

## Division of Vertebrate Morphology

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**Richard W. Blob**

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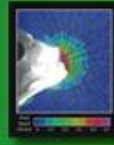
### **Message from the Chair**

*Mark Westneat*

Hello Vertebrate Morphologists, welcome to the autumn newsletter. The main news is about other interesting meetings focused on our area, with a hugely successful ICVM-9 meeting held in July in Punta del Este Uruguay. There were plenary talks by DVM members Melina Hale and Peter Wainwright (among others), and symposia on topics ranging from evolution and development of the vertebrate ear, to development and morphology in various taxa and systems, vertebrate gigantism, computational reconstruction and x-ray motion analysis. Apparently, the science, the location and the banquet were all fantastic!

Looking ahead, I understand that the Salt Lake City SICB meeting is shaping up nicely, and encourage you all to look up from your busy teaching and other Fall activities to plan for attendance and presenting your latest work. Rick Blob (our intrepid Program Officer) tells me that morphological research is again a strong component of these meetings, so we look forward to those sessions. DVM is presently involved in three symposia: Synthesis of Physiologic Data from the Mammalian Feeding Apparatus Using FEED, the Feeding Experiments End-User Database, organized by S. Williams; Bioinspiration: Applying Mechanical Design to Experimental Biology, organized by B. Flammang; and The Biomechanics and Behavior of Gliding Flight, organized by R. Dudley. You can read more about these and other upcoming symposia in the Program Officer's Message.

Finally, this is my last newsletter as DVM Chair and before I jump overboard I would like to welcome Kiisa Nishikawa to the Captain's chair in the wheelhouse, and thank the SICB leadership and officers, and the other DVM officers I have served with, particularly Gary Gillis, Jeff Walker, Lara Ferry and Rick Blob. Thanks to all of you for your service to the Division and Society. See you in Salt Lake!



## Message from the Program Officer

*Rick Blob*

Fall is here again, which means that in addition to the usual signs of the season (falling leaves, playoff baseball, and the first round of midterm exams), SICB POs have read hundreds of abstracts and planned an exciting program for our 2011 meeting in Salt Lake City. The hard work was really yours in conducting all the studies that we'll look forward to hearing about in January. Based on submitted abstracts, the Salt Lake meeting will be among the biggest we've had: well over 1000 presentations, with 235 designating "Morphology" as a primary focus. In addition to posters and three fantastic DVM-sponsored symposia (more below), that translated to 27 oral sessions to distribute over our new, 4 full day meeting. Working hard with the other POs (especially Steve Deban from DCB), I think we've assembled a series of interesting sessions with as little overlap as possible. There certainly won't be a shortage of presentations to see, so if you're planning to hit the slopes while you're in Utah, make sure to book an extra day because you won't want to miss any of the meeting!

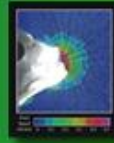
Speaking of planning trips, be sure to register on time to ensure discounted registration fees and a room at the primary conference hotel (SLC Marriott Downtown). Several nice restaurants are nearby, lots of rooms have great views of the mountains, and the conference venue at the Salt Palace Convention Center is just across the street. The Utah Symphony is located next to the Salt Palace and has a concert on the last night of the meeting Friday, which might make a fun destination after the Society-wide social wraps up the afternoon of our full program on the final day.

This year's symposia are also outstanding. Three sponsored by DVM include: The Biome-

chanics and Behavior of Gliding Flight, organized by Robert Dudley; Bioinspiration and Applying Mechanical Design to Comparative Experimental Biology, organized by Brooke Flammang, and a Synthesis of Physiologic Data from the Mammalian Feeding Apparatus using FEED, the Feeding Experiments End-User Database, organized by Susan Williams and colleagues. We also received several interesting proposals for symposia to be held at our 2012 meeting in Charleston – thanks to everyone who submitted a proposal for your ideas. Hopefully the creative juices for symposia to be held at our 2013 meeting have already started flowing – it's never too early to start planning, so please contact me with your ideas and I'll be happy to help you through the process. Remember that both NSF and SICB are seeking to diversify participation in symposia, and that symposia that address the Grand Challenges initiative (directing fields in new directions) are particularly welcome. So, what are you waiting for?? Shape the future of your field and organize a symposium!!!

Of course, great DVM experiences don't have to wait for winter, because fall is also the season for regional DVM meetings. Two are running this year, with the Northeast meeting at Harvard in October (organized by George Lauder and Dan Lieberman), and the Southeast meeting at Virginia Tech in November (joint with DCB, organized by Jake Socha and Dan Dudek). These are especially great venues for student presentations and getting friendly feedback from colleagues. Both of this year's regional meetings will be over by the time this newsletter is released, so if you've missed out keep an eye out for next year, or consider organizing one in your own neighborhood next year!

Finally, please join me in congratulating Rita Mehta, who will take over as DVM PO once my term ends after the Charleston meeting.



## Message from the Secretary

*Lara Ferry*

Hello all, from sunny Arizona. In case you have been wondering where to find me, I am now at Arizona State University, and enjoying the desert. So, while Rick writes of fall and turning leaves, I am just waiting for the day-time temperatures to drop to below 100 degrees F!

Here is my now semi-annual plea for entries to our Researchers Database. All you need to do is to send me (Lara.Ferry@asu.edu) one or two pictures, a title, and a brief blurb about your research and before you know it you'll be highlighted on the SICB homepage and viewers everywhere will be enjoying your research. We are steadily increasing in our numbers on the database, but we can do better. DVM is under-represented relative to our membership numbers.

Speaking of membership, the society is doing very well, and be sure to read the larger society-wide newsletter for updates on that front.

I'm looking forward to seeing you all in Salt Lake. The symposia Rick mentions are outstanding, and while he plays it off as no big deal, the work of the Program Officer is long, and thankless, so a hearty thank you and a job well done to him. Please also join me in thanking our ~~Captain-Commander~~ Chair Mark Westneat for his outstanding service to the society and our division.

Please also share your congratulations with Susan Williams, the new divisional Secretary-Elect!