

SIAM Life Sciences Business Meeting
Wednesday, August 8, 2012, 5:30-6:00 p.m.
Westin San Diego, San Diego, CA USA

Officers present:

Chair: Jonathan Rubin
Secretary: Laura Miller
Program Director: Mette Olufsen

Minutes

I. Meeting opened.

II. Membership report: the report was presented by Jonathan Rubin (see attached presentation).

- A. We are the fifth largest activity group.
- B. We are 12 years old, and our membership has recently leveled off.
- C. 44% of our members are students.
- D. In general, our group is dominated by academics and mathematicians.

III. It is time for the election of new officers for 2013-2014.

- A. Chair: M. Gregory Forest and Jeff Moehlis
- B. Vice Chair: Paul Atzberger and Maia Martcheva
- C. Program Director: Renee Fister and Robert Guy
- D. Secretary: Janet Best and Samuel Isaacson

IV. Charter renewal - We are requesting input from members in the following areas:

- A. What are the new developments in mathematical biology?
- B. What are some new activities we might plan for the future?
- C. How do we promote mathematical biology and applied mathematics to the larger community?

V. SIAM Life Sciences Prize – Should we consider giving awards at the SIAM LS Meeting?

- A. Prizes could be given to junior and/or senior mathematical biologists.
- B. The winner could give a lecture at the conference.
- C. A monetary award is also possible.

VI. How can we contribute to public resources in mathematical biology?

- A. The Mathematics of Planet Earth - Can we contribute to this project and how?
- B. From the website (http://www.ima.org.uk/viewItem.cfm?cit_id=383483): 2013 will be a special year of emphasis on the Mathematics of Planet Earth, interpreted as broadly as possible. Earth is a planet with dynamic processes in the mantle, oceans and atmosphere creating climate, causing natural disasters, and influencing fundamental aspects of life and life-supporting systems.
- C. Should we organize minisymposia at the annual meeting?

VII. SIAM Journal on the Life Sciences

- A. Is now the time to launch such a journal? Rubin noted that there is more excitement for such a journal this year than previously.

- B. It was also noted that SIAM has an excellent system in place for online publication with colored figures, multimedia displays, etc.
- C. It was also noted that with such a journal, it might be possible to have a Pub Med listing.

VIII. SIAM Life Sciences Communications and Website

- A. Our goal over the coming year(s) is to make the website more useful for the LS members.
- B. Please email Laura Miller (lam9@unc.edu) with any suggestions for the website.
- C. Note that there are website forms you can fill out to advertise meetings, post your own website, add interesting books or articles, etc.
- D. Miller is also working on an image gallery for math biology as an additional part of the website.
- E. We are particularly interested in adding more educational resources to the website.
- F. Note that our SIAM News liaison will be changing, and there will be new opportunities for wiki's and blogs associated with SIAM.

IX. Location for SIAM LS 2014

- A. The location for 2014 is currently up for discussion. Some possible locations include Charlotte, NC; Ann Arbor, MI; Chicago, IL; Boston, MA; and Salt Lake City, UT.
- B. Holding SIAM LS outside of the United States or Canada will be possible in 2016 or after. It was noted that SIAM needs some time to make such arrangements.
- C. Some concerns that have been raised previously include the cost of the meeting. Perhaps it is possible to link the meetings with campus facilities for affordable rates on dorm rooms.
- D. Ideally the location will also be served by a major airport.
- E. Others have also suggested that the meeting be held with SMB more regularly.

X. The discussion was then opened to the audience, with the following questions posed:

- A. Prizes?
- B. Journal?
- C. LS14?
- D. Possible other activities?
- E. Other Business

Comments from the audience:

- With regards to the SIAM LS Journal, there has previously been some opposition to this since the SIADS Journal (SIAM Journal on Applied Dynamical Systems) has a large life sciences component. The problem with this is that SIADS was denied a PubMed listing so many people will not publish there. To move forward, however, we need people willing to do the work.
 - Pros: It was noted that SIAM has an excellent system for peer-review and online open access publication. The journal could also provide an opportunity for researchers (particularly junior researchers) working in either in the life sciences or at the interface of the life sciences to publish in a respected math journal like SIAM. It was also noted that such a journal would likely serve a different audience than the Bulletin of Mathematical Biology.
 - Cons: It was noted that the journal may not apply to an audience that is different from that of Bulletin of Mathematical Biology and/or Journal of Theoretical Biology. It was also noted that it would be worthwhile to pursue the PubMed listing for SIADS (and SIAP) again. Finally, it was suggested that mathematicians should be encouraged to

publish directly in life science journals rather than mathematical journals to maximize the impact of our work.

- With regards to the meeting location, it was suggested that we might consider the same location from year to year. For example, the SIAM Dynamical Systems meeting is defined by its location at Snowbird. The same location may simplify planning and travel, and the Snowbird meeting is successful with ~700 attendees per year. It was also suggested that the meeting should be in an affordable locations so that undergraduates and faculty from small liberal arts colleges without as much access to grant money could attend the meeting. The audience generally agreed that the Life Sciences meeting would ideally be moved so that it was not so close to the SMB meeting. It may be possible to move the meeting to a fall date.
- Regarding the meeting prizes, it was noted that Dynamical Systems has two prizes and that it would be a good idea for our meeting to also have prizes. This could be a lecture or a minisymposium in honor of the winner. Overall, the audience appeared to be supportive of a SIAM LS prize at the junior and/or senior levels.

XI. Adjourn