

International Relations Committee

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Mission:

The Board of Directors (BOD) established the International Relations Committee (IRC) in 1960 to maintain and enhance communication between members of the Society and mammalogists outside North America. The IRC's mission is to advance the field of mammalogy by encouraging and facilitating international collaboration among members of the ASM and mammalogists from other countries.

(A) Ongoing initiatives:

1) Sponsored Membership Program: The IRC continues to receive nominations and requests for processing sponsored memberships. At the request of President Lessa, the IRC is submitting a proposal to the BOD both to geographically expand and administratively streamline the process by which sponsored memberships are allocated. This is a major effort that we hope will be used to further engage mammalogists and mammal societies across the Global South.

The BOD is currently reviewing this proposal with the intent of making it more self-sustaining by setting up an endowment to cover the annual dues of sponsored members (See "New Initiatives" below).

2) Carol and Jim Patton Award for Outstanding Latin American Graduate Students of Mammalogy: These awards are named in recognition of the generous contribution that Carol and Jim Patton made to endowing the annual costs of this program and making it independent from the General Reserve Fund income. The Carol and Jim Patton Award goes to outstanding students from numerous mammal societies in Latin America. Each year, the participating Societies provide the name of a student selected based on criteria established by each society. The award consists of three consecutive years of ASM sponsored online membership.

The awardees for the 2021 Carol and Jim Patton Award are as follows:

- [Gabby Neves Guilhon](#) - Sociedade Brasileira de Mastozoologia (SBMz)
- [Daniel Chavez](#) - V Congreso Latinoamericano de Mastozoología
- [Doris Vera](#) - Asociación Paraguaya de Mastozoología (APM)
- [Florencia Soto](#) - Sociedad Argentina para el Estudio de los Mamíferos (SAREM)
- [Sebastián García Restrepo](#) - Sociedad Colombiana de Mastozoología (SCMas)
- [Dennis Castillo-Figueroa](#) - Sociedad Colombiana de Mastozoología (SCMas)

3) Symposium on Recent Advances in the Conservation of African Mammals: A co-sponsored symposium entitled “Recent Advances in the Conservation of African Mammals” is proposed to be held in Anchorage, Alaska, for the joint ASM/International Mammalogical Congress (IMC) meeting in 2023. Currently, ~\$22,000 has been raised from private donors, the World Wildlife Fund, and WEST, Inc., to fully defray expenses associated with four invited speakers, all of whom have confirmed their availability in 2023 and their plans to participate in a special feature in the *Journal of Mammalogy*. For more details of this symposium, see the annual report of the African Research Fund committee.

4) African Small Mammal Symposium: The next African Small Mammal Symposium will be held in Namibia in 2023.

(B) New Initiatives:

1) Expanding ASM Sponsored Memberships to the Global South: We have submitted a proposal to the BOD for the allocation of 225 sponsored memberships to student mammalogists in Latin America, Africa, and (eventually) Southeast Asia. This program is generously supported through a donation by Carol and Jim Patton, and represents an extension of the Carol and Jim Patton Awards for Outstanding Latin American Graduate Students of Mammalogy approved by the BOD in 2019. Awards would be titled the “Carol and Jim Patton Awards for Outstanding X Graduate Students of Mammalogy”, where “X” is “Latin American”, “African”, or (eventually) “Southeast Asian”. Awards would be overseen by local, regional, or national mammal societies, and consist of sponsored ASM memberships granting access to the multiple benefits provided for ASM members. Pending BOD approval, we anticipate the first awards through this initiative being made in 2022.

(C) Action Items:

1) Disbursement of Funds for ASM Sponsored Memberships: We request that the BOD approve disbursement of \$1000 to cover costs associated with covering the following:

- second year of membership to awardees of the 5 Latin American Student Field Research awards and 5 African Graduate Student Fund grants.
- second and third year of membership of 6 and 6 awardees, respectively, of the Carol and Jim Patton Awards for Outstanding Latin American Graduate Students of Mammalogy.
- first year of membership to projected 40 outstanding students of mammal societies from the global south.
- sponsored membership to individuals from developing countries that have expressed the need for assistance to cover the \$20 membership fee and the desire to continue to be part of the ASM. We propose to support an estimated 20 individuals who cannot find a sponsor.

2) International Meetings and the International Federation of Mammalogists: The IRC conducted a travel award program for ASM student members to assist them in attending the last two International Mammalogical Congress (IMC) meetings. It is the intent of the IRC to develop a similar program to assist international ASM members in attending the joint ASM/IMC-13 meeting in 2023 in Anchorage, AK. Since this meeting also will be an annual ASM meeting, the proposed travel award program (by the IRC) will not be open to students from the USA or

Canada, but rather to international undergraduate and graduate students, as well as any person whose terminal degree was awarded within the previous five years. For that purpose, the IRC requests \$6,000 to partly defray four travel awards for international ASM members to present at the ASM/IMC-13.

3) Symposium on the Conservation of African Mammals: Along with the African Research Fund, Conservation, and Human Diversity committees, we are jointly requesting matching funds of \$9,000 from the ASM BOD, as was supported unanimously through a straw poll at the 2019 BOD meeting in Washington, DC. We anticipate that these remaining funds will be used as travel awards, and to defray expenses associated with hosting a fifth invited speaker (to represent bat conservation in West Africa) at the ASM/IMC-13 symposium.

Respectfully submitted,

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