



Division of Comparative Biomechanics

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Sheila Patek
Chair-Elect 2015-2017

Mark Denny
Past Chair 2015-2017

Andrea Ward
Secretary 2014-2016

Joseph Thompson
Program Officer 2014-2016

Nicholas Gidmark
Student/Postdoc Rep 2013-2016

Message from the Chair

Melina Hale, Chair.DCB@sicb.org

Time to prep for Portland! I hope you've all had great summers and are looking forward to SICB's 2016 annual meeting in beautiful and lively Portland, Oregon. As always, DCB will be well represented with contributed papers and posters. Last year, we began a new tradition of having special sessions dedicated to candidates for best student paper and poster awards that were wonderful showcases of the terrific work being done by students in biomechanics. This year we continue this tradition with the now named awards: The Mimi A. R. Koehl and Stephen A. Wainwright Award for Best Student Presentation in Biomechanics and The Steven Vogel Award for the Best Student Poster.

Come to Portland early and stay late! In addition to contributed papers and posters, there are a number of special talks and symposia that may be of particular interest to DCB members. Starting right off, the opening plenary on January 3 will be by Prof. Terrie M. Williams (the University of California, Santa Cruz): The Biology of Big: Discovering the Extraordinary Costs of Survival at the Top of the Food Chain. The last day of the meeting, January 7, has a great line up of programs including a DCB symposium and the ever-popular Society-Wide Social in Honor of Students and Postdocs.

In total, DCB is cosponsoring three symposia in this year's program. They cover a wide range of topics and all include tremendous speaker line-ups.

Neuroecology: Neural Mechanisms of Sensor and Motor Processes that Mediate Ecologically Relevant Behaviors

Organizers: Jeff Riffell and Ashlee Rowe

The Morphological Diversity of Intromittent Organs

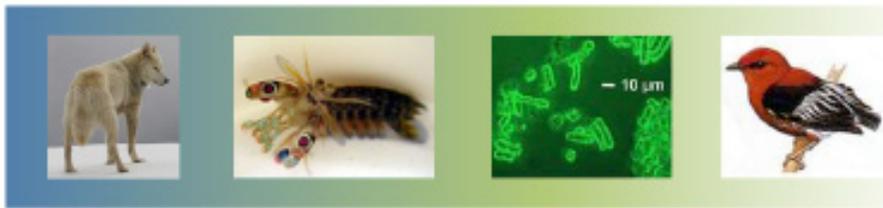
Organizers: Brandon Moore and Diane Kelly

A Bigger Picture: Organismal Function at the Nexus of Development, Ecology and Evolution

Organizers: Sharlene E. Santana and Paul Gignac

For details about these and other symposia please see: <http://sicb.org/meetings/2016/symposia/index.php>

Keep the symposium proposals coming. Symposia are great opportunities to spark discussions of new directions, coalesce a community and bring new scientists to SICB. The deadline for proposals for the 2017 meeting was this past August so it is time to start thinking about 2018 in San Francisco....



Biomechanics Digital Library

Over the past years, as most of you know, a digital library for teaching materials in biomechanics has been developed as part of the SICB website. This library has been developed and curated by Steven Vogel and Rachel Merz and can be found at: <http://sicb.org/dl/biomechanics.php3>. I encourage you to check it out - it includes lots of great resources contributed by many SICB members. We are looking to pass the torch to DCB members who would take a leadership role in keeping the digital library vibrant, encouraging and vetting submissions and working with their authors. SICB's webmaster handles the web interface end of the project. We'll discuss digital library oversight and growth at the DCB business meeting in Portland, but I wanted to give everyone a heads-up and remind you of resources that might be useful for your fall courses.

Grand Poobah of the Best Student Competition

Jake Socha has organized and overseen the DCB best student paper and poster competitions for a number of years. Thanks Jake!!! With Jake taking over as DCB Program Officer in January, we are looking for someone new to lead the student competition process. It is always interesting to hear the latest and greatest from our students and, with the switch to a short list of presenters from the enormous number of presentations in previous years, this has become a more manageable job as well. Please contact Jake (jjsocha@vt.edu) if you are interested in the position and for more information.

DCB Awards

We received outstanding entrants for all of the Division's awards this year, the Best Student Presentation awards and Gans Award. I encourage you to nominate yourselves and others in future years. Society awards are not only impressive acknowledgements by a community of peers, but also lay the groundwork for other nominations and awards throughout a scientist's career.

Message from the Divisional Program Officer

Joseph Thompson, DPO.DCB@sicb.org

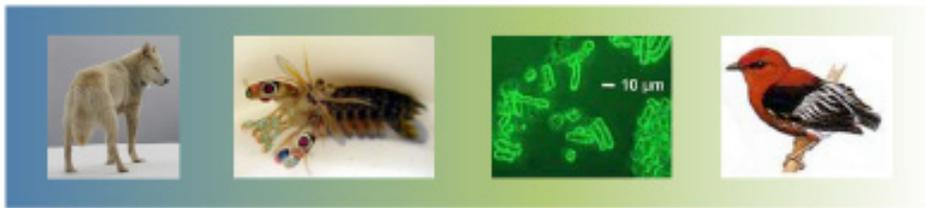
The divisional program officers met in Portland, OR, at the end of September to organize the 2016 annual conference. Of the 1,667 abstracts submitted this year (a new record), Manny Azizi (DVM) and I organized

approximately 400 of them into 35 oral and 6 poster sessions. Although we tried to avoid scheduling conflicts among similar sessions, with nearly three-dozen oral sessions held over four days, some conflicts were unavoidable. When the schedule is released in October, some of you might suspect that I did most of the session organizing from inside the Cannabis dispensary across the street from the Convention Center. I promise, however, that I used a little logic and a lot of your keywords to construct the groupings.

I want to highlight a few items of interest for the upcoming conference. First, we'll have seven finalists competing in the Mimi A. R. Koehl and Stephen A. Wainwright Best Student Paper competition on the afternoon of Tuesday, January 5. The finalists for the Steven Vogel Best Student Poster competition will present over two days but their posters will be flagged to allow everyone to find them easily. Second, the DCB is co-sponsoring three symposia: (i) A Bigger Picture: Organismal Function at the Nexus of Development, Ecology, and Evolution; (ii) Building an Extravagant Toolbox: Morphological Diversity of Intromittent Organs; and (iii) Neuroecology: Neural Mechanisms of Sensory Processes that Mediate Ecologically Relevant Behaviors. Third, we'll combine forces with the members of DVM for a social on the evening of Wednesday, January 6. The venue has yet to be decided but will be near the convention center, and will feature food, drinks, and music. Finally, don't forget to attend the DCB Business meeting. It is open to all members of the division, and I especially encourage students to attend.

There are a few important things to keep in mind for the conference. Don't forget that presenters need to register for the conference by November 5. If you aren't presenting, the early-bird registration deadline is December 1. Registration for housing can be done through a link on the meeting page. Several hotels are available, and all are either within a 15-minute walk of the convention center or a short ride away on the excellent public transportation system. Speaking of public transportation, all attendees will receive a rail pass with their registration materials. Although you'll need to buy a 2.5-hour rail pass to get from the airport to the hotels (available from kiosks at the rail stop), the pass provided by SICB will take care of your public transportation needs for the rest of the conference.

In closing, I'd like to thank Frank Fish publically for his willingness to, once again, give the last biomechanics talk on the last day at a SICB conference. The last



time Frank closed out a SICB conference he delivered the first part of his talk in iambic pentameter. Do yourself and Frank a favor, and stick around to see what might happen this time! See you in Portland.

Message from the Secretary

Andie Ward, Secretary.DCB@sicb.org

Happy apple-picking and leaf-peeping season! First, I would like to congratulate Jake Socha, who will be taking over as Program Officer starting in January. Thank you to David Hu and Matt McHenry for running for Program Officer and Secretary.

The Portland meeting sounds like it will be another amazing meeting. A record number of abstracts were submitted. We had an excellent group of applicants for our Best Student Presentation Oral and Poster Competitions. For the second year, there will be a dedicated session for the oral Best Student Presentation finalists. The finalists for the Poster Competition will also be highlighted during the meeting. Please check out the amazing students of our Division!

We will be seeking nominations in the spring for Chair-elect. This individual would be Chair-elect starting in January 2017 and would take the reins of Chair in 2019. If you are interested in running for Chair-elect, please let Melina Hale or myself know.

I would also like to remind our members of two great digital resources for SICB members. The SICB Digital Library contains a fantastic repository of education materials that pertain to biomechanics (<http://sicb.org/dl/biomechanics.php3>). Please add to this database if you have materials that you think others might find useful. We also have a researcher's database for members of DCB (<http://sicb.org/divisions/DCB/researchers.php3>). This is a great opportunity for faculty who are looking to attract potential students, or students and post-docs who would like to publicize their work. Please contact me if you would like to contribute to the researcher's database.

If you have any events that you would like advertised, please let me know and I will incorporate them either into the newsletter or submit the information to the SICB member update.

Southeast Regional Meeting (Georgia Tech University)



Attendees at the southeast regional meeting



Participants enjoyed dinner at Zoo Atlanta

The 2015 Southeast Regional DVM/DCB SICB meeting was held the weekend of October 10th at Georgia Tech. Over 80 attendees from labs across the southeast attended a total of 40 talks covering topics ranging from remora adhesion to hawkmoth flight control to beetle respiration, followed by an after-hours tour of Zoo Atlanta's newly renovated reptile exhibit and dinner in the zoo's grand hall.

