



3 Park Place, Suite 307
Annapolis, MD 21401-3722 USA

Phone: 301-731-4535
Fax: 301-731-4538

esa@entsoc.org
www.entsoc.org

Dr. Richard Wolitski and Mr. James Berger
Office of HIV/AIDS and Infectious Disease Policy
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
330 C Street SW, Room L001
Washington DC 20201

Dear Dr. Wolitski and Mr. Berger,

I am writing to you today on behalf of the nearly 7,000 members of the Entomological Society of America (ESA) regarding the Department's Call for Nominations of Highly Qualified Individuals to Serve on Subcommittees to the Tick-Borne Disease Working Group. It is essential that the vector management community has strong representation on the subcommittees for the Working Group. As such, I am writing in support of the self-nominations of several vector professionals to serve on one or more of the active subcommittees of the Working Group.

The management of tick-borne diseases starts with the management of ticks. More than 30,000 cases of Lyme disease are reported to the CDC each year, though studies suggest that the actual number of cases may be closer to 300,000. Lyme disease, Rocky Mountain spotted fever, Powassan, babesiosis, and the other diseases transmitted by ticks are an economic threat to the United States. Estimates for Lyme disease alone are between \$0.7 and \$1.3 billion in direct medical costs. ESA has long-called for an integrated tick management approach to reducing the disease burden on human and animal health.

The following well-known, respected, and highly-competent tick researchers have all self-nominated, per the instructions provided by the Working Group, or intend to do so by the deadline of January 7, 2018. We feel that they would all be excellent additions to any of the six subcommittees and wholeheartedly support their self-nominations. I have noted below where I feel they would be most-suited to serve, but truly they would be a good fit for any of the subcommittees and could serve in whatever capacity best suits the needs of the Working Group.

For the Vectors, Prevention, and Surveillance Subcommittee, I support the nominations of the following individuals:

- Thomas Mather, PhD, University of Rhode Island (tmather@uri.edu)
- Charles Lubelczyck, MPH Maine Medical Research Institute (lubelc@mmc.org)
- Jean Tsao, PhD, Michigan State University (tsao@msu.edu)
- Graham J. Hickling, PhD, University of Tennessee (ghicklin@utk.edu)
- Neeta Pardanani Connally, PhD, Western Connecticut State University (connallyn@wcsu.edu)
- Daniel E. Sonenshine, PhD, Old Dominion University (dsonensh@odu.edu)
- Rebecca Trout Fryxell, PhD, University of Tennessee (RFryxell@utk.edu)

For the Other TBDs and Coinfections Subcommittee, I support the nomination of:

- Brian F. Allan, PhD, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign (ballan@illinois.edu)

For the Vaccines and Therapeutics Subcommittee, I support the nomination of:

- Glen Scoles, PhD, USDA-ARS (Glen.Scoles@ars.usda.gov)

The importance of having vector professionals be a part of any federal activity addressing tick diseases cannot be overstated. As such, I respectfully ask you to consider and support these nominations to ensure that there is adequate representation of tick management research on the Working Group subcommittees.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Susan J. Weller". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "J" and "W".

Susan J. Weller, Ph.D.

Past President, ESA and Chair of the ESA Science Policy Committee
University of Nebraska State Museum