



Division of Vertebrate Morphology

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DVM Officers & Representatives

Alice Gibb
Chair 2013-2015

Callum Ross
Chair-Elect 2013-2015

Kiisa Nishikawa
Past Chair 2013-2015

Susan Williams
Secretary 2012-2014

Casey Holliday
Secretary-Elect 2013-2014

Rita Mehta
Program Officer 2012-2014

Joanna Mandeck
Student/Postdoc Rep 2011-2014

Message from the Chair

Alice Gibb (Chair.DVM@sicb.org)

I want to begin by thanking the members of the Division of Vertebrate Morphology for making 2013 another outstanding year for the society. Once again, we saw record-breaking attendance and participation for our annual meeting, and DVM sponsored three interesting and well-attended symposia: When Predators Attack: Sensing Motion in Predator-Prey Interactions, organized by Matthew McHenry and Stacey Combes, Vertebrate Land Invasions: Past, Present, and Future, organized by Alice Gibb, Miriam Ashley-Ross, Richard Blob, and Tonia Hsieh, and Phenotypic Plasticity and the Evolution of Gender Roles, organized by Janet Leonard. We received some great press for our symposium efforts when the Vertebrate Land Invasions symposium was written up by Science magazine early this year: <http://www.sciencemag.org/content/339/6118/390.full>. Oh behalf of the division, I would like to thank our symposia participants for the marvelous talks and the organizers for their hard work in obtaining support for these symposia from external funding sources.

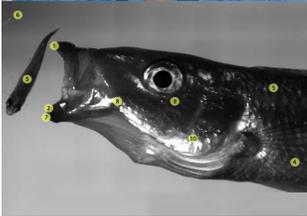
I would also like to take this opportunity to recognize the 2013 winners of the DVM D. Dwight Davis student award competitions: Sarah Kienle and Joshua Chow. Sarah received the award for the best podium presentation for her talk entitled: Hungry, Hungry Pinnipeds: The Comparative Feeding Morphology of Phocid Seals. Joshua received the best poster award for his presentation entitled: Convergent Feeding Kinematics in Elongate Cichlids. I congratulate these young scientists on their accomplishments — and I'm sure we will be seeing and hearing much more from them in the future.



2013 DVM Best Podium Presentation winner Sarah Kienle



Top: 2013 DVM Best Poster Presentation winner Joshua Chow. Bottom: Still image of *Rhamphochromis longiceps* from Joshua's study



In other news, the DVM Facebook page — which was initiated in the middle of last year — has taken off quite well and now has more than 80 members. If you are not yet a member of this Facebook group, please find us on Facebook and join! The Facebook group is a great way to distribute information (jobs, seminars, meetings, etc.) to other members of the DVM community during the 51 weeks of the year that we are not spending time together.

I would also like to take this opportunity to remind DVM members of the upcoming International Congress of Vertebrate Morphology, to be held in Barcelona this summer (July 8–12, 2013). This venue provides an excellent opportunity for those of us from the DVM to interact with a variety of international comparative, evolutionary and functional morphologists who are often unable to attend the SICB meetings in North America. Our own Adam Summers and Marvalee Wake have been involved in creating the program for the meeting, so I am sure it will be excellent. You can find additional information online at <http://icvm2013.com>.

Finally, one of our goals for this and subsequent years will be to identify various modes/methods of fundraising to support our student awards — which are still sadly underfunded. We will experiment with several ideas during the upcoming year, including selling DVM-themed SICB merchandise, and possibly hosting a fund-raising trip at the beginning of the meeting in Austin. If you have any additional fundraising ideas, I am very open to suggestions on this topic. Also, for those of you (ahem) more established scientists, I hope you might consider making an outright gift to DVM so that we can continue to recognize and celebrate our excellent up-and-coming young scientists.

I very much look forward to seeing you all in Austin next January!

Message from the Divisional Program Officer
Rita S. Mehta (DPO.DVM@sicb.org)

Thanks for gathering on the west coast for SICB 2013. It was another stimulating meeting. DVM accepted 250 presentations and supported three outstanding symposia. Congratulations again to our DVM Student Award winners: Sarah Kienle (San Diego State University) delivered an outstanding oral presentation while Joshua Chow (University of California, Davis) presented a captivating and thorough poster. A special thanks to all of our DVM student judges. Now that summer is quickly approaching, here is a list of events that you should mark on your calendars:

1. SICB invades Austin, TX in 2014. We will be gathering in the historic, musical, and artsy city of Austin Texas next year. This is a meeting you won't want to miss. Abstract submission will be in September- don't forget to select the "Morphology" category for your submission – otherwise, you won't be part of the "in" morphology crowd...if you know what I mean. I'm excited to relay to you that DVM is sponsoring two integrative symposia: "Shaking, dripping and drinking: surface-tension phenomena in organismal biology" organized by David Hu, Rachel Levy, and Lydia Bourouiba, and "Terrestrial locomotion: Where do we stand, where are we going," organized by Richard Blob and Tim Higham. We hope to see you in Austin in 2014 so we can feel like we are doing our part to "Keep Austin Weird."

2. Symposium Proposals for West Palm Beach, Florida in 2014. Proposals will be due on August 30, 2013. Application materials are now posted on the SICB website! Please contact the SICB Program Officer-Elect, Dr. Sherry Tamone (ProgramOfficer.Elect@sicb.org) with any questions. Both SICB (and NSF) strongly encourage two major facets in symposium development. First, symposia should identify important topics and help them chart the way forward in a field, with the Grand Challenges initiative in mind. Second, symposia are a fantastic opportunity to broaden participation in a field and in the Society. This can be considered from a variety of perspectives, by including participants from historically underrepresented groups, a wide range of institutions, and a broad range of career stages. Creative planning of complementary sessions of posters or talks as part of the symposium application can further aid this objective. Also think about creative avenues for funding your symposia: for example, if



a company's equipment features prominently in your studies, the company may be willing to help support your symposium – no harm in asking!

3. Regional Meetings in the Fall of 2013.

DVM has a strong tradition of regional meetings, which are a great warm up for the national meeting and an excellent venue for students to get involved in presentations. Regional meetings are an especially great venue for undergraduates who are exploring options for graduate school- a smaller intimate setting to talk with potential advisors may be more helpful for some. The Southeast Regional meeting will be held at Georgia Tech this year thanks to David Hu and Dan Goldman - keep an eye out for an announcement with dates, and news on the Northeast Regional meeting should be coming soon. The 2nd Annual Southwest Regional will be held at the University of California, Irvine. This meeting will be hosted by Matt McHenry and Manny Azizi. If a regional meeting isn't held in your area, consider organizing one – I'll be happy to offer pointers or contacts for ideas.

4. **10th International Congress on Vertebrate Morphology in Barcelona, Spain.** Although the registration site for ICVM is still open, abstracts are no longer being accepted. ICVM meets in the exciting city of Barcelona, Spain, July 8–12, 2013 at the Hotel Fira Palace. This is a beautiful venue in one of Europe's most spectacular cities. The program for ICVM is available for viewing at <http://icvm2013.com/index.php/programme>. ICVM-10 also has a Facebook page with updated information: <https://www.facebook.com/ICVM10>.

Message from the Secretary

Susan Williams (Secretary.DVM@sicb.org)

I'd like to start off by thanking everyone for such a great turnout at the DVM Business Meeting in San Francisco. In talking with other Division Secretaries, it seems like we get an amazing number of attendees and have an active and concerned group of scientists in our division. You all made passing the many changes to the DVM by-laws very easy! Also, I want to extend many, many thanks to outgoing DVM Chair Kiisa Nishikawa for her hard work and dedication to our division. Kiisa remains part of DVM Executive Committee as Past-Chair through 2015, and I am sure we will be relying on her expertise. Finally, a big welcome to Alice Gibb as the new DVM Chair!

The San Francisco meeting was incredible – there were a ton of interesting talks and DVM folks were integral to making the meeting a success. As usual our participation extended beyond scientific contributions as many DVM members are also active on various committees throughout SICB.

It's election time again, and we need to elect a Program Officer to take over from Rita. Whoever is elected will serve as Program Officer-Elect in 2014 and their official term would start in 2015. This is an important position given the number of abstracts we are receiving each year for the annual meeting. We have two outstanding candidates for the position – Manny Azizi and Frank Fish. Their candidate profiles are below. Please vote in the upcoming election!

**Minutes of the 2013 DVM Business Meeting
January 5, 2013, San Francisco, CA**

Click [here](#).

ICVM 2013





Candidates for Elections

Candidates for Program Officer-Elect:

Manny Azizi



Current Position: Assistant Professor, Dept. of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology; University of California, Irvine

Education: 1998: BA, Physical Science, University of California, Berkeley; 2005: PhD Organismic and Evolutionary Biology, University of Massachusetts, Amherst

Professional Experience:

2005-2007: Post-doctoral Research Associate, Brown University; 2007-2010: NIH post-doctoral Fellow, Brown University; 2010: Assistant Professor, Dept. of Biology, The College of New Jersey

SICB Activities: Judge, Dwight D. Davis Award, Division of Vertebrate Morphology, 2008, 2010; Panelist, Workshop on "Effective Presentation Skills"; Broadening Participation Committee 2013; Session chair 2013

Other Memberships: American Physiological Society; Society of Experimental Biology; International Congress of Vertebrate Morphology

Research Interests: My research is on the integrative physiology of the vertebrate musculoskeletal system and the motor control and biomechanics of locomotion. I am broadly interested in how the mechanical demands of locomotion have shaped physiological and morphological variation in muscles.

Goals Statement: The continued growth of DVM is in large part due to our members' ability to bring together novel methodologies and integrate new information to address important questions in organismal biology. Advances in new visualizations techniques are opening new avenues for relating morphological structure and function. In addition, the expansion of molecular toolkits beyond standard model organisms presents an exciting opportunity to understanding morphological variation over ecological and evolutionary time-scales. As DVM program officer my main goal will be to organize sessions in order to facilitate potential collaboration between investigators with diverse viewpoints. I will work closely with counterparts in DCB, DCPB, DNB and DEDB to blur some of the traditional boundaries across divisions. I will work to find areas of overlap that bring

together speakers asking similar questions while using disparate approaches or working at varying levels of biological organization. I would be honored to contribute to the continued growth and expansion of our division.

Frank Fish



Current Position: Professor, Department of Biology, West Chester University; Faculty, Shoals Marine Laboratory, Cornell University

Education: Ph.D. 1980: Zoology, Michigan State University; M.S. 1977: M.S., Zoology, Michigan State University; B.A. 1975: Biology, State University College at Oswego, New York

Professional Experience:

1989-Present: Professor, Department of Biology, West Chester University; 1986-1989: Associate Professor, Department of Biology, West Chester University; 1980-1986: Assistant Professor, Department of Biology, West Chester University; 1975-1980: Teaching Assistant, Department of Zoology, Michigan State University

SICB Activities: Local Committee for annual meeting in Philadelphia, PA (1983); Nominating Committee for the Chair-Elect of the Division of Vertebrate Morphology (1984, 1988, 1992); Secretary of the Division of Vertebrate Morphology (1991-1992, 1993-1994, 1994-1995); Editorial Board for the American Zoologist (1992-1997); D. Dwight Davis Student Award Committee (1996, 1999); Co-organizer of symposium, Stability and Maneuverability, Chicago (2001); Chair-elect of the Division of Vertebrate Morphology (2002); Chair of the Division of Vertebrate Morphology (2003-2004); SICB Digital Library Advisory Board (2004-2006); Interim Program Officer of the Division of Comparative Biomechanics (2006-2007); Chair of the Nominating Committee for the Chair-Elect of the Division of Comparative Biomechanics (2006); Program Officer of the Division of Comparative Biomechanics (2007-2009); Division of Comparative Biomechanics Nominating Committee (2011); Division of Comparative Biomechanics Program Officer Nominating Committee (2013)

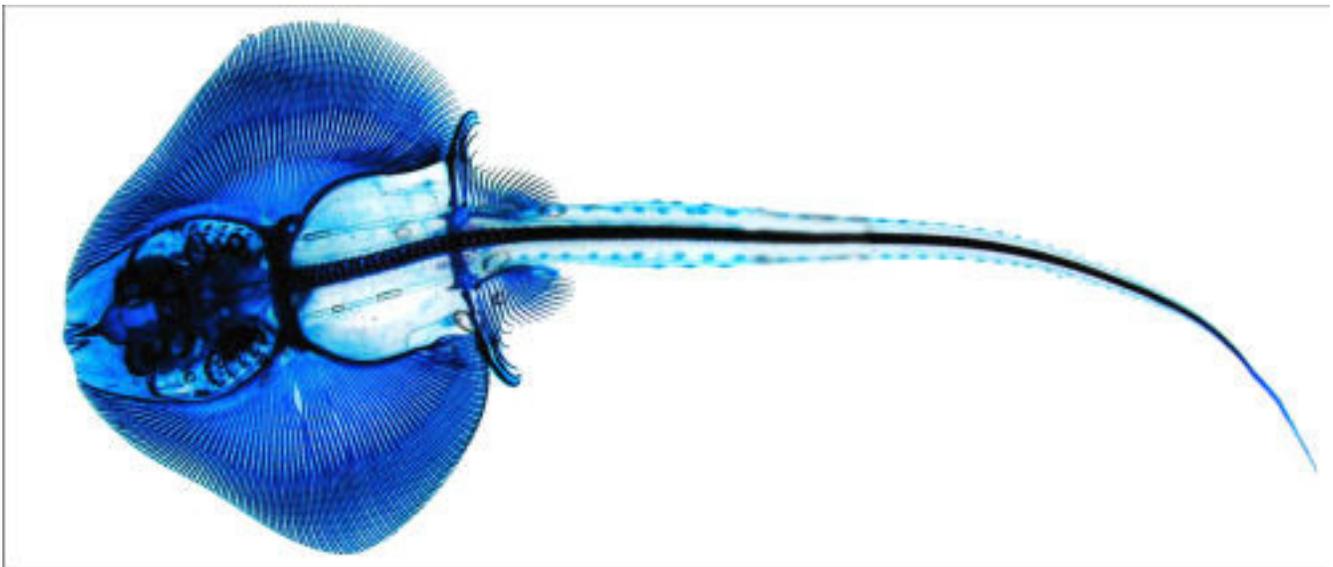
Research Interests: My research interests include the study of 1) the energetics and hydrodynamics of aquatic locomotion by vertebrates with special emphasis on the evolution of swimming modes and



morphologies in mammals, 2) thermoregulation of mammals, birds, and reptiles in respond to an aquatic environment, and 3) biomimetic applications of aquatic animal propulsive and hydrodynamic control systems.

Goals Statement: The division program officer is one of the more important duties in SICB. The program officer is tasked with setting up the schedule for each meeting, finding session chairs, shepherding symposia, scheduling the business meeting and socials, and reporting to the divisional officers and member of the DVM. My primary goal is to support and strengthen the DVM program through building

a workable schedule of talks and posters, encouraging new and exciting symposia, and coordination of scheduling the contributed papers with the other SICB divisions. Co-sponsorship of symposia with other divisions will aid in integrating morphology with the collective interests of the SICB. As the DVM program officer, I would be in a position to review abstracts prior to the meeting to assist members of the press in highlighting interesting and groundbreaking research and recognize the importance of morphology and organismal biology.



Adam P. Summers