



Division of Vertebrate Morphology

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DVM Officers & Representatives

John Hutchinson
Chair 2017-2019

L. Patricia Hernandez
Chair-Elect 2017-2019

Callum Ross
Past-Chair 2017-2019

Andrew Clark
Secretary 2016-2018

Laura Ekstrom (Macesic)
Secretary-Elect 2017-2018

Brooke Flammang
Program Officer 2017-2019

Christopher Mayerl
*Student/Postdoc Representative
2017-2020*

Message from the Chair

John Hutchinson, Chair.DVM@sicb.org

It is a pleasure and an honor to become your Chair, and we have Patricia Hernandez backing me up as Chair-Elect now. Big thanks to Callum Ross for helping to make the transition a smooth one. Briefly, a few things from the Business Meeting:

(1) Please visit and use our private DVM Facebook page if you are into social media; it is at: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/273882346051007/>. People have been posting some interesting and useful things there already.

Daniel Blackburn and Frank Fish, for example, have noted that it is getting increasingly hard to get lampreys, cats and sharks for dissections in comparative anatomy teaching—if any DVM members have useful contacts or ideas for solving this problem, please share them.

If you have an image you'd like to submit as the Super-Prestigious Cover Image of the Month, please send it to me with a very short explanatory blurb and credit.

(2) Remember that DVM also has its own webpages hosted on the SICB site at <http://www.sicb.org/divisions/dvm.php3> - if you have any ideas for what should go there, contact us.

(3) I mentioned in the Business Meeting that an idea I'd been playing with is whether DVM should grow to be more inclusive, encompassing organismal/evolutionary morphology as a whole, not just vertebrates. As I said, there are good arguments for and against that, and we did not debate the issue at this meeting, but I aim for it to be discussed in San Francisco at SICB 2018. Please think about it and discuss it in the meantime.



(4) I plan that we will run a Regional DVM meeting in the UK sometime between SICB 2018 and ICVM 2019 (probably summer 2018), to broaden DVM's international presence and spread the morphological gospel. We had a similar meeting ("Modern Functional Anatomy") in 2008 in London and it was a smash success. Stay tuned! There are also funds for other regional meetings, so if you wish to organize one let us know.

John Hutchinson, DVM Chair



Message from the Program Officer

Brooke Flammang, dpo.dvm@sicb.org

I am honored to be serving as the DVM Program Officer and would like to give a big thanks to Manny Azizi for all his excellent hard work before me! DVM had fantastic representation in New Orleans and we are looking forward to continuing this trend in the future; this year we sponsored (or co-sponsored) 461 oral or poster presentations, as well co-sponsoring 2 symposia. We will be co-sponsoring 4 symposia in San Francisco:

1. **Spatial Scale and Structural Heterogeneity in Skeletal Muscle Performance**; Organizers: David Williams & Natalie Holt
2. **Story and Art in Science Communication (SICB wide)**; Organizers: Sara Elshafie, Stuart Sumida & Bram Lutton
3. **Sensory Feedback and Animal Locomotion: Perspectives from Biology and Biorobotics**; Organizers: Brett Aiello, Jessica Fox & Gary Gillis
4. **Science in the Public Eye: Leveraging Partnerships**; Organizers: Martha Merson, Nick Hristov & Louise Allen

See <http://www.sicb.org/meetings/2018/symposia/index.php> for all 2018 symposia. It is already time to beginning to plan symposia for SICB 2019 in Tampa, FL! Two possible symposia ideas have been pitched to me that may be of broad interest to DVM (and also perhaps DCB):

1. Impulsive systems
2. Evolutionary morphology and biomechanics

If you are interested in coordinating a symposium on either of these topics, or would like to pitch one of your own, please contact me as soon as possible. I would especially like to encourage graduate students and post-docs to consider organizing symposiums – it is a great opportunity to interact with people whose research you admire, build collaborations, and make yourself better known to the scientific community at large. Plus with publication in ICB, it is a great way to add to your CV! Symposium proposals for the 2019 meeting will be due August 24, 2017.



Brooke Flammang,
DVM Program Officer

Message from the Secretary

Andrew Clark, Secretary.DVM@sicb.org

Thanks to everyone who attended the 2017 DVM Business Meeting in New Orleans, Louisiana. We had a good attendance, and on behalf of the DVM Executive Committee, I thank you all for contributing to a productive business meeting. The oral and poster presentations delivered by DVM members continue to make a strong impression at the SICB annual meetings.

Our symposia proceedings comprise a huge portion of the literature in *Integrative and Comparative Biology*, which is a major revenue source for the society; therefore, we encourage DVM members to submit proposals for future meetings. Please remember that the next Call for Symposia Deadline is August 24, 2017. Please contact SICB Program Officer Rick Blob for more information or to discuss ideas (programofficer@sicb.org). This deadline pertains to applications for symposia to be delivered in the 2019 SICB meetings in Tampa, Florida. We continue to encourage applications from DVM members for future BSP awards. Finally, we want to encourage more submissions for the 5-minute Lightning Talks. Please see DVM Business Meeting Minutes (link below) for the details regarding our request for more Lightning Talk submissions.

You can also support DVM's mission and outreach by contributing to the DVM Researcher's Database. If you are interested, please send me: 1) a brief title and 2) a short descriptive paragraph of your research program, and 3) a reasonably high-resolution photograph (greater than 300 KB). Feel free to contact me if you have any questions about this.



No revisions to bylaws were proposed in this year's DVM Business Meeting. The Division needs to elect a DVM Program Officer to work with and eventually replace Brooke Flammang. Thanks very much to those who served on the nominating committee. We have three candidates for the position, so please be sure to review each candidate's profile below, and vote in the upcoming elections!

Minutes from the 2017 DVM Business Meeting
([click here](#))

Acknowledging DVM members in service

The Divisional Executive Committee acknowledges Callum Ross for serving as DVM Chair and Manny Azizi serving as DVM Program Officer. Both Callum and Manny have been serving since 2015. Finally, I want to thank John Hutchinson, Brooke Flammang, and Laura Macesic Ekstrom for stepping in as our new Chair, Program Officer, and Secretary-Elect, respectively. Welcome aboard!

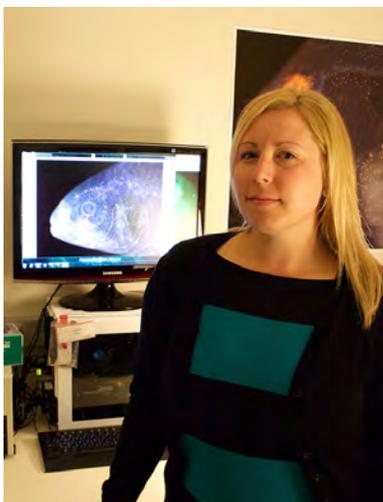
DVM awards and honors

Congratulations to Brooke Flammang (New Jersey Institute of Technology) for being honored with the 2017 Carl Gans award!

This year's BSP winners from DVM are Amanda Powers (University of Cincinnati) and Andy "AJ" Smith (University of Massachusetts, Amherst)! Amanda received the 2017 Davis award for best student talk titled: The developmental basis of cranial bone fragmentation in the blind Mexican cavefish. AJ received the 2017 Liem award for best student poster titled: The role of phenotypic integration in the evolution

of cranial morphological disparity in moles (Talpidae: Mammalia).

Congratulations to all of you!!



Amanda Powers,
University of Cincinnati



Andy "AJ" Smith, University of Massachusetts, Amherst

Candidate Profiles for the Spring 2017 DVM Elections

DVM Program Officer-Elect

David Coughlin



Current Position: Professor of Biology, Widener University, Chester, PA.

Education: Ph.D., 1991, Boston University Marine Program; B.S. in Biology, 1987, Saint Louis University.

Professional Experience: 2006-Present, Professor of Biology, Widener

University; 2004-2009, Chair of Biology, Widener University; 1995-2006, Assistant and Associate Professor of Biology, Widener University; 1994-1995, Visiting Assistant Professor of Biology, LaSalle University; 1993-1995, Postdoctoral Fellow, University of Pennsylvania; 1991-1993, NSF-NATO Postdoctoral Fellow, University of Victoria.



SICB Activities: I've attended many annual meetings, giving talks and presenting posters, and I've chaired a few sessions and judged student talks for DCPB. I've never held office for any division.

Other Memberships: American Physiological Society; Sigma Xi; The WIMPs running team.

Research Interests: Locomotory performance, muscle function and gene expression in fishes.

Statement of Goals: I would be happy to serve as Program Officer of DVM. DVM has been a vital element of SICB for the 20+ years I have been a member of the society. For anyone interested in animal performance, our division is the key intersection of animal form and function with development, ecology, biomechanics and physiology. As Program Officer, I would continue the tradition of developing thematic sessions that integrate multiple research approaches. I understand the concern regarding a decline in the number of symposia and would work to inspire, motivate or cajole members of the division to develop forward-looking symposia.

Mason Dean



Current Position: Workgroup leader & Independent Researcher, Department of Biomaterials, Max Planck Institute (MPI) of Colloids & Interfaces, Germany.

Education: Ph.D., 2009, Ecology & Evolutionary Biology, University of California Irvine (w/ Adam Summers); M.S., 2003, Zoology, University of South Florida (w/ Phil Motta); A.B., 1997, Biology (Marine Biology concentration), Duke University.

Professional Experience: 2011-present, HFSP Young Investigator & Workgroup leader, MPI; 2009-2011: Alexander von Humboldt Post-doctoral Fellow, MPI; Symposia co-organized/funded: American Society of Ichthyologists & Herpetologists (2009), Gordon Research Conference on Biomineralization (2012), Workshop on Interdisciplinary Approaches in Fish Skeletal Biology (2015), International Congress of Vertebrate Morphology (2016).

SICB Activities: Member of DVM, DCB, & DCPB; student presentation/poster award judge since 2003; member, DVM Nominating Committee & SICB Student Support Committee; organized/funded 2009 SICB Biomaterials symposium.

Other Memberships: International Society of Vertebrate Morphology.

Research Interests: Functional morphology and evolution of feeding in vertebrates, particularly fishes; mechanics and structural properties of biomaterials, especially vertebrate skeletal tissues.

Statement of Goals: It is an exciting time to be a morphologist: advances in techniques and their increased accessibility are redefining the scope of the field, allowing high-throughput investigation of massive numbers of species/individuals on one hand, and sub-micron analyses of 3d ultrastructure on the other. Our division continues to thrive by embracing classic approaches, while being open to new ones. As DVM PO, I would be excited to continue this broad-minded integration of perspectives, working with other divisional POs to explore new talk formats, establish forward-thinking and balanced sessions (while maintaining our happily-unbalanced off-site socials). I hope to continue to push divisional and disciplinary boundaries by actively soliciting cutting-edge symposia, particularly those organized by (and including) young-career scientists and by researchers — from SICB and otherwise — who may not consider themselves morphologists. Such efforts will grow DVM and the society's journal, while also offering access points for other divisions and scientists interested in form-function relationships (engineers, materials scientists, biochemists). In this way, we will stay aware of relevant, state-of-the-art work in other disciplines, while establishing lines of communication that can lead to novel collaborations and networking/training opportunities for DVM students. I see this as a way to engage a new generation of morphologists, while celebrating the current one, gaining new tools, perspectives and collaborations to help us illuminate keystone concepts in morphology and bridge size scales of investigation, a grand challenge in modern morphology work.



Shannon Gerry



Current Position: Associate Professor, Biology Department, Fairfield University, Fairfield, CT.

Education: B.S., 1997, Biology, Bucknell University; Ph.D., 2008, Biological Sciences, University of Rhode Island.

Professional Experience: Visiting Assistant Professor, Arcadia University,

2008-2009; NSF Postdoctoral Research Associate, Wellesley College, 2009-2011; Assistant Professor, Biology Department, Fairfield University, 2011-2016; Associate Professor, Biology Department, Fairfield University, 2016-present.

SICB Activities: Member of SICB and DVM since 2005. Co-organizer for the late-breaking symposium, "Electromyography: Interpretation and Limitations in Functional Analyses of Musculoskeletal Systems, 2008; DCB Best Student Paper/Poster judge 2011, 2012.

Other Memberships: Sigma Xi; International Society of Vertebrate Morphology; Society for Experimental Biology.

Research Interests: Ecomorphology and biomechanics of feeding and locomotion in vertebrates, especially fishes.

Statement of Goals: I am honored to be nominated for the position of DVM Program Officer. My goal is to continue the successful work of recent program officers by organizing integrative and innovative sessions. I will promote the research of our student members who are participating in a dedicated session to compete for the Dwight D. Davis Best Student Presentation Award. I will suggest that members discuss the early stages of a project in a 'lightning talk' in order to increase participation for that format. Finally, I will encourage members of DVM to develop symposia with members from other divisions in order to foster future collaborations.

The "**ASB-SICB Joint Symposium: Insights from Animal Biomechanics**" will take place at the 41st annual meeting of the American Society of Biomechanics in Boulder, Colorado (Aug. 8 - 11, 2017). The symposium, co-organized by ASB and SICB, aims to stimulate interchange between human-centered biomechanics and comparative biomechanics. For detailed information, please see the conference website: <http://asb2017.org>