

Section Report to the ESA Governing Board

Title: Medical, Urban, & Veterinary Entomology (MUVE) Section Report

Submitter: Edward Vargo, 2022 MUVE Section President

Date: June 30, 2022

Motion/Request for Action

None

Section Leadership

Edward Vargo, President
Becky Trout Fryxell, Vice-President
Kyle Jordan, Vice-President Elect
Michael Reiskind, Past President
Mustafa Debboun, Governing Board Representative
Sonja Swiger, Treasurer
Chris Geden, Secretary

Current Activities and Recent Accomplishments

This has been an active year for MUVE with the re-invigoration of some WIGs and initiation of new ones. We have continued the excellent work of our communications committee, putting out a bimonthly newsletter and maintained a very active social media presence. We have continued MUVE Networking Events through Zoom, with a very successful event in April to discuss a number of topics, including outreach, DEI, and the future of the branch meetings. We have also expanded our mentoring program with the formation of a new group of mentoring pods and enlisted the help of two mentoring professionals from the University of Tennessee to help us set expectations and guidelines for a successful mentoring experience for both mentees and mentors. We have selected 6 students to receive travel awards of \$500 each to help them attend the annual meeting in Vancouver, and we are in the process of deciding on our other section awards for this year. We have many officer positions open this year, including VP-Elect, MUVE Section Rep to the Publications Council, MUVE Section Rep to the Governing Board, and MUVE Secretary, and we have a full slate of nominees to fill these positions. Elections for these positions will be held this summer.

Section Business Meeting/Symposia Updates

We had 3 oral presentations at our section business meeting in Denver. These were highlights talks for medical, veterinary, and urban entomology. The MUVE Highlights in Medical Entomology was presented by Andrea Gloria-Soria of the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station, the Highlights of Veterinary Entomology was delivered by Kateryn Rochon of the University of Manitoba, and the Highlights of Urban Entomology was presented by Jia-Way Tay of the University of Hawaii.

Several award winners were recognized at the annual meeting. We awarded 6 student travel awards of \$500 each. The winners were Johnalynn Gordon of the University of Kentucky, Kristin Slover of the University of Florida, Victoria Pickens of Kansas State University, Casey Flint of Texas A&M University,

Corey Day of the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, and Rebecca Butler of the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. There were two winners of the MUVE Early-Career Award. These were Sudip Gaire from the University of Kentucky and Karen Poh at Penn State. The MUVE Recognition Award winner was Gail S. Anderson at Simon Fraser University.

We also recognized MUVE members who won ESA level awards. These included Raul Medina at Texas A&M who was awarded the Distinguished Achievement Award in the Promotion of Diversity and Inclusion in the Field of Entomology; Isobel Ronai from the University of Sydney, winner of the Early Career Professional Award, Henry and Sylvia Richardson Research Grant; Joanie King from Texas A&M University, winner of the Early Career Professional Award for Outreach and Public Engagement; Jeffrey Keller of Burns Pest Elimination for the ESA Certification Corporation Award: 2021 ACE Professional Award; Johnalynn Gordon of the University of Kentucky, winner of the Larry Larson Student Award for Leadership in Applied Entomology; and Caleb Hunter of the University of California, Riverside and Caixiing Xiong of Texas A&M University for being Comstock Award Branch Nominees.

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: Networking and Mentoring Initiative

- (1) We had a one hour-long networking event (March 25, 2022) to discuss a number of topics including DEI issues, outreach, and the ESA Branch Evolution Project. We also formed new mentoring pods and had a meeting of the MUVE Mentoring committee (Ed Vargo, Becky Trout-Fryxell, Bethany McGregor, Karen Poh) with Drs. Chris Lavan and Mitsu Misawa of the University of Tennessee to organize a series of mentoring workshops. Drs. Lavan and Misawa will lead a mentoring workshop scheduled for June 17, 2022. We plan a series of mentoring workshops to help make our mentoring pods positive and successful experiences for everyone involved.
- (2) Events were organized by President Ed Vargo, Vice-President Becky Trout-Fryxell and the Chair of the Communications Committee, Bethany McGregor. Drs. Lavan and Misawa will be paid \$500 each for leading the June 17 workshop.
- (3) This is an on-going initiative that is in full swing now. Networking and mentoring play a key role in continuing education and engagement with the society.
- (4) No support is requested at this time, but perhaps collaborating with ESA networking and mentoring efforts would be mutually beneficial.

Wildly Important Goal #2: Diversity and Inclusion

- (1) This initiative is just starting. It will be led by Kyle Jordan with participation of Nicky Gallagher.
- (2) No Section resources have been dedicated to achieving the goal, but we are waiting for requests from the initiative organizers. We are fully behind this initiative.
- (3) Our D&I initiative is aligned with the ESA goals of fostering a diverse and inclusive membership.
- (4) No support is requested at this time, but perhaps collaborating with the ESA D&I efforts would be mutually beneficial.

Wildly Important Goal #3: MUVE-ing together: Connecting entomologists, wildlife biologists, and ecologists to strengthen One Health approaches focusing on human and animal parasites

- (1) This is a new initiative that will be led by Erika Machtinger, Risa Pesapane, Karen Poh, and Daniel Tufts.
- (2) No Section resources have been dedicated to achieving the goal, but we are waiting for requests from the initiative organizers. We are fully behind this initiative.
- (3) The initiative organizers have put together a detailed plan of activities, including organizing symposia and journal special issues to build a community of practice and encourage cross-cutting collaborations from multiple fields.
- (4) No support is requested at this time.

Wildly Important Goal #4: MUVE Grand Library

- (1) This is an expansion of our previous protocols and procedures initiative. It is currently being led by Alexis Kriete.
- (2) No Section resources have been dedicated to achieving the goal, but we are willing and ready to provide resources. We are fully behind this initiative.
- (3) Alexis Kriete volunteered to lead this initiative, starting with compiling and depositing laboratory and field protocols relevant to researchers in MUVE.
- (4) No support is requested at this time, but we may want to use the ESA web site to house our resources.

Activities Supporting ESA Strategic Principles

The MUVE Section is dedicated to diversity and inclusion. We have established a D&I initiative and we have designed our mentoring network to provide training on diversity and inclusion.

Current Membership and Financial Status

MUVE Membership: 1,511

Our financial status is good with \$22,784 in our account and an additional \$10,500 expected from ESA for 2022. Last year we had a total of \$9,822 in expenditures, mostly for awards and annual meeting costs, and we expect about the same for this year.

Other Information/Comments

No other comments at this time.

Motion/Request for Action Information

No motions or requests at this time.