

# Kevin Surya

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## Curriculum Vitae

September 2021

### Education

- 2020– Ph.D. Montana State University, Molecular Biosciences Program  
2015–19 B.Sc. Montana State University, Directed Interdisciplinary Studies  
(biology, statistics, and earth sciences)

### Appointments

- 2021– Graduate teaching assistant  
Department of Mathematical Sciences, Montana State University  
2020– Graduate student researcher  
Macroevolution Lab (PI: Chris Organ), Montana State University  
2020–20 Research intern  
DinoChicken Lab (PI: Dana Rashid), Montana State University  
2016–19 Undergraduate research assistant  
MSU Macroevolution Lab (PI: Chris Organ), Montana State University  
2015–19 Undergraduate research assistant  
DinoChicken Lab  
2017–19 Undergraduate research assistant  
Varricchio Lab (PI: David Varricchio), Montana State University

### Publications

7. **Surya, K.**, J. D. Gardner, and C. L. Organ. (2021). SARS-CoV-2 Evolution is Punctuated. *To be submitted to Virus Evolution*.
6. **Surya, K.**, and C. L. Organ. (2021). Molecular branch lengths explain trait evolution better than does time. *To be submitted to Nature*.
5. Fernandes-Martins, M. C., L. M. Keller, M. Munro-Ehrlich, K. R. Zimlich, M. K. Mettler, A. M. England, R. Clare, **K. Surya**, E. L. Shock, D. R. Colman, and E. S. Boyd. (2021). Ecological dichotomies arise in microbial communities due to mixing of deep hydrothermal waters and atmospheric gas in a circumneutral hot spring. *Accepted at Applied and Environmental Microbiology*.
4. Nemudryi, A., A. Nemudraia, T. Wiegand, **K. Surya**, M. Büyükyörük, C. Cicha, K. Vanderwood, R. Wilkinson, and B. Wiedenheft. (2020). Temporal detection and phylogenetic assessment of SARS-CoV-2 in municipal wastewater. *Cell Reports Medicine*. [Link](#).
3. Rashid, D. J., R. Bradley, A. M. Bailleul, **K. Surya**, H. N. Woodward, P. Wu, Y-H. Wu, D. B. Menke, S. G. Minchey, B. Parrot, S. L. Bock, C. Merzdorf, E. Narotzky, N. Burke, J. R. Horner, and S. C. Chapman. (2020). Distal spinal nerve development and divergence of avian groups. *Scientific Reports*. [Link](#).
2. Gardner\*, J. D., **K. Surya\***, and C. L. Organ. (2019). Early tetrapodomorph biogeography: Controlling for fossil record bias in macroevolutionary analyses. *Comptes Rendus Palevol*. [Preprint](#). [Link](#).

\* contributed equally to the study

1. Rashid, D. J., **K. Surya**, L. M. Chiappe, N. R. Carroll, K. L. Garrett, B. Varghese, A. Bailleul, J. K. O'Connor, S. C. Chapman, and J. R. Horner. (2018). Avian tail ontogeny, pygostyle formation, and interpretation of juvenile Mesozoic specimens. *Scientific Reports*. [Link](#).

### Grants & Awards (\$41,113)

17. Montana State University (MSU) Organization of Student Engagement Student Club Rolling Funding: Molecular Biosciences Program student club. 2021. \$272.
16. MSU Graduate School Community-Building Mini-Grant. (2021). \$500.
15. Molecular Biosciences Program Fellowship. (2020). \$22,000++.
14. Society for the Study of Evolution (SSE)/BEACON Center for the Study of Evolution in Action Undergraduate Diversity at Evolution travel award. (2019). \$250++.
13. MSU Undergraduate Scholars Program (USP) Research Grant: Which phylogenetic branch length unit better fits species' phenotypic traits: Time or genetic substitution? (2018–2019). \$1,800.
12. MSU Organization of Student Engagement Student Club Mass Funding: Dead Lizards Society, a paleontology journal club. (2018–2019). \$1,726.
11. Sigma Xi Grants-In-Aid of Research Program: Which phylogeny better fits species' trait data: Time or molecular tree? (2017–2018). \$1,000.
10. Geological Society of America (GSA) Rocky Mountain Section Travel Grant. (2017). \$90.
9. MSU USP Research Grant: Which phylogeny better fits species' trait data: Time or molecular tree? (2017–2018). \$1,800.
8. MSU College of Letters and Science Student Research Travel Grant. (2017). \$375.
7. GSA On To The Future Travel Awards. (2017). \$500++.
6. MSU USP Travel Grant: Paleohistology technique for sub-fossilized bone. (2017). \$500.
5. Kenny Dye Memorial Scholarship. (2017–2018). \$1,900.
4. Natural History Museum of Los Angeles Student Collections Study Award: Avian pygostyle fusion. (2017). \$1,300.
3. Montana Academy of Sciences Student Research Grant: Chicken pygostyle fusion sheds light on ankylosing spondylitis pathology. (2017–2018). \$700.
2. Montana IDeA Network of Biomedical Research Excellence (INBRE) Undergraduate Student Research Program: Chicken pygostyle fusion sheds light on ankylosing spondylitis pathology. (2017). \$4,600.
1. MSU USP Research Grant: Pelvic sexual dimorphism in Palaeognathae (Aves: Neornithes) and its evolutionary relationship with relative egg size. (2016–2017). \$1,800.

### Teaching

#### Teaching Assistantships

2021 M 121 – College Algebra, MSU

### Presentations

17. **Surya, K.**, J. D. Gardner, and C. L. Organ. (2021) SARS-CoV-2 evolution is punctuated. Molecular Biosciences 1<sup>st</sup>-Year Fellow Presentations.
16. **Surya, K.**, and W. J. Freimuth. (2019) Montana State University (MSU) EARTH101 – Earth System Sciences: Fossils and Evolution. *Guest Lecture*.

15. **Surya, K.**, and C. L. Organ. (2019) Molecular branch lengths fit trait evolution better than does time. Evolution Meeting.
14. Gardner, J. D., **K. Surya**, and C. L. Organ. (2019) Phylogeography of the tetrapod water-land transition. MSU Earth Sciences Colloquium.
13. **Surya, K.**, and C. L. Organ. (2019) Does trait evolution follow time or genetic substitution? National Conference of Undergraduate Research (NCUR).
12. **Surya, K.**, D. J. Rashid, and S. C. Chapman (2019) Chicken tail vertebral fusion sheds light on a human backbone disease. Montana Academy of Sciences Annual Meeting.
11. **Surya, K.**, D. J. Rashid, L. M. Chiappe, N. R. Carroll, K. L. Garrett, B. Varghese, A. Bailleul, J. K. O'Connor, S. C. Chapman, and J. R. Horner. (2018) Bird tail growth necessitates re-interpretation of Mesozoic bird fossils. MSU Earth Sciences Colloquium.
10. **Surya, K.**, and C. L. Organ. (2018) Which phylogeny better fits species' trait data: Time or molecular tree? MSU Student Research Celebration Topical Session: *Macroevolution: The Fellowship of the Tree*.
9. **Surya, K.**, and C. L. Organ. (2018) Which phylogeny better fits species' trait data: Time or molecular tree? NCUR.
8. **Surya, K.**, I. M. Brenes, J. D. Gardner, L. W. Viñola López, C. L. Organ, and D. J. Varricchio (2017) Pelvic coevolution with egg size and shape: Implications for extinct dinosaurs. Geological Society of America Annual Meeting.
7. Rashid, D. J., **K. Surya**, S. C. Chapman, L. M. Chiappe, A. M. Bailleul, and J. R. Horner (2017) Pygostyle development and its implications for the Cretaceous long- to short-tailed avian transition. Society of Vertebrate Paleontology Annual Meeting.
6. **Surya, K.**, D. J. Rashid, and S. C. Chapman (2017) Chicken pygostyle fusion sheds light on ankylosing spondylitis pathology. Montana IDeA Network of Biomedical Research Excellence (INBRE) Summer Research Poster Session.
5. **Surya, K.**, L. W. Viñola López, and E.-T. Lamm (2017) Paleohistology technique for sub-fossilized bone. International Symposium on Paleohistology.
4. **Surya, K.**, I. M. Brenes, L. W. Viñola López, J. D. Gardner, C. L. Organ, and D. J. Varricchio (2017) Pelvic sexual dimorphism in modern birds (Aves: Neornithes) and its evolutionary relationship with relative egg size. MSU Student Research Celebration.
3. **Surya, K.**, I. M. Brenes, L. W. Viñola López, J. D. Gardner, C. L. Organ, and D. J. Varricchio (2017) Pelvic sexual dimorphism in modern birds (Aves: Neornithes) and its evolutionary relationship with relative egg size. MSU Earth Sciences Colloquium.
2. **Surya, K.**, L. W. Viñola López, I. M. Brenes, J. D. Gardner, C. L. Organ, and D. J. Varricchio (2017) Pelvic sexual dimorphism in modern birds (Aves: Neornithes) and its evolutionary relationship with relative egg size. NCUR.
1. **Surya, K.** (2016) Assessment on the origins of avian active flight. MSU Earth Sciences Colloquium.

## Professional Service

### Panel Organizer

2021 Molecular Biosciences Career Panel: Primarily Undergraduate Institutions

2021 Molecular Biosciences Career Panel: NIH and Health/Bioinformatics Industries (moderator)

### Service to Profession

- Peer reviewer ( $n = 4$ ; *Biology Letters* [1], *Evolution* [1], and *Journal of Evolutionary Biology* [2])

### *Memberships*

- Society for the Study of Evolution
- Society of Systematic Biologists
- Montana Academy of Sciences
- MSU Molecular Biosciences Program Student Committee (treasurer/general student committee member 2020–)
- MSU Asian Student Interracial Association (historian 2021–)
- MSU Dead Lizards Society (paleontology journal club; co-president 2017–2018)
- Sigma Xi (2017–2018)
- Society of Vertebrate Paleontology (2015–2019)
- Geological Society of America (2016–2018)

### **Volunteer & Public Outreach**

- 2018, 19 Montana State University (MSU) Family Science Day  
2018 Montana Science Olympiad  
2018 Morning Star Elementary School STEM Expo  
2017 Society of Vertebrate Paleontology volunteer at the Geological Society of America Annual Meeting  
2017 Museum of the Rockies (MOR) Scout's Day  
2016 MOR volunteer in *MSU Catapalooza*  
2016 MOR volunteer in *Adventures in the Lost World*  
2016–17 MOR dinosaur educational cart and fossil preparation volunteer (212.5 hours)  
2015–16 Volunteer fossil preparator for L. J. Krumeracker, Ph.D

### **Conferences Attended**

- 2019, 21 Evolution Meeting  
2017 Geological Society of America Annual Meeting  
2017 International Symposium on Paleohistology  
2016, 17 Society of Vertebrate Paleontology Annual Meeting

### **Workshop Attended**

- 2020 Multiscale Microbial Dynamics Modeling Summer School (online)  
2018 RevBayes Demonstration and Mini Workshop by Tracy Heath

### **Paleontological Field Experience**

- 2018 Excavation, Foremost Formation, north of Rudyard, MT, USA (10 days)  
2016 Excavation and prospection, Two Medicine Formation, west of Choteau, MT, USA (31 days)

### **Skills**

- Programming (R, PYTHON, REVBAYES and BASH)
- Parametric, nonparametric, and multivariate statistics (R, SAS, and REVBAYES)
- Phylogenetic comparative methods (BAYESTRAITS, R, and LEVOLUTION)
- Multiple sequence alignment and editing (ALIVIEW, JALVIEW, MUSCLE, MAFFT, PAGAN, TRIMAL)

- Phylogenetic inference and divergence time estimation (MESQUITE, RAPIDNJ, SDM, PHYD\*, TREEPL, LSD2, FASTTREE, PHYML, RAXML, IQ-TREE, MRBAYES, BEAST1, and BEAST2)
- Selection inference (HYPHY/DATAMONKEY)
- Cloud computing (Amazon Web Services)
- Histochemistry (picrosirius red, alcian blue, modified tetrachrome, von Kossa, Giemsa, hematoxylin, eosin, and toluidine blue stainings)
- Immunohistochemistry (tuj1, TUNEL assay, and sambucus nigra stainings)
- Light and fluorescence microscopy
- Bone demineralization with a cation exchange resin
- Dissection (embryonic and post-hatching birds)
- Paleontology field work (excavation and prospection)
- Paleontology techniques (fossil preparation, molding, and casting)
- Paleohistology techniques
- Mathematics (MATHEMATICA)

## References

1. **Chris Organ**  
Department of Earth Sciences  
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2. **John Borkowski**  
Department of Mathematical Sciences  
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3. **Matt Lavin**  
Plant Sciences & Plant Pathology Department  
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4. **Dana Rashid**  
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5. **Blake Wiedenheft**  
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6. **David Varricchio**  
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