

PBT Leadership 2019

David O’Brochta – President
Kun Yan Zhu – Vice President
Ronda Hamm – Vice President Elect
Blair Siegfried – Past President

- **A PRIORITY of the 2019 PBT LEADERSHIP TEAM** is to continue to find ways to enhance the value of the Section to its members and to the Society as a whole. The Governing Council will be seeking your input through a very short survey. The survey will seek input from members that will inform the Governing Council’s and Section activities. It will also seek your input on the name of the section and whether you think it adequately reflects the Section’s members. Look out for this survey this spring and take a few minutes to provide your input.
- **DID YOU KNOW** that PBT is the smallest Section in the ESA and that there are more ESA members who are unaffiliated with any Section than there are PBT members?!
One of objective of the Section’s Governing Council is to explore ways to attract some of the currently unaffiliated members of the Society to PBT. How many of your colleagues are unaffiliated members of the ESA and would any benefit from being a member of PBT? Your encouragement would be helpful.
- **SECTION AND MEMBER SYMPOSIA** are the mainstay of the Section’s scientific offerings at the ANNUAL MEETING and are the fruits of the efforts of Section Members. They are critical to making the ANNUAL MEETING a valuable experience for PBT members. The Section’s Leadership strongly encourages members to organize symposia and share their science.

Those submitting symposia to the PBT Section should seek to maximize inclusion of the following criteria:

- At least one organizer is a member of the PBT section
- Anticipated magnitude and breath of impact
- Relationship to the annual meeting’s theme
- Relevance of scientific and technical content to PBT members.
- Timeliness of the topic relative to major research trends
- Confirmed list of speakers (not required for submission but will be weighted higher than concept-only submissions without any speaker confirmation.).
- Involvement of Early Career Professionals as organizers and or presenters.
- Evidence of ethnic, gender and cultural diversity among organizers and or presenters.
- Inter- Sectional relevance and fostering cross-sectional interactions.

The deadline for submissions is March 1. [Submit your proposal online.](#)

- **WORKSHOPS** are a relatively new way the Society has envisioned to enable members to increase the value of the ANNUAL MEETING.

MEMBERS are strongly encouraged to use WORKSHOPS at the ANNUAL MEETING to create scientific and career-advancing offering that might not be possible in the more conventional ‘symposium format’.

The deadline for workshop submissions is March 1. [Submit your workshop proposal online.](#)

- **ESA SCIENCE POLICY COMMITTEE AND VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY:** The ESA plays an important role in shaping and influencing local, national and international policy decisions in a number of sectors including Agriculture and Public Health because of its rich concentration of professionals and experts. This work is important.

The ESA Science Policy Committee is currently seeking members to be part of an effort to draft a policy/position statement on GENE DRIVE TECHNOLOGIES. If you have an interest in being considered, you should [contact the Science Policy Committee immediately.](#)

Members of the PBT section **have not been** particularly active participants on this Committee despite their potential to contribute significantly to their efforts. Continue looking for opportunities to engage with this Committee and extent PBT’s influence in the Society and beyond.

- **SPEED-NETWORKING AT THE ANNUAL MEETING – Fostering Early Career Development**

What is SPEED-NETWORKING?

SPEED-NETWORKING is a professional development activity organized by the Section’s Governing Council in response to input from the Section’s EARLY CAREER PROFESSIONALS and was first offered at the 2018 Annual Meeting in Vancouver as a way to foster new professional relationships.

The goal of the event was to provide a networking opportunity for PBT EARLY CAREER PROFESSIONALS and LATE-STAGE DOCTORAL STUDENTS to meet and interact with MID- AND LATE-CAREER PBT MEMBERS from across academia, government, and industry with the intention of broadening the professional networks of all involved.

Individual EARLY CAREER PROFESSIONALS and LATE-STAGE DOCTORAL STUDENTS sat briefly (5 minutes) with multiple MID- AND LATE-CAREER PBT MEMBERS during the course of this 45-minute event where they exchanged brief introductions and business cards followed by brief inquiries and exchanges of scientific interests, career plans and whatever else came up.

This was a low-pressure and enjoyable opportunity to sow seeds of future professional interactions.



PBT Speed Networking: Vancouver 2018

Feedback from participants, young and old, indicated that the event was successful. New professional relationships were started, and many found common interests that will foster continued interactions. Aside from the professional benefits, it was just an enjoyable way to meet and get acquainted with like-minded scientists who you have never met before!



PBT Speed Networking: Vancouver 2018

SPEED-NETWORKING will be held again at the 2019 ANNUAL MEETING IN ST. LOUIS. As plans are finalized, we will provide updates on the event and hope to see you there!

If you have comments, questions or would like to offer additional feedback about the event, or suggestions for improving it in the future, feel free to email [Scott O'Neal](mailto:Scott.O'Neal) or any member of the Governing Council.

- **SECTION SYMPOSIUM IN VANCOUVER:** The 2018 PBT Governing Council organized a highly successful Section Symposium in Vancouver on GENE DRIVE. It was a packed room with stellar presenters. This was part of a continuing effort by the Section's Leadership to enrich members' experiences at the Annual Meeting and have the Section lead the Society in becoming aware of the latest science in PBT-related disciplines.

The PBT Section exists for the benefit of its members and the Society as a whole. Any feedback and ideas you may have regarding the Section will be most welcome and you should feel free to send them to David O'Brochta, 2019 PBT Section President, at either dobrochta@fnih.org or dobrocht@umd.edu.



Gene Drive Section Symposium 2018 organized by PBT's Governing Council