



Division of Comparative Biomechanics

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DCB Officers & Representatives

Sheila Patek

Chair 2017-2019

Stacey Combes

Chair-Elect 2017-2019

Melina Hale

Past Chair 2017-2019

Andrea Ward

Secretary 2016-2018

Jake Socha

Program Officer 2016-2018

Brett Aiello

Student/Postdoc Rep 2017-2020

Message from the Chair

Sheila Patek (Chair.DCB@sicb.org)

With the SICB 2018 conference coming up, the DCB committee has been busy. We have been working on the conference program (thank you, Program Officer Jake Socha), this year's awards (thank you Phil Anderson, Sandy Kawano, Brett Aiello, Stacey Combes, Jake Socha and Andie Ward) and new initiatives to enhance communication (and fun) across the DCB community (thank you Student/Postdoc Rep Brett Aiello and our party planning team, which includes Joe Bahlman and Matt Kolmann).

We are all excited for the opportunity to interact in person at the San Francisco meeting. Later in the newsletter, Program Officer Jake Socha highlights DCB's huge presence in the talks and symposia that will be featured at SICB 2018.

Keep up the great work of submitting symposium proposals. Symposia are an important mechanism for our community to highlight important topics and publish well-cited companion papers in the society's journal, *Integrative and Comparative Biology*. The SICB meeting itself provides a great opportunity to consider ideas for symposia and reach out to potential co-organizers.

Student Awards Presentations: DCB received an outstanding group of applicants for the Division's *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*. You will get to see the finalists present their work at the DCB BSP session during SICB 2018 – be sure to put that on your schedule. This year's talk finalists include Christina Harvey (UBC), Rivers Ingersoll (Stanford), Uros Cerkenik (Wageningen), Alexis Noel (Georgia Tech), Sarah Hoffman (FAU), Ratan Othayoth (Johns Hopkins), Yuanfeng Han (Johns Hopkins) and Brittany Hutchinson (Virginia Tech). The poster finalists include Hilary Katz (U. Chicago), Kyle Yoshida (Johns Hopkins) and Michelle Graham (Virginia Tech).

DCB Members meeting: We decided to take the plunge and rename the somewhat off-putting "Business Meeting" that occurs every year at the SICB conference and we now refer to it as the DCB Members meeting. Our hope is that all of you will attend, because you are members and enjoy hearing about our new initiatives and continuing hard work for this important community of scientists. The SICB executive officers always swing through during the meeting and is happy to take your questions.

Biomechanics Bash! With the lively atmosphere of San Francisco, it seems like the perfect place to have a party. We are once again collaborating with DVM to put together a DCB/DVM party and hope everyone will come. We are working out the details and information will be provided later in the fall.



Message from the Divisional Program Officer

Jake Socha (DPO.DCB@sicb.org)

The division program officers met recently in San Francisco to put the upcoming conference together. Like every year, it was organized chaos, which inevitably comes together as a seamless, well-oiled machine by January. Our representation at the meeting will once again be very large. In programming, DCB and DVM combine forces, and together we comprise more than 20% of the conference, larger than any other subset of the society. Brooke Flammang (DVM DPO) and I set the schedules for our presentations, with Brooke doing the posters and myself doing the talks. By the end of the planning, our heads were spinning and we needed a drink, but Brooke had to gut it out, carrying an extra pair of F1 passengers on board. (Brooke is tough!)



Jake and Brooke working on the DCB & DVM schedules.

About the upcoming conference

We have 35 talk sessions, spread relatively evenly across the four days of the conference. Because we have so many, it is inevitable that more than one thing of interest is going on at the same time. There's no way to get around the problem—it's the only downside of having such a strong field. We have lots of great talks going on all the way through Sunday—please stick around through the end! For the posters, Biomaterials and Bioinspiration and Functional Morphology sessions are on January 4th, Muscle and Movement is on the 5th, and Evolutionary Morphology and Ecomorphology are on the 6th.

We also have special talk and poster sessions of note, the Best Student Paper award sessions. Like last year, we cleared the deck for the talks—there are no concurrent DCB or DVM sessions at the time—so that everyone can attend. The award talks will run from 10:00 AM to noon, with DVM's first on January 4th, and DCB's following on the 5th. Both poster award sessions will take place on the 4th. Please come out and support our students!

There are also a few DCB-sponsored symposia of note: Spatial Scale and Structural Heterogeneity in Skeletal Muscle Performance, organized by David Williams and Natalie Holt;

and Sensory Feedback and Animal Locomotion: Perspectives from Biology and Biorobotics, organized by Brett Aiello, Jessica Fox, and Gary Gillis. There are two broader communications-type symposia of interest: Science in the Public Eye: Leveraging Partnerships, and Science Through Narrative: Engaging Broad Audiences. Next year, we will have even more DCB-themed symposia. If you have a symposium idea for 2020, now's the time to start thinking about it! Please get in touch with me if so.

We will again have our DCB/DVM social off-site, within walking distance. Likely, it will be held on Friday night, but stay tuned for more details as the conference gets closer. It's looking like it'll be a really great event!

Our DCB Members Meeting has been newly renamed (formerly, "Business Meeting") to emphasize that everyone is welcome to attend. Ours is on January 4th at 5:45 PM. Join us there too!

Lastly, a few words about the venue. The conference is in a hotel this year. This means that the talks, posters, vendors, and other meetings are all held in the same place. And, it's a niiiice hotel. Check out the top-floor bar with the huge windows looking out over the city—a great view. The rooms are surprisingly not that expensive. But, everything else is. (Check out the menu from the hotel's restaurant) There are ways to get by more cheaply, but you'll have to get creative. Overall, there are lots of great places for food and drink right near the hotel—we'll be in a very good area. It should be another great conference. See you in San Francisco!



Check out the incredible view!



on draft		bottles & cans	
Drake's Denogginizer Double IPA	san leandro, ca 9.75% abv	Budweiser & Bud Light, Michelob Ultra	8
Bear Republic Hop Rod Rye IPA	healdsburg, ca 8.0% abv	Miller Light, O'Doul's N/A	8
Karl Strauss Aurora Hopyalls IPA	san diego, ca 7.0% abv	Anchor Steam, Blue Moon,	9
Heretic Chocolate Hazelnut Porter	fairfield, ca 5.6% abv	Sam Adam's Boston Lager,	9
Guinness Irish Stout	ireland 5% abv	Sam Adam's Seasonal, Sierra Nevada	9
Belching Beaver Peanut Butter Milk Stout	san diego, ca 9.2% abv	Amstel Light, Corona Extra & Corona Light,	9
Elysian Space Dust IPA	seattle, wa 8.2% abv	Hariken, Modelo Negra, Stella Artois	9
Lagunitas Little Sumpin' Sumpin' Ale	petaluma, ca 7.5% abv	Ballast Point Calico Amber Ale	11
Anchor Los Gigantes Mexican Lager	san francisco, ca 4.5% abv	Ballast Point Sculptin IPA	14
Callcraft Barrel Project Zinfandel Sour Ale	walnut creek, ca 8.5% abv	Bite Hard Semi-Sweet Odeur	12
Lagunitas Lagunitator Bok	petaluma, ca 7.7% abv	Boulevard Tank 7 Farmhouse Ale	13
Magnolia Kallifornia Kolsh	san francisco, ca 4.8% abv	Founders Backwoods Bastard Scotch Ale	11
Feldwerk Sotted Cucumber Farmhouse Ale	berkeley, ca 5.0% abv	Green Flash Passion Fruit Kicker	12
Coors Light	golden, co 3.6% abv	Lagunitas Aunt Sally Sour Mash Ale	12
Anchor Porter	san francisco, ca 5.6% abv	Lindeman's Framboise Lambic	17
B55 Craft House Hefeweizen	san diego, ca 5.3% abv	Modern Times Fortunate Island Wheat	15
Anderson Valley Boomt Amber Ale	boonville, ca 5.8% abv	North Coast Prangster Belgian-Style Golden	13
Devils Canyon Triple IPA	san carlos, ca 11% abv		

Beer diversity

Message from the Secretary

Andie Ward (secretary.DCB@sicb.org)

The past year has been an exciting one for DCB, and the 2018 meeting will be another fantastic grouping of biomechanics presentations. I would like to congratulate Sandy Kawano, who will be taking over as Secretary, and Phil Anderson, who will be taking over as Program Officer in January. Thanks to all of you who voted! Next year we will be electing a Chair-Elect. If you are interested in running, please let one of the DCB executive officers know.

We continue to have a strong competition for our students 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*. This year's finalists are excellent and I highly recommend that you check out their presentations.

This is the 4th year that we have had extended abstracts for the student awards and the officers have been really pleased with the high level of the applications. Please remember to follow all instructions if you are interested in applying for this competition. I am always happy to answer any questions that arise as you (or your students) are preparing abstracts.

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

The DCB Executive Board is looking forward to seeing everyone at the DCB Members Meeting on Thursday, January 4th at 5:45 PM in Salon 3+4.

Message from the Student-Postdoctoral Affairs Committee Representative

Brett Aiello

Hello DCB Colleagues!

I hope everyone is excited for the upcoming meeting in San Francisco! I am excited to begin serving as the new DCB Student/Postdoc representative. I will be taking over the role from Sandy Kawano, and I'd like to thank Sandy for her great contribution to the efforts of both the society and division.

As a brief introduction, my research interests focus on sensorimotor integration and the evolution of neuromechanical systems. I conducted my Ph.D. work in the Hale Lab at the University of Chicago, and recently defended my thesis, "Correlated evolution of pectoral fin mechanics, morphology, and mechanosensation." I will begin as a postdoc in the Sponberg Lab at Georgia Tech in January 2018 where I will work on the evolution of insect flight and stability.

As the DCB Student/Postdoc representative I hope to act as the liaison to the younger generation of SICB members. I have already begun working with Christopher Mayerl, the DVM Student/Postdoc representative, on ways to increase participation and opportunities for SICB's students and postdocs. Currently, we are brainstorming ideas on a mentorship program, networking opportunities, and a system for students to receive feedback on a manuscript before it is submitted for review. We are also working on way to highlight recent publications by DCB and DVM students on twitter.

It is the participation of SICB's younger members that makes the annual meeting such a special occasion. Therefore, I encourage the students and postdocs of DCB to please take this opportunity to reach out to us with your own ideas and suggestions on anything related to SICB as well as opinions on the current ideas we are pursuing. As these opportunities would go to primarily benefiting the students and postdocs, it is very important to hear your feedback and ideas for other opportunities that would be useful! I am very excited to start working with all of you in an effort to continue to improve SICB in any way we can.

Please contact me by email (braiello@uchicago.edu) or twitter ([@braiello](https://twitter.com/braiello)) with any suggestions, comments, concerns, or other feedback you might have. I will also be available to meet at the annual meeting this year in San Francisco! I can't wait to see everyone there!