



**Biographical Sketch.** I completed his BSc in Biological Sciences from the University of Lethbridge. I continued to work as a research technician, with mentors Drs. Kolb, Sutherland and Wishaw where I performed behavioural, cellular, and molecular analyses of cortical function/dysfunction. It is here that I first became



interested in brain zinc, when he applied the Timm stain in order to label and quantify the mossy fiber projections arising from colchicine-lesioned dentate gyrus granule neurons. I left this position to begin graduate training in Neuroscience at the University of British Columbia. I completed my MSc with Dr. John O'Kusky, where I assessed the behavioural and anatomical effects of methyl mercury toxicity in the developing brain. With scholarships from UBC and the Natural Sciences and Engineering Council of Canada (NSERC), I moved to Dr. Max Cynader's lab, where I completed my PhD research, investigating the activity- and experience-dependent, and coincident expression, of serotonin receptors, and the zingergic innervation of the developing visual cortex of cats and primates. I completed my first postdoctoral position with Dr. Dennis O'Leary, at the Salk Institute for Biological Studies, and returned to Lethbridge for the second, studying mechanisms of plasticity in the developing cerebral cortex, supported by fellowships from NSERC, the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR), and the Canadian Networks for Centers of Excellence (NCE). In 1998 I moved to the University of Calgary to begin my academic/research career in the Departments of Psychology and in Cell Biology & Anatomy. Together with a phenomenal cohort of undergraduate, graduate and postdoctoral trainees, we have developed, and collaborated in, a research program directed toward understanding the development and plasticity of the cerebral cortex, with a particular focus on the role played by vesicular zinc. My program of research has been continuously funded by grants from NSERC, as well as CIHR, NCE, Canadian Stroke Network, Canadian Neurotrauma Research Program, Robertson Foundation for Cerebral Palsy Research, Strafford Foundation for Alzheimer Research, and locally from the Hotchkiss Brain Institute and the Alberta Children's Hospital Research Institute. The vast majority of these grants have focused on understanding the role of vesicular zinc in brain function and dysfunction.

**ISZB Statement.** I have been intensely interested in the role of zinc as a neurotransmitter/neuromodulator, from when I was an undergraduate student, and it continues to motivate me to go to work every day, and to generate the same level of interest in all the trainees that come through my lab. Since starting my own lab, my trainees and I have participated in all zinc-specific meetings, starting with Zinc Signals in 2002, 2004, 2006, then the Society for Zinc in Biology meeting in 2008, which I co-hosted with Katalyn Toth. This is where a board of members was created to lay the groundwork for our current Society. Since its' inception, I have participated in all but one meeting. I consider the ISZB to be my most important scientific affiliation.

I was honoured to learn that Society members had nominated me for the position of president-elect of the ISZB. I will be very happy to serve the Society in this position. The purpose of the Society is to develop and disseminate knowledge of zinc in biology - I will do my best to contribute to his essential purpose. It is my great hope that we will be able to meet in Aachen, and I hope to be able to assist in the organization of the next meeting.