



ENTOMOLOGICAL  
SOCIETY OF AMERICA  
MEDICAL, URBAN, AND VETERINARY ENTOMOLOGY

# MUVE NEWSLETTER

December 2021

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## OFFICERS

[Dr. Ed Vargo](#),  
President

[Dr. Rebecca Trout-Fryxell](#),  
Vice President

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

I am excited to serve as the new MUVE president. I've gained many insights in my capacity as vice president and am grateful for the work of the other MUVE officers.

The last couple of years have been difficult for everyone and scientific societies are no exception. Trying to keep us all connected and active in Society functions during travel restrictions has been a big challenge for ESA. Our two past MUVE Presidents, Dana Nayduch and Michael Reiskind, did outstanding jobs leading us through the pandemic. We owe them big time. Also, one of the most encouraging trends I've seen is the involvement of so many of our younger members—early career professionals and students—as Section officers. The enthusiasm and social media savvy they bring to our Section has been truly inspiring (and much appreciated!). A big shout out to the members of the Communications Committee, especially the chair, Bethany McGregor. I'd also like to thank Meredith Spence Beaulieu who has been amazing as our newsletter wrangler. She is stepping down from this role, so if you'd like to get some volunteer time in with the Section, please let me know. Your help getting the newsletter out would be greatly appreciated!



Now, a little about myself. I am professor and endowed chair in Urban Entomology at Texas A&M University. Before starting my current position in 2014, I was a faculty member in the Department of Entomology at NC State University. My work

[Dr. Kyle Jordan](#)  
Vice President-Elect

[Dr. Christopher J. Geden](#),  
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[Dr. Sonja Swiger](#),  
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[Dana Nayduch](#),  
Past President

[Dr. Mustapha Debboun, BCE](#),  
Governing Board Representative

focuses on the biology and management of structural pests, with an emphasis on the genetic structure of populations and colonies of termites and ants. I also work on the invasion biology of urban pests. I'm a longtime member of ESA and I've come to know many of you through the Annual Meeting. I hope to meet many more of you through networking events, the Annual Meeting, and, even better, as Section volunteers.

Here's what I would like to accomplish in the next year. First, I would like to build on the virtual networking events that Michael Reiskind and Bethany McGregor began last year. This is a great way for us all to stay connected outside of the Annual Meeting and to grow our professional networks.

Over the next couple of months, I will work with the other Section leaders to come up with networking themes that will be of broad interest to our members. My other main goal is to develop new or reinvigorated initiatives, otherwise known as wildly important goals (WIGs). ESA has charged each Section with developing and implementing 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." We have had some very successful initiatives, for example Erika Machtinger and Karen Poh edited a compendium of protocols in medical and veterinary entomology that was published as a special collection in the [Journal of Insect Science](#) in November 2020. For the most part, our [WIGs](#) have run their course, and it is time to come up with new ones or inject new life into existing ones. We had a great discussion at the final business meeting in Denver about ideas for new WIGs. The Section leadership will be discussing these in the coming months with an opportunity for the general membership to contribute. I hope to have some new initiatives in place and off the ground by the middle of next summer.

I wish you all a productive and happy 2022 full of all the entomological wonders you desire, and I look forward to working with you to strengthen our Section and ESA.

## 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 [Bethany McGregor](#).



**Hannah Tiffin**, Ph.D. Candidate at the Pennsylvania State University. Hannah recently published an article in the *International Journal for Parasitology: Parasites and Wildlife* on her work in Erika Machtinger's lab. Her paper, "[Tick abundance and life-stage segregation on the American black bear \(\*Ursus americanus\*\)](#)," evaluates tick burden on black bears for more efficient on-host surveillance techniques in the future, as well as co-parasitism between ticks and *Sarcoptes scabiei*, the causative agent for sarcoptic mange.



**Joanie King**, Ph.D. Candidate at Texas A&M University. Joanie is the winner of ESA's 2021 Early Career Professional Outreach and Public Engagement Award. Her research in the lab of Ed Vargo focuses on the interaction of phorid fly parasites and their fire ant hosts. She is particularly interested in changes in gene expression in both the fly and host during parasite development. She is highly engaged in outreach and is co-founder of the website [Ask an Entomologist](#).



**Sylvia Kenmuir, MSc, BCE**, Western technical representative at BASF. Sylvia is the recipient of the 2021 ESA Distinguished Service Award to the Certification Program. She created "Ace the ACE," a 10-week webinar course to help people study for the Associate Certified Entomologist exam. The ACE training now includes a free podcast that allows technicians to reinforce their studying while on the go. Sylvia also recently earned an MSc in Entomology from the University of Nebraska Lincoln with a thesis focused on creating a study resource for the [Public Health Entomology certificate](#) exam.

## NEWS BRIEFS



Photo by Matt Bertone

### **Kyle Jordan Elected MUVE Vice President-Elect**

Congratulations to Dr. Kyle Jordan, BCE, of BASF on his election to the office of MUVE Vice President-Elect! Dr. Kyle Jordan is a board-certified entomologist and is the product development manager for termite, general insect control, and rodent products for BASF North America. Kyle is a longtime member of ESA (20+ years) and has served as MUVE's Diversity and Inclusion Committee representative (2019-2020) and chair (2020).



### **MUVE Nominations Committee Member: Dr. Amy Murillo**

Dr. Amy Murillo is an assistant professor of Entomology at the University of California Riverside. Her research experience and interests focus on host-parasite interactions, specifically with ectoparasites of livestock, a system that allows for basic research with agricultural applications.



### **MUVE Representative to the ESA Education and Outreach Committee: Dr. Ken Brown**

Dr. Ken Brown is a team leader in non-crop advanced testing at BASF. He is joining the ESA Education and Outreach Committee for a three-year term as the MUVE representative.

### **Annual Meeting Recap: MUVE Student Award Winners**

We hope you enjoyed the many excellent MUVE symposia, panel discussions, and networking events at Entomology 2021. We wanted to take a moment to recognize our MUVE student award winners:

#### *In-person graduate posters:*

1st place: John Kirsch (Univ of Hawaii) and Emily Struckhoff (Univ of Illinois Urbana-Champaign)

2nd place: Constance Lin (Texas A&M Univ) and Yasmin Tavares (Univ of Florida)



#### *In-person undergraduate posters:*

1st place: Noah Weidig (Northern Kentucky Univ)

#### *Virtual undergraduate posters:*

1st place: Grant Brooke (USDA-ARS)

#### *In-person graduate 10-minute papers:*

- 1st place: Dominique Magistrado (The Ohio State Univ), Sarah Mays Maestas (Univ of Florida), Hannah Quellhorst (Kansas State Univ), Anna Rodriguez (Univ of Idaho), and Paula

Rozo-Lopez (Kansas State Univ)

- 2nd place: Sally Ileri (Univ of California Riverside), Jacquelyn May (Stephen F. Austin State Univ), Zoe Narvaez (Rutgers Univ), Kristin Sloyer (Univ of Florida), and Christen Steele (Tulane Univ)

*Virtual graduate 10-minute papers:*

- 1st place: Valerie Holmes (Texas A&M Univ), Emmanuel Hung (Simon Fraser Univ), and Anna Pasternak (Univ of Kentucky)
- 2nd place: Maria González-Morales (North Carolina State Univ), Han-Jung Lee (Texas A&M Univ), and Xiaodi Wang (Univ of Florida)

We would also like to recognize our MUVE award recipients:

[MUVE Recognition Award:](#)

Dr. Gail S. Anderson, Simon Fraser University

[MUVE Early Career Award:](#)

Dr. Sudip Gaire, University of Kentucky

Dr. Karen Poh, Pennsylvania State University

MUVE Student Travel Awards:

Rebecca Butler, University of Tennessee, Knoxville

Corey Day, University of Tennessee, Knoxville

Casey Flint, Texas A&M University

Johnalynn Gordon, University of Kentucky

Victoria Pickens, Kansas State University

Kristin Sloyer, University of Florida

Congratulations to all of the winners for their outstanding achievements!

### **Blog Post Highlights from *Entomology Today***

- [Male Mosquitoes Don't Want Your Blood, But They Still Find You Very Attractive](#)
- [From Classroom to Application: How One Entomologist Found Her Calling in Urban Entomology](#)
- [Fine-Scale Mapping Could Make for Better-Targeted Tick Management](#)
- [Killing It In The Egg: A Termite Bait Story](#)
- [Integrated Mosquito Management Protects People and Animals from Mosquitoes](#)

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

## VOLUNTEER & LEADERSHIP



Do you have a flair for editing and an interest in improving communications within our Section? Join the MUVE Communications Committee! We are in need of a new MUVE Newsletter editor. This is a relatively low workload role that helps to identify newsworthy items, collate contributions from the MUVE Board and the membership, and edit and streamline content for our every-other-month email newsletter. There is no set term, although commitment of at least one year is ideal. The MUVE Communications Committee is also always open for general involvement. If you're interested in joining as the newsletter editor or as a general committee member, please reach out to [Bethany McGregor](#).

*Looking for other ways to get involved with MUVE or ESA generally? Always feel free to contact MUVE President [Ed Vargo](#).*

## JEST MANAGEMENT

### ***The Lighter Side of ESA MUVE***

Well, nothing funny this bimonth, as we are saying "adieu" to Jest Management. Of course, if some MUVEr out there had an inkling to try their wit and take over this column, please contact Bethany!

## POLICY CORNER



### **"MUVE-Related Federal Funding Fangs in the Balance"** by Meredith Spence Beaulieu, Ph.D., BCE, ESA Science Policy Fellow Class of 2020

When I signed up to write this Policy Corner article in early November, I planned to use this space to update you on the results of ESA's advocacy for MUVE-related federal funding priorities, such as those supporting research and control of mosquitoes, ticks, and the diseases they carry. Yet as I write on December 10, the federal budget—and these programs that we hope to see included in it—still hang in the balance. That's because we're currently operating under a continuing resolution, or an agreement by Congress to keep the federal government funded at the previous fiscal year's levels to avoid a shutdown. It's unclear when or whether Congress will be able to pass their appropriations for fiscal year 2022 due to partisan divides. The good news is that at least some of our priorities have been included in the appropriations bills from both the House and the Senate, so there is cause for optimism that they will be funded.

Included in these appropriations bills is funding to support the Kay Hagan Tick Act, which, among other things, would continue the Centers of Excellence on Vector-Borne Diseases. This is funded at \$15mil in the House version and \$10mil in the Senate version, so ESA and the [Vector-Borne Disease Network](#) (VBDN; of which ESA is the lead organization) are pushing for the House number to optimize funding for this critical need. However, missing from the appropriations bills is funding for the Strengthening Mosquito Abatement for Safety and Health (SMASH) Act, which would provide resources for state, local, tribal, and territory entities for comprehensive mosquito control and abatement programs grounded in integrated mosquito management. The SMASH Act has been

another priority issue for the VBDN and allied groups, including the American Mosquito Control Association (AMCA) for multiple years, yet language with a specific amount of CDC funding to support these provisions is lacking.

Both the Kay Hagan Tick Act and the SMASH Act were passed into law in 2019. Aside from authorizing funding to support the Centers of Excellence, the Kay Hagan Tick Act also mandated creation of an interagency national strategy for vector-borne diseases. As a precursor to the national strategy, a [National Public Health Framework for the Prevention and Control of Vector-Borne Diseases](#) was published by the CDC, five federal departments, and the EPA in September 2020. Community feedback was solicited through an open comment period in the summer of 2021, and taking this feedback into account, the inputs, goals, strategies, and priorities for the national public health strategy were synthesized in September 2021. There will now be continued meetings with stakeholders with the goal of presenting a final strategy to Congress by December 2023.

I discuss the timeline of the national vector-borne disease strategy to illustrate how slowly these legislative and regulatory issues can move when they are complex, involve multiple agencies, and have the potential to greatly impact public health. All in all, the Kay Hagan Tick Act has actually progressed relatively quickly; the SMASH Act, in contrast, has been a key issue actively advocated for by mosquito control stakeholders since at least 2016 and, despite being passed into law, still does not have any funding to support it on the horizon. This is why early and sustained engagement with policymakers is critical.

It is *always* a good time to write to your legislators, participate in advocacy days sponsored by [ESA](#) or [AMCA](#), [invite policymakers to tour your lab facilities](#) during their recess, or [any other ways](#) you can think of to highlight the importance of your work for preserving human or animal health. This is true even if funding requests are part of your advocacy, as budget cycles overlap and funding for three fiscal years are being considered at any given time (implementing the budget for the current fiscal year, seeking funds from Congress for the next, and planning for the fiscal year after that).

As Sydney Crawley wrote in her recent MUVE Policy Corner article, [if we don't advocate for ourselves, who will?](#) Your advocacy today is critical for ensuring the necessary infrastructure and funding for our future.

ASK CLARY FLY



**By Victoria Pickens, ESA MUVE Representative to the Student Affairs Committee**

Howdy fellow MUVers,

Clary Fly here, with all the latest buzz on what's happening for students in ESA. It was so exciting to have our Annual Meeting in-person again and get to see everyone who could attend.

Congratulations to all the students who competed, you all did an excellent job, and it was fantastic to see your work! Hopefully, we'll get to see even more people attend in-person by the next Annual Meeting in Vancouver. With the start of a new year, I thought it'd be best to spend some time going over a checklist of items that might be beneficial to students for the coming year.

1) Have you renewed your ESA membership yet? I know many of us tend to put it off until we attend a meeting, but there are so many benefits to students for being members all year! Not only can being a member keep you up to date on all the latest opportunities for meetings, award applications, and professional development activities, but you also gain access to useful resources like online workshops and ESA journals ([read my earlier feature](#) on ESA membership benefits to students). And don't forget you receive a free copy of the World of Insects Calendar to hang up at your desk!

2) Check meeting dates for both the Branch and Annual Meetings. With travel opening back up, ESA meeting dates are reverting back to the pre-pandemic schedule. For Branch meetings especially, this means that calls for abstracts and award nominations for most branches are already open. In fact, a few are already closed! And don't worry if you're still limited by travel, most meetings are going to be a hybrid format this year.

3) Be on the lookout for announcements about ESA Student Affairs Committee opportunities made available to students. Spring will soon be here, and with it calls for students to apply for multiple professional development opportunities and awards offered at the Annual Meeting. You can always look through Student Resources available online through ESA to make sure you don't miss out. If you haven't yet, try submitting an idea for the [Student Life column](#) of *American Entomologist*! This is a great opportunity to try your hand at a different form of writing, as well as be featured in one of our ESA journals. The call for the next issue of *American Entomologist* will be soon, so if interested keep an eye out for the ESA Student Affairs Committee email announcement or use the link above.

Well MUVers, that's all I have for now. It's hard to believe this past year is already over! If you or someone you know has any questions or advice concerning students in entomology, feel free to reach out to [Victoria Pickens](#) and we can feature your question or topic in our next newsletter.

Best wishes,

Clary Fly

**OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS**

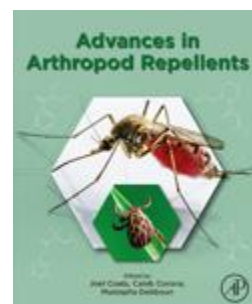


## MUVE Members Named to the 2021 Class of ESA Science Policy Fellows

Two MUVE Members were selected this year for the ESA's prestigious [Science Policy Fellows Program](#): **Melissa Nolan, Ph.D., MPH**, assistant professor at the University of South Carolina, and **Anna Briggs, Ph.D.** candidate in Entomology at the University of Idaho. [Read more about the 2021 Class](#). Melissa and Anna join four other active service MUVE Science Policy Fellows from the [2020 Class](#).

## New Book on Advances in Arthropod Repellents

Along with Joel Coats, Ph.D., MUVE members **Caleb Corona, Ph.D.**, and **Mustapha Debboun, Ph.D.**, edited a recently published book, [Advances in Arthropod Repellents](#). This volume provides the most updated state of the research on arthropod repellents, including recent progress on understanding how arthropod repellents work, modern methods for finding new molecules and formulations, and more. It serves as a reference and resource that will be useful to a wide variety of professionals, particularly those in public health and vector control.



## Public Health Entomology for All: Internships and Fellowships

ESA has launched [Public Health Entomology for All](#), a program for students and recent graduates from minority-serving institutions (MSIs). In partnership with the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), ESA will offer internships to six MSI undergraduate students for the summer of 2022 and two 12-month fellowships for recent graduates of an MSI. Internships are available in CDC field offices in Atlanta, GA, Fort Collins, CO, and San Juan, Puerto Rico with an application deadline of **January 17, 2022**. Fellowships will be in Fort Collins, CO and have an application deadline of **February 25, 2022**. [Learn more and apply!](#)

## Funding Opportunity from the Department of Defense (DoD)

The Armed Forces Pest Management Board, an agency of the DoD, is soliciting pre-proposals for original and innovative research designed to develop new interventions for protection of deployed military personnel from diseases caused by arthropod-borne pathogens and to improve control of bed bugs and filth flies. The program supports development of new or adapted toxicants, new insecticide application techniques, new tools that prevent human-vector contact, decision support tools, and novel vector surveillance tools. [Learn more](#).

## New Collection: Eastern Equine Encephalitis

The *Journal of Medical Entomology* has published a special collection of papers on the history of Eastern Equine Encephalitis, viral infections found in various areas of the United States, taxonomy and genomics, vaccine development, and more. [Read the collection](#).



## New ESA Ethics Statement and Policy

The ESA Ethics and Rules Committee and the Diversity and Inclusion Committee have developed a new ESA ethics policy. All ESA members will be required to attest to reading, understanding, and abiding by these new policies. [Read more about the policy](#).

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