



Paul M. Barrett

(SVP Member at Large 2014-2016 candidate)

Current position: Merit Researcher and Head of Division (Fossil Vertebrates, Palaeoanthropology, and Micropalaeontology), Department of Earth Sciences, The Natural History Museum, London, UK (2003 to date).

Previous positions: Departmental Lecturer in Animal Diversity, Department of Zoology, University of Oxford, UK (1999–2003); Junior Research Fellow, Department of Earth Sciences and Trinity College, University of Cambridge, UK (1996–1999).

Education: BA, Natural Sciences (Zoology), University of Cambridge, UK (1993); PhD, University of Cambridge, UK (1998).

Professional service (SVP): Co-Senior Editor of Journal of Vertebrate Paleontology and Co-Chair of Publications Committee (2010 to date); Chair, Richard Estes Memorial Prize Committee (2007–2010); Member, Program Committee (2009–2012), Member, SVP Annual Meeting Host Committee (2009); Member, Romer Prize Committee (2005–2008); Member, Morris Skinner Committee (2007–2008); Editor, Journal of Vertebrate Paleontology (2002–2006).

Professional service (non-SVP): Vice-President (2011–2013), Secretary (2006–2011), and Council Member (2003–2013), The Palaeontographical Society; Editorial Board Member of Biology Letters (2010 to date), Geological Magazine (2006 to date), Journal of Systematic Palaeontology (2002 to date), Palaeoworld (2005 to date); Editor, Palaeontology (2008–2011); Secretary, Joint Committee on Palaeontology (2009–2011). Many museum and university committees on research, postgraduate studies, etc.

Honours: Bicentennial Medallist of the Linnean Society of London (2011); Hodson Award of the Palaeontological Association (2006).

Research interests: Evolution and palaeobiology of non-avian dinosaurs; Mesozoic tetrapod faunas; macroecological and macroevolutionary patterns, especially plant/animal coevolution and environmental drivers of species-richness patterns; quality of the fossil record. Published >100 papers in peer-reviewed journals and invited book contributions.

These are exciting times for vertebrate paleontologists, with numerous opportunities for making our voices heard in science and wider society. New approaches allow us to make substantial contributions of direct interest to other scientists, ranging from developmental biologists to climatologists. There is growing realisation that accurate and detailed knowledge of ancient life provides essential baseline data for understanding the impacts of present day environmental change and conservation issues. In addition, as an accessible and user-friendly science, we can help increase scientific literacy and awareness, so that people develop the skills to make informed choices about the scientific issues that impact their daily lives. SVP needs to develop as an advocate for all of these issues, by publicising our science to as wide an audience as possible, maintaining the highest standards in research, education, and ethics, and by fostering communication between different disciplines and between scientists, the public, educators, and policy makers. Recent times have seen a welcome expansion in the international membership of the Society, a trend that we need to continue encouraging in order to make full use of the extensive expertise available to us, and to provide local advocates for these issues around the world.