



Division of Vertebrate Morphology

Contents

Message from the Chair	1
Message from the Program Officer	2
Message from the Secretary	2
Minutes from the Business Meeting	2
Amendment to the by-laws	3
Elections	4

DVM Officers & Representatives

Alice Gibb
Chair 2013-2015

Callum Ross
Chair-Elect 2013-2015

Kiisa Nishikawa
Past Chair 2013-2015

Casey Holliday
Secretary 2014-2016

Rita Mehta
Program Officer 2012-2014

Manny Azizi
Program Officer-Elect 2014-2015

Morgan Burnette
Student/Postdoc Affairs 2014-2017

Statement from the Chair

Alice Gibb (Chair.DVM@sicb.org)

Greetings DVM Members,

I want to thank all of you who were able to attend the SICB meeting in January in Austin, TX. Thanks especially to our Program Officer Rita Mehta for working with the rest of the society to generate a wonderful program for the meeting. Austin was a terrific meeting venue, it was our second highest attended meeting to date, and a great success overall.

I would also like to formally thank Misty Paig-Tran and Katie Staab for organizing the student presentation judging and acknowledge the hordes of generous folks they roped into judging the numerous posters and oral presentations for DVM this year. The judges and the judging organizers all did a fantastic job, and I am very cognizant and appreciative of their hard work. As chair, I also take this opportunity to congratulate all of the students who participated in the two "best presentation posters in Austin; I know you made the judges jobs challenging because there were so many great talks and posters! However, when the dust settled, the judges agreed on two winners and one honorable mention for the DVM awards. Alejandro Rico-Guevara from the University of Connecticut was selected for the Davis Award for Best Oral Presentation for his talk on "Ecological Implications of Hummingbird Feeding Mechanisms". Honorable mention for this award was given to Gerardo Cordero of Iowa State University for his talk entitled "Evolution of Shell Kinesis in Turtles: Developmental Origins of a Convergent Phenotype During and After Embryogenesis." The award for best poster presentation was given to V. David Munteanu of Bucknell University for his poster entitled: "The effect of turtle locomotor style on plastron shape and strength."

For the upcoming meeting in January of 2015, we hope to initiate a new model for the student award competition for best oral presentation. Following a model set by several other divisions of SICB, we are working toward requiring students to submit a 2-page "expanded abstract" at the same time that they submit their short abstract for the meeting in late summer of 2014. These abstracts will be directed to a selection panel composed of DVM volunteers, who will choose approximately 12 students to give oral presentations within a named session (Davis Oral Presentation Session) at the meeting in West Palm Beach in January 2015. The winner of the Davis Award will be selected from among the students who participate in this named session. At this time, I am soliciting volunteers who would be interested in serving on either the selection committee (to determine which students participate in the named oral presentation session) and also volunteers who would be interested in serving as judges during the oral presentation session. Please contact me if you are interested in assisting with this process.



Looking toward next year, West Palm Beach (FL) is shaping up to be a wonderful meeting with four DVM sponsored/co-sponsored symposia. As I am sure Rita will also remind you, we are still soliciting symposia for the Portland OR meeting in January of 2016. DVM symposia are generally some of the most interesting and integrative presentations at the SICB meeting—so please consider organizing a symposium to bring fresh ideas and new faces to our Portland meeting.



"See you in West Palm Beach!"

Speaking of meetings, I am aware of three regional meetings of DVM that are currently being planned for fall 2014: Midwest (University of Missouri), Northeast (University of Connecticut), Southeast and Southwest (UC Irvine). If there are others that I am not aware of, please write to me and let me know. It is wonderful that our membership is growing and that you all continue to find new avenues and venues to involve students and young researchers in our society.

Best wishes for a happy and productive year.

Statement from the Program Officer

Rita S. Mehta (DPO.DVM@sicb.org)

Thank you all for a fantastic Austin Meeting. What an awesome venue! The music was great but the presentations, research findings, and scientific conversations...priceless! Personally, I thought the change from 20 min talks to 15 min talks was pretty seamless and proved to be a fantastic way to accommodate our growing society.

It is already time to start thinking about the next meeting in West Palm Beach Florida (January 3-7, 2015). Don't forget about the abstract and symposium deadlines in August. There will be a reminder email that goes out to all our members. While you think about signing up for a poster, abstract or either, please remember the category "lightening talks." These 5 min talks are not only fun and challenging but a great way to get an idea out quickly and generate discussion. As

I mentioned at the business meeting, the West Palm Beach Symposia were all supported by multiple divisions. Please feel free to get in touch with me if you want to talk about symposia ideas and what DVM has sponsored in the last three years. Now is the time to start thinking about proposals for Portland!

DVM and DCB had some very productive business discussions in Austin. Both divisions have decided to adopt the extended abstract model for the student award competition for best oral presentation. There also was interest in naming the student poster competition. George Lauder volunteered the Karel F. Liem award relaying that it would be a "deliciously ironic" honor as Karl would never make a poster for a scientific meeting. Please be on the lookout for voting on the name for the student poster competition on our next ballot.

Statement from the Secretary

Casey M. Holliday (Secretary.DVM@sicb.org)

Thanks to everyone for such a great turnout at the DVM Business Meeting in Austin. I am consistently impressed by the level of enthusiasm shown by our members every year.

The Austin meeting was most excellent – there were numerous interesting talks and DVM folks were integral to making the meeting a success, although the stuffed avocados, BBQ and other local fare certainly helped. As usual our participation extended beyond scientific contributions as many DVM members are also active on various committees throughout SICB. Please don't forget to send me information and photos to upload to the DVM Researcher's Database. There was discussion this year about mobilizing our information in more proactive ways, so send me a photograph, title, and brief paragraph so we can better populate the DVM page.

Minutes of the 2013 DVM Business Meeting January 5, 2014, Austin, Texas ([Click here](#))

There will be three revisions included along with the election's ballot later this Spring elaborated upon below: 1) The implementation of an extended abstract for the Dwight Davis Student Oral Prize, as described by Alice above with some tweaks regarding participant requirements; 2) The vote to change the name to the Student Poster Prize to the Karel F. Liem Poster Prize, as described by Rita above; and 3) Changes to the language of amendments and by-law revisions to better



synchronize the business meeting agenda and business meeting votes. Basically, the current language states that the agenda must be provided 60 days prior to the business meeting for any motions and votes to be official. We will fix that to allow all items voted upon at the annual meeting to officially carry without additional ballots, assuming quorum is met.

This Spring is also election time, and we need to elect a Chair to replace Alice and a Secretary to replace me (Casey). Thanks to Miriam Ashley-Ross, Jeanette Wyneken and Nikolai Konow for serving as the nominating committee! Those elected will serve as Chair-Elect 2015-2016 and Secretary-Elect in 2015 and their official term would start in 2017 and 2016, respectively. These are important positions given the amount of business and activities we conduct as a Division. We have two outstanding candidates for each position. Their candidate profiles are below. Please vote in the upcoming election!

Amendments to by-laws

DVM Bylaws (Old language is ~~strikethrough~~, new language is **Bold Underline**)

Article XVII. Best Student Presentation Awards

1. D. Dwight Davis Award for Best Student Paper Presentation: An award may be given for an outstanding paper presented by a student (or by a new Ph.D. who received the degree no more than 12 months before the meeting at which the paper is presented). The award is made only on the unanimous decision of a committee of at least three members, appointed before the meeting by the Chair of the Division. The guidelines for the award are as follows:

a. Each student shall be allowed to compete for the D. Dwight Davis Award ~~no more than two times~~ **an unlimited number of times however a student may only win the award once.**

b. The work must be original, must have been carried out by the competing student, and the student must be the first author. Co-authored papers may be entered into the competition, but the student must describe explicitly the contributions of all of the co-authors as part of the presentation. Failure to make the contributions of all listed co-authors clear may be grounds for disqualification.

c. Each student will submit a two page extended abstract to be reviewed by the DVM program officer and appointed reviewers. These extended abstracts will be an opportunity for the student's to share more aspects of their research and will not be published. Students with the top selected extended abstracts will then present their work in a platform session devoted to Davis Award participants. We will ask for a short form version of these abstracts to be included in the final program.

d.e. The intention of the award is to recognize significant conceptual, observational, and experimental contributions to the field of vertebrate morphology. These shall be the major criteria for selection. Only outstanding work is to be recognized.

e.d. Acceptable standards of visual aids and oral presentation shall be required for consideration. Spectacular presentation techniques shall not by themselves qualify a paper.

2. Award for **Karel F. Liem Award** Best Student Poster Presentation: An award may be given for an outstanding poster presentation given by a student (or a new Ph.D. who received the degree no more than 12 months before the meeting at which the paper is presented). In addition, a certificate will be given as well as an appropriate gift to reflect Vertebrate Morphology. The work must be original, and must have been carried out by the student or students. The award is made only on the unanimous decision of a committee of three appointed before the meeting by the Chair of the Division. The guidelines for the award are as follows:

a. The intention of the award is to recognize significant conceptual, observational, and experimental contributions to the field of vertebrate morphology. These shall be the major criteria for selection. Only outstanding work is to be recognized.

b. Acceptable standards of visual presentation techniques shall not by themselves qualify a poster.

Article XVIII. Amendments

~~These Bylaws may be amended at any annual meeting of the Division by a two-thirds vote of the members of the Division voting, provided that notice has been given to all members 60 days in advance, or by a two-thirds majority of votes submitted by both paper and appropriately secure electronic ballots.~~



These Bylaws may be amended by members of the Division provided that notice has been given to all members 60 days in advance. Approval by two-thirds of those voting at any annual meeting of the Division is required, or at other times approval by two-thirds majority voting by either paper ballots or appropriately secure electronic ballots. In either case, it is the responsibility of the Executive Committee to assure that opportunities for discussion, either verbal or written, occur before a ballot is taken.

Candidate Profiles

Chair-Elect

Dominique Adriaens



Current Position:

Full professor at Ghent University, Belgium. <http://www.fun-morph.ugent.be/?q=user/11>

Education:

MSc Biology in '92, PhD in Sciences (Biology) in '98, both at Ghent University.

Professional Experience: Professionally born and raised at UGent: within the Department of Biology, postdoctoral assistant from '98, assistant professor since '01, associate professor since '09 and full since '12 (and still there). Research associate at the AMNH since '04. Director of the Zoology Museum at the Faculty of Sciences (UGent) since '02. Head of the research group 'Evolutionary Morphology of Vertebrates' since '03. Chair of the educational board Biology at UGent since '09, and member of the Faculty Board since '04. Coordinator of the teacher's education in Biology since '12. Was twice chair of the Royal Belgian Zoological Society, and has been member of the Executive Board of the International Society for Vertebrate Morphology (since '10). Been member of numerous grant and project reviewing committees of various funding agencies (national and international). (Co-)supervisor of 13 past and 8 on-going PhD's. Supervised students from at least 16 different countries. Member of the editorial board of a couple of journals.

SICB Activities: Been attending SICB every year since 2006 (except for 2014 meeting ... weather and plane issue). Student judging at several SICB meetings (did not keep track of it since when). Honorary

Associate to the Editorial Board of the Society of Integrative and Comparative Biology since '13.

Other Memberships: Member of Royal Belgian Zoological Society, International Society of Vertebrate Morphology, European Society of Ichthyology, American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists, Society of Integrative and Comparative Biology, Sociedade Brasileira de Ictiologia, Société Française d'Ichthyologie, European Aquaculture Society, European Society for Evolutionary Biology.

Research Interests: Interested in too much, actually, but mainly focusing on evolutionary morphology in vertebrates, specifically aspects related to feeding and locomotion. Have a background in fish morphology, but over the years have been working on other vertebrate groups as well. My main interest is in functional morphology, but placing things in a broader ecological, evolutionary, behavioral, and applied context (e.g. aquaculture, engineering, biomimicry).

Goals Statement: What the years have taught me is that it's a bad strategy to try to change things just for the matter of change. My primary goal as chair of DVM would not be to change as much as possible. One should set goals, but one should also be realistic. DVM as a community is doing great, so my first goal would be to watch and learn how the DVM board is doing things in practice (being chair-elect is great for that matter!). So I'm at this point not going to make big promises, yet. Watch first, act then. If there is one thing that I would like to indicate, is that I have been fighting for in several biological organizations (of whatever nature), to make sure that young biologists (or in this case vertebrate morphologists) get the most out of their scientific career, including being member of a scientific organization, being able to attend courses and congresses, and being able to get the most out of that. That is definitely a role I would like to continue to play as chair of DVM (actually wherever possible as member of DVM).





John Hutchinson



Current Position: Professor of Evolutionary Biomechanics, Royal Veterinary College. <http://www.rvc.ac.uk/staff/jhutchinson.cfm>

Education: PhD, 2001, Integrative Biology, University of California; BS, 1993, Zoology, University of Wisconsin.

Professional Experience 2003-present: Professor of Evolutionary Biomechanics, Department of Comparative Biomedical Sciences, Structure & Motion Laboratory, The Royal Veterinary College (London, UK); NSF Postdoctoral Fellow in Bioinformatics, 2001-2003, Stanford University.

SICB Activities: None yet other than occasional session chair ~2001 onwards.

Other Memberships: Int Soc Vert Morph (exec comm), Soc Vert Paleontol, Soc Exper Biol, Soc System Biol, Anat Soc (UK), Friend of the Zoological Society of London, Fellow of the Linnean Society.

Research Interests: I study how locomotion works in individual species in order to reconstruct how locomotion has evolved across vast phylogenetic spans. In particular, I'm curious how body size influences locomotor abilities and how morphology and function are related (or not) in vertebrates. Dinosaurs (including birds), elephants, crocodiles, early tetrapods and more species have been favourite subjects of my research.

Goals Statement: I have proudly been involved in the DVM since around 1995, and more broadly SICB/ASZ was the conference that convinced me that graduate school and academic life were what I wanted to pursue, when I first came as an undergraduate in ~1993. I consider myself to be a morphologist at heart because everything I study in evolution and biomechanics ultimately comes back to understanding morphology, as the critical foundation of my research and something that personally captivates me at visceral and cerebral levels. As Chair, a mission that I would spearhead is to strengthen and diversify the DVM's (and morphology's) profile in social media and in the public eye. I firmly believe that not only is our field stronger than it has ever been as a research endeavor, and perhaps more under threat than ever as a taught subject, there is also considerable general interest in morphology in many members of the general public

that could be tapped and satisfied in more pervasive and diverse ways by reaching out to them. I hope that harnessing this interest can reverse trends in the reduction of morphology teaching and also help continue the trend to raise the profile of morphology among other scientists, as the "age of the genome" transitions (or comes full circle) into the "age of the phenotype." Social media provides the newest of several tools that would help achieve such aims, and I would seek to bolster the ways that DVM teaches and implements these methods in addition to older ones.

Secretary-Elect

Michael Butcher



Current Position: Assistant Professor, Department of Biological Sciences, Youngstown State University (Lab website: <http://people.ysu.edu/~mtbutcher/Home.html>)

Education: Ph.D. 2006, University of Calgary (Zoology: Biomechanics); M.S. 2000: Wake Forest University (Biology: Functional Morphology); B.S. 1996: Christopher Newport University (Exercise Science).

Professional Experience: 2008-present: Assistant Professor, Department of Biological Sciences, YSU; 2006-2008: Postdoctoral Fellow, Department of Biological Sciences, Clemson University; 2004-2006: Research Assistant, Department of Biological Sciences, University of Calgary; 2001-2004: Teaching Assistant, Departments of Chemical Engineering and Exercise Science; 2000-2001: Chemical Hygiene Officer, Department of Biology, Wake Forest University; 1998-2000: Teaching Assistant, Department of Biology, Wake Forest University.

Awards and Honors: 2014: Tenure, YSU; 2013: Mentor of the Year Award, YSU; 2012: Young Investigator Award, Sigma Xi; 2012: Distinguished Professor Award, Scholarship and Research, YSU; 2004: Excellence and Innovation in Science Education Award, SICB.

SICB Activities: DVM student prize judge

Other Memberships: American Society of Mammalogists; Sigma Xi



Research Interests: Muscle and bone structure and function; Locomotor mechanics; Myosin isoform expression in prehensile tails

Goals Statement: It is an honor to be nominated for the position of DVM secretary. My first exposure to a scientific meeting was the 2000 SICB meeting in Atlanta, where I was truly inspired by the high quality science presented by the DVM division. This experience helped solidify my choice to pursue a career in morphology and biomechanics, and I have proudly participated in this intellectual climate, that is DVM, each year since my first meeting. As secretary, I will fulfill the required responsibilities and work to maintain effective communication within DVM, across the other divisions of SICB, and among other scientific societies. Important in this role is the promotion of the quality and breadth of DVM research to recruit new students and investigators to both the division and society. I will work to do this by (i) facilitating the development of symposia showcasing novel DVM research, (ii) generating greater exposure of DVM events and the research accomplishments of its members via web-based media, and (iii) developing additional creative ways to mentor students and postdoctoral researchers for future success as vertebrate morphologists. I am strongly committed to science and believe we have a responsibility to educate the outside world on the merits of basic scientific research and wondrous diversity of animal structure and function.

Andrew J. Clark



Current position: Assistant Professor. Department of Biology, College of Charleston. <http://clarkaj.people.cofc.edu/Home.html>

Education: 2002, B.Sc., University of Maryland, College Park; 2009, Ph.D.,

University of California, Irvine.

Professional experience: 2010-present, Assistant Professor, Dept. Biology, College of Charleston; 2012 Visiting Scientist, Friday Harbor Laboratories, University of Washington; 2009-2010; Postdoctoral Associate, Dept. Biological Sciences, Clemson University; 2008;.

Part-time Faculty, Dept. Physical Therapy, Chapman University.

SICB activities: I have been an active and enthusiastic member of SICB since 2004. I delivered four first authored oral presentations, four first authored poster presentations, and, coauthored one oral presentation and three poster presentations. I delivered three first authored oral presentations at three Southeast Regional DCB-DVM meetings. In 2011, I judged oral and poster presentations and chaired the Best Student Paper Award Committee for the Division of Vertebrate Morphology. I served as a session chair in 2011 and 2012. In 2012, I co-organized the 5th Southeastern Regional SICB Meetings for the Divisions of Comparative Biomechanics and Vertebrate Morphology held in Charleston, SC. Since 2012, I have been a member of the SICB Broadening Participation Committee, and, in 2013, organized and delivered a workshop titled "Effective Presentation Skills."

Other memberships: American Elasmobranch Society; American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists; Sigma Xi; Society of Vertebrate Paleontology

Research interests: My research program investigates animal form-function relationships at organizational levels ranging from tissue to whole organisms, how these organizational levels are integrated and work as a system, and, more broadly, how these relationships affect behavior, ecology, and evolution, and how they can benefit humans. My fascination with animal form and function is the product of my obsession for animals, my zookeeping experiences, and my training as a comparative physiologist. Experimental approaches I use include high-speed videography, electromyography, force measurement, materials testing, and anatomical dissection. Most of my research investigates the biomechanics of feeding in hagfishes.

Goals statement: I am enthusiastic about the prospect of becoming secretary and I look forward to helping DVM in any way possible. DVM and SICB have played crucial roles in my professional and personal development, and as DVM secretary, I look forward giving back to this community. My goals will be to edit DVM newsletters, be a representative correspondent with other divisional secretaries and the society-wide secretary, keep records for DVM, and explore new ways of promoting DVM to the outside world. It is an honor to be nominated for the position of DVM secretary.