

Program Committee

Committee Members: L. Alexander, M. Arszulowicz, C. Aylward, K.C. Bell, B.R. Blood, B. Buttler, C. Calderon, P.K. Connors, E.J. Finck, E. Flaherty, J.D. Hanson, C. Hedeberg, A. Hope, D.A. Kelt, B. Kohli, E.A. Lacey, K. Lyons, V.L. Mathis, C. McCain, M. McGowen, R.N. Platt, J.L. Rachlow, J.M. Ryan, S.R. Sheffield, E. Siracusa, K.A. Speer, S. Talbot, C.W. Thompson, G. Turner, L. Walsh, and N. Woodman

Mission: The Program Committee is responsible for the solicitation and acceptance of proposals for symposia and workshops, for advertising the meeting to other scientific societies, for soliciting bids to host meetings, and assisting meeting hosts in preparing for annual meetings. In 2011, the committee was charged with venue selection, organizing the annual meeting, the solicitation and acceptance of proposals for symposia and workshops, and advertising the meeting to other scientific societies.

Information Items:

(1) Sponsors & Exhibitors

2023--- Vendor solicitation continues to be difficult. Many businesses, government agencies, museums, and universities were contacted. Effort was also made to solicit native artisans. At the time of this report, these efforts have resulted in seven sponsorships. Contributions totaled \$12,750. James Ryan (chair), Bruce Buttler, and Carson Hedberg organized sponsor and exhibitor solicitations.

Given the low return rate, it is the continued recommendation of the Program Committee to consider establishing long-term relationships with companies that have histories with the Society (e.g., H.B. Sherman, Tomahawk, etc.), as well as large companies that deem us too small and specialized to sponsor the meeting (e.g., Fisher Scientific, Garmin, Sigma-Aldrich, etc.). Annual corporate sponsorship could provide financial support in exchange for advertising options on the website, in the journal(?), and at the meeting (vendor show and auction). Leadership from the Development Committee would help in this regard, creating a corporate donor pool for campaigns. The Program Committee stands ready to discuss how this might be implemented to the benefit of the entire Society.

2024---Solicitation efforts for the Boulder meeting will begin immediately following the IMC-13 meeting. The 2024 brochure will be distributed to sponsors and exhibitors this summer with an invitation letter signed by the Society President. Efforts will focus on identifying local university sponsors, government agencies, and local businesses with interest in providing vending options.

(2) Website & Social Media

2023---Because of the joint meeting with the International Federation of Mammalogists (IFM), the Society purchased the imc13.com domain name, and it has been live with since November 2019. The website is managed by the Program Committee via WordPress. The Communication Subcommittee has provided regular meeting website and social

media support, e.g., Twitter. Patrice Connors chairs the subcommittee, and members include Camilo Calderon, Brooks Kohli, and Erin Siracusa.

2024---The Society will continue to use the mammalmeetings.org domain name to maintain continuity and increase reach for the Boulder meeting.

(3) Registration

2023---The ASM Business Office operated the IMC-13 meeting registration site. However, the registration software continues to be limited in its utility for revising already submitted registrations. This necessitates meeting attendees to contact the ASM Business Office to process changes. Sponsors and vendors utilized a similar form for their registration, which also was organized by the ASM Business Office.

Because of the hybrid format, both in-person and virtual registration rates were offered. ASM membership rates were not offered, and a single-rate structure was provided to meeting attendees. As of 20 June 2023, in-person registration is currently at 757 individuals, and virtual registration is at 158 individuals. Combined, this makes IMC-13 the 4th largest conference on record.

2024---The ASM Business Office will continue to manage the registration process for the Boulder meeting planning from Next Great Event. Ideally, registration will open for the 2023 meeting during the fall of 2023 to allow potential international meeting attendees time to navigate post-COVID visa issues. Given the financial uncertainty created by the pandemic, careful consideration should also be used to keep registration rates at a low level to avoid “pricing” potential meeting participants out of attendance. Conference registration rates are an extremely important aspect of supporting justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion (JEDI) efforts within the Society.

(4) Travel & Lodging

2023---Several hotel room blocks were secured for the Anchorage meeting (i.e., Hilton, Marriott, and Sheraton). In addition, dormitory room blocks are available at the University of Alaska-Anchorage, and downtown access will be provided to meeting attendees via a bus shuttle system.

2024---A single room block is secured at the Hilton Garden Inn in Boulder. However, the majority of room options will be available in the University of Colorado dorms.

(5) Abstract Submissions

2023---Steve Sheffield (chair), Lois Alexander, Maddie Arszulowicz, Brad Blood, Ginny Turner, Lisa Walsh, and Neal Woodman managed the abstract submission and revision process. Abstract submissions were completed through the X-CD virtual conference platform, allowing for seamless integration of uploaded presentation recordings. Presenters were asked to use the form to submit their abstracts following the guidelines of the *Journal of Mammalogy*. A total of 695 abstracts were submitted.

2024---Interest in the printed Abstract Book continues to decline and removing abstract submissions altogether is being evaluated (e.g., see Evolution meetings). Abstracts could be received but without review and made electronically available only. Presentation titles, author lines, and author affiliations could be used to develop the program, reducing the workload and timeline required for abstract review and scheduling. Either way, the committee plans to offer abstracts only in electronic format in 2024, and no longer provide a print version of the Abstract Book.

(6) Program

2023---The scientific program included 15 workshops, 21 symposia, 4 plenary sessions, and a capstone session. Select symposia, all plenary sessions, and the capstone session will be livestreamed. Local tour groups were contacted to provide discounted field trips.

2024---Review of symposium and workshop proposals for the Boulder meeting is in process. Reviews for these proposals will be completed by the Program Committee's Professional Development Subcommittee. The members of the Professional Development Subcommittee include Andrew Hope (chair), Liz Flaherty, Kate Lyons, Michael McGowen, Neal Platt, and Sandra Talbot.

The Program Committee's plans to only provide a print program to those selecting such as an a la carte purchase during registration. The continued development of the mobile meeting app will allow the program to be distributed entirely in an electronic format.

(7) Receptions & Socials

2023---Many social events are planned for the Joint ASM-IFM meeting. Most social activities will occur in the Dena'ina Civic and Convention Center (i.e., opening social, poster socials, student social, and auction). However, two events will occur offsite. The first is the diversity social and picnic, which will be co-hosted by the Human Diversity Committee. The diversity social and picnic will take place at the Alaska Native Heritage Center, and it will include cultural demonstrations by Native Alaskans. The second offsite social event is the closing social. The closing social will occur at the Anchorage Museum, allowing meeting participants to get the full cultural and natural history of Alaska. Both offsite events will be ticketed.

2024---The 2024 meeting will host several evening social events, including an opening social, poster socials, student social and auction, and a ticketed picnic and closing social. Efforts to control the cost of the picnic and closing social will continue, allowing for the opportunity for increased participation and to fulfill the Society's JEDI goals.

(8) Special Meeting Events

2023---In addition to the social events outlined above, the Program Committee worked with the African Research Fellowship, Development, Human Diversity, and International Relations committees to help support a symposium; run-for-research and auction; a LGBTQIA+ social; and Global South travel grants, respectively.

2024---In 2018, the Special Events Subcommittee was developed to help support meeting special events of other Society committees, such as the Run-for-Research, Student Social, and Auction. This subcommittee consists of Kelly Speer, Lois Alexander, Brad Blood, Elmer Finck, and Verity Mathis. The goal is to transition to a protocol similar to the process used for Symposia and Workshop solicitations to help organize these collaborative activities.

(9) Media, Social Networking, and Public Relations

2023---With help from the Informatics Committee, the Society's official website and social media resources (Facebook and Twitter) were used to promote the IMC-13 meeting. Meeting announcements also were sent directly to the membership through the ASM Business Office and Mammal-L. Meeting announcements were coordinated with IFM president, Eileen Lacey. The conference Twitter handle (@mammalmeetings) was also used. The #IMC13 hashtag was used to generate social media interest.

2024---Early communication will be essential to advertise the Boulder meeting. This will be especially important given the ongoing uncertainty surrounding global travel and current economic limitations.

(10) 2024, 2025, and 2026 Meeting Venues

2024---The 103rd Annual Meeting of the American Society of Mammalogists will be held at the University of Colorado in Boulder. Christy McCain has agreed again to serve as the meeting host. The meeting dates are confirmed for 7 to 11 June 2024.

2025---The 104th Annual Meeting of the American Society of Mammalogists will be held 27 June to 2 July 2025 at Purdue University in West Lafayette, Indiana. Liz Flaherty has agreed to serve as the primary host.

2026---The 105th Annual Meeting of the American Society of Mammalogists is scheduled to be held in the southeastern United States. Potential meeting site locations will be reviewed by the site Selection Subcommittee (John Hanson [chair], Elmer Finck, Janet Rachlow, and James Ryan).

Action Items:

(1) The Program Committee requests approval of a budget line item to cover expenses associated with the 103rd Annual Meeting. Specifically, this request is for **ALL** meeting revenue generated from attendee registrations, a la carte fees, and conference sponsorships. This line item will function as a pass-through in the Society budget and is subject to change based on meeting attendance.

REQUEST: \$201,575.00

(2) The Program Committee requests approval of a budget line item to support travel expenses for plenary and capstone speakers at the 103rd Annual Meeting.

REQUEST: \$30,996.00

(3) The Program Committee requests approval of a budget line item to support lodging expenses for ASM officers at the 103rd Annual Meeting.

REQUEST: \$2,100.00

(4) The Program Committee requests approval of a budget line item to support the administrative activities of the American Society of Mammalogists at the 103rd Annual Meeting, specifically expenses related to the board meeting, officer/student lunch, and membership meeting.

REQUEST: \$1,875.00

(5) The Program Committee requests approval of a budget line item to support expenses associated with site visits and future meeting expenses.

REQUEST: \$8,000.00

(6) The Program Committee requests approval of a budget line item to serve as a contingency fund. Specifically, a 4% contingency fund is being requested to support unanticipated meeting expenses. The contingency funds will only be used in consultation with the Society President.

REQUEST: \$10,810.30

(7) The Program Committee requests approval of a budget line item to help reduce overall meeting costs, especially registration and social tickets at the 103rd Annual Meeting.

REQUEST: \$25,711.60

(8) The Program Committee requests approval of a budget line item to support an honorarium for the Program Director.

REQUEST: \$2,500.00

TOTAL REQUEST: \$283,567.90

Respectfully submitted,

Cody Thompson, Program Director & Committee Chair
(mammal.meetings@gmail.com)