

# Keeping **E**arly **C**areer **P**rofessionals **connected, informed, and prepared.**



Issue 7 - September 2016

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## Helpful Information to Help You Prepare for ICE 2016

### Take Advantage of ESA's Free Archived Webinar on Creating Scientific Posters

Learn how to create scientific posters that your colleagues and advisors will not stop talking about. Our expert presenter helps you learn how to display your work with award-winning design. Your scientific poster is your opportunity to communicate your research and thoughts in a static visual medium, and allows you to show and discuss your work in an interactive format. This seminar, presented by Professor Lana Johnson, provides valuable tips on how you can create an attractive and easy-to-read poster presentation so viewers can quickly discern your message. Click [here](#) to view this helpful webinar.

### Childcare Program – Camp ICE



### ECP Committee Members



Dr. Tamra  
Reall Lincoln,  
USDA-ARS in Missouri

ESA will be providing on-site childcare during the Congress free of charge for registered ICE attendees. Camp ICE will be conveniently located at the Rosen Plaza Hotel, adjacent to the Orange County Convention Center. **Register early**; space is limited. Dates, times, and details may be found [here](#).

### **Early Career Professionals Symposium: *Global Entomological Collaborations***

Plan to attend the Early Career Professionals Committee-sponsored symposium, "[Global Entomological Collaborations](#)", at ICE 2016. Beginning at 9:15 am on Monday, September 26, speakers will share their experiences and wisdom on the unique benefits and challenges of undertaking entomology in an international arena. Learn how to build global networks, jump-start and maintain collaborations, and use them to enhance your career and research.

Following the presentations, ESA-STEP ICE Travel Award winners will be honored during a reception at 11:15am (refreshments included), and symposium attendees will have the opportunity to mingle with the symposium speakers and each other. The schedule for all ICE symposia is published [here](#).

### **ICE 2016 on Social Media**

Use social media to engage with other ICE participants! The official meeting hashtag is #ICE2016, and you can follow @ICE\_Orlando\_2016 and @EntsocAmerica for meeting updates, including information about the annual Tweet Up event. The [Women in Entomology breakfast](#) will have a trivia competition hosted on Twitter. Follow @WomeninEnto (and attend the breakfast) to participate!

### **Lunch & Learn: "Down with Publish or Perish! Non-Traditional Careers in Entomology"**

Interested in a job that doesn't require constant publishing? Would you like a job where funding is available without chasing after it? Non-traditional career paths, such as regulatory entomology, may be your answer. The [BYOB-style lunch and learn](#) kicks off with a Q&A session featuring a panel of individuals representing diverse agencies and career paths. Then you'll have an opportunity to mingle with Society of Regulatory Entomology committee members in a relaxed setting and discuss job opportunities. Agencies represented may include USAID, CBP-DHS, USDA (including APHIS, CPHST, and ARS), other foreign government agencies, and state or local regulatory agencies.

### **Before Arriving in Orlando for ICE 2016**

In two short weeks, thousands of members of the Entomological discipline will arrive in Orlando, FL for the 25th International Congress of Entomology. For many, the size of the event can be overwhelming. What should I bring? What are the "not to miss" events of the Congress? Where can I network? Do I need to develop an action plan? On September 7, Kyndall Dye (ESA SAC Chair), Dr. Travis Prochaska (ESA ECP Chair), and Dr. José Paulo Bentivenha (ESA International



Dr. Erika Machtinger,  
USDA-ARS in  
Maryland



Dr. Amy Morey,  
University of Minnesota



Dr. Rob Morrison,  
USDA-ARS in  
West Virginia



Dr. Travis Prochaska,  
North Dakota State  
University



Dr. Rebecca  
Schmidt-Jeffris,  
Cornell University

Branch Member) offered their thoughts via a helpful webinar. [Click here to view that presentation.](#)

Webinar presentations included the following helpful hints: As you prepare for the Congress, make sure you arrive with these important items: (1) your CV/resume, (2) business cards with your up-to-date contact information, (3) formal clothing, and for international travelers, (4) passports and visas (if needed). Whether you're a first time attendee or an annual attendee, you are in the spotlight. Potential employers are already taking notice of you and you may not even realize it. Be willing to answer some questions on top of your 60 second introduction "elevator" speech. What are your research interests? What are your goals? Where do you see yourself in 3-5 years? These answers will help an employer understand your professional aspirations and will help set you apart. Formal dress will help show employers your professionalism and showcase that you're willing to represent a company - perhaps even their company. The business cards and CVs provide a snapshot of who you are and what you've done to develop yourself.

What events should I attend and how should I network? From the international student debates to the Linnaean Games competition, from the Opening Plenary sessions to ESA Section business meetings... from more than 30 symposium topics to numerous student competitions, and finally lunch and learn panels. You are encouraged to attend these events that provide you with networking opportunities. Be willing to reach out your hand and introduce yourself. In fact, the Early Career Professional Committee challenges you to introduce yourself to 5 new people and watch how those relationships/collaborations may develop over the next 5 years.

What off site activities exist in Orlando? Orlando is a very multicultural diverse city –with different cuisines and new shopping experiences. Get out and see the city. Additionally, remember that the ocean is within 2 hours, both east and west of Orlando.

For additional helpful information, view ESA's "Stand Out From the Crowd" webinar series – [Part 1](#) and [Part 2](#). These presentations will help you learn how to showcase yourself in person and on paper (CV/resume). Use these webinars to your advantage to build an action plan on how you can meet new people, broaden your knowledge base, and build new partnerships. The Early Career Professionals Committee is excited to welcome you to ICE 2016 - see you there!

### **Entomology Without Borders – Staying connected after the Congress**

As many of us are getting excited about the arrival of ICE 2016 – *Entomology Without Borders*, the big question remains, how can I stay in contact with the international connections I made during the Congress? One suggestion may be the app "WhatsApp." The WhatsApp Messenger is a mobile messaging app that allows one to exchange messages without having to pay fees for international connections. The WhatsApp platform is available for Android, iPhone, Windows phones, and many more. Since WhatsApp Messenger uses the same Wi-Fi connection you use for email and web browsing, there is no cost to message across this social media platform. In addition to messaging, this media outlet allows users to



Dr. Ashfaq Sial,  
University of Georgia



Dr. Sheena Sidhu,  
University of  
California Riverside



Dr. Ana Maria Velez,  
University of  
Nebraska-Lincoln

**For ECP Committee members' full bios, click [here](#).**

send pictures, audio, and videos to your contact list. In addition, stay tuned to your inbox for information from ESA HQ on a new Community Network being launched next year that will help you stay in touch with members and those interested in your area of focus!

### **Tune into ESA Webinar Wednesdays – ‘Job Applications’ in November**

ESA provides free, hour-long webinars to help ECPs gain new skills and enhance their careers.

Mark your calendars for our next exciting new webinar! On Wednesday, November 2 at 2:00 pm EDT, ESA will host a career developmental webinar discussing what to include in a job application package. Our panel will touch on select topics including how to write a research or teaching statement and how to apply for a position within the USDA. Our panel will include rising leaders from within their respective fields including Joyce Parker of the USDA, Alice Harris of BASF, and Troy Sadler of the University of Missouri. Please be on the lookout for registration emails soon!

### **ESA Early Career Professionals SPOTLIGHTS**

How did you become interested in entomology? What is your current research focus? What are your career goals? We want to hear from YOU about why you are doing what you do. This is your chance to [take the spotlight](#) and tell the world about the work you are doing and what is so great about entomology.

Learn about other early career professional members and how they are involved in research, teaching, outreach or extension and are enjoying their work in insect science. Or, [submit your own information](#) and a photo to be spotlighted on ESA’s website. Answer one question or all of them. Additional topics include: Describe how ESA has broadened your horizons. Describe a favorite experience while attending an ESA meeting.

### **New [ESA Website](#) Provides Helpful Information at Your Fingertips**

With the redesign of ESA’s website, you’ll find all the information you need with a click or two. Under “[Resources](#)> [Early Career Professionals](#)> “you can find links to your account, the Career Center, ESA journals, webinars, ESA meeting activities, ECP newsletters and SPOTLIGHTS, Branch and Section information – and more! If you have comments on the website, please let [ESA HQ know](#).

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### **Want to Get Involved?**

If you have any thoughts, suggestions, or questions for the ECP Committee, please contact us by emailing [esa.step.committee@gmail.com](mailto:esa.step.committee@gmail.com) or by joining our [ESA network](#).



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## Meet the 2016 STEP Committee



**Dr. Tamra Reall Lincoln** is a postdoctoral research associate with the USDA-ARS at the Biological Control of Insects Research Laboratory in Missouri. She is currently working in cell culture. Tamra has been involved in ESA in many ways, most recently as the Student Representative to the ESA Governing Board (GB) and as GB liaison to the SAC and STEP Committee. Serving on various committees has been an integral part of her career preparation. Involvement in ESA has not only given her a back-door view of how things work in the society, but also exposed her to many research ideas and concepts beyond her research. She enthusiastically encourages others to become involved in ESA.



**Dr. Erika Machtinger** is a Post Doctoral Scientist with the USDA, ARS in Beltsville, MD. She received her BS from the University of Delaware in Wildlife Conservation and her MS and PhD in entomology from the University of Florida. Erika was raised in the natural areas surrounding the coast of Maine, which fostered her love of the environment and wildlife. Erika has worked at the USDA-BIIRL Laboratory in Newark, DE and also as a wildlife biologist and Environmental Scientist. Because of her involvement with the equine industry, Erika focused her doctoral research on biological control of filth flies. In her current position, Erika is combining her wildlife background and investigating host targeting integrated control of ticks.



**Dr. Amy Morey** is a post-doctoral researcher with the Minnesota Invasive Terrestrial Plants and Pests Center and the University of Minnesota Department Of Entomology. Her research broadly centers on the intersection of insect cold tolerance, invasion biology, and risk assessment. The goal of her work is to improve invasive species management practices and methods currently used to forecast insect distributions. Amy has been active in ESA since 2008, presenting at yearly branch and national meetings, participating in the Linnaean Games, volunteering, and serving on the North Central Branch Student Affairs Committee. She is thrilled to continue being strongly connected with the ESA community and actively contributes to its function as a member of the STEP Committee.



**Dr. Rob Morrison** is a post-doctoral researcher with the USDA-ARS at the Appalachian Fruit Research Center in West Virginia. He is currently researching attract-and-kill technology to manage the brown marmorated stink bug in apples, and is also investigating its native predator community. Rob's long-term research interests include understanding how semiochemicals modify plant-insect interactions, and how we can exploit this knowledge to improve the sustainability of agriculture. Rob has been active in ESA, serving on committees in the North Central and Eastern Branches of ESA, as well as regularly judging student competitions. He is excited to be serving on the STEP Committee and to be the STEP liaison to the Education and Outreach Committee of ESA, because he believes it is important to increase science literacy among the public.



**Dr. Travis (TJ) Prochaska** has just accepted a position with North Dakota State University. He graduated in August with his PhD from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln under the supervision of Drs. Tiffany Heng-Moss and Gautam Sarath where he worked on the biochemical, physiological, and anatomical insights of insect-bioenergy grass interactions to help better understand the potential insect resistance mechanism among defined switchgrass populations. Previously serving as the Student Representative to the ESA Governing Board for two years, Travis has been able to learn about the topics of interest that STEP and other members find valuable to build webinars and ESA workshops to give back to the Society. This has allowed him to make new contacts that STEP can potentially utilize in future projects to add value to the STEP membership.



**Dr. Rebecca Schmidt-Jeffris** joined the ESA in 2010 as a graduate student at Washington State University. She is currently a postdoctoral research associate at Cornell University, where she is determining factors that increase risk of European corn borer infestation in vegetable crops. Her broad research interests include landscape ecology, biological control, and the development of innovative IPM practices. She has greatly benefited from her involvement in ESA; her leadership roles have included chairing the ESA and ICE 2016 Student Affairs Committees, organizing the Student Debates and symposia, and an extension careers Lunch and Learn. She is excited to use this leadership experience to advocate for postdocs and other early career professionals as a STEP committee member. Rebecca would like to help other members become engaged with ESA; contact her with any questions or suggestions regarding how ESA can better serve its members.



**Dr. Ashfaq Sial** is currently working as an Assistant Professor in the Entomology Department at the University of Georgia where he has a research and extension appointment. The goals of his research program are to investigate biology and ecology of insect pests of small fruits in both field and laboratory settings, and to develop sustainable management programs. The majority of his current projects focus on invasive pest, spotted wing drosophila. He works directly with growers to help them implement IPM programs in conventional and organic production systems. His laboratory is well funded through federal, stakeholder, and industry grants. He also serves as IPM Coordinator for the state of Georgia.



**Dr. Sheena Sidhu** is a postdoctoral researcher at University of California Riverside studying pollinator communities and pollination biology in both natural and agricultural systems of southern California. Sheena has valued the benefits of being an ESA member and particularly appreciated the focus on students at branch and annual meetings. She joined STEP to advocate for similar support for postdoc and in-transition members that are at the critical phase of early career development. Sheena is open to hearing concerns, questions, and suggestions from fellow ESA members in order to provide a voice for STEP members within ESA and to foster a community among peers.



**Dr. Ana María Vélez** is currently a research assistant professor in the Insect Toxicology Lab at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Her research interests include different aspects of the use of RNAi as a pest management tool and evolution of resistance to insecticides. For Ana, her ESA membership has been extremely valuable since it has provided her with an opportunity to share her research and to network with fellow entomologists. As a STEP Committee member Ana is eager to advocate for the needs of the STEP community, her main goal is to improve support and recognition of early career professionals. In addition, Ana is interested in promoting diversity and inclusion in the STEP community.