

Minutes of the ISDB Board Meeting
June 18, 2017

Present: Philip Ingham (President, ISDB), Vivian Irish (Secretary, ISDB), Rik Korswagen (Treasurer, ISDB), David Wilkinson (MOD Editor), Valentina Sasselli (Elsevier), Martin Chalfie (USA), King-Lau Chow (Hong Kong), Bon-chu Chung (Taiwan), Sally Dunwoodie (Australia/NZ), Danny Huylebroeck (Belgium), Ottoline Leyser (UK), Ulrike Marklund (Sweden), Anming Meng (China, representing the APDBN), Leonor Saude (Portugal), Claudio Stern (representing Latin America), Michele Studer (France), Miguel Torres (Spain), Naoto Ueno (Japan), Christoph Winkler (Singapore, representing the German SDB).

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 AM.

1. Apologies for absence

On behalf of several Society members, including India, Finland, Italy, South Africa, Phil apologized for missing the executive board meeting.

2. Approval of the minutes.

Minutes of the last board meeting (2013) read and unanimously approved. After the finish of the 2017 meeting, the minutes of the 2013 meeting, the 2017 meeting, and interim reports of the Secretary will be sent to Board members.

3. Report of the ISDB President and Organiser of ISDB2017, Phil Ingham

ISDB conference 2017: This is the first time the standing president of ISDB has also been organizing the ISDB conference—Phil does not recommend this in future as this has been a challenge to be on top of both presidential duties and the conference. Phil went over the key stages of organizing the meeting (ppt slides attached as appendix 1), and mentioned the Singapore Tourist Board had been very helpful in preparing the initial bid. The local Scientific Committee was set up in 2014 and was used to help select sessions and speakers; Tom Carney was appointed as co-organizer also in 2014. The conference management company InCongress (UK based) was awarded the contract to organize this conference due to their competitive pricing and experience in organizing a previous ISDB congress (in Edinburgh, 2009). Thanks to the NUS Department of Biological Sciences booking the congress venue, the organisers saved S\$80K. Phil secured a number of sponsors, including NUS, NTU, A*STAR that each gave S\$50K. In terms of meeting specifics, as agreed whrn the original bid was made only 2 parallel sessions have been organized for the 2017 meeting, and we hope to get feedback on how this is received. Phil and the committee tried to avoid repeat speakers from 2013 meeting.

Phil commented that getting sponsorship for the 2017 meeting was challenging, and was disappointed in the response from many that he approached. The relatively low numbers attending the Congress (compared to say the ASCB or Neurscience conferences) may explain why potential sponsors are less inclined to support. Although happy with InCongress, Phil pointed out that having a management team on a different

continent was difficult logistically, and also because they did not have many local contacts.

Sally Dunwoodie commented that in her experience, getting funds for these meetings is generally a challenge.

Marty Chalfie commented that there are certain locations that sponsors will be more excited to support.

Phil wrote a number of grants for support that were all funded, and received a grant of up to \$70K from Singapore Tourist Board (the final sum will depend on attendance at meeting). He expressed some disappointment with the number of registrants meeting (689 delegates) that although slightly higher than for Cancun, is well down on the numbers that attended Edinburgh, Sydney and Kyoto. Phil had expected greater representation from Asia/Australia/NZ, and probably more delegates from China, and it was not clear why this was not an appealing meeting for pan-Asian community, especially given that the Registration fee and accommodation rates had been kept low. Travel issues for students could have been a problem. Nevertheless, the current meeting has representation from 35 different countries, with a large increase in attendance from India.

It was discussed whether in future to increase numbers, the major DB societies could suspend their own national meeting and instead support attendance at the ISDB. Claudio opined that most national societies won't be keen on this and Naoto agreed. Of course, when a national society is organizing the Congress, they do cancel their own meeting.

Marty—suggests that potentially emphasizing the role of DB in understanding stem cell biology has been used as a mechanism to increase attendance at ISDB meetings.

Phil—says that stem cell biologists are not necessarily receptive to this approach—depends on specific biologist/institution/etc approached—stem cell field is quite heterogeneous.

Marty—advertising the meeting is important.

Michele—joint meetings across fields might bring in more people. Eg France just had cell biology/DB meeting that worked well.

Phil—agreed that advertising the meeting is difficult. The old-fashioned way of printing and mailing posters might still be the most effective way. For the 2017 congress, a greater emphasis had been placed on using social media to generate interest, but it was not clear that it had really paid off. A Facebook site was set up, but not used extensively, though it is still being maintained. Twitter seemed to be more effective.

Phil also reported that he had attended a number of national society meetings over the past few years to promote ISDB and the ISDB congress.

ISDB Website: The ISDB Website is terribly out of date and old fashioned looking. The site has been maintained by Doug Sipp, at the RIKEN in Kyoto, though Phil's PA in Singapore had administrator rights and had been updating it over the past few years. Doug Sipp now stepped down as business manager at the beginning of 2017 and the decision was made to move the site from Kyoto to the Hubrecht, where ISDB is based.

Since then, Rik Korswagen has been managing the website—but it needs serious revamping.

Subscription rate: Phil pointed out that the current rate of US\$2 per head is too high for some societies, whose own subscription rates are not much more than this. Phil and the other Executive Board members therefore propose the introduction a new rate of 10% of subscription fee or \$2 whichever is lower. This rate was applied to the Indian DB society to help them to re-affiliate in time for ISDB2017 , and likely has significantly helped to promote developmental biology there. It was moved to change the ISDB statutes to use a rate of 10% of subscription fee or \$2 whichever is lower. Rik seconded. All in favor.

ISDB-MOD lecture awards: Phil has instituted a rule that evidence of projection of an ISDB-MOD Lecture acknowledgement slide, together with a photo of the lecturer be provided as a condition for payment of the speaker's expenses. To date, no such photos have been received.

Ross Harrison Medal: Phil announced that the 2017 Ross Harrison medal will be awarded to Claudio Stern. Claudio opined that in future the board of electors should have better female representation - the current board, which is constituted in part by former Medal winners, currently includes only one woman, Janet Rossant.

4. Treasurer's Report:

Rik Korswagen: reported on current finances of the ISDB (see Appendix 2. ISDB Financial report). Current balance 206454.07 Euro. Main sources of income 20000\$/year. Membership 13252 euros.

Revenue from Cancun euro 46175.

Already discussed capitation fees.

Report on membership payment per national society.

Rik opined that societies need to be paying members for all 4 years prior to ISDB congress to qualify for a discount, a point that was agreed upon by the board members.

Report on main expenditures.

Sally-can we revisit the fact that this is a difficult meeting to sponsor.

Phil concurs that it is a difficult meeting to host—and hard to sponsor; asked if Elsevier would help to underwrite (little enthusiasm from Elsevier).

Ottoline—have a pot of money in investments as a mechanism to underwrite the meeting.

Phil- Was very worried about this meeting losing money, but now it looks like there is projected a profit on this meeting of about 50K.

Marty-one of the big expenses is hotel accommodation. Convention centers are also expensive. Should future ISDB meetings be held at universities or held at convention center? Marty urged ISDB to try and go after university settings, as they are probably cheaper, engender more interaction. There was general agreement with this view.

The treasurer should be sending a yearly report on finances to all the society representatives.

5. Secretary's Report:

Vivian Irish: Minutes of skype, email and virtual meetings, as well as face to face meetings were kept. The Secretary should send a yearly report by email to all society members. The secretary in future should keep minutes of all virtual meetings, and the executive board should have a yearly meeting (skype/video conference) to ensure continuity.

6. Next Congress – presentation of the Vancouver ISDB2021 proposal.

Vancouver proposal presented by
Michael Drake, Tourism Vancouver
Ida Chow, executive secretary SDB.

Michael and Ida presented the proposal for SDB to co-organise the 2021 ISDB Congress with ISDB in Vancouver. Pamela Hoodless (at University British Columbia) was the driving force in putting the proposal together. A program committee will be put together, with a program geared towards highlighting the future directions in developmental biology. The meeting is proposed to be a four day meeting in June or July, 2021, with likely three concurrent sessions. Ida asked to have a survey done of the 2017 meeting to see if there are any outstanding issues that should be addressed for the 2021 meeting.

Ida walked through various cost breakdowns.

Pamela has gotten commitments already from Stemcell (45K Canadian), Genome BC and several others to support the 2021 meeting, so have a good financial start already.

One of the big issues will be to promote attendance, and take advantage of social media.

Michael Drake with Tourism Vancouver will help with promoting the conference—his organization can provide expertise and help in coaching in how to promote the meeting, and will help with logistics of the meeting.

Venues—3 options—

- a) UBC—Chan center holds ~1000 people, has neighboring halls, student housing available. 25 minutes from downtown. 25 minutes from airport. UBC has both hotel-like accommodation, also shared bathroom type dorm accommodation.
- b) Sheraton Vancouver Wall—located in middle of city—plenty of ballroom space, and the advantage is that everything would be in one building. Other accommodation right nearby, so can find other potentially cheaper accommodations, lots of restaurants in vicinity.
- c) Westin Bayshore—right on edge of city, close to food/shopping etc, but unique advantage is that it is close to parks.

Tourism Vancouver—will provide help with navigating visas, letters of support, shipping, etc. Can help with website. Partner with other tourism aspects and can set up pre or post packages for meeting attendees.

Claudio-Meeting should be forward looking—the session topics should be chosen to encourage diversity and great science—not so much trendy stuff. Topics should highlight basic questions in developmental biology.

Ida emphasized the need to get representatives and input from the community to come up with what is important.

Ottoline—need to focus on great biology—not technology.

Phil expressed his preference for holding the Congress on the university campus, following the Singapore model, in order to keep it affordable. He opined that few students from India and China would be able to afford the hotel rates associated with convention centers.

Ida-SDB will be co-sponsoring, so we will need to get support and input from SDB board. The choice of final venue depends on where we can get the best deal, and keep in mind that low costs for accommodation for students, a venue where there can be a lot of mingling over meals etc, is ideal. Ida will work on negotiations.

The UBC president has said that their institution would support the meeting.

Ottoline and Miguel- The European societies will be putting together a biennial meeting—in the next ISDB year (2025), the joint European Societies should host the ISDB meeting.

Marty—how do we distribute funds from meeting sponsors and how are profits split? Ida reported on how this was done for Cancun, and pointed out that one cost saving measure is that by SDB co-sponsoring—part of the expense will be absorbed by SDB (eg secretarial, logistics help, etc).

Phil—pointed out that the issue on the table is that we need to formally vote on the proposal for SDB to organize the 2021 meeting in Vancouver. All approved.

Final point raised by Naoto: July would probably be better than June given conflicts with other meetings. Tentatively set date for July, 2021.

7. Nominations for and election of the new President

Phil reported we had one person nominated by the Spanish Developmental Biology Society: Angela Nieto.

Miguel Torres summarized proposal for Angela as the next ISDB president, and reviewed her credentials, emphasizing her scientific accomplishments and her strong commitment to serving the community—including as former president of the Spanish DB society.

Move to approve Angela by Miguel.

Seconded by Marty

Vote was unanimous.

8. Re-appointment of Officers (Treasurer, Secretary, Business Secretary)

Rik is willing to continue as treasurer.

Secretary—Claudio pointed out that traditionally the new president gets to decide on this appointment.

Douglas Sipp has stepped down as business secretary; Phil has found that perhaps may be not as important a position and that we don't need a business secretary.

9. New ISDB logo design:

Old ISDB logo is North America centric and low resolution.

Phil presented a series of designs—one design was selected and approved.

10. Relationship with MoD/Elsevier

David Wilkinson—update on the journals MOD, and Gene Expression Patterns. Went over editorial board changes to refresh the editorial board with some younger faces. Trying to retain international spread of the journal have it reflected in the editorial board. Like many journals MOD is suffering from declining impact factor. Encouraging submissions and via transfer of manuscripts from Dev Biol, trying to bring in more review articles and special issues to bring up impact factor.

David put out a plea for ideas for other topics, other special issues. How to publicize link between ISDB and MOD—and how to disseminate this info?

Marty—does MOD accept bioarchived papers? MOD should use this as a resource to identify promising preprints for submission. Valentina—Yes, they do accept preprint/bioarchives. But don't have an editor looking routinely at the bioarchived preprints.

Ottoline—where is publishing going to go; community dissatisfaction in way publication is going and tyranny of the impact factor. DB community is strong and beautiful and can push this point.

Phil- this has been done (San Francisco Declaration, DORA), but this is not well implemented.

Marty-HHMI is now agreeing to accept preprints in consideration of appointments

Ottoline, Claudio—There might be things as a community we can do to push things along in this direction, to argue to funding committees etc. that impact factors are a problematic metric.

Valentina—MOD small sized journal, 40-50 accepted articles per year. Trying to be quicker with decisions, and is proud to report there is a rapid turnaround. MOD has more than 0.5 million downloads per year. Pipeline for special issues important. Impact factor—all DB journals all going down. Suggests it is dilution of hot topics to other journals. Gene Expression Patterns—spin off journal ~15 years ago. Decrease in accepted papers, increase in rejection rates for out of area—could journal be repurposed? Could it have a broader scope? Reviewed advantages of publishing in MOD/GEP including 'article enrichments' with interactive interfaces.

11. Re-design of website. Phil noted that he would pass this chore on to Angela to manage. Base it at Hubrecht.

12. AOB

Marty—would people think it useful in putting together a handbook on how to put together a DB society? Another possible project for ISDB to embark on. Might be able to get a foundation to support this specific project/new initiative.

Claudio—There previously was an International embryonic information service or something like this, basically a catalog of everyone affiliated with developmental biology. It was pointed out that many do not want their emails posted in a public setting, so make it a voluntary listing.

Phil--There is a now a Chinese Developmental Biology society, but they haven't affiliated to ISDB. They should be encouraged to do so. A South African Society was established 4-5 years ago, but it seems not to have thrived as there has been no engagement with ISDB in the course of the organization of ISDB2017.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Vivian Irish, Secretary ISDB

ISDB BOARD MEETING 2017 SINGAPORE

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

PHILIP W INGHAM

- 1. ISDB 2017 Congress and future Congresses**
- 2. Other activities**
- 3. Change in subscriptions**
- 4. ISDB-Mod Lecture Awards**
- 5. Ross Harrison Prize election**
- 6. New Logo**

ISDB2017 ORGANISATION

Some key stages

- 2013 – Prospectus drafted with help of Singapore Tourist Board
- 2013 – Proposal presented and accepted at ISDB2013, Cancun
- 2014 – Local Programme Committee (LPC) appointed
- 2014 – Tom Carney appointed as co-Organiser
- 2015 - Tender for conference management company
- 2015 - In Conference awarded contract
- 2015 - UCC booked via NUS
- 2015- International Advisory Board (IAB) Established
- 2015 - A*STAR, NUS and NTU secured as Platinum Sponsors (S\$50k each)
- 2015 - suggestions for sessions solicited from IAB members
- 2015- suggestions for speakers solicited from IAB members
- 2015 - Speakers selected by LPC and invited by President
- 2015 - Website launched
- 2016 - Major sponsorship drive launched
- 2016 - University Town accommodation booked
- 2016 - Grant applications submitted to SDB, CoB, ISD and STB
- 2016 - STB awards \$70K grant

SPONSORSHIP INCOME

2009: £205,216.94 = S\$449,425.10

2017: S\$346,831.85 = £197,580.88

Countries of origin of the 689 delegates at ISDB2017

Country	
Argentina	1
Australia	36
Austria	5
Belgium	6
Canada	11
Chile	6
China	35
Colombia	1
Czech Republic	2
Finland	20
France	21
Germany	38
Hong Kong	17
India	43
Ireland	4
Israel	9
Italy	2

Japan	75
Mexico	2
Netherlands	3
New Zealand	1
Norway	2
Poland	7
Portugal	4
Russian Federation	1
Singapore	157
South Africa	2
South Korea	23
Spain	4
Sri Lanka	1
Sweden	6
Switzerland	5
Taiwan	23
United Kingdom	65
United States	51

MAJOR PLACES OF ORIGIN OF CONGRESS DELEGATES

	SINGAPORE 2017	CANCUN 2013	EDINBURGH 2009	SYDNEY 2005	KYOTO 2001
TOTAL	689	649	1395	831	1253
JAPAN	75	40	107	172	784
USA	51	310	121	100	115
UK	66	55	623	80	69
GERMANY	38	18	88	24	39
AUSTRALIA	36	9	35	226	20
FRANCE	21	10	92	19	23
CANADA	11	32	23	11	13
SINGAPORE	164	3	22	33	5
CHINA	35	10	14	7	9
SOUTH KOREA	23	5	12	33	0
TAIWAN	23	1	11	7	11
FINLAND	20	2	18	5	1
HONG KONG	17	7	0	12	14
SWEDEN	6	7	11	14	14
SWITZERLAND	5	4	17	5	12
INDIA	43	1	2	6	0

President's Activities 2014-2017

Meetings attended as ISDB President

2014 British SDB

2014 Japanese SDB

2015 Indian SDB

2015 Latin American SDB

2016 British SDB

2016 French SDB

2016 US SDB

2016 Portuguese SDB

MANAGING SOCIAL MEDIA

The image shows a screenshot of a Facebook page for the International Society of Developmental Biologists - ISDB. The page header includes the Facebook logo, the page name, a search bar, and navigation links for Page, Messages, Notifications, Insights, and Publishing Tools. The profile picture is a blue globe with the acronym ISDB. The cover photo features the text "INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY of DEVELOPMENTAL BIOLOGISTS" in large blue letters. The page name is repeated in the bio area, and the handle @IntSocDevBiol is provided. A "Home" button is visible in the bottom right corner. The right sidebar shows the user's name "Philip", "Home", and icons for friends, messages, and a help menu.

Facebook logo International Society of Developmental Biologists - ISDB Search

Page Messages Notifications Insights Publishing Tools

Philip Home Friends Messages Help

International Society of Developmental Biologists - ISDB @IntSocDevBiol Home

Like Share ...

+ Add a Button

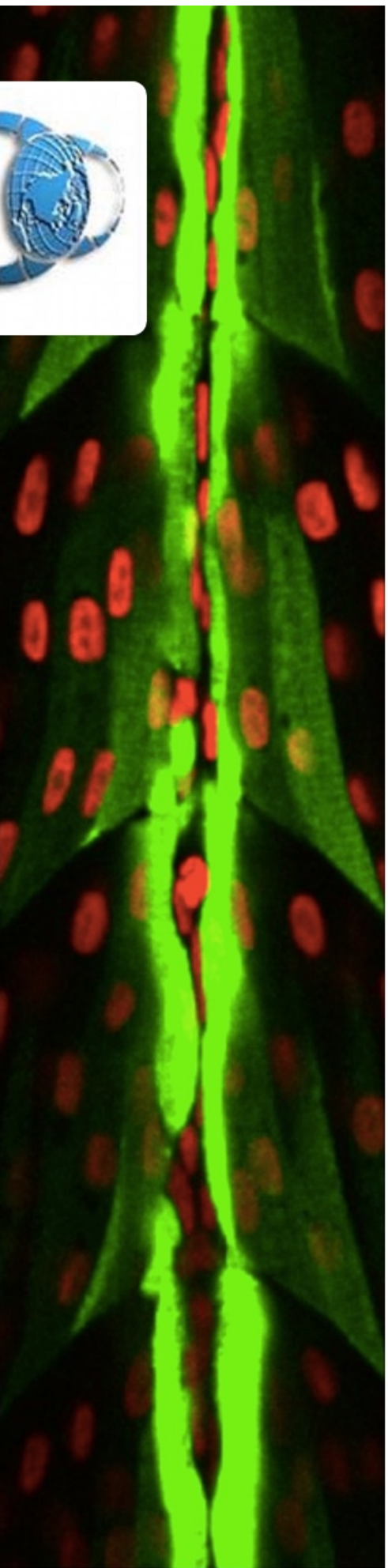
TWITTER @IntSocDevBioI

Home Notifications Messages

Search Twitter



Tweet



TWEETS 173 FOLLOWING 241 FOLLOWERS 314 LIKES 22 MOMENTS 0

Edit profile

ISDB

@IntSocDevBioI

a non-profit scientific association that promotes the study of developmental biology

Netherlands/Singapore/Japan

developmental-biology.org

Joined July 2014

Tweets

Tweets & replies Media

You Retweeted

The Royal Society @royalsociety · May 28
British scientist Alan Turing FRS submitted On Computable Numbers for publication #onthisdlay in 1936 ow.ly/SRKv300rPI6



Who to follow · Refresh · View all

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[Meetings Calendar](#)

[Map](#)

The International Society of Developmental Biologists

The **International Society of Developmental Biologists (ISDB)** is a non-profit scientific association which has as its aim the promotion of the study of developmental biology. To this effect, the ISDB also organises and supports scientific meetings and workshops. Formerly known as the International Institute of Embryology (IIE), the ISDB was renamed in September 1968.

ISDB-MOD Lectures

The ISDB is proud co-sponsor of a new [distinguished lectures program](#) with its official journal, [Mechanisms of Development](#), as part of our continuing commitment to excellence in the field of developmental biology.

News



[The 2017 Ross Harrison Prize](#)



[18th International Congress of Developmental Biology](#)

Meetings



[18th International Congress of Developmental Biology](#)



[IX Latin American Society for Developmental Biology Meeting 2017](#)



[Joint BSDB/Nordic Meeting on Developmental Biology and Regeneration](#)

Change in subscriptions

- Subscription of US\$2 per capita is considered to be too high for some societies
- Propose to introduce a new rate of 10% of subscription fee OR US\$2, whichever is lower

ISDB-MOD Lecture Awards

- The number of applications is still quite low
- National Societies have been reminded of these awards and asked to disseminate information about them amongst their members
- Conditions of award have been revised to ensure that it is properly announced and reported back to ISDB

Election of the Ross Harrison Prize winner

The statutes of the society state that the recipient of the Ross Harrison Prize should be determined by an ad hoc committee that should "comprise at least some past Harrison Medal winners and past Presidents, and may include other members of the international developmental biology community of appropriate scientific stature".

Board of Electors appointed in 2015

Eddy De Robertis

Elliot Meyerowitz

Vijay Raghavan

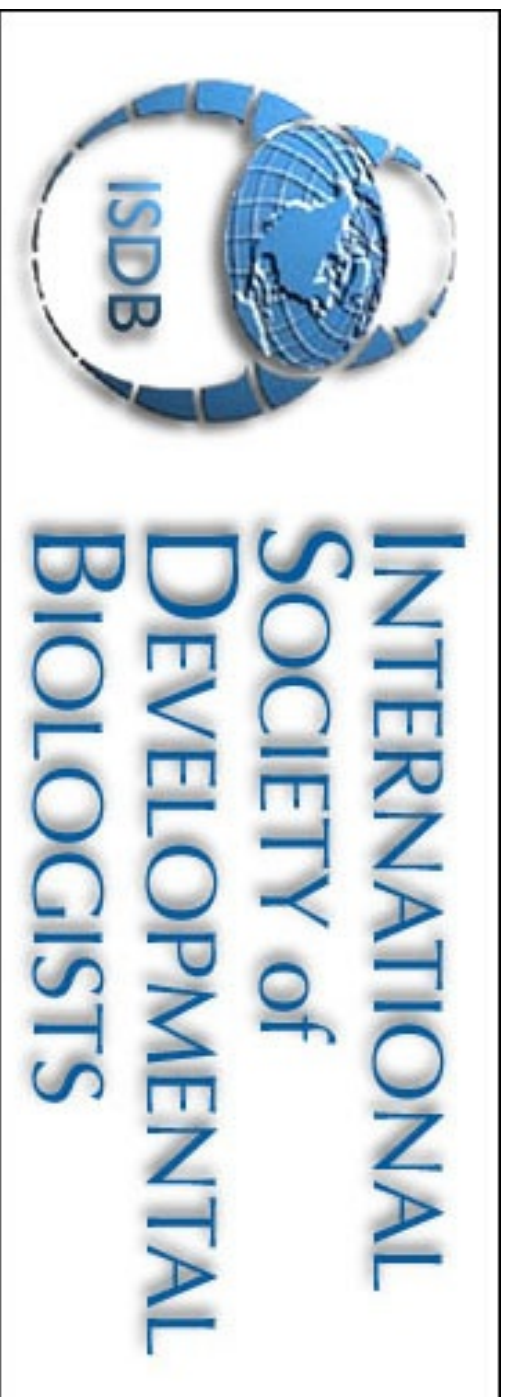
Janet Rossant

Claudio Stern

Naoto Ueno

Redesigning the ISDB Logo

Why?





Appendix 2. ISDB Financial report

A. Current finances:

Current bank balance: € 206.454,07

Previous bank balance at board meeting Cancun, 2013: €142.649,30

B. Main sources of revenue in past 4 years:

Elsevier MOD contribution: US\$ 20.000/year

Revenue and seed funds Cancun meeting: € 46.175,00

Membership fees: € 13.254.25 (2016-current)

Membership payments per national society (2016/2017):

2016

JSDB (Japan)	€ 2.371,53
GSDB (Germany)	€ 810,00
SFDB (France)	€ 532,00
SEDB (Spain)	€ 464,00
DSDB (Netherlands)	€ 102,00
ANZSCDB (Australia, NZ)	€ 605,79
SWEDBO (Sweden)	€ 205,59
InsDB (India)	€ 392,09
Gruppa Embryologica Italiano	€ 212,00
HKSDS (Hong Kong)	€ 118,86
LASDB (Latin America)	€ 314,68
FSDB (Finland)	€ 169.29
PSDB (Portugal)	€ 314,00
SDB (USA)	€ 3.495,84
BSDB (UK)	€ 2.089,94

2017

GSDB (Germany)	€ 860,00
TSDB (Taiwan)	€ 196.64

C. Main expenditures:

ISDB Singapore congress	€ 41.402,00
ISDB MOD lectures/travel awards (2014-current)	€ 19.319,92
Travel expenses ISDB officers	€ 1.138,72
Website hosting (Japan), migration (Hubrecht)	€ 1.494,91