



## 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*

Casey Holliday  
*Secretary 2014-2016*

Rita Mehta  
*Program Officer 2012-2015*

Manny Azizi  
*Program Officer-Elect 2014-2015*

Morgan Burnette  
*Student/Postdoc Affairs 2014-2017*

### Message from the Chair

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

Welcome back from hopefully a fun and productive summer. As we transition back into our fall teaching in the midst of summer weather, don't forget that it is also time to organize for SICB. The Executive Committee and SICB officers have just returned from West Palm Beach, Florida in preparation for our upcoming meeting in January 2015. Our unyieldingly enthusiastic program officer, Rita Mehta, is astounded by the number of sessions and interesting symposia we have scheduled in Florida. There are some decisions that will have to be made for many of us but the bottom line is- we have a really terrific representation of DVM and DCB members in the program once again. I look forward to seeing you all there!

I'd like to thank our Program Officer, Rita Mehta, for staying on a 3rd year to stagger the in-coming PO in DVM with the in-coming PO in DCB. I also have a big "Welcome" reserved for Manny Azzizi, DVM's new program officer. Welcome Manny! Best wishes for a happy and productive Fall.

### Message from the Program Officer

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

What do you call 90 degree weather in the middle of October? Fall in Santa Cruz, Ca. Today, during comparative anatomy lab, my students had to pause several times to defog their protective eye wear. While the heat made our first laboratory dissection an unforgettable sensory experience, there is nothing like examining a lamprey to commence the Fall quarter.

I just returned from a productive PO meeting in West Palm Beach, Florida. I had the pleasure of working with Joe Thompson, DCB PO, for the first time. Joe was not only really pleasant to work with but he has excellent organizational skills! As always, DVM/DCB had a terrific number of contributions with 206 oral presentations and 122 posters. These oral presentations were organized into 33 sessions spread across five science-filled days. In addition to these sessions DVM/DCB are sponsoring four of the twelve 2015 symposia:

**"Towards a General Framework for Predicting Animal Movement Speeds in Nature,"** organized by Robbie Wilson (University of Queensland)

**"Unsteady Aquatic Locomotion with Respect to Eco-Design and Mechanics,"** organized by Frank Fish (West Chester University) and Paolo Domenici (CNR-IAMC)

**"Leading Students and Faculty to Quantitative Biology Through Active Learning,"** organized by Laura Miller (UNC, Chapel Hill) and Lindsay Waldrop (UNC, Chapel Hill)



**"New Insights into Suction Feeding Biomechanics and Evolution," organized by Tim Higham (UC Riverside) and Peter Wainwright (UC Davis)**

We also received seventeen interesting proposals for symposia to be held at our 2016 meeting in Portland, Oregon – thanks to everyone who submitted a proposal.

The Palm Beach County Convention Center is a spacious and relatively new venue located 5 minutes away from the Palm Beach International Airport. The convention center is walking distance to many hotels and City Place—a popular outdoor mall that includes several high-end restaurants as well as fast-food eateries.



*Group photo taken at the Southwestern regional meeting at the University of California, Irvine. Photo courtesy of Andres Carillo.*

For some lucky SICB members, Fall is not only the time to plan for the January meeting but it is also the season for regional DVM meetings. We have three regional meetings this fall. The joint DVM/DCB Southeastern Regional Meeting is on Saturday, October 25th at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. The Northeastern Regional Meeting is on Saturday, November 1st at the University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth. The Southwest Regional meeting, recently renamed

as the Southwest Organismal Biology "SWOB" Meeting took place on Saturday, September 20 at the University of California, Irvine. Once again, regional meetings are especially great venues for student presentations and getting friendly feedback from colleagues. There is a good chance that all 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 a regional next year, or consider organizing one in your own neighborhood in 2015!



*Susan Finkbeiner (UC Irvine) was awarded -Best 10 minute talk by a graduate student, Jordan Balaban (UC Irvine) was awarded -Best 6 minute talk by a graduate student , and Nicolas Schwartz (Cal State San Bernardino) was awarded Best talk by an undergraduate. Photo courtesy of Andres Carillo.*

Have a wonderful Fall and I look forward to seeing everyone in hopefully warm and sunny West Palm Beach in January 2015.

**Message from the Secretary**

Casey M. Holliday, [Secretary.DVM@sicb.org](mailto:Secretary.DVM@sicb.org)

Welcome back from the summer! Fall is upon us as I write this with the rising sun chasing a Blood Moon to the West. We had a busy few months with elections and bylaws. I want to personally thank Alice Gibb, Rita



Mehta, incoming PO Manny Azzizi and our -elect officers for being such great active participants and leaders during these developments.

Thanks to the 97 people who cast their votes! We welcome John Hutchinson and Andrew Clark as the incoming Chair- and Secretary-Elects, respectively. The DVM Bylaws changes involving the Best Student Prizes and other issues passed 93-2.

We will have several topics of discussion at the 2015 Business meeting. In particular we will continue to brainstorm the prospect of DVM dues and fundraising ideas to better provide for social events and student prizes. We will briefly remind everyone of the BSP submission requirements as well as discuss how to better lure students and investigators to the annual business meeting. Lastly, we need to discuss member interest in the 5-minute talk category.



Photo from the 2014 XROMM workshop at Brown University. What an inspirational week! Full of DVMers, past, present, and future!

As Rita mentioned, there are a host of Regional DVM meetings this Fall. Organizers: send your pictures, post them on Facebook, Twitter, Pinterest or whichever means of communication/procrastination you prefer. Help spread the word! Two XROMM and XMA short courses occurred at Brown and UNLV since the last newsletter; they were great successes. Finally, be sure to check out the 2015 Experimental Biology/American Association of Anatomists meeting in Boston this April, not only are they hosting two ISVM sponsored symposia, but numerous other DVM members are presenting and hosting interesting symposia.





**The International Society of  
Vertebrate Morphologists (ISVM)  
will meet as a Guest Society with the  
American Association of Anatomists (AAA)  
at Experimental Biology 2015 in Boston  
28 – 31 March 2015**

Symposia

**The Evolutionary Tapestry of Vertebrate Morphology & Function**  
Speakers: Colleen Farmer, Roland Frey, Dominique Adriaens,  
Stephanie Pierce, and Olga Panagiotopoulou

**The Development and Control of Vertebrate Morphology**  
Speakers: Karen Sears, Patricia Hernandez, Rebecca German

*The American Association of Anatomists is hosting two ISVM-sponsored symposia at this year's EB meeting in Boston March 28-31. Check it out. Besides these two sessions, several complementary symposia organized by DVM members are happening.*