

## Systematics Collections Committee

**Committee Members:** S. Ticul Álvarez-Castañeda, Antonia Androski, Jeffery E. Bradley, Robert D. Bradley, Juan Pablo Carrera-E., Chris J. Conroy, Katrina Derieg, Robert C. Dowler, Jonathan L. Dunnum (Chair), Lexi Frank, Kurt E. Galbreath, Destiny Gonzalez, Edú Guerra, Rebecca Hawkins, Angela Hornsby, Carlos A. Iudica, Diana Krejsa, Thomas E. Lee, Jr., Burton K. Lim, Consuelo Lorenzo, Holly L. Lutz, Jason L. Malaney, Suzanne B. McLaren, Bryan S. McLean, Link E. Olson, Nicté Ordóñez-Garza, Caleb D. Phillips, Josh Pletcher, Marcia A. Revelez, Dakota Rowsey, Alyssa Semerdjian, Laura Steger, Richard D. Stevens, John Stuhler, Cody W. Thompson, Nathan S. Upham, Andrea E. Wishart

### **Mission:**

The Systematic Collections Committee advises curators and collection managers worldwide on matters relating to collection administration, curation, and accreditation, and maintains a directory of mammal collections. The Committee also surveys existing collections approximately once each decade and maintains a list of curatorial standards for managing a collection-accreditation program under the auspices of the Society.

### **Information Items:**

- (1) Four collections were officially accredited or reaccredited
  - a) University of Colorado Museum of Natural History
    - i. Mammal collection reaccredited 25 October 2024
    - ii. Genetic resources collection was not accredited pending implementation of SCC recommendations
  - b) Colección Regional Durango (CRD), Durango, Mexico
    - i. Mammal and genetic resources collections accredited 7 November 2024
  - c) Utah Museum Natural History, University of Utah
    - i. Mammal collection reaccredited 7 November 2024
    - ii. Genetic resources collection was not accredited pending implementation of SCC recommendations
  - d) Northern Michigan University
    - i. Mammal collection accredited 7 November 2024
  
- (2) Three collections are currently at various stages of the accreditation review process.
  - a) Denver Museum of Nature & Science
    - i. Planned site-visit during ASM 2024 annual meeting was postponed
    - ii. Pending scheduling of new site-visit
  - b) University of Oklahoma, Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History
    - i. Requested accreditation of their genetic resources collection in March 2020
    - ii. Underwent staffing changes which affected scheduling and follow through with SCC visit
    - iii. SCC chair has reached out to current staff regarding interest in reinitiating

the process

- c) Museo Javeriano de Historia Natural-MUJ, Pontificia Universidad Javeriana of Bogotá
  - i. Made initial inquiry into accreditation
  - ii. Received self-assessment documents from chair (15 March 2024)
  - iii. No further contact to date

(3) The SCC provided support letters for proposals by the Science Museum of Minnesota for establishment of a cryofacility and a digitization project of a Superior National Forest specimen collection.

(4) The committee also provided a letter of support to the Texas Tech University mammal collection to help in their negotiations with upper administration's requirement for specimen loans to be handled by university procurement, which would severely limit collection access.

(5) A revision of the *Basic Curatorial Standards for Systematic Collections* (Journal of Mammalogy, 85:180-181, 2004) is in process. A final document will be available for President and Board of Directors review following the SCC meeting at the 2025 annual meeting. The *Standards* document will be submitted to the journal for publication shortly thereafter.

(6) A guideline document for performing accreditations remains in development.

(7) Conversion of the *Mammal collections of the Western Hemisphere: a survey and directory of collections* into a digital format hosted on the ASM website was approved by President Smith but development has stalled. An SCC subcommittee (Kurt Galbreath, Katrina Derieg, Cody Thompson, Marcy Revelez, Nate Upham and Jon Dunnun) and the communications Committee remain tasked with initiating this project.

(8) The committee welcomed seven new members:

- a) Destiny Gonzalez, (Utah Museum of Natural History)
- b) Josh Pletcher (Northern Michigan University)
- c) Edú Guerra (Univ of Washington)
- d) Rebecca Hawkins (Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History)
- e) Alyssa Semerdjian (Cal Poly Humboldt)
- f) Lexi Frank (Univ of Minnesota)
- g) John Stuhler (Univ Wisconsin-Madison)

(9) Seven members stepped down from the committee: Daniella Arena Viveros, Guillermo D'Elia, Eliecer E. Gutiérrez, Rosie Liao, Tabitha McFarland, Rafael N. Leite, Darrin Lunde, in 2025. We thank them for their contributions to the SCC!

### **Action Items:**

The Committee requests an annual budget of \$3000 in 2025-2026.

(1) Funds are requested to support the conversion of the *Mammal collections of the Western*

*Hemisphere: a survey and directory of collections* to an online collections database (e.g., server space, domain costs, software, consulting fees) hosted on the ASM website.

(2) Funds are requested to assist with travel costs for up to two site-visits of mammal collections and genetic resources facilities for the accreditation programs.

**Proposed budget:**

Online collections database development.....	\$2000
Travel for 2 persons/site visit (car + fuel).....	\$400
a) Sam Noble Ok Mus Nat Hist, Norman, Oklahoma	
b) Denver Museum of Nature & Science	
Lodging/food as needed.....	\$600
Total .....	\$3000

**Respectfully submitted,**  
Jonathan L. Dunnum, Chair  
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