

Contents

Message from the Chair	1
Medical Section	4
Conference Preview	6
Call for Volunteers	8
Member News & Publications	9



Message from the Chair

Howard Fuller

As we approach the end of the calendar year, SLA officers again get ready to move over for others to step in and lead the organization, in our case, the Biology and Life Sciences Division (DBIO). For those of you who are new to SLA, please note that officer roles within SLA change on the calendar year, not at the annual conference as happens in many other library and information related associations. Officers include any members who lead committees or who are elected to represent a division, chapter, or caucus. After 20+ years in SLA, I still value most the relationships, connections, and networking opportunities that continue to emerge from participation in the association. SLA offers unparalleled opportunities to reach out to national and international leaders in the profession, and it and DBIO have members representing hundreds of sectors and industries. Almost all members welcome connecting, thought-partnering, and sharing best practices with others. If you need information related to your work, whether it is traditional librarianship, digital asset management, SharePoint administration, enterprise content management, eDiscovery, records management, or information management, you can find that expertise among your SLA colleagues.

Thanks to all the DBIO volunteers of the past few years, as most of the work of moving the division forward is not implemented by the chair. I want to mention just a few people and apologize for not being able to give a special mention to everyone that I've leaned on so heavily the past few years leading up to my year as chair of the division. Certainly I thank Tony Stankus, our incoming division chair and program planner for the Vancouver annual meeting. The Medical Section will be hosting what may be SLA's first martini reception. Thanks to Tony and Tallie Casucci, incoming Medical Section chair, for pushing hard to reinvigorate a reception that used to have a waiting line for members to get into the room. Amy Donahue pulled double-duty last year, holding down several officer positions as we had difficulty recruiting volunteers (more volunteer opportunities exist!). The post-conference newsletter highlighted Claudia Lascar's endless and selfless work on behalf of the division and Rebecca Kuglitsch's multiple roles. Ruth Gustafson stepped up to chair the membership committee, a

position that had been vacant for over a year. Monica Kirkwood and Claudia have, for several years, managed all the content on our website, not a small task as they tried to push the envelope yet remain working within required SLA boundaries. I want to give a special thanks to Janet Weiss, who has been part of the division longer than I, who has been recognized with awards from various groups, and who continues to offer her assistance wherever it is needed to multiple SLA groups. She has been someone I have always been able to reach when times get a little crazy. And I also want to mention Susan Kendall, who for years has been the editor of this newsletter and who never complains (a skill I am still working on).

For anyone following the SLA announcements, you know the association is working through a restructuring process. They've collected information from hundreds of members about its future and purpose and expect to issue a report in late 2013. As chair of DBIO I was asked for my thoughts about the structure and function of the association and wanted to share them with you. In short, it is my opinion that the association has become too fragmented and unfocused. Our membership continues to decline, and the number of divisions and caucuses continues to increase. Conversations about merging divisions often fail due to the long, arduous process required. (We've done this to ourselves, as we create the processes and policies). This leads me to introduce another systems thinking concept, *emergence*. Emergence is the precursor to the formation of networks.

Writer Margaret Wheatley says: "In spite of current ads and slogans, the world doesn't change one person at a time. It changes as networks of relationship form among people who discover they share a common cause and vision of what's possible. This is good news for those of us intent on ... creating a positive future. Rather than worry about critical mass, our work is to foster critical connections. We don't need to convince large numbers of people to change; instead, we need to connect with kindred spirits. Through these relations, we will develop the new knowledge, practices, courage, and commitment that lead to broad-based change." (1)

As those of us changing simultaneously on the local level begin to connect, we will form powerful networks that, through increasing influence, will move the association to its next iteration. It will emerge to better serve and reflect the needs of its membership. Without our relationships or connections, we are not a system, not a network, but a heap of individuals acting in isolation. As SLA and, with it, our division, moves forward, our connections and voice are needed more than ever. If you've only looked at the surface of SLA, I highly recommend you dig deeper to see what is emerging at the local (division, chapter, and caucus) level.

For more information on how systems work and emergence happens, please visit the [Systems Thinking Perspective](#) section of the DBIO website.

1). Wheatley, M. Using emergence to take social innovations to scale. Retrieved October 1, 2013, from <http://www.margaretwheatley.com/articles/emergence.html>

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From the Medical Section

Amy Donahue, Medical Section Chair

After having had the honor of serving as the DBIO Medical Section Chair for two years in a row, it is now my privilege to step down and hand the reins over to Tallie Casucci, Learning Resources Center Manager at Strayer University's Sand Campus in Sandy, Utah. Many thanks to Tallie for her volunteer & leadership spirit!

To wrap up my with my final *Biofeedback* column, I thought I'd take a look at what's coming up in the future that might be of interest to members of the Medical Section. These events demonstrate the international scope of our profession and highlight some of the issues we're currently tackling. If you attend any of them (or anything else not on this list), consider sharing your experience with your colleagues on the DBIO listserv!

October 13-16, 2013

[International Conference on Trends for Scientific Information Professionals](#)

Place: Vienna, Austria

Sponsor/Organizer: Dr. Haxel Congress and Event Management

October 15-16, 2013

[Internet Librarian International 2013](#)

Place: London, UK

Sponsor/Organizer: Information Today

October 15-17, 2013

[International Conference on Open Access, Digital Preservation, and Scientific Data](#)

Place: San Pedro, Costa Rica

Sponsors/Organizers: National Council of Rectors of Costa Rica (CONARE), University of Costa Rica (UCR), and National Laboratory of Nanotechnology (Lanotec), National Center for High Technology (CeNAT)

November 1, 2013

[Workshop on Informetric and Scientometric Research \(METRICS 2013\)](#)

Place: Montreal, QC, Canada

Sponsor/Organizer: Special Interest Group for Metrics (SIG/MET), American Society for Information Science & Technology (ASIS&T)

May 16-21, 2014

[Medical Library Association Annual Meeting](#)

Place: Chicago, IL

Sponsor/Organizer: MLA

June 8-10, 2014

[Special Libraries Association Annual Meeting](#)

Place: Vancouver, BC, Canada

Sponsor/Organizer: SLA

Thank you all for an excellent two years. Again, it has been an honor to serve as the Medical Section Chair. I look forward to seeing and chatting with you, whether at a future SLA meeting or online (find me as [@ultimatelibrarn](#)). Have a wonderful fall!

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Vancouver Conference Preview

Tony Stankus, Program Committee Chair

Here is how our programs for SLA Vancouver are shaping up. Apart from the meetings of officers and committee heads, all Divisions are being allowed only four events this year. Times are subject to change according to SLA HQ needs.

Saturday, June 7, 2014, 6 p.m.: **DBIO Officers and Committee Heads Dinner Meeting**

Sunday, June 8, 2014, 11:45 a.m.-1 p.m.: **DBIO Vendors Roundtable Luncheon:** Four leading vendors will provide 15 minute presentations on new products and services with brief question and answer follow up, while our members enjoy a complimentary box luncheon.

Sunday, June 8, 2014, 1:30-3 p.m.: **The Science and Politics of Sustainable Seafood:** Fish and shellfish provide a vital source of protein and essential fatty acids for the human diet around the world. They are wild caught or aquacultured at the rate of 150 million tons annually by industrial fleets and farm operations. These harvests are nominally regulated by national governments, which have often drastically diverging interests from those of other nations with whom they must share the seas, or coastal estuaries environments. Many species are endangered, some aquaculture practices have been found hazardous to the environment, and the livelihood of small-scale, subsistence fishermen everywhere is imperiled. Corrective multinational seafood conservation treaties require massive data compilation and the development of an international scientific and political consensus on best practices. But informed consumers, making wise choices in the market, may well be the most influential factor in making seafood a sustainable resource. Information professionals have an important role to play at every step of the process. We will feature two speakers: one from the Vancouver Aquarium, which is Canada's headquarters for sustainable seafood efforts, and a second on how some very small pelagic fish, such as anchovies, sardines, herring, mackerel and menhaden, play an enormous role in fisheries and, yes, even land-based agriculture.

Monday, June 9, 2014, 8-9:30 a.m.: **DBIO Annual Breakfast and Business Meeting:** All major officers of the division present their reports to the membership in which the previous year's progress is reviewed, the current year's agenda is confirmed, and the outlook for the coming year is projected. Suggestions for next year's convention programs are taken from the floor. Annual awards are presented. Calls for candidates for next year's officers and committee members are issued.

Tuesday, June 10, 2014, 5-6 p.m.: **Learning and Libations: Annual Medical Section Networking and Cocktail Hour:** The Medical Section will host DBIO members and guests at a martini, wine and soft drink reception (with two complimentary beverage tickets provided) where we will once again network while honoring fellow section members who have recently published two new books, book chapters, and articles relating to biomedical librarianship, patient safety, and knowledge management.

Tuesday, June 10, 2014, 6:30-8 p.m.: **The All-Sciences Poster Session:** The most attended single event at SLA, with literally hundreds of science librarians! DBIO joins with several other of SLA's sci-tech-oriented divisions in an evening poster session featuring complimentary heavy hors d'oeuvres and beverages. See what your colleagues at libraries across the country and the world are up to, often far in advance of the appearance of any published articles or reports.

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Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Press announces the launch of a new monthly online publication, *Cold Spring Harbor Perspectives in Medicine*. Covering everything from the molecular and cellular bases of disease to translational medicine and new therapeutic strategies, each issue offers reviews on different aspects of a variety of diseases and the tissues they affect. The contributions are written by experts in each field and commissioned as Subject Collections by a board of eminent scientists and physicians. These Subject Collections gradually accumulate articles as new issues of the journal are published and, when complete, each Subject Collection represents a comprehensive survey of the field it covers. *Cold Spring Harbor Perspectives in Medicine* is thus unmatched for its depth of coverage and represents an essential source for informed surveys and critical discussion of advances in molecular medicine.

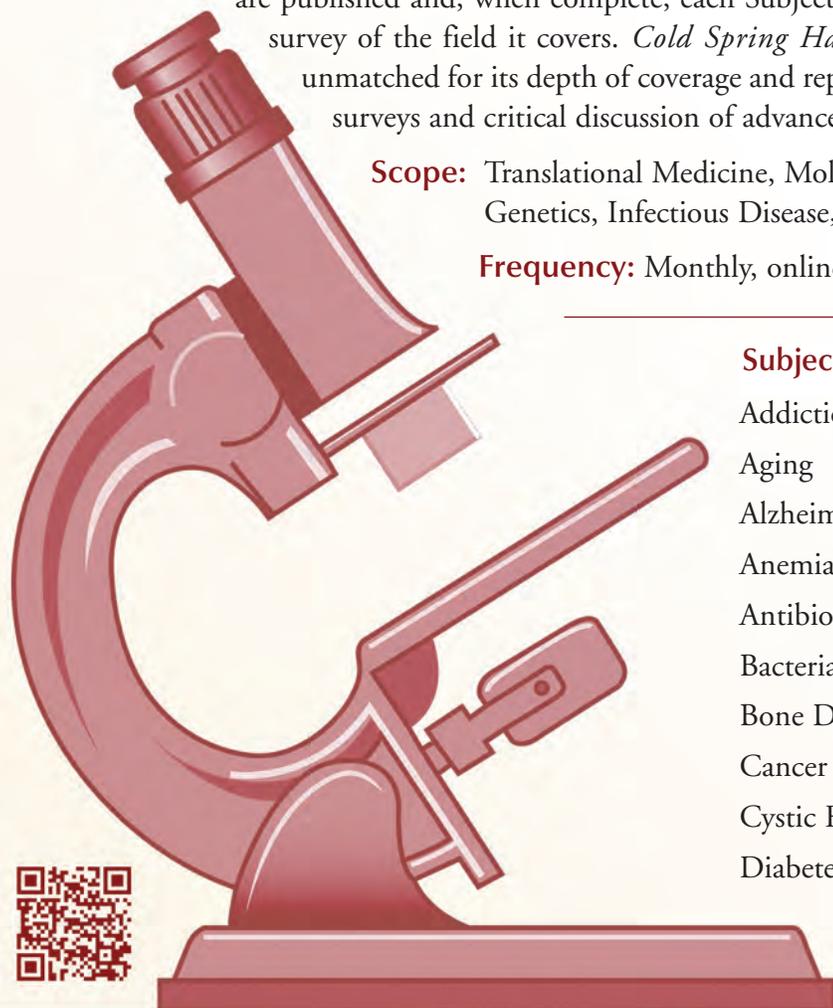
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Call for Volunteers

Interested in volunteering and being an SLA officer? If so contact [Howard Fuller, DBIO chair](#). **All positions require DBIO membership.** DBIO has open committee positions in the following areas:

- Diversity Chair
- Fund Development Committee (requires you to be able to solicit funds)
- MLA Liaison (must be an MLA member)
- Membership Committee (especially interested in members in Canada, U.S. east coast and southern regions, and other non-US members)
- Publications chair and committee and members
- Vendor Relations members

For those interested in an elected position, chair-elect or secretary, please contact [Chris Hooper-Lane](#).

Member News and Publications

Lori Bronars, DBIO Member

Amy Donahue, User Education/Reference Librarian at the Medical College of Wisconsin and Medical Section Chair for DBIO, reports on her active professional life with recent publications, a poster, and speaking engagements:

- Donahue, A. and R.M. Featherstone. (in press) New roles for hospital librarians: a benchmarking survey of disaster management activities. *JMLA* 101(4):315
- Donahue, A. 2013. Internet resources: medical education. *MLA News* 53(8):online
- Donahue, A. 2013. Tackling a large scale h-index project: calculating h-indices using a team approach. Poster presented at the Midwest Chapter of the Medical Library Association Annual Meeting, Peoria, IL.
- Donahue, A. 2013. Technology in disaster planning/emergency management. Invited speaker at the Midwest Chapter of the Medical Library Association Annual Meeting, Peoria, IL.
- Donahue, A. 2013. New librarian roles and services. Lightning Round speaker “Health Information Practice Summit” at the Midwest Chapter of the Medical Library Association Annual Meeting, Peoria, Illinois.

Lori Bronars, Science Research Support Librarian–Life Sciences at Yale University, has co-curated another digital exhibit at her library, “Emotional Intelligence: Yale’s Leadership.” It is on display on the media wall at The Center for Science and Social Science Information, Yale University, October 2013–February 2014.

Tony Stankus, Life Sciences Librarian and Science Coordinator, University of Arkansas Libraries, and DBIO Division Chair-Elect and Program Committee Chair reports the following recent publications:

- Stankus, T. 2013. Profiles in science for science librarians: Anthony S. Fauci, M.D. *Science & Technology Libraries* 32(3): 211-233. DOI:10.1080/0194262X.2013.822255
- Stankus, T. 2013. Reviews of science for science librarians: eating small pelagic fish vs. using them to produce fishmeal and fish oil for aquaculture and livestock feed: a controversy of interest to librarians serving the marine and food sciences. *Science & Technology Libraries* 32(1):45–67. DOI: 10.1080/0194262X.2013.763648

Ron Rader, president of his own company, the Biotechnology Information Institute, reports the following new publications:

- Rader, R.A. June 2013. An analysis of the U.S. biosimilars development pipeline and likely market evolution. *BioProcess International*, Biosimilars supplement, p. 16-23.
- Rader, R.A. June 2013. Continuous manufacturing:technology landscape and trends. In *Continuous Bioprocessing: Current Practice and Future Potential*, Refine Technology, p. 3-8.
- Rader, R.A. June 2013. The biosimilars pipeline and U.S. market evolution: a 2013 assessment. In *Biopharmaceutical R&D Statistical Sourcebook 2013/2014*, Parexel. p. 113-116.
- Rader, R.A. March 2013. FDA Biopharmaceutical Approvals and Trends in 2012: Up From 2011, But Innovation and Impact are Limited. *BioProcess International* 11(3): 18-26.



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For a complete list of current board and committee members, see the Division Website at: <http://dbiosla.org/inside/officers/officers.html>

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