

# Marine Biological Laboratory



## FACULTY BIOS

### ***ANATOMY & DEVELOPMENT OF MARINE VERTEBRATES AND INVERTEBRATES COURSE***



**Lisa Abbo, D.V.M., M.S.**

**Veterinarian & MBL Scientist**

Lisa grew up in San Diego and obtained her Bachelor of Science degree in biology from the University of California, San Diego. She earned her doctorate degree in veterinary medicine, *magna cum laude*, from Kansas State University then completed a small animal internship at Purdue University. She pursued her interest in anesthesia and analgesia at Purdue and earned a master's degree where her projects were focused on opioid pharmacokinetics in dogs and cats. Her career path took a turn when she relocated with her husband to Cape Cod, MA and found a renewed interest in aquatic animal medicine. She worked at a small zoo and aquarium before finding her passion for science and

aquatics at the Marine Biological Laboratory in Woods Hole. Her interests are in anesthesia, analgesia, and aquatic animal health and welfare.



## **Nipam Patel, Director of the Marine Biological Laboratory**

Nipam Patel, Ph.D., is Director of the Marine Biological Laboratory (MBL) and a Professor at the University of Chicago. He joined the MBL in 2018 from University of California, Berkeley, where he was Professor and Co-chair of the Department of Molecular and Cell Biology and Professor in the Department of Integrative Biology. Patel is the 20<sup>th</sup> scientist to serve as MBL Director since its founding in 1888.

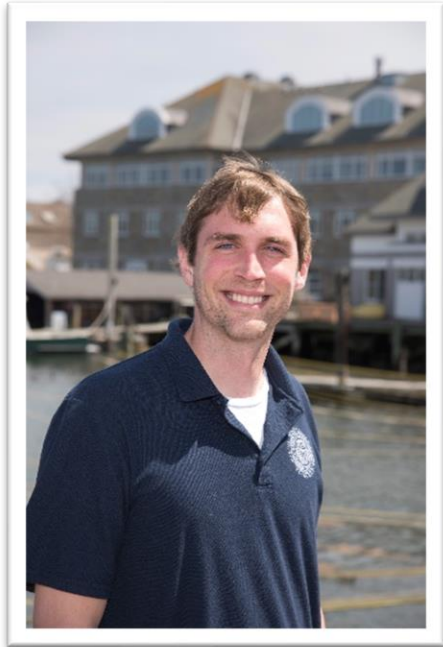
Patel grew up in El Paso, Texas, and received an A.B. in Biology from Princeton University and a Ph.D. in Biology from Stanford University. Prior to joining UC Berkeley in 2003, he was a professor of Organismal Biology and Anatomy at the University of Chicago (1995 to 2003), a Howard Hughes Medical Institute Investigator

(1995 to 2010), and a Staff Associate in the Department of Embryology at the Carnegie Institution in Baltimore, Md. (1991 to 1995).

A longtime member of the MBL community, Patel has taught in the MBL Embryology course since 2001 and served as course co-director from 2007 to 2011. He is a leading scholar in modern evolutionary and developmental biology with specific focus on the evolution of body patterning and segmentation, regeneration of the germline, and structural coloration. His scientific expertise encompasses the development of novel, genetic model organisms for biological study, which can reveal much about human biology; and the application of advanced imaging technologies to probe the fundamental dynamics of living systems.

Patel is an elected fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and has been awarded numerous honors, including the Schubert Endowed Chair and the William V. Power Endowed Chair at UC Berkeley, the McKnight Scholars Neuroscience Fellowship Award, and an NSF Predoctoral Fellowship. Other past appointments include faculty curator at the Essig Museum of Entomology, UC Berkeley; and adjunct professor at the National Institute of Genetics in Shizuoka, Japan.

The author of more than 130 scientific publications, Patel was an editor of the journal *Development* (2009-2018) and serves on the editorial board of several other journals in the biological sciences. He has served on numerous advisory boards, including board of directors of the Society for Developmental Biology.



### **Bret Grasse, Manager of Cephalopod Operations**

Bret is developing a world class cephalopod breeding program at MBL, hosting a variety of cephalopod model species. Here Bret develops innovative life-cycle cultures of several cephalopod species to support work by residential scientists and visiting researchers. Prior to serving in his current role at MBL, Bret worked at the Monterey Bay Aquarium in Monterey, CA where he was a Senior Aquarist and developed and managed the world's first large-scale cephalopod exhibition. Bret is an acknowledged international leader in cephalopod husbandry.



### **David Remsen, Director of Marine Research Services**

David oversees the marine biological operations at MBL including the collection and welfare of a wide range of marine species, SCUBA diving, and aquaculture. Dave grew up in and around Woods Hole and began his career at the MBL as an undergraduate SCUBA diver for the facility he now directs. For more than two decades Dave has combined and applied his love of marine biology within the field of biodiversity informatics, the applied use of technology on data and information pertaining to biodiversity. Dave returned to the Cape in 2012 after working in Copenhagen, Denmark as a senior office of the Global Biodiversity Information Facility, a multi-governmental organization dedicated to providing access to the world's biodiversity data. He is a senior member of the board of the Catalogue of Life, an international effort to document all the world's species.



**Loretta Roberson, PhD**  
**Associate Scientist, MBL**

<http://www.mbl.edu/bell/loretta-roberson/>

Dr. Roberson holds a BS in Biology from California State University and a PhD in Biological Sciences from Stanford University. In 2003 she became Adjunct and later Assistant Professor at the University of Puerto Rico, directing several research centers there. In 2016 she joined the MBL where she is now Associate Scientist. Her research interests are in environmental protection and sustainable energy.



**Scott Bennett, Marine Research Services & Outreach Coordinator**

Scott coordinates and conducts specimen collections for the Marine Resources Department. Scott is a AAUS certified diver for the MBL, and a USCG licensed small boat captain. He received a B.S. degree in Marine Biology from Roger Williams University. He spent four years in the Ichthyology Department at the American Museum of Natural History in New York City working on the molecular systematics of fishes, with a focus on the blind cave fish of Madagascar. Scott received his MSc degree from California State University Fullerton where his research focus was on the comparative physiology of endothermy in tunas.