

# MUVE NEWSLETTER



August 2024

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## FROM THE PRESIDENT

Happy chaotic summer! I have a couple important favors to ask so I'll keep this column short and sweet!

**First topic – [Public Health Entomology For All \(PHEFA\)](#).** This program is for students and recent graduates who have a passion for social justice and health equity to learn more about the entomological aspect. Many individuals selected for the PHEFA program will be attending the Annual Meeting and ESA/MUVE is seeking volunteers to act as 'buddies' for these students. This will involve a touchpoint or two before the meeting and some time at the meeting as decided by the participant and the buddy. We are planning to include the PHEFA participants in the MUVE Mentorship event on Sunday afternoon (which is also open to any MUVE member wishing to network or learn more about the mentorship program). Please let me or [Melissa Nolan](#) know if you are interested in working with one of the PHEFA fellows.



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**Second topic – MUVE budget.** Because we increased our support for student travel and recognition and highlights speakers we are in need of individuals and organizations to provide additional support if we want to stay in the black. Last year's meeting at the Gaylord was exceptionally expensive and we are at risk of exceeding our budget this year unless we can secure additional funding. Ultimately the tradeoff may be eliminating catering for our business meetings so we can finance the awards. If you or the organization you work for has the capacity to sponsor a specific event (~\$500 for the mentorship event or Popping Protocols workshop, ~\$3000 for the main or final business meeting) or a student award (~\$2000 per travel award, \$500 per achievement award), please reach out to me. MUVE would love to continue to support its up-and-coming members and will evaluate next year's options based on what we are able to do this year, possibly reducing the number of awards that we give to keep to our budget. More details can be found in this [one-pager](#), which you can also use

Treasurer

[Dr. Becky Trout-Fryxell](#),

Past President

[Dr. Erika Machtinger](#),

Governing Board Representative

as a starting point for sponsorship discussions with your organization.

On a positive note, Ary and I have secured a great location for the MUVE sessions within the convention center with access to nice lounge areas where we can socialize between talks/sessions. Thirteen MUVE sessions were accepted that cover a variety of interesting topics, in addition to 10-min talks and student competition talks. If you would like to be a moderator for one of the MUVE 10-min talk sessions, please contact me, as we will be finalizing those roles before October.

Thank you for helping out your Section! November will be here before we know it!

-Kyle

## MUVE JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Visit the [ESA Career Center](#) to explore new job opportunities in your field. Some of the most recent MUVE job listings include:

- [Graduate Extension Student Assistantship, Louisiana State University Department of Entomology](#)
- [Research Associate, Cornell University](#)
- [Assistant Professor of Insect Biology, University of California Davis](#)
- [Assistant Project Scientist in Computational Biology/Entomology, University of California Riverside](#)
- [Laboratory Research Operations Senior Technician, The Ohio State University](#)

## 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 [Mikenna Smith](#).

### Medical MUVEr:



**Dr. Mustapha Debboun** is a distinguished member of the U.S. Army Medical Department, an ESA Board Certified Medical and Veterinary Entomologist, educator, and researcher in insect repellents. A native of Morocco, he received his B.A. in cellular and molecular biology from Skidmore College in Saratoga Springs, New York, an M.S. in entomology from the University of New Hampshire, and a Ph.D. in medical and veterinary entomology from the University of Missouri-Columbia. He served 25 years in the U.S. Army Medical Services Corps as a medical and veterinary entomologist in various leadership positions and diverse entomological assignments including four wars (Operations Desert Shield and Storm, Operation Endeavor, Enduring Freedom, and Iraqi Freedom).

Following his retirement from the military as a colonel, he was selected as the director of Harris County (HC) Public Health Mosquito and Vector Control Division, where he directed and led the development and implementation of prevention and control of mosquitoes for the 5 million residents of HC and the City of Houston, and as a general manager of Delta Mosquito and Vector Control District in Visalia, California, where he also provided outstanding mosquito control and surveillance service to the residents of over 15 cities in Tulare County to protect them from mosquito bites and mosquito-borne diseases.

### Veterinary MUVER:

The 2024 Livestock Insect Workers Conference was held in Cocoa Beach, FL, June 23-26, 2024. **Dr. Karen McKenzie** and her team from Woodstream Corporation organized and hosted the meeting. Dr. Justin Talley (Entomology & Plant Pathology Department head at Oklahoma State and 2018 ESA-SWB President) was recognized with the Lifetime Achievement Award and Richard Hack (RJH Consulting) received the Industry Appreciation Award.



## NEWS BRIEFS



### Blog Post Highlights from *Entomology Today*

- [Akilah Stewart: Working Toward More Eco-Friendly Mosquito Pesticides](#)
- [Common Termite Management Tool Creates “Death Zone” That Limits Effect on Colonies](#)
- [The Curious Case of Bird Fleas Infesting a Home](#)
- [How Pest Management Pros Can Engage and Inspire Future Entomologists](#)

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

## MUVE STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Students, what accomplishments would you like to highlight for the MUVE Section? Write a short (200 words or less) article explaining your achievements and include this as a non-refereed article on your CV! Please send your achievements to be included in future newsletters and tweets to [Mikenna Smith](#).



**Vilma M. Cooper (previously Vilma Montenegro), MS**, is a PhD student in Entomology at University of Florida. Vilma conducts research on integrated vector management of *Culicoides* biting midges that affect animal health. Vilma was selected as a 2024 IPM Ambassador by the Southern IPM Center based on the vector control work she is doing during her PhD. Besides research, Vilma is passionate about creating and leading professional development opportunities. During her PhD, Vilma has organized 9 professional development symposia for multiple organizations, including the Entomological Society of America, the Society of Vector Ecology, and the American Mosquito Control Association (AMCA). Vilma has also led more than 10 sessions of a graduate student research forum at her department, which allows graduate students to improve science communication skills. Vilma

serves in committees from multiple organizations, some of which have recognized her for Excellence in Membership (AMCA Young Professionals Committee). *"I hope my future holds plenty of opportunities to advance the field of pest and vector control, while inspiring young minds, especially those from minority groups, to become whatever they want to be".*

## ASK CLARY FLY



Hey there MUVErs!

I hope you all enjoyed the summer break! I can't believe how quick 2024 went by... It has been such a busy year, and I am sure you all were waiting for this newsletter!

Did you have a chance to attend a branch meeting, or maybe some of the webinars offered on the ESA website? Wait, you did not know about it?? Well do not wait and check out the [calendar](#) of events published at the ESA website!! You can discover upcoming events, online webinars, and other conferences in insect science. And if you missed it, and are a member, you can also access it through the archives! \*Yet another great reason to have your membership up-to-date ;)

You can also propose ideas for webinar events! If you have a suggestion for a webinar that may be of interest to ESA, you can submit a proposal! You just need to enter all the information through the [Webinar Submission Form](#) including a brief description of the webinar, proposed dates and duration, and the moderators and panelists that will host it.

I know some students are attending events and using the summertime to expand their network, especially those familiar with the ESA calendar, meanwhile other students are just starting to get involved and may want to start their networks to learn how to participate and engage with ESA. Well there are some [mentorship and networking opportunities](#) that can get you where you want to go!

Someone reached out to me recently mentioning how important it is to have a good mentor during your student years, and how this is such a determining factor for your future success. Even though all students receive some type of mentoring, it is the diversity in your mentorship team that makes a difference. When filling job applications it is good to have multiple references that can provide a 360° scope of who you are and what are the things that make you a valuable candidate. This can be done by having multiple mentors, training and engaging you in different environments. The best way to get it is reaching out to mentors outside of your department or institution, and of course ESA has a place for you to obtain this mentoring. Do not miss out on the [student resources](#) offered through ESA, we provide three opportunities for student mentorship that can align to your needs and can help you in your career transition.



Now that the summer is ending, and most of the students and faculty are getting back to their regular schedules, it is the perfect time to look out for potential new mentors, and receive additional support for these important years in your career! You can check out the [Student Affairs Committee social media page](#) to stay up to date for any student-related activities and opportunities, or you can reach out to our student leadership and MUVE student liaison, for any questions you may have. I will keep bringing you the freshest ESA student news, and if you have any inquiries or want me to cover a particular topic in the next newsletter, do not hesitate to reach out to my email at [lidiag@email.sc.edu](mailto:lidiag@email.sc.edu).

Stay well,  
Clary Fly

## POLICY CORNER



*MUVE editorial content is generated by and for MUVE members of the ESA and does not necessarily reflect policy of the broader organization.*

### **The end of the Chevron deference, and why this matters for entomology**

Meredith Spence Beaulieu, PhD, BCE

Class of 2020 ESA Science Policy Fellow and MUVE Science Policy Committee Representative

University Program Manager, NC State Global One Health Academy

“... agencies have no special competence in resolving statutory ambiguities. Courts do.” These words appeared in the Supreme Court’s 6-3 decision in [Loper Bright Enterprises v. Raimondo](#) on June 28th, 2024. Loper overturns the court’s previous ruling in [Chevron v. Natural Resources Defense Council](#) and, consequently, drastically alters the way that policy has been made for 40 years. This sweeping decision directly alters the ability of federal agencies to utilize evidence-based science in their work, including for MUVE-relevant topics such as the protection of public health.

The so-called “Chevron deference” was established in the Supreme Court’s unanimous 1984 ruling that required federal courts to defer to agencies to interpret ambiguous statutes, so long as their interpretations were reasonable. Congress routinely passes legislation that directs agencies to fulfill a function without prescribing the specific actions required to execute the function (e.g., non-specific language like “ensuring the rule is in the public interest” to allow the EPA to write rules limiting smog). *Chevron* recognizes that in the case of such ambiguous legislation, federal agencies have scientists and other subject matter experts that are better equipped than judges to set policy. Despite its political neutrality (administrations can use *Chevron* to either cut back or expand on the federal government’s regulatory scope as they set their policies), the gutting of *Chevron* is viewed as a major victory in the conservative campaign to limit federal authority.

So where does *Loper Bright* leave us? With regard to current law, while the decision was explicit that no existing decisions would automatically be overturned, it does open the door to challenges to all settled case law where *Chevron* was cited. The Chevron deference has been frequently used, with citations in [more than 18,000 cases](#) overall in courts across the country. It is reasonable to expect that there will be a rush of new litigation, which threatens foundational policies that many stakeholders currently rely on (e.g., environmental regulations, public health preparedness and disaster response).

Another important consideration with *Loper Bright* is its potential to impact future law. Congress will need to be more precise with their bills, which will make them more difficult to pass as more details means more to disagree on. Since it is no longer a requirement that courts defer to agencies, agencies will need to more rigorously make their case for why courts should. They will need to spend time and resources that could otherwise be spent on their mission to defend their interpretation of

statutes and justify their technical expertise. Given the risk of litigation, agencies may err on the side of caution and become more risk averse with their actions. This is likely to affect efforts around emerging issues in particular, including climate change and new and emerging pathogens, since these topics are not well articulated in existing legislation.

While many people are understandably concerned about the ramifications of *Loper Bright*, it is worth noting that there are other ways that the Supreme Court can limit federal authority that are not related to this ruling. One example is the “major questions doctrine,” which states that some decisions carry such large consequences that it is beyond the power of an agency to decide how to act, unless Congress clearly gave power to the agency to do so. The major questions doctrine has been used in many cases where the Chevron deference could have also been applied, including, for example, when a [federal judge in Florida](#) revoked the CDC’s masking mandate for public transportation. The existence of other pathways for the court to restrict agencies’ leeway for deciding policy could indicate that revoking the Chevron deference alone may not make much of a difference, given the current political climate. Nevertheless, it is important to recognize that whether through the death of *Chevron* or through other mechanisms, the ability of agencies to utilize their subject matter expertise is under threat. Moving forward, it will become more difficult for science-based laws to be passed and for agencies to use evidence-based science in their activities, which should be of concern to MUVE scientists whether we work in government, academia, industry, or any other sector.

While on its face it might make sense to note that courts, not agencies, are the ones with special competence in resolving statutory ambiguities, what is actually in question is who has the special competence to implement solutions to scientific challenges. The clear answer here is that scientists do. It is more important than ever that entomologists connect with policymakers – whether legislators, agency staffers, or potentially even judges and lawyers – to communicate the importance of our science for human and animal health broadly, and the importance of being able to flexibly and responsively incorporate new scientific knowledge when addressing current and emerging societal threats.

## VOLUNTEER & LEADERSHIP



*Looking for ways to get involved with MUVE or ESA generally? Always feel free to [contact MUVE President Kyle Jordan](#) with your interest.*

### Judges and Moderators Needed for Entomology 2024

The Program Committee is in search of individuals willing to moderate and judge student competition sessions during Entomology 2024. To volunteer for these important roles, please indicate your willingness to serve when you [register for the meeting](#). Already registered? Email [meet@entsoc.org](mailto:meet@entsoc.org) to update your registration with your volunteer preferences. More information about these roles can be found [online](#).

### Volunteers Needed for the Grand MUVE Library Initiative

Have you ever thought it would be great to have a one-stop-shop for MUVE-related resources? Are you interested in a common repository for information like MUVE related protocols, available awards and opportunities, and the emergency response entomologist list? ESA MUVE is looking for volunteers to assist with one of our new Section Initiatives, the Grand MUVE Library. If you are interested in assisting with this effort or want to learn more, please contact [Alexis Kriete](#).

## OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

### MUVE Communications Committee Seeking New Volunteer Members

This newsletter is brought to you every other month by the MUVE Communications Committee. The committee is seeking some new, fresh faces to help put this newsletter together. If you are interested in volunteering on the committee, please contact [Mikenna Smith](#).

### **Medical, Urban, and Veterinary Entomology (MUVE) Award Sponsorship Request**

MUVE continuously strives to foster interest in entomology and provide support that leads to the success of our Section members. Operating costs for ESA Sections are always the most significant drain on the budget, and while MUVE leadership would like to increase support of its members, doing so incurs a significant cost. By reaching out to our membership and the organizations they represent, we are hoping to provide financial support for the programs below. If we are successful, we hope to expand this support in subsequent years to include more travel awards for students and create other travel opportunities for support staff and technicians. More information can be found [here](#).

### **Survey: Understanding Vector Biology Community Resources and Needs**

There is wide recognition of the urgent need for increased funding, interdisciplinary collaboration, and innovative technologies to address the emerging and expanding threats posed by vector-borne diseases (VBDs) both domestically and globally. In a joint effort between ESA, the American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene, and the Society for Vector Ecology, a brief survey was developed that aims to identify and quantify unmet or under-resourced needs in the US vector biology community, define existing resources and networks, and generate ideas to create more resources, opportunities, and connectivity. Information provided is voluntary and confidential. [Participate in the survey at this link](#).

### **ESA Drag Show**

The ESA Drag Show is back! Whether you are a seasoned vet or want to set a stiletto-clad foot on stage for the first time, the ESA LGBTQ+ community is hosting a drag show in Phoenix and invites you to perform. Entomology-themed names, costumes, and acts are encouraged, attending a few virtual planning meetings is required. [Contact Thomas Sheenan](#) if you are interested.

### **2023 Annual Report from ESA Now Available**

If you haven't yet had a chance to look at it, the [2023 ESA Annual Report](#) is now available.

### **Reminder: *Journal of Insect Science* Seeks Protocols Submissions**

Back in January 2019, the Medical, Urban, and Veterinary Entomology Section encouraged the *Journal of Insect Science* to begin publishing standardized protocols. The journal agreed, and in 2019 a new article type was [announced](#), followed by a [special protocol collection](#) in 2020. Standard protocols can save entomologists time and reduce duplication of effort. As such, MUVE Section members are encouraged to consider JIS when publishing. A [guide](#) has been created to simplify the process for authors.

### **MUVE Members Invited to Become ESA Journals Peer Reviewers**

The editors of the ESA Journals invite MUVE members of all backgrounds and experience levels to become peer reviewers.

By volunteering as an ESA reviewer, MUVE members can improve their peer review skills, earn Web of Science (Publons) credit, and help curate and improve the latest science reported in the society's publications.

The ESA's 7 peer reviewed Journals publish reports on a wide range of insect science. *Environmental Entomology* publishes reports on the interaction of insects with the biological, chemical, and physical aspects of their environment. *Annals of the Entomological Society of America* publishes research, extension, teaching, policy, and public outreach concerning insects and related arthropods. *Journal of Medical Entomology* covers all phases of medical entomology and medical acarology, including the systematics and biology of insects, acarines, and other arthropods of public health and veterinary significance.

None of these journals would be possible without the dedication of our expert reviewers, who evaluate the manuscripts submitted for publication. To become a peer reviewer, please email [pubs@entsoc.org](mailto:pubs@entsoc.org) to express your interest. The Editorial Office will send you more information about how to create or update your ScholarOne account so that you can start receiving invitations to review.

To learn more about the review process see: [Ethical Guidelines for Peer Reviewers](#)



### Participation Requests from MUVE Members

- Ms. Katy Smith from University of Tennessee is looking for images of ticks or flies on animals. If you think you can provide any fly-infested or tick-infested images, please volunteer via this short [Google Form](#).

## MUVE EVENTS

### [Society for Vector Ecology \(SOVE\) Annual Conference](#)

**September 15-19, 2024, Fort Collins, Colorado**

Registration for the 52nd Annual SOVE Conference is open. You can register here. Detailed information on due dates for abstract submission and travel grant applications can be found here. This year, there is an open call for presentation abstracts. Presentation abstracts are due by April 19!



A vector-borne disease outbreak simulation pre-meeting workshop will be held September 15 at Colorado State University.

**Entomological Society of America Annual Conference**  
**November 10-13, 2024, Phoenix, Arizona**

Registration is open for Entomology 2024, November 10-13, in Phoenix, Arizona. Join experts from around the world at the ESA Annual Meeting to discuss the latest advances in entomology and the rapidly changing world of insects. [Register today](#) and [reserve your hotel room](#)!

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Entomological Society of America (ESA), 170 Jennifer Road, Suite 230, Annapolis, MD 21401-3722 USA  
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