

Section Report to the ESA Governing Board

Title: Medical, Urban, and Veterinary Entomology Section Report

Submitter: Becky Trout Fryxell, President MUVE

Date: October 2023

Motion/Request for Action

No action 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

- (1) Formation of an Ad-Hoc Sponsor Committee. Most of our yearly funding comes from members selecting to be a part of our Section. Historically, Section leadership has used this funding for a mixer and small travel awards for students to attend the annual meeting. Current leadership recognizes that the Section can do more for membership if we want to stay relevant to members. This past year, the Section leadership listened to our membership and surveyed members about what they wanted from the Section and how they would give back to the Section. Most prevalent responses were more opportunities for training and networking and assistance with travel to the annual and branch meetings. Leadership created goals that will benefit current and future members, but accomplishing goals requires financial support from our partners. We are looking for sponsors to help fund awards and opportunities for new and current members. We are also looking for several sponsors to help host MUVE Socials.

(2) Awards / Scholarships.

The following awards will be given out at the first business meeting this year.

- MUVE Recognition Award – Phil Kaufman
- MUVE Early Career Award – Isobel Ronai
- Shripat Kamble Urban Entomology Graduate Student Award for Innovative Research – Johnalyn Gordon
- Student Travel Awards. 23 students applied for this award and six were selected (Gual Gonzalez, Pincipato, Nyman, Pickens, Gunathunga, and Seok)

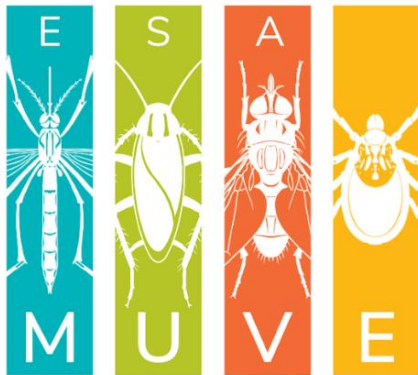
Proposed Ideas – to be announced at the meeting with goals of finding sponsorship

- Create a single MUVE PhD and a single MS student recognition award that includes travel to the annual meeting.
- Create a New MUVE member travel and networking award for new ESA MUVE members to attend the meeting. As a part of the award, we would like to introduce the new members to the Section and partner them with a senior member to introduce them and help the new member network with individuals. We would like the award to cover the full costs of the new members attending the meeting.
- Better compensate Highlight Speakers with travel to the meeting by increasing the stipend.
- Create a New MUVE staff and technician travel award for individuals to attend the meeting. We would like to cover the full costs of the award for a medical, urban, and veterinary staff/technician member to attend the meeting.

(3) 2023 Elections and Volunteer Results

- Presidential Line, Ed Vargo (outgoing) and Alexander Ko (incoming)
- MUVE Treasurer, Sonja Swiger (outgoing) and Sudip Gaire (incoming)
- MUVE Rep. Early Career Prof., Karen Poh (outgoing) and Cierra Briggs (incoming)
- MUVE Rep. for Thomas Say Editorial Board, Shaun Dergousoff (outgoing) and Akilajh Stewart (incoming)

(4) Swag Art Contest. Over the summer MUVE held an art contest. We received five artworks and selected first and second place. We will create and distribute the swag at the meeting.



Hannah Chu, 1st place



Jacki Whisenant, 2nd place (edits needed)

Section Business Meeting/Symposia Updates

Total Section Symposia	Total Regular Oral Presentations	Total Regular Posters	Total Student Competition Oral Presentations	Total Student Competition Posters	Grand Total Presentations
13	103	41	78	34	256

MUVE is hosting four events at the annual meeting in National Harbor.

- Day 1: Mentoring and Networking Reception to allow new and returning members the opportunity to meet before the meeting really gets busy.
- Day 2: Business meeting with social held during the Highlights Session and award session.
- Day 3: new Popping protocol-based problems with popcorn session to allow students, technicians, and early career researchers to pitch problems to the audience while the audience helps pop those problems.
- Day 4: Final Business meeting where the new President leads the membership into the next year with goals and accomplishments.

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: 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). Four mentoring workshops were completed, led by two mentorship experts: Dr. Christopher Lavan and Dr. Mitsunori Misawa from the University of Tennessee. A MUVE Mentorship networking function was organized at the 2022 and 2023 annual meetings.
- (2) Section Resources dedicated to achieving the goal: financial resources to support facilitators and for networking event, time
- (3) Progress and accomplishments toward the goal: The workshops provided continuing education and support to participants on managing issues related to work-life balance, leadership, and navigating mentoring relationships. 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 plan to develop mentoring workshops to train scientists as mentors. MUVE and the workshop coordinators are interested in promoting this across the sections.
- (4) Requested support from the GB to accelerate progress: 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. 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: 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.

- (2) Section Resources dedicated to achieving the goal: Approval of the MUVE-ing Together associated symposia and events at the annual meeting.
- (3) Progress and accomplishments toward the goal: na
- (4) Requested support from the GB to accelerate progress: Allocate funds for bringing in panelists or speakers for career webinars and hosting meetings or events at annual meetings. Allocate funds for workshops aimed at non-members or student members to acquire animal handling skills or enhance their entomology expertise.

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: Worked 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. MUVE DEI committee has met to develop new minority-supporting travel scholarship. This draft document is ready for MUVE member review/consideration.
- (2) Section Resources dedicated to achieving the goal: travel assistance will require organizational financial assistance.
- (3) Progress and accomplishments toward the goal: 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: Promotion and advertising of initiative

Activities Supporting ESA Strategic Principles

- Actions taken through the Communications committee as well as the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion and Mentoring and Networking initiatives
- Encouraging all members to volunteer and make a place for themselves with the society and section.

Current Membership and Financial Status

There are currently 1717 members in our section, down 12 members from the last report.

Funds for members are typically split among opportunities, travel to meetings for students, and mixers held during the two business meetings. Due to the price of food at the convention center this year, we restricted our budgets to \$12k of spending on

food/beverages at the meeting. We have created an internal budget to help the section stay alive.

Funds available July 2023 = \$25,844.00

2023 Activity Summary

Funds available 12/31/2022 = \$18,524

2023 allocation received = \$9,820

Mentoring workshop expense, C. Lavan, parts 3 & 4 = \$1,000

Mentoring workshop expense, M. Misawa, parts 3 & 4 = \$1,000

Sketchapod ESA MUVE sponsorship = \$500

Current Funds Available = \$25,844

Unaccounted for but already approved expenditures for 2023

Student travel grants – 6 @ \$500 each = \$3,000

Highlight speaker awards – 3 @ \$500 each = \$1,500

ECP and Shripat Kamble Awards \$500 each = \$1,000

ESA meeting reception/catering events = \$11,789.06

After meeting anticipated balance = \$8,563.94

Other Information/Comments

In our May report to the governing board, we requested more information on the formation of a position that links the sections to the branches. We would like more information on this concept as it might tie well into having MUVE members attend or participate in more branch meetings. We would like information on how to better link sections with branches.

Motion/Request for Action Information