

# NSF distinguished lecture to feature evolutionary biologist Sheila Patek

*Duke University researcher to discuss, 'From fast to ultrafast: Evolutionary dynamics and interdisciplinary principles of extreme biological movement'*

The National Science Foundation's (NSF) Directorate for Biological Sciences will hold its second distinguished lecture this year with Sheila Patek, an evolutionary biologist from Duke University. From the powerfully extraordinary accelerations of mantis shrimp hammers and trap-jaw ant jaws to a new, interdisciplinary paradigm of spring-driven, latch-mediated movement, Patek will examine the interface of biological discovery and how that translates into human-designed and engineered systems at the outer extremes of fast motion.

## EVENT DETAILS:

**WHO:** [NSF-funded biologist Sheila Patek](#) leads a research group at Duke University that probes the dynamic interplay between evolutionary processes and physics in two broad systems: evolutionary physiology of communication in the sea and the evolutionary dynamics of fast animal movements. Her group's work provides innovative insights into human-designed and engineered systems. Patek is dedicated to making her lab's findings accessible to the broader public to stimulate interest in science, increase knowledge of biology, and thereby inspire a commitment to and protection of the biological world; she regularly presents her research internationally through [mainstream media](#) and both academic and public lectureships, including a [mainstage TED talk](#).

**WHAT:** Lecture: "From fast to ultrafast: Evolutionary dynamics and interdisciplinary principles of extreme biological movement."

**WHEN:** Wednesday, Nov. 7, 1 p.m. ET

**WHERE:** National Science Foundation, 2415 Eisenhower Ave., Alexandria, VA 22314

**RSVP:** Contact Tara Bracken at [tbracken@nsf.gov](mailto:tbracken@nsf.gov), if you are interested in attending this event, who will arrange for a visitor's pass into the NSF building. Please allow for 15 minutes of security screening prior to the event's start.

*For those who cannot attend in person, the lecture will be webcast live at <https://bluejeans.com/256289671/>*