Society of Systematic Biologists Program Director's Report

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Symposia

We have two symposia (other than the Mayr/Best Student Paper Symposium) slated for the 2022 Evolution meeting: one (Hans, Hernandez, and Nash) rescheduled from the 2020 meetings and one a late substitutions following a cancellation of a Phylocode symposium. The two are:

1. *"How do we make decisions about data and analyses in systematic biology? It depends!"* Organized by: Natya Hans, Alexandra Hernandez, and Chloe Nash
2. *"Towards the network of life: Phylogenetic networks as a tool to understand complex evolutionary histories"* Organized by: Sungsik (Kevin) Kong and Md Rejuan Haque.

I'll be sending out a request for proposal for the symposia for the 2023 Evolution meetings shortly after the 2022 meeting.

***Ad hoc* funding requests**

Graduate student (Mr. Sungsik Kong) traveled from Ohio State U. to Louisiana State U. to work with Dr. Jeremy Brown using SSB *ad hoc* funds. The trip supported the writing of open-source javascript web applications for demonstrating/teaching concepts related to phylogenetic networks and hybridization graphs.

There is one pending request for support of an undergraduate student's travel to a natural history museum. I am requesting further details about that request.

Standalone meeting

An SSB standalone meeting is being planned for January, 2022 on the UNAM campus in Mexico City. A week-long workshop in Chamela Field Station (Jalisco, Mexico) after the standalone meeting is also being planned. I expect the lead organizer, Dr. Susana Magallón to make a request to SSB council for some funds to help with this meeting, but I do not know the amount of the request yet. The organizers are working on a website for the meeting.

SSB workshops at 2022 Evolution

1. *"PhylogatR: phylogeographic data aggregation and repurposing"* Organized by Tara Pelletier and Bryan Carstens.
2. *"Paleobotany and divergence time estimates using RevBayes"* Organized by Rocio Deanna and Stacey Smith.