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**53RD ANNUAL CONFERENCE
SOCIETY FOR VECTOR ECOLOGY
YOSEMITE, CALIFORNIA
SEPTEMBER 20 – 24, 2026**

SUNDAY – SEPTEMBER 20, 2026

2:00 – 5:00 REGISTRATION (FOYER)
2:00 – 3:00 JOURNAL OF VECTOR ECOLOGY EDITORIAL
BOARD MEETING (COUNTIES)
3:00 – 5:00 BOARD MEETING (COUNTIES)

MONDAY – SEPTEMBER 21, 2026 (SALON I/II)

8:00 – 8:30 **WELCOME**

Sarah Hamer shamer@cvm.tamu.edu

Vice President/Program Chair
Texas A&M

AWARDS PRESENTATIONS

Lee Cohnstaedt lee.cohnstaedt@usda.gov

President
USDA-ARS

Rui-de Xue rxue@amcdfl.org

President-Elect
Anastasia Mosquito Control District

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

Lee Cohnstaedt lee.cohnstaedt@usda.gov

President
USDA-ARS

8:30 – 9:30 KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Vector bite prevention: what works, what doesn't, and where we should go from here

Susan Paskewitz, smpaskew@wisc.edu University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI

9:30 – 10:00 REPORTS FROM INTERNATIONAL SOVE REGIONS:

EURO SOVE

Ruben Bueno Mari ruben.bueno@rentokil-initial.com
Rentokil, Europe

LATIN AMERICAN SOVE

Christina McCarthy mccarthychristina@gmail.com
Universidad Nacional de La Plata, La Plata, Argentina

ASIAN SOVE

Rui-De Xue xueamcd@gmail.com
Anastasia Mosquito Control District, St. Augustine, FL

INDIAN SOVE

Rajpal Yadav rajpal@yadav.cloud
National Institute of Malaria Research (ICMR), DHR,
Govt of India

AFRICAN SOVE

Bridget Aito bridget.aito@uga.edu University of Georgia, Athens, GA

10:00 – 10:20 BREAK – SPONSORED BY CENTRAL LIFE SCIENCES

10:20 – 12:10 **SYMPOSIUM 1: PUBLIC HEALTH
ADVANCEMENTS IN PREVENTION OF
VECTOR-BORNE DISEASES**

Moderators: **Ben Beard**
CDC – Division of Vector-borne Disease,
Fort Collins, CO
cbbo@cdc.gov

10:20 – 10:55 Trends in vector-borne diseases and the way forward in achieving the goals of the vector-borne diseases national public health strategy

Lyle Petersen lxp2@cdc.gov CDC – Division of Vector-borne Disease, Fort Collins, CO

10:55 – 11:20 Current progress in the development of medicated bird feed to help control West Nile virus transmission

Brian Foy brian.foy@colostate.edu Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO

11:20 – 11:45 Crowdsourced science, cervids and comedians – underexplored opportunities for tick-borne disease prevention

Tom Mather tmather@uri.edu University of Rhode Island, Kingston, RI

11:45 – 12:10 Moving the needle on vector control to combat vector-borne disease in the Upper Midwest, USA

Lyric Bartholomay lbartholomay@wisc.edu University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI

12:10 – 1:30 **LUNCH (ON YOUR OWN)**

1:30 – 3:30 **SYMPOSIUM 2: REEMERGENCE OF NEW
WORLD SCREWORM AND NOVEL
TOOLS TO COMBAT THEM**

Moderators: **Lee Cohnstaedt**

USDA-ARS
Manhattan, KS
lee.cohnstaedt@usda.gov

- 1:30 – 1:45 Reinvasion of the New World Screwworm, *Cochliomyia hominivorax*: an old adversary returns
Phillip Kaufman phillip.kaufman@ag.tamu.edu Texas A&M University, College Station, TX
- 1:45 – 2:00 USDA APHIS efforts to prepare for and respond to New World Screwworm
Phillip Kaufman phillip.kaufman@ag.tamu.edu Texas A&M University, College Station, TX
- 2:00 – 2:15 USDA-ARS New World Screwworm research: new solutions to fight an old problem
Kim Lohmeyer, kim.lohmeyer@usda.gov USDA-ARS, Kerrville, TX
- 2:15 – 2:30 Beyond conventional SIT: Novofly and next-generation genetic control of New World Screwworm
Max Scott mjscott3@ncsu.edu North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC
- 2:30 – 2:45 Predictive modeling of New World Screwworm for precision intervention
Chad Fautt chad.fautt@usda.gov USDA, Manhattan, KS
- 2:45 – 3:00 Beyond cattle: redefining host vulnerability profiles for New World Screwworm across species and systems
Natalia Cernicchiaro ncernic@ksu.edu Kansas State University, Manhattan, KS
- 3:00 – 3:15 Small solutions to big problems: evaluating a nanoformulation of botanical and synthetic pesticides against screwworms
Jordan Salomon jordansalomon@tamu.edu Texas A&M University, College Station, TX

3:15 – 3:30 Evaluating wildlife-based treatment strategies for New World Screwworm: lessons from ivermectin administration in white-tailed deer
Tammi Johnson tammi.johnson@ag.tamu.edu Texas A&M University, College Station, TX

3:30 – 3:45 **BREAK – SPONSORED BY VESERIS**

3:45– 5:45 **SYMPOSIUM 3: EARLY CAREER PROFESSIONALS SYMPOSIUM**

Moderators: **Patil Tawidian**
University of Wisconsin
Madison, WI
tawidian@wisc.edu

Eric Caragata
University of Florida
Vero Beach, FL
e.caragata@ufl.edu

3:45 – 4:00 Opening remarks and introduction

4:00 – 4:45 Panel Discussion
Lyric Bartholomay lyric.bartholomay@wisc.edu
University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI

Erika Machtinger etm10@psu.edu University
Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA

Ben Beard cbbo@cdc.gov CDC – Vector-borne disease
division, Fort Collins, CO

Phillip Shults Phillips.shults@usda.gov USDA-ARS,
Manhattan, Kansas

Haley Johnson haley.johnson@valentbiosciences.com
Valent Health, Libertyville, IL

Mir Bear-Johnson mbear-johnson@mmcd.org
Metropolitan Mosquito Control District, St. Paul, MN

4:45 – 4:55 Break
4:55 – 5:40 Q&A with audience
5:40 – 5:45 Closing remarks

6:00 – 8:00 **OPENING RECEPTION (TERRACE) –
SPONSORED BY VALENT HEALTH**

TUESDAY – SEPTEMBER 22, 2026

8:15 – 12:00 **FIELD ECOLOGY DAY**

6:00 – 8:00 **GALA DINNER (PAVILION)**

WEDNESDAY – SEPTEMBER 23, 2026 (SALON III)

7:30 – 9:00 **BREAKFAST BUFFET AND POSTER
SESSION – SPONSORED BY DEBUG**

P1 Two-year monitoring of tick abundance and tick-borne
pathogens along popular hiking trails in Alameda County
Natalia Fedorova natalia.fedorova@acgov.org Alameda

County Environmental Health Vector Control District,
Alameda, CA

- P2** Density-dependent sterile male release to enhance *Aedes aegypti* population suppression in southern California
Jennifer Thieme jthieme@wvmvcd.org West Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District, Ontario, CA
- P3** Amitraz (ApiVar) as a treatment for parasitic mites in triatomine colonies: a proof-of-concept study
Rachel Busselman rbusselman@cv.tamu.edu Texas A&M University, College Station, TX
- P4** Laboratory rearing and colonization of *Amblyomma maculatum* Morphotype II
Taylor Chapman tjchapman@tamu.edu Texas A&M University, College Station, TX
- P5** Mosquito and Culicoides vector breeding ecology in invasive wild pig (*Sus scrofa*) wallows in Georgia and South Carolina
Taylor Fisher taylor.fisher@uga.edu Southeastern Cooperative Wildlife Disease Study, Athens, GA
- P6** Automating wing geometric morphometric for robust species identification in Diptera via deep learning
Kristopher Nolte kristopher.nolte@bnitm.de Bernhard-Nocht Institut for Tropical Medicine, Hamburg, Germany
- P7** Microbiome contributions to pyrethroid metabolism and resistance in *Aedes aegypti*
Leslie Rault lreault2@unl.edu University of Nebraska, Lincoln, NE

- P8** Mosquitoes as biomonitors of ecosystem health in human dominated landscapes
Nicole Scavo nascavo@ucsb.edu University of California, Santa Barbara, CA
- P9** Mosquitoes are an underappreciated biosecurity risk on US swine farms
Stephen Edache edache@ksu.edu Kansas State University, Manhattan, KS
- P10** Eggs: The understudied, immobile, climate sensitive life stage
Katie Westby kwestby@wustl.edu Washington University, St. Louis, MO
- P11** The changing landscape of bluetongue in northern Europe
Marion England marion.england@pirbright.ac.uk The Pirbright Institute, Woking, UK
- P12** The impact of climate change on transmission season length: West Nile virus as a case study
Rachel Fay rachelfay@gmail.com Stanford University, Stanford, CA
- P13** Reaching new depths: Larval substrate stratification of *Culicoides* biting midges and implications for control
Bethany McGregor Bethany.mcgregor@usda.gov USDA-ARS, Manhattan, KS
- P14** Response of *Aedes aegypti* to edible plant oils and vinegar products determined by an olfactometer
Rui-de Xue xueamcd@gmail.com Anastasia Mosquito Control District, St. Augustine, FL

- P15** A CRISPR/Cas12a system for detection of *Borrelia burgdorferi* ospC variants in blacklegged ticks
William Landesman william.landesman@vermontstate.edu Vermont State University, Johnson, VT
- P16** Evaluation of vertical transmission potential of Oropouche virus in *Aedes triseriatus* and *Aedes albopictus*
Donmin Kim kimdongmin@ufl.edu University of Florida, Vero Beach, FL
- P17** Arbovirus challenge and incubation time are associated with shifts in the *Aedes albopictus* midgut microbiome
Chang-Hyun Kim maraychk@illinois.edu University of Illinois, Champaign, IL
- P18** Nanopore analysis of the microbiome and virome of *Amblyomma americanum* (Acari: Ixodidae) in the Statesboro region, Georgia, USA
Saviour Dralabu sd20578@georgiasouthern.edu Georgia Southern University, Statesboro, GA
- P19** An illustrated identification key to support mosquito surveillance and vector control in Turkey
Filiz Gunay filizgunay@ufl.edu University of Florida, Vero Beach, FL
- P20** A new invader in Baltimore: Investigating *Haemaphysalis longicornis*
Margaret Becker mbecke@jh.edu Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD

- P21** Agricultural land use change and intensification reshape the landscape of vector-borne disease transmission in the Amazon
Andrew MacDonald macdonald@bren.ucsb.edu
University of California, Santa Barbara, CA
- P22** Evaluating pyriproxyfen resistance status of *Aedes aegypti* and *Aedes albopictus* mosquito populations across Florida
Sofia Cuenca Rojas cuencarojas.s@ufl.edu University of Florida, Vero Beach, FL
- P23** Emerging residential Lyme disease risk in Ohio: two years of tick and tick-borne pathogen surveillance to establish baseline expectations for a rodent-targeted Lyme disease intervention study
Troy Koser koser.15@osu.edu Ohio State University, Columbus, OH
- P24** Golf coast tick movement in the eastern United States
Afsoon Sabet sabet.17@osu.edu Ohio State University, Columbus, OH
- P25** A CRISPR/Cas 12a system for detection of *Borrelia burgdorferi* ospC variants in blacklegged ticks
William Landesman
william.landesman@vermontstate.edu Vermont State University, Johnson, VT
- P26** Sterol metabolism links aquatic development, blood feeding and reproduction in mosquitoes
Amir Sapir amir-s@sci.haifa.ac.il University of Haifa, Haifa, Israel

- P27** The potential of *Clonostachys rosea* as a biolarvicide against the mosquito *Anopheles gambiae*
David Hayes davidhayes@ksu.edu Kansas State University, Manhattan, KS
- P28** Physiological role of engorgement factor alpha in *Haemaphysalis longicornis*
Donghun Kim dklome2018@knu.ac.kr Kyungpook National University, Sangju si, Republic of Korea
- P29** Detection of *Rickettsia hoogstraalii* and *Rickettsia lusitaniae* in *Argas (Persicargas) ricei* ticks infesting California condors
Lisa Auckland lausckland@cvm.tamu.edu Texas A&M University, College Station, TX
- P30** Genetic analysis of invasive *Aedes vittatus* populations in Jamaica, West Indies
Douglas Norris douglas.norris@jhu.edu John Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD

9:00 – 10:30 **SYMPOSIUM 4: TOOLS FOR DESIGN AND ANALYSIS OF VECTOR CONTROL TRIALS**

Moderators: **Rebecca Lee Smith**
University of Illinois
Urbana, Illinois
rlsdvm@illinois.edu

Chris Barker
University of California
Davis, CA
cmbarker@ucdavis.edu

- 9:00 – 9:03 Introduction
- 9:03 – 9:16 RShiny apps for vector control
Rebecca Lee Smith rlsdvm@illinois.edu University of Illinois, Urbana, Illinois
- 9:16 – 9:29 CDC bottle bioassay data analysis and existing tools
Casey Crockett ab73@cdc.gov CDC, Fort Collins, CO
- 9:29 – 9:43 Overdispersion – a critical but often under-appreciated factor in the design and analysis of vector-borne disease studies
Andrew Lover alover@usmass.edu University of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA
- 9:43 – 9:56 Consulting and standardization for vector control trials
Karen Click keclick@ucdavis.edu University of California, Davis, CA
- 9:56 – 10:09 Highlighting a digital tool for the rapid analysis and visualization of ULV spray trail data
Ed Norris edmund.norris@usda.gov USDA-CMAVE, Gainesville, FL
- 10:09 – 10:22 VectorSurv's options for collaborative tool development with vector control partners and real-time data
Chris Barker cmbarker@ucdavis.edu University of California, Davis, CA
- 10:22 – 10:30 Discussion
- 10:30 – 12:00 **SYMPOSIUM 5: LANDSCAPES INFLUENCE OF VECTOR BIOLOGY**
- Moderator: **Jean Tsao**
Michigan State University
East Lansing, MI
tsao@msu.edu
- 10:30 – 10:33 Introduction

- 10:33 – 10:47 Epizootic hemorrhagic disease (EHD) and Indiana white-tailed deer: climate and land use impacts
Michael Shaw shawmic8@msu.edu Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI
- 10:47 – 11:01 Evaluating habitat conditions of white-tailed deer and blacklegged ticks to mitigate Lyme disease risk in southern Michigan, USA
Sarah Scheitz dibbetsa@msu.edu Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI
- 11:01 – 11:15 Blacklegged tick dynamics along the forest-lawn interface of residential landscapes
Neeta Connally connallyn@wscsu.edu Western Connecticut State University, Danbury, CT
- 11:15 – 11:29 Ticks and plants in new places: evidence and mechanisms for co-invasions
Sadie Ryan sjryan@ufl.edu University of Florida, Gainesville, FL
- 11:29 – 11:43 Complexities of triatomine and sandfly ecology in tropical rural landscapes
Nicole Gottdenker gottdenk@uga.edu University of Georgia, Athens, GA
- 11:43 – 11:57 What the phrag is going on near the Great Salt Lake with mosquitoes and water management
Ary Faraji ary@slcmad.org Salt Lake City Mosquito Abatement District, Salt Lake City, UT
- 12:00 – 1:30 **LUNCH (ON YOUR OWN)**
- 1:30 – 3:30 **SYMPOSIUM 6: STUDENT SYMPOSIUM**
Moderators: **Megan Heineman**
Texas A&M University
College Station, TX
megan.heineman@tamu.edu

- 1:30 – 1:42 Surveillance of tick-borne diseases in Colorado's trails: a community-based One Health approach
Sabrina Gobran sgobran@colostate.edu Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO
- 1:42 – 1:54 Ticks in the haystack: novel management for *Haemaphysalis longicornis*
Sydney Wilson wilson.3509@buckeyemail.osu.edu Ohio State University, Columbus, OH
- 1:54 – 2:06 Diversity of Ixodid ticks and SFG Rickettsial pathogens in ticks collected from American black bears (*Ursus americanus*) in South Georgia, USA
Taylor Pearson taylor.pearson@uga.edu University of Georgia, Athens, GA
- 2:06 – 2:18 Resisting resistance: a multi-omics exploration of susceptible and resistant *Aedes aegypti*
Carla-Cristina Edwards ccedwards@ucdavis.edu University of California, Davis, CA
- 2:18 – 2:30 Native *Wolbachia* and larval competition stress modulate *Aedes albopictus* fitness
Leena Salama l.salama@ufl.edu University of Florida, Vero Beach, FL
- 2:30 – 2:42 From crabhole to Culicid: what *Deinocerites cancer* reveals about environment-microbiome dynamics in mosquitoes
Alexandra Bauer bauer.a@ufl.edu University of Florida, Vero Beach, FL
- 2:42 – 2:54 Factors influencing the vector competence of *Musca domestica* for *Klebsiella pneumoniae*
Travis Worley tworley2@wisc.edu University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI
- 2:54 – 3:06 What feasts upon your skin? Investigating the identity of Ohio chiggers and the pathogens they may carry
Elizabeth Foley foley.523@buckeyemail.osu.edu Ohio State University, Columbus, OH

- 3:06 – 3:18 First reports of vector-borne pathogens in urban fleas from Delaware
Amber Holley anholley@utmb.edu University of Texas Medical Branch, Galveston, GA
- 3:18 – 3:30 Mozzies, piggies, and diseases: assessing risks and links between vector mosquitoes, domestic pigs, and invasive wild pigs
Mary Beard mary.beard@uga.edu University of Georgia, Athens, GA

3:30 – 3:45 **BREAK – SPONSORED BY AZELIS**

3:45 – 4:45 **SYMPOSIUM 7: RETROSPECTIVE INSIGHTS FOR PROSPECTIVE PLANNING: DISCUSSION PANEL**

Moderator: **Christina McCarthy**
Universidad Nacional de la Plata,
Argentina
mccarthychristina@gmail.com

- 3:45 – 3:47 Introduction
Lyric Bartholomay lyric.bartholomay@wisc.edu
University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI
- 3:47 – 3:52 Hindsight's value: a SOVE retrospective from 1968 to 2023
Major Dhillon pintail@gmail.com SOVE, Ontario, CA
- 3:52 – 4:02 SOVE Insights: perspectives from a meta-analysis of SOVE meetings during 2024 and 2025
Christina McCarthy mccarthychristina@gmail.com
Universidad Nacional de La Plata, Argentina
- 4:02 – 4:45 Panel Discussion and Workshop
Michelle Brown mbrown@wvmvcd.org Executive Director, SOVE, Ontario, CA

Christina McCarthy mccarthychristina@gmail.com LA SOVE Director

Rui-De Xue SOVE President Elect,
xueamcd@gmail.com

Ashwani Kumar Past Indian SOVE Regional Director,
ashwani07@gmail.com

Filiz Gunay, Past European SOVE Regional Director,
gunayf@gmail.com

Megan Heineman, SOVE Student Director,
megan.heineman@tamu.edu

Mary Cameron, Journal of Vector Ecology, Editor,
mary.cameron@lshtm.ac.uk

4:45 – 5:15 **TURBO TALKS**

4:45 – 4:49 Host association of *Haemaphysalis longicornis* (Acari: Ixodidae) in the United States

Karen Poh karen.poh@usda.gov USDA, Washington State University, Pullman, WA

4:49 – 4:53 Bacterial immune priming and *Wolbachia*-mediated dengue blocking in *Aedes albopictus* mosquitoes

Eric Caragata e.caragata@ufl.edu University of Florida, Vero Beach, FL

4:53 – 4:57 Susceptibility of Culicoides biting midges and cells from livestock, wildlife, and domestic animal species to the 2023 reassortant Oropouche virus in North America

Stacey Scroggs Stacey.scroggs@usda.gov USDA-ARS, Manhattan, KS

4:57 – 5:01 Investigating the combined impacts of Perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS) and environmental stressors on the development of *Aedes aegypti*

Andrew Haddow ahaddow@kennesaw.edu Kennesaw State University, Kennesaw, GA

- 5:01 – 5:05 Prior plant-feeding does not inhibit attractive sugar bait feeding in *Anopheles funestus* s.s. mosquitoes in Kenyan communities with low vegetation cover
Mary Cameron mary.cameron@lshtm.ac.uk London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, London, UK
- 5:05 – 5:09 Chemical ecology approaches for control of invasive Giant African snails to reduce rat lungworm disease risk
Abhinav Maurya abhi@apexbait.com Apex Bait Technologies, Santa Clara, CA
- 5:10 – 5:20 **BUSINESS MEETING**

THURSDAY – SEPTEMBER 24, 2026

8:00 – 9:30 **SYMPOSIUM 8: VECTORS GONE WILD: A ONE HEALTH APPROACH BRIDGING WILDLIFE AND VECTOR-BORNE DISEASE**

Moderators: **Rachel Busselman**
 Texas A&M University, College Station, TX
rbusselman@cvm.tamu.edu

Jordan Salomon
 Texas A&M University, College Station, TX
Jordansalomon@tamu.edu

- 8:00 – 8:12 Vertebrate host community analysis and pathogen screening of *Ornithodoros* ticks collected in Uganda
Megan Heineman megan.heineman@tamu.edu Texas A&M University, College Station, TX

- 8:12 – 8:24 Forest proximity shapes host-feeding patterns of *Culex erraticus*, a potential vector of eastern equine encephalitis virus, in Illinois
Jiayue (Gabriel) Yan jiayue@illinois.edu University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, IL
- 8:24 – 8:36 Wildlife-based tick borne disease surveillance in Oregon
Laura Backus lbackus@calpoly.edu California Polytechnic University, San Luis Obispo, CA
- 8:36 – 8:48 Haemosporidian parasites in Kansas birds: molecular and histological evidence implicating *Culicoides haematopotus* in transmission
Phillip Shults phillipshults@gmail.com USDA-ARS, Manhattan, KS
- 8:48 – 9:00 Flea-borne disease among unhoused communities
Adena Why adena.why@acgov.org Alameda County Vector Control District, Alameda, CA
- 9:00 – 9:12 Ecology and epidemiology of the invasive Longhorned tick in the US
Andreas Eleftheriou andreas.eleftheriou@wsu.edu Washington State University, Pullman, WA
- 9:12 – 9:24 Harnessing a One Health approach to investigate Chagas disease in Trinidad and Tobago
Jennifer Peterson jkp@udel.edu University of Delaware, Newark, DE
- 9:30 – 10:00 **BREAK – SPONSORED BY CENTRAL LIFE SCIENCES**
- 10:00 – 12:00 **MULTI-STATE MEETING**
- Moderators: **Jennifer Peterson**
University of Delaware, Newark, DE
jkp@udel.edu

- 10:00 – 10:10 NE2443 Multistate meeting welcome and introduction
- 10:10 – 10:20 Contrasting epigenetics of *Ixodes scapularis* populations
Adela Oliva Chavez olivachvez@wisc.edu University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI
- 10:20 – 10:30 Understanding vector behavior for better mosquito-borne disease prediction
Annaliese Pena a.pena1@ufl.edu University of Florida, Vero Beach, FL
- 10:30 – 10:40 Drivers of blacklegged tick presence and abundance in Ohio
Afsoon Sabet sabet.17@osu.edu The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH
- 10:40 – 10:50 Drivers of heterogeneous insecticide resistance in *Aedes albopictus* within a city: The role of socioeconomic indicators
Michael Reiskind mhreiski@ncsu.edu North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC
- 10:50 – 11:00 Break
- 11:00 – 11:10 Tick-mediated maintenance of *Rickettsia parkeri* in *Amblyomma maculatum* s. I. in the Madrean Archipelago of Arizona
Tammi Johnson tammi.johnson@ag.tamu.edu Texas A&M University, College Station, TX
- 11:10 – 11:20 Ticks of Ohio: the hard ticks and soft ticks found in the Buckeye State since 1908
Risa Pesapane Pesapane.1@osu.edu The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH
- 11:20 – 11:30 Control strategies for theileriosis and Asian longhorned ticks: Updates from USDA-ARS Animal Disease Research Unit
Karen Poh karen.poh@usda.gov USDA-ARS-ADRU, Pullman, WA

- 11:30 – 11:40 Population genomics, insecticide resistance, and *Wolbachia* infection of invasive *Aedes* in the Pacific Islands
Eric Caragata e.caragata@ufl.edu University of Florida, Vero Beach, FL
- 11:40 – 11:50 A return to hands-on extension through residential tick risk assessments
Erika Machtinger etm10@psu.edu Pennsylvania State University, Philadelphia, PA
- 11:50 – 12:00 NE2443 Multistate meeting Closing Remarks
- 12:00 – 12:05 **CONFERENCE CLOSING REMARKS**

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research
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DEBUG (Gold Sponsor)

Debug offers two Wolbachia-based approaches: suppression releases of only non-biting males, which mate with wild females, producing eggs that don't hatch — thereby reducing the population over time; and replacement releases of both sexes, establishing Wolbachia permanently in the wild population to block disease transmission at scale, without the need for repeat releases.

By integrating custom software, hardware automation, scientific innovation, and AI, Debug delivers both approaches at scale precisely and consistently. Debug's proprietary platform includes automated rearing robots that produce mosquitoes consistently at volume, AI-powered visual sex sorting systems that review every mosquito in real time to ensure almost exclusively non-biting males are released for suppression programs, GPS-optimized automated release vehicles that disperse mosquitoes efficiently across large treatment areas, and ongoing data surveillance systems that monitor population dynamics to optimize performance over time. Together, these systems allow Debug to operate area-wide control programs with a level of precision and consistency that manual methods cannot match.

Debug's solutions are proven in the field, with programs across four continents achieving up to 97% suppression of mosquito populations.



ROYAL ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY

The Royal Entomological Society is devoted to the understanding and development of insect science. We support international collaboration, research and publication. Our aim is to show every person how remarkable and valuable insects are and want to enrich the world with insect science. As a global membership organisation, we welcome members from all regions and all career stages, from students through to retirees. The Royal Entomological Society publishes eight high-quality journals across entomology, from ecological entomology and conservation/diversity, through to physiology, systematics, molecular biology, methods, and, of course, medical and veterinary entomology. Medical and Veterinary Entomology is a valuable platform for advancing medical, veterinary and forensic entomology research through highlighting transmission dynamics of vector-borne pathogens, ecology, behaviour and development of arthropods, and innovative control approaches. The society welcomes the submission of relevant papers across the spectrum of our journals. By choosing to publish, read and review papers in Royal Entomological Society journals, you are helping us invest in meaningful entomology that supports the understanding, development and future of insect science.



TARGET- SPECIALTY PRODUCTS (Bronze Sponsor)

Target-Specialty Products delivers value-added solutions to Public Health Vector Control Professionals through innovation, products, supplies, application, education, and training opportunities. Our team of experts can advise on best practices for mosquito control, surveillance, emergency response, and treatment. Target-Specialty Products serves the Public Health Vector Control market from 44 locations across the United States and Canada.



VALENT Health (Gold Sponsor)

As a global leader in public health vector control, Valent Health has been working for decades to develop the most comprehensive range of target-specific biorational solutions for public health professionals who protect people around the world against vector-borne disease and nuisance insects.



Mosquitoes are one of the deadliest animals in the world today and mosquito-borne diseases are responsible for more than one million deaths per year. Sustained mosquito control efforts are critical to prevent outbreaks from these diseases, and Valent Health's Public Health team works tirelessly with public health professionals across the globe to address the threat of mosquito-borne disease and to protect human potential around the world.

VESERIS

The preferred choice of public health professionals. Gain firsthand guidance on the latest products and treatments with Vesperis. Whether you work for a vector control district or a company expanding into mosquito control, our public health specialists work by your side to help with everything from droplet and calibration testing to selecting the best surveillance and monitoring tools, larvicides, and adulticides for the job.



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