



ENTOMOLOGICAL  
SOCIETY OF AMERICA  
MEDICAL, URBAN, AND VETERINARY ENTOMOLOGY

# MUVE NEWSLETTER



October 2021

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## OFFICERS

[Dr. Michael Reiskind](#),  
President

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

### Presidential Farewell Message

Well, this is my last message to MUVE as your president. Perhaps all of my messages have been too personal for your taste? In which case read no further, because I am going to reflect on my opinion about service as a MUVE officer. There are things I have enjoyed, some frustrations, and a few misgivings. I write these here for posterity—for Ed, Becky, and Kyle, as well as future TBD MUVE executives—and to provide some encouragement to stay involved.

I enjoyed being an active planner of the MUVE networking events, led by Bethany McGregor. I think we need to continue to encourage events outside the Annual Meetings. I liked helping craft the newsletter with our Communications Committee—a truly special group of scientists (thank you Bethany, Meredith, Karen, Meaghan, Vicky, and Neeta). Part of that is writing these columns, which I also took pleasure in doing. I also enjoyed working with the MUVE Governing Council and recognize the patience my colleagues demonstrated when our meetings dragged on. I also appreciated the insight into the higher workings of ESA, in particular getting to know the passionate staff at ESA Headquarters. These folks are not entomologists who can be fickle participants in ESA. Their livelihoods are dependent on ESA and given the centrality of the Annual Meetings to the financial well-being of ESA, COVID has been especially stressful. Yet they are an ever



[Dr. Ed Vargo](#),  
Vice President

positive, forward-looking team that have been great to work with and learn from.

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

I do not want to sound like a scold or a hypocrite, but I was frustrated by the challenges in getting higher levels of participation from our membership. I also recognize, maybe now more than ever having spent lots of my time doing presidential activities, that Society participation often does not directly benefit an individual member. The benefits are often diffuse, intangible, and delayed. One thing that may help is to be vocal with our superiors about the professional importance of MUVE, and, in a positive way, encourage them to see service to the Society/Section as part of our *professional* duties.

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

[Dr. Sonja Swiger](#),  
Treasurer

[Dana Nayduch](#),  
Past President

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

Promotion in one's job is unlikely to come solely from volunteering for the Society, but highlighting it as a positive can help signal both up and down any hierarchy that this is an important activity. As such, I would be happy to provide a letter of recommendation outlining the importance of volunteer activities for MUVE for any volunteer in our Section. **Email me:** [mhreiski@ncsu.edu](mailto:mhreiski@ncsu.edu).

There are significant, smaller tasks associated with being the president of the Section that I fully admit I neglected—more out of procrastination or a lack of prioritization than distaste. For that, I apologize to the membership. It also helped me recognize that the nitty-gritty of administration is not where I see myself, which has assuaged some mid-career misgivings about my future. I look forward to being a past president and then an active volunteer for MUVE and ESA. I do hope that all of you will consider taking volunteer opportunities as they come to you.

I am left with some concerns about the future of our Society and Section. The centrality of the Annual Meetings has been exposed as a liability during COVID. I am hopeful the meetings turn back into an asset, although I fear they may not. One answer is rewarding engagement with MUVE and ESA outside of those meetings. Another answer is to ensure members prioritize the Annual Meeting in the future. These are not mutually exclusive. Rewarding engagement outside the Annual Meetings will result in more attendance. Before I volunteered in MUVE, I was an occasional attendee of the national meetings, either because of personal conflicts or choosing other meetings. By being more involved in the running of the Section, I have become a committed attendee. I know this year is challenging because of the delta surge in COVID, and there is no expectation that people should take risks to attend this Meeting. But, let us stay engaged, and make Entomology 2022 (barring pandemics, natural disasters, etc.) the best attended ever.

## From the President Continued: Entomology 2021 MUVE Information

Dear MUVE Section Members:

I hope you are all excited for our upcoming business meetings, both on Monday and Wednesday! If you are attending in person, you can expect an exquisitely catered, social event. If you can, bring a laptop to help host virtual attendees (see below, be sure to register through Zoom).

We are offering a live, virtual opportunity to join the MUVE Business Meetings (November 1, 2:30pm-6:30pm MDT and November 3, 7:00am-8:30am MDT). This will be via Zoom. To do this, you must register for the Zoom meeting, which can be done up to and even during the event.

Here is the link for the **Monday afternoon Business Meeting**:

<https://ncsu.zoom.us/j/900v8Jy1r900v>

Here is the link to register for the **Wednesday morning Business Meeting**:

<https://ncsu.zoom.us/j/HX54Vltn54VltnHX>

Once registered, you will receive a link to the Zoom meeting.

### **The run of show for the Monday meeting looks like this:**

2:30 -2:40: Introductory Remarks (Michael Reiskind)

2:40-3:10: MUVE Highlights in Medical Entomology (Andrea Gloria-Soria, prerecorded)

3:10-3:20: Get to know your table. Zoom participants will be assigned to a live table, with someone at the table also on the Zoom. This can provide some socializing/networking opportunities (if it isn't too loud!).

3:20-3:50: MUVE Highlights in Veterinary Entomology (Kateryn Rochon, prerecorded)

3:50-4:05: Break—get a drink—whether you are there or at home!

4:05-4:35: MUVE Highlights in Urban Entomology (Jia-Wei Tay, live!)

4:35-4:45: Get a drink! Chat with your table!

4:45-5:10: Awards: ESA Awards to MUVE Members, Friends of IPM Award to Nancy Hinkle, MUVE Student Awards, MUVE-ECP Award, MUVE Recognition Award (Michael Reiskind).

5:10-5:40: Business Meeting. Recognition of MUVE Governing Council, introduction of new members of the governing council, presentation of the MUVE Procedures and Policies. Reports from ESA Committees (posted to be read at your leisure here) (Michael Reiskind).

5:40-6:30: Reception/Social.

The Wednesday morning meeting will include time spent networking to develop new Wildly Important Goals for 2022 and beyond as well as the hand-off to your new President, Ed Vargo of Texas A&M. Please tune in!

## 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](#).



**Kara Fikrig**, Ph.D. candidate in Dr. Laura Harrington's Lab at Cornell University. Kara recently published a review article in [Trends in Parasitology](#) focused on standardizing how blood meal analysis and host preference assays are conducted and interpreted to understand mosquito blood feeding behavior.



**Erika Machtinger, Ph.D.**, assistant professor of entomology at Penn State University. Dr. Machtinger recently received three grants focusing on ticks and tick control. She was awarded the McIntire-Stennis Forestry Grant for her work on co-infestations of ticks on deer and wild mice. She was also recently awarded two Science to Practice Grants, with one project focusing on tick control on equines and another project investigating deer ked ecology.



**John Beckmann, Ph.D.**, assistant professor of biotechnology at Auburn University. Dr. Beckmann recently received a \$868,145 grant through the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs to investigate a [new material to prevent mosquito bites](#). The goal is to develop a material that is both capable of effectively preventing mosquito bites while also being lightweight enough to wear comfortably in hot climates.

## NEWS BRIEFS



Photo by Matt Bertone

### **Kyle Jordan Elected MUVE Vice President-Elect**

Congratulations to Dr. Kyle Jordan of BASF on his election to the office of MUVE Vice President-Elect! From his candidate statement, Kyle is “passionate about creating a professional environment where everybody feels welcome” and looks forward to being “part of a leadership team that will continue to create a welcoming environment where colleagues can network and innovatively problem-solve.” [Read more.](#)



### **Special Collection: Highlights of Medical, Urban, and Veterinary Entomology**

The *Journal of Medical Entomology* published the 2020 edition of its annual special collection of papers highlighting important events, research, and activities in the fields of medical, urban, and veterinary entomology. [Read the collection here](#), and don't forget to tune in for this year's highlights talks at the 2021 ESA Annual Meeting MUVE Business Meeting (November 1, 2:30-6:30 MT)! We have an exciting slate of scientists: **Dr. Jia-Wei Tay** of the University of Hawaii giving the Highlights in Urban Entomology; **Dr. Andrea Gloria-Soria** of the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station giving the Highlights in Medical Entomology, and **Dr. Katelyn Rochon** of the University of Manitoba giving the Highlights in Veterinary Entomology. If you miss their talks, you will be able to read written versions in the *Journal of Medical Entomology* sometime in 2022.

### **Blog Post Highlights from *Entomology Today***

- [Why Genes That Make Mosquitoes Glow Can Help Reduce Vector-Borne Disease](#)
- [Study Shows American Dog Ticks in Western U.S. Are a Separate Species](#)
- [How Flea-Killing Fungus Could Keep Prairie Dogs From Spreading Plague](#)
- [What's That Termite? Artificial Intelligence Might Have the Answer](#)
- [How Forensic Entomology Gets Students Excited About Science](#)

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

**VOLUNTEER & LEADERSHIP**



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

## JEST MANAGEMENT

## POLICY CORNER



### *The Lighter Side of ESA MUVE*

Well, nothing funny this bimonth, as we are saying “adieu” to Jest Management. Of course, if some MUEr out there had an inkling to try their wit and take over this column, please contact Bethany!

### **"If We Do Not Advocate for Ourselves, Who Will?"**

by Sydney Crawley, Ph.D., ESA Science Policy Fellow Class of 2019, assistant professor and extension specialist in urban entomology at North Carolina State University

### **"If We Do Not Advocate for Ourselves, Who Will?"**

I have a feeling that I speak for many of us when I say that we became medical, urban, and veterinary entomologists because we had a desire to help others. Whether it be through reducing the number of West Nile virus cases we observe this year, or assisting a citizen suffering from delusory parasitosis, members of our section are in the position to significantly impact public health and reduce human and animal suffering. Unfortunately, there are many hurdles that come with this opportunity. The distrust of individuals in our profession fueled by misinformation has worn on all of us, especially in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. Developing novel active ingredients is costlier than ever. Grant monies are dwindling each year. Even when funds are available, we all face the challenge of justifying the importance of our work. Funding agencies are stuck in a “react-neglect” cycle, where problems are generally addressed only when they are strikingly apparent (e.g., the Zika virus outbreak), yet funding for prevention and preparedness is generally stagnant. Additionally, we are all pulled in multiple directions throughout our work day with teaching, service, networking, meetings, outreach, research, extension, and a plethora of other obligations depending on the profession (this list isn’t comprehensive, of course). I know you are overwhelmed, but I am using the space in the policy corner this month to ask for a sliver of your already limited time. **I am imploring that each of you reading this piece make your voice heard and advocate for your science and section.**

Personally, I became involved in advocacy when I became aware of the importance of federal regulations and their impact on my research during my time as an industry scientist at Scotts Miracle-Gro. The FIFRA (Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act) requirements for consumer product development used in and around structures was/is very relevant to me as an urban entomologist. I noticed that many individuals outside industry critiqued the efficacy of consumer pesticidal products, yet they did not understand that industry scientists are directed by guidelines handed down to us from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Thus, I spent time learning and trying to be more involved in influencing the way EPA evaluated pesticidal product efficacy. For instance, the development of product performance testing guidelines for bed bugs (OCSPP 810.3900) impacted me greatly, so I joined a panel to help influence the guidelines in the document. I did the same for fire ant product and perimeter product testing guidelines as well. I quickly learned that I could impact pesticide use and development not only through scientific research, but also by sharing knowledge with entomologists at the EPA. Scientists at EPA cannot be experts in every arthropod pest and their management, and they welcome input from experts like us.

There are often periods where the public can comment on EPA registration review decisions. Relevant and current issues to our section include a potential limitation, proposed in September, of

the use of piperonyl butoxide (PBO), MGK-264, and pyrethrins in animal agriculture due to potentially negative environmental impacts. As veterinary entomologists know, these compounds are essential for the health and safety of livestock as well as companion animals. Many commodity groups rely on MGK-264 to maximize the impact of pyrethrins/pyrethroids. Without synergists, the volume of active ingredient to maintain acceptable levels of pest control would increase—which negatively impacts the environment as well as increases cost to stakeholders. We have an obligation to comment on how policy changes like this would negatively impact animal health. Similarly, in September, the EPA requested public comments on the extension and expansion of a previously approved experimental use permit for field testing of genetically engineered *Aedes aegypti* mosquitoes. We can make comments with support or dissent of EPA decisions through websites such as <https://www.regulations.gov/>. Comments on these particular MUVE-related issues were due on October 4 and September 30, respectively. However, more opportunities for us to share our expertise with the EPA will continue to arise.

Advocating for our field by disseminating knowledge is crucial to ensure we have the proper tools to adequately perform our jobs. Conducting research and developing effective pest control products/methods is critical, but if we cannot use them—what good do they do? A timely example that many urban entomologists are familiar with was the passing of a recent state bill, “The California Ecosystems Protection Act,” a bill which prohibits most uses of second-generation anticoagulant rodenticides (SGARs). This bill was signed into law on September 29, 2020. Pest control professionals know that SGARs work and can be used safely, but their use is now severely limited in the state of California. The jury is out on whether other states will follow. If you feel strongly about issues like this one, it is important to stay abreast of changing state and federal policy so that you can make appropriate effort to comment and influence outcomes that affect our Section.

## 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 student activities from ESA. Can you believe it's already time for the Annual Meeting? I can't wait!

Speaking of which, be sure to check out the [Know Before You Go: Student Activities video](#) created by the Student Affairs Committee. It's a great resource for learning about the different activities available to students attending the Annual Meeting online or in person. A second video will also be available, so feel free to browse the [ESA YouTube channel](#), Twitter ([@EntsocAmerica](#)), or [Facebook](#). If you'd like to stay in the loop before, during, or following the Annual Meeting, use the Twitter hashtag [#EntSoc21](#) to view announcements and interact with fellow ESA members.

By the way, have you seen the new [ESA Career Center](#)? It's amazing! The new and interactive platform is easy to use and very appealing. For job seekers, it currently features a professional profile for users to create job alerts that find jobs for you and notify you when found, a searchable portfolio to help advertise your skills to employers, job application previews, and even google maps to assess your commute for your jobs of interest! You can also use the Career Center Resources, like Career Coaching, Resume Writing, and Reference Testing to help you prepare for the next steps in your career search. When I last checked, there were almost 150 jobs listed online, and they're all going to be related to our field! And don't forget, this includes listings for graduate assistantships and postdoctoral positions.

Well MUVers, that's all the buzz I have to share for now. Remember, this article can be used to also address any questions about student activities or involvement in ESA, so feel free to send an e-mail to [vlpicken@ksu.edu](mailto:vlpicken@ksu.edu) with any comments or questions and I'll respond to you anonymously in the next MUVE newsletter. Safe travels to our in-person attendees, and I can't wait to share yet another ESA Annual Meeting with all of you!

Best wishes,

Clary Fly

## OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS



## MUVE Members Named as Winners of ESA Professional and Student Awards

The MUVE section was well represented among [ESA's 2021 Professional and Student Award winners](#)! Congratulations to these outstanding MUVE members on their accomplishments:



- **Isobel Ronai, Ph.D.** (University of Sydney): Henry and Sylvia Richardson Research Grant
- **Jeffrey Keller, ACE** (Burns Pest Elimination): ACE Professional Award
- **Sylvia Kenmuir, MSc, BCE** (BASF): Distinguished Service Award to the Certification Program
- **Johnalyn Gordon** (University of Kentucky): Larry Larson Graduate Student Award for Leadership in Applied Entomology
- **Caleb Hubbard, Ph.D.** (University of California, Riverside): John Henry Comstock Award (Pacific Branch)
- **Caixing Xiong, Ph.D.** (Texas A&M University): John Henry Comstock Award (Southwestern Branch)
- **Yan Yan, Ph.D.** (Harvard University): John Henry Comstock Award (Southeastern Branch)

## Geden and Ragsdale Selected as Honorary Members of ESA

Two MUVE members were among the six entomologists earning Honorary Memberships in ESA in 2021. Congratulations to Dr. Chris Geden (USDA Agricultural Research Service) and Dr. David Ragsdale (Texas A&M AgriLife Research) on this distinguished achievement! [Read more.](#)

## MUVE Members Elected for ESA Positions

ESA recently announced the results of its 2021-2022 society-wide elections. Two MUVE members were elected: Dr. Jennifer Henke was elected as the next ESA Vice-President Elect and Dr. Isobel Ronai was elected as International Branch ECP Member-at-Large. Congratulations to these MUVE members on their society leadership positions! [View the full list of winners.](#)

## ESA Receives CDC Award to Build, Diversify Public Health Entomology Workforce

ESA will play a leading role in strengthening the nation's capacity in public health entomology, thanks to a new \$500,000 cooperative agreement awarded by the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The funding will support programs to expand and diversify the pipeline of students and professionals entering public health entomology careers. [Learn more.](#)

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Entomological Society of America (ESA), 3 Park Place, Suite 307, Annapolis, MD 21401-3722 USA  
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