

Biomechanist/Physiologist/Entomologist

insect flight, circulation and respiration, wing hydraulics, bioinspiration

I observe nature and animal movement through an engineering, ecological, and evolutionary perspective. With an in-depth background in entomology and insect systems, I focus my research program on what makes insect wings alive — examining active wing hydraulics during wing expansion, circulation patterns in the wing during, and what structures allow for and produce these flows. My future work investigates how environmental pressures influence wing function.

CURRENT POSITION2019-Present **NSF Post-doctoral Fellow****Virginia Tech**

Advisor: Dr. Jake Socha, Biomedical Engineering and Mechanics (BEAM)

- Studying insect wing expansion circulation, respiration, and mechanics of coupled flow systems
- Using synchrotron x-ray imaging at Argonne National Laboratory to capture novel information about insect physiology
- Collaborator with Global Locust Initiative at Arizona State U. to investigate wing expansion in the migratory locust, *Locusta migratoria*

EDUCATION AND TRAINING2013-2019 **PhD, Organismic and Evolutionary Biology (OEB)****Harvard University**

Advisors: L. Mahadevan, Harvard University, Professor of Applied Mathematics, Professor of OEB, and Professor of Physics

Stacey Combes, UC Davis, Professor of Neurobiology, Physiology, and Behavior

- Modeling of insect wing geometries across insect phylogeny
- Measurement of hemodynamics of circulation in insect wings
- Understanding role of hydraulics of wing expansion during metamorphosis

2012-2013 **Research Assistant at Concord Field Station****Harvard University**2007-2012 **Bachelor of Science (double major)****Univ. of Washington**

Applied Computational Mathematical Science

Molecular/Cellular Biology

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS & SUBMITTED MANUSCRIPTS

Salcedo, MK, Jun, B, Socha, JJ, Pierce, N, Vlachos, PP, Combes, SA. A living network: complex hemolymph circulation patterns in locust wings. *Submitted to Nature Communications (Nov 2021)*. [Read on bioRxiv](#).

Salcedo, MK, *Ellis, TE, Sáenz, AS, *Lu, JL, *Worrell, T, Madigan, ML, Socha, JJ. Transient use of hemolymph for hydraulic wing expansion in cicadas. *Submitted to Current Biology (Oct 2021)*.

Mikel-Stites, M, Salcedo MK, Socha, JJ, Marek, P, Staples, A. 3D-imaging inspired improvements to hearing model in parasitoid fly *Ormia ochracea*. *Submitted to PNAS Nexus (Oct 2021)*. [Read on bioRxiv](#).

Salcedo, MK, Socha, JJ. Circulation in insect wings: a review on the necessity of hemodynamics in wing functionality. **Integrative and Comparative Biology (2020)**. doi: 10.1093/icb/icaa124

Burnett, N.P., King, E.E., Salcedo, M.K., Tanner, R.L. and Wilsterman, K. Conference scheduling undermines diversity efforts. **Nature Ecology & Evolution (2020)**, pp.1-2. doi:10.1038/s41559-020-1276-5

Salcedo, MK, Hoffmann, J, Donoughe, S, Mahadevan, L. Computational analysis of size, shape and structure of insect wings. **Biology Open (2019)**. doi:10.1242/bio.040774

Peleg, O, Peters, JM, Salcedo, MK, Mahadevan, L. Collective mechanical adaptation of honeybee swarms. **Nature Physics (2018)** 14(12): 1193. doi: 10.1038/s41567-018-0262-1

Hoffmann, J, Donoughe, S, Li, K, Salcedo, MK, Rycroft, CH. A simple developmental model recapitulates complex insect wing venation patterns. **PNAS. (2018)** 115(40): 9905 - 9910. doi: 10.1073/pnas.1721248115

Combes, SA, Salcedo, MK, Pandit, MM, Iwasaki, JM. Capture success and efficiency of dragonflies pursuing different types of prey. **Integrative and Comparative Biology (2013)** 53(5): 787 - 798. doi: 10.1093/icb/ict072

Williams, CD, Salcedo, MK, Irving, TC, Regnier, M, TL Daniel. The length-tension curve in muscle depends on lattice

*undergraduate co-authors

MANUSCRIPTS IN PREP

Salcedo, MK, Ellis, TE, Jones, T, Brun, PT, Socha, JJ. Fractal dimensions of wrinkly cicada wings throughout expansion.

Available upon request.

Zhang, H, Salcedo, MK, Socha, JJ, Ryu, S. Wing circulatory patterns in dragonfly-inspired microfluidic devices. *Available upon request.*

FELLOWSHIPS

Date		Source/Institution
2019 - 2022	NSF Postdoctoral Research Fellowship in Biology Category: Broadening Participation (Current) [\$207,000, 3 years]	Nat. Sci. Foundation
2021	USDA-NIFA Postdoctoral Fellowship (Awarded) Title: "Does toxin sequestration translate to pesticide resilience in Lepidoptera?" [\$225,000, 2 years] - PI: Salcedo, Mentors: Dr. Sunghwan Jung (Biological and Environmental Engineering) and Dr. Anurag Agrawal (Entomology and Ecology/Evolution). Start date: July 1, 2022	Cornell University
2020	Future Faculty Diversity Program Fellow Leadership training and development of significant meaningful relationships with prospects, especially scholars traditionally underrepresented in their fields	Virginia Tech
2014 - 2017	NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Funded Ph.D. work [\$125,000, 3 years]	Nat. Sci. Foundation

AWARDS

2021	Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology (SICB), DEI Award Inaugural awardee - Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Justice Award [\$1000]	SICB
2017	Travel Scholarship for Broadening Participation SICB Travel to Annual Meeting [\$500]	SICB
2016	Distinction in Teaching OEB 173: Comparative Biomechanics	Harvard University
2014	Distinction in Teaching Life Sciences 2: Evolutionary Human Physiology and Anatomy	Harvard University

GRANTS

2021	The Company of Biologists' Travel Fellowship To fund research trip to Global Locust Initiative at Arizona State (Cease Lab) [\$3500]	
2021	NSF REU Supplement (to NSF Grant PHY 2014181) Title: "Incorporating fluid-filled veins in a bioinspired robotic insect flapper" [\$27,000] - Designed and wrote proposal to support three undergraduate summer researchers. Role is mentor and lead experimentalist. Formal PIs of NSF grant: Anne Staples and Jake Socha	Virginia Tech
Jan 2020	Beamtime allocation at Argonne National Laboratory (ANL) "Generating and sensing forces in spider locomotion" General User Program (GUP) proposal #69127 (168 hours granted at beamline 32ID) - 3D synchrotron imaging of spider leg hydraulics [equivalent value of \$42,000]	Advan. Photon Source
Nov 2019	Beamtime allocation at ANL "The mechanics of circulatory flows in insect wings - Part 2" GUP proposal #66434 (168 hours granted at beamline 2BM) - 3D synchrotron imaging inner insect wing vein geometries [equivalent value of \$42,000]	Advan. Photon Source

INVITED PRESENTATIONS

Date	Seminar/Invited Talk	Institution
2022	Conference Symposium Speaker, "Open Technology," Jan 4th <i>Analyzing insect morphology: image analysis and 3D reconstruction using SlicerMorph</i>	SICB
2021	9th Ann. Hispanic/Latinx Invited Speaker, "Rising Strong", Oct 31	Ent. Soc. America

	<i>Where do I belong? Claiming your space, culture, and community in STEM</i>	Arizona State U.
	School of Life Sciences (SOLS) Seminar, Oct 15	
	<i>Hydraulics of wing expansion in cicadas and locusts</i>	Yale
	Ecology and Evolution Seminar, Sept. 29th	
	<i>What makes a wing alive? Insect wing hydraulics and structures</i>	Amgen Biotech Exp.
	Online high school teacher professional development, May 5	
	<i>Bringing your full self to STEM: accepting identity in the classroom</i>	Corning Inc./AIChE
	American Institute of Chemical Engineers (AIChE), May 5	
	<i>Hydraulic design of micro-miniature heavy-lift vehicles: How do insects 'wing' it?</i>	U. Mass, Lowell
	Ecology and Evolution Symposia, March 5	
	<i>Breathing bugs and flying snakes: the biomechanics of animals and their active fluid systems</i>	Cornell University
	Biological and Environmental Engineering, Feb. 19	
	<i>Form, function, and flows of insect wings: applications in behavior and applied agriculture</i>	U. of Western Ontario
	Biology Seminar Series, Jan 29	
	<i>What's inside an insect wing? Structure, flows, and function</i>	
2020-all below	Environ-Lunch, Oct 29**	UC Merced
	Entomology Seminar, Oct 26**	Cornell University
	Biology Dept Seminar, Oct 5	Virginia Tech
	<i>Form and function of insect wing veins</i>	
	Behavior, Ecology, and Physiology Seminar, June 3**	Bangor University
	Ecology and Evolution Seminar, April 20**	Wake Forest
	The STEM Village: Improving networks of LGBTQ+ scientists in Scotland, April 17*	
	<i>What's in a wing? Venation pattern and hemolymph flows in insects</i>	
	Link to talk: https://youtu.be/bSqFWZ4kcZQ -	
	Entomology Depart. Seminar, March 11	UC Davis
	<i>Hydraulics in an insect wing: how venation pattern affects circulation</i>	
	Entomology Dept. Seminar, Jan 30*	Virginia Tech
	Conference Symposium Speaker, "Melding Math and Morphology"	SICB
	<i>What's in a vein? Using computational tools to explore wing diversity and functional consequences of venation patterns on hemodynamics</i>	
	*updated versions of SICB 2020 presentation	
	**updated version of research program	

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS (*denotes undergraduate mentee)

- Salcedo, MK, Shevchenko, P, Socha, JJ. **Whole-wing microtomographic imaging of grasshopper wings**. Integr. Comp. Biol. (2021), virtual SICB. Talk. Link to talk: <https://youtu.be/Tll5yNoX3kY>
- Salcedo, MK, Hoffmann, J, Donoughe, SD, Combes SA, Mahadevan L. **What's in a vein? Using computational tools to explore wing diversity and functional consequences of venation patterns on hemodynamics**. Integr. Comp. Biol. (2020) SICB, Austin, TX. Symposium.
- *Hardy, DJ, Salcedo, MK, Kenny, MC, Pulliam, JN, Pendar, H, Socha, JJ. **Shot through the heart: a non-invasive IR technique to measure dorsal heart pumping in insects**. Integr. Comp. Biol. (2020). Austin, TX. Poster.
- Salcedo, MK, Combes, SA, Mahadevan L. **Active hemolymph flow in insect wings: characterization of uniform, bi-directional and pulsatile flow in a wing network**. Integr. Comp. Biol. (2018) Vol. 58, pp. E196. SICB, San Francisco, CA. Talk.
- Salcedo, MK, Hoffmann, J, Mahadevan, L. **Wing vein topology and the hydraulics of wing expansion**. OEB G4 Symposium. Cambridge, MA. (26 - 27 April 2017). Talk.
- Salcedo, MK, Combes, SA, Mahadevan L. **Wing vein networks across insect orders: examining hierarchical network structure and hemolymph flow**. Integr. Comp. Biol. (2017) SICB, New Orleans, LA. Talk.
- Salcedo, MK, Combes, SA, Mahadevan L. **Wing expansion in dragonflies and field crickets: a tightly folded solution to a complex behavior**. Integr. Comp. Biol. (2016) Vol. 56, pp. E250. SICB, Portland, OR. Talk.
- Combes, SA, Salcedo MK, Gagliardi, SF, Crall, JD, Iwasaki, JM, Rundle, DE. **Optimal flight speeds during dragonfly predator-prey encounters**. Integr. Comp. Biol. (2015) Vol. 55, pp. E33. SICB, West Palm Beach, FL. Poster.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Date	Position	Institution
July 2019 -Present	Postdoctoral Researcher PI: Jake Socha <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Quantifying tracheae expansion/collapse and relationship to hemolymph movement- Use of Advanced Photon Source (Argonne National Laboratory, Lemont, IL) to visualize complex internal physiology of insect wings and wing pads- Use of Matlab/Python to analyze ultrasound recordings of dorsal heart movement in beetles- Use of free-ware Slicermorph to reconstruct insect morphology in 3D- On-going collaborations<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Particle image velocimetry expert, Dr. Pavlos Vlachos (Purdue) to track fluorescent particles throughout the insect body- Dr. Sangjin Ryu (Nebraska), to investigate flow patterns in dragonfly-inspired microfluidic device. Gained skills on confocal to measure flow in dragonfly wings- Global Locust Initiative with Dr. Arianne Cease (Arizona State) to measure wing expansion in locusts under crowded and solitary conditions.- Dr. Pierre Thomas Brun (Princeton) to measure wrinkle movement in expanding cicada wings- Dr. Jessica Ware (AMNH) and graduate student Sallqa-Tuwa Bondoc Mafla to create pipeline for 3D reconstruction of insect morphology	Virginia Tech
2013-2019	Graduate Researcher PI: Stacey Combes and L. Mahadevan <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Comparative geometric analysis of insects wings based on size, shape, and topologies of wing networks- Biomechanical analysis of hemodynamics in wings of the North American Grasshopper- Quantified auto-expansion of insect wings during metamorphosis- Determined swarm dynamics of honeybees and collective motion under wind-like mechanical motion	Harvard University
Aug. 2012 -2013	Research Assistant, Concord Field Station PI: Stacey Combes <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Field experience: catching insects, rearing nymphs to adults, monitoring dragonfly populations- Work on tracking wing bending kinematics and biological modeling through high speed video- Managed lab: ordering supplies, maintaining equipment, organizing lab environment	Harvard University
2010-2012	Undergraduate Research Assistant PI: Tom Daniel <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Supported graduate research into study of biomechanics and muscle physiology- Modeled data with Python/Matlab, built experimental rig for muscle physiology and computational analysis of x-ray diffraction images- Organized, managed and assisted in conducting of a cross-disciplinary and collaborative x-ray diffraction experiment at Beamline 18-ID, Advanced Photon Source, Argonne National Laboratory, Illinois (August 2011)- Built, placed and measured electrodes in steering and flight muscles of <i>Manduca sexta</i>- Experience with high speed cameras and digital tracking	Univ. of Washington
2009 - 2010	Undergraduate Research Assistant PI: Pat Stayton <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Supported post-doctoral research into the study of water interactions with streptavidin protein- Performed protein expression on eight mutant strains of DNA- Experimental skills included: design of DNA sequences, growth of cells and insertion of DNA, gel analysis, cell lysis techniques and biotin immunoprecipitation	Univ. of Washington

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Date	Position	Institution
Apr 2021	Guest Lecturer , Bioinspiration, April 13	U. Michigan
Nov 2020	Guest Lecturer , E&EB 295: Life in Motion: Eco. & Evo. Phys, Nov 16	Yale University
Oct 2020	Guest Lecturer , BIOL 472: Form and Function Lab, Oct 5	Towson University

Aug 2020	Guest Lecturer , Biology Dept, Asynchronous Learning Workshop, Aug 4	Virginia Tech
July 2020	Guest Lecturer , Biology Dept, "Anti-racism education in biology," July 7	Virginia Tech
June 2020	Faculty for Cornell Summer Pre-College Program* UNIV-1110: Building intuition: Bioinspiration and foundations of design in biological systems Co-faculty: Dr. Jacob Peters (Electrical and Computer Engineering, Cornell University) - Designed, created, and led course new course to examine how engineers are inspired from biological systems, and how they build off those principles. We reviewed published bio-inspired technologies, lectured on foundational mathematical principles, and interviewed scientists behind the work. - Lectures can be viewed: http://bit.ly/foundationsOfBioinspiration	Cornell University
Feb 2020	Guest Lecturer , ESM 4106: Engineering Analysis of Physiologic Systems - Gave lecture on hemolymph circulation mechanisms in insects and their appendages	Virginia Tech
Fall 2019	Guest Lecturer , ENT 5114: Insect Structure and Function - Gave lectures on insect appendages, appendage function, insect wings, and wing-joining mechanisms	Virginia Tech
June 2017 & June 2018	Faculty for Harvard Summer Pre-College Program BIOS P-13540: Comparative Biomechanics and Physiology: Designing Insect-Inspired Gliders - Designed and led course new course combining insect physiology, entomology and biomechanics with a focus on insect-inspired glider design. Strong focus on combining applied math/biological principles. - Students toured entomology collections, were led in insect dissections, learned to catch insects outdoors, make gliders based on biological observations, then mechanically test said gliders in wind tunnels and with an Instron.	Harvard University
Spring 2016	Teaching Fellow , OEB 173: Comparative Biomechanics	Harvard University
Fall 2014	Teaching Fellow , LS2: Evolution and Human Physiology and Anatomy	Harvard University
Fall 2014	Teaching Fellow , LS2: Evolution and Human Physiology and Anatomy	Harvard Ext. School
Sept 2010	Teaching Assistant , Engineering Bridge Program	Univ. of Washington
Summer 2010	Teaching Assistant , Initiative for Maximizing Student Diversity	Univ. of Washington

DIVERSITY, INCLUSION, AND OUTREACH EXPERIENCE

Year	Position	Institution/Org
May 2021	Invited Speaker, High school Teacher Professional Development Workshop LSO - LabXchange Science Outreach (Harvard), ABE - Amgen Biotech Experience Massachusetts - Led conversation with group of teachers in virtual professional development - Conversation on SACNAS, identity, anti-racism in the classroom	LSO/ABE
Jan 2021	Accessibility Creator for virtual SICB 2021 Initiated efforts to create caption guidelines for virtual conference - Created guidelines for captioning science presentations for national conference - Enabled 67% of SICB members to caption talks to allow disabled scientists to attend	SICB
Jan 2020 -Present	Member, SACNAS Membership Committee <i>Society for the Advancement of Chicanos/Hispanics and Native Americans in Science</i> Member serving on sub-committee of national SACNAS organization - Focuses on retaining members and providing professional development resources	SACNAS
Nov 2019 -Jan 2021	Member, BEAM Inclusion and Diversity Committee Member identifying key inclusion/diversity issues - Devises solutions, takes active role in recruiting underrepresented students, leads workshops	Virginia Tech
2019 & 2020	Lead Volunteer for Socha Lab booth at Hokie BugFest - Organized and created content for virtual "Socha Insect Story and Crafts Corner" with stories in Spanish/English, cooking and painting crafts (2020) - Designed vertical wind tunnel to "fly" fake plastic insects with variety of wing aspect ratios (2019)	Virginia Tech
Oct 2015 -May 2019	Lead Recruiter and Co-Vice President of SACNAS at Harvard Co-Vice President of SACNAS at Harvard Chapter (2016 - 2019) Lead Recruiter for Harvard OEB Dept. (2015 - 2019) - Organized departmental diversity initiatives based around the SACNAS conference - Met with other dept./school heads to organize and determine top priorities at conference	Harvard University

- 2020-Present **LGBTQIA+ Mentor at SICB** **SICB**
 - Encouraged students with diverse backgrounds to apply to Harvard and other graduate programs
 - Created and designed unique professional development workshops for URM students at Harvard
- 2017-Present **Broadening Participation Mentor at SICB** **SICB**
 - Supported and encouraged attendees who identify as LGBTQIA+ at SICB
- 2015-2016 **Volunteer, local New England High Schools**
 - Taught lessons by request via GradWagon (online science-connect platform)
 - Focused on entomology, insect collection, insect preservation, local pollinators, insect dissections
 - Manchester High School Central, NH (April 2016)
 - Belfast Area High School, ME — visiting Cambridge, MA (March 2016)
 - Urban Science Academy, MA (Jan 2016)
 - Shore Educational Collaborative/Henry Owen School, MA (May 2015)
 - Westborough High School, MA (Nov. 2015)
- Aug 2015 **Program manager of professional development workshop** **Concord Field Station**

Concord Field Station Teacher Professional Development with LSO/ABE

 - Coordinated with Harvard's Life Sciences Outreach Program for 2-day workshop
 - Developed workshop to teach local high school teachers field-based lessons for their classroom
 - Cross-disciplinary work with graduate students and post-docs to design lesson plans
 - Designed hands-on labs for teachers to participate in, critique, and edit for their classrooms
 - Introduced a bee-keeping course component which many teachers implemented in their own classroom
- 2014-2017 **Volunteer with Harvard Museum of Natural History** **Harvard University**
 - ArtsFirst Festival, Build-a-Bug (April 2017)
 - I Heart Science (Feb. 2016-2019)
 - Insect outreach "All about honeybees" (June 2015)
 - Museum storytime (Nov 2014)

MENTORING DOCUMENTS

Salcedo, MK. Undergraduate Expectations Document - working with Dr. Salcedo. doi:10.5281/zenodo.4000437

MENTORING EXPERIENCE

- Oct 2022-Present **Wing expansion with Global Locust Initiative** **Arizona State**
 - Mentored and trained 25 undergrads, 5 grads to observe and measure wing expansion in plague locusts through collaboration with Cease Lab at ASU
 - Goal is to bring students as co-authors on project as data is analyzed
- Mar 2021-Sept 2021 **Team of undergraduates in Field Research and Publication** **Virginia Tech**
 - Brought team of 9 undergrads to Washington D.C. to observe Brood X cicada emergence
 - Trained on insect collection, handling, and physiological measurements
 - Invited all undergraduates (3 continued on) to participate in analysis and manuscript prep
- Mar 2021-Present **Tyler Ellis, Engineer** **NAVSEA**
 - Recent VT undergrad working on measurements of insect wings throughout emergence
 - Training in image analysis, Matlab coding, figure-making, and manuscript publication
- Mar 2021-Present **Joyce Lu, Undergraduate** **Virginia Tech**
 - Training in image analysis, Matlab coding, figure-making, and manuscript publication
- Mar 2021-Sept 2021 **Afreen Khoja, Undergraduate (REU)** **Virginia Tech**
 - Mentored through design of novel insect-wing inspired robotic flapper
 - Training in foundations of biological design and experimental methods in biomechanics
- July 2019-Present **Donovan Hardy, Undergraduate (REU)** **Morehouse College**
 - Led in design of infrared device that detects dorsal vessel pumping in insects
 - Supported and mentored at national STEM conference
 - Helped pursue research positions, facilitated connections to neuroengineering labs
- Sept 2020-Present **Terrell Worrell, Undergraduate** **Virginia Tech**

- Training in decoding behavior of dragonfly take-off maneuvers
 - Training in reconstruction of flight kinematics, image analysis, Matlab coding, figure-making, and manuscript publication
- Sept 2020-Mar 2021 **Mohamed Hussein, Undergraduate** **Virginia Tech**
- Training in microCT image processing, 3D reconstruction, and 3D printing
- Nov 2019-Nov 2020 **Yulia Kirina, Undergraduate** **Virginia Tech**
- Training in insect animal care and rearing
 - Teaching image preprocessing, segmentation and analysis of microCT data
- Nov 2019-Dec 2020 **Zaid Salameh, Undergraduate** **Virginia Tech**
- Teaching image preprocessing, segmentation and analysis of microCT data
 - Career guidance towards graduate school and STEM career planning
- Summer 2016 **Johanna Lara, High School Senior** **Masconoment High**
- Led in field- and collection-based entomological research at the Concord Field Station
- Summer 2016 **Connor Mochi, High School Senior** **Masconoment High**
- Led in field- and collection-based entomological research at the Concord Field Station

PRESS

Greenfieldboyce, Nell, “Brood X Cicadas Are Busy And So Are The Scientists Who Study Them.” NPR: All Things Considered. **25 May 2021**. <https://n.pr/3hB2DHi>

Garvey, Kathy Keatley. “Seminar on March 11: Mary Salcedo and Insect Wings.” Entomology & Nematology News: UC News about Entomology and Nematology. **10 March 2020**. <https://bit.ly/3cAe7qO>

Canon, William. “Flying Right.” Harvard Gazette. **29 May 2019**. <https://bit.ly/3kVeSxC>

Salcedo, MK. “First person — Mary Salcedo.” Biology Open First Person Series. **18 October 2019**. <https://bit.ly/339wmQP>

EDITORIAL AND REFEREE SERVICE

Journal of Theoretical Biology, Integrative and Comparative Biology, Journal of Material Science, Nature Communications, PLOS Computational Biology

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

- Jan 2020-Present Committee Member, SACNAS Membership Committee
- Oct 2011-Present Member, Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology (SICB)
- Oct 2015-Present Member, SACNAS
- 2016-2019 Co-Vice President , SACNAS at Harvard Chapter