Society for Vector Ecology

SOVE Newsletter

President's Message

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

Since the last newsletter article, I spent time in Florida, Texas, and then went back home to Colorado, then back to Florida, and then back to Colorado. It has been one of the warmest summers I can remember with the heat breaking records in every spot I was in. While I love the long days of summer, I now yearn for a break from high temperatures and summer storms that have filled my days with buzzing mosquitoes, sneaky no see-ums, scurrying tick nymphs, and ever-advancing screwworms. I know I'm not alone and while pumpkin spice is nice, a change in vectors is also welcome. At home in Colorado the seasons are signaling their transition, I watched a tree on my patio that had one- and then suddenly- five fall-colored leaves, the shore birds have returned from wherever they spent the summer, and our 100-degree highs are slowly rescinding. These are great transitions and I'm going to spend the rest of my message to you telling you a few more of the wonderful transitions that we have here at SOVE.

We've recently recruited a new website designer to make the SOVE site more user-friendly, handsome, professional, and to provide an updated space to showcase and support our membership. We welcome Nicole Scavo as our new web designer. I know some of you have beautiful photos of vectors. Please help us make the website top-notch by submitting these to sovephotos@gmail.com. Additionally, if you have nice photos of our members at historical SOVE conferences or gatherings please submit these also with the venue name, date, and list of people in the photo. Speaking of our website, perhaps you didn't know that we have a job board called "Opportunities". If you're looking to hire, please send Michelle (admin@sove.org) your listing; and if you're

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looking for a change you should check out the posts.

Another bittersweet transition for our society is the change of editors for the Journal of Vector Ecology. After many years of selfless work, Marc and Anne Klowden will be stepping down. As they serve the last few months of the year to make our new editors comfortable with their new positions, we thank them and will miss them. We are very excited to welcome Mary Cameron and Emma Weeks as our new editor and copy editor, repectively. These ladies are experienced, brilliant, and will continue their long history of collaboration here for SOVE. They officially will take the journal reigns at the change of the year. Steadfast are our board members who I always thank for their service. I'll review some of our Board changes in our next newsletter. Before I wander away from SOVE leaders, I'd like to draw your attention to our newsletter editor, Lal Mian. While Lal hasn't said he's leaving, I feel like his role is underrecognized. He is always a fixture at meetings, enthusiastic about vector ecology, and we thank him for his on-going tireless service as newsletter editor for SOVE.

Lastly while I still have a small glimmer of hope that I might see some of you in Crete, that optimism is quickly receding. My responsibilities to work and in safeguarding our country against the potential invasion of screwworm may not allow my travel to our international meeting. I know it's going to be a terrific meeting, and I encourage all of you to attend. Registration for the 9th International Congress "Connecting Vector Science Globally" October 12th -17th in Chania, Crete is open, and a tentative agenda is available on the website www.sove.org. Please register early as the number of people registered will need to be capped due to the size of the venue.

Thank you for your attention. I hope to see you all soon and hope everyone has a productive, safe, and wonderful fall season.

Sincerely,

Denise L. Bonilla

SOVE 2025 President

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From the Desk of the Executive Director, Michelle Brown, Ph.D.

A Heads-Up!

The new student director is Megan Heineman (posted under announcement on website homepage). Her term starts January 1, 2026.

The official change over the editorial team (Marc and Anne Klowden) to Mary Cameron and Emma Weeks is January 1, 2026. They are entering a transitional period beginning September 1, 2025, where Cameron and Weeks will take over but Klowdens will be available for questions.

Additionally, Nicole Scavo is our new webmaster. She will be making design updates to the website.

Southcentral Region, USA
Steve Presley
Regional Director

Greetings, colleagues and friends:

As we welcome the Fall 2025 season and hopefully more pleasant weather throughout the Southcentral Region, I am looking forward to the upcoming opportunity to visit the beautiful and historic island of Crete for the 9th Society for Vector Ecology International Congress. And to learn more about the interesting vector-related research ongoing by our European and other international colleagues, and to visit and catch up with long-time colleagues and friends.

Before I delve into an overview of what vector-related issues are ongoing in the Southcentral Region, please join me in congratulating two of our fellow members from the Southcentral Region that will be joining the leadership of SOVE for 2026; Sarah Hamer will be the Vice President, and Ph.D. graduate student Megan Heineman will serve as the Student Director. Both are from Texas A&M University, and I know they will represent our region and SOVE at-large with outstanding professionalism and leadership.

Within the continental United States during 2024, autochthonous transmission of dengue virus was reported in California, Florida, and Texas. So far this year (2025), within the continental United States, there have been 518 travel-related cases of dengue, with 7% (36/518) of the reported cases occurring in the SOVE Southcentral Region (Arkansas = 3, Kansas = 2, Louisiana = 1, Oklahoma = 3, and Texas = 27). Additionally in the United States, since 2024 there has continued to be focal outbreaks of dengue fever in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. This year, as of the 20th of August, there have been 2,236 autochthonous cases of dengue reported by public health authorities in Puerto Rico, and they have extended the dengue outbreak declaration until December 2025. Public health authorities in the Virgin Islands have reported 47 autochthonous cases of dengue and continue to warn residents of the viruses continuing threat to public health.

This year as of August 20th, there have been a total of 320 West Nile virus disease cases reported from 33 states, 188 of those cases resulted in West Nile neuroinvasive disease. Within the SOVE Southcentral Region there have been 48 West Nile virus disease cases reported, 15% of the total number of cases nationwide. Reported human cases occurring in the Southcentral Region include two in Arkansas, six in Kansas, 13 in Louisiana, nine in Oklahoma, and 18 in Texas. Non-human West Nile virus activity has been reported from 20 Louisiana parishes, 13 Oklahoma counties, and from 13 counties in Texas. From a historical perspective, West Nile virus disease data from 1999-2024, there were 60,992 human cases with a 5.1% case fatality rate. During the same period there were 10,691 West Nile virus disease cases in the five states comprising the SOVE Southcentral Region - approximately 18% of all U.S. cases. Relative to other mosquito-vectored viruses, thus far this year there has been no human cases of St. Louis encephalitis reported, however two counties in Texas and one parish in Louisiana have reported St. Louis encephalitis virus-positive mosquito pools. There has also been non-human eastern equine encephalitis virus activity reported from 13 different Louisiana parishes. ***Presley*** *on page7*

SOUTHWESTERN REGION, USA

Lal S. Mian

Regional Director

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

The Southwestern Region of SOVE consists of 5 states: Arizona, California, Hawaii, Nevada and New Mexico. Based on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and individual state entities, a brief update on vector-borne disease surveillance is present

ed here for our region.

Arizona (www. Azdhs.gov). As of September 9, 2025, Arizona Department of Health Services reported 3 cases of Chagas disease, 6 hantavirus, 12 Rocky Mountain spotted fever, 17 Lyme disease, 1 plague, 17 dengue, 54 West Nile virus (WNV), and 13 malaria cases. As of June 19, 2025, Maricopa county reported I human case of WNV plus 111 mosquito pools sero-positive for WNV, and 75 pools seropositive for Saint Luis encephalitis virus (SLEV). These number will go up as we continue to experience warmer temperatures with monsoonal activity in Arizona..

California (www.cdph.ca.gov). As of September 12, 2025, California continued to show the distribution of two invasive mosquito species, *Aedes aegypti (L.)* and *Ae. Albopictus (*Skuse). The former species was found in 25 counties: Butte, Colusa. Contra Costa, Fresno, Glenn, Imperial, Kern, Kings, Madera, Merced, Orang, Placer, Riverside, Sacramento, San Bernardino, San Diego, San Joaquin, Santa Clara, Solano, Stanislaus, Sutter, Tulare, Ventura, Yolo, and Yuba. The latter species maintained its presence in 2 (5 in 2024) counties—Los Angeles and Shasta. Regarding vector-borne diseases in the state, there were 36 human cases (2 deaths) of WNV, 121 dead birds, 2,263 seropositive mosquito pools, 39 sentinel chickens, and 1 horse testing positive for WNV. The WNV activity was reported from 7 counties, which included Sacramento, Alameda, Santa Clara, Tulare, San Bernardino, Riverside and San Diego. The 36 human cases this year compares with 50 cases in 2024, and 63 cases as our 5-year average. Since its arrival in California in 2003, WNV has resulted in >8K cases with 4K deaths. Additionally, California reported 39 imported cases of dengue and 2 cases of chikungunya (Alameda and Solano counties). Moreover, there were 14 confirmed and 26 probable cases of flea-borne typhus in the state.

Hawaii (www.health.hawaii.gov/vcb/mosquitoes). As of May 25, 2025, the Hawaiian Mosquito Control reported confirmed 15 cases of dengue, 1 malaria , and 1 WNV . Of the day-biting mosquito species, *Ae. albopictus* is found in all islands, whereas *Ae. aegypti* is reported in the big island only. Mosquito-borne diseases are not endemic and are not thought to be an immediate threat to health in Hawaii; however, diseases transmitted by *Aedes* spp. include dengue, chikungunya and Zika viruses..

Nevada (https://dhhs.nv.org). As of August 1, 2025, the Southern Nevada Health District reported 137 cases of coccidiomycosis (Valley fever), and 2 cases each of Lyme disease and malaria Of the mosquito pools 1,621 (37,316 female mosquitoes0 tested by Clark county thus fthis year, there were 14 pools positive for WNV and zero for SLE and western equine encephalomylitis virus [southernnevadahealthdistrict.org]. The northern Nevada public health (formerly Washoe County.org) did report any vector-borne disease cases this year..

New Mexico (nmhealth.org). As of September 3, 2025, New Mexico Health Department reported 6 cases of hantavirus, 1 case of plague, and 11 cases of WNV in the state.

In closing, I would like to remind our regional members to please send me (lmian@csusb.edu) any news about your employment, professional recognition, or any significant accomplishment that you would like to see published in the newsletter. Thanks!

Stay healthy and safe!

Cordially,

Lal

SOVE–Indian Chapter
Rajpal S. Yadav
Regional Director

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

The new Executive Body took over charge of the affairs of the SOVE Indian Chapter (iSOVE) in early 2025. This transition was very smooth. The membership of the Indian Chapter now stands at 159, comprising regular, retired, student, and institutional members.

The first Executive Board meeting of the iSOVE was held on August 25, 2025 and the attendees were Major S. Dhillon, Patron; Rajpal Singh Yadav, President:;Ashwani Kumar, Advisor; Deeparani Prabhu, Secretary; Nandini Korgaonkar, Treasurer; and board members Jagbir Singh Kirti, Kedar P. Deobhankar, Ajeet K. Mohanty, A. N. Shriram, Stelson Quadros, and Advisors: R. S. Sharma and Rajiv Tandon.

At the outset, the iSOVE board congratulated Ashwani Kumar on being appointed as the Vice Chancellor of Saveetha University, Chennai.

The board resolved to undertake various activities in the year 2025–2026. These included a plan to organize training workshops on entomological aspects of vector-borne diseases in different regions across India, namely Northern, Eastern, North-Eastern, Western, Central and Southern regions. The participants in these workshops will be the nominees of the National Center for Vector-borne Disease Control and the vector-borne disease control programs in the States.

Quadros proposed collaboration between iSOVE and the Indian Pest Control Association (IPCA) to train members of IPCA on various aspects of control of vector-borne diseases. Deobhankar offered the facilities of Ross LifeScience Pvt. Ltd., Pune – a GLP lab – for training on vector control product evaluation procedures without any charges. It was proposed to resume SOVE_Lects – the lecture series – given by invited experts. All members will be encouraged to organize community outreach activities, including citizen science, for community awareness on the prevention and control of vector-borne diseases. These activities will require developing suitable communication and teaching materials. Efforts will be made to mobilize resources for these activities.

It was proposed to organize the next International Conference of the iSOVE in early 2027. Dhillon proposed that iSOVE organize a pre-conference seminar on important topics. The Board unanimously resolved to bid for organizing the 2033 SOVE International Conference in India.

Yadav informed the Board about the efforts being made for administrative and financial compliance for the smooth running of the iSOVE functions. He also informed that the dormant website has been revived and will be further updated.

It was unanimously resolved that the air travel of Ashwani Kumar, former President, to attend the 9th International Congress of SOVE in Chania, Crete (Greece) in October 2025 will be supported by the iSOVE.

Rajpal Yadav

Ashwani Kumar, Ph.D., F.P.A.S.

On October 7, 2023, our previous SOVE Indian –Chapter Director ,Ashwani Kumar Ph. D., F.P.A.S., was hired as Pro-Vice Chancellor of Saveetha Institute of Medical and Technical Sciences (SIMATS) in Chennai, India. The Chancellor of the Institute, after his review of various positions and evaluation of qualifications of personnel at the top management positions, elevated Ashwani to the position of Vice Chancellor on August 9, 2025..His appointment further strengthens the roots of ISOVE chapter and will certainly expand the future of SOVE.

Presently under his leadership, the Institute includes 14 different colleges, consisting of Medical, Dental, Nursing, Physiotherapy, Occupational Therapy, Pharmacy, Allied Health Sciences, Engineering, Architecture and Design, Law, Management and Hospitality, and Fashion Designing. There are over 15000 students, 1500 teaching faculty and 3500 support staff serving the institute. The Institute has A++ rating with an annual budget of over 250 million US dollars (Quite a significant amount according to Indian currency standards). The Dental college is positioned at No. 1 as per the Indian Government ranking for the last 3 years and 26th in the World. The Medical College stands at No. 12 and law at 13th, whereas the Institute is ranked No. 11 as per Indian rankings. This ranking puts the SIMATS in a very prestigious position in India.

The Institute boasts more than 300 MOUs with Indian and foreign universities, offering regular exchange of students with these universities for hands-on and observational training, especially in Medical, Dental and Engineering disciplines. In the months of July and August this year, students from Vietnam, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Indonesia, the Philippines, Australia, the UK and the USA visited the Institute and participated in various activities. The Institute has a vibrant educational, research and clinical environment and state-of-the-art infrastructure and libraries and is proud of several thousand publications and patents with start-ups. We would like to congratulate Vice Chancellor Kumar on his exemplary accomplishment and wish him the very best!

Major Dhillon, Ph.D.
Executive Director Emeritus

Presley *cont'd. from page 3*: There has recently been an increase in the number of papers in scientific journals reporting geographic range expansion of several ixodid tick species that are of significant human and veterinary health concern. Additionally, there are changes in geographic distribution of vector populations within the expanding geographic range of these tick vector species. These range and distribution changes result from a combination of climatic change, land use practices, and host movement. Particularly in the SOVE Southcentral Region the movement of large animals that serve as primary hosts for ticks, such as white-tailed deer, as well as introduced exotic animals (e.g., axis deer, aoudad, etc.) that facilitate the dispersal of ticks into new areas. Migratory waterfowl and their role in the movement of arthropods must be considered, as well as the introduction of various pathogens and parasites into new regions.

A few specific examples of the expanding geographic range of ixodid tick species that are of significant human and veterinary health concern, including: (1) The blacklegged tick, primary vector of anaplasmosis, babesiosis, borreliosis [hard tick relapsing fever and Lyme disease], ehrlichiosis, and Powassan virus disease is expanding northward and westward. (2) The Gulf Coast tick is a competent vector of spotted fever group rickettsiosis and tick paralysis to humans, as well as American canine hepatozoonosis to dogs and other canids. The Gulf Coast tick's geographic range is rapidly expanding northward and westward. And (3), the lone star tick is the primary vector of Bourbon and Heartland viruses, two species of ehrlichiosis, as well as a competent vector of tularemia, and its bite associated with Southern tick-associated rash illness (STARI) and alpha-gal syndrome. Populations of the lone star tick are expanding northward.

Nationwide, emergency department (ED) visits related to tick bites have spiked during 2025, reaching the highest point in five years, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Syndromic Surveillance Program's Tick Bite Data Tracker. By early July of 2025 the number of ED visits resulting from tick bites had exceeded a decade of July records, with 92 tick bite-related visits/100,000 total ED visits reported across the nation. Emergency departments in the northeastern United States have been hit particularly hard, with tick bites listed as the reason for 283/100,000 ED visits during the peak month of May, up from 209/100,000 around the same time in 2024.

My primary intention for providing comparative data on the various arthropod-vectored disease cases is not only to convey the significance and necessity for our broader scientific vocation as researchers and public health professionals, but also to highlight the importance of our Society for Vector Ecology. Thank you all for your dedication and hard work towards gaining a better understanding of arthropod vectors of disease-causing pathogens and parasites.

Again, I look forward to seeing you all and enjoying the beautiful island of Crete in October during the 9th International Congress of the Society for Vector Ecology and wish you safe and pleasant travels.

τα λέμε στην Κρήτη,

Steve

LANE Douglas FOIL, Ph.D.

January 16, 1949 – June 22, 2025

Lane Douglas Foil of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, passed away on June 22, 2025, at the age of 76 years, following a short illness. Lane was born to Ray and Emogene Foil on June 16, 1949, in Union, Mississippi. He lived in various southern towns including Shreveport, Louisiana, and Laurel, Mississippi, where he attended high school and played basketball for the Laurel Tornadoes. Lane graduated from Auburn University with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Zoology in 1971. At Auburn, he was a member of Tau Kappa Epsilon fraternity. After graduation, he moved to Jackson, Mississippi, where he was employed as the zoologist for the Jackson Zoological Park. This job led to many interesting encounters with exotic animals, including raising baby animals at home. One locally famous story involved Lane's raising a baby wallaroo (*Osphranter* sp.) for 7 months. The story was followed by *Southern Living* magazine and Jackson, Mississippi's newspaper, the *Clarion-Ledger*, and resulted in an entry in the *Guinness Book of World Records*. He once told another story about an encounter with a tiger; the experience led him to conclude that working with zoo animals might not be his life's work.

Lane continued his education by earning a Master of Science degree in Preventative Medicine with a minor in Microbiology from the University of Mississippi Medical Center in 1975, and his Ph.D. In Entomology from Mississippi State University in 1978. His doctoral dissertation research investigated the venom of the Brown Recluse spider, *Loxosceles reclusa* (Gertsch and Mulaik). This involved collecting spiders from long deserted shacks in the Mississippi countryside. Once sheriff's deputies mistook him for a person who had been stealing government checks from locals, and he had to exit a ramshackle empty home (with his spiders) at gunpoint.

After graduating from MSU, Lane began his long and distinguished career as a professor of veterinary entomology at Louisiana State University. During his more than forty-five years at the University he taught and mentored students, mentored postdoctoral associates, obtained numerous research grants (over 30 totaling approximately $7.7 million), and obtained four US patents in areas such as vaccinating companion animals for ticks. Lane Foil's graduate students and postdocs have gone on to have successful careers in education, research, administration, industry, and government (civilian and military). Lane's research productivity was outstanding; he published 12 book chapters and invited contributions, 171 publications in refereed journals, 20 trade magazine articles, and 64 extension publications. Lane was an invited speaker in over 30 meetings, including once presenting the Highlights of Veterinary Entomology to the Entomological Society of America. Lane Foil was perhaps best known for his work on horse flies and deer flies. His research included laboratory and field studies that spanned the spectrum of biology, from reproductive physiology to host seeking behavior in the field. His work incriminated

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against horse flies as vectors of Bovine Leukemia and Equine Infectious Anemia viruses. He and his coworkers examined attractiveness of a number of chemicals to horse flies. Partitioning of hosts by Tabanidae, diel feeding patterns, seasonal distribution and relative abundance, effects of insecticides on horse flies, and novel methods of trapping were investigated. Lane's work was very highly regarded, and colleagues in Africa and South America sought him out for collaborative studies. Moreover, he collaborated with scientists in the Nuclear Science, Veterinary Science, and Zoology Departments at the Louisiana State University.

In addition to his work on horse flies, Lane studied insecticide resistance by horn flies, control of fleas, disease organisms transmitted by fleas, biting midges (both as pests and as vectors of filarial worms), control of stable flies, control of fire ants, control of sand flies, ticks, mosquitoes, and growth and development of caterpillars. Lane's work spanned a breadth of research experience unusual in most entomologists' careers. In 2006, Lane received the LSU Ag Center's Doyle Chambers Research Award for meritorious contributions to agriculture. An article in the 2019 issue of Louisiana Agriculture stated, "Foil has been recognized for a career marked by a sometimes 'unconventional approach' to research that has yielded practical solutions that have been adopted across the globe." In 2013, Lane was named to the Pennington Chair for Wildlife Research at the Bob R. Jones Idlewild Research Station in Clinton, Louisiana. As the recipient, Lane focused his research on developing solutions for problems that affect the health and abundance of wildlife, such as hemorrhagic disease in deer. Lane continued his brilliant career in studying insect vectors as pathogen carriers and their economic costs. He was still working until a few months prior to his passing, indicating his commitment to research, science, and mentoring the next generation to carry on his legacy. In 2025, Lane was posthumously awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award by the Livestock Insects Workers' Conference in recognition of his many years of research on insects affecting animals and the pathogens transmitted by those insects.

Even though he was a dedicated scientist, Lane found time for fun. Friends knew him as a down-to-earth, fun-loving companion with a dry wit and passionate love of the outdoors. Most who met him outside of academia never would have guessed his education or achievements. Those of us who worked with him knew that under the casual, easy-going demeanor lay a brilliant mind.

As a young man, Lane enjoyed hunting in Mississippi and Louisiana, particularly for duck and geese. He participated in field trials with his champion Labrador Retrievers, Itch and Tink. Lane also was an enthusiastic fisherman. He holds the Louisiana state record for a Mako Shark caught on rod and reel (765 pounds), caught in 2006. While on a trip to Venezuela with his daughter, he accomplished the Marlin Grand Slam (catching three different species of billfish, including a marlin, within a single 24-h period).

Lane is survived by his daughter, Allison Foil; his grandson, Benjamin Lane Foil; his brother, Mike Foil; his niece, Hadleigh Foil; and his long-term partner and colleague, Claudia Husseneder, Professor of Entomology at LSU. The family requests that colleagues who want to honor Lane's memory do so by donating to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in Memphis, Tennessee.

Larry Hribar, Ph.D.
Florida Keys Mosquito Control District
Marathon, Florida

Işik Unlu, Ph.D.
St. Tammany Parish Mosquito Abatement District
Slidell, Louisiana

Allison Foil, Ph.D.
Foil Equine Sports Medicine
Ocala, Florida

Wayne John Crans, Ph.D.
November 28, 1937 – July 30, 2025

It is with deep sadness that we report the passing of the renowned mosquito biologist Wayne John Crans on July 30, 2025. Our beloved grandfather, father, uncle, teacher, mentor, colleague, and friend passed away peacefully from natural causes in his home after living a completely fulfilled life of 87 years. “Doc” as he was affectionately called by his family, students, and others was born in New Jersey on November 28, 1937, and grew up in the New Market area of Piscataway, about a ½ h from New York. His father, David LaTourette Crans, owned and operated a radio repair shop in Dunellen, NJ; his mother, Olga Noge, was a pianist who taught music out of their home. His father died tragically when Wayne was just a young boy (5 years old), and he was raised by his mother along with two siblings (a younger sister, Ruthy, and an older brother, David). As a child, Wayne was an avid baseball fan, closely following the New York teams along with his childhood friends. This attraction to baseball would follow Wayne throughout his life. He also loved the outdoors. Any chance to go outside, play in the streets, or go fishing for the day was a welcome adventure. His mother, Olga, bought a vacation house in Cape Breton, NJ near the Jersey Shore, where she took the family to spend the summer months. Wayne was introduced to boating and saltwater fishing during this time, which became lifelong pastimes. Wayne also became an avid fly fisherman and tied his own flies (entomology in practice and would even teach a course at Rutgers University on Aquatic Entomology for Anglers). As an adult, Wayne learned to hunt – small game, pheasants, grouse quail, checkers, woodcock, waterfowl, and deer. When Wayne took on a new endeavor, he threw himself, and any willing others, into the mission at hand. Wayne spent many hours outdoors hiking, bird watching, cycling, swimming, snorkeling, and gardening. Wayne’s understanding of, passion, and love for the outdoors was passed on to his three sons, his grandchildren, and many of his students and colleagues.

Wayne entered Rutgers University in 1956 after graduating from Dunellen High School. He majored in Pre-Veterinary Medicine but changed to Biological Sciences after Entomology courses caught his interest. Wayne worked as a seasonal employee for the Department of Entomology during his junior year at Rutgers and gained a great deal of field experience with biting fly research. It was at this time that he caught the attention of the entomology faculty. The summer of 1959 was the year that New Jersey experienced an extensive outbreak of eastern equine encephalitis (EEE), which stimulated the Rutgers University New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station (NJAES) to fund new faculty positions in Mosquito Research. The entomology department sought out Wayne, interviewed him, and appointed him to a Research Associate position in 1960. This allowed Wayne to complete his undergraduate degree on a part-time basis and to continue his education at the graduate level. He received his B.S. in 1962, his M.S. degree in 1965, and his Ph.D. in Entomology in 1968. Two years after being promoted to Assistant Professor, Wayne applied for sabbatical leave and served as a Research Officer at the East African Institute of Malaria and Vector-borne Diseases in Amani, Tanzania. His work focused on developing a Bancroftian filariasis research program at the institute and he was able to gain experience with physiological aging techniques in malaria vectors by working with G. B. White and Garrett-Jones. Wayne used his ————————-***Crans** cont’d. on page 11*

***Crans** cont'd. from page xx: t*ropical experience to enrich his teaching of *Medical Entomology* and *Arthropods and Human Disease* when he returned to Rutgers. He was also able to use the age-grading techniques he learned in Tanzania to structure a surveillance program for encephalitis vectors in New Jersey. These skills were passed on to the New Jersey mosquito control community and put into operational practice. Wayne was promoted to Associate Research Professor with tenure in 1973 and took another sabbatical in 1976 to participate in an African Tsetse Fly Abatement Program funded by USAID. Once again, tropical experience stimulated new ideas for his New Jersey research programs and enriched his teaching at all levels. Wayne worked with Donald Sutherland for many years in the Mosquito Research and Control Program based at Headlee Laboratories on the George H. Cook campus in New Brunswick, NJ. *The Mosquito Program advises the Director of NJAES on mosquito related matters to assure that legislative mandates are met, and that advances in mosquito control are based on science. One primary duty is to review Plans and Estimates of the 21 county mosquito control agencies in the state of New Jersey (the first state* This important work helps to guide local agencies preserving local funding and science-based decisions for vector control programs that operate in a political environment. This mandate was also the first of its kind to increase collaborations between academia and operational mosquito control districts, an effort that continues today, not only in New Jersey, but is now modeled by CDC Centers of Excellence.

Wayne's research focused on the epidemiology of mosquito-borne diseases as well as the basic biology of individual vector species with funding from NIH, NSF, EPA, NASA, and various state sources. His publication record includes more than 150 titles. His seminal work on elucidating the enzootic, epizootic, and epidemic vectors of EEE and the involvement of avian populations have been monumental in leading the research and control efforts of entomologists, ornithologists, virologists, epidemiologists, and vector control technicians globally. Doc provided expertise on mosquito surveillance (developed a state-wide resting box program for *Culiseta melanura* (Coquillett) and *Anopheles* species), sentinel chickens, parity dissections, incrimination of *Aedes sollicitans* (Walker) and *Coquillettidia perturbans*(Walker), blood-feeding preferences, and many mosquito biology and ecology discoveries. In particular, ask any of his students or son (Scott) about oddball species like *Ae. thibaulti* (Dyar and Knab)or *Orthopodomyia signifera* (Coquillett); or establishing a colony of *Culex territans* (Walker) with bullfrogs and human urine!

Wayne also established many service programs that were funded by the state of New Jersey on an annual basis. Examples included: *Surveillance for the Mosquito Vectors of Encephalitis* (funded by the NJ State Mosquito Control Commission), *Black Fly Control in the Delaware River* (funded by NJDEP) and *Ecological Studies with West Nile Virus* (funded by NJDOH). Each of these programs help fulfill the legislative mandate that requires Rutgers NJAES to maintain a viable program of research to enrich practical vector control efforts with science. Some of these programs are still continuing and have been further elevated to increase mosquito surveillance/control efforts in New Jersey for better public health protection (https://vectorbio.rutgers.edu/surveillance.php).

Wayne was elevated to Director of the Mosquito Research program in 1997 and adopted a personal mandate to continue to improve the level of professionalism in mosquito control. These extension-related activities were needed, very much appreciated, and deeply valued by the mosquito control and research community. Wayne believed strongly that university research professors had a responsibility to teach and share what they have learned through their experiences. He dedicated a tremendous amount of time to these teaching efforts. His lectures and professional presentations reflected this investment in time. When you had the opportunity to hear him speak, you couldn't help but listen carefully. He captured your attention, delivered meaningful information and left you wanting for more. If Crans was on the program, the session was well-attended. Today, if one of Crans's students is on the program, you will want to hear what they have to say.

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***Crans** cont'd. on page 12*

Crans *cont'd. from page 11:* Wayne's research programs generated assistantships for graduate students who were trained as mosquito biologists. He actively involved these students in the mosquito research and control community. They were expected to attend professional meetings and report on their research annually. Doc would always provide "one free" meeting to his students, but if you wanted to attend any meeting thereafter, you better be on the program. His drive to make students speak professionally, not only disseminated valuable information, but it also allowed the students to develop as better speakers. As a result, his students were so valued that they frequently filled job openings as they became available within the state, and across the nation, at times before they had finished up their own thesis research studies. Wayne still has many of his students leading professional mosquito control programs across the country. It became known that when you hire one of Wayne's students, you had an individual that could do the job that needed to be done on day one. Mosquito control programs were willing to wait for these individuals.

Wayne was also active at all levels of the mosquito control profession. In addition to his involvement with many other organizations, he served as the Northeastern US Regional Director of the Society for Vector Ecology (SOVE), and was invited to deliver many lectures at SOVE meetings. His publications also adorn the pages of the Journal of Vector Ecology, in addition to serving as a long-time reviewer for the journal. In particular, Doc was extremely proud of his Distinguished Achievement Award from SOVE in 2003 on his "*A classification system for mosquito life cycles: life cycle types for mosquitoes of the northeastern United States*".

Wayne was predeceased by his older brother David L. Crans Jr. in 1949, his sister Ruth Eileen Crans-Brescher in 2008, his son Terrence David Crans in 2012, and his wife of 56 years, Alice Margaret (Sutherland) Crans in 2015. He is survived by his sons Scott Cameron Crans and Brett Allen Crans; *six* grandchildren and one great grandchild.

The world has lost an expert mosquito biologist but his legacy lives on through his family, students, colleagues, and friends. Until the next dip Doc!

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9th SOVE International Congress

Connecting Vector Science Globally

12-17 October 2025

Mikis Theodorakis Theatre

Chania, Crete

From Traps to Tenure: Navigating career pathways in vector ecology

MEET OUR CAREER PANELISTS

WILLY WINT
ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH GROUP OXFORD

MARY CAMERON
LONDON SCHOOL OF HYGIENE & TROPICAL MEDICINE, UK

EVA VERONESI
UNIVERSITY OF APPLIED SCIENCES AND ARTS, SWITZERLAND

DAVE MALONE
THE GATES FOUNDATION

ARY FARAJI
SALT LAKE CITY MOSQUITO ABATEMENT DISTRICT, UTAH

MARIETA BRAKS
NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR PUBLIC HEALTH & THE ENVIRONMENT (RIVM)

SANDRA GEWEHR
ECODEVELOPMENT SA, GREECE

💬 LIVE Q&A & CAREER GUIDANCE

📣 REGISTER HERE FOR THE CONFERENCE

Latin American SOVE REGION
Christina McCarthy
Regional Director

Dear Colleagues,

Registration is now open, as well as the abstract submission period:
https://lasoverelcov2025.lasove.org/aranceles-y-modalidad-de-pago/;
https://lasoverelcov2025.lasove.org/formulario-de-inscripcion/

Abstract Submission: https://lasoverelcov2025.lasove.org/envio-de-resumenes/

Newsletters:https://lasoverelcov2025.lasove.org/circulares/

If you have any questions, please contact us at lasove.relcov2025@gmail.com

Our social media platforms are:* Instagram: @lasove__* X: LASOVE_* Facebook: Latin American SOVE* Facebook: RELCOV#LASOVERELCOV2025

I look forward to seeing you at LA SOVE RELCOV 2025!

Warmest regards. keep well and healthy!

Christina

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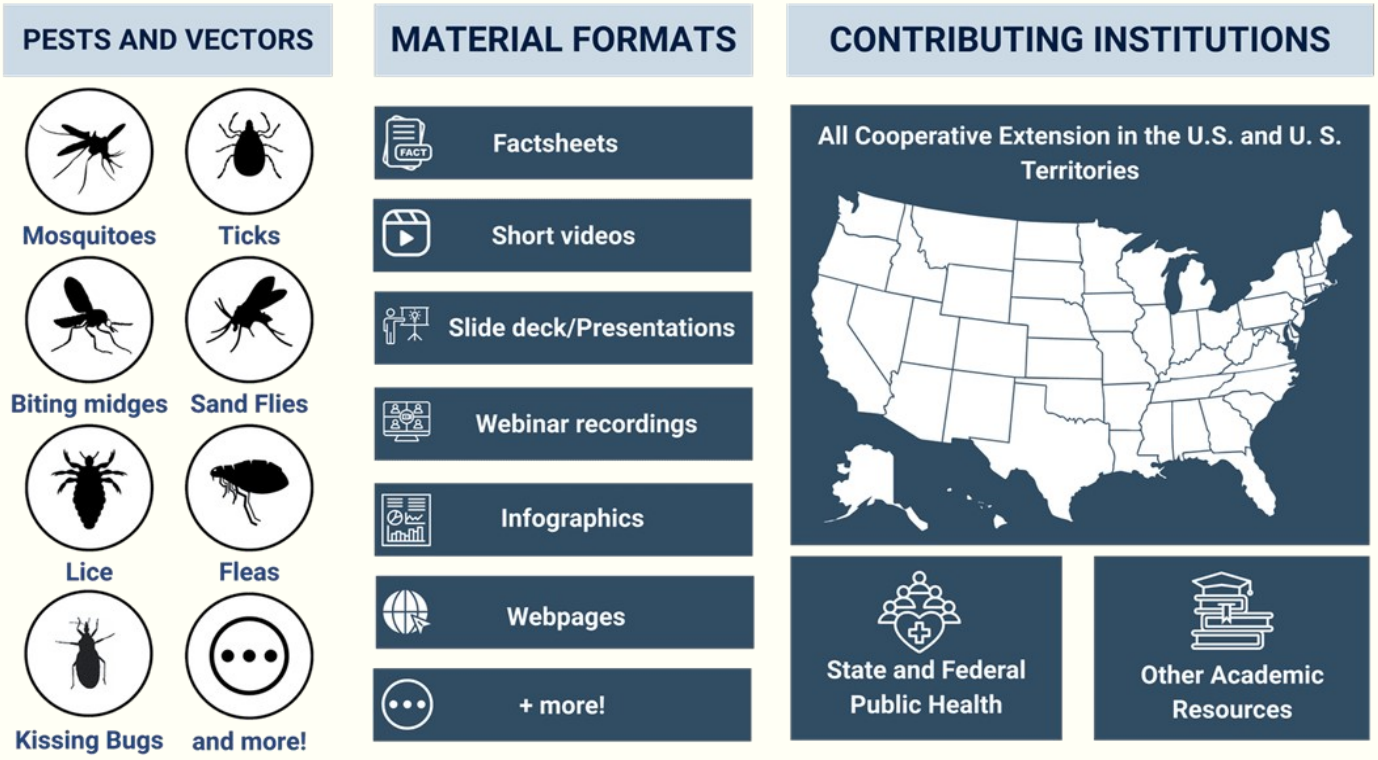
Reporting **Executive Director, Michelle Brown, Ph.D.**

The VectorED Network Training and Evaluation Center is pleased to introduce the **Vector Education, Communication, and Training Online Resource (VECTOR) Library**: https://www.vector-education.org [vector-education.org]. This free, searchable database catalogs vector-borne disease educational resources from Land Grant Extensions across the U.S. and its territories. Soon, it will also include contributions from state and national public health agencies and academic institutions. Our goal is to provide a centralized hub for science-based information on vectors and vector-borne diseases—to help individuals protect themselves, their families, and their pets. Whether you're a healthcare provider, educator, outdoor enthusiast, or simply concerned about family and pet safety, the database allows you to search resources tailored to your specific audience or needs. You can filter by state or CDC region, language, cost, vector species or group, focus area, and type of material—such as fact sheets, videos, webinars, infographics, or lesson plans.

Have you searched the database and noticed that your materials are missing? We'd love to include them! Visit: https://www.vector-education.org/how-to-contribute [vector-education.org] to share your resources or submit questions and feedback.

Thank you for helping us build a robust, collaborative resource for the vector-borne disease community.

Adriana Costero-Saint Denis, PhD



Resources

BEI Resources for Vector Biology Research

(www.beiresources.org)

The NIAID's BEI Resources program provides Vector Biology resources for free to registered, approved researchers in domestic and foreign institutions with appropriate facilities and containment procedures for vector research. Our widely requested holdings include LIVE arthropod vectors of human disease, including anopheline and culicine mosquitoes, reduviids, ticks and sand flies, associated reagents and genomic materials for entomological research, along with insectary protocols. For the cost of nothing, recipients are only required to acknowledge the use of the individual resources in publications and presentations of the research in which the materials are used.

BEI Resources arthropod colonies are made available by the deposit contributions of investigators throughout the world. Deposited materials undergo review by NIAID prior to acceptance. Please notify BEI Resources through the Suggest A Reagent Form if you have a request for inclusion or the Deposit Inquiry Contact Form if you have a unique strain for consideration.

Vector Biology resources available through BEI Resources will remain available throughout the current coronavirus pandemic. Orders and/or shipping of certain live vectors may be delayed or temporarily on hold depending on the current operating status of individual insectaries for mosquitoes, ticks, reduviids and sand flies. BEI Resources is pleased to announce the upcoming availability of black fly life stages through a partnership with the University of Georgia Black Fly Rearing and Bioassay Laboratory, which has operated the only known colony of black flies (Diptera: Simuliidae) for over 20 years. Since its establishment, the *Simulium vittatum* colony has been used for a variety of research projects, including vector transmission studies, environmental monitoring, vector control and larval feeding studies.

I wanted to share some information regarding the NIAID Bioinformatics Resource Centers for Infectious Diseases (BRCs) that were recently renewed. There has been concern in the vector research community regarding the accessibility of bioinformatics data on vectors under the new awards. If the SOVE newsletter editors agree to post this information, below is what is available at this time:

BRCs website: https://www.niaid.nih.gov/research/bioinformatics-resource-centers [niaid.nih.gov.

Information on the BRC new awards: NIAID Funds Cutting-Edge Genomics and Bioinformatics Programs | NIAID: National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (nih.gov) [niaid.nih.gov]

The NCBI also has vector data in a comprehensive, easy to navigate format. Here is an example for Aedes aegypti: Search: *Aedes aegypti* - NLM (nih.gov) [ncbi.nlm.nih.gov] Information on other vectors can be accessed by placing the name of the vector in the search box.

The contact person for bioinformatics resources at NIAID is Wiriya Rutvisuttinunt (wiriya.rutvisuttinunt@nih.gov) and she can be contacted with any questions.

There have been several recent NIH policy announcements that may be relevant to SOVE membership doing research in foreign countries and/or with viruses.

I have included links below to these announcements.

Here is the link to the NIH Implementation of New Initiatives and Policies website: Implementation of New Initiatives and Policies | Grants & Funding [grants.nih.gov] Since new policies continue to come out and current policies may be updated, I would encourage everyone to view this link every once in a while for updates and changes.

NOT-OD-25-127: Implementation Update: Terminating or Suspending Dangerous Gain-of-Function Research in Accordance with the Executive Order on Improving the Safety and Security of Biological Research [grants.nih.gov]

NOT-OD-25-104: Updated NIH Policy on Foreign Subawards [grants.nih.gov]

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We are on the Web!
www.sove.org

About SOVE . . . . .

The Society for Vector Ecology is a nonprofit professional organization formed in 1968 by a group of individuals involved in vector biology and control programs in California. The membership has since grown to represent an amalgamation of diverse research, operational, and extension personnel from all over the world. The Society is committed to solving many complex problems encountered in the field of vector biology and control. Among these are the suppression of nuisance organisms and disease vectors through the integration of various control options, such as environmental management, biological control, public education, and appropriate chemical or non-chemical control strategy.

The Society publishes the biannual Journal of Vector Ecology that contains research and operational papers covering many phases of vector biology, ecology, and control. The Society also issues a quarterly newsletter and holds an annual conference in September/October.

2025 SOVE Board Members, Editors