



ENTOMOLOGICAL
SOCIETY OF AMERICA
MEDICAL, URBAN, AND VETERINARY ENTOMOLOGY

MUVE NEWSLETTER

April 2022

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OFFICERS

[Dr. Ed Vargo](#),
President

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

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Greetings everyone. I hope it's been a good spring for all of you. Here in Texas, the termite and ant swarms are kicking into gear. It's shaping up to be a busy field season.

It's that time of year when nominations open up for positions in the MUVE Governing Council and MUVE Representatives to the ESA Governing Board. I hope you will consider serving in one of these leadership and volunteer roles. Serving ESA and our MUVE Section helps take your membership to the next level. I know we all value ESA and the opportunities it provides us for networking with colleagues, mentors, and employers, for sharing ideas and cool research results, and for growing professionally. It goes without saying that a lot of work happens behind the scenes to help the society carry out its functions. Of course, the main event of ESA is the Annual Meeting, which will take place this year in beautiful Vancouver, but there are many other activities, including the Branch Meetings, networking events, webinars, and our all-important publications. ESA has a great core staff that ensures smooth functioning of the society, but many positions, including all of those at the section level, are filled by volunteers.



ESA has been my professional home for nearly 40 years. Throughout my time as an ESA member, I regularly volunteered at the Annual Meeting by serving as a judge or session moderator, and occasionally served as a judge for various ESA and MUVE awards. For several years I thought

[Dr. Kyle Jordan](#)
Vice President-Elect

[Dr. Christopher J. Geden](#),
Secretary

[Dr. Sonja Swiger](#),
Treasurer

[Dr. Michael Reiskind](#),
Past President

[Dr. Mustapha Debboun, BCE](#),
Governing Board Representative

more and more about other ways to serve the Society, but I never took the initiative to volunteer for office. Then one day, Changlu Wang, the then MUVE President, contacted me to see if I would be interested in serving as MUVE Vice-President Elect. After mulling it over, I took the plunge, and I haven't looked back. I admit, I didn't really know what I was getting into, but the MUVE leadership and the ESA staff have been great to work with and helped make the transition a smooth one. I've learned a lot about the behind-the-scenes operation of a well-run organization, and I've come to appreciate the dedication of the people pulling all the levers. It's been a richly rewarding experience. It's especially encouraging to see so many students and early career professionals getting involved with the MUVE leadership and numerous committees. Their enthusiasm and competence have made tremendous contributions to MUVE and to ESA.

I hope some of you will take advantage of the many opportunities we have for volunteering and nominate yourself for one of the positions listed below. If you've been up in the air about getting more involved with MUVE, now may be a good time to come in for a landing. Your contributions will help strengthen our section and it will be a personally and professionally rewarding experience.

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](#).



Hope Bowman, BCE, technical, training, and quality manager at Waltham Pest Services, received the Annual Women of Excellence Award from the Professional Women in Pest Management of New England. The regional honor is to women who have demonstrated outstanding leadership and have made notable contributions to the development and growth of the profession and their companies. Her nominator, Christian Weppert wrote, "She has truly earned the reputation as one of the most respected, accomplished, and influential women in our industry." Hope is a Board Certified Entomologist and has been on the Board of the Eastern Division of the Pennsylvania Pest Management Association and the New England Pest Management Association.



Neeta Connally, Ph.D., professor in the biology department at Western Connecticut State University. Dr. Connally was recently named a CSU professor, which is one of twelve distinguished professor titles across four universities in the Connecticut State University system. Dr. Connally's research focuses on the ecology and peridomestic prevention of blacklegged-tick transmitted diseases. She also has a [new publication](#) in the *Journal of Medical Entomology* detailing efforts to design a large-scale, population-based study of 4-Poster tick control devices in residential landscapes.

NEWS BRIEFS



Photo by Matt Bertone

Blog Post Highlights from *Entomology Today*

- [The Mothers of Entomological History: Reflecting on Who We Honor and How We Do It](#)
- [Hidden Diversity: When One Wasp Species is Actually 16](#)
- [Successful Science Communication Starts with a Strategy](#)

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

VOLUNTEER & LEADERSHIP



Seeking New MUVE Representative to the Diversity and Inclusion Committee

ESA MUVE is seeking a new representative to the Diversity and Inclusion Committee to start **immediately**. The D&I representative is expected to advocate for diversity and inclusion in the MUVE

section through policy and programmatic suggestions as well as serve on the MUVE Awards Selection Committee. This representative is also expected to attend all relevant ESA meetings and provide reports to the MUVE Governing Council. In this role, the representative can be a force of significant change and growth within ESA and MUVE. If you are interested in learning more about this position or applying, please contact Dr. Kyle Jordan at kyle.jordan@basf.com.

Journal of Medical Entomology Seeking a Co-Editor-in-Chief

ESA is seeking interested candidates to serve as the co-editor-in-chief of the *Journal of Medical Entomology*. This journal publishes on all aspects of medical and veterinary entomology and includes full research articles, reviews, interpretive (forum) articles, short communications, and letters to the editor. The term for this position would begin in late summer 2022 and scientists at all career stages and backgrounds are encouraged to apply. [Learn more about the position and apply](#) by **April 30**.

Volunteers Needed for ESA Award Judging Panels

Volunteers are needed to serve as the MUVE representative on several ESA award judging panels. Award panels with openings include the [Nan-Yao Su Award for Innovation and Creativity in Entomology](#), the [Early Career Innovation Award](#), the [ECP Research Award](#), the [ECP Extension Award](#), the [ECP Teaching Award](#), and the [Early Career Outreach and Public Engagement Award](#). Volunteers are needed by **June 1**. If you are interested in volunteering as a member for any of these judging panels, reach out to Pia Olafson (Pia.Olafson@usda.gov) for more information!

MUVE Governing Council and Representative Positions Now Open for Nominations

There are currently four MUVE governing council and representative positions open for nominations. Read more about these positions below and [nominate](#) by **June 1**. If you're curious but want to learn more before throwing your hat into the ring, join ESA for a webinar on Wednesday, **May 4** at 12 p.m. ET on why you should think about service to your Section and Society.

- The **MUVE Vice President-Elect** is responsible for assisting and advising the president and vice-president. The VP Elect will progress through the vice president, president, and past president roles throughout their tenure in ESA MUVE leadership.
- The **MUVE Secretary** is responsible for record keeping, including meeting minutes from each MUVE section governing council meeting. The secretary is also responsible for enforcing rules of discussion when necessary.
- The **MUVE Representative to the Governing Board** is a voting officer of the ESA Governing Council who represents MUVE to ESA and ESA to MUVE.
- The **MUVE Representative to the Publications Council** is expected to advocate for the needs of our section membership and to keep MUVE updated on all ESA publications related news. The Publications Council oversees the recruitment and appointment of new editors-in-chief, approves the appointment of new subject editors, and works to set overall goals and metrics for the publications program. As the council strives to improve diversity and inclusion in our publication enterprise, this is an opportunity to play an important role in helping the society achieve diversity goals.

MUVE Governing Council and Representative Positions Opening Soon

Several positions as MUVE representatives to the governing council will be opening later this summer. Read more about each position below and stay tuned for further information on nominations for these positions!

- The **MUVE Representative to the Entomology Games Committee** contributes to the committee's goals of creating an engaging and high-quality national competition, fostering an inclusive and welcoming environment for all participants and attendees, and supporting the branch-level committees as needed. Core responsibilities include writing, editing, and fact-checking questions (particularly in the medical, veterinary, and urban entomology category, but also others), attending regular committee meetings, and contributing to special projects as they arise.

- The **MUVE Representative to the Awards and Honors Committee** recruits MUVE members to serve on judging panels for ESA level awards. This person serves as a Process Coach for one of the ESA level awards, answering judging panel questions and resolving instances of a tie between award nominees. This representative also engages with other members of the A&H Committee to ensure the Society's awards program is a model of inclusivity.
- The **ESA Student Affairs Representative** is expected to reach out to the student membership of MUVE and contribute to the student section of the MUVE newsletter.
- The **ESA Science Policy Representative** is expected to represent MUVE interests concerning the ESA Science Policy Advocacy agenda at the association level, communicate with the MUVE governing council and membership about things that the ESA Science Policy Committee is doing or considering doing, and contribute to the MUVE Newsletter.

Leader Needed to Support the Grand MUVE Library WIG

MUVE is seeking a leader for one of our newest section WIGs, the Grand MUVE Library. This WIG is an effort to gather MUVE related information, such as the MUVE vector emergency response entomologist list, resource and SOP libraries, and training and funding opportunities into one main repository, which will be housed on the MUVE website. There is interest in assisting with this effort, but MUVE is currently seeking a leader to spearhead development of this platform. If you are interested in leading or being involved with this effort, please contact Ed Vargo (Edward.Vargo@ag.tamu.edu).

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

POLICY CORNER



by Melissa Nolan, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, University of South Carolina

Outbreaks and pandemics are increasing in frequency due to intensified international commerce, tourism and travel, climate change's impact on growing species expansion, and other systems biology effects. In the past two decades, the United States has encountered eleven different outbreaks, two of which were vector-borne diseases: West Nile and Zika viruses. While these two arboviruses garnered national attention, the insidious growth of tick-borne diseases and the festering flare-ups of local vector-borne diseases are continual threats to national public health. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention published their first "National Public Health Framework for the Prevention and Control of Vector-Borne Diseases in Humans" in 2020, which details the growing impact of vector-borne diseases on the national healthcare system and the complexities contributing to these health and economic burdens.

Vector-borne diseases have tripled in the past two decades, and nine new pathogens have been identified in the United States. Despite new attention to vector-borne diseases, misdiagnosis in humans is ubiquitous with rates up to 67% for arboviruses and tick-borne bacterial infections. Prioritizing human disease detection and treatment is only one part of a successful vector-borne disease program, as veterinary and entomologic surveillance are additional vital components. While reducing and eliminating vector-borne diseases is multifactorial, and might seem daunting, sustainable integrated pest management programs have proven successful. In fact, cost-effective joint strategies exist that can reduce transmission, lower disability adjusted life years, and save governments considerable economic healthcare costs.

With these ready tools and frameworks in place, why is congressional funding not consistently available to mitigate vector-borne disease? Congressional funding for national public health programs is a process constantly in-flux; a process that typically starts over with each newly elected cabinet. Further, congressional funding procedures are largely unproductive as less than 10% of legislative bills that are introduced to a committee ultimately become appropriated for fiscal support. Subsequently, timing of vector-borne disease outbreaks is critical to its passage. West Nile and Zika virus outbreaks, for example, received congressionally appropriated support two to three years post-outbreak peak transmission. Given the enormity of competing national funding needs, it is little surprise that vector-borne disease outbreak funding subsides quickly post-mitigation.

So, are we medical entomologists doomed? Not quite yet. One distinguishing aspect of successful organizations is their ability to directly engage key lawmakers and policy decision makers. The Entomological Society of America has a well-established political footprint at both national, state, and local levels of government. The sustainability of their presence depends on your input. Please get involved. [Sign up for ESA's new grassroots advocacy platform](#). ESA is in the process of getting it up and running and will be rolling out our first campaign in the coming months to make it easy to get involved with just a cell phone. Want to write to your state senators, representatives, and key lawmakers but don't know where to get started? ESA has a lot of resources on their [webpages](#). Interested in a more serious commitment to learning to be an advocate for entomology? Consider applying for the Entomological Society of America's [Science Policy Fellows Program](#). Class of 2022 applications open later this month!

JEST MANAGEMENT

The Lighter Side of ESA MUVE

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

With great hunger, comes great patience

I suspect this is a story that will be all too familiar to many of you, but at the time it came as something of a revelation for me, showing just how amazingly well-adapted hematophagous insects can be. As so many of our best yarns do, this one begins in graduate school. At that time the costs of graduate housing caused much consternation among us students. As a solution, a few of my colleagues who engaged in temporally distinct periods of field work agreed to share their rooms, with non-overlapping occupancies.

This brings us to the two Bettys. While I've changed their names for reasons that will become evident, in actuality they did have the same (real) first name. Betty One spent a good portion of her time working in Africa. But when she was on campus in the United States, she kept a large black and white tabby. Sadly, this cat was allowed outside, a fact that is particularly mysterious as Betty One is now a well-respected conservation biologist, and we all know how devastating cats can be to local wildlife communities!

Perhaps inevitably, in his outdoor forays the cat became an established blood source for a population of *Ctenocephalides felis*. While Betty One resided at the home in question, the cat's cat fleas were maintained at relatively low-densities. Eventually however, Betty One left for Africa and the tabby was packed off to stay with her parents elsewhere. The home in question was subsequently devoid of endothermic life for roughly a month.

It is at this point that Betty Two returned to the US from her own research activities in Europe. Those of you who are well acquainted with fleas and their specific life-history traits probably have already guessed what happened next. Over the preceding month, the juvenile fleas that had been going about their business happily munching the detritus of the bedroom carpet, subsequently reached the end of their carefree larval period and entered into the pupal stage. In the absence of both the cat and any other warm bodies, there they patiently waited. Naturally, as more time went by, the number of patient pupae increased. By the time Betty Two arrived exhausted after a long, transatlantic flight, all she wanted to do was collapse in bed and get some shut eye. Thus, it's not surprising that when I received a phone call from her later that evening, she had an intensity in her voice that was quite uncharacteristic. It seems that while Betty Two soundly slept after the long day of traveling, the other creatures in the room began to stir.

Stimulated by the prolonged presence of a carbon dioxide emitting endotherm, all those pre-emergent pupae quickly entered into the world as hungry adult fleas. And as poor Betty Two slept, these parasites fed. When Betty Two finally awoke she found her arms and feet covered in itchy red spots. Professionals were called the next day to attend to the problem, but that first evening was also the last evening Betty Two ever spent in the home. I suppose while this tale might not have a happy ending per se, it is certainly illuminating. There are many lessons that we can draw from this story, but I think one of the most important ones is this: be careful whom you share a home with, be it cat or cat owner. And of course, fleas can be very, very patient.

ASK CLARY FLY



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

Howdy fellow MUVers,

Clary Fly here to give you all the latest buzz on entomology student happenings. In case you haven't already realized, now is the time when the calls for ESA Annual Meeting activities are opening or about to open. For starters, this year's [MUVE Section Student Travel Award](#) (due **May 6**) and [MUVE Shripat Kamble Urban Entomology Graduate Student Award for Innovative Research](#) (due **June 1**) are already open. Often limited or no nominations are received, so you are strongly encouraged to consider applying if you're eligible. On a broader scale, nominations for [ESA Student Awards](#) are also open and due **June 1**, as well as abstract submissions for [Joint Annual Meeting presentations](#). Learn more about why you should consider going after an ESA award from this [Entomology Today post](#).

For those of you who are interested in the ESA Rising Stars of Entomology Student Award Symposium, please note that this year it will be a bit different. For the Joint Annual Meeting, this award will be known as the [Joint ESA Rising Stars of Entomology and ESC Graduate Student Showcase Symposium](#). In contrast to last year, this award will provide eight graduate students, four from ESA and four from ESC, with a \$200 travel stipend, complimentary membership, and complimentary registration to the [Joint Annual Meeting](#) in Vancouver, Canada. Additionally, students will have the opportunity to expand beyond the limits of the typical 10-minute student presentations to highlight their amazing research. Also note that, unlike the other ESA student awards, applications for this award are due **May 20**.

Finally, you might have noticed the call for a new MUVE representative to the ESA Student Affairs Committee (SAC). It's hard to believe Victoria's term is already about to end, but time really does "fly!" I'll be sad to see her go, but excited to greet the new student representative. She told me serving as the MUVE representative to SAC has been a great opportunity to learn new skills, interact with our MUVE section leaders and ESA, and help coordinate a wide variety of student activities. If you're interested, refer to our MUVE newsletter announcement, be on the lookout for Victoria's upcoming post about her experiences with SAC in [Entomology Today](#), or look through the [ESA SAC Statement of Purpose and Volunteer Description](#) to find out about the SAC and representative responsibilities. Feel free to send Victoria an email too or [join the upcoming webinar](#) on **May 4** to learn more about other ways to get involved in ESA leadership opportunities!

Well, MUVers, that's all I have to share with you for now. Remember to keep an eye out for all the announcements and deadlines regarding ESA student activities, a lot more will pop up before the next newsletter! If you have any questions or comments you would like for me to address in future newsletters, feel free to send a message to vpicken@ksu.edu.

Stay curious,

Clary Fly

OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

Travel Grants Available for Annual Meeting Attendees from Minority Serving Institutions

The ESA Public Health Entomology for All (PHEFA) program has travel grants available to support faculty and students from Minority Serving Institutions to attend the 2022 ESA Annual Meeting in Vancouver, BC. ESA PHEFA will support the registration, transportation, hotels, and meal stipends for faculty and three of their students. Travel grant recipients will also be invited to an onsite reception at the conference. Applications are due **April 29**. [Learn more and apply](#).

On the Horizon: New Findings in Tick Biology, Ecology, and Control Webinar

A webinar sponsored by the ESA Eastern Branch, "On the Horizon: New Findings in Tick Biology, Ecology, and Control" will be presented on **May 10** from 2-3:30 p.m. ET. The webinar will feature a panel of tick experts who will be sharing their current research relating to the biology, ecology, and control of ticks. [Learn more and register](#).

Early Career Professional Recognition Symposium

The portal to submit application packages for the Early Career Professional Recognition Symposium (ECPRS) is now open. Four presenters will be selected, one representing each ESA Section, to give a 30-minute presentation describing their research programs in this special symposium. Applicants are required to send a 250-word abstract, 1-page cover letter, and a CV following the [ESA guidelines](#). The deadline to submit application packages is **May 20**. Presenters will receive a \$500 travel stipend, if selected. Applicants will be notified in late June of their status. Those not selected will automatically have their submissions scheduled in a regular, non-competition 10-minute paper session. For more details and to submit your application package, visit the ESA website. Any questions can be directed to ECP Committee Chair, Lorena Lopez (lorelopezq257@vt.edu) and the MUVE ECP Representative, Karen Poh (kpp5400@psu.edu).

MUVE Members Recognized at the 10th International IPM Symposium

Several MUVE members received awards at the 10th International IPM Symposium in Denver, Colorado. Ms. Janet Hurley and Dr. Andrew Sutherland both won Awards of Excellence in the IPM Practitioner-Academic category and Mr. Frank Meek won an Award of Excellence in the IPM Practitioner-Non-Academic category. Congratulations to these MUVers on their awards! [Learn more](#).

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