Orleans [ruled out for a summer meeting], Hawaii [ruled out based on expense], Seattle, Madison WI (Frank Lloyd Wright convention center), Portland. It was the sense of the group that the meeting should avoid the east and Midwest because that is where LS16 and LS18 were held; that ruled out Madison for the short term. Vancouver was also mentioned. The officers will take these suggestions under consideration and come up with a short list for the SIAM HQ.

It was noted that math bio is not always viewed positively by either the math or by bio communities. But math bio can offer a lot to science when it can't be done by experiment alone. The question was posed: what can we, the SIAG/LS, do to improve this situation? Officers were hoping for ideas about how to better integrate math and bio communities more successfully. Each group brings workflows/ideas/best practices that the other might miss. Horn encouraged more submissions to SIAM news again – another venue for interaction.

It was noted that the SIAM web pages are completely new and are still being tweaked. The SIAG/LS web page was deemed difficult to find. For updates to the SIAG webpage, send questions/comments to an officer, who will send it along to the SIAM. Need to appoint new SIAM News Liaison officer for the SIAG.

It was noted that the SMB Board needs a new appointee and that it would be good to have a SIAG/LS person fill this role to serve as a liaison between SMB and SIAG/LS.

There was a brief discussion on special events at the LS conference: events which address funding, career development, or mentoring, for example. Attendees were asked what kinds of events they would like to continue or to see at the next meeting. It was noted from the floor that there was only one funding session and it focused on NSF only; NIH and the Simons institutes should be included in the future.

Mary Ann Horn then brought the session to a close.