

Division of Vertebrate Morphology

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DVM Officers & Representatives

Kiisa Nishikawa
Chair 2011-2013

Alice Gibb
Chair-Elect 2011-2013

Susan Williams
Secretary 2012-2014

Rita Mehta
Program Officer 2012-2014

Joanna Mandeck
Student/Postdoc Rep 2011-2014

Message from the Chair

Kiisa Nishikawa, Chair.DVM@sicb.org

October greetings from Flagstaff! After a productive year for DVM in 2011-2012, we're already having a busy and stimulating 2012-13, with three DVM/DCB regional meetings this fall: Northeast Regional meeting at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst; Southeast Regional meeting at the University of Charleston; and Southwest Regional meeting at Cal State San Bernardino, as well as the annual SICB meeting, January 3-7 2013 in San Francisco, CA at the Hilton San Francisco Union Square! At the upcoming meeting, fellow DVM members have co-organized two Society-wide symposia: **[When Predators Attack: Sensing and Motion in Predator-Prey Interactions](#)**, organized by Matt McHenry and Stacy Combes; and **[Vertebrate Land Invasions – Past, Present, and Future](#)**, organized by Alice Gibb, Miriam Ashley-Ross, Rick Blob, and Tonia Hsieh. Although the abstract deadline has passed, don't forget to register for the San Francisco SICB meeting!

Thanks to all DVM members for outstanding participation in the 2012 Charleston meeting! And also to last year's symposium organizers; Matthew Wund, Doug Altshuler, Harvey Lillywhite, Laura Miller and Billie Swalla for these integrative symposia. Congratulations to all DVM student members who competed for best paper and poster awards in Charleston. Last year's winners were: **D. Dwight Davis Award** for Best Student Paper in the Division of Vertebrate Morphology: **Ashley Heers** (University of Montana, Missoula) for her presentation, **Locomotor ontogeny and the evolution of avian flight**; and **Best Student Poster Award** in the Division of Vertebrate Morphology: **Macrina Butler** (Hendrix College) for her poster, **The effect of prenatal steroids on the fast-twitch fibers of the fetal guinea pig scalenus**. Thanks also to Russell Main for organizing the best student paper competitions.

Thanks to our Program Officer, Rita Mehta, who is deep in planning the program for the upcoming meeting, and to Susan Williams, who is planning revisions to our elections schedule to keep us in line! Thanks to Alice, Rita and Susan for their hard work on behalf of DVM! Thanks to Chair-Elect Alice Gibb, you can now "like" us on Facebook, as well as post or follow news about our division. I'll be stepping down as DVM chair at the San Francisco meeting, where our incoming DVM Chair, Alice Gibb, will take the lead.

See you in San Francisco!!



Message from the Program Officer

Rita Mehta, DPO.DVM@sicb.org

I'd like to pose a question that I'm sure each one of you has pondered -How on earth is it already Fall? As I pass by pumpkin patches and breathe in the crisp salty air of Fall, I observe the excited and confused faces of undergraduate students anxiously waiting for the university bus to take them to the U.C. Santa Cruz campus. Midterms and holidays will be here before we know it!

For the first time this Fall, I had the opportunity to help plan the SICB program. DCB PO, Laura Miller, and I worked together to organize oral presentations and poster sessions. I sincerely thank Richard Blob for his great advice before the PO meeting. Getting a "Sneak Preview" of some of the abstracts was pretty cool. To ring in the New Year (January 2013), SICB is meeting in the bustling city of San Francisco. We anticipated and received a record number of abstracts. Truly, this time, it will be our largest meeting ever. Again, "Morphology" was a popular key word and DVM received over 250 abstracts. This translated to just over 40 oral sessions (may be subject to some consolidation) and three full fun afternoons of posters. Our round of 'lightening talks' is more than twice as long this year with 3 minutes between each talk. In addition, there will be many captivating symposia with complementary sessions of interest for DVM members. As this was my first time on the Program Committee, I witnessed first-hand how hard everyone worked and how dedicated and determined everyone was to sort and organize oral presentations that eventually were grouped into interesting themes. As always, it is really tough to completely avoid scheduling complementary or overlapping topics against each other but the more integrative we are, the more this will happen. As the French say, it is a 'problème agréable.'

DVM helped to support 3 symposia this year: "When Predators Attack: Sensing and Motion in Predator-Prey Interactions," organized by Matt McHenry and Stacy Combes; "Vertebrate Land Invasions: Past, Present, and Future," organized by Alice Gibb, Miriam Ashley-Ross, Richard Blob, Tonia Hsieh; and "Phenotypic plasticity and the evolution of gender roles," organized by Janet Leonard. Please remember that if you have an idea for a future symposium, talking with your PO at SICB can be extremely helpful.

The Hilton San Francisco Union Square is located in the heart of downtown. The rooms are comfortable and affordable. Do not procrastinate on making your reservation or else..... For those of you who are local and may be thinking about driving, keep in mind that parking at the hotel can be pretty pricey (\$53.58/24 hours-non-valet). There may be local parking lots that are much cheaper and will allow you to park overnight. For those of you flying into the SFO International Terminal, Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) is the most economical way to get downtown. Trains arrive at SFO International Terminal every 15 minutes and a one-way ticket from SFO to downtown is only \$8.25. The travel time from SFO to downtown is usually around 30 minutes. There is no shortage of good food and bars that are walking distance from the hotel which is why we have decided to have our social be a dessert social only. The dessert only option will greatly reduce costs for our divisions. In San Francisco, DVM will be joined by DCB, DEDB, and DPCB. So when you make your personal schedule, don't forget to schedule your divisional social- Pastry Chef Chong's mini desserts will be divine!

Lastly, regional joint DCB/DVM meetings were held in both the Southeast at the College of Charleston (organized by Andrew Clark) and in the Northeast at the University of Massachusetts Amherst (organized by Elizabeth Dumont and Sheila Patek). Finally, the Southeast and Northeast were not the only regions geeking it out this Fall. The 1st joint DVM/DCB Southwest Regional Meeting was held at the California State University at San Bernardino (organized by Tomasz Owerkowicz and Stuart Sumida). In general, regional meetings are really wonderful opportunities for student presentations and to get feedback on ideas you might not be ready to share broadly.

Have a terrific Fall quarter or semester and see you in San Francisco in 2013!



Participants at the inaugural and enormously successful DVM/DCB Southwest Regional Meeting.



Message from the Secretary

Susan Williams, Secretary.DVM@sicb.org

Hello everyone! Like Rita, I cannot believe it is already halfway through fall semester. Kudos to all the DVM/DCB regional meeting organizers for keeping everyone busy this fall!

We have some housekeeping to do that involved amendments to our bylaws. After much discussion of the current and past officers, we would like to propose adding three new members to the DVM Executive Committee – the Past Chair, Program Officer-Elect and the Secretary-Elect. They are already included on a lot of the official DVM correspondence anyway so we are just making it official. The proposed changes to the bylaws are below. We will be voting on these soon.

Also, we will be having an election for a Program Officer this spring. This person would serve as Program Officer-Elect in 2014 and start official duties in 2015, although as you can see from proposed bylaws changes below, they may be helping the Program Officer with duties as needed. Many thanks to Rita, our current Program Officer, for volunteering to extend her tenure for a year to accommodate a shift in our election schedule. If you are interested in running for this position, please let one of us know. We will be soliciting official nominations in the spring but it is never too early to throw your hat in the ring!

Finally, please join us at SICB for the DVM business meeting to welcome the incoming DVM Chair, Alice Gibb, and say farewell and thanks to Kiisa for all of her hard work.

See you in San Francisco!

Proposed By-laws Changes

Additions in **bold underline**.

Deletions in ~~strikethrough~~.

Article V. Officers

The officers of the Division shall be a Chair, Chair-Elect, **Past Chair**, Program Officer, **Program Officer-Elect**, Secretary and **Secretary-Elect**. ~~Election to office shall be by a plurality vote of a mailed ballot sent to the entire membership at least 45 days before the annual meeting.~~ Elections of officers shall be **by a plurality vote and** held by both paper and appropriately secure electronic ballots. A brief biography of each candidate shall be made available on the ballot. The outcome of the election will be announced at the annual meeting and in the

first Newsletter following the annual meeting **election**. The term of office of all elected officers and appointed representatives shall begin at the end of the second SICB Executive Committee meeting at the Annual Meeting in the year the term is to begin and will end at the adjournment of the second SICB Executive Committee meeting at the Annual Meeting in the year the term is to expire. The outcome of tied elections of divisional officers shall be resolved by majority vote of the officers of the Division of Vertebrate Morphology. In the event of a tie vote by the officers of the division, the division Chair shall cast the deciding vote. In the circumstance where an elected officer is unable to complete his or her term of office, the following provisions are made: If the office of Secretary or Program Officer is vacated early, the Chair, in consultation with the Divisional Executive Committee, will appoint someone to serve until elections can be held to fill the position. If the office of Divisional Chair is vacant, the Divisional Executive Committee, in consultation with the SICB President, will appoint someone to be the interim Chair until an election is held.

Article VII. Chair-Elect

The Chair-Elect shall assist the Chair and act of the Chair when the latter is absent. The Chair-Elect shall serve for a period of two years and then be automatically advance to the Chair. The term of the Chair-elect will be synchronous with the Chair. If called upon, the Chair-elect shall assist the Program Officer with the organization of symposia. ~~He/She shall sign all proposals to federal granting agencies on behalf of the Division.~~

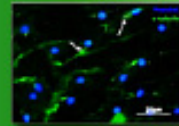
Some new sections have been added and will require a renumbering of articles after Article VII.

Article VIII. Past Chair (**new article**)

The Past Chair shall assist the Chair and other members of the divisional Executive Committee in handling divisional affairs. The Past Chair assumes this position upon completion of a term as chair and shall serve for two years.

Article IX. Program Officer

The Program Officer shall arrange for the programs of the Division. This person shall serve two years, ~~asynchronous~~ **synchronous** with the Chair-Elect, and shall be eligible for election to one additional term.



Article X. Program Officer-Elect (new article)

The Program Officer-Elect shall assume the duties of the Program Officer whenever that person is unable to act. He/She shall serve a term of one year during which he/she will assist the Program Officer as needed and after which he/she shall automatically assume the position of Program Officer for a two-year term.

Article XI. Secretary

The Secretary shall be editor of the Newsletter of the Division, shall be the recording secretary of the Division, and shall perform such other duties assigned by the Chair. This officer shall serve a term of two years, ~~synchronous~~ **asynchronous** with the Program Officer, and shall be eligible for re-election.

Article XII. Secretary-Elect (new article)

The Secretary-Elect shall assume the duties of the Secretary whenever that person is unable to act. He/She shall serve for a term of one year after which he/she shall automatically assume the position of Secretary for a two-year term.

Article XIII. Executive Committee

The elected officers of the Division ~~and the immediate Past Chair~~ shall constitute the Executive Committee of the Division. Members of the Executive Committee shall confer informally on all matters of policy and shall conduct the affairs of the Division.

All articles following will be renumbered.

