

The Herpetologists' League sponsors symposia for our annual meetings. In 2021, the HL, as part of the Joint Meetings of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists will convene in Phoenix, AZ. The meetings are scheduled for:

21-25 JULY, 2021

CALL FOR SYMPOSIUM PROPOSALS FOR THE 2021 HL MEETING

Symposia are important components of the Annual Joint Meeting, allowing researchers in a subfield to come together and present the latest research in that area. Symposia can range from conceptual to technical or can be organism-focused; there are no limits to the creativity of the proposed symposium or those who can be organizers (e.g., graduate students are encouraged to organize symposia!). These symposia disseminate new and useful scientific information and contribute to making the meeting a compelling and interesting experience. The most successful symposia highlight cutting-edge techniques and ideas of the society's membership. Each symposium as a whole should strive to be comprehensive but efficient, aiming to synthesize research topics, fill gaps in our knowledge and move the science forward.

Any HL member may submit a symposium proposal for this meeting. Official sponsorship by HL allows for the scheduling and announcement of the symposium in the meeting program and registration materials. In addition, financial support (generally up to \$2000) is available to each HL sponsored symposia. Sponsorship by the HL does not guarantee financial support and symposia may be sponsored in name only or funded at a level lower than that requested. Please indicate in your proposal that, if not recommended for funding, you would still like to have the symposium scheduled at the meeting to allow the committee to determine if HL will support it in name even if unfunded (this can be a great option if you and the suggested speakers are planning to attend regardless of funding!).

HL members interested in organizing a symposium for the 2021 JMIH should submit proposals no later than March 15, 2020 to: Sara Ruane, Chair HL

Symposium Committee (sara.ruane@rutgers.edu). Please email Sara with any questions regarding the submission. Electronic submissions are required (please contact Sara if there are any problems with that though).

HL Symposium Application Guidelines

The Herpetologists' League has adopted the following set of planning guidelines for approving proposed symposia:

- Proposals must be submitted to HL for consideration to by the annual **March 15** deadline.
- Organizers must be HL members at the time of submission.
- Proposals should not exceed 3 pages in length, using a typical 10-12 point font (Arial, Times New Roman, etc.).
- Proposals must be submitted in electronic format.
- Please consider the diversity of the proposed speakers for your symposium (professional level, gender, nationalities, etc.), as the committee considers this strongly when reviewing the proposals in order to ensure diversity for symposia.

Provide a clear and concise description of the symposium including:

- 1. Symposium Title (or Topic).**
2. Name(s) of symposium organizer(s) and co-organizer(s), and their contact information (e-mail address(es) and phone number(s))
- 3. Information on topic and background.** This statement should outline the scope of the planned presentations, the relevance of the topic to herpetology, to HL, and if appropriate, to the particular meeting (e.g., timeliness or geographic appropriateness), and the goal of the symposium.
- 4. A list of speakers** you have already invited or intend to invite to participate in the symposium. Inclusion of graduate students and early career scientists is encouraged. Please indicate whether or not each person has already agreed to speak (e.g. not contacted, tentatively agreed or agreed). Provide contact

information for each speaker, *as well as position* (graduate student, post-doctoral researcher, assistant, associate or full professor, or other)

5. **Length of symposium:** half-day or full-day (half day symposia are typical; a one-day symposium is usually the maximum). Talks are generally 15 minutes, but provide justification for 20 to 30 minute talks as needed.
6. **HL funding requested and budget.** Appropriate expenses include full or partial support of travel, housing and/or registration expenses for symposium participants. Funds will not be provided for: stipends, drinks, and/or snacks.

Responsibilities of the Symposium Chair(s) if the Proposal is Accepted

- Recruit speakers for the symposium and obtain their guarantee that they will participate.
- Work with symposium participants to obtain titles and abstracts. Abstracts **MUST** be submitted by the annual meeting abstract deadlines.
- Ensure that all participants are registered for the meetings.
- Develop and submit a **schedule** for the symposium to the meeting organizing committee for that years' annual meeting **by February 28th of the year of the meeting**. This includes the order and length of talks (15 or 30 minutes). Symposium organizers must provide the names of the moderators for the symposium at the same time.
- Ensure that all speakers are **present** at the meeting.

For more information, please contact:

Sara Ruane, HL Symposium Committee Chair

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