

MUVE NEWSLETTER

February 2022

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[Dr. Ed Vargo](#),
President

[Dr. Rebecca Trout-Fryxell](#),
Vice President

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Greetings everyone from an unusually cold Texas. I hope your New Year is off to a good start and hasn't been too derailed by the Omicron variant. Let's hope that the recent decrease in the incidence and severity of COVID cases continues and that things rapidly improve.

One of my goals this year is to generate some new initiatives for our Section. For those of you who were able to attend last year's final business meeting in Denver, we had a lively discussion about MUVE initiatives and several exciting ideas were suggested. At the last MUVE Governing Council meeting we picked up the discussion around initiatives, and three of them rose to the top: Mentoring and networking events; Diversity and inclusion; and the Grand MUVE Library.



We decided to expand our virtual networking and mentoring activities that we began last year. In the first round of the MUVE Mentorship Network, we formed pods of mentors and mentees, had good participation, still have some active pods and we'll be reaching out to you to gauge interest in a second round. Thank you to Bethany McGregor, Becky Trout Fryxell, and Karen Poh for their leadership in moving this forward. In addition, we plan to have quarterly networking events. Our first one will be on **March 10**, ahead of the Branch meetings. One of the discussion topics will be about the future of the ESA Branches. You may want to review the [Branch Evolution Project](#) to see some of the ways ESA is considering re-envisioning the structure and role of Branches in

[Dr. Kyle Jordan](#)
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the Society. If you are interested in helping with either the mentoring program or the networking events, please contact me (ed.vargo@tamu.edu) or Bethany McGregor (Bethany.McGregor@usda.gov).

The MUVE Governing Council was also excited about developing an initiative around diversity and inclusion. There are opportunities for our Section to develop resources and training materials that would benefit not only the MUVE Section but also ESA and our discipline more generally. If you are interested in helping with this initiative, please contact me, Kyle Jordan (kyle.jordan@basf.com) or Nicky Gallagher (nicky.gallagher@syngenta.com).

The third initiative is the creation and curation of a Grand MUVE Library. Building on the previous success in compiling protocols for medical and veterinary entomology, we envision creating a set of resources for our Section that would connect multiple projects, including compiling additional laboratory and field protocols, lists of experts in different fields, distribution maps of MUVE species, sharing outreach materials, and any number of other resources that could serve the MUVE membership. If you are interested in getting involved with this initiative, please contact me or Becky Trout Fryxell (rfryxell@utk.edu).

These new initiatives will help us grow our professional networks and develop valuable resources for our Section and ESA more generally. I hope some of them will pique your interest. Please reach out to us if you are interested in helping with any of these initiatives. We are also looking for a volunteer to help organize the bi-monthly newsletter. Getting actively involved with the section is a great way to contribute to our Society. Plus, it's fun! I hope to see you at the networking event in March!

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: MUVers



Help us highlight MUVE members and bring their work into the spotlight! Please send any MUVers news to be included in future newsletters and tweets to [Bethany McGregor](mailto:Bethany.McGregor@usda.gov).



Kyndall Dye-Braumuller, Ph.D. candidate in the Epidemiology and Biostatistics Department at the University of South Carolina. Kyndall and her collaborators at the University of South Carolina and the CDC Southeastern Center of Excellence in Vector-Borne Diseases recently [published a forum article](#) in the *Journal of Medical Entomology* focusing on the issue of federal funding and reactive—as opposed to proactive—policy to combat vector-borne disease specifically in the United States. Kyndall was also selected as the University of South Carolina Breakthrough Graduate Scholar based on her exceptional research contributions and scholarly achievements at UofSC.



Nancy Hinkle, Ph.D., professor in the Department of Entomology at the University of Georgia. Dr. Hinkle recently received the Southern IPM Center's Friends of IPM Lifetime Achievement Award. This award is only presented to individuals who have significant contributions to the field of IPM over their career and represents the substantial impact that Dr. Hinkle's work has had on control of veterinary pests. Dr. Hinkle is currently the extension veterinary entomologist for the state of Georgia, providing public education, outreach to producers, and conducting a prolific research program on the biology and control of veterinary pests.



Cassie Krejci, Ph.D., has been named the director of technical services at Terminix Global Holdings, Inc. Dr. Krejci will lead a team of technical experts that are tasked with continuous review of technician efficiency, materials selection and usage, and industry-leading technical initiatives and offerings to help drive business outcomes. Dr. Krejci was also recently elected as the president of Pi Chi Omega, the national fraternity for pest control professionals.

NEWS BRIEFS



Photo by Matt Bertone

Blog Post Highlights from *Entomology Today*

- [California Study Warns of Growing Insecticide Resistance in Cockroaches](#)
- [Let It Be B: In the Search for Blood, One Mosquito Species Has a Type](#)
- [Keep on Ticking: Entomologist Tells of Ticks' 27-Year Lifespan](#)
- [U.S. Policy Leaves Country Vulnerable to Arthropod-Borne Diseases](#)

Remember: For the latest breaking news items related to MUVE, please [follow us on Twitter](#).

VOLUNTEER & LEADERSHIP



MUVE Communications Committee: Newsletter Editor

Do you have a flair for editing and an interest in improving communications within our Section? Join the MUVE Communications Committee! We are in need of a new MUVE Newsletter editor. This is a relatively low workload role that helps to identify newsworthy items, collate contributions from the MUVE Board and the membership, and edit and streamline content for our every-other-month email newsletter. There is no set term, although commitment of at least one year is ideal. The MUVE Communications Committee is also always open for general involvement. If you're interested in joining as the newsletter editor or as a general committee member, please reach out to [Bethany McGregor](#).

Volunteers Needed to Support New WIGs

ESA MUVE is working to establish new Wildly Important Goals (WIGs) for the Section. Each of the three new WIGs will require multiple volunteers to sustain these wildly innovative and ambitious goals. The three WIGs include (1) promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion within MUVE, (2) establishing a grand MUVE library of resources to benefit members, and (3) developing and improving the mentorship and networking programs in MUVE. If you are interested in participating in any of these WIGs, please contact Ed Vargo (Edward.Vargo@ag.tamu.edu).

Nominations for ESA MUVE Vice-President Elect

The nominations period for the position of ESA MUVE Vice President-Elect will open soon. If you're interested in filling a leadership role with MUVE, please consider nominating yourself for this important position. The VP-Elect progresses through the vice president, president, and past president roles throughout their tenure in ESA MUVE leadership. Keep an eye out for more information on the nominations period for ESA MUVE VP-Elect in the coming months!

Looking for other ways to get involved with MUVE or ESA generally? Always feel free to contact MUVE President [Ed Vargo](#).

POLICY CORNER



"Policy Corner: New Common Name Proposed for *Lymantria dispar* "

by Josh Lancette, Managing Editor, Entomological Society of America

A group of entomologists and forestry professionals convened by the Entomological Society of America has recommended "spongy moth" as the new common name for the moth species *Lymantria dispar*. The name—derived from the common name used in France and French-speaking Canada, "[spongieuse](#)"—refers to the moth's sponge-like egg masses. It would replace "gypsy moth" as the approved common name in ESA's [Common Names of Insects and Related Organisms List](#), from which the name was [removed](#) in July 2021 for its use of a derogatory term for the Romani people.

The member comment period for the new name closed on February 8. The Common Names Committee and Governing Board will review the comments and then vote on whether or not to approve the name. ESA is working with stakeholders to create a toolkit to help organizations transition to the new name when it is approved. The toolkit will be shared with all ESA members, too. [Read more about the proposed name and the process that led to its selection.](#)

When the Better Common Names Project launched in July 2022, it also launched a call for ESA members and members of the public to submit common names that they felt were problematic. Responses have been coming in over the past six months, and the Better Common Names Project task force has begun reviewing those submitted names. All the submitted names won't be changed, but the task force will be looking for names that are derogatory and/or dehumanizing. ESA will be sure to keep members informed when there are any updates that will affect members or when member input is needed. [Read more about the Better Common Names Project.](#)

JEST MANAGEMENT

The Lighter Side of ESA MUVE

By [Matthew L. Aardema](#), Ph.D; Assistant Professor, Department of Biology, Montclair State University

Did you hear about the cockroach they found in a man's ear? Of course you have! This is one of those perennial 'stories' that graces our pages and digital screens every few years. The standard version can be summarized in just a few pithy sentences. Individual goes to sleep. Individual wakes up with an ear ache. Individual goes to doctor. Doctor removes cockroach. The most interesting part of these stories tends to be the challenges the medical professionals have in extracting the unfortunate insect.

So, this past January when I saw headlines exclaiming 'New Zealand man has cockroach extracted from ear after three days', I almost didn't bother reading the rest of the story. But boy am I glad I did, because the details of this specific arthropod encounter are incredible. The first feature that makes this particular report so remarkable is the one that accounts for the prolonged duration of the poor man's distress. The cockroach in question apparently went into the ear alive, and spent several days there wiggling about. The reason it was allowed to continue doing this for so long was that the initial

attending physician simply assumed the man had water in his ear and sent him home with a reassurance that the problem would likely resolve itself. Although the various articles don't say this explicitly, they certainly give the impression that at no point did the doctor bother to glance inside the ear in question. Now my medical credentials are relatively light, but I suspect that if someone came to me seeking help for a blocked and painful ear, with an accompanying 'wiggling' sensation, one thing I might be inclined to do is actually look in the ear! Fortunately, the next doctor the man went to did not make this same mistake and located the problem immediately.

Which brings us to the second unique point of interest from this story. Rather than the classic sleep, wake, earache, remove cockroach version, this tale has a twist. It seems the cockroach did not enter the ear canal while the man was asleep, but rather while he was swimming at the local pool. Now call me a fool, but when I go swimming, cockroaches come pretty far down my list of things to worry about, just above pool sharks. As an entomologist, I naturally contemplated the series of events that could have led to a live cockroach swimming about a pool in the first place. Of course, the first thing that came to mind was that the cockroach had been infected by a horsehair worm. As an aside, if you've been sleeping too well lately, you should definitely consider entering the search terms 'horsehair worm' into your favorite online video repository. You're welcome.

Although it can't be discounted that the intrepid cockroach had been infected with a member of this parasitic Nematoida group, as I dug further, I discovered that there are numerous species of amphibious cockroach. The esteemed 'Cockroaches: Ecology, Behavior, and Natural History' by Bell, Roth, and Nalepa has an entire page dedicated to the aquatic lifestyles of cockroaches. It remains unclear how uniquely adapted these species are to living in the ponds, lakes, and streams that are their natural habitats, but it does seem evident that they are decently good swimmers and will dive both for purposes of food allocation and to escape predators. Unfortunately, in the picture that accompanies most versions of the article, the specific insect in question appears quite damaged, so it's unlikely we'll ever know whether this particular cockroach-in-ear incident was a case of parasitism or a life aquatic. Regardless, let's just hope the next time a swimmer develops an earache, paddling cockroaches top the list of possible culprits.

ASK CLARY FLY



By Victoria Pickens, ESA MUVE Representative to the Student Affairs Committee

Ask Clary Fly is taking a break for the February newsletter, but it will fly back in April! Please send any student questions or topics you would like to see addressed to Victoria Pickens at vpicken@ksu.edu.

OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

Changes to the Highlights Symposium

Each year, ESA MUVE hosts a special symposium at the ESA Annual Meeting where one member from each of the major MUVE disciplines (Medical, Urban, and Veterinary Entomology) provides a recap of the most significant scientific contributions within their field from the previous year. Historically, the Highlights Symposium speakers have been selected by the MUVE leadership. This year, we are pleased to announce a new method of selecting Highlights speakers that gives all members the opportunity to be a highlights speaker. If you would like to be considered for one of the highlights speaker roles, please send an email containing:

- your discipline (medical, urban, or veterinary entomology),
- a CV,
- and a brief (<300 words) description of the theme around which your highlights talk would focus.

Please send these to Ed Vargo (Edward.Vargo@ag.tamu.edu) by **today, February 18** for consideration. The three selected presenters will receive a \$250 honorarium and waived registration at the annual meeting and will also be responsible for preparing a review article on your highlights topic for the *Journal of Medical Entomology*. Read the [Medical](#), [Urban](#), and [Veterinary](#) Entomology highlights review articles from 2020!

Public Health Entomology for All: Internships and Fellowships

ESA has launched [Public Health Entomology for All](#), a program for students and recent graduates from minority-serving institutions (MSIs). In partnership with the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), ESA will offer two 12-month fellowships for recent graduates of an MSI. Fellowships will be in Fort Collins, CO and have an application deadline of **February 25**. [Learn more and apply!](#)

Submissions Open for Symposia, Organized Meetings, and Workshops at the Annual Meeting

The submission period is now open for symposia, organized meetings, and workshops for the 2022 ESA Joint Annual Meeting in Vancouver, BC. Submissions should consider the theme, "Entomology as Inspiration: Insects through art, science, and culture". All submissions for workshops, symposia, and organized meetings are due **February 28**. Submissions for 10-minute presentations, papers, infographics, and student competition abstracts will be due Friday, June 3. [Find more information on submitting your symposia, workshop, or organized meeting.](#)

ECP Committee: Contribute to Meetings

Have an idea for a symposium, workshop, or other event at the Annual Meeting or any upcoming Branch Meetings that you think will benefit fellow ECPs? Contact the ECP Committee for organizational help! Program symposia, member symposia, and workshop submissions for the Annual Meeting are due **February 28**. Email MUVE Representative Karen Poh (kpp5400@psu.edu) or ECP Chair Lorena Lopez (lorelopezq257@vt.edu) for more information.

Next MUVE Networking Event Planned

The next networking event held by the MUVE Section has been scheduled for **March 10** at 1 p.m. ET/12 p.m. CT. The event will center around the idea of, “The Changing Landscape of Scientific Societies” and will have three main topics of discussion including The Branch Evolution Project, adapting outreach and education to a broader audience, and improving DEI in science. Participants will have the opportunity to network with other MUVE members and form new connections as we discuss these important topics. Keep an eye out for Zoom information in a separate email!

Year 2 of the MUVE Mentorship Network

This past year, we debuted the MUVE Mentorship Network as a way to connect early career professionals and students with more experienced MUVE members in mentoring pods. This coming year, we hope to continue the MUVE Mentorship Network while adding extra value to this free program through quarterly webinars and increased program structure. We learned a lot from year one and hope to continue building on this program for the benefit of all MUVE members moving forward. If you're interested in participating in year 2 of the MUVE Mentorship Network as a mentor or mentee, please contact Bethany McGregor at Bethany.McGregor@usda.gov.

Early Career Professionals Committee - Submit to the ECP Recognition Symposium

The Early Career Professional Recognition Symposium (ECPRS) is an ECP sponsored symposium that highlights the accomplishments of outstanding ECPs from each ESA Section. Our first effort to establish the ECPRS in 2021 was a total success with over 100 attendants. The ECP Committee will sponsor the symposium for the second time in the 2022 Joint Meeting in Vancouver. The featured ECPs will be peer-selected and invited to share their research in 30-minute talks. Additionally, speakers will be awarded a \$500 cash prize during the Meeting in support of their programs. Also, interviews of the four selected speakers will be featured in our "Outstanding ECPs" column in *Entomology Today*. If you're interested in participating as a representative of the MUVE Section, contact MUVE Representative Karen Poh (kpp5400@psu.edu) or ECP Chair Lorena Lopez (lorelopezq257@vt.edu) for more details.

Funding Opportunity from the Department of Defense (DoD)

The Armed Forces Pest Management Board, an agency of the DoD, is soliciting pre-proposals for original and innovative research designed to develop new interventions for protection of deployed military personnel from diseases caused by arthropod-borne pathogens and to improve control of bed bugs and filth flies. The program supports development of new or adapted toxicants, new insecticide application techniques, new tools that prevent human-vector contact, decision support tools, and novel vector surveillance tools. [Learn more](#).

New Special Collection: IPM of Fly Pests in Animal Agriculture

The *Journal of Integrated Pest Management* has published a special collection of papers on several major fly pests of animal agriculture. Topics included in the special collection include infrastructure needs, education, research, and profiles of the major fly pest species. [Read the collection](#).

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