Society for Vector Ecology

SOVE Newsletter

President's Message

Denise L. Bonilla

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

I am pleased and honored to herein provide my first Message from the President for the SOVE newsletter. Let me extend, on behalf of us all, heartfelt gratitude to Lyric Bartholomay as she moves into the role of Past President. Lyric made the hard decisions for all of us this past year, empowering the board to change our fees and bolstering SOVE to be enduring as the strong international society we all know it to be. Likewise let me welcome the succession of colleagues in SOVE leadership. Lee Cohnstaedt now moves into the role of President Elect, and Rui-De Xue into the role of Vice President. Those who know me or those who know of me know that I will work with you- and for you- to the best of my ability. One of my strengths is building the four C's: communication, cooperation, collaboration, and coalitions. I will talk a little about that later but first I want to talk about having strength during uncertain times. I sit here today in Colorado grasping for and being grateful for things (employment, health, family, friends, warm weather) that many normally take for granted. Like many others, I am a fiercely proud public servant and thought I would always be. How many of you have asked yourself, "What would I do if I wasn't a Vector Ecologist?" That is something I now think about daily. Honestly, it eats at me. I know others are in the same boat and I want you to know that I am here for you. SOVE is here for you. We are family. Reach out if you need help or support.

Although I usually work with ticks and tick-borne disease, I now spend most of my time working on New World Screwworm (NWS) preparation and response. Focusing on the nature of NWS resurgence in Central America and preparing for a potential incursion here in the

……..……***President's message*** *cont'd on p. 2.*

In this issue

United States has reminded me of a few tenants that ring true across most One Health emergencies. First, is the power of communication. Granted, sometimes the fastest way to get something done is to concentrate and work in a silo. However, think about what might happen if all the things that you know were lost? As a scientific community we benefit from every single one of you and everyone has their own talents. It can be as simple as knowing how to engage a small tribal group, speaking multiple languages, or building data platforms to share across agencies. Cooperation and collaboration are key in research and in policy. I've found that taking a little time and patience with peers while getting started, reaps larger benefits in the long run. Furthermore, multi- and interdisciplinary projects examine facets of vector-borne disease ecology in creative, and broad-reaching ways. I currently lead a working group to update a Rift Valley Fever strategy and some of my favorite times of the month are engaging with, and learning from, new colleagues on a system I normally don't work with. SOVE meetings are an exciting demonstration of this. I have honestly never met such an interesting and brilliant group of people.

Furthermore, investing in our younger scientists' growth is imperative for our future. One of the ways we can advance our work and support young researchers is by building networks and coalitions. Getting started is not easy, but we have a community. A good example of this is US infraVec. You might remember this being introduced at our last meeting in Fort Collins, Colorado. US infraVec would use vector resources and infrastructure that currently exist to serve community needs. Later this coalition would identify needs, the means for goal achievement, and work across groups to showcase opportunities for everyone. Lastly, I look forward to meeting new faces and building more networks at our 9th International Congress of SOVE on October 12-17 in Chania, Crete. Our European colleagues have been working hard to create an experience none of us will forget. Please submit your abstracts for this no later than May 10th. We want to see our students there too! Please take advantage of our student travel award program. The application is on our meeting webpage https://www.sove.org/meetings.

Warm wishes,

Denise

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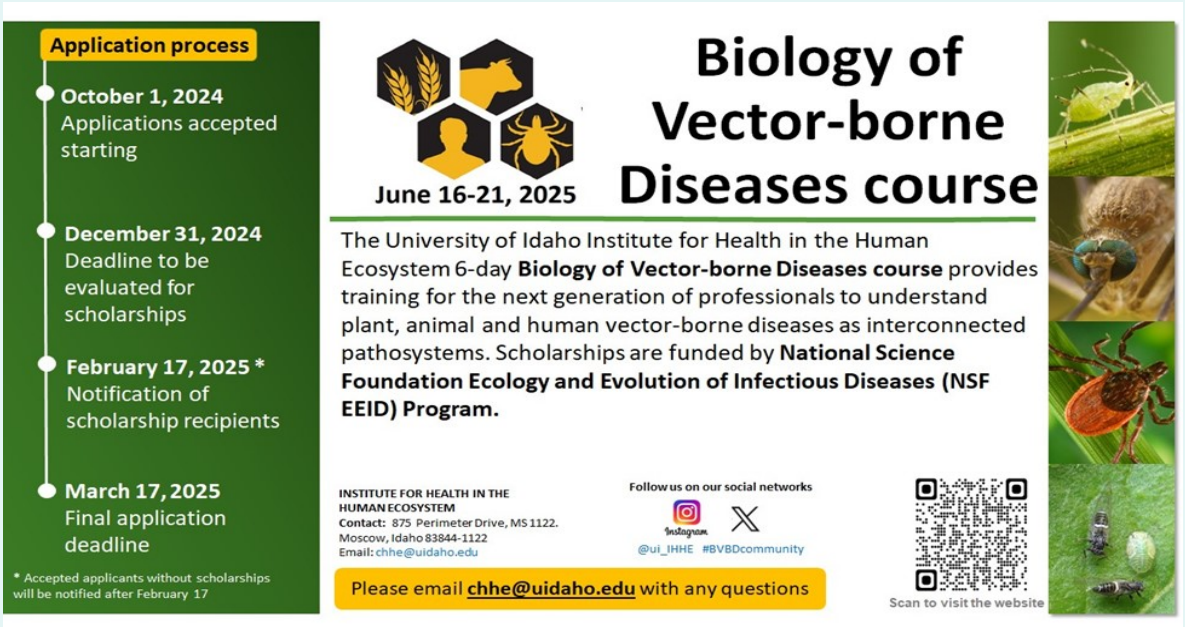


SOUTHEASTERN REGION, USA
Edmund Norris
Regional Director

Dear Colleagues,

Dear Colleagues,

I hope this message finds you all well as we move forward into the spring season. It has been an exciting and eventful start to the year for the Southeast region, with multiple successful workshops and ongoing challenges in the broader research and vector control community. As always, I am honored to share updates on recent events, upcoming opportunities, and important issues facing our field. |

The DODD Short Courses on mosquito control and applied vector-borne education programs were a tremendous success, offering valuable training for both early-career and experienced professionals. The hands-on sessions and expert-led discussions helped to further strengthen vector education in our region, ensuring that we continue to advance knowledge in integrated mosquito management.

Looking ahead, the Fifth Arbovirus Surveillance & Mosquito Control Workshop hosted by AMCD is fast approaching and will be held from March 25-27. This will be another fantastic opportunity to engage with fellow researchers, vector control professionals, and public health experts. For those interested, you can find more details and register for the event at the following link: The Fifth Arbovirus Surveillance & Mosquito Control Workshop.

Additionally, the American Mosquito Control Association (AMCA) Annual Meeting was a great success. It was inspiring to see independent researchers and mosquito control professionals come together to discuss the latest advancements in our field. The AMCA remains an essential hub for collaboration, education, and advocacy in mosquito control research and public health.

Despite these successes, the vector control and research community is facing significant challenges due to large-scale disruptions in federal funding to universities and federal agencies. These include but are not limited to pauses in research programs and budget reallocations, impacting researchers across the country. These disruptions have led to increased uncertainty. Many federal (and non-federal) agency researchers are currently unable to attend professional meetings, hire new staff, or present their work, which limits opportunities for collaboration and

While these changes are creating real difficulties, we remain hopeful that these disruptions are temporary and that funding will stabilize in the near future. In the meantime, it is strongly encouraged for independent researchers and those affiliated with non-federal research organizations to continue applying for available research grants through federal agencies and to keep persevering in their research. Maintaining a steady flow of grant application submissions (and hopefully new awards) will help ensure that critical vector research projects remain active and funded into the future. . . . . .***Ed Norris*** *cont'd on page 12*

Regional Reports

South Central Region, USA
Steve Presley
Regional Director

Greetings colleagues and friends,

As we are beginning to see weather patterns and migratory bird activity indicating the not so far-off approach of springtime, at least in most of the South-central Region, many of us are planning and preparing for field research activities, as well as vector surveillance and control operations. It has been a somewhat unusual winter throughout most of the South-central Region, with destructive weather events such as record-setting daily low temperatures as well as record-setting daily high temperatures, drought, flooding and high winds. The widespread outbreak of highly pathogenic avian influenza A virus in dairy cattle and poultry flocks, as well as reported human disease cases, continues to substantiate the importance of our professions and the One Health concept approach.

Final data from CDC ArboNET for 2024 reports there were 1,466 human cases of West Nile virus (WNV) disease reported from 49 states in the United States. Of those WNV disease cases, 72.5% were West Nile neuroinvasive disease. Specifically, from the Southcentral Region, there were 6 human cases of WNV disease reported from central Arkansas, 23 human cases reported from Kansas, 53 human cases reported from Louisiana, 39 human cases reported from Oklahoma, and 176 human cases reported from Texas. Based on CDC ArboNET reported data there was only one human case of St. Louis encephalitis virus (SLEV) disease in the United States during 2024 (South Carolina). During 2024 there were reports of mosquito pools testing positive for SLEV from Louisiana (St. Tammany Parish) and Texas (El Paso, Galveston and Lubbock counties). Interestingly, reported cases of SLEV disease in the United States was the lowest in a decade during 2024. During the previous 10 years there was an annual average of 16.3 SLEV disease cases reported, with the highest number of cases reported during 2022.

Relative to other arthropods that are considered potential vectors of disease-causing pathogens to humans, domestic animals and wildlife, the westward range expansion of the blacklegged tick (Ixodes scapularis) and the Gulf Coast tick (*Amblyomma maculatum*) is of concern for both human and veterinary health authorities. As professionals directly or indirectly working in the field of vector ecology, whether working as a vector control district specialist or manager, an industry representative, or an academic researcher, it is incumbent upon us to work together to ensure public health. This can only be accomplished through communication of our findings and lessons learned, and through collaboration to find effective and efficient integrated/intelligent vector management strategies and approaches.

If you are a member of SOVE and live in the Southcentral Region, please send me an email (steve.presley@ttu.edu) with any news or

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

SOUTHWESTERN REGION, USA

Lal S. Mian

Regional Director

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

The Southwestern Region consists of 5 states: Arizona, California, Hawaii, Nevada and New Mexico. Using the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and state resources, a brief update on vector-borne disease surveillance in the region is presented here by state in our region. Although it is too early to report any major vector-borne disease outbreak for 2025, this report will mostly cover the updated data for 2024.

Arizona (www. Azdhs.gov). As of December 10, 2024, Arizona Department of Health Services reported 5 cases of anaplasmosis, 3 ehrlichiosis, 13 Chagas disease, 11 hantavirus, 7 Rocky Mountain spotted fever, 7 Lyme disease, 48 dengue, 3 chikungunya, 31 West Nile virus (WNV), and 17 malaria cases. With hantavirus in Apache, Coconino, Navajo and Pima counties. Maricopa county reported 39 mosquito samples positive for West Nile virus (WNV) and 6 cases of Saint Luis encephalitis (SLEV). Monsoonal season in Arizona usually brings cooler temperatures with high winds and flash floods.

California (www.cdph.ca.gov). As of December 15, 2024, California continues to show the distribution of two invasive mosquito species, *Aedes aegypti* and *Ae. albopictus.* The former species was found in 19 counties from San Diego and Imperial counties in the south to Shasta County in the north; the latter species maintained its presence in 5 counties—San Diego, Orange, Los Angeles, San Bernardino and Shasta. Regarding vector-borne diseases in the state, as of December 6, 2024, there were 124 human cases (12deaths) of WNV, 536 dead birds, 2,007 mosquito pools, 159 sentinel chickens, and 37 horses testing positive for WNV. Adding 1 case of chikungunya as of March 7, 2025. The WNV activity was reported from 32 counties (8 with human deaths) included Butte (1), Colusa, Contra Costa (1), Fresno (2), Glenn (1), Imperial, Kern, Kings, Lake, Los Angeles (2), Merced (1), Madera, Orang, Riverside (1), Sacramento, San Bernardino, San Diego (1), San Joaquin, San Mateo , Santa Clara (1), Solano, Sutter, Shasta, Tehama (1), Tulare, Ventura, Yuba, Yolo. The 124 human cases for 2024 are lower than 192 in 2022, and well below the state 5-year average (425). Additionally, Saint Luis encephalitis virus was detected in 18 mosquito pools in 5 counties.

Hawaii (www.health.hawaii.gov/vcb/mosquitoes). As of December 1, 2024, the Hawaiian Mosquito Control reported confirmed cases of dengue (15 plus 2 cases in 2025), malaria (1), WNV (1). 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 October 2024, the southern Nevada Health Department reported 8 human cases of Lyme disease, 5 (plus 3 in 2025) cases of malaria and 14 cases of WNV. Of the 51,112 mosquitoes into 3,497 pools, 388 pools (11.1%) tested positive for WNV and 583 mosquitoes into 21 pools (0.6%) tested positive for SLEV in Clark county [southernnevadhealth district.org]. The northern Nevada public health (formerly Washoe County.org) as of August 27, 2024, detected some WNV activity in mosquito pools.

New Mexico (nmhealth.org). As of December 2024, New Mexico Health reported 27 deaths of WNV There were also 5 (plus I in 2025) cases of hantavirus in Sandoval, Cibola, San Juan and McKinley and Quay counties. And on February 8, 2024, a case of human plague was reported in Lincoln county.

And in closing, I would like to once again 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!

Cordially,

Lal

Latin American SOVE REGION

Christina McCarthy

Regional Director

Christina McCarthy

Dear SOVE friends and colleagues,

It is good to be in contact with you again after skipping the previous December newsletter due to a chaotic end of the year! The most important item of information I have to share with you is that the organization of our joint 3rd Congress of the Latin American Society for Vector Ecology and 4th Congress of the Latin American Network of Vector Control (LA SOVE RELCOV 2025), is under full swing. The most important information to remember is the following:

Dates: 27 - 31 October, 2025. Please save the date!

Venue: Institute of Hygiene, University of the Republic, Udelar), Montevideo, URUGUAY.

Join our social media channels for weekly updates on our activities and news!

Instagram: lasove__, https://www.instagram.com/lasove__/

Facebook: @la sove, https://www.facebook.com/LatinAmericanSOVE

X (ex Twitter): @LASOVE_: https://twitter.com/LASOVE_

Or write to us at: lasove2022@gmail.com

We also have a LA SOVE WhatsApp (only admins can send messages) Newsgroup, where I also share all our news, so just contact me if you're interested in joining and I'll add you ASAP! We continue to work hard to find funding for LA SOVE RELCOV 2025. So, if you're interested in helping us out or have some helpful information regarding this, please contact me.

That's all for now. I'm really looking forward to seeing you at LA SOVE RELCOV 2025!

Warmest regards. Keep well and healthy!

Christina

And I proudly present our conference logo

2025 LASOVE • RELCOV

ASIAN SOVE
Hong-Liang Chu
Regional Director

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

In 2024, Dengue Fever was still a very important vector-borne disease in Asia. According to the report from the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control, the total number of dengue cases and deaths in Bangladesh, Cambodia, and Laos in 2024 were lower than those reported in 2023. As of 31 October 2024, India reported 186,567 cases and 160 deaths. Different trends are observed in Malaysia, where the number of cases is lower than the previous year, but the number of deaths is higher in Singapore, where the number of cases is higher than in 2023. In China, more than 10,000 cases and no deaths were reported in 2024. In Vietnam, a decreasing number of cases is below the 2023 levels. Thailand reported over 35,000 dengue cases in the first half of 2024, marking a 40% increase compared to 2023.

Alongside dengue, Severe Fever with Thrombocytopenia Syndrome (SFTS), primarily a tick-borne disease, is a viral threat escalating in East Asia. Korea, Japan, Vietnam, Pakistan, Myanmar, Thailand, and China have reported SFTS cases in recent years.

In addition, scrub typhus, transmitted by mites, is distributed throughout the Asia-Pacific region. It is endemic to Korea, China, Japan, Pakistan, India, Bangladesh, Thailand, Laos, Malaysia, Vietnam and Sri Lanka.

Over the past few years, ASVEMC has played a key role in advancing vector control efforts and fostering collaboration among researchers, public health officials, and institutions across Asia. Th society has organized numerous events. The 8th International Forum for Surveillance and Control of Mosquitoes and Vector-borne Diseases (IFSCMVD) was held in Beijing, China, October 23-27, 2023.

Looking ahead, ASVEMC is excited to announce that the 9th IFSCMVD will take place in Xi'an, China from May 25-30, 2025. This event will gather global experts, researchers, and public health professionals to discuss advancements in vector control, disease prevention, and integrated management. The conference will feature cutting-edge research, interactive workshops, and valuable networking opportunities.

Keynote speakers include:

• Lyle Petersen, Director, DVBD, USA: Global Threats of Mosquito and Vector-borne Diseases

• Florence Fouque, Scientist, WHO/TDR, Geneva: Global Exploration and Challenge of SIT for Control of Dengue Vector Mosquitoes

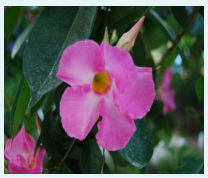
• J. Lyell Clarke III, CEO, The Clarke, USA: Industry's Role in Combating Mosquito and Vector-borne Diseases

Join us in Xi'an, a city renowned for its cultural heritage, including the famous Terra Cotta Army. Don’t miss the chance to engage with leading experts and gain insights into the challenges of controlling vector-borne diseases.

For more details and registration, please visit www.asiansvemc.org

Sincerely,

.Chu Hongliang



SOVE–Indian Chapter
Ashwani Kumar
Former Regional Director

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

The International Conference on Vector-Borne Diseases (ICVBD 2025) from January 21-24, 2025 was a premier global platform that brought together researchers, healthcare professionals, academicians, and policymakers to discuss the latest advancements, challenges, and solutions in vector-borne disease research and control. Jointly organised by the Society for Vector Ecology - Indian Chapter (Indian SOVE), Academy of Public Health Entomology (APHE) and the Saveetha Institute of Medical and Technical Sciences (SIMATS), the conference aimed to foster collaboration and knowledge exchange on cutting-edge developments in vector biology, disease surveillance, and innovative control strategies. With 282 registered delegates from 22 countries, including 126 national and 65 international participants, the event facilitated a truly global dialogue through four keynote addresses, 15 symposia, 98 invited talks (including panel discussions), 16 turbo talks, and 12 poster presentations, totalling 145 scientific contributions. The ICVBD 2025 was centred around the theme "Innovative Strategies for Vector Control and Disease Management in a Changing Global Climate". The conference aimed to showcase cutting-edge research and technological innovations in vector biology and disease surveillance. Further explored the impact of climate change on vector ecology, disease transmission and control strategies for encouraging interdisciplinary collaboration between researchers and healthcare professionals in promoting global partnerships for sustainable vector control.

The welcome addresses were delivered by Ashwani Kumar, Pro-Vice Chancellor, SIMATS & Co-Chair, ICVBD2025, SOVE (Indian Chapter) and R S Yadav, President of APHE & Co-chairp of ICVBD2025. The conference was officially inaugurated by Hon'ble Founder Chancellor N M Veeraiyan, SIMATS, in the presence of Hon'ble Pro-Chancellor Deepak Nallaswamy, SIMATS, Rui-De Xue, Director SOVE (USA) and President, AMCA, Norbert Becker, Former Director SOVE USA and European SOVE, Kumutha J, Dean Saveetha Medical College, SIMATS, P. Muthuswamy, CEO, SIMATS, who highlighted the importance of vector-borne diseases and the importance of their elimination. In his opening remarks, Hon'ble Chancellor N M Veeraiyan emphasised the challenges in the field of vector-borne diseases and stressed the need for innovation and collaboration. The keynote addresses were delivered by Charles (Ban) Beard, Principal Deputy Director, Canters for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Fort Collins, USA on "Global landscape of emerging vector-borne infections", Justin McBeath, CEO, Innovative Vector Control Consortium (IVCC), Liverpool, UK on "Perspectives on insecticide innovation for malaria vector control", Neil Morrison, Oxitec, UK on "Scale-up of biological, targeted mosquito-based solutions for the

. . . . . .***Ashwani*** *cont'd on page 9*

Ashwani *cont'd from page 8:* the world's most important dengue vector - Aedes aegypti (L.)", and Norbert Becker, Professor, University of Heidelberg, Germany and former Director of SOVE, USA and European SOVE on "Integrations of new approaches to control tiger mosquitoes Aedes albopictus (Skuse) in Europe", who presented a thought-provoking Keynote Addresses. The keynote speakers provided insights into global trends in the emergence and control of vector-borne diseases, underscoring the latest trends, breakthroughs, and future directions in vector control strategies, insecticide innovation, invasive vectors and biological solutions for disease prevention.

The ICVBD 2025 attracted a diverse group of participants, including Scientists, WHO country representatives and researchers specializing in vector biology, epidemiology, and disease control. Public health professionals, policymakers, clinical researchers, and industry professionals also attended in large numbers. Environmental and climate change researchers focused on changing vector ecology and adaptation strategies. The ICVBD 2025 successfully reinforced global cooperation, advancing research and public health initiatives through its extensive discussions, scientific sessions, and award recognitions. The conference also received appreciable support from the sponsors and industry partners, ensuring a comprehensive and well-resourced scientific program. The sponsors included the Parent SOVE (USA), OXITEC, VKA Polymers, Indian Immunological Limited, ENVU, IVCC, Ross Lifescience, iBATT, Hindustan Insecticides Limited, Tagros, PATH, Labitems, RESEDA, SYNGENTA, Foggers India Pvt. Ltd. and Royal Tradelinks Pvt. Ltd.

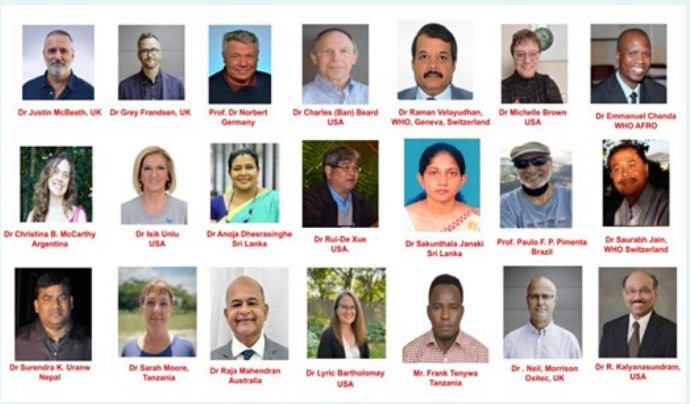
The 15 symposia and their themes included 1) Dengue case management – towards zero case fatality, 2) Galvanizing the control of Aedes-borne diseases, 3) Combating global emerging threats of vector-borne diseases, 4) Progress in the control and elimination of vector-borne diseases in India: A National Programme Perspective, 5) Vector-borne diseases – operational aspects, 6) Elimination of lymphatic filariasis, 7) Elimination of leishmaniasis and experiences from the South-East Asia region, 8) Novel tools and approaches: from innovation to impact, 9) Vector surveillance and disease epidemiology, 10) Household pest control: towards improving public health, 11) Development of vaccines for vector-borne diseases, 12) Climate change and emerging vector-borne diseases, 13) Vector biology and control, 14, Vector surveillance, insecticide resistance and capacity building, and 15) Turbo Talks covering wide range of issues. All the sessions generated valuable insights and actionable takeaways for both academia and industry professionals.

The 65 overseas attendees represented 22 countries, highlighting the global significance of ICVBD2025. International participants included experts from Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Cameroon, Germany, Ghana, Iran, Japan, Malaysia, Maldives, Nepal, Netherlands, Nigeria, Oman, Qatar, Russia, Sri Lanka, Switzerland, Tanzania, UK and USA. The diverse participation fostered knowledge exchange, interdisciplinary collaboration, and discussions on cutting-edge advancements in vector-borne disease management, highlighting the urgent need for global cooperation in addressing vector-borne disease challenges.

The ICVBD-2025 concluded with valuable insights into the global challenges of vector-borne diseases and the latest advancements in research, diagnostics, and control strategies. Experts emphasized the critical need for integrated vector management, innovative surveillance and diagnostic tools, and multidisciplinary approaches to address emerging threats effectively. Discussions resulted in agreements to bolster global data-sharing networks, advance molecular and genomic studies for vector control, and promote community-based interventions for sustainable disease prevention. Resolutions were also made to prioritize addressing the impacts of climate change on vector-borne diseases, advocate for policy-driven solutions, and strengthen public-private partnerships in disease management. In addition to its scientific contributions, the conference included cultural and recreational activities that enriched the experience for delegates. On the first day, a gala dinner featured a captivating Bharatanatyam performance by SIMATS students and their mentor, celebrating traditional Indian art. Delegates also enjoyed the grand dinner feast at the serene Pleasant Days Resort. On Day 3, an Eco-tour to Mahabalipuram and Kanchipuram was

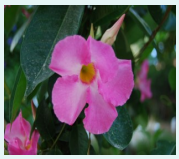
. . . . . ***Ashwani*** *cont'd on page 11*

January 2025



Norbert Becker

Norbert Friedrich Walter Becker was awarded a D. Sc Honoris Causa by Saveetha University during its 24th Convocation held March 18, 2025 in Chennai, India. Saveetha University is one of the premier educational institutions with A++ NAAC grade and NIRF 11th Rank in India in 2025. Serving as a professor at Heidelberg University, Becker s a leading Limnologist and Vector Control Specialist known for his groundbreaking work on *Aedes vexans* (Meigen) control in the Rhine River floodwaters, using icy pearls encapsulated *Bacillus thuringiensis israelensis* de Barjac for aerial application against the invasion of *Aedes albopictus* (Skuse) in Germany and other European countries. He is known as the father of mosquito control in Europe. He has authored high-quality papers and four books and trained over a 50 masters and Ph.D. students during his career spanning over 4 decades. He has served as an expert on various committees of the WHO and has received many distinguished National and international Awards. He has served as President of the European Mosquito Control Association and the Society for Vector Ecology.



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Ashwani *cont'd from page 9:*

organized, offering participants an opportunity to bond and explore India's rich cultural heritage. These activities were well-received amidst good hospitality extended to all delegates, enhancing the conference's cultural and networking dimensions.

The Chairs of the ICVBD-2025 extend their deepest respect and regards to the honored guests and appreciation to the organizing committee for their dedication and meticulous planning in making this event a great success. Special thanks to SIMATS for hosting this remarkable conference and providing excellent facilities and platforms for knowledge exchange. We also sincerely thank our sponsors and funding agencies for their invaluable support. A heartfelt acknowledgement goes to the volunteers and supporting staff whose tireless efforts ensured the seamless execution of sessions, logistics, and participant engagement.

Ashwini Kumar

SOVE ECP Blog Newsletter Post

The Early Career Professional Education and Development Committee (ECPEDC) was founded in 2023 with the goal of ensuring the success and enhancing the experiences of students and early career professional (ECP) members within SOVE. The committee has been working to complete these goals by creating and broadcasting professional development content to SOVE members, connecting SOVE members from different backgrounds, and identifying and training future SOVE leaders to ensure the longevity of the organization. Many of you have likely seen and participated in these efforts, attending many of the virtual webinar events the SOVE ECPEDC have hosted, or participating in the career panels during the last two annual meetings.

In accordance with our growing efforts to disseminate information and resources to the SOVE ECP community, the ECPEDC would like to announce our new project, the ECP Blog. The ECP Blog will be posted on the SOVE website, and can be located at "Early Career Professionals Blog" link within the Membership tab. The ECPEDC will post several times throughout the year, with blog posts covering recaps on ECPEDC webinars and events, updates pertaining to SOVE ECP members, and other news or useful information.

We invite all SOVE members to participate in the blog and are open to suggestions or recommendations for future topics. If you would like to reach out to the ECPEDC about the blog, or for any other reason, please contact the ECPEDC Director, Karen Poh, for more information (karen.poh@usda.gov).

Thank you,

SOVE ECPEDC Team

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Ed Norris *cont'd from page 3*:

As we continue our work in mosquito control and vector-borne disease research, it is important to support each other through these transitions and maintain open lines of communication within our professional community. Your perseverance and dedication to advancing the field, even in uncertain times, are truly commendable. Please do not hesitate to reach out if you have questions regarding upcoming funding opportunities, workshops, or ways to stay engaged in our field despite current challenges.

I look forward to seeing many of you at upcoming events and continuing to work together to push forward critical research and public health initiatives. Thank you for all that you do!

Best regards,

Edmund Norris

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Presley *cont'd from page 4*:

information (e.g., awards and grants, promotions, relocations, vector ecology news, new vector control/surveillance equipment, methods, programmatic issues, conferences, meetings, job opportunities, etc.) that you would like disseminated to the membership.

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

Steve Presley

The 9th International Congress of SOVE: Connecting Vector Science Globally

On behalf of the Society for Vector Ecology (SOVE), the Prefecture of Crete, the Foundation for Research and Technology – Hellas, and the Hellenic Entomological Society we would like to welcome you to the 9th International Congress of SOVE, planned to be held October 12-17, 2025, in the beautiful city of Chania, in the island of Crete, Greece. Our congress venue is Mikis Theodorakis Theater (Location), a historic building, currently operating as a modern cultural center that features a theatre with a capacity of 400 people. The venue is located on the waterfront of Chania's Old Venetian Harbor, walking distance from hotels, restaurants, and Chania's most famous historic sites.

In addition to the general themes of symposia open for abstract submission, this year's international congress will hold several special events including a career panel with internationally acclaimed panelists tailored for our early career professionals and students, live podcast interviews, specialty symposia with guest speakers and many more, with the aim to maximize networking among professionals in the field of vector ecology and control across different levels of seniority and expertise, while showcasing excellence in research, and innovation. The congress will ephasize the importance of international collaboration for addressing pressing challenges in vector-borne disease management in a globalized world. It will, also, showcase successful examples of multisectoral and interdisciplinary synergies for strengthening preparedenss and response capacities across countries, while accelerating the development and adoption of innovative vector control strategies and tools.

SOVE conferences have always been known for promoting the culture and traditions of the host country – and this year will be no exception, with a rich, cultural field trip and a gala dinner showcasing the authentic Greek cuisine, traditional live music and Cretan dancing. All information needed regarding the conference venue, hotel accommodation, travel recommendations, registration, and abstract submission portals can be found on the SOVE website. More specifically, for abstract submission visit here. All abstracts are due by **May 10, 2025.** The registration portal is also open here. Registration is limited so please register early. Through the registration portal you can book your hotel accommodation and confirm your participation in the social events. You can get more information about Chania here.

An important message to our students: Please, don't miss the opportunity to apply for the SOVE travel grants here. Due to our generous sponsors (Gates Foundation, Royal Entomological Society, Hellenic Entomological Society) this year there will be additional awards for our students participating in the student competition (best oral presentation and best poster award). In addition to the student awards, we will be recognizing our early career professionals (postdoc scientists). You can indicate your willingness to participate in the competition (student or postdoc) through the abstract submission portal.

If you have any questions, please contact sove2025@artion.com.gr.

Looking forward to welcoming you in Chania!

Local Organizing Committee

(reporting Alex Chaskapoulou)

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

Please take a note of the changes effective 1/1/2025:

Starting January 1, 2025, membership dues have increased for regular members (to $100), institutional members (to $750) and retirees (to $45). Student dues remain unchanged.

Additionally starting January 1, 2025, the publication charges for the Journal of Vector Ecology have increased to $1,000 for members and $1,250 for non-members.

Thank you,

Michelle

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MOOC Medical Entomology

A FREE ONLINE COURSE OF THE INSTITUT PASTEUR

Starts April 8, 2025 ; Free registration ; Certificate available: 150€ ; Total estimated time: 24 h Live session with experts; English with subtitles in English and French
http://www.fun-moocfr/en/courses/medical-entomology

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Entomology Summer Course

'Hands on' Course on Arthropods of Medical and Veterinary Significance:

A global perspective, from theory to practice; 5th Edition: 7-11 July, 2025
Provisional program and practical information; National Veterinary School of Toulouse, France
Continuing education in Medical and Veterinary Entomology; https://entomologysummercourse.com/

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World Malaria Day Symposium

Friday, April 25, 2025< 8:00 am – 6:30 pm EDT

Johns Hopkins Malaria Research Institute [jhsph.us18.list-manage.com], Bloomberg School of Public Health
615 N. Wolfe Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21205 . Register here: jhsph.us18.list-manage.com
(reporting Doug Norris)

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Ticks and Tickborne Diseases Symposium In Baltimore on April 30, 2025!

Bloomberg School of Public Health, 615 N. Wolfe Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21205 .
Register here: jhsph.us18.list-manage.com
(reporting Doug Norris)

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.

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https://www.niaid.nih.gov/research/vector-bio

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Society for Vector Ecology

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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