



ENTOMOLOGICAL
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MEDICAL, URBAN, AND VETERINARY ENTOMOLOGY

MUVE NEWSLETTER



April 2021

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

Way back in 2004 I published my third first authored paper, on *Culex restuans* larval growth in the *Journal of Medical Entomology* (JME). I would like to think this was a solid contribution to the literature, although by no means particularly noteworthy. What was noteworthy, for me, was my interaction with the subject editor of my manuscript, Dr. Richard Merritt. I did not know him well, having met him just once before at a Michigan Mosquito Control Association meeting. As a highly impressionable and sensitive graduate student, I was nervous about any criticism (I had already had the painful experience of papers rejected, although not this one). My interaction with Dr. Merritt still ranks as one of the most positive in my career. He seemed to understand where I was, his pointed critiques were helpful, and I honestly felt like we were working together to write the best paper possible. Although I never told him, this made a huge impression on me. As a developing graduate student, it gave me confidence that any manuscript can be improved, it assuaged my fear of judgements, and even helped me handle the eventual rejections that are part of our profession. It also made me loyal to JME as a venue for my work.



In the intervening 17 years, publishing in medical, urban, and veterinary entomology has changed a lot. Starting in the 1990s, the volume of published articles in our field began to expand. Using the search term "*Aedes aegypti*" as an example, I found 61 publications in the year 1990, 232 in 2000, 686 in 2010, and

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in 2020, an astounding 1346 (all through Web of Science database, a relatively conservative search tool). Roughly speaking, we have seen a two- to four-fold increase every ten years for the last thirty years. The consequences of this explosion of literature are difficult to ascertain, but at the least I offer sympathy for our graduate students. When I was working on *Culex* oviposition behavior and larval ecology as a graduate student, I felt I could entirely master the literature. Now that is likely impossible in all but the narrowest of sub-disciplines.

In light of changes in how science is conducted, communicated, and consumed, there have been calls for changes in how science is published.

"From the President" continued

Open access has pluses and minuses—good for science in general as a democratizing force, but it has put considerable burden on the individual PIs to pay for open access, which can be expensive. A recent announcement from *eLife* by Eisen and colleagues has put forward a new model of “publish then review.” All *eLife* papers will now be expected to be published on a preprint server, then reviewed by *eLife* editors and reviewers. Journals will become certifiers of good science, not publishers. This may well be revolutionary, but also needs to be well considered. The preprint publication model has already increased the volume of available literature, and the effects on publishing as a mutually beneficial process, as I experienced with Dr. Merritt, may be lost in this new model.

Science publishing is at a crossroad, and the challenges of JME and our other Society publications are profound. Our journals are not currently considering a “publish then review” approach. I offer no opinion on that, but my natural inclination is to be skeptical of publish then review. A more sanguine outlook is that publish then review will recapture the sense of heading towards a common goal of publishing the best science, as I felt back in 2004 when Rich Merritt’s generous editing helped a young scientist find his voice, instead of journals competing for higher impact factors. Or it may have the opposite result, in which scientists become pilloried by the weight of commentary before their science is ready for public consumption. If MUVE has a role in this, it could be as a community of specialized scientists, providing feedback to one another in a gentle and constructive manner. These musings bring me to these conclusions for our Section membership: continue to publish in the *Journal of Medical Entomology*, our journal; serve as reviewers for JME and be willing to read unpublished manuscripts by colleagues and especially students in an informal “prepublish and review”; and view your role as reviewer or editor also as one of mentor.

I would like to thank Bill Reisen, Glen Scoles, Meredith Spence Beaulieu, and Bethany McGregor for feedback on this—and helping me find my voice!

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 [Michael Reiskind](#) or [Bethany McGregor](#).



Thomas Mather, Ph.D.



Jamora Hamilton, Ph.D.



Desiree Straubinger, BCE

Thomas Mather, Ph.D., professor at the University of Rhode Island. Increasingly, people are looking for “safe” or “natural” solutions to manage ticks in residential and public sites. But do they work? Dr. Mather, along with graduate student Megan Dyer, recently created and tested a robust, novel screening strategy that provided a [direct comparison of knockdown and residual efficacy of several natural tick control products under natural field conditions](#). Dr. Mather also directs the [TickEncounter Resource Center](#) at URI that provides science-based tick information and uses [crowd-sourced photos for passive tick surveillance](#) to help inform prevention of tick-borne diseases.

Jamora Hamilton, Ph.D., recent graduate of NC State University. On March 3, Dr. Hamilton successfully defended her dissertation, “An Investigation of German Cockroach Aggregation Behavior and the Implications for Pest Management,” advised by Coby Schal. She also received two awards in 2021: the Pest Management Foundation Scholarship and the North Carolina Pest Management Association Indoor Urban Entomology Scholarship. She’ll soon be starting a contract position at Bayer Environmental Science as a Development Scientist in the Raleigh, NC area.

Desiree Straubinger, BCE, and Certified Professional of Food Safety, recently accepted a new job as the vice president of technical for Certus Pest Control. Ms. Straubinger started with Steritech in 2002 and became the Market Technical Director for the southeast and Canadian markets after Steritech’s acquisition by Rentokil in 2015. We congratulate and wish Desiree good luck in her new role with Certus!

NEWS BRIEFS



Photo by Matt Bertone

Networking Event Recap

MUVE held its first official networking event outside of an Annual Meeting on March 24, 2021. The theme of the event centered around the question, “How will climate change affect MUVE arthropods?” After a brief introduction, participants were sent into breakout rooms of four to five people to discuss the theme. Around 34 people participated in this first networking event and we received a lot of positive feedback! We plan to hold another networking event during the summer and encourage all MUVE members to stay tuned for more information on the next event. If anyone has feedback or recommendations for themes they’d like to see in the future, please send them to [Bethany McGregor](#) or [Michael Reiskind](#).

Journal of Medical Entomology Seeks Editor-in-Chief Applications

ESA is seeking candidates to serve as the next editor-in-chief of the *Journal of Medical Entomology*. The term will begin in January 2022, and applications are due **May 31**. [Read the position description and learn how to apply.](#)

Blog Post Highlights from *Entomology Today*

- [Study on Mosquito Landing Rates Could Improve Repellent Testing](#)
- [New Study Illuminates Dung Beetles' Attraction to Death](#)
- [Another Study Confirms Mosquitoes, Midges Don't Transmit Coronavirus](#)
- [Mosquito Forecasting: How Phenology Data is Powering New Advances](#)
- [New Method Makes for Faster Genetic ID of Eastern U.S. Termites](#)

ASK CLARY FLY



News and Advice for MUVE Student Members

Howdy fellow MUVers,

Clary Fly here with all the latest buzz on upcoming student opportunities available through ESA, and boy is there plenty! Hopefully you’ve all seen the latest announcements for [ESA student awards](#) available at the Annual Meeting this year. Don’t forget to check out the student awards available in our very own MUVE Section as well! Most submissions are due **June 1**, but deadlines may vary between awards.

Additionally, there are two new ESA student awards available this year: the [Rising Stars of Entomology Award Symposium](#) and the [Alate Award](#). If you or someone you know is a stellar student towards the end of their program, consider nominating them for the Rising Stars of Entomology Award Symposium. Masters and doctoral students will be selected from each ESA Section to receive

free registration for the 2021 ESA Annual Meeting, a free ESA annual membership, and the opportunity to give a 30-minute presentation on their research in the featured award symposium. Exceptional undergraduate and graduate students with a passion for entomology and currently enrolled at Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) and other Minority-Serving Institutions (MSI) can also be nominated for the prestigious Alate Award. This award is an amazing opportunity for students to not only receive free travel and registration for the 2021 ESA Annual Meeting, but to also take part in a mentorship program provided by the Diversity and Inclusion committee throughout the Annual Meeting. During their mentorship, students will receive assistance in connecting with the Society and different areas of interest. If unsure about applying for one of these awards, take a look at the following article in *Entomology Today*, "[Imposter Syndrome, Bias, and Doubt: Overcoming Barriers to Honoring All Entomologists](#)," which discusses overcoming doubts about award applications. Members can also watch the "[Transforming ESA Awards: How to Nominate Excellence in 2021](#)" webinar available on the ESA website.

Now, awards are nice, but if you're looking for a professional experience to boost your skills outside of the Annual Meeting, a few new mentorships have recently been announced. ESA has launched the [Professional Advancement Career Training \(PACT\) Initiative](#), a six-month program to help graduate students and postdoctoral fellows develop skills for success in careers outside of academia through one-to-one mentoring, monthly webinars, group meetings, and a networking event at the 2021 ESA Annual Meeting. However, for a professional experience closer to home, I highly encourage signing up for the [MUVE Mentorship Network](#). This mentorship stems from the MUVE Section's initiative to develop mutually beneficial mentoring relationships within MUVE through promoting the professional guidance of mentees by their mentors and exposing mentors to new techniques and concepts emerging amongst younger scientists. Students who participate in this program will be given the opportunity to work with career professionals within MUVE and establish relationships and skills to last throughout their own future careers. Submissions for mentors and mentees who wish to participate in the MUVE mentoring network are currently being accepted, so sign up soon!

That's all the new activity announcements I have for now. In the meantime, be sure to check out the Branch meetings going on for the next couple of months as registration to all branch meetings is free and virtual! Also, be on the lookout for other ESA student activity announcements that will be released soon, like registering for the Entomology 2021 student debates. If there are any questions or announcements about student opportunities you'd like for me to address in the next Clary Fly Corner, please feel free to send an email to vlpicken@ksu.edu.

Cheers,

Clary Fly



VOLUNTEER & LEADERSHIP

ECP Recognition Symposium

Early Career Professional (ECP) members are invited to submit applications for the ECP Recognition Symposium! One member from each Section will be selected to present a 30-minute talk on their work and receive a \$500 stipend. Applications are open NOW and are due **June 1**. Application

packages include: ESA-formatted CV, 1-page cover letter, and a 250-word abstract of your work. [Read more and apply.](#)

MUVE Judging Opportunities

Awards season is upon us and there are a number of opportunities for MUVE members to represent our Section on award judging panels! We are in need of volunteers to serve on the judging panels for the following prestigious awards:

- [Alate Award](#): Awarded to students at Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) and other Minority-Serving Institutions (MSIs) to promote interest in entomology and the ESA Annual Meeting.
- [Rising Stars of Entomology Award Symposium](#): Awarded to master's and doctoral students from each ESA Section to showcase their research at the ESA Annual Meeting in a special symposium.
- [ECP Recognition Symposium](#): Awarded to a Student Transition and/or Early Career Professional member from each Section to showcase their research at the ESA Annual Meeting in a special symposium.
- [Distinguished Achievement Award in the Promotion of Diversity and Inclusion in the Field of Entomology](#): Honors a member or member's team for creating and promoting a diverse and welcoming environment for entomologists in their university, place of employment, or community.

The judging process will take place beginning the first week of June. For more information about serving on any of these judging panels, please [email Pia Olafson](#).

JEST MANAGEMENT

The Lighter Side of ESA MUVE

This month, the MUVE Communications team tried out their "sci-ku" (science haiku) skills. Have a sci-ku of your own (or an insect joke, humorous picture, or the like)? Send it to [Michael Reiskind](#) or [Bethany McGregor](#) for your chance to be featured.

mosquitoes intrigue
but the public asks (solely)
what are they good for?
- by Meredith Spence Beaulieu

POLICY CORNER



"Applying Subject Matter Expertise to State-Level Policy" by Liz Dykstra, Ph.D., BCE, ESA Science Policy Fellow

As the public health entomologist for the Washington State Department of Health (WDOH), one of my responsibilities is to provide subject matter expertise on policy recommendations and decisions that deal with vectors of human disease and any other pests of public health importance. Familiarity with the laws and codes that impact my area of expertise is required to ensure that sound scientific recommendations follow laws already

A sudden pin prick
There is no culprit in sight
No-See-Um indeed
- by Bethany McGregor

That tick you sent me
The one that was “stuck like glue”?
Well, it’s just a scab.
- by Neeta Connally

in place, such as the Clean Water and Endangered Species Acts.

During the state legislative sessions, draft bills are scanned by policy staff and, if the measure deals with public health, it is assigned to WDOH subject matter experts (SME) to conduct what’s known as a bill analysis.

“Applying Subject Matter Expertise to State-Level Policy” continued

Upon assignment, I carefully analyze the draft bill, providing a brief summary and indicating both the positive and negative impacts that bill would have relative to public health. I also address any concerns by recommending amendment language. Policy staff track the bill through its legislative journey, returning any updated drafts to me for additional review to determine whether an additional response is needed. During my career at WDOH, I’ve ensured that several proposed bills were rooted in evidence-based science before they progressed to the governor’s desk and were signed into law.

Rule reviews and updates are another branch of state policy that require SME participation. Working closely with WDOH policy staff, pertinent state laws and regulations are periodically reviewed to ensure they are up to date relative to the latest scientific evidence and national recommendations. Wording is carefully weighed to balance the needs of public health and safety with the impact the bill will have on those implementing the rule. For example, when choosing between such words as “shall” versus “may,” the rule will either require an action or make the action optional. In the case of rabies, requiring owners to vaccinate their dog, cat, or ferret provides legal support to veterinarians who provide the vaccinations.

My job also includes providing consultation and evaluation of technical issues related to disease vectors and public health pests to the legislature, tribal governments, and other groups throughout the state. Additionally, I work to build awareness of state and national laws that impact public health entomology surveillance and control through outreach activities and liaising with other state agencies. I’ve also served on working groups at the national level who were tasked with defining or updating the case definitions of several vector-borne diseases.

Climate change is the latest issue being addressed. As the vector-borne disease SME, I work on a multi-disciplinary team whose expertise includes air and water quality, community planning, and environmental justice. We are focusing our efforts on the impact climate change is predicted to have on public health and how communities can build resilience to those changes. Our collective expertise is providing the foundation for developing effective, data-driven policy at the state, regional, and local levels.

OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

MUVE Members Receive Pest Management Scholarships

MUVE members **Alexander Blumenfeld**, **Johnalyn Gordon**, **Jamora Hamilton**, and **Seun Oladipupo** are among five Ph.D. students pursuing careers in urban entomology that have been awarded scholarships from the Pest Management Foundation. [Read more.](#)

Debboun Receives Meritorious Service Award

Mustapha Debboun, Ph.D., BCE, general manager of Delta Vector Control and ESA Fellow, has received the American Mosquito Control Association Meritorious Service Award. [Read more.](#)

In Memoriam: Alan Clements

Alan Clements, Ph.D., retired medical entomology researcher and author, passed away at the age of 93. [Read more.](#)

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