



## Division of Vertebrate Morphology

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### DVM Officers & Representatives

**John Hutchinson**  
*Chair 2017-2019*

**L Patricia Hernandez**  
*Chair Elect 2017-2019*

**Callum Ross**  
*Past Chair 2017-2019*

**Andrew Clark**  
*Secretary 2016-2018*

**Laura Ekstrom (Macesic)**  
*Secretary-Elect 2017-2018*

**Brooke Flammang**  
*Program Officer 2017-2019*

**Christopher Mayerl**  
*Student/Postdoc Representative 2017-2020*

### Message from the Chair

*John Hutchinson (chair.dvm@sicb.org)*

We're all looking forward to SICB in San Francisco! Bring layers of clothing! I especially encourage you to plan to attend the "Science Through Narrative" symposium on 5 January. I've had some discussions with the organizers and, wow, they have some incredible people involved as speakers! See <http://sicb.org/meetings/2018/symposia/narrative.php> for details. I am sure I'll learn lots. But we're spoiled for choice by a wonderful array of DVM-sponsored symposia at this SICB meeting, so those alone will keep us extra busy. The "Science in the Public Eye: Leveraging Partnerships" symposium gels perfectly with the former one, for example. I am sure our Program Officer will have more to say about these, and I thank them and the organizers for putting together such an exciting set of symposia.

As our Secretary notes below, DVM members are again organizing a great suite of regional meetings. I want to remind you that DVM does have funds that we've saved and are now ready to disperse to help support these regional meetings. I'd like to help maximize inclusiveness by using funds to keep registration funds very low for students/other non-faculty and/or to offer prizes for student presentations. I am hoping to arrange a SICB-DVM regional meeting in the UK (in London, most likely) for summer of 2018, so stay tuned!

As I've posted on our DVM Facebook page, we're on the hunt for an official **DVM logo**! Artists and designers and other creative science folks, we need you! The DVM logo should represent the diversity of organisms and approaches that we study, while remaining simple and evocative. Color is encouraged. Please submit your logo design to me (jhutchinson [at] rvc.ac.uk) by **Friday 17 November 2017** and I'll confer with our DVM executives to come to a swift decision on which one to approve. This would be CC-BY 4.0 licensed for anyone to use and would be featured on our SICB and Facebook pages (credited therein), with utility in presentations, tweeting, and much more—imagine the fame (or infamy) you could earn by designing the winner! But that's not all—we'll throw in **\$50** in SICB merchandise or registration fees! Bring on those designs...

### Message from the Program Officer

*Brooke Flammang (dpo.dvm@sicb.org)*

The SICB program committee recently met in San Francisco, CA, to finalize the program for the 2018 meeting. Once again, our society received a record number of abstracts—close to 2000, with approximately a quarter of those from DVM and DCB. Together, DVM and DCB will feature 35 oral sessions over 4 days, and 3 days of poster sessions showcasing 185 posters. DVM is also sponsoring four exciting symposia in San Francisco:



1. **Spatial Scale and Structural Heterogeneity in Skeletal Muscle Performance.** Organizers: David Williams & Natalie Holt
2. **Science Through Narrative: Engaging Broad Audiences (SICB wide).** Organizers: Sara Elshafie, Stuart Sumida & Bram Lutton
3. **Sensory Feedback and Animal Locomotion: Perspectives from Biology and Biorobotics.** Organizers: Brett Aiello, Jessica Fox & Gary Gillis
4. **Science in the Public Eye: Leveraging Partnerships.** Organizers: Martha Merson, Nick Hristov & Louise Allen

For the third year in a row we will feature a dedicated session for students competing in the Dwight D. Davis Best Student Presentation competition, which is scheduled for mid-morning on Thursday January 4th. No other sessions organized by DVM or DCB will be running concurrently, so please make it a point to come and support our outstanding students!

I would like to thank everyone who submitted symposium proposals for the 2018 meeting in Tampa, FL. DVM will be able to support five of those submitted—please stay tuned for announcements on the symposia titles. Our society relies on strong, forward-thinking symposia to bring together scientists from many fields and address important current topics. Most importantly, symposia are the cornerstone to the success of our journal, *Integrative and Comparative Biology*. I would like to particularly encourage early career investigators to consider organizing symposia, as it is a great way to interact with other leaders in your field.

This is going to be a fantastic meeting! The DVM/DCB social is likely to be on Friday night, within walking distance from the conference hotel. The hotel is in a great location with a lot of food and drink options nearby. Expect to have a great time!

Please remember to mark your calendar for the following upcoming deadlines: presenter registration deadline (Nov. 6th) and early bird registration (Dec. 4th). See <http://sicb.org/meetings/2018> and start making your travel plans! Child care is available again, see here <http://www.sicb.org/meetings/2018/travel.php> for details.

*Kevin Travis (Best Grad Student Talk awardee) delivering his oral presentation at the SICB Southwestern Regional Organismal Biology meetings. Photo credit: Dr. Sandy Kawano, CSU Long Beach.*

## Message from the Secretary

Andrew Clark ([secretary.dvm@sicb.org](mailto:secretary.dvm@sicb.org))

Welcome back, everyone! We had some exciting months with elections. I want to acknowledge our Chair, Program Officer, and our Elect Officers for their participation and leadership during these developments. Many thanks to all DVM members who cast



*Mason Dean, who will become Secretary-Elect in January 2018.*

their votes in the Spring! We are pleased to welcome aboard Mason Dean as the incoming Program Officer-Elect.

Four Regional DVM meetings have been or will be held this Fall:

1. **Southwestern Organismal Biology (SWOB) regional meeting for SICB** <https://swobmeetings.wordpress.com> will be held on **21 October 2017** at the Claremont Colleges. This meeting attracts up to ~80-100 organismal

biologists from all over Southern California with attendants from nearby UCs, CSUs, USC, Caltech and even as far as UNLV and Utah! Students will have the opportunity to present either a short (~5 min) talk or a poster in the afternoon poster session. We even plan to give “best talk” and “best poster” awards this year. The meeting is hosted by: Lars Schmitz, Steve Adolph, Anna Ahn, and Jenna Monroy. Keynote speaker: Michael Dickinson (Caltech).

2. **SICB Midwest Regional Meeting** will be held on **21 October 2017** at U of Akron, 8:30 am – 5:00 pm, with no registration fee and with food, coffee and snacks provided, followed by a closing reception at the Emily Davis Art Gallery. Folks can email Henry Astley ([hastley@uakron.edu](mailto:hastley@uakron.edu)) or [go to the website for more information.](#)





3. The 2017 North-East regional SICB (DVM/DCB) meeting will be held at UMass Lowell on **4 November 2017** (<http://konowlab.weebly.com/2017-SICB-DVM.html>). A 9 am – 5 pm day of talks will be held in Olsen Hall (home of Biological Sciences, 198 Riverside Rd. Lowell), with ample of coffee breaks for mingling. This will be followed by a dinner/social afterwards at Lowell Beerworks (walking distance). For information, contact Nicolai Konow ([Nicolai\\_konow@uml.edu](mailto:Nicolai_konow@uml.edu)).



*Coffee Break session at the SICB Midwest Regional Organismal Biology meetings. Photographs like this one show us what scientific meetings are about: socializing, networking, and sharing creative ideas! Photo credit: Dr. Henry Astley, University of Akron.*

4. The 2017 Southeastern regional SICB meeting will be held at Virginia Tech on **11 November 2017**. For additional information, contact the meeting organizers, Martha Muñoz ([mmunoz5@vt.edu](mailto:mmunoz5@vt.edu)) and Hodjat Pendar ([hpendar@vt.edu](mailto:hpendar@vt.edu)). Meeting website: <http://www.research.biol.vt.edu/SICB/2017regionalSICB.html>. Please use the form (link below) to register for the meeting to help the organizers keep track of your information, talk title, and dietary restrictions. Register here: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdlUMHNo8sUbm-FNq6-kljqO4OPECCF8P94kOiP1H5xjuWQg/viewform>

Finally, I hope that our researchers' database develops over the next year. We have only 11 research programs currently listed. If you are interested in contributing to the DVM researchers' database, please send the DVM secretary: 1) a brief title and 2) a short descriptive paragraph of your research program, and 3) a reasonably high-resolution photograph (greater than 300 KB). Please let me know if you have any questions about this. See you in San Francisco!

## Message from the Student/Postdoctoral Affairs Committee Representative

*Christopher Mayerl*

Hello DVM! I hope your year is going great so far. I'm getting really excited for SICB in San Francisco, and can't wait to see you all there. Over the next few months, Brett Aiello (the DCB Student/Postdoc representative) and I are going to be working on a few different things to try to improve the student and postdoctoral experience for DVM/DCB members. First, we're hoping to take advantage of social media by creating a joint DVM/DCB student twitter account, which we'll use to not only relay information about SICB to students, but also to highlight some of the great work that students in the field are conducting. We're discussing some options for the names, so keep your eyes on twitter! We're also working on some ideas to develop mentorship and networking opportunities for students, and will hopefully have some updates at the annual meeting.

The other topic we've been working on is an attempt to provide a SICB-wide writing network for DVM/DCB students and post-docs. What we're envisioning is something similar to the diagram below: students could submit a manuscript to a server, which will go to the student/postdoc representatives. We'll function basically as editors, and distribute the manuscript to other students and postdocs for a friendly review. One of the challenges at many universities is that there might be only one or two faculty in DVM/DCB related fields, so students often have a limited ability to get feedback on their writing before submitting their work. We're hoping that, in doing this, we'll improve the quality of student writing and also improve students' experiences with journal reviewers. This should hopefully also serve as a way for students and postdocs to get experience reviewing. We're looking for feedback about the idea, and are interested to know if you think that it would (a) be useful for students and (b) be used by students. If you have a few seconds, please take the time to fill out a [poll here](#).



If you have any other questions or comments, feel free to email me at [cmayerl@clemsun.edu](mailto:cmayerl@clemsun.edu), or contact me through twitter ([@c\\_mayerl](https://twitter.com/c_mayerl)). I hope to see you all in San Francisco, and can't wait to see all of the exciting work that's been going on over the past year!