



## Division of Vertebrate Morphology

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### DVM Officers & Representatives

Alice Gibb  
*Chair 2013-2015*

Callum Ross  
*Chair-Elect 2013-2015*

Kiisa Nishikawa  
*Past Chair 2013-2015*

Susan Williams  
*Secretary 2012-2014*

Casey Holliday  
*Secretary-Elect 2013-2014*

Rita Mehta  
*Program Officer 2012-2014*

Joanna Mandrecki  
*Student/Postdoc Affairs 2011-2014*

### Message from the Chair

Alice Gibb, [Chair.DVM@sicb.org](mailto:Chair.DVM@sicb.org)

This spring and summer have been exceptionally busy times for members of the Division of Vertebrate Morphology. Many of our members traveled to Spain for the 10th annual meeting of ICVM, where they partook of both the excellent program and the exciting cultural and gastronomic opportunities in the surrounding city and county-side. According to Larry Witmer, there were over 450 presentations on Vertebrate Morphology, symposia covered topics ranging from Evodevo to Hominid Bipedalism, and the meeting was attended by representatives of every continent except Antarctica!

As the fall weather begins, the Executive Committee and officers at SICB are turning their thoughts and organizational skills to the upcoming meeting in Austin in January of 2014. Our stalwart and hard working program officer, Rita Mehta, has just returned from the Program Committee meeting in Austin, and she assures me that DVM will have a strong and vibrant presence in the Lone Star State this year. DVM is sponsoring hundreds of oral and poster presentations and several cross-disciplinary symposia. By all reports the venue will be excellent and the program exceptionally stimulating, so I hope to see you all there.

At the upcoming meeting, DVM will be running a fundraiser to benefit the D. Dwight Davis Fund, a fund that supports one of the division's student awards. The D. Dwight Davis Fund was established many years ago to recognize an outstanding presentation by a student. In addition to the recognition, the student winner receives a cash award. As always, direct monetary donations to this fund would be much appreciated and this can be done easily by clicking on the **DONATE to SICB** link on the SICB home page! This year, however, we will be sponsoring the sale of SICB-branded merchandise at the meeting, with the proceeds of these materials to benefit the D. Dwight Davis Fund. In honor of the Austin location, we have selected a bat-themed logo for this year's meeting, and I am very open to suggestions about what types of merchandise we should sell at the meeting. If you want to give me feedback on the items that will be for sale, please feel free to contact me directly or participate in the poll I have posted online at the [Division of Vertebrate Morphology SICB Facebook Group](#).

And speaking of the [DVM Facebook group](#), I am happy to say it has grown to over 100 members, with new members joining weekly. If you have not yet joined the group, please do so as soon as possible. The Facebook group is great way for me to disseminate information about goings-on related to the society, and it is also a wonderful place for you all to post meetings and job opportunities in anatomy-related fields.



One other item I would like you all to keep in mind for the upcoming meeting also relates to DVM's student awards. The best oral presentation award in the Division of Vertebrate Morphology is formally named the "D. Dwight Davis Award." Currently, the award for the best poster in vertebrate morphology has no name — it is simply the "best poster in vertebrate morphology," One of the items of business I would like to undertake at the upcoming meeting in Austin is to discuss the formal naming of this prize. I am hoping we will be able to select one of our illustrious forebears and honor him or her through this award in future years. So please come to the DVM business meeting with a couple of names in mind.

Best wishes for a happy and productive fall semester.

#### Message from the Program Officer

Rita Mehta, [DPO.DVM@sicb.org](mailto:DPO.DVM@sicb.org)

What a summer! While some of us slogged away in the lab or the field, others of us experienced science internationally. I've heard nothing but amazing things about the 10th International Congress of Vertebrate Morphology that took place this past July in Barcelona, Spain. For other cool photos and information on presentations, please check out their facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/ICVM10>.



Audience at ICVM2013 during the President's opening remarks.

Fall is once again upon us. While leaves might gently waft through the air this time of year, abstract titles are falling all around me. As the dynamic duo (Laura Miller and I) help organize abstracts for the 2014 meeting in Austin, Texas, we are getting excited about the intellectually stimulating talks and posters you have signed up to present. Combined DVM/DCB has over 160 oral presentations and around 100 posters. Once again, our divisions are experiencing an embarrassment of riches at this meeting! So,

bring a coin to flip because decisions will have to be made....DVM and DCB are happy to announce co-sponsorship of the following symposia in Austin:

**Shaking, dripping and drinking: surface-tension phenomena in organismal biology** Organized by David Hu (Georgia Institute of Technology), Rachel Levy (Harvey Mudd College), and Lydia Bourouiba (Massachusetts Institute of Technology)

**Terrestrial locomotion: Where do we stand, where are we going?**

Organized by Richard Blob (Clemson University) and Timothy Higham (University of California, Riverside).

We also received several interesting proposals for symposia to be held at our 2015 meeting in West Palm Beach Florida – thanks to everyone who submitted a proposal. Believe it or not - it is not too early to start thinking about proposals for Portland 2016!

After returning from the Program Committee meeting at the end of September, I can assure you of a few things. The Hilton Austin venue is fantastic! The hotel has a really nice layout with balconies and great views of the city. The Hilton is close to several bars and restaurants that attract great musicians – “we are surrounded by entertainment,” reads like an understatement after the weekend Program Committee meeting which happened to coincide with the bi-annual Pecan Street Festival on 6th street. Once again, please remember to register on time to ensure discounted registration fees and a room at the primary conference hotel (Hilton Austin).

*"Think of what your society has done for you, and now, think-what may I do for SICB?"*

It was great to see that so many of you signed up to be session chairs. It makes programming the meeting that much easier and every little bit counts with the growing number of abstract submissions. Also, please consider judging oral and poster presentations. Combined, DVM/DCB have many students seeking invaluable feedback support. Interestingly, although there is no limit on 5 minute talks, we had very few this year. It may be worth revisiting the 5 minute option in the future. If you have any suggestions/ ideas about this session, please feel free to email me or to talk with me about it at the meeting.



Of course, you don't have to wait for winter to get your SICB fix, because fall is also the season for regional DVM meetings. We have two this year, with a joint DVM/DCB Northeastern Regional Meeting on October 26th at Yale organized by Daniel Field and Teresa Feo and the second annual joint DVM/DCB southwest regional meeting at the University of California, Riverside also on Saturday, October 26th organized by Timothy Higham. Once again, the regionals are especially great venues for student presentations and getting friendly feedback from colleagues. Both of this year's regional meetings will be over by the time this newsletter is released, so if you've missed out keep an eye out for next year, or consider organizing one in your own neighborhood in 2014!

Have a wonderful Fall and I look forward to seeing everyone in the artsy city of Austin, Texas.

#### Message from the Secretary

Susan Williams, [Secretary.DVM@sicb.org](mailto:Secretary.DVM@sicb.org)

Hello everyone! Hope you had a wonderful summer! I know many of you attended the wonderful ICVM meetings in Barcelona, Spain. I'd like to specifically highlight the many members of DVM who make ICVM a success - I know this is no surprise but it is important to recognize all of the folks who work hard to produce such a great international meeting.



Members of the ISVM's current and incoming officers and Executive Committee at ICVM2013. SICB DVM members are indicated by \*. Front row from left: Alexander Haas (ExComm), Larry Witmer\* (President), Marvalee Wake\* (Past-President), Ann Huysseune (President-Elect), Jean-Yves Sire (Treasurer), Anthony Herrel\* (ExComm), Adam P. Summers\* (Secretary), Emily Rayfield\* (ExComm). Back Row from left: Marcelo Sanchez-Villagra (ExComm), Dominique Adriaens\* (ExComm), Betsy Dumont\* (ExComm), Beth Brainerd\* (incoming President-Elect), Shigeru Kuratani\* (ExComm), John Hutchinson\* (ExComm).

For once, it seems like we don't have any bylaws issues to resolve at the annual business meeting in Austin. However, as you read in Alice's Message from the Chair, there may be some new business related to naming the poster prize. I think making this prize more official is a great opportunity to honor one of our members as well as recognize the hard work of our student winners.

This is my last newsletter as DVM Secretary. It's been a pleasure serving DVM. I am also leaving the position in the capable hands of Casey Holliday following the Austin meeting. Please join us at the DVM Business meeting to welcome him in his new role. Casey will be running elections in the spring for DVM Chair and Secretary. The elected Chair will serve as Chair-Elect from January 2015 through January 2017 and then two years as Chair. The elected Secretary will serve as Secretary-Elect from January 2015 through January 2016, and then serve two years as Secretary. I know it seems like a ways away but this your chance to throw your hat in the ring and get involved. Or you could throw someone else's hat into the ring with a nomination when the time comes! Definitely talk to any of the past or present DVM officers at the business meeting in January if you are interested - we can give you a realistic picture of what each position means.

See you in Austin!



John Hutchinson