



Division of Vertebrate Morphology

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Message from the Chair

Callum Ross, DPO.DVM@sicb.org

I hope you are all looking forward to the SICB meetings in Portland! Thanks to all of you who submitted abstracts and to the Program Committee we have a great meeting ahead of us in January. Buy your tickets, book your rooms, and collect your data!

Thank you to those who donated to the Davis Fund. Remember that we are on a fund raising drive to increase the Davis fund to \$25K. It is currently at just over \$17K after 14 donations totaling \$1,860. It's nearly tax time and this is a good time to make those donations. Please make an extra donation to the Davis Fund at <https://ssl4.westserver.net/birenheide/sicbcart/donations.php>. Once we get to \$25K we can start collecting money for more student travel and accommodation awards.

Melina Hale and I are working on arrangements for the combined DVM/DCB social to be held on the night of Wednesday January 8th. Anyone who lives in Portland who would like to help by suggesting venues, please get in touch with me or Melina.

Thank you to Manny Azizi, our Program Committee representative, and to our Secretary Casey Holliday for all their hard work on our behalf. I look forward to seeing you all in Portland!

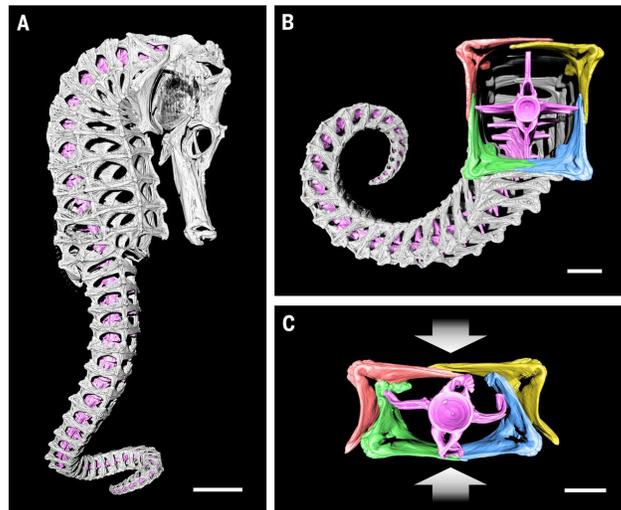
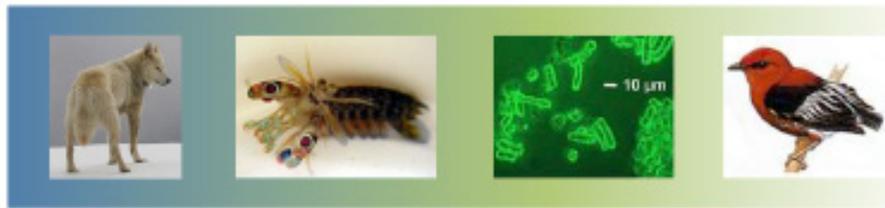


Figure 1: Modeling Seahorse tails. Porter, et al., 2015. Why the seahorse tail is square, *Science* 349: DOI: 10.1126/science.aaa6683

Message from the Program Officer

Manny Azizi, DPO.DVM@sicb.org

The SICB program committee recently met in Portland, OR, to finalize the program for the 2016 meeting. Our society continues to grow with nearly 1700 submitted abstracts including more than a 1000



oral presentations and nearly 700 posters. As usual, DVM participation looks to be strong with nearly 400 abstracts. DVM will feature 35 oral sessions over 4 days and 6 poster sessions over three days. The 5-minute "lightning talks" made a strong comeback this year with 17 participants making up one dedicated session. DVM is also sponsoring three outstanding symposia at the Portland meeting which include:

"The Morphological Diversity of Intromittent Organs" (Brandon Moore, Sewanee: The University of the South; Diane Kelly, University of Massachusetts Amherst) <http://sicb.org/meetings/2016/symposia/intromittent.php>

"A Bigger Picture: Organismal Function at the Nexus of Development, Ecology, and Evolution" (Sharlene Santana, University of Washington; Paul Gignac, Oklahoma State University Center for Health Sciences) <http://sicb.org/meetings/2016/symposia/organismal.php>

"Life on the Edge: the Biology of Organisms Inhabiting Extreme Environments" (Annie R. Lindgren, Jason E. Podrabsky, Bradley A. Buckley, and Anna-Louise Reysenbach, Center for Life in Extreme Environments (CLEE), Portland State University) <http://sicb.org/meetings/2016/symposia/extremophiles.php>

In addition, this meeting will be the first to feature a dedicated session for students competing in the D. Dwight Davis Best Student Presentation competition. The dedicated session is scheduled for Monday (1/4/16) afternoon. No other sessions organized by DVM or DCB will be running concurrently. This will give us a chance to come out and support our outstanding students and celebrate the bright future of DVM.

The program committee is extremely excited about the venue and the city. Portland offers lots to do in a small and manageable urban environment with nearly all parts of the city readily accessible by public transit. The society has purchased week-long passes for the light rail system, which will allow our members to get around easily. With exceptional craft breweries, restaurants and coffee shops, Portland is poised to rival the outstanding and well-received recent meetings in San Francisco and Austin. To effectively utilize all that the city has to offer, the division chairs of DVM and DCB have decided to move our joint social away from the convention center to an off-site location. While the details have not been finalized, we are confident that a location in the city center will be less formal and

more fun than a reception in the convention center. The DVM/DCB social is scheduled for Wednesday night (1/6/16) so keep an eye out for more details as they become available.

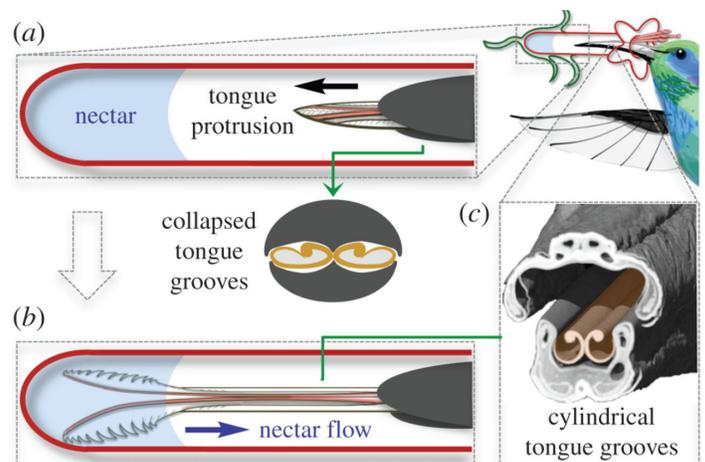
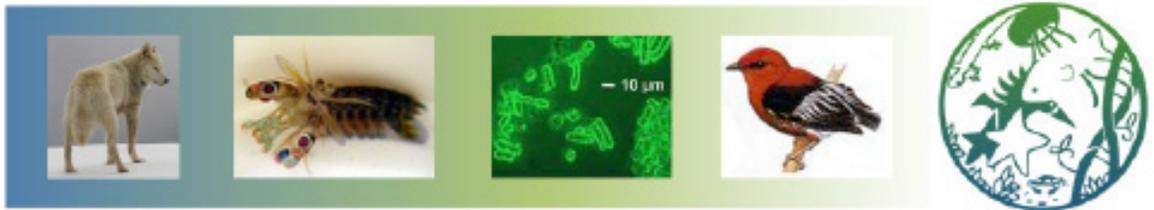


Figure 2: How Hummingbird Tongues Work. Rico-Guevara et al., 2015. Hummingbird tongues are elastic micropumps, *Proc B Roy Soc B* 282; DOI: 10.1098/rspb.2015.1014

One issue of concern is the drop in symposium proposals put forth by DVM members over the last couple of years. While we continue to sponsor and support outstanding symposia, DVM members submitted very few proposals. I want to take this opportunity to encourage the members of our division, particularly early career scientists, to begin the process of symposium development. Putting together ideas now will allow you to refine the framework and goals of the symposium and give you an opportunity to reach out to potential participants at this year's meeting. This early planning will ensure that by the time the deadline approaches (late August) proposals from DVM are fleshed-out and poised for success. The program committee is particularly interested in forward-looking proposals that define new and innovative directions for the field. I look forward to seeing many of these proposals next year for the 2018 meeting in San Francisco.

Please remember to mark your calendar for the following upcoming deadlines: Charlotte Magnum Student Support (Oct. 20th), presenter registration deadline (Nov. 5th), and early bird registration (Dec. 1st).

Time to start making your Portland travel plans for what's sure to be a memorable meeting.



Message from the Secretary

Casey Holliday, Secretary.DVM@sicb.org

This Spring's elections bring us a new DVM Program Officer-Elect, Brooke Flammang. Welcome aboard! Thank you to the 104 people casting votes. We had 3 excellent candidates further highlighting our enthusiastic membership. The DVM Bylaws were changed with minimal fanfare (88-1). That said, 100 votes may seem a lot, but based on abstract submission numbers it's only ~25% of our membership. This is better than SICB-wide polling (15%) but we can do better. We are perpetually in need of good ideas, volunteer judges, and plans for future symposia. So, please remind your colleagues, postdocs, and students to get active, participate and even donate. As Callum discussed above, we are striving to fund our award endowment to better stabilize DVM's fiscal future.

The need for a healthy endowment has led us to require dues from members upon your annual membership renewal. So, during next year's membership drive, DVM members please expect to also pay \$5-\$10 DVM membership fees. For the cost of a couple conference drinks, you can help build the Davis fund as well as help fund the activities hosted by DVM every year. Of course, I encourage you to always donate more.

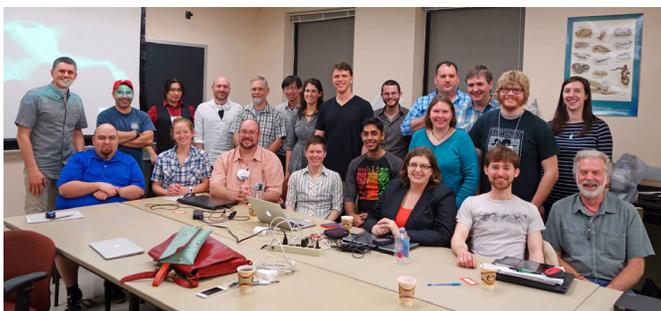


Figure 3: DVM members attended The Austin Working Group: Advancing Contrast-enhanced CT Imaging in the Biological Sciences.

As Manny mentioned above, SICB 2016 will be the first time we've had an entire session dedicated to D. Dwight Davis Best Student Presentations. Please attend and show your support, ask questions and encourage your own students and peers to throw in for the award in future meetings. This was the 2nd year we've required candidates to submit long form, lay abstracts along with their official SICB abstracts in order to vet for the top speaking candidates. It's been a success so far and we look forward to seeing how this process shakes out.

Since the last newsletter, at least four different DVM related groups met. Paul Gignac and Nate Kley, among others, hosted a working group in Austin to better develop contrast-enhanced imaging methods, and Dominique Adriaens and colleagues hosted the 6th Cranio-Cervical Systems conference in Ghent.



Figure 4: DVM members attended the Cranio-cervical Systems in Vertebrates Meeting in Ghent this past summer. It looks like it was delightful.

This fall, the Southeast Regional SICB meeting, hosted by the Goldman lab was held on October 12 at Georgia Tech. The 4th Annual Southwest Regional DVM/DCB meeting (Southwestern Organismal Biology Meeting), hosted by Kristopher Lappin, was held at Cal Poly Pomona on October 17. The program featured primarily student presentations. Particularly noteworthy were those by undergraduate Parthana Shankar (CSU Fullerton, "An assessment of the reproductive physiology of the California mussel") and graduate student Alberto Soto (UC Irvine, "Optimal escape directions in predator-prey interactions"), which won the best student presentations! Please be on the lookout for the upcoming call for abstracts for ICVM 11-2016 taking place in Washington, DC this coming June.



Figure 5: Participants in the 4th Annual Southwest Regional DVM/DCB meeting at Cal Poly Pomona.