

Section Report to the ESA Governing Board

Title: Medical, Urban, and Veterinary Entomology (MUVE) Report

Submitter: Becky Trout Fryxell, MUVE Section President

Date: May 26, 2023

Motion/Request for Action

No action is requested.

Section Leadership

Becky Trout Fryxell, President
Kyle Jordan, Vice President
Ary Faraji, Vice President-Elect
Ed Vargo, Past President
Anna Berry, Secretary
Sonja Swiger, Treasurer

Current Activities and Recent Accomplishments

Awards or Scholarships

At the November ESA meeting several MUVE members were recognized for their accomplishments. Highlights in Medical (Dr Maria Luísa Simões), Urban (Dr. Sydney Crawley), and Veterinary (Dr. Caleb Hubbard) were given. Six students received MUVE travel awards to attend the meeting (Adegoke, Brown, Chu, Perez Ramos, Pickens, and Taylor). The Shripat Kamble Urban entomology award was given to Dr. Maria Gonzalez-Morales, the MUVE Recognition award was given to Dr. Chow-Yang Lee, and the Early Career Award was given to Dr. Caleb Hubbard. Members also were recognized for receiving society awards, including the Early Career Teaching Award (Ashleigh Faris), the Alate Award (Jonathan Hernandez and Brenda Leal-Galvan), the Comstock Award (Lidia Gual Gonzalez and Anh Tran), Nan-Yao Su award for innovation and creativity (Nina Jenkins), Distinguished Service Award to the Certificate Program (Patricia Hottel), and Henry and Sylvia Richardson Research Grant (Paulina Maldonado-Ruiz). Importantly, Dr Jeffery Tomberlin was elected as an ESA Fellow and three MUVE members were selected as Science Policy fellows (Day, Gunter, and Quellhorst). ESA Treasurer, Faith Oi, was reelected as well. Students also participated in poster and presentation competitions and 32 students won first or second place.

As tradition for the MUVE section, three *Highlights* speakers were selected to speak about an important topic in medical entomology (Dr. Kim Hung), urban entomology (Dr. Warren Booth), and veterinary entomology (Dr. Erika Machtinger) at this year's annual meeting. Each person will provide a ~30min presentation about a topic of their choice and write a Forum article about the topic for the Journal of Medical Entomology. Topics this year highlight the importance of behavior and ecology research, evolution, and cross-disciplinary work. New this year is that each speaker will receive \$500 (instead of \$250) and will receive a plaque (instead of a certificate) for their efforts.

2022/2023 Elections and Volunteers

Outgoing

Incoming

MUVE Elected Positions

Vice President Elect	Michael Reiskind	Ary Faraji
Secretary	Chris Geden	Anna Berry
Representative for Governing Board	Mustapha Debboun	Erika Machtinger
Representative to Publications Council	Glen Scoles	Cynthia Lord

MUVE Volunteer Positions

Rep. ESA Comm. Awards/Honors	Pia Olafson	Zach DeVries
Rep. ESA Comm. Entomology Games	Meredith Spence-Beaulieu	Mark Janowiecki
Rep. ESA Comm. On Science Policy	Meaghan Pimsler	Meredith Spence-Beaulieu
Rep. ESA Comm. On Student Affairs	Victoria Pickens	Lidia Gual Gonzalez
Rep. ESA Comm. On DEI	Michael Cavallaro	Melissa Nolan
Communications Chair	Bethany McGregor	Mikenna Smith
Nominations Committee	Sandy Allen	Madison Gits

For 2023 MUVE will elect a new section treasurer and section vice president-elect. Additionally, two volunteers are needed for the MUVE Early Career Professionals Committee and Thomas Say Editorial Board. MUVE leadership recognized a significant change in 2022/2023 (4 elected positions and 8 volunteer positions) compared to this upcoming year (2 elected positions and 2 volunteer positions) and would like to work with the society to find a way to stagger volunteer positions which may involve lengthening or reducing current terms.

Section Business Meeting/Symposia Updates

During the annual meeting, MUVE membership met twice. Our first meeting was held 14 November 2022 and was led by Ed Vargo. He recognized award winners and highlight speakers. This first meeting included the town hall regarding branch meetings and membership. The second meeting was led by Becky Trout Fryxell on 16 November 2022. Student presentations winners were recognized, 'wildly important goals' were discussed, and a JamBoard session was conducted to get ideas from the membership regarding what they wanted from the section. The two questions posed on the JamBoard were also emailed to the greater MUVE membership via a newsletter and included (1) what can MUVE do for you and (2) what can you do for MUVE?

A winter MUVE meeting was held on 16 February 2023. Due to the many new MUVE volunteers, a large amount of time was dedicated to introductions, discussing the annual meeting, and results from the JamBoard and Survey of membership. The takeaway from the memberships survey was (1) providing opportunities for more people to attend meetings including technicians/staff and (2) creating workshops for memberships.

A spring MUVE meeting was held on 8 May 2023. The MUVE section leadership shared that:

- Highlight Speakers would receive \$500 and a plaque (previously \$250 and a certificate)
- The MUVE governing board approved \$500 for MUVE members to attend a Sketch-a-pod workshop. (Responding to membership requesting more workshop opportunities.)
- MUVE leadership was extremely jealous of PI-E's SWAG and logo. Following in their tarsi prints (footsteps), MUVE leadership will host a logo competition during the summer of 2023. \$200 will be given to the winner and \$100 to an alternate. The winning logo will be announced by Trout Fryxell at the 2024 1st business meeting.

- Trout Fryxell requested the MUVE Awards chair (Vargo) work with others in the section (DeVries, Nolan, Trout Fryxell, Jordan) to develop a staff/technician travel award to support the attendance of a medical, urban, and veterinary entomology staff/technician. Three awardees will be identified and receive \$500 each for attending. This new addition will be announced by Trout Fryxell at the 2024 1st business meeting. (Responding to membership requesting more opportunities to attend the meeting.)
- To promote equity and inclusion, members (Jordan, DeVries, and Nolan) began a discussion of creating a pot of money for students to attend the meeting instead of a flat \$500 for attendance. Money from MUVE swag, membership, and others will be dedicated to help disperse travel funds equitably. This change will be announced by Jordan at the 2024 2nd business meeting. (Responding to membership requesting more opportunities to attend the meeting.) Specifically, we are planning to separate the awards into two awards:
 - a student recognition award with a certificate and \$500 award
 - a new-member student travel award with built-in mentoring/networking.

ESA meeting plans for 2023. The membership reported that they enjoyed having opportunities to network and interact with one another while also having refreshments. To continue this, MUVE leadership has created a function each day of the meeting.

- On Sunday afternoon, we will have the MUVE networking and mentoring event. This event was enjoyed by both pod members from the initiative as well as non-pod members who wanted to learn more and network with one another.
- On Monday afternoon, we will have our first business meeting with refreshments and Highlights speakers.
- On Tuesday (time to be determined), we will have a new event dedicated to improving protocols while feasting on popcorn. Students and early career professionals will share protocol-based problems with the audience. A specific amount of time will be given to each person to pitch the problem and write down potential solutions. The last 30 minutes of the session will be open conversation and networking, revisiting pitched problems, and introducing problems that were not selected to be pitched.
- On Wednesday, we will have the final business meeting during the lunch hour to further discuss MUVE topics, plan for 2024, and continue to support afternoon attendance at the meeting. Kyle Jordan will lead this meeting.

Total Section Symposia	Total Regular Oral Presentations	Total Regular Posters	Total Student Competition Oral Presentations	Total Student Competition Posters	Grand Total Presentations
13	92	?	?	?	?

Section Governing Council Capability Reporting

Reporting, per Section 5.2 of the ESA Bylaws:

Purpose. The purpose of the Sections is to develop and implement the key capabilities for their membership that result in: outreach related to science and public policy, program development, continuing education, and fostering interest in entomology.

Wildly Important Goal #1: Mentoring and Networking Initiative.

The goal of this initiative is to foster increased interactions between MUVE cohorts in order to develop mutually beneficial mentoring relationships. This initiative established a MUVE specific mentorship

program that brings together participants from different career stages and MUVE disciplines to conduct mutual mentoring. The initiative also aimed to provide networking opportunities both within the mentorship network cohort and amongst the general MUVE membership.

(1) Key Activities in Support of Goal

- a. This was year 2 of the Mentorship Network program, with 46 participants arranged into 10 mentorship pods (at least 2 mentors and 2 mentees each).
- b. Four mentoring workshops were completed, led by two mentorship experts: Dr. Christopher Lavan and Dr. Mitsunori Misawa from the University of Tennessee. Workshops focused on topics such as having a safe, healthy, and productive mentorship, work-life balance, and leadership.
- c. Follow-up surveys were administered to participants to get feedback for further development and improvement of the program.
- d. A MUVE Mentorship networking function was organized at the 2022 Joint Annual Meeting in Vancouver, BC; and a second will be organized for 2023.

(2) Section Resources dedicated to achieving the goal

- a. MUVE provided payment to Drs. Misawa and Lavan for their expertise, \$500/person/workshop. A total of \$4000 was dedicated to workshops.
- b. Refreshments were provided at the MUVE networking function at the 2022 Joint Annual Meeting.
- c. MUVE facilitated email blasts and write-ups in the newsletter to advertise the program to MUVE members.

(3) Progress and accomplishments toward the goal, including how they pertain to at least one of the following: science and public policy, continuing education, issue management, and fostering interest in the discipline.

- a. Participants in the mentorship network received new perspectives and viewpoints from other pod members, which likely addressed many of these focus areas above.
- b. By interacting with other pod members in different disciplines, sectors, and career stages, the Mentorship Network fostered increased interest in the MUVE disciplines broadly.
- c. The workshops provided continuing education and support to participants on managing issues related to work-life balance, leadership, and navigating mentoring relationships.

(4) Requested support from the GB to accelerate progress.

- a. A common theme we learned from the program was mentors' inability to differentiate mentoring from training. If the larger society wants to have excellent mentors, we need to develop mentoring workshops to train scientists as mentors. MUVE and the workshop coordinators are interested in promoting this across the sections.
- b. More interactions or connections with ESA's *Public Health Entomology for All Initiative* because this program directly reaches out to MUVE members.

Wildly Important Goal #2: MUVE-ing Together

Connecting entomologists, wildlife biologists, and ecologists to strengthen One Health approaches focusing on human and animal parasites. There are three goals to this initiative. (1) Connect and engage MUVE membership with memberships of other professional organizations to create a community of practice, focused on advancing the One Health initiative by working with and learning from researchers who study arthropod vectors and their relationships with animals to improve public, animal, and ecosystem health, (2) create greater representation and engagement of ecologists whose research combines the fields of entomology, wildlife ecology, and human health, and (3) build an

inclusive environment for the next generation of scientists to develop collaborations and learn about career paths at the intersection of entomology, wildlife health, and ecology.

(1) Key Activities in Support of Goal

- a. Organize and host symposia on arthropod vectors, vector-borne diseases, and animal hosts at the Entomological Society of America Annual Meetings and other relevant conferences.
- b. Coordinate the publication of manuscripts and special collections in the Journal of Medical Entomology and other relevant journals that focus on vector-borne diseases and their ecological impacts.
- c. Conduct webinars and symposia highlighting career opportunities in the study and management of vector-borne diseases in an ecological context, catering to students and early-career members.
- d. Develop a directory of professional contacts and skillsets to facilitate interdisciplinary collaborations.

(2) Section Resources dedicated to achieving the goal

- a. In addition to the creation of a dedicated Twitter account for the initiative, we also tag and ask MUVE Twitter to retweet our messages to promote our symposia and events at the annual meeting, connect MUVE members to the initiative, and general updates about the group.
- b. Approval of the MUVE-ing Together associated symposia and events at the annual meeting.

(3) Progress and accomplishments toward the goal, including how they pertain to at least one of the following: science and public policy, continuing education, issue management, and fostering interest in the discipline.

- a. Successfully organized the inaugural symposium during the 2022 Joint Annual Meeting, with approximately 60 attendees. Planning additional symposia at the 2023 Annual Meeting and the Society for Vector Ecology (SOVE) conference.
- b. Gathered a list of approximately 75 individuals interested in contributing to the initiative. Organizing activities and duties for potential members to support continuous improvement.
- c. Drafted a manuscript for Current Opinion in Insect Science emphasizing the importance of interdisciplinary connections in tick management.

(4) Requested support from the GB to accelerate progress

- a. Allocate funds for bringing in panelists or speakers for career webinars and hosting meetings or events at annual meetings.
- b. Allocate funds for workshops aimed at non-members or student members to acquire animal handling skills or enhance their entomology expertise.
- c. Continue supporting MUVE-ing Together affiliated symposia at annual meetings.
- d. Assist in promoting initiative activities on the MUVE Twitter account.

Wildly Important Goal #3: Diversity and Inclusion Initiative

Evaluate current DEI related components of ESA and MUVE and recommend new policies to ensure DEI excellence among ESA and MUVE members.

(1) Key Activities in Support of Goal

- a. ESA DEI committee has performed the following activities in the last quarter:
 - i. Recommend how equity should be addressed by the ESA
 - ii. Develop Standard Operating Procedures
 - iii. Work with the Awards and Honor Canvassing Committee to develop a process to encourage members of underrepresented community to apply for awards

and consider whether the AHCC should become a subcommittee of the DEI committee.

- b. MUVE DEI committee has met to develop a new minority-supporting travel scholarship. This draft document is ready for MUVE member review/consideration at the summer meeting (date to be determined).
- (2) Section Resources dedicated to achieving the goal
 - a. Monthly meetings may potentially require organizational financial assistance.
 - (3) Progress and accomplishments toward the goal, including how they pertain to at least one of the following: science and public policy, continuing education, issue management, and fostering interest in the discipline.
 - a. *Fostering interest in the discipline*: A MUVE Opportunity Travel Award has been drafted for section consideration. If this item is voted into action, it would support the travel scholarship for a student(s) from an underrepresented group/MSI to attend the national meeting. This award would foster interest in medical, urban and veterinary entomology.
 - (4) Requested support from the GB to accelerate progress
 - a. Promotion and advertising of initiative

Activities Supporting ESA Strategic Principles

- Inclusion of membership voice and opinions in surveys and JamBoard events
- Actions taken through the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion initiative as well as the Mentoring and Networking initiative
- Opportunities for more travel awards
- Encouraging all members to volunteer and make a place for themselves with the society and section.

Current Membership and Financial Status

MUVE membership as of May 2023: 1,546 members

According to Treasurer Swiger, final MUVE membership through 2022 is 1,729 (24.6%) of total membership (7,042 ESA members). Our current funds available are \$26,344.

Other Information/Comments

ESA Branch representation at MUVE meetings. In March, MUVE learned of an informal position with the Pacific Branch (MUVE representative at the ESA Pacific Branch). We would like more information on this concept as it might tie well into having MUVE members attend or participate in more branch meetings.

Motion/Request for Action Information

No motion/request.