

Preface

In the summer of 2010, Leon Goldstein left the Mt. Desert Island Biological Laboratory, where he had spent the past 52 summers working on various aspects of nitrogen excretion by marine fishes. That spring, I had been asked to give an historical overview of the research on osmoregulation that had been undertaken at the MDIBL since the late 1920s, at the annual meeting of the American Physiological Society. So the who, what, and when of my predecessors and colleagues at the MDIBL were on my mind. Leon's departure precipitated this book, because he had recruited me to the Laboratory in 1978, and because he was the last to leave of what one might call the Third Generation of the MDIBL. I realized that summer that connections to the past of the Laboratory were fading fast and should, therefore, be documented for previous, current, and future scientists and friends of the MDIBL.

I hope that this book serves that purpose. I have tried to give a balanced account, introducing all of those scientists who spent more than one or two summers at the MDIBL. I have, however, introduced a few colleagues who were here more briefly, because they went on to make substantial contributions to Science. In this way, I hoped to demonstrate that a laboratory like the MDIBL might play a role in the career of even those who did not return summer after summer. Depending on the available sources, I have incorporated personal reminiscences of scientists or family members to give a sense of the place. In most cases, these memories have been quoted from chapters in either an unpublished history of the Harpswell Laboratory by Mary Frances Williams (1985) or the Centennial book that was edited by Frank Epstein (1998)—each is a truly superb resource. And I have often quoted directly to retain the personality of the original author. An equally important resource has been the annual Director's Reports that are still available in the MDIBL Archives. Annual Reports and Director's Reports have become a Development tool in recent years, but for most of the twentieth century they carefully outlined the yearly history of the Laboratory, giving insights into the decisions and personalities of the administration. Again, I have quoted directly in many cases, because the past Directors were often very thoughtful, and droll, in their recounting of the past year. A third resource, Google, has to be mentioned, because that Internet search engine provides instant, and interlaced, access to documents that

took years to accumulate until the recent past. From scientific papers (yes, Medline was also used) to obituaries to Wikipedia articles, Google allowed me to view documents that are relevant to most of the MDIBL researchers that I wrote about.

The book is long because I wanted to provide a comprehensive accounting of the history of the MDIBL, which encompasses over a century. But I hope that my coverage is reasonable and biased more by available information than my own research and personal interests. My target reader is someone who might want to be reminded of their scientific and personal life at the MDIBL, or someone who might be interested in the history of one of the oldest marine laboratories in the USA, and the role that that marine laboratory played in biomedical science of the twentieth century.

To provide an historical template of the Laboratory's long list of research scientists, I have provided a Genealogy of the MDIBL, which should demonstrate that the summer investigators were often recruited by colleagues who were already working at the Laboratory. There are, in fact, scientific lineages that stretch back nearly the entire history of the institution; my lineage is a good example: Smith–Shannon–Forster–Goldstein–Evans—going from 1924 to the present. The Genealogy can be downloaded from <http://extras.springer.com/2015/978-1-4939-2959-7>.

Gainesville, FL

David H. Evans

References

- Epstein FH (ed) (1998) A laboratory by the sea. The Mount Desert Island biological laboratory 1898–1998. The River Press, Rhinebeck
- Williams MF (1985) The Harpswell laboratory, 1898–1920 (Unpublished)

<http://www.springer.com/978-1-4939-2959-7>

Marine Physiology Down East: The Story of the Mt.
Desert Island Biological Laboratory

Evans, D.

2015, XIX, 1094 p. 235 illus., 117 illus. in color.,

Hardcover

ISBN: 978-1-4939-2959-7