

Another Day Another Fray: SDB Poster Session Disrupted by “Model” vs “Non-Model” Feuding

(Vancouver, Canada). Hostilities boiled over for the second time in as many days at the 2022 meeting for the Society for Developmental Biology. Although details remain sketchy, the latest melee appears to have involved factions studying “model” (established value) versus “non-model” (questionable utility) experimental systems. An historically unprecedented and seemingly unstable coalition was reportedly formed between worm and fly researchers, ultimately pulling in members of the mouse, chick, and zebrafish communities. The opposition consisted of a smaller but feisty band of free spirits studying organisms that include

hemichordates, hydras, helminths, barnacles, beetles, bats, and gefilte-type fish. While no major injuries were reported, several unwitting *Arabidopsis* researchers were taken to the hospital as a precaution. Sources close to the SDB report that the society is considering supplementing the already enhanced security detail with Associate Deans, whose monotonous empty extemporizing is known to weaken the resolve of academics, putting them into a catatonic-like state. While authorities are still investigating the cause of the latest clash, some have speculated that it may be linked to (funding) climate change and increased competition for limited (funding) resources. Researchers studying amphibians were notably absent during the melee but were subsequently observed cackling during the late-afternoon session. When questioned, a spokesperson for the *Xenopus* community stated that the field was “maintaining neutrality” but sending their “thoughts and prayers” before abruptly turning away to cough/laugh into a napkin. *Xenopus laevis*, it should be noted, is allotetraploid.



SDB 2022 just moments before the violence erupted