



ENTOMOLOGICAL
SOCIETY OF AMERICA
MEDICAL, URBAN, AND VETERINARY ENTOMOLOGY

MUVE NEWSLETTER

April 2023

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

Award Season. I do not watch award shows, but I do enjoy conferences and meetings that recognize the efforts of my friends, colleagues, peers, and students (your efforts). At the University of Tennessee, I award additional points to students who exceed my expectations (e.g., award them 6 points for a 5-point question). In my opinion, awards recognize people for exceeding expectations for their achievements and it makes it public. I know many of you work extremely hard and go above and beyond and for that YOU should be publicly recognized.



Recently I attended a conference where several awards were given to MUVE members (congratulations!). At that same conference, the awards chair said (paraphrased) a number of awards could not be given because there were no nominations. Additionally, that same person said that they had never taken the time to nominate a person for an award. To say I was shocked was an understatement. I think I actually dropped my fork onto the table and shook my head. We should be taking the time to recognize one another and remind ourselves about the great work each of us does for one another and for society. It takes a village to do the work that we do and (in my biased opinion) MUVE members do a boatload of work to identify problems, find solutions, and improve the world that directly interacts with people and their communities. I know many of you do not need an award, but do appreciate a thank you from those communities (your target audiences). Awards make a thank you public.

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The MUVE newsletter is a unique place for me to ask you to take a moment and nominate one of your colleagues for an ESA award and to ask you to highlight our members. In this newsletter you will see a number of opportunities to recognize outstanding MUVE members for their efforts. KEEP reading and nominate them. Nominate them for an award or nominate them to be highlighted for efforts they do that might not be traditionally recognized. If nobody reaches out to nominate you, then nominate yourself (or ask me to help you). Know that it takes a village to keep this society and the people connected to it afloat.

Opportunities to recognize someone's work:

- Nominations for MUVers spotlights can be for ANY career stage, ANY MUVE subject matter discipline, or ANY reason (e.g., helped 30 pest management professionals become Board Certified Entomologists)
- Encourage someone to apply to become an ESA Science Policy Fellow ([Applications](#) are due **April 17**)
- Nominate someone for a [MUVE Award](#):
 - [MUVE student travel awards](#) (due **May 8**)
 - [Recognition Award in Medical, Urban, & Veterinary Entomology](#) (due **June 1**)
 - [Medical, Urban and Veterinary Entomology Early Career Award \(MUVE-ECA\)](#) (due **June 1**)
 - [Shripat Kamble Urban Entomology Graduate Student Award for Innovative Research](#) (due **June 1**)
- Nominate colleagues or YOURSELF for any ESA award ([Premier awards](#) due **April 17**)
- Encourage or nominate an early career professional to be recognized in the Early Career Professional Recognition Symposium ([Submissions](#) due **May 1**)

MUVE members need to keep working together and recognize one another for our efforts!

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 [Mikenna Smith](#).



Kimberly Lohmeyer, Ph.D., Dr. Kimberly Lohmeyer (USDA-ARS) was appointed as laboratory director of the Knippling-Bushland U.S. Livestock Insects Research Laboratory (KBUSLIRL) in Kerrville, TX. Dr. Lohmeyer has been a research entomologist with the KBUSLIRL since 2003, and her research has focused on developing and evaluating novel techniques for controlling biting flies and ticks on cattle and wildlife. Dr. Lohmeyer is an active member of the ESA and has served on the editorial boards of Thomas Say Publications in Entomology and *American Entomologist*. She is currently serving as a Medical and Veterinary subject editor for the *Journal of Economic Entomology*.



Mark "Shep" Sheperdigian, BCE, Mark Sheperdigian (Rose Pest Solutions) received Michigan State University (MSU) College of Agriculture and Natural Resources (CANR) [Outstanding Alumni Award](#) at the March 10 awards ceremony. The CANR awards are given to those who have distinguished themselves by obtaining the highest level of professional accomplishments and possess the highest standards of integrity and character. Sheperdigian has worked in urban pest management since April 1983 after graduating from MSU in 1982 with a bachelor's degree in entomology. He has held several positions in the pest control industry, including service, sales, management and technical support.



Jennifer Gordon, Ph.D., Dr. Gordon recently received the American Mosquito Control Association (AMCA) [Presidential Citation Award](#) at AMCA2023. This award is given in recognition of passionate dedication and significant contribution to the association, specifically the work she has done recently on training manuals. Dr. Gordon is the founder and principal consultant with Bug Lessons LLC. Their mission is to make science accessible to different audiences. [View the website](#) for the training manuals.

NEWS BRIEFS



Photo by Matt Bertone

Blog Post Highlights from *Entomology Today*

- [Brown Widow Spiders' Aggression Likely Driver of Black Widow Decline](#)
- [Nitro-Nosh: Why Termites' Molted Exoskeletons Never Go to Waste](#)
- [Insects Taste More Than Food and With More Than Mouths](#)
- [Entomology Students: Know Your Opportunities to Get Involved at ESA](#)

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

MUVE STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Dayvion Adams

Dayvion Adams is a Ph.D. student in entomology at North Carolina State University studying the shifting population dynamics of *Amblyomma americanum* (Lone star tick) and *Dermacentor variabilis* (American dog tick), especially the effects of land use changes and global climate on disease transmission. Adams co-organized a symposium at the Southeastern Branch Meeting this year with [Dr. Estelle Martin](#) (Univ. Florida).



Adams said, "After attending the Southeastern Branch Meeting in San Juan (2022), I was a little disappointed in the representation of MUVE at this meeting, especially considering the amount of MUVE research we have going on in our Branch. So, I decided to reach out to Estelle and see if she was interested in co-organizing a symposium on medical and public health entomology and we went from there! I had never organized a symposium before, so I'm glad I took the leap. My advice to anyone (but especially students) who are interested in hosting symposia is to come up with an idea and pursue it!"

The symposium, "Current Medical Entomology Research in the Southeastern Branch," helped bring medical and veterinary entomologists to Little Rock, Arkansas. Dr. Martin remarked, *"I was impressed by Dayvion's initiative and professionalism to organize this symposium. While we discussed the theme together and I provided some guidance on the planning process and suggested speakers, Dayvion took the lead on creating the title, inviting the speakers, and organizing a dinner to bring the speakers together after the symposium. Dayvion went above and beyond as a symposium organizer and it is exemplified by the success of the symposium. Hopefully this encourages other students and ECPs to follow in his footsteps and organize similar symposia at future Southeastern Branch and Annual ESA Meetings."*

VOLUNTEER & LEADERSHIP



Looking for ways to get involved with MUVE or ESA generally? Always feel free to [contact MUVE President Becky Trout Fryxell](#) with your interest.

ESA Certification Corporation Shares RFP for Entomology Consultant

Are you a BCE? Are you interested in consulting on updates to the certification program's educational materials? The Entomological Society of America (ESA) and its partnering organization, the ESA Certification Corporation (ESACC), have released a request for proposals (RFP) for a qualified, degreed, and board-certified entomologist to work on several updates to the ESACC exams and the ESA study materials.

To be eligible for consideration, at least one consultant on the project must hold the BCE credential with the Urban/Industrial Entomology specialization and be current with ESA on all required paperwork and fees. Interested applicants should submit all materials to bce@entsoc.org by **May 1**. [Learn more](#).

***Journal of Medical Entomology* Seeks Co-Editor-in-Chief**

ESA is seeking candidates to serve as the co-editor-in-chief of the *Journal of Medical Entomology*. The term will begin in summer 2023, with applications due **May 4**. Scientists of all career stages and backgrounds are encouraged to apply. [Learn more and apply](#).

Volunteers Needed to Support the Grand MUVE Library WIG

Have you ever thought it would be great to have a one-stop-shop for MUVE-related resources? Are you interested in a common repository for information like MUVE related protocols, available awards and opportunities, and the emergency response entomologist list? ESA MUVE is looking for volunteers to assist with one of our new section WIGs, the Grand MUVE Library. If you are interested in assisting with this effort or want to learn more, please contact Alexis Kriete (akriete@ncsu.edu).

Get More Involved With the ECP Committee!

Interested in becoming more involved with the ECP Committee? Early career professionals (ECP) and student transition members are welcome to contribute ideas for webinars (including development and hosting the webinar), ESA Annual Meeting symposia, workshops, and mini workshops, and topics and written pieces for the ECP-focused "Zyzyva" column in the *American Entomologist*. These are great ways to get more involved with the committee and ESA! If you have any questions or would like to contribute to any of these ideas, please contact the MUVE ECP representative Karen Poh (karen.poh@usda.gov).

POLICY CORNER



Policy Corner: Re-introduced legislation to establish outreach, surveillance, and control for neglected diseases of poverty

By: Corey Day, MS, Class of 2022 ESA Science Policy Fellow

In February 2023, Sen. Cory Booker (D-NJ) re-introduced the [Study, Treat, Observe, and Prevent \(STOP\) Neglected Diseases of Poverty Act \(S.324, 118th Congress\)](#), which aims to reduce health disparities caused by parasitic diseases of poverty in the United States (US). Some people assume that neglected diseases of poverty are limited to developing countries, but [they are also exceedingly common in impoverished communities of wealthy countries like the US](#). Those diseases include several vector-borne diseases that are explicitly mentioned in the legislation, such as Chagas disease and dengue fever.

If signed into law, the STOP Neglected Diseases of Poverty Act would require the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) to establish an Interagency Task Force on Neglected Diseases of Poverty in the US, comprised of representatives from DHHS, State Department, US Department of Agriculture (USDA), the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and other federal agencies. The task force would characterize the status of neglected diseases of poverty in the US, develop goals for Federal agencies to support disease reduction, develop guidelines for health care providers and public health professionals, and create plans to communicate research findings and accomplishments with states and local communities.

The law would also create centers of excellence for research and development of novel disease control tools, like therapeutics and vaccines, and create grant-based funding for states to implement surveillance systems to better measure the prevalence of neglected diseases in the US. Finally, the Secretary would be required to collaborate with other agency officials and the centers of excellence to develop programs to educate medical and public health professionals on neglected diseases of poverty.

In my opinion, the most significant part of this legislation for MUVE members is the emphasis on increased surveillance. One of the greatest challenges for medical entomology is acquiring sustainable funding to support ongoing surveillance and prevention--a task that is made more difficult by the constant underdiagnosis of diseases, especially within underprivileged communities. The STOP Neglected Diseases of Poverty Act would create new surveillance systems and enhance clinical awareness for neglected vector-borne diseases, like Chagas disease, which would result in a more accurate measurement of disease prevalence. That data would empower us to better advocate for sustained funding to support research, outreach, and disease prevention programs for vector-borne diseases affecting underrepresented and marginalized communities.

The STOP Neglected Diseases of Poverty Act was initially introduced in the 116th Congress (S.2675) but it never came to a vote. Senator Booker re-introduced the legislation on February 9, 2023, and it was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions for review. [Follow along with the bill's progress](#).

ASK CLARY FLY



By Lidia Gonzalez, MUVE Representative to the ESA Student Affairs Committee

Hey there MUVErs!

Clary Fly here, getting ready for the summer and enjoying this lovely spring weather! I get super excited this time of the year because opportunities such as the ESA student awards become available, and you can easily apply for them!

Each year at the Annual Meeting, students get recognition and are awarded for their work, and it's a great opportunity to obtain visibility, get yourself "out there" and let other folks in the field know you! You can check out all the [student awards](#) on the ESA website (submission deadlines vary from June 1 to July 15). There is also a [MUVE Student Travel Award](#) which is due of **May 8**. If you have been wondering how to get to attend the meeting, these are great opportunities to obtain some additional funding to travel to the Annual Meeting, so don't miss it! And just a reminder that the deadline for posters and paper submissions is **May 15**.

There is another great opportunity where graduate students are invited to apply to present their research at the [Rising Stars of Entomology Award Symposium](#). This symposium can be a great opportunity for graduate students to present their work in 30-minute presentations, and those who do not get selected will still be able to present in the 10-minute paper presentation. You can review the eligibility criteria and the submission requirements on the website. The deadline for Rising Stars of Entomology is **May 1**.

Since we are talking about different opportunities, what about volunteer opportunities? Some of the students wonder whether they can participate and engage more with volunteering for the ESA and there are many options! You can check out the different opportunities, from assisting with the [Annual Meeting](#) to serving as a reviewer for one of the different [ESA journals](#). Just take a look at the multiple [volunteer](#) options that are available and do not hesitate to contact me for more information!

This is all I have for now, until the next newsletter, make sure you look into other student opportunities that may arise, such as the student debate registration that will be open soon. Do not hesitate to contact me or the [Student Affairs Committee](#) if you have any questions or concerns about any of the student opportunities (lidiag@email.sc.edu).

All best wishes,
Clary Fly

OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

MUVE Student Travel Award

The MUVE Student Travel Awards recognize MUVE student members who have demonstrated excellence in the Medical, Urban and Veterinary Entomology fields. Five travel awards consisting of \$500 each will be available to all MUVE student members. The recipients are presented with their awards at the ESA Annual Meeting during the MUVE networking business meeting. The application deadline for the [MUVE Student Travel Award](#) is **May 8**.

MUVE 2023 Survey

Do you have an idea for a way to improve the MUVE Section? Are you interested in leading the charge to be the change you want to see in the Section? Let us know! [Take the MUVE 2023 survey](#) here to tell us what we're doing right, how we can improve, and how you'd be interested in helping!

ESA Premier Awards due April 17

The deadline for several prominent ESA Awards, including the [ESA Founders' Memorial Award](#), [Fellows of the ESA](#), and [Honorary Member Awards](#) is **April 17**.

Submit to the Early Career Professional Recognition Symposium

Represent the MUVE Section in the Early Career Professional Recognition Symposium (ECPRS), open to all early career professionals and student transition members! Present your cutting-edge work in research, teaching, extension, outreach, or more! Chosen presenters will receive a \$500 travel stipend, a 30-minute time slot to present, and a feature in *Entomology Today*. The deadline to submit the application package (CV, abstract, cover letter) is **May 1**. [Learn more](#).

New Editor for MUVE Newsletter

Welcome to Keena Mullen, Ph.D., P.A.S., our new MUVE Newsletter Editor! Keena is a Federal Product Registration Manager at BASF and likes to hunt for termites in her yard and dig for dung beetles in dairy pastures in her free time.



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