

January 1, 2023

Dear Members & Friends of SCGDB,

It is an honor to write this letter as the new President of the Society of Craniofacial Genetics and Developmental Biology (SCGDB). I would like to acknowledge Dr. David Clouthier for his outstanding contributions to the SCGDB over the last 4 years, first as Vice President and then as President. David, who many of you know is Professor and Chair of the Department of Craniofacial Biology at the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus, is a leading expert on molecular control of neural crest cell patterning during craniofacial development. David is a passionate supporter of the Society and has worked tirelessly to advance the aims and mission of the SCGDB, which are to integrate basic research, education, and communication of new ideas with the ultimate goal of improving the clinical care of patients with craniofacial differences.

David, together with the SCGDB's former Treasurer Dr. Jean-Pierre Saint-Jeannet (New York University College of Dentistry), former Secretary Dr. Samantha Brugmann (Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center), and Past-President Sally Moody (George Washington University School of Medicine), had the difficult job of guiding the SCGDB through challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic. In 2020 and 2021, they persevered with the 43rd and 44th annual meetings using a virtual platform for the first time and, in the process, expanded the reach of the SCGDB. These virtual meetings were the highest-attended annual meetings on record and the number of the SCGDB members more than doubled. I'm delighted that David will remain formally involved in our Society over the next two years in the capacity of Past-President. David's expertise and leadership is invaluable, and he will continue to help the Society grow and achieve its goals. On behalf of the SCGDB members, I sincerely thank David for his dedication.

Here is a summary of the SCGDB's activities in 2022 and a glimpse of what's to come in 2023:

2022 Annual Meeting

The 45th Annual SCGDB Meeting was held at the Sanford-Burnham Medical Research Institute in La Jolla California September 20th-21st. This was our first in-person meeting since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, and a welcome reunion of the Society's members. The meeting began with a workshop on emerging techniques to isolate and analyze single cell RNA-seq datasets taught by Dr. Nils Lindström (USC). Next, Dr. David Higgins (Children's Hospital of Pennsylvania) presented a workshop on how to access and search the Gabriella Miller Kids First Data Resource portal to identify genetic variants associated with pediatric disease. Dr. David Clouthier then presented Dr. Ralph Marcucio (UCSF) with the David Bixler Distinguished Scientist in Craniofacial Research Award and Dr. Loydie Jerome-Majewska (McGill University) with the Marylou Buyse Distinguished Scientist in Craniofacial Research Award. Both awardees gave exciting presentations of their research contributions to craniofacial biology. These awards were sponsored by Developmental Dynamics (Wiley). The scientific sessions that followed were focused on Signaling in Craniofacial Development (plenary talk by Dr. Tom Schilling), Genomics of Craniofacial Development (plenary talk by Dr. Yang Chai), Human Genetics of Craniofacial Development (plenary talk by Dr. Elizabeth Leslie), and Translational and Regenerative Approaches in Craniofacial Biology (plenary talk by Dr. Sarah Knox). The first day of the meeting ended with a two-hour poster session. Poster Awards, sponsored by the American Association for Anatomy (AAA, of whom we are an affiliate), were presented to Drs. Yoon-Gu Jang (1st), Priyanka Kumari (2nd), and Arul Subramanian (3rd) in the postdoctoral fellow category, and Evan Brooks (1st), Brandon Chacon (2nd) and Audrey Nickle (3rd) in the graduate student category. Winners of the platform presentation awards sponsored by the American Association for Dental,

Oral, and Craniofacial Research (AADOCR), which recognize impactful studies in craniofacial research, were Dr. Katie Fantauzzo (junior faculty category), Dr. Chan Hee Mok (postdoctoral fellow category), and Ms. Mathi Thiruppathy (graduate student category). We thank our local meeting host Dr. Marilyn Jones, as well as all the attendees for making this an interactive and successful meeting. The complete proceedings will be submitted for publication in the American Journal of Medical Genetics A soon after the new year (Stottmann et al., 2023).

A New Treasurer in 2022

At the annual 2022 meeting in La Jolla, Dr. Juhee Jeong (New York University College of Dentistry) was elected as the SCGDB's new Treasurer for a two-year term. Juhee brings her expertise in genetic regulation of early-stage development of the cranial vault using mouse genetics and genomics to the Society. We owe her an enormous debt of gratitude for taking on the fiduciary responsibilities of the SCGDB. I would also like to express my deepest gratitude to outgoing Treasurer Dr. Jean-Pierre Saint-Jeannet for his tremendous commitment to the SCGDB from 2018-2022. His sustained efforts over the last four years have strengthened the financial stability and sustainability of the Society.

A New Vice President in 2022

At the annual 2022 meeting in La Jolla, we also elected Dr. Matthew Harris (Harvard University) as the new Vice President. He will serve in this role for a two-year term, after which time he will become the SCGDB President for a two-year term. Matthew brings a world-renowned reputation for excellence in genetic regulation craniofacial development and evolutionary adaption to the Society. I look forward to working with Matthew over the coming years.

Joint Session with the American Association for Anatomy at Experimental Biology

The 2022 American Association for Anatomy (AAA) annual meeting at Experimental Biology was held on April 2nd- 5th in Philadelphia Pennsylvania. At the meeting, David chaired the SCGDB Craniofacial Platform Session titled *Non-traditional Models to Study Craniofacial Development*. Speakers in the session were Drs. Michael Shapiro (University of Utah), Khanh To (Virginia Tech), and Laura Haynes (University of Florida). AAA has now parted ways with Experimental Biology. This provides AAA a unique opportunity to build a stand-alone meeting – called *Anatomy Connected* – around the exciting interests and goals of their members. The 2023 *Anatomy Connected* meeting will be held from March 25th-27th in Washington DC. SCGDB will again be hosting a platform session titled *Understanding Genetic Regulation of Craniofacial Development in 2023*. Speakers will include Drs. Laura Kerosuo (NIH), Karen Sears (UCLA) and Craig Albertson (University of Massachusetts Amherst).

2023 Annual Meeting

The 46th annual meeting will be held at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center from October 10th-12th in Cincinnati. We have enlisted the help of our former Secretary Dr. Samantha Brugmann, who is serving as our local organizer. Samantha and the Executive Committee are already busy organizing a program that includes an evening session at the Cincinnati Art Museum, a poster session, and presentations from world-renowned researchers who will highlight new developments in craniofacial genetics, development, disease, and repair. As is our tradition, the majority of talks will be selected from the abstracts, with a balance among junior and senior members of the Society to provide opportunities for our colleagues at all career stages to present their research. We will again have career development workshops, trainee poster awards (sponsored by AAA), and speaker awards (supported by AADOCR). We will also present the David Bixler Distinguished Senior Career Scientist Award and the Marylou Buyse Distinguished Mid-Career Scientist Award, which are made possible by a generous contribution from Developmental Dynamics. Details on the nomination process for the Bixler and Buyse awards will

be emailed shortly, and nomination packets will be due in April 2023. Please consider nominating a colleague. At the 2023 meeting we will elect a new Secretary to replace Dr. Rolf Stottmann (Nationwide Children's Hospital). As Secretary, Rolf has kept the Executive Committee organized, maintained the Society's website, and played a key role in organizing the annual meetings. Please consider nominating yourself or others you think would benefit the Society. Details about meeting registration and abstract submission will be available on the meetings page of our website (<https://www.scgdb.org/annual-meeting>). More details to follow!

The Future

The SCGDB is only as strong as its members. I encourage you to take an active part in your Society in order to advance its priorities in research, teaching, communication, and ultimately patient care. Our Society is an enthusiastic supporter of junior scientists within the craniofacial community and provides opportunities for formal presentation, the establishment of professional networks, and interactions with leading craniofacial scientists in a friendly informal atmosphere. Please encourage your colleagues and trainees to join the Society and take advantage of what it has to offer. We welcome students, post docs, and professionals from the US and abroad to become members and participate in the Society. I look forward to working with you and continuing to integrate our exceptional researchers with those who treat craniofacial patients in the clinic. Watch our website and follow us on Twitter (@SCGDB1) to continue to learn more about SCGDB and share in its members' progress and achievements. As we start the new year, I encourage all of you to engage in our Society by renewing your membership with AAA (with SCGDB as your affiliate of choice), attending the annual meeting, presenting your work, and spreading the word about our Society to your colleagues.

With very best wishes,



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