

Section Report to the ESA Governing Board

Title: Medical, Urban, and Veterinary Entomology (MUVE) Section Report
Submitter: Michael H Reiskind, MUVE President
Date: October 30, 2021

Motion/Request for Action

None

Section Leadership

Section Governing Council

President: Michael Reiskind
Vice-President: Ed Vargo
VP Elect: Becky Trout-Fryxell
Past-President: Dana Nayduch*
Governing Board Representative: Mustapha Debboun
Treasurer: Sonja Swiger
Secretary: Chris Geden

MUVE Representatives on ESA Committees

Meredith Spence Beaulieu, Entomology Games
Karen Poh, Early Career Professionals
Michael Cavallaro, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
Michael Bentley*, Education and Outreach
Glen Scoles, Publications
Meaghan Pimsleur, Science Policy
Victoria Pickens, Student Affairs

Section Standing Committee Chairs

Bethany McGregor, Communications
Justin Talley*, Nominations

**Rotating off after annual meetings 2021.*

Current Activities and Recent Accomplishments

We had two replacements due to term limits. Ken Brown (BASF) will take the role of Education and Outreach representative and Amy Murillo (UC Riverside) will join the nominations committee (chair of the nominations committee rotates to Sandy Allan, USDA CMAVE). As these were the only nominations at the time of decision making, we did not conduct an election. Note that AFTER the decision was made to invite these volunteers, others volunteered, suggesting that in the future a better informational campaign could result in more competition for volunteer spots along with a longer period to solicit volunteers.

We only had one leadership position (incoming Vice-President Elect) open. We had four candidates, and a very competitive election, with Dr. Kyle Jordan (BASF) winning. Kyle has been an active volunteer for the section and is already contributing to our bimonthly governing council meetings.

From November 2020 to October 2021, we had full Governing Council (GC) and ESA Representative meetings every other month. These were generally well attended via Zoom, and fostered good information exchange, if the size of the group made decisions somewhat unwieldy.

We have completed our competitions for awards, which have been announced. They will be formally given at the annual meeting at our business meeting on November 1. They are:

Student Travel Awards:

- Corey Day, University of Tennessee, Knoxville.
- Casey Flint, Texas A&M University.
- Victoria Pickens, Kansas State University.
- Rebecca Butler, University of Tennessee, Knoxville.
- Kristin Sloyer, University of Florida.
- Johnalyn Gordon, University of Kentucky.

Early Career Professional Award:

- Dr. Karen Poh, Pennsylvania State University.
- Dr. Sudip Gaire, University of Kentucky.

Shripat Kamble Award:

No applicants.

MUVE Recognition Award:

Gail Anderson, University of British Columbia.

Highlights Speakers

- Jia-Wie Tay, Urban Highlights, University of Hawaii
- Kateryn Rochon, Veterinary Highlights, University of Manitoba
- Andrea Gloria-Soria, Medical Highlights, Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station

Section Business Meeting/Symposia Updates

We have conducted two networking events in the past year and restructured our business meetings at the annual meetings to be more networking friendly (WIG #1).

We have proposed a set of Policies and Procedures for MUVE (WIG #2), currently available for public comment. This is the first written set of policies and procedures for MUVE, which we help will formalize the running of the section.

Total Section Symposia	Total Regular Oral Presentations In-person/On-demand	Total Regular Posters	Total Student Competition Oral Presentations In-person/On-demand	Total Student Competition Posters	Grand Total Presentations
11	44/60	42	43/28	18	319

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: Improve networking opportunities outside of the annual meetings.

Since the annual meetings in 2020 (Virtual), we have had two networking meetings on-line. This required considerable input in time and effort from President Reiskind and Communications Chair Bethany McGregor. These events were marketed through email, tweet, and the MUVE Bimonthly newsletter. Each was attended by between 30-35 participants or about 2.5% of our MUVE membership. These are part of our efforts in engagement and were also topical. We are not at this time requesting support from the Governing Board, although we do intend on continuing these opportunities. Feedback from the participants was overwhelmingly positive.

Wildly Important Goal #2: Write, gather feedback, and implement MUVE Policies and Procedures.

President Michael Reiskind and Vice-president Ed Vargo drafted a set of policies and procedures that describe the administration of the section, set policies with regards to the functioning of the section, and outlined various procedures such as decision making and elections of officers, committee representatives, and highlights speakers. This took considerable time and effort from section members. The MUVE Policies and Procedures should be approved at the Annual Meetings. They were posted from 9/20/21 to 10/20/21 for section member feedback (5 responses as of 10/13/2021). We are not requesting any GB support for this effort, although we thank the staff at ESA for assisting with the posting of the Policies and Procedures for review.

Wildly Important Goal #3: Establish a new set of WIGs for a three-year period from November 2021 to November 2024.

The past year has been a period of transition with regards to the WIGs in MUVE. The set of WIGs from 2019-2020 were first established in 2016-2017, and while still of interest, have somewhat run their course. Furthermore, the lack of participation owing to the virtual nature of the meetings in 2020 have provided an opportunity to establish a new set of WIGs. As such, we will establish 1-3 new WIGs at the Final Business Meeting (Wednesday morning, November 3). These will be guided by MUVE issues related to: science and public policy, continuing education, issue management, and fostering interest in the discipline. At this point, we are not requesting support from the GB, but as these new WIGs become operational, we may call upon the GB for assistance.

Activities Supporting ESA Strategic Principles

We have made strides in communications from MUVE to the membership through a more active Twitter account as well as a regular, robust bimonthly newsletter. Communication needs to be a cornerstone of improving diversity, equity, and inclusion, although we recognize this is not sufficient alone. Part of the communication effort was a presidential message in the March newsletter specifically examining the current state of diversity in MUVE and ESA. This uncovered some deficiencies in our demographic data capture—you have to first assess diversity to know how and where to improve it. However, while policy recommendations were put forth in that piece, there is considerable need for action, both at the section level and at the whole society level.

Current Membership and Financial Status

As of the end of September 2021, MUVE has 1,570 members.

2021 Activity

6 Student travel grants were awarded @ \$500 each

2 ECP awards were awarded @ \$500 each

3 Highlights awards were awarded @ \$250
Total Expenses = \$4,750
2021 ESA Allocations = \$10,478
Current (unofficial) Funds Available = \$27,856

Other Information/Comments

Our communications committee has been very active. We have published bimonthly newsletters with substantial content. This has required considerable volunteer time. The president has a column for each newsletter, some of which prompted feedback from the section. Other columns have struggled to get feedback, especially the sections devoted to student issues as humor. Go figure.

Motion/Request for Action Information

We currently have no motions or requests for action.