



ENTOMOLOGICAL
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MEDICAL, URBAN, AND VETERINARY ENTOMOLOGY

MUVE NEWSLETTER

August 2021

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

"The Nightmare"

Time has really flown over the last year for me. Part of that is my middle age, without doubt, but of course the externalities of COVID "house arrest" contribute. But when I take a moment to step outside of myself and look at the world, everything seems NOT alright. NOT AT ALL. I am not talking about my world, my personal tragedies, my petty attachments. I mean our world. I mean the global pandemic. I mean California, Australia, and Greece on fire. I mean above average hurricane seasons. Heat. And to make it pertinent to this group, I mean *Aedes albopictus* in New York **and** Los Angeles, *Coptotermes formosanus* in Charlotte, and *Haemaphysalis longicornis* in New Jersey. You take a step back, and, to be honest, it is a nightmare.

There are (at least, I don't want to argue) two uniquely human physiological traits that are our bugaboos, and maybe our salvation. The obvious one is our big brains, which we use to generate and preserve knowledge. The preservation of this knowledge, likely starting with oral histories in song, then in written form, allows problems to be solved, technology to

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spread, and progress to be consolidated. Solving immediate problems with technology has propelled us into a modern world. However, modernity has also brought out the potential for someone to get infected with a virus in Africa, travel to French Polynesia before they feel sick, then to Martinique in the Caribbean. Progress, no doubt, but with a cost. I would put forward, in spite of this technological progress, we rarely ask what our goals should be. That is, to what are we progressing?



The second human trait is less widely acknowledged. Endurance. We have not been selected to have big teeth, fast muscles, wings, or any of the fun adaptations we see in other organisms. Instead, we endure. We are adapted to travel long distances. Although many of us don't use it, we can even run long distances, maybe further than any other earthbound organism. Our big brains have obviously guided humankind to where we are today, but our endurance has spread humankind to nearly every part of the terrestrial world.

In both big and small ways, we need to call on these traits. We need to decide our goals for our world, and we will need our endurance to get to them. For our section of our society, our goals need to be appropriately modest, but contribute to the bigger picture. With this in mind, I call on our membership to initiate a new set of Wildly Important Goals (WIGs) for our section. We will be developing these over the next several months, culminating in opportunities at our Annual Meetings to actualize them over the following one to three years. Time to use our big brains to solve the small problems in our arenas that will help us endure long enough to solve the big ones in the world.

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](#).



Adela Oliva Chávez, Ph.D., assistant professor in entomology at Texas A&M University. Adela recently published a paper in [Nature Communications](#) on the impact of tick extracellular vesicles on feeding outcomes and bacterial infection. Her research on tick-borne disease transmission was also recently featured in a highlight article by [Pest Control Technology](#).



Lisa Brown, Ph.D., assistant professor in biology at Georgia Southern University. Lisa recently published a paper in *Biochemistry and Molecular Biology* entitled, "[Reactive oxygen species-mediated immunity against bacterial infection in the gut of cat fleas \(*Ctenocephalides felis*\)](#)."



Danielle Tufts, Ph.D., assistant professor in infectious diseases and microbiology at the University of Pittsburgh. Danielle [modeled overwintering survival and host-finding success of *Ixodes scapularis* ticks](#) in the eastern United States. She has also been instrumental in determining [host associations and distribution of the invasive Asian longhorned tick \(*Haemaphysalis longicornis*\)](#) and recently discovered the establishment of a new invasive species, the red sheep tick (*H. punctata*), in the western hemisphere and the United States.

NEWS BRIEFS



Photo by Matt Bertone

ESA Bylaws Amendment Vote for ECP on the ESA Governing Board Delayed

The vote for the ESA bylaw amendment on adding an early career professional (ECP) to the ESA Governing Board, which was on the original special elections ballot, has been delayed. [View the revised announcement](#) of the proposed amendment with additional detail on the proposed changes. The MUVE Governing Council endorses this addition, which will ensure representation of ECP perspectives and give opportunities to future leaders. A new vote for this amendment will be initiated in the coming month, so be on the lookout for another special election email.

MUVE Policies and Procedures

We are working on the MUVE Policies and Procedures. We anticipate the public comment period to run from September 1 - September 30, with revision, reposting, and final adoption at the Annual Meeting. Stay tuned!

Blog Post Highlights from *Entomology Today*

- [Navy Entomologists: Protecting Sailors and Marines Around the World](#)
- [Coming Full Circle: How an Entomologist's Experience With Vector-Borne Diseases Inspired Her to Study Them](#)
- [Inducing Mosquitoes to Lay Eggs Aids in Insecticide Resistance Testing](#)
- [Commonly Used Acaricides Found Effective on Invasive Tick](#)

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

VOLUNTEER & LEADERSHIP



MUVE Representative to the Education and Outreach Committee

We have one ESA Committee vacancy this year: the Education and Outreach Committee (EOC). The commitment is for three years and involves periodic meetings with the EOC. Interested applicants should fill out the [online interest form](#) or contact MUVE President Michael Reiskind (mhreiski@ncsu.edu). You can also reach out to Michael Bentley for his perspective on this volunteer opportunity (MBentley@pestworld.org). Thank you to Michael for his service in this role!

MUVE Nominations Committee

We are seeking candidates for the MUVE Nominations Committee. This is a three-year commitment, assuming the chair role in the third year (and being part of the Governing Council of MUVE as chair of the Nominations Committee.) The candidate would traditionally come from a veterinary entomology background to ensure balance on this committee, and we strongly encourage veterinary entomologists to consider this volunteer opportunity. Please contact Michael Reiskind (mhreiski@ncsu.edu) if you are interested. Thank you to Justin Talley for his service in this role!

Judges and Moderators Needed for Entomology 2021

The Program Committee is in search of individuals willing to moderate and judge student competition sessions during the Annual Meeting. You can indicate your willingness to serve when you register for Entomology 2021, or email meet@entsoc.org to update your volunteer preferences if already registered. [Learn more](#).

Looking for other ways to get involved with MUVE or ESA generally? Always feel free to contact MUVE President Michael Reiskind (mhreiski@ncsu.edu) with your interest.



JEST MANAGEMENT

The Lighter Side of ESA MUVE

Come up with a caption for the original Dr. Nelle Couret (University of Rhode Island) cartoon below and win a **\$20 Starbucks gift card** at the Annual Meeting in Denver! Email entries to Michael Reiskind (mhreiseki@ncsu.edu). Somebody is going to win, don't let it be one of our communications staff!



POLICY CORNER



"Could Buggy McBugface Be the Next Insect Common Name?"

by Meaghan Pimsler, Ph.D., Class of 2017 ESA Science Policy Fellow

Previous high-profile internet-based naming polls have resulted in a whale named "Mr. Splashypants" and the viral sensation "Boaty McBoatface," the UK's autonomous yellow submarine. With recent news that ESA has officially removed "gypsy moth" and "gypsy ant" from the list of approved common names and is currently taking online naming suggestions, some have speculated that "Buggy McBugface" could end up a frontrunning new common name. The decision to retire these two common names coincided with the launch of the [Better Common Names Project](#), part of the Society's commitment to diversity, inclusivity, and equity. This project seeks to identify and replace common names that may be offensive or dehumanizing (e.g., names that specifically reference ethnic or racial groups). ESA is far from the first organization to do this; for example, the [WHO advises against geographic, ethnic, and occupational names for new diseases](#) and the [Minnesota Department of Natural Resources uses "invasive carp" on their website rather than "Asian carp."](#)

While the national press was quite positive about ESA's new policy, some have expressed concerns. The purpose of approved common names is to improve communication between entomologists and the public by ensuring that there is a stable, non-Latin name available for use when discussing a particular insect in a particular location. One concern is that changing established common names could result in confusion. Josh Lancette, the ESA staff liaison for the Better Common Names Project, says, "There will be a period of adjustment and real challenges on the way to creating a more inclusive and equitable society through name changes, but ESA and partnering organizations will work together and with the community to ensure as little disruption as possible."

Some have also asked if this is a slippery slope, given that people are diverse and there could be a minority of people who are offended by almost any common name. Lancette wants to reassure members that "the scope of this project is only to address names that are acting in dehumanizing, exclusionary, and harmful ways, not any name that people could possibly be offended by." The Project has addressed this and other concerns in their detailed [FAQ on the project landing page](#).

The general process for identifying problematic common names and replacing them is as follows:

1. Community members are [invited to submit common names that they think should be changed and to explain why.](#)
2. These suggestions will be reviewed by the Better Common Names Project task force, who will identify high priority names and recruit working groups made up of stakeholders in the insect.
3. Working groups will research potential new names, build consensus around a specific name, and submit a final name proposal (falling within ESA's common names policies).
4. The ESA Common Names Committee will review submitted proposals and release accepted proposals for a 30-day member comment period.
5. If needed, proposals will be adjusted based on feedback from the member comment period. If revision is not necessary, the new proposed common name will be submitted to the ESA Governing Board for final approval.

There are a number of important pest species relevant to MUVE membership that reference geographic areas—Asian tiger mosquito and German cockroach come to mind. As a section, we should be aware of the impact this initiative may have on our study organisms. “We want to be as transparent as possible and involve the community in each step of the name change process, from the moment a name is identified as needing to be changed to the adoption of a new name. We don't anticipate unapproving any other common name until a new common name has been selected and approved,” Lancette said.

It is important to note that the two names which have been retired so far were specifically chosen because they contained a known ethnic slur. [The Society is currently taking volunteers to join the *Lymantria dispar* renaming committee](#), and is also [taking naming suggestions](#).

So, while it's entertaining to imagine that we might have to start communicating with the public about the Floofy Mothface or the Madam SucksALot Mosquito, the reality is that ESA has developed a process that will involve scientific stakeholders and will ensure that accepted common names are professional, useful, accurate, and considerate.

ASK CLARY FLY



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

Howdy fellow MUVers,
Clary Fly here, with all the latest buzz on ESA student activities.

The Annual Meeting is fast approaching, and with it some great activities for students to take part in. First, if you haven't already and are attending in person, register for the annual meeting by **September 13** to receive the early bird registration rate. If you're unsure about attending in person, check with your university travel restrictions and the [ESA COVID-19 Safety Planning page](#). Next, to kick off the meeting, the Entomology Games is preparing a fun pre-games virtual event for all members prior to the annual meeting, so be on the lookout for that announcement. During the meeting, both virtual and in-person attendees can take part in a scavenger hunt to win prizes. Other [student-oriented activities](#) at the annual meeting will include the Entomology Games Preliminary Round, Rising Stars of Entomology, and Student Symposia on Sunday, the Student Competitions on Monday, and the Entomology Games Final Round and Student Debates, Awards, and Reception on Tuesday. The student club tables will be open throughout the meeting.

In addition to other socials, symposia, and workshops, there are various tours throughout the week to places like the Denver Botanical Garden and Butterfly Pavilion for students and other attendees to explore more of Denver while at the meeting. And don't forget you can [volunteer](#)! Students and early career professionals who volunteer at least 6 hours at the annual meeting are eligible for reimbursement of up to \$150 back from their registration fee. It's a great way to earn back some of the registration cost while getting the chance to network and actively take part in the meeting and society.

Not sure how to prepare for the meeting? The ESA Student Affairs Committee is currently working on this year's "Know Before You Go" webinar to highlight some important meeting information for students. In the meantime, there are various materials available for guidance on presenting at and attending the Annual Meeting. Watching "[Virtual Presentation Tips and Tricks](#)" is a great way to prepare students for the competition, even those presenting in-person. Or, consider watching "[How to Make Great Scientific Figures](#)" for advice on how to spruce up your results section. For a crash course on "[What a Recruiter Wishes You Knew Before Approaching Them](#)," review this webinar for ways to prepare for the job hunt from the first meeting to negotiating a position.

[Entomology Today](#) also has tons of blog posts for students, by students, that feature topics such as "[10 Tips for a Winning Entomology Conference Presentation](#)," "[Anatomy of a Great Entomological Research Poster](#)," "[How Top Teams Hone Their Entomology Expertise for the Linnean \(Entomology\) Games](#)," "[Meeting Friends and Colleagues](#)," and many more. Just search "Student Affairs Committee" or "Annual Meeting" to find blog posts about the Annual Meetings and see what else is available.

Well MUVers, that's all the buzz I have to share for now. As always, feel free to send an e-mail to vpicken@ksu.edu with any comments or questions about student activities and involvement in ESA, and I'll respond to you anonymously in the next MUVE newsletter. I hope you all stay well, and we'll have the chance to see you at the Annual Meeting!

Best wishes,
Clary Fly

OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

David B. Taylor Named New Editor-in-Chief of the *Journal of Medical Entomology*

David B. Taylor, Ph.D., retired research entomologist at the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Research Service and adjunct professor, emeritus, at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, has been named the next editor-in-chief of the *Journal of Medical Entomology*. Taylor will replace William Reisen, who will complete his term in January 2022. [Read more.](#)



Questions Needed for New IPM Certification Exam

This fall, ESA is launching a new entry-level certification, Certified IPM Technician (CIT), for pest management professionals in integrated pest management. ESA is seeking suggestions for questions for the CIT exam from Associate Certified Entomologists and Board Certified Entomologists. Those who submit questions that are selected for inclusion will be entered into a drawing for one of ten \$100 gift cards in addition to CEUs and a special edition digital badge. Questions are due **September 15** and can be submitted [here](#).

New Special Collection: Genetic Control of Mosquitoes

The *Journal of Medical Entomology* published a special collection of Forum articles that review active research on how manipulation of the mosquito genome or microbial biome may be utilized to address current issues with controlling mosquitoes and mosquito-borne diseases. [Read the collection.](#)



Call for Papers: Perspectives on the Biology and Management of Bed Bugs

The *Journal of Economic Entomology* invites you to contribute to a special collection of articles on bed bugs. Submissions are open now through **January 15**. [Learn more.](#)

Register Now for Entomology 2021

Register now for the ESA Annual Meeting! Check out the [registration options](#) to see what best suits your plans this fall. Plus, check out a [video preview](#) of what to expect at the meeting. [Learn more and register.](#) The early bird deadline is **September 13!**

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