

Division of Vertebrate Morphology

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DVM Officers & Representatives

Callum Ross
Chair 2015-2017

John Hutchinson
Chair-Elect 2015-2017

Andrew Clark
Secretary 2016-2018

Manny Azizi
Program Officer 2015-2017

Brooke Flammang
Program Officer-Elect 2016-2017

Morgan Burnette
Student/Postdoc Affairs 2014-2017

Message from the Chair

Callum Ross, Chair.dvm@sicb.org

Dear Colleagues, I am excited about the upcoming meeting New Orleans. I hope you all got your abstracts in and are looking for cheap flights and accommodations. Thank you to Manny and the rest of the program committee for their hard work on the program. I want to welcome Christopher Mayerl on board as Student/Postdoc representative. Thank you to Christopher for your service.



Christopher Mayerl, from Clemson University, will be DVM's new Student/Postdoc Representative. Thanks for your service, Christopher!

This year we should see our DVM Davis fund exceed the \$25,000 target set by the Society. We can therefore expect to fund some regional meetings next year. This is great news! Thanks to the individual donors who made this happen, and to all of you who registered for the meeting.

DVM and DCB will again be organizing a dance party/social event similar to the one we had in Portland. We will be finalizing time and place shortly. See you all in New Orleans!

Message from the Program Officer

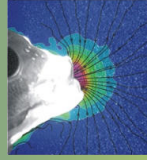
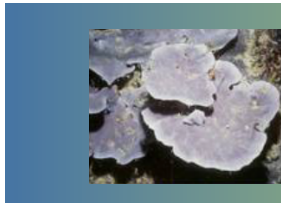
Manny Azizi, dpo.dvm@sicb.org

The SICB program committee recently met in New Orleans, LA, to finalize the program for the 2017 meeting. Our society continues to grow with over 1900 submitted abstracts, including more than 1000 oral presentations and nearly 900 posters. As usual, DVM participation is very strong with nearly 500 abstracts. DVM and DCB will feature 40 oral sessions over 4 days and 14 poster sessions over two days. DVM is also sponsoring two outstanding symposia:

1. The Ecology of Exercise: Mechanisms Underlying Individual Variation in Movement Behavior, Activity or Performance. Organizers: Tony Williams, Shaun Killen, & Ryan Calsbeek

2. Integrative Life-History of Whole-Organism Performance. Organizers: Simon Lailvaux & Jerry Husak

For the second year in a row we will feature a dedicated session for students competing in the Dwight D. Davis Best Student Presenta-



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tation competition. The dedicated session is scheduled for Saturday morning (1/7/17). No other sessions organized by DVM or DCB will be running concurrently, which will give us the chance to come out and support our outstanding students and celebrate the bright future of DVM.

This year's meeting will be our first time returning to New Orleans since 2004. Members old enough to remember that meeting will agree that the city provides a uniquely festive atmosphere. New Orleans is a culturally diverse city with amazing food, music and nightlife. As a result, this year's meeting is poised to bring together an exciting scientific program with endless entertainment opportunities. To build off the success of last year's divisional social, the chairs of DVM and DCB have once again decided to move the joint social away from the convention center to an off-site location. We are still in the process of finalizing the details but the DVM/DCB social is scheduled for Saturday night (1/7/17) so keep an eye out for more details as they become available.

I am happy to report that there was an increase in the number of symposium proposals by DVM members and we will be well represented in San Francisco in 2018. However, it is critical that we continue to encourage the members of our division, particularly early career scientists, to develop and propose forward looking symposia. The overall health of the society and our flagship journal *Integrative and Comparative Biology* depend on high quality symposia and, as one of the largest and most active divisions, it is vital for us to put forth our best ideas.

Please remember to mark your calendar for the following upcoming deadlines: presenter registration deadline (Nov. 5th), [child care interest form](#) (Nov. 15th), and early bird registration (Dec. 1st). See <http://sicb.org/meetings/2017/>

Time to start making your New Orleans travel plans for what's sure to be a memorable meeting.

Message from the Secretary

Andrew Clark, Secretary.dvm@sicb.org

Welcome back, everyone! I hope your summers have been healthy composites of productivity and pleasure! We had some exciting months with elections. I want to personally thank our Chair and Program Officer and our -Elect Officers for their participation and leadership during these developments. Thanks to the 147 people who cast their votes! We are pleased to welcome L. Pa-

tricia Hernandez as the incoming Chair-Elect and Laura Ekstrom as the incoming Secretary-Elect.

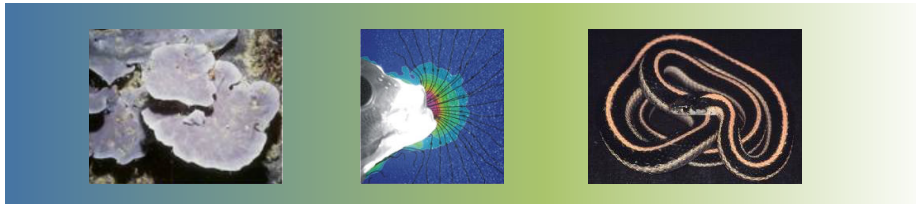
There will be four Regional DVM meetings this Fall: 1) The mid-Atlantic Regional SICB DVM & DCB meeting held on Saturday, 22 October 2016, at the New Jersey Institute of Technology, 2) The Northeast Regional SICB DVM & DCB meeting to be held at Tufts University on 12 November 2016, 3) The Southeast Regional SICB DVM & DCB meeting to be held on Saturday, 19 November 2016, at Duke University, and 4) The Southwest Regional SICB meeting, also known as the Southwestern Organismal Biology Meeting, to be held Saturday, 19 November 2016, at California State University Fullerton. Regional meeting organizers, please help spread the word by sending your pictures to us, posting them on Facebook, Twitter, Pinterest, etc.

On that note, how about adding to our researchers database? If you are interested in submitting to the DVM researchers database, all you need to send me are: 1) a brief title and 2) a short descriptive paragraph of your research program, and 3) a reasonably high-resolution photograph (greater than 300 KB). Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions about this. I look forward to seeing everyone in New Orleans!

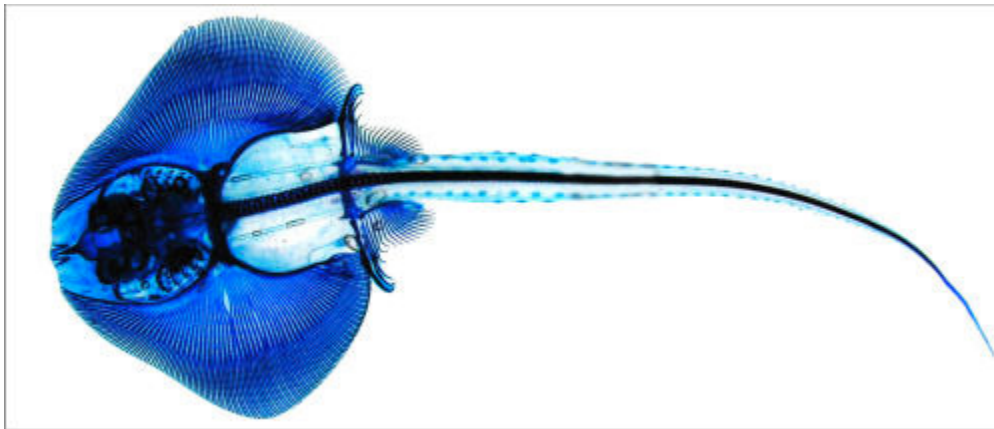
Introduction to the new DVM Student/Post-doctoral Affairs Committee Representative, Christopher Mayerl

Hello everyone! I'll be serving as your new student/post doc representative. I'm a PhD candidate in Richard Blob's lab at Clemson University. I'm in my fourth year at Clemson, and also my fourth year as a SICB member! As you might expect, I'm broadly interested in functional morphology and biomechanics. My dissertation focuses on the functional significance of pelvic girdle fusion in pleurodires, one of the two extant clades of turtles. I am investigating how the fusion of the pelvis to the shell may have influenced these turtles' ability to move through water, and on land, relative to their cryptodire relatives. Some of our recent work was [published in JEB](#), where we used XROMM and found that pelvic fusion has reduced girdle rotation by approximately 20 degrees per stride in pleurodires. I've had the pleasure to work with a variety of undergraduates while at Clemson, and have encouraged them to communicate science by developing an undergraduate blog, and by bringing them to present their work here at SICB.

I've always appreciated the student friendly atmosphere of SICB, and have become more involved with the community as the years have gone by, culminating



with chairing a session on locomotion at ICVM this summer and now serving as the DVM student/post doc rep, which I'm really looking forward to! I can't wait to hear from all of you about any ideas you have regarding how students and post docs function within the society. You can contact me at cmayerl@clermson.edu, or on twitter @c_mayerl. I'll also be available to chat at SICB, and look forward to seeing everyone in New Orleans this January.



From the DVM Researchers Database

Biomaterials, biomechanics and bioinspired design

Adam P. Summers

People in my lab pursue a wide variety of projects that usually sit on the interface between morphology, biomechanics and engineering. Though there is no one critter or even taxon that defines the lab a great many projects have involved cartilaginous fishes. One simple question has produced a number of interesting projects and papers: how is it that cartilaginous fishes do all the same things that bony fishes do, but with a skeleton made of a very different material. We use techniques that measure whole animal performance, visualize skeletal and visceral systems in three dimensions, build models (both physical and mathematical), and test materials. My lab is at the University of Washington's Friday Harbor Laboratories and includes extensive flow through sea water facilities, SEM, TEM, micro CT, rapid prototyping, high speed video and electromyography. I accept PhD students through both the biology department and the school of fisheries.