



## 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*

**Laura Ekstrom**  
*Secretary 2018-2020*

**Andrew Clark**  
*Past Secretary 2018-2019*

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

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

### Message from the Chair

*John Hutchinson ([chair.dvm@sicb.org](mailto:chair.dvm@sicb.org))*

Greetings from the London area. There was a very enjoyable first regional DVM meeting in London this spring at the Natural History Museum, which drew almost 200 people from around the UK and broader Europe. We were fortunate to have generous funding from the Carl Gans Fund, Linnean Society, and the Society for Experimental Biology, in addition to SICB. Four spectacular keynote talks by world-class scientists (all of whom happened to be women) formed the centerpiece, but we also had 40 lightning talks on topics spanning the field — from stingray spines to mammal teeth, whiskers to reptilian vertebrae, and, yes, dinosaurs too. With a great location and support from the museum, wonderful catered food and plenty of breaks to talk science, there was unanimous enthusiasm for the event and calls for more, more, more! I'm glad, too, that DVM is continuing to support numerous regional meetings in the USA again this year, which our Secretary Laura Ekstrom will detail in her report.

I'm excited about SICB 2019 on the Gulf Coast, as I'm sure many of you are! I am still amazed that my brief tenure as Chair is coming to an end then — it has been a pleasure and honor to serve. A little more about that at our DVM business meeting at SICB. We're in good hands with Patricia Hernandez taking over in my place. Anyway, if you have any items you'd like added to the meeting's agenda, please be in touch with a DVM officer in advance.

Speaking of transitions of service posts, now is the time to begin thinking about running for SICB office in 2019 — we will be electing a new DVM Program Officer to replace Mason Dean (as per [www.sicb.org/resources/electionschedule.php3](http://www.sicb.org/resources/electionschedule.php3)) and **we are searching for a nominating committee**, to help identify two candidates by the end of January 2019. Program Officer is a hugely important service role, so we badly want good candidates! If you would like the relatively easy job of being one of our two nominating committee members, please let us know ASAP — and if you know of good nominees for Program Officer, keep them in mind for once the call goes out for candidates. Thank you to those that ran in our 2018 elections, and the nominating committee!

We are coming close to a decision on the much-anticipated DVM+DCB social event at SICB 2019, with a few options that we are weighing before we move to a contract. I thought it would be useful for members to know what the approximate constraints are that we operate under. We normally have to hold the event on a Fri/Sat night (i.e. 4/5 January) after other events, ideally at 7 or 9 pm or later. As that's a weekend night, it's the most expensive time even though it's in the cheaper post-holiday period. We have a total budget of about \$2000, or else we'd be eating into our other divisional discretionary funds. For ~200 people that's a puny budget. Hotels and conference centers of course are the most expensive option, generally charging \$4000+ for space, food and



meagre beverages, and then maybe \$10 for beers — which you won't want to pay. A DJ may be \$500ish. Bars/restaurants are cheaper, but we want them to be close enough to be convenient for members, and safe, and affordable. Venues generally have a food and beverage minimum, perhaps \$4000+, which we have to pay the balance of if members don't buy that much (e.g. spending an average of \$20 each if 200 people come) — and that is a risk if attendance is weak. This is all presuming we can get a private space — which we very much want — although getting a quiet private space for talking and a loud music-filled danceable space imposes additional challenges. So, those are the things we're juggling in order to find a reasonable compromise solution for this year. We won't do the event at the hotel itself (but maybe extremely close to it), we won't have the nice beach party with BBQ, or even the karaoke that we had first dreamed of — but we will have something fun (and, I think, catering to diverse preferences). More about that once details are finalized and the program is settled.

## Message from the Program Officer

Brooke Flammang ([dpo.dvm@sicb.org](mailto:dpo.dvm@sicb.org))

Hello DVM! I am very excited for this year's SICB meeting and I think you will all have a wonderful time. We (the SICB program committee) just met in Tampa, FL to finalize the program for the 2019 meeting. This year, our society received over 1800 abstracts, with approximately a quarter of those from DVM and DCB. Together, DVM and DCB will feature 232 talks in 36 oral sessions over 4 days and 3 days of poster sessions showcasing 177 posters. This amazing programming effort would not have been possible without the tireless efforts of Phil Anderson, PO for DCB (thanks Phil!).

DVM is also sponsoring many exciting symposia in Tampa:

### January 4

- S1. Integrative Plant Biology (SICB Wide) Organizers: Matt Ogburn, Erika Edwards
- S3. Playing with Power: Mechanisms of Energy Flow in Organismal Movement Organizers: Jeffrey Olberding, Michael Rosario, Stephen Deban

### January 5

- Adaptation and Evolution of Biological Materials (SICB Wide) Organizers: Rob Campbell, Mason Dean

### January 6

- Special Session: Ekoehlogical Biomechanics: A tribute to Mimi Koehl
- S7. Comparative Evolutionary Morphology and Biomechanics in the Era of Big Data (SICB Wide) Organizers: Martha Muñoz, Samantha Price
- S8. Multifunctional structures and multistructural functions: Functional coupling and integration in the evolution of biomechanical systems Organizers: Stacy Farina, Emily Kane

### January 7

- S12. The path less traveled: Reciprocal illumination of gecko adhesion by unifying material science, biomechanics, ecology, and evolution Organizers: Tim Higham, Alyssa Stark, Anthony Russell

Again this year 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 Friday January 4th. The DCB Mimi A.R. Koehl and Steven Wainwright Best Student Presentation competition will be on Saturday January 5th. 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!

A note to everyone submitting posters: You will have 4' x 4' of supported board space with a poster size of 42"x42". The poster venue is very spacious and should have good flow to promote a lot of great interactions!

There are also a lot of really exciting workshops offered this year that will help you learn and sharpen your skills in a wide range of topics:

### January 5

- Mastering Materials Imaging: Pushing boundaries in SEM and x-ray tomography. 12:00-1:30 pm. Please register on the website by December 4, 2018.
- Sketchnotes: A hands-on visual note-taking workshop with Shayle Matsuda. Noon-1:30 pm.

### January 6

- TAL-X Workshop: Identifying the core concepts of vertebrate morphology teaching: a means to enhance active learning and retention in the classroom. 7:00-9:00 pm.
- Libbie Hyman Auction will be held at the Marriott.



### January 7

- Evolutionary Biomechanics Mentoring and Networking Luncheon. 12:00-1:30 pm.

### January 8 (Extend your fun in Tampa!)

- Particle Image Velocimetry for Experimental Biology: Principles, Implementation, and a Hands-on session. 8:00 am–6:00 pm. Marriott Hotel, Room 1. Please register on the website by December 4, 2018.

I would like to thank everyone who submitted symposium proposals for the 2020 meeting in Austin, TX. DVM will be able to support seven 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. FYI, the best way to ensure funding for your symposium is to be as integrative as possible to attract the interests of multiple Divisions.

Please remember to mark your calendar for the following upcoming deadlines: **presenter registration deadline (Nov. 6th) and early bird registration (Dec. 4th)**. See [sicb.org/meetings/2018](http://sicb.org/meetings/2018) and start making your travel plans!

**Child care is available FOR FREE** this year, but you **must register by December 4** — see the website for details under “Hotel and Travel Info”. I am very proud to say that we will also have a Mother’s room for the first time — it is a private room directly next to the childcare, on the main meeting floor, and will have a refrigerator, sink, ample outlets, and comfortable chairs with armrests for feeding and pumping. And as an additional measure to promote inclusivity, we will have gender neutral bathrooms in multiple locations.

This is going to be a fantastic meeting! The DVM/DCB social is going to be on Saturday night, within quick walking distance from the conference hotel. The hotel and conference center are in a great location along the beautiful Riverwalk path. Expect to have a great time

### Message from the Student/Postdoctoral Affairs Committee Representative

*Christopher Mayerl*

I hope you’re all having a great fall semester, and that you’ll get to enjoy a [regional meeting](#) before the national one in January! The student postdoctoral affairs committee (SPDAC) is organizing a great workshop during the national SICB meeting this year on poster making, lead by Dr. Zen Faulkes, who has an entire blog dedicated to making [better posters!](#) There will be an online course in late November or early December, so be sure to stay tuned to the [SPDAC twitter](#) and the [DCB-DVM student postdoc twitter](#) for updates on that! If you know for sure that you want some tips before the meeting, head on over to the [interest form](#) and sign up.

If you’re starting to think about postdocs or faculty positions, you’ll know that fall is basically synonymous with ‘job season’. I’m sure you all know a lot of resources for those jobs, but figured I’d share some links for those of you who are new to the market, or just in case you haven’t seen them yet! I think a great place to start is actually the [SICB jobs and fellowships site](#), and if you’re just looking for external grants don’t forget to check out SPDACs curated [list!](#) One other great resource for jobs is [the evolutionary biology jobs wiki](#), and if you’re interested in teaching anatomy, the [American association of anatomists](#) has a job board as well. We also try to highlight as many jobs as possible on the DCB-DVM student-postdoc twitter ([@mechsNmorph](#)), so keep your eyes out there too.

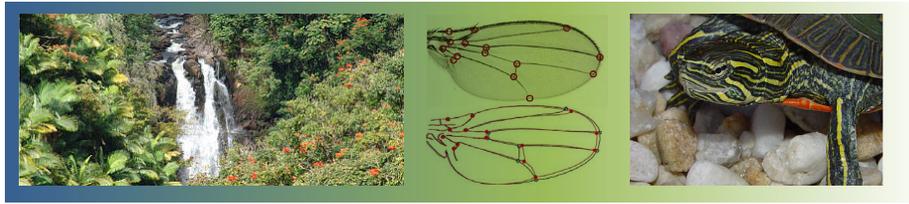
As always, if you have any questions that I can help with, feel free to email me at [cmayerl@neomed.edu](mailto:cmayerl@neomed.edu). Otherwise, I look forward to seeing all of you in January in Tampa for what I’m sure will be a fantastic meeting!

### Message from the Secretary

*Laura Ekstrom, [secretary.dvm@sicb.org](mailto:secretary.dvm@sicb.org)*

Thank you to everyone who participated in our Divisional elections, including all officers, both current and recently elected, the nominating committee, all nominated candidates, and everyone who voted in the elections in Spring. We are thrilled to welcome Adam Summers as our incoming Chair-elect and Angela Horner as our incoming Secretary-elect.

DVM is fortunate to have a number of exciting regional meetings throughout the year. Two have passed, and two are still upcoming:



The 2018 SICB Midwest Regional DVM/DCB Meeting took place on Oct. 6th, hosted by the University of Missouri.

From the organizers: "The meeting drew 45 attendees from Missouri, Iowa, Illinois, Oklahoma, and Michigan. The program was a mix of ~5-minute lightning talks, four longer keynote speakers (Kevin Middleton, Manuel Leal, Haley O'Brien, Jason Bourke), and a poster session. Callum Ross (University of Chicago) gave a public plenary to round out the day. Lightning talks were scheduled at 5 per hour (~12 minute slots), which allowed ample time for questions and discussion. Everybody loved it (photographic evidence provided). Thanks to SICB DVM and DCB and the University of Missouri for sponsoring such a great weekend!"



*The attendees of the 2018 SICB Midwest Regional DVM/DCB Meeting, hosted by the University of Missouri.*

The 2018 SICB Northeast Regional DVM/DCB Meeting had over 50 lightning talks, and was hosted by Brown University on Saturday, October 13.

### Upcoming regional meetings:

1. 2018 SICB Southeastern Regional DVM/DCB Meeting at Clemson University, on Saturday, November 10. A plenary address will be presented by Melina Hale (University of Chicago). For more information: [sites.google.com/view/sersicb2018/home](https://sites.google.com/view/sersicb2018/home)
2. 2018 Southwest Regional Meeting of Organismal Biologists at California State University, San Marcos, on Saturday, November 10. For more information: [swobmeetings.wordpress.com](http://swobmeetings.wordpress.com)

### Please also keep these international meetings on your radar:

1. AMAM 2019, Adaptive Motion in Animals and Machines, EPFL, Lausanne, Switzerland, Aug 19-23 2019. Abstract submission opens on January 18 and closes on March 8, 2019. For more information: [amam2019.epfl.ch](http://amam2019.epfl.ch)

2. ICVM 2019, International Congress of Vertebrate Morphology, Prague, Czech Republic, July 21-25, 2019. Abstract deadline will be in early February 2019. For more information: [www.icvm2019.com](http://www.icvm2019.com)

Finally, if possible, we hope you'll participate in the inspiring "What is a Scientist?" program, started by two of our own DVMers, Glenna Clifton and Kari Taylor-Burt.

From the organizers: "**Are you passionate about science outreach and attending the 2019 SICB meeting in Tampa? Join us for the 3rd annual "What is a Scientist?" Program (WIAS)!** This program will be held on **Tuesday, January 8** in Tampa, the day after the meeting ends. Each year, WIAS brings SICB scientists attending the annual meeting into middle school classrooms in our host cities. Our goal is to facilitate interactions between middle schoolers and scientists and to teach the scientific process through a fun experiment (with candy!). During the first two years of the program, 36 SICB scientists performed 61 classroom visits and reached over 1500 middle school students in Louisiana and California. The program is designed so volunteers have minimal prep work — we provide the lesson plan and materials, you come ready for a day of fun. Past SICB volunteers have ranged from graduate students to professors — all are welcome! If you are interested, we ask that you fill out this [interest form](#) and make sure to arrange your travel so that you can be in Tampa on January 8th. We are also happy to share more about the program or answer any questions you may have — just email Kari ([karitaylorburt@fas.harvard.edu](mailto:karitaylorburt@fas.harvard.edu)) or Glenna ([glenna.clifton@gmail.com](mailto:glenna.clifton@gmail.com)). We would love to have you join the 2019 WIAS team!"



*A group of WIAS volunteers during a classroom visit in California following the 2018 SICB meeting. From left to right: Susie Gagliardi, Glenna Clifton (WIAS Co-organizer), Benjamin Perlman, Alice Chou, & Sally Chang*