



ENTOMOLOGICAL
SOCIETY OF AMERICA
MEDICAL, URBAN, AND VETERINARY ENTOMOLOGY

MUVE NEWSLETTER

August 2022

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

Greetings from a very hot and parched Texas. I'm certainly looking forward to the cooler air of fall. One of the highlights of fall is the ESA Annual Meeting, and this year's [Joint Annual Meeting](#) will be a special international event. It will take place in Vancouver, British Columbia, **November 13-16**, and will be held jointly with the Entomological Society of Canada and the Entomological Society of British Columbia. If you attended the last Joint Meeting in Vancouver in 2018, you know what a beautiful city and conference venue it is. The views of the sound and the mountains from the conference hotel and the convention center are unrivaled. Don't forget that [early bird registration](#) is due by **September 19**, and you should make your [hotel reservations](#) by **October 14** to ensure the conference rate.



OFFICERS

[Dr. Ed Vargo](#),
President

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

The ESA staff and MUVE leadership have been working hard to organize another great Meeting, one that is scientifically exciting and professionally rewarding. I remember my first ESA Meeting in 1983 in Detroit. I was a relatively green graduate student at the University of Georgia. My adviser, Murray Blum, insisted that I go and give an oral presentation, even though my research was just getting off the ground and I didn't have much in the way of results. Despite being petrified by the idea of presenting essentially a research proposal in front of a room full of accomplished scientists, I pushed through the anxiety and dutifully attended. The positive feedback I received on my research plans was an enormous morale booster. I also remember being blown away by all the amazing research

[Dr. Kyle Jordan](#)
Vice President-Elect

others were doing. But the best part was all the great people I met, many of whom became career long colleagues and friends, and this community continues to grow with each Annual Meeting.

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

There have certainly been changes to the ESA Meetings through the years. For one thing, it has gotten longer due to the growth of our Society, but strong scientific content and networking opportunities have always been at the core of the Annual Meeting. And this certainly is true of this year's Meeting.

[Dr. Sonja Swiger](#),
Treasurer

[Dr. Michael Reiskind](#),
Past President

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

The MUVE Section will have six symposia, two with a veterinary entomology theme, one each focusing on medical and urban entomology, and two that are cross-disciplinary in nature. We will have 86 contributed 10-minute talks (this does not include student competition presentations) which will be heavy on vector physiology and control and on vector surveillance. There will be 17 talks in urban entomology, with only four on termites, one of the organisms I focus on. It has been interesting to watch how the emphasis on different urban pests has changed over time. Many years ago, there were whole sessions on termites in front of packed rooms. Then bed bugs became the rage. Who knows what the big urban pests will be in the future, but we can certainly expect that research in vector biology and control will continue to increase.

The MUVE business meeting will be held Monday, **November 14** from 2:30-6:30 p.m. PT. As usual, we will have medical, veterinary, and urban highlights talks. This year we introduced a competitive process for selecting highlights speakers. Nominated speakers were asked to propose a theme to highlight and a short description of how they planned to cover the theme. The MUVE leadership reviewed the nominations and selected the speakers. We are pleased to announce this year's speakers: Maria Luísa Simões of the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (medical entomology), Caleb Hubbard from UC Riverside (veterinary entomology), and Sydney Crawley from North Carolina State University (urban entomology). Like last year, we will have food and beverages available during the business meeting, and we will take breaks between talks to socialize. Also, ESA Executive Director Chris Stelzig will join us for a town hall on ESA's Branch Evolution Project. On Sunday afternoon, we will have a MUVE Mentoring reception for those of you in the MUVE Mentoring Program. And we will have the MUVE final business meeting at noon on Wednesday instead of our normal breakfast meeting. Lunch will be provided.

I hope to see you all in Vancouver for an awesome Joint Annual Meeting and some gorgeous views!

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 [Bethany McGregor](mailto:Bethany.McGregor@aphis.usda.gov).



Dana Nayduch, Ph.D., research leader of the Arthropod-Borne Animal Diseases Research Unit, USDA-ARS. Dr. Nayduch was awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award at the 64th annual Livestock Insect Worker's Conference in Dallas, Texas. This award recognizes contributions to animal health and productivity, advocacy for livestock entomology, and active participation in the LIWC organization. It has been awarded to just 34 recipients since 1986. Dana's research program focuses on molecular and microbial studies of dipteran pests. Her team studies house fly movement and carriage of pathogenic bacteria, including antimicrobial resistant bacteria, in confined cattle operations in order to understand risks to animal health and to predict and prevent disease outbreaks. Her team also has made significant contributions to the molecular resources and toolkits for studying biting midges.



Morgan Wilson, research specialist and Ph.D. student at the Virginia Tech Department of Entomology. Morgan received the Alain VanRyckeghem Memorial Scholarship from the Pi Chi Omega pest control fraternal organization. Morgan started as Dr. Dini Miller's research specialist at Virginia Tech in May 2019. Morgan is also currently pursuing a Ph.D. at Virginia Tech that is focused on bed bug egg development and the efficacy of alternative methods for bed bug control, particularly of eggs at different ages. Her research projects include evaluating different insecticides for bed bug egg control, evaluating the cost and labor of an assessment-based methodology using Aprehend®, and evaluating the cost of labor of structural fumigation for bed bug elimination.



Shannon Sked, Ph.D., Director of Western Fumigation. Dr. Sked received the R. Randall Rollins Memorial Scholarship from the Pi Chi Omega pest control fraternal organization. Dr. Sked's research focuses on distribution and temporal modeling of insect communities in order to design pragmatic and effective pest management programs. In his current role for Western Fumigation, he oversees global invasive species prevention systems within urban systems and international logistics supply chains. His focus as Director is to utilize research on the spatial dynamics of economically important pests with novel technologies to develop modern and practical management methods to support urban entomology and global supply chains.

NEWS BRIEFS



Photo by Matt Bertone

Blog Post Highlights from *Entomology Today*

- [Less than 10% of Mosquito Species Spread Human Disease](#)
- [Sweep Net in the Sky: Team Designs Drone for Insect Scouting](#)
- [Essential Oils: An Untapped Resource for Managing Urban Insect Pests](#)
- [Study Shows Flies, Cockroaches Do Not Transmit Coronavirus](#)
- [New Study Pegs Yellow Fever Mosquito's Average Flight Range at 106 Meters](#)

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

VOLUNTEER & LEADERSHIP



MUVE Committee and Representative Positions Nominations Deadline Extended

The following positions within ESA MUVE are currently open for nominations. Unless otherwise noted, the positions will officially turn over as of this year's Annual Meeting in November. If you are interested in putting in a nomination for any of these positions, ESA will soon be circulating a webpage where you can submit your nomination. However, you can also provide a CV, statement of interest, and brief description of your vision for the role to Ed Vargo (Edward.Vargo@ag.tamu.edu) by the new extended deadline, **September 1**.

- The **Communications Committee Chair** is responsible for organizing meetings of the communications committee, preparing items for the bi-monthly newsletter, writing email blasts to the membership, and assisting with other communications needs of the Section. The new chair will come on in an elect capacity to shadow the current communications chair for the coming year before beginning the 3-year appointment as chair of the communications committee in summer 2023.
- Members of the **Nominations Committee** are tasked with ensuring that qualified candidates are identified for all open MUVE Positions and that candidates are a balanced representation of the MUVE membership. Nominations committee appointments are on 3-year rotating terms in which each member rotates to being the chair of the committee in their third year. One position on the nominations committee is currently open for nomination.
- The **MUVE Representative to the Entomology Games Committee** contributes to the committee's goals of creating an engaging and high-quality national competition, fostering an inclusive and welcoming environment for all participants and attendees, and supporting the branch-level committees as needed. Core responsibilities include writing, editing, and fact-

checking questions (particularly in the medical, veterinary, and urban entomology category, but also others), attending regular committee meetings, and contributing to special projects as they arise.

- The **MUVE Representative to the Awards and Honors Committee** recruits MUVE members to serve on judging panels for ESA level awards. This person serves as a Process Coach for one of the ESA level awards, answering judging panel questions and resolving instances of a tie between award nominees. This representative also engages with other members of the A&H Committee to ensure the Society's awards program is a model of inclusivity.
- The **ESA Student Affairs Representative** is expected to reach out to the student membership of MUVE and contribute to the student section of the MUVE newsletter. To learn more about this position, read this month's "Ask Clary Fly" article.
- The **ESA Science Policy Representative** is expected to represent MUVE interests concerning the ESA Science Policy Advocacy agenda at the association level, communicate with the MUVE governing council and membership about things that the ESA Science Policy Committee is doing or considering doing, and contribute to the MUVE Newsletter.

MUVE Initiative Seeking Member Involvement

The MUVE Initiative "[MUVE-ing together: Connecting entomologists, wildlife biologists, and ecologists to strengthen One Health approaches focusing on human and animal parasites](#)" is looking for members at any career stage (student, ECP, senior member) to get involved with the initiative. The initiative was born from a desire to create connections among entomologists, wildlife biologists, and ecologists throughout the Entomological Society of America and other Societies to advance the One Health initiative and improve public, animal, and ecosystem health. Members could be involved with various leadership activities and networking opportunities including, but not limited to, organizing symposia or other events at ESA (National and/or Branch levels) and other related conferences, develop webinars or workshops for members, and promoting an inclusive environment for members interested in learning more about the intersection of entomology, wildlife biology, and ecology. [Learn more](#) and contact Dr. Erika Machtinger at etm10@psu.edu.



Volunteers Needed to Support the Grand MUVE Library WIG

ESA MUVE is looking for volunteers to assist with one of our new section WIGs, the Grand MUVE Library. This WIG is an effort to gather MUVE related information, such as the vector emergency response entomologist list, resources, and protocol libraries into a single MUVE repository for use by the section. If you are interested in assisting with this effort or want to learn more, please contact Alexis Kriete (akriete@ncsu.edu).

Looking for other ways to get involved with MUVE or ESA generally? Always feel free to contact MUVE President [Ed Vargo](#).

POLICY CORNER



"Advocating for Entomology in the Capitol Hill: A First-Time Experience"

by Nicole M. Nazario-Maldonado, ESA Science Policy Fellow-Class 2020, and Ph.D. student at the Infectious Diseases and Immunology Department in the College of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Florida

Have you ever wondered what it is like to be an [ESA Science Policy Fellow](#) and get the opportunity to meet in-person with your congressional representatives as an entomology advocate? No worries, I've got you covered!

First of all, the ESA Science Policy Fellows program is a unique platform for fellow entomologists who are passionate about raising awareness and advocating for initiatives and issues that directly impact entomological sciences. This two-year fellowship will teach you about federal policy, but most importantly, will shape you as a scientist by teaching you how we can effectively communicate our science and engage with policy makers.

This past June, the ESA Science Policy Fellows visited Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C. to meet in-person with their congressional representatives. During this week, all fellows were teamed up strategically to meet with their district representatives; after all, they want to hear directly from their constituents. As fellows, we share the same goal: to convince our representatives that supporting the 2022 ESA funding priorities is critical to our health, safety, agriculture, and economic growth. In summary, the ESA funding priorities requests funding to support the entomological work conducted by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, U.S. Forest Service, National Invasive Species Council, National Science Foundation, Environmental Protection Agency, National Institutes of Health, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

But how do you prepare to meet with your representative... in person... on Capitol Hill... and for the first time? It can certainly be nerve-racking, just make sure that your game plan is well established. First, research your representatives, their work, and interests. Second, prepare an elevator speech with non-scientific jargon that allows you the opportunity to talk about your organization, priorities, contributions and most importantly, have a clear request of what and why you are asking for funding. Third, be open to unexpected changes of plan. Capitol Hill is a fast-paced and busy environment. Be ready to have a 15-minute meeting with a staff member in a conference room, lobby, or even a hallway.

As a Puerto Rican and now a Florida resident, I had the opportunity to meet with the Puerto Rico Resident Commissioner, Rep. Jennifer González-Colón, and with Florida staff members from the offices of Sen. Rick Scott, Rep. Kat Cammack, and Rep. Mario Diaz-Balart. During my meetings, all staff members were very supportive and knowledgeable of the work that "we the bug people" do every day to protect our nation. I found that the easiest way to connect with them was to share my story as if I was talking with my neighbor. This means no scientific jargon, complicated words, or unnecessary explanations. I am an early professional in the mosquito-borne diseases field. This means I was able to share how someone who started collecting mosquitoes during the Zika 2016 epidemic in Puerto Rico is now pursuing a Ph.D., thanks to the funding support provided to mosquito-control programs and research agencies. To our representatives, more than scientists we are their constituents, and we have the voice and the tools to convince our policy makers the critical need to improve, secure and prioritize funding to the ongoing efforts in the entomological field. If you want to

learn how to become an entomology advocate, check out the [ESA advocacy resources](#) and [sign up for advocacy alerts](#).



From left to right: Dr. Jason Clayborn (ESA-Science Policy Fellow), Nicole M. Nazario-Maldonado, MS (ESA-Science Policy Fellow), Rep. Jennifer González-Colón, Dr. Luz Cumba-García (Lewis-Burke Associate), Dr. Eve Granatosky (Lewis-Burke Associate).

JEST MANAGEMENT

The Lighter Side of ESA MUVE

Jest Management is taking a break for August. Check back in October for more humorous content with an educational twist!

ASK CLARY FLY



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

Howdy fellow MUVers,

Clary Fly here, wishing you a great start to the new school year! I can't believe the [ESA, ESC, and ESBC Joint Annual Meeting](#) is in just a few short months. It's going to be packed with student activities, like the Student Debates, Entomology Games, oral and poster presentations, workshops, and more! But I'll give you the full details on that in our next newsletter. In the meantime, I'd like to remind you that if you're looking for a way to reduce the cost of attending the Annual Meeting, **consider volunteering!** Students and early career professionals who are current members and register for the meeting by the early bird deadline, **September 19**, will be invited to volunteer at the Annual Meeting to receive reimbursement for their registration fee. In order to qualify, you must volunteer at least six hours at the Annual Meeting. Volunteers typically help with presentation uploads, moderate a session, work at the registration desk, or other activities. Plus, it's a great way to meet other ESA members and staff!

Dear Clary Fly,

Navigating the publication process can be a huge hurdle for students. We thought it might be nice for students to hear more about publishing or even serving as a reviewer from a student's perspective. Do you mind giving resources or recommendations to help with that process?

Sincerely,

MUVE Communications Committee

On another note, I'm simply abuzz with excitement that the MUVE Communications Committee brought up a problem that many of us face, even beyond our time as students. For many students it's perhaps one of the most difficult things to tackle during their program. But it's also one of the most important! It's an opportunity to communicate your hard work to a larger audience, as well as receive feedback on your scientific communication skills and research. I asked a fellow student who has published multiple first authored and co-authored manuscripts for their recommendation on how students could approach this process:

My little piece of advice is to start reviewing papers, and for me I was able to start getting review invites by networking. One of my committee members is an editor for a journal in my area of expertise, so he invited me to review a paper for the first time. I asked my advisor for advice or an example of how he went about reviewing papers and then I applied this method going forward. I think reviewing is an important part of publishing, as it gives you insight into the process. Also, as a rule, for every paper you publish you should be reviewing 1-2 papers.

- Hannah Quellhorst, Entomology PhD Candidate, Kansas State University

I also spoke with Victoria, MUVE's ESA student affairs committee representative, and she echoed these same thoughts. Both Victoria and Hannah agree that the best way to learn about the publication process is to start with reviewing papers. It not only helps you learn about the other side of the publication process, but also provides you with the opportunity to evaluate other people's writing

and scientific approach to the research question. This, in turn, helps you communicate your own research once you begin writing. You'll get to see different approaches authors take to communicate science through both their writing and the presentation of data (figures & tables). It also makes a great addition to your CV, as it shows that you're able to critically evaluate scientific writing as well as willing to support furthering scientific communications.

If you're worried about reviewing, simply discuss it with your advisor, or even ask the editor if they mind your advisor helping you with the process. Most importantly, when reviewing manuscripts make sure that the science is sound, the manuscript was formatted according to the journal requirements, and that the way the authors communicated the science makes sense. If you're confused about how they made a conclusion from their results, don't be afraid to tell them that! Multiple scientific publishers, like Wiley and Nature, have also supplied guidance on how to review scientific manuscripts, so feel free to search around. Just keep in mind that different journals may vary in their expectations for their reviewers. If you're ever unsure about something, you can always contact the journal's editor.

Another suggestion Victoria had was to join a journal club. And if you don't know of one, try starting one! Typically, these clubs have a member select a paper to read for each meeting, at which time they will do an in-depth evaluation of the article. It's great if you invite members from multiple fields and career points too, as you'll get to hear many different perspectives on the same paper. Plus, this provides training on how to approach your reviews of manuscripts.

If you're curious about how ESA journals handle publishing manuscripts, check out their [Publishing Policies and Procedures page](#) for more information on author instructions, the peer review process, and more. To volunteer as a manuscript reviewer for an ESA journal, you can find instructions on their [Volunteer Opportunities with ESA Publications](#) page. You'll be able to select which ESA journal you would like to review for, as well as your preferences for which subject matter and organisms. Well, MUVers, that's all I have to share with you for now. If you have any questions or comments you would like for me to address in future newsletters, send a message to vlpicken@ksu.edu.

Stay curious,

Clary Fly

OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

Annual Meeting Virtual Submissions Due August 31

ESA is currently accepting submissions for virtual on-demand content, including 10-minute presentations, posters, or infographics, for this year's Joint Annual Meeting. All on-demand content will be available for 11 months after the conclusion of the in-person meeting, so be sure to submit your talk, poster, or infographic by **August 31**. [Learn more and submit](#).

MUVE Final Business Meeting Moved

Mark your calendars: the MUVE final business meeting at the Joint Annual Meeting will be a lunch meeting this year rather than a breakfast meeting. This will allow members to attend the Wednesday morning plenary section. Remember to register for the meeting by **September 19** for the early bird rate. [Register now](#).

New *Journal of Medical Entomology* Impact Factor Announced

Clarivate Analytics has released updated impact factors for the ESA journals. The *Journal of Medical Entomology*, which is edited and frequently submitted to by MUVE members, has a score of 2.435. The highest scoring ESA journal was another regular platform for MUVE members, the *Journal of Integrated Pest Management*, with an impact factor of 4.107. Other updated ESA journal scores included *Insect Systematics and Diversity* with 2.841, *Annals of the Entomological Society of America* with 2.727, *Journal of Economic Entomology* with 2.447, *Journal of Environmental Entomology* with 2.387, and *Journal of Insect Science* with 2.066.

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