



**The 66th Symposium on Vertebrate
Palaeontology and Comparative
Anatomy**

Universities of Manchester

September 5th-8th

First Circular

We are delighted to invite you to join us in Manchester in September 2017 for the 66th SVPCA and 27th SPPC. This circular provides information on venues, the scientific programme, and other practicalities. The second circular, including information further information will follow at a later date.

Updates

A good way to keep up to date is to join our facebook group (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/SVPCA/>), follow us on twitter (@SVPCA_Manc) and look for updates on www.svpca.org.

Host Committee

Robert Sansom (Chair, UoM), Robin Beck (UoS), Charlotte Brassey (MMU), Robert Brocklehurst (UoM), Leah Callender-Crowe (UoM), Joe Keating (UoM), John Nudds (UoM), Elsepth Wallace (UoM)
University of Manchester (UoM), University of Salford, and Manchester Metropolitan Museum (MMU).

SVPCA Steering Committee

Richard Butler, Susannah Maidment, Robert Sansom, Richard Forrest, Cindy Howells, Emma Dunne, Graeme Lloyd, Jeff Liston.

Venue

Platform presentations will take place at the University of Manchester, Oxford Road (Samuel Alexander Building). Workshops and SPPC will be held at the School of Earth and Environmental Sciences (Williamson Building).

Scientific Programme

The first day of the meeting will feature a special symposium on “Advances in the Vertebrate Tree of Life” with invited speakers from the UK and abroad giving extended talks (30 minutes) that highlight the cutting edge advances that fossils have made in understanding vertebrate phylogeny. Scheduled speakers include Robert Asher (Cambridge), Michael Coates (Chicago), Katie Davis (York), Sam Giles (Oxford), Emma Randle (Bath), and Oliver Rauhut (Munich). We welcome submission for the regular sessions as either platform presentations (15 minutes) or for the dedicated poster session.

Key Dates

Late May – Abstract submission and registration open
June 20th – Jones-Fenleigh fund applications deadline
July 4th – Abstract submission deadline
July 4th – Registration deadline

Schedule of events

Wed	Sept 5 th	SPPC workshop (morning), Williamson Building Half-day workshops (morning), Williamson Building Special Symposium (afternoon), Samuel Alexander Building Icebreaker reception (evening), Manchester Museum
Thur	Sept 6 th	SVPCA platform presentations (all day), Samuel Alexander SVPCA poster presentations (afternoon), Williamson Annual auction (evening), TBC
Fri	Sept 7 th	SVPCA platform presentations (all day), Samuel Alexander Annual dinner (evening) TBC
Sat	Sept 8 th	Buxton Museum (morning) Pub lunch Poole's Cavern (afternoon)

SPPC

The Symposium on Palaeontological Preparation, a forum for discussion of fossil preparation, conservation and related topics, will be held on the first morning of the meeting (5th). Platform presentations will be welcome, but attendees are also welcome to bring specimens of interest that they wish to present or discuss in an interactive forum.

Accommodation and Travel

The University of Manchester is a short walking distance (about 1 mile) from the city centre and Manchester's main railway station (Manchester Piccadilly); it is well connected to both by bus routes. The city centre has diverse accommodations available, and three hotels are very close to the venues and the station (Hotel Ibis, Princess Street; Holiday Inn Express, Oxford Road; Pendulum Hotel, Sackville Street). There are a large number of bars and restaurants in the area and we will recommend certain locations as unofficial SVPCA drinking spots closer to the time. Manchester airport is the UK's third busiest airport and is well connected to international destinations. Rapid train connections are available between the airport and the train station.

Jones-Fenleigh Memorial Fund

The Jones-Fenleigh is a fund administered by each year's SVPCA host committee to help pay for delegates with no institutional financial support to attend the SVPCA meeting and present research. Awards from the fund are competitive and are claimed retrospectively from the Palaeontological Association on the production of receipts. The award pays a maximum of £250 and can be used to pay for travel to the meeting, the conference fee, accommodation, and subsistence, but not optional extras (field trip, conference dinner). Criteria for selecting awardees and details of how to apply are provided on the SVPCA website

(<http://svpca.org/jonesfenleigh.php>). Application deadline is June 20th (midnight).

Auction

As usual, the auction will be a key part of the meeting, and will take place on the evening of Thursday 6th, with proceeds going to support the Jones-Fenleigh Memorial Fund and other awards. Please start thinking about potential donations of books, reprints, artwork, t-shirts, casts, models, dinosaur toys, and the weird and wonderful! You can bring donations with you to the meeting, or they can be sent in advance to Robert Sansom, University of Manchester, M13 9PT.

Logo

Our logo is the lower mandible of 'Stan', Manchester Museum's own *Tyrannosaurus*, with toothy landmarks from the City of Manchester's skyline (Manchester Museum, Principal Hotel, Beetham Tower, Manchester Town Hall, and industrial chimneys).



Manchester Museum

Contact

If you have questions, you can email Robert.sansom@manchester.ac.uk and SVPCAMAN2018@listserv.manchester.ac.uk.