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## Message from the President



Growing up in Lima, Peru, I aspired of becoming a professor, a journey that proved both challenging and fulfilling. My fascination with living organisms started during my high school years, prompting my mother to encourage me to pursue a career in Biology, given my evident passion for the subject. However, uncertain about the prospects of a career in Biology at the time, I initially set my sights on becoming a medical doctor. Despite my efforts, I faced disappointment when I failed to secure admission to a prestigious medical university I aspired to attend in Peru. Undeterred by this setback, I redirected my focus towards a degree in Biology. Fortunately, I was admitted to the Department of Biology at the Universidad Nacional Agraria (Lima, Peru), an accomplishment that filled me with immense excitement given its competitive nature. It was during this period that I crossed paths with a professor specializing in Entomology, specifically in Biological Control, who soon became a pivotal figure and mentor in shaping my professional journey. Driven by my passion, I decided to pursue a career in Entomology and, ultimately, set sights on advancing my studies as a graduate student in the United States. Through a combination of fortuitous circumstances, determination, and the unconditional support of my parents and mentors, I successfully obtained both my MS degree in Entomology at Oregon State University and my PhD in Entomology at the University of California, Riverside. I followed my graduate studies by a series of post-doctoral appointments that paved the way for a permanent position within the Department of Entomology at Rutgers University. Reflecting on this journey spanning over three decades since I started my graduate studies and subsequently became a faculty member at Rutgers, I am profoundly honored to accept the role of President of the P-IE section.

As I write this message, I am struck by the journey that has led me to this point. From moments of doubt and discouragement to the realization of my dreams, my path has been marked by perseverance and belief. From my own experiences, my advice to students and early-career professionals is to pursue your dreams, even in the face of adversity. There were many instances where self-doubt threatened to interfere with my aspirations, where I questioned my abilities contemplated alternative career paths.

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## Message from the president [cont.]

Yet, it was the solid belief of my family and mentors that served as my inspiration of hope, pushing me forward in moments of uncertainty.

As we embark on the year 2024, I extend my sincere wishes for success and fulfillment to each of you. Embrace your journey with courage and determination, for it is through adversity that we discover the true depth of our resilience and potential.

**Cesar Rodriguez-Saona**

President,  
[crodriguez@njaes.rutgers.edu](mailto:crodriguez@njaes.rutgers.edu)

## Recap of 2023 ESA Annual Meeting

The awards celebration and networking session at the national meetings was well-attended with the active participation of more than 150 members. P-IE congratulated and celebrated the winners of individual and team awards in different categories. David Coyle provided an update on the invasive species field tour, a WIG supported by P-IE. Brian McCornack and Erin Hodgson also shared about the success of their Sketchapod arthropod illustration workshop that received a P-IE grant. The EntOlympics games organized by Nicole Quinn and her team were a great success with several enthusiastic participants. P-IE also distributed 150 hats with a new P-IE design made by Kirsten Pearsons.



We congratulate our 2023 award winners: Eleanor (Ellie) Meys recipient of the Undergraduate Student Achievement in Entomology Award (nominator: Dr. William Hutchison); Gloria Melotto recipient of the Master's Student Achievement in Entomology Award (nominator: Dr. Robert Koch); Hailey Shanovich recipient of the Kenneth and Barbara Starks Plant Resistance to Insects Graduate Student Award (nominator: Dr. Sujaya Rao); 'Sustainable SWD Management Team' recipient of the Integrated Pest Management Team Award (nominator: Ash Sial); Yves Carrière recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award in Entomology (nominator: Dr. Bruce Tabashnik). The design for our SWAG item was provided by Kirsten Pearsons.





# What's going on in P-IE?

## Recent updates, news and more

### Camp Sketchapod

The P-IE Section is excited to announce their support for Camp Sketchapod May 24-26th in Manhattan, Kansas.

Embark on a creative arthropod journey at Camp Sketchapod, a 3-day immersive experience from May 24–26, 2024 taking place at Kansas State University in Manhattan, KS. Open to creatives of all levels, this artistic exploration blends scientific illustration development with wonderfully unique experiences you can only find in the Little Apple!

Campers will tour Manhattan, viewing original C.V. Riley prints in person, exploring wonders like the Konza Prairie and the K-State Insect Zoo, and more. We provide all the creative supplies you'll need to immerse yourself in exploration along with awesome assorted camp swag.

Apply at <https://sketchapod.com/apply> —limited spots available. First priority registration opens on February 9th, with fees at \$250 (undergraduates), \$300 (graduates), and \$350 (ECP). After that, we open registration to all on March 3rd, 2024. While we cover some meals, registration does not include all meals, travel to camp, or lodging. To help with costs, we do offer discounted on-campus housing (about \$50 per night), and airport shuttles are available from MHK airport.

The bugs are calling—and they want you to draw them! For questions, contact Team Sketchapod via Erin Hodgson ([ewh@iastate.edu](mailto:ewh@iastate.edu)) or Crystal Ly ([cly@ksu.edu](mailto:cly@ksu.edu)). Explore more at [www.sketchapod.com](http://www.sketchapod.com) and be part #sketchapod2024!

### New members on the P-IE Governing Council



**Dr. Rob Morrison** is a Research Entomologist with the USDA-ARS Center for Animal Health and Grain Research in Manhattan, KS. The current focus for his research program includes developing integrated pest management programs for stored product insects by exploiting their behavioral and chemical ecology. He is currently serving as the representative from P-IE on the ESA Governing Board. He has 100+ peer-reviewed publications, he and his mentored students have given 350+ presentations, and he has served on 20+ committees for ESA.



**Dr. Tim Nowatzki** is a research entomologist and Laureate with Corteva Agrisciences and presently a capabilities leader for trait efficacy in the Biotechnology Department located in Johnston, IA. Tim has been a member of ESA since 1995 and is a Board Certified Entomologist. He is currently serving as the Treas-

## Recruiting Volunteers for P-IE Committees

The P-IE Governing Council is seeking nominations to fill several important positions with our section. We are recruiting nominations for appointed committee positions. Here you can learn more about the roles and responsibilities of the [P-IE leadership and committee positions](#). Please contact Anjel Helms (P-IE Vice President) by March 10th if you would like to submit a nomination for one of these positions ([anjel.helms@gmail.com](mailto:anjel.helms@gmail.com)) or another P-IE GC member.

### Available committee positions for 2024 are:

#### P-IE awards committee

- 1 Rep. from academia (term 2024-2025)
- 1 Rep. from academia (term 2024-2026)
- 1 Rep. from government (term 2024-2025)
- 1 Rep. from industry (term 2024-2025)

#### P-IE nominations committee

- SWB Rep. (term 2025-2027)
- PB Rep. (term 2025-2027)
- EB Rep. (term 2024-2026)
- NCB Rep. (term 2024-2026)
- SEB Rep. (term 2024-2026)
- IB Rep. (term 2024-2026)

## Updates for 2024

Starting this year, the **Integrated Pest Management Team Award will be offered in odd years**. Therefore, the next offering will be in 2025. This adjustment allows additional time for teams to be formed and, ideally, increases the number of nominations.

We are currently **seeking new proposals** for our Wildly Important Goals (WIG), which promote P-IE related activities. Please submit proposals to President Cesar Rodriguez-Saona at [crodriguez@njaes.rutgers.edu](mailto:crodriguez@njaes.rutgers.edu).

P-IE has again agreed to sponsor the **Camp Sketch-a-pod event**. We strongly encourage our members who are interested in advancing their illustration skills to attend this fun and interactive workshop.

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## P-IE Section Symposia

***Submit your P-IE section symposium proposal by 03/15!***

***We are calling on P-IE members to organize a symposium on a topic important to P-IE.***

Please check out the symposia submission criteria to make sure your proposal meets its requirements. Here is a link to the submission portal: <https://www.abstractscorecard.com/cfp/submit/loginso.asp?EventKey=QLQOCRRS>

### **DEADLINE: MARCH 15**

The P-IE Governing Council will use the following guidelines to evaluate the submissions. High-ranking symposia not selected as Section Symposia may be recommended as Member Symposia.

- Relating symposia submissions to the meeting's theme, "Empowering Tomorrow with Insect Science", is encouraged.
- We encourage organizers to be innovative, wildly creative, and thoughtful in proposing sessions that are engaging and visionary. Proposals that cover a diversity of topics, such as concepts, disciplines, ecosystems, taxa and others are highly encouraged.
- In addition to the research topics, we also encourage formal and informal education methods and related topics that contribute to the mission of P-IE and the theme of the annual meetings.
- Proposals should explain how the symposium meets the selection criteria of P-IE Section.
- Proposals are strongly encouraged that include collaborations and feature speakers from a variety of backgrounds and geographic regions (including gender, ethnicity, career stage, and organization/affiliation), reflecting the diversity of our members. Submitters should indicate how they have made an effort to ensure their proposal is inclusive and representative of the diversity of scientists that work on plant-insect ecosystems.
- Proposals should clearly define symposia objective(s), statement of purpose, speakers, and presentation topics.
- Symposia proposals must provide an indication of speaker confirmation, and not just an 'idea list.'
- At least one organizer must be a member of the P-IE Section at the time of submission.