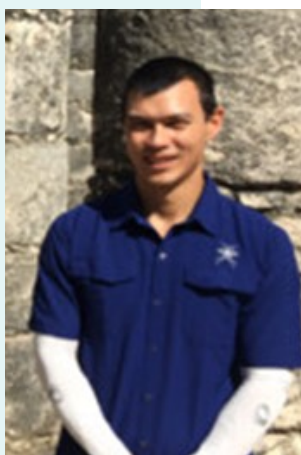


SOVE

Society for Vector Ecology

SOVE Newsletter

President's Message



Dear Colleagues and Friends,

I have attended SOVE meetings for more than 20 years, yet I never asked myself: Why am I a member of SOVE? I knew **WHAT** the society offered—the annual meeting, the Journal of Vector Ecology, educational seminars, training workshops, support, and the exchange of ideas. I also understood **HOW** we organized these activities to maximize participation, member interaction, a sense of community, and a family-like connection. But I never considered the deeper question: What value does SOVE bring to my work and life? And just as importantly: Do I support the parts I value with my actions? In other words, what value do I bring to the society? I pay dues, attend meetings, give talks, take on leadership roles, and publish or review articles for the journal. But is that equal to the value I receive?

I value the mentoring aspects of the society provided by the Education and Development Com-

*mittee (EDC), formerly led by Karen Poh and currently led by Patil Tawidian. The EDC addresses a critical gap in early- to mid-career mentoring and training that often appears after the first promotion—when leadership expectations increase, but structured support decreases. To fill these gaps, the committee develops professional development content and activities for members to connect, share, and network through webinars, workshops, and annual meeting programming. In 2025, the EDC expanded to Europe, where the European SOVE EDC was established and is now led by Mine Altini. At the 2025 International Congress, the committee organized and hosted a career panel, led by Androniki Christaki and Giulia Ferrari. Panelists from the US and EU shared experiences from their careers, including the opportunities, setbacks, and turning points that defined ————***President's message cont'd on p. 2.**

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Penguin Books, 2011. their trajectories. Looking ahead, the EDC remains committed to forming new connections and producing resources and activities for student and early-career SOVE members. Through these efforts, the committee will foster professional growth and help identify future leaders to ensure continuity in leadership and scientific excellence.

I value our annual meeting, which will be planned by incoming Vice President Sarah Hamer. I believe SOVE hosts one of the best meetings due to the unique single-session format, ample breaks for informal discussions, and the field day—all designed to maximize interaction among colleagues and friends. We often describe SOVE as a family, and while that may sound like hyperbole, it is real. When many of us could not attend the annual meeting in Crete, Lyric Bartholomay, Alexandra Chaskopoulou, and many others admirably filled the breach. The true test of a community is how it responds in times of need, and SOVE has proven itself time and again.

I value my friends and colleagues in the Society. These are challenging times, and I hope every member feels welcome, comfortable, and supported as they would in their own family. I am grateful to Denise Bonilla for her leadership as president this past year and to all who contributed to the success of the annual meeting and the modernization efforts of the society. Of course, the Society would not function without the dedication and hard work of our Chief Executive Officer, Michelle Brown.

Looking forward, it is our responsibility to recruit and mentor the next generation of SOVE members and to teach them the ethos and culture of the Society by sharing our knowledge, skills, and opportunities. This is WHY I am a member of SOVE and what I value most. I challenge each of you to ask WHY you value this Society. Take action to contribute and strengthen the aspects you want sustained for generations to come.

Book recommendation:

Sinek, Simon. *Start With Why: How Great Leaders Inspire Everyone to Take Action*. London:

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Mary Cameron, Ph.D.

Editor, JVE

SOVE is happy to announce the appointment of Mary Cameron, Ph.D. of the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine as the new **Editor-in-Chief** for the *Journal of Vector Ecology*.

You can submit your research articles at <https://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/jve>





Dear Colleagues and Friends,

The SOVE Southwestern Region USA consists of 5 states: Arizona, California, Hawaii, Nevada and New Mexico. Except for Hawaii, the other 4 states although contiguous yet they differ in biogeography and climatic conditions. We are just getting in to the Spring but it is still too early to shed some definitive light on vectors and vector-borne diseases (VBD). However, based on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and individual state entities, a brief update on VBD surveillance is presented here for our region.

Arizona (www.Azdhs.gov). In 2025, Arizona Department of Health Services reported 3 cases of Chagas disease, 6 hantavirus, 12 Rocky Mountain spotted fever, 17 Lyme disease, 1 plague, 37 dengue, 55 West Nile virus (WNV), 3 chikungunya, and 13 malaria cases. As of 3/10/2026, there have been 5 travel-related cases of dengue. Maricopa county that reported 1 human and 1 horse case of WNV plus 182 mosquito pools positive for WNV and 155 pools seropositive for Saint Luis encephalitis virus (SLEV), has reported no virus activity thus far.

California (www.cdph.ca.gov). As of 1/2/2026, California continued to report the distribution of two invasive mosquito species, *Aedes aegypti* (L.) and *Ae. Albopictus* (Skuse). The former species was found in 26 counties: Alameda, 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 remained in 2 (5 in 2024) counties—Los Angeles and Shasta. As of 2/2/2026, California has updated their 2025-WNV data: 113 human cases (11 deaths) of WNV, 154 dead birds, 2,756 seropositive mosquito pools, 65 sentinel chickens, and 5 horses testing positive for WNV. The WNV activity was reported from 23 counties. The 113 human cases in 2025 compares with 124 cases in 2024, both lower than our 5-year average (187). Since its arrival in

SOUTHWESTERN REGION, USA

Lal S. Mian

Regional Director

California in 2003, WNV has resulted in >8K human cases with 4K deaths. Additionally, California reported 145 imported and 6 locally acquired cases of dengue and 10 cases of chikungunya. Also, there were 105 mosquito pools positive for SLE with two human infections in Los Angeles and Riverside counties. Moreover, there were 38 confirmed and 9 probable cases of flea-borne typhus reported in the state.

Hawaii (www.health.hawaii.gov/vcb/mosquitoes). As of December 2025, the Hawaiian Mosquito Control confirmed 14 cases of dengue, 3 malaria, 1 Zika, 4 Lyme disease. As of 2/1/2026, the case count of mosquito transmitted diseases included 2 dengue, 1 Zika and 1 malaria. 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 2 cases each of Lyme disease and malaria and as of 2/5/2026, the revised update included 6 cases of Lyme disease and 3 cases of malaria. Of the 1,621 female mosquito pools tested by Clark county, 14 pools tested positive for WNV and zero for both SLE and western equine encephalomyelitis virus (WEEV) [southernnevadahealthdistrict.org]. The northern Nevada public health (formerly Washoe County.org) did not report any cases for 2025..

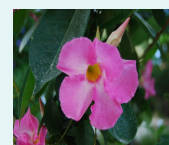
New Mexico (nmhealth.org). As of September 3, 2025, New Mexico Health Department reported 1 case of hantavirus, 2 cases of plague, and 1 case of WNV in the state. As of 3/10/2026, the 7 human cases (1 death) of hantavirus reported by county were Santa Fe 1, Taos 1 and McKinly (5). There were also 3 human, and 5 animal cases (1 cat, 4 dogs), and 52 WNV cases in New Mexico.

Before closing, I would like to remind our regional members to please send me your 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



A large poster for the SOVE 53rd Annual Meeting. The background is a scenic view of Yosemite National Park with steep granite cliffs and green forests. At the top, the SOVE logo is displayed, featuring a stylized mosquito with a human figure inside its abdomen. Below the logo is the text "Society for Vector Ecology". The main title "53rd Annual Meeting of SOVE" is written in large, bold, black letters. Below the title are two QR codes. The left QR code is labeled "Abstract submission" and the right one is labeled "Registration". At the bottom, the location "Yosemite, CA" and the dates "September 20 - 24, 2026" are written in large, bold, black letters.

SOVE
Society for Vector Ecology

**53rd Annual
Meeting of SOVE**

Abstract submission Registration

Yosemite, CA
September 20 - 24, 2026

Join us for the 53rd Annual Meeting of SOVE in Yosemite, CA, September 20-24, 2026! Abstract submission and registration are now open. Register at <https://www.sove.org/event-details/53rd-annual-meeting-of-sove>. Abstracts are due by May 16, 2026. Submit your abstract at <https://app.oxfordabstracts.com/stages/81536/submitter>.

A poster for SOVE 2026 Student Travel Grant Applications. The background is a light beige color. At the top, the SOVE logo is displayed, featuring a stylized mosquito with a human figure inside its abdomen. Below the logo is the text "Society for Vector Ecology". Below the logo are illustrations of a passport, a pink airplane, and a QR code. At the bottom, the text "2026 SOVE Student Travel Grant Applications" and "Submit your application today" are written in black.

SOVE
Society for Vector Ecology



2026 SOVE Student Travel
Grant Applications

Submit your application today

Join us in Yosemite! All Student travel grant applications are due by **May 16, 2026!** Apply at <https://forms.gle/irLV8EBSETZ4FyTNA>



Latin American SOVE REGION

Christina McCarthy, Ph.D.

Regional Director

Dear SOVE friends and colleagues,

It is my hope and wish that you had a truly inspiring and restful holiday season, and that this new year has started in the best possible way for each one of you.

After a very busy end of 2025, we are starting to pick up pace with a few “post-Congress” chores, such as applying for an ISBN for the LA SOVE RELCOV 2025 Abstract Book, uploading videos of presentations to the University Repository, among others.

I also want to give a hearty welcome to our new LA SOVE treasurer, Matías Leonel Giglio, voted unanimously during the LA SOVE assembly held on the October 24, 2025 (during LA SOVE RELCOV 2025). The rest of the Board members were unanimously reelected: María José Villalobos (secretary), María Eugenia Cano (Board member), María Laura Genchi (Board member), Melina Brivido (substitute member), and myself (President). The new LA SOVE Board began its term in November 2025.

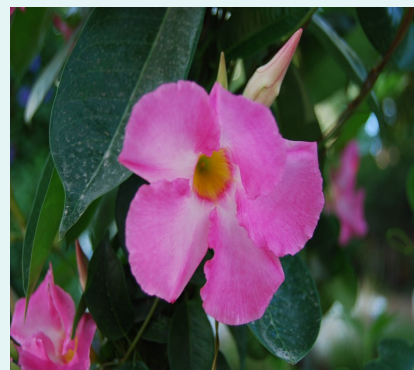
Another important point that was discussed (and approved unanimously) during the Assembly was the way for choosing the next Congress venue site.

In general terms, there will be a call for the interested countries (and organizers) to submit their proposal, and the Board will choose an ad hoc committee to analyze the proposals and make a ranking list, which will then be voted by the Board.

I hope to share more on some of these points in the June 2026 issue.

Until then, keep well and healthy!

Christina





European SOVE REGION Ruben Bueno-Mari, Ph.D. Regional Director

Dear Colleagues,

On behalf of the organizing committee, it is our great pleasure to welcome you to the 24th European Society for Vector Ecology (ESOVE) Conference, which will be held in Valencia from October 27th to 30th, 2026.

This conference promises to be an exceptional gathering of professionals, researchers, and academics from around the world, all dedicated to advancing the field of vector ecology.

This meeting, a well-established international forum, represents a key opportunity to strengthen scientific exchanges within the European and international vector ecology community.

The 2026 edition will bring together experts working on arthropod vectors and vector-borne pathogens affecting humans, animals and plants. Particular emphasis will be placed on interdisciplinary approaches, highlighting the value of collaboration across sectors to improve surveillance systems, early warning strategies and innovative vector and pest management solutions.

We are fully aware that we, along with the International and Local organizing committees, are providing an essential framework but that the content and success of the Con-

ference relies not only on the selected speakers, moderators, and presenters but on the enthusiastic participation and contributions of the attendants.

We are looking forward to meeting you soon in Valencia.

Ruben

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Reporting Filiz Guay:

This is for the general information of the E-SOVE community that a one-week continuing education course covering medical and veterinary entomology, will be held in the Veterinary School of Toulouse, France, from July 6—10. For provisional program and additional information, please use the following link:

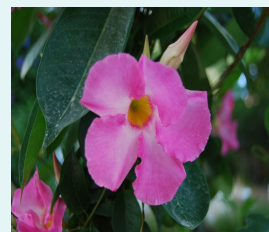
<https://entomologysummercourse.com/>

If you have any questions about the course, please do not hesitate to contact

Emilie Bouhsira, DVM, MSc, PhD, Dip. EVPC

Phone: +33 (0)5 61 19 32 89;

Email: emilie.bouhsira@envt.fr





Dear Colleagues and Friends,

With great pleasure, I share highlights of the activities by the SOVE-Indian-Chapter below:

The Executive Board of SOVE-Indian Chapter met on February 7, 2026, and decided to organize the fourth International Conference on Vector-borne Diseases in the lake city of Udaipur, State of Rajasthan, in late 2026. It will be co-organized in collaboration with the Academy of Public Health Entomology, Udaipur. The conference program and registration details will be published on the SOVE-Indian Region website soon.

In pursuance of the 2026 workplan, a Goa State-level training workshop on Innovative and Community-Based Approaches to Vector Control was organized in collaboration with the medical center of the Ponda Education Society's Ravi S. Naik College of Arts and Science, in Goa, on January 31, 2026. The workshop was attended by over 70 participants, including faculty members and undergraduate and postgraduate students from colleges affiliated with Goa University. The objectives of the workshop were to enhance the knowledge and practical skills of participants about the mosquitoes, malaria vectors and parasites, and prevention and control approaches. The workshop was opened by Sonali R. Naik, Secretary of the Ponda Education Society, who stated that the integration of scientific innovation with community engagement and the pivotal role played by youth could help curb the spread of vector-borne diseases. The key speakers and facilitators of the training workshop were as follows:

--Rajpal Yadav (Regional Director and a former official of the World Health Organization (WHO) provided a comprehensive overview of the global burden of vector-borne diseases, WHO global policies, strategies and technical support for vector-borne disease control worldwide, evidence-based interventions available, and highlighted the importance of Integrated Vector Management and insecticide resistance management for sustainable disease control.

--Ashwani Kumar (Vice-Chancellor of Saveetha University, Chennai) spoke about the emerging technologies and modern tools, including artificial intelligence and machine learning integrated drone technology for detecting mosquito breeding sites in inaccessible areas for targeted larvicidal

Indian Chapter– SOVE REGION

Rajpal S. Yadav, Ph.D.
Regional Director

operations, as well as the use of digital platforms and smart surveillance for improving efficiency and precision for vector control.

--Vikas J. Pissurlekar (Principal of Ravi S. Naik College of Arts and Science, Goa) highlighted the importance of the prevention of malaria and dengue for a healthy community.

--Ajeet Mohanty (Officer-in-Charge, National Institute of Malaria Research, Goa) described the current malaria and vector control situation in Goa and how his team is conducting technology-driven monitoring of malaria migration and innovating vector surveillance tools.

--Preeti Pereira (Assistant Professor, School of Biological Sciences and Biotechnology, Goa University) briefed on how empowering communities can enhance their participation in surveillance, data collection, and decision-making for effectiveness, sustainability, and ownership of vector control programs.

--Deeparani Prabhu and Nandini Korgaonkar (SOVE-IC executive committee members) coordinated arrangements for the workshop, facilitated the practical sessions on the mosquito life cycle, identification of main mosquito genera, and microscopic identification of *Plasmodium vivax* and *P. falciparum*, and facilitated group work in which the participants identified local determinants of malaria and dengue, and community-based priority actions for vector control in their local settings.

A community awareness poster was released on the occasion. The workshop clearly demonstrated that effective vector control requires an integrated approach, combining global policy guidance, innovative technologies, practical field skills, local epidemiological evidence, and empowerment of local communities.

Rajpal Yadav participated in a "Capacity-building workshop on malaria and Kala-Azar elimination and cross-border collaboration" in Guwahati, India, from February 23-27, 2026. The workshop was organized by the ICMR-National Institute of Malaria Research, New Delhi, in collaboration with the WHO Regional Office for the South-East Asia Region, New Delhi, and attended by participants from Bhutan, India, Sri Lanka and Thailand. The main topics discussed included the status of malaria elimination, surveillance as a core intervention, malaria case management, preparedness for malaria-free validation and certification, vector bionomics, entomological surveillance, vector control, epidemiology and elimination of leishmaniasis, and cross-border collaboration. A practical demonstration of indoor residual spraying of insecticide for malaria control was also given.

Rajpal S. Yadav

Stories from an International SOVE Congress

Androniki Christaki

Conferences are a great place to connect with peers and great scientists, network, and spark collaborations. During our journey as graduate students we only get to attend a limited number of such meetings which is why I am glad I was able to attend the 9th International Congress of SOVE in Crete this past October. This particular conference was memorable for many reasons. Not only was it a truly international congress that brought together experts from 40 countries, but also an innovative and inclusive meeting that gave the stage to many students and early career professionals (~50%) to present their work. Beyond the novel science and diverse sessions, what stood out the most to me, as a PhD student, was that this conference was, at its heart, about stories – stories of careers, choices, challenges, and places.

The Panel: Stories from Those Who Came Before Us

One of the highlights of the meeting was the first career panel that was held at an international SOVE congress, featuring 7 international speakers from academia, government/public health, industry, and NGOs. During this session, the panelists shared their personal career journeys, followed by a Q&A session where the panelists gave their expert input to specific questions from the audience. While this panel was tailored for early-career professionals and students, it was also enlightening for all attendees.

Remarkably, rather than presenting a single model of success, the panelists spoke about non-linear paths, career transitions across sectors, and the realities of navigating opportunities, setbacks, and turning points over time. Hearing how careers evolved through a mix of intentional choices, chance opportunities, and persistence was both reassuring and empowering for all attendees, especially ECPs. The panel created an honest space to discuss skills, adaptability, mentorship, and work across disciplines, reinforcing the idea that there is no single “right” path in vector ecology, only paths shaped by curiosity, resilience, and openness to change. The great conversations did not end there as the career panel was extended into a social mixer at the Sailing Club of Chania where students and scientists from all career stages continued their discussions in a friendly and open environment.



The career panelists and the chairs (from left toright): Giulia Ferrari (panel organizer and moderator), Sandra Gewehr, Marieta Braks, Eva Veronesi, William Wint, Ary Faraji, Mary Cameron, Androniki Christaki (panel organizer and moderator)

The Podcast: Telling Our Own Stories

Another unique feature of this congress was the opportunity to share our own stories in podcast interviews. Ashis Brahma, an experienced storyteller, hosted the first podcast at a SOVE meeting where he interviewed conference attendees from different backgrounds, fields, and career stages. The conversations with Ashis encouraged reflection on the influences, turning points, and moments that have shaped our paths, some of which we might not have fully recognized before. In sharing these stories, we not only connected with others, but also gained a deeper understanding of our own journeys. The podcast interviews are available to listen on Spotify. —————Christaki cont.d. on p 9

Chania, Crete, Greece

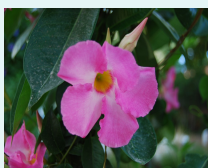
Christaki cont'd. from p 8:

The Congress Cultural Activities:

The Story of Chania

The storytelling extended beyond sessions and interviews to the field trip and gala dinner, where we explored the history, landscapes, and traditions of the host island, Crete. One of the most notable activities during the field trip was visiting some local olive mills where we were introduced to the fine art of olive oil making and tasting. We learned that Cretans consume about 30 liters (8 gallons) of olive oil per person per year (!!!) and we visited one of the oldest recorded olive trees in the world in the village of Vouves whose age is estimated between 3000 and 5000 years and still remains alive! We delved further into the local culture during the gala dinner where we tasted traditional Cretan recipes and enjoyed traditional Cretan dancing. Everyone joined in on the dancing, but some even got one-on-one lessons at Greek zeibekiko from the professional dancers! Experiencing the local culture together created space for connection beyond academia, reminding us that conferences are also about shared moments, places, and memories that strengthen our community.

Taken together, these experiences made the congress not just a scientific meeting, but a shared narrative – one that early-career professionals can carry forward as they continue writing their own stories in vector ecology.



The olive tree in Vouves is 3000-5000 years old!



The gala dinner before the dancing



On the right traditional Cretan dancing, on the left one-one-one zeibekiko

BEI Resources for Vector Biology Researchwww.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 re-

search 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:

Funding Opportunity

Here is a funding announcement that may be of interest to some SOVE members: [PA-26-002: NIH Collaborative International Research Project \(Parent PF5 Clinical Trial Optional\)](#)

This is currently the only NIH funding mechanism that allows domestic institutions to include paid foreign collaborations. This announcement came out earlier this week.

If this information could be included in the next SOVE Newsletter that would be great!

Thanks!
Adriana

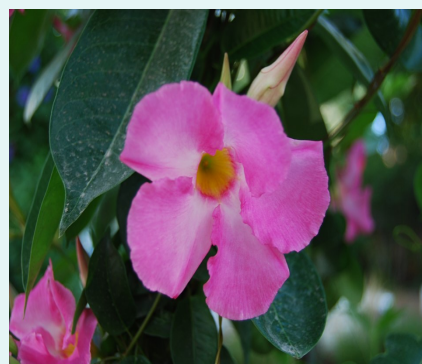
Adriana Costero-Saint Denis, PhD
Vector Biology Program, NIH,
Phone: 240-292-4284
Email: acostero@niaid.nih.gov
<https://www.niaid.nih.gov/research/vector-bio>

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American Mosquito Control Association***Annual Meeting*****Dates: March 23—27, 2026****Place: Portland, Oregon**

For more information, visit: www.mosquito.org

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From the Desk of Executive Director, Michelle Brown, Ph.D.**SOCIETY FOR VECTOR ECOLOGY**

1295 E. Locust St
Ontario, California 91761

BYLAWS**ARTICLE I****Name and Principal Place of Business**

Section 1. The name of this organization shall be "Society for Vector Ecology," (hereafter referred to as "SOVE" or "Society").

Section 2. The central office of the SOVE will be in San Bernardino County, California or other location designated by the Executive Board (hereafter referred to as the "Board") of the SOVE.

Section 3. The SOVE shall be incorporated as a nonprofit scientific and educational entity in the State of California or in any other state by action of the Board.

ARTICLE II**Objectives and Purposes**

Section 1. The overall objectives of the Society are to promote i) the science of vector ecology and epidemiology of vector-borne diseases on a global basis, ii) the research and management of disease vectors and nuisance organisms emphasizing ecological principles and integrated vector management strategies, iii) the development of technical and administrative skills in the implementation of vector management programs, and iv) the dissemination of technical, organizational, and administrative information to Society members and others.

Section 2. The term "vector" used in these bylaws refers to any animal that is capable of transmitting the causative agent of human and/or veterinary disease; any animal capable of serving as either an intermediate or reservoir host of a pathogenic organism; or any animal capable of producing either human discomfort, anxiety, or injury, including, but not limited to arthropods and vertebrates of public health and veterinary importance.

Section 3. Specific objectives are to: a. Encourage and promote research on vectors and vector-borne diseases emphasizing vector/disease ecology, epidemiology, and management on a global basis.

b. Convene annual meetings, special meetings and international congresses of the Society for the purpose of exchanging information relevant to vectors, vector-borne diseases, and vector/disease management.

c. Publish the results of scientific investigations and provide information on the potential risks of vector-borne diseases to the public.

d. Promote the use of scientific information in conjunction with interagency cooperation in the development of vector management programs at the local, state, regional, national, and international levels. —————*Mylaws continued on pages 11–20*

- e. Provide a forum for continuing education in vector ecology, vector-borne diseases, and vector/disease management using principles of applied ecology.
- f. Promote collaboration with other related organizations.

ARTICLE III

Membership

Section 1. Categories of membership in the SOVE include: regular, honorary, sustaining, student, retired, institutional, lifetime, and reduced rate membership.

Section 2. Regular Membership. Any person with either an academic degree from an accredited college plus two or more years of experience in the field of vector ecology, or with a minimum of 5-year experience in the field of vector ecology and related sciences. Education beyond the bachelor's degree or equivalent may be substituted for experience. Regular members shall pay annual dues as set forth by the Board. Regular members will receive the Society journal and newsletter and are eligible to participate and vote on affairs of the Society.

Section 3. Honorary Membership. An honorary membership may be conferred upon regular members who have either demonstrated exceptional achievement in the field of vector ecology or provided exceptional service to the Society. Honorary members shall pay no dues and are entitled to the same privileges as regular members.

Section 4. Sustaining Membership. Any agency or organization that desires to contribute financially to the Society for the purposes and objectives stated in Article II may become a sustaining member by paying annual dues established by the Board. Names of sustaining members will be listed once a year in both the Newsletter and annual program of the SOVE. Sustaining members have the same rights and privileges as regular members except that they cannot vote or hold office.

Section 5. Student Membership. Any student enrolled full-time in a college or university is eligible to become a student member of the Society. Student members pay one-half of the regular membership dues and are entitled to the same privileges as regular members but cannot hold office.

Section 6. Retired Membership. Retired members shall be given full member status with voting privileges on matters of importance to the affairs of the Society. Retired members shall pay one-half of the regular membership.

Section 7. Institutional Membership. Any agency may become an institutional member by paying the Institutional Membership fee. This membership authorizes the Institution/Agency to award 10 individual regular memberships to its agency employees.

Section 8. Lifetime Membership. This membership can be obtained by a one-time payment of \$1,000.00 or dues established by the Board.

Section 9. Reduced Rate Membership. Individuals from developing countries, as determined by the board, may request the executive director to obtain reduced rate member-

ARTICLE IV**Voting**

Section 1. All members, except sustaining members, have the privilege to vote on any matter or issue brought before the Society.

Section 2. All matters brought for action will be approved by a majority vote of the Society members present at the annual, virtual or duly called special meeting. Matters deemed important either by the Board or by petition signed by a minimum of 40 Society members may be resolved by ballot.

Section 3. For issues requiring ballots, the ballots will be sent to all members in good standing with voting privileges. All matters brought for action will be approved by a majority vote at either annual, virtual or duly convened special meeting. Matters requiring a vote of eligible members will be resolved by majority vote. Any petition brought to the Board that has been signed by a minimum of 40 members will be decided by ballot. The outcome of balloting shall be reported by the executive director to the Board and membership.

Section 4. Ballot. Ballot may be sent to members either by mail or electronically.

Section 5. Proxy Ballot. Any Board member, if unable to attend a Board meeting, may designate another member of the Society to serve as a proxy.

Section 6. The Board may choose to hold a meeting via electronic media. Any action taken by the Board through electronic media must be ratified at the annual Board meeting.

ARTICLE V**Officers and Executive Board**

Section 1. Officers:

- a. Only due paying members may hold an office.
- b. Elected officers are president, president-elect, and vice-president.
- c. The term of office of president, president-elect, and vice-president will be one year each with service limited to only one term. At the completion of the term, the president moves to become the past-president. The president-elect ascends to succeed the president, and the vice-president succeeds the president-elect.
- d. If a vacancy occurs in the office of either the president or president-elect, the next officer in line will assume occupancy of the vacated office. The vacancy of other offices will be filled by a Board action for the remainder of the term of the vacated position and/or office. The vacancies of either a regional or alternate regional director will be by election among voting members of the region involved, or the president in consultation with the Board may appoint an interim director for the remainder of the term.

Section 2. Executive Board. Members on the Board will include the president, president-elect, vice-president, executive director, immediate past-president, regional directors and student director.

Section 3. Term of Office. The term of office for the officers and board members begins on January 1 after the annual meeting and concludes on December 31 at the expiration of their

Section 4. Powers. The Board will conduct the business of the Society as necessary between the regular annual meetings. Decisions on major policy matters will be subject to confirmation by a majority vote of the Board at the next meeting.

Section 5. Meetings. The Board will meet at least once annually with additional meetings called by the president. The president will give a minimum of 15-day prior notice to all board members as to when and where a meeting will be convened.

ARTICLE VI

Powers and Duties of Officers and Board Members

Section 1. President. The president will serve as the chairperson of the board with all powers commensurate with the office. The president may call meetings of the Board, appoint (in consultation and approval of the Board) committee chairpersons and members, execute with the executive director legal and fiscal matters of the Society, and serve as an Ex-Officio member on all committees with the exception of the nominating committee.

Section 2. President-Elect. The president-elect assists the president in the conduct of Society business and serves as the president pro-tem in the absence of the president

Section 3. Past-President. The past-president will continue to support current Society officers and board members with the affairs of the Society. The vice-president, past-president and two additional Society member appointed by the president, will also organize and oversee the activities of the distinguished awards committees charged with selecting outstanding members as the recipients of the Society's distinguished service Award and distinguished achievement award.

Section 4. Vice-President. The vice-president will establish a collaborative relationship with the chairpersons of standing and ad hoc committees in facilitating their duties and arranging for oral and written presentations at either annual or special meetings. Additional responsibilities include developing an active rapport and liaison between committee chairpersons and Society members. The vice-president also serves as the Chairperson of the Annual Conference Committee and is responsible for selecting scientific presentations. In the year of the SOVE International Congress, the vice-president shall not serve as the program chair for that year's international meeting (due to the high organizational demands requiring a longer preparatory phase compared to the standard annual conferences) but, instead, they will lead the scientific agenda of the succeeding international congress in the capacity of the past-president.

Section 5. Executive Director. The executive director is appointed by the Board. The executive director will conduct the day-to-day business of the Society, implement policies acted upon by the Board, discharge financial matters, prepare budgets, maintain relevant records, post membership dues notices, receive funds and contributions on behalf of the Society, and prepare quarterly reports and financial balance sheets. The executive director shall record the minutes of the Board and annual Society meetings and post them to board

members and committee chairpersons and post all notices of annual and special meetings. The executive director administers the annual conference and the international congress of the Society within the general budget and framework approved by the Board, as well as assists in the administration of international region conferences. The executive director also serves as the treasurer of the Society.

Section 6. Board Members: All Board members shall diligently work to promote and achieve the goals and objectives of the Society.

ARTICLE VII

Elections

Section 1. Nominations. The president will direct the Nominating Committee, consisting of past-president, president and one member appointed by the president, to select outstanding nominee(s) from all SOVE geographic regions in the US or internationally the Society for each elective office at least 60 days prior to the annual meeting.

Section 2. Elections. The nominees' names along with a brief biography will be included in the ballot and sent to all Society members at least 60 days before the annual meeting. Provisions for write-in candidates will be included on the ballot. The date of the deadline for returning the ballots will be specified on the ballot. Ballots received after the deadline date will be invalid. All ballots received by the central office shall be reported by the executive director to the Board and the membership.

Section 3. In the case of a tie vote, the Board will make the final decision.

ARTICLE VIII

Regions and Regional Directors

Section 1. a. Geographic Regions. Society members with a common geographic affinity can establish a collective Geographic Membership Region by presenting the Board with a petition signed by a minimum of 30 members from the candidate region. A geographic membership region can be located in the U.S. or internationally. Upon receipt of the petition, the Board will take action on the establishment of the new geographic membership region.

b. International geographic regions of SOVE will have the option to function as a regular geographic membership region of SOVE or as a chapter affiliate region. Chapter affiliate regions can operate under their own board of directors and collect their own dues, but the chapter affiliate bylaws must be approved by the main SOVE Board of Directors. Chapter affiliate directors will act as liaisons to the SOVE Board but have restricted voting privileges. Only chapter affiliate members who pay dues to main SOVE as described in Article III, section one, will be able to hold office. Chapter affiliate members (who are not regular SOVE members as described in Article III) will be awarded specific privileges as determined by the central SOVE **Board**.

c. The Board shall periodically review the regional structure and redefine the boundaries as new regions are proposed.

Section 2. Geographic Membership/Chapter Affiliate Regions. The Society presently is composed of the following geographic membership/chapter affiliate regions.

- a. Northeastern:* United States- includes the states of Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, Washington DC, and West Virginia. Canada- includes the provinces of Newfoundland (Labrador), New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and Quebec.
- b. Southeastern:* United States- includes the states of Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Virginia.
- c. North-central:* United States- includes the states of Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, Ohio, and Wisconsin. Canada- includes the Provinces of Manitoba, Ontario, and Northern Territory.
- d. South-central:* United States- includes the states of Arkansas, Kansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, and Texas.
- e. Northwestern:* United States- includes the states of Alaska, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming. Canada- includes the provinces of Alberta, British Columbia, and Saskatchewan.
- f. Southwestern:* United States- includes the states of Arizona, California, Hawaii, Nevada, and New Mexico.
- g. Europe:* Includes all countries encompassed by that continent.
- h. Latin America:* Includes all countries within Central and South America, as well as Mexico.
- i. Asian:* Includes China and other nearby countries.
- j. Indian Subcontinent:* Includes India and adjacent countries excluding countries in Asian Region.
- k. Any member not within a designated region may choose which region they wish to participate in.*

Section 3. Membership. A minimum of 30 individuals with active Society memberships is necessary to form and establish a geographic membership region. Membership requirements for chapter affiliates will be established by the chapter affiliate bylaws.

Section 4. Regional Directors: Each geographic membership region will have a regional director elected by a majority vote of the regional membership. An open nomination process will be conducted by the executive director if the region does not have an advisory board.

a. Term of Office. The term of office for a regional director shall run for three years up to a maximum of two consecutive terms. Initiation and continuance of each term will commence on January 1 and end on December 31.

b. Regional Representation. The director of each geographic membership region will serve on the Board and represent the Region. Directors from international regions may appoint at their discretion an advisory committee comprising of vector-borne disease experts from their regional jurisdiction. The advisory committee shall have no Board voting rights but

shall advise the director on important issues pertaining to that region.

c. Student Director and Student Director-Elect. Every two years the student body will elect by a majority vote a student director-elect, who will serve one year on the Board without voting privileges. Thereafter, the director-elect will become the student director for two years and will acquire voting privileges. Together, the student director and the student director-elect will be responsible for the student symposium at the annual conference and organization of the annual election of the student director-elect with assistance from the executive director. Student director-elect must be a graduate student when elected but may graduate during the term of office.

i. Student Body: Includes currently enrolled undergraduate and graduate students from across all geographic regions

d. Proceeds. Regional meetings are organized and administered with the full cooperation of SOVE central office and executive director, and any profit or loss shall be shared by the Society. For every meeting, a financial report shall be prepared and delivered to the Board in a regular financial report.

ARTICLE IX

Committees and Editorial Board

Section 1. Committees.

a. Standing Committees

(1) Nomination Committee: This committee consist of three to five members charged with selecting for nomination and election of exceptional members to serve as vice-president.

(2) Awards Committee: This committee is organized by the past-president. Each committee to consist of three to five members charged selecting award recipients from among the outstanding members of the Society who has demonstrated exceptional service in vector ecology.

(3) Annual Conference Committee: This committee will consist of the vice-president, the executive director and other selected members. Under the direction of the Board, the executive director shall be responsible for selecting the conference venue and organizing the conference. Venue selection must be approved by the Board. The vice-president (Committee Chairperson) will be responsible for organizing conference programs by securing speakers for symposia, panels, workshops, and special meetings. The executive director will also oversee the activities and local arrangements services. Local arrangements responsibilities include selecting an

appropriate conference venue/facility, providing conference speakers with audiovisual equipment and other materials operated by qualified individuals, providing meals/refreshments to attendees, and arranging banquets/receptions plus other relevant functions for the smooth operation of the conference.

4) *Publications Committee*: This committee will consist of members appointed by the President and approved by the Board. This committee is charged with establishing and maintaining the guidelines for Society publications.

(5) *Bylaws Committee*: This committee shall consist of three to five members charged with revising Society bylaws as needed.

(6) *Early Career Professionals Committee*: This committee shall not have a limit to the number of members, and will focus on enrichment activities such as webinars, career panels at conferences, and blogs.

b. *Ad Hoc Committee (s)*. Ad hoc committee (s) to be appointed by the president in consultation with the Board as needed to resolve specific issues. Each committee will consist of three to five members.

Section 2. Editorial Board. The Journal and other peer-reviewed serial publications of the Society will each have an editorial board comprised of prominent scientists in the field of vector ecology and related disciplines. The editorial board will consist of members appointed by the Board to serve for 3 or more years. The chairperson of the Editorial Board will be appointed by the Board and will serve in that capacity at the will of the Board. Members of the Editorial Board will form a core of reviewers to edit articles submitted for publication in Society journals and adjudicate the appeals of authors when a manuscript is rejected for publication.

ARTICLE X

Meetings and Quorum

Section 1. Annual Meeting. The regular annual conference of the Society will be held at such time and place as approved by the Board. Copies of the conference program will be available to all members of the Society. The regular annual conference may not be held in the years (once every four years) when an International Congress of Vector Ecology is convened. International congresses shall alternate between SOVE regions including international regions depending on the availability of local capacities and resources.

Section 2. The annual program meeting may consist of invitational and/or submitted papers, symposia, panels, workshops, poster and other presentations which facilitate the exchange of information and discussion of matters of interest to the Society.

Section 3. Special Meetings. Special or joint meetings with other professional scientific entities may be approved by the Board. A special meeting to transact important business of either immediate or special nature may be called by the President or upon the written request of a minimum of 25 members.

Section 4. Regional Meetings. The regional director may convene annual meetings (not in the year of an International Congress of Vector Ecology) with the regional director serving as officers for organizing the programs and other related activities. Regional meeting (s) also may be convened by written request from a minimum of 20 Regional members. The regional director will have the authority to establish both regional standing and ad hoc committees;

Special meetings may be held jointly with other regions and organizations.

Section 5. Quorum. A simple majority of the members of the Board and committees will constitute a quorum for those entities. The quorum for the annual business meeting will be five percent of the voting members.

Section 6. Notification. The notification of special and regional meetings and other items of interest to Society members will include the meeting date, location, and description of tentative agenda. The date, location, and agenda of special and regional meetings will be published in the newsletter or by a special notification on the SOVE website. A notice of a meeting will be forwarded to interested members at least 15 days a meeting is to be convened.

ARTICLE XI

Finances

Section 1. Proceeds. All monies due the Society will be collected, disbursed, and accounted for by the executive director. The executive director will further provide detailed quarterly financial reports to the Board and annually to the Society membership.

Section 2. Accounts. All funds/monies will be deposited under the Society's name in an insured account

available at a trusted bank or similar financial institution approved by the Board. All withdrawals from the account and disbursement checks shall be signed by two authorized individuals, The president, or designee(s) approved by the Board, and/or the executive director shall be the authorized signatories. Transactions in excess of \$1,000.00 must have approval of the Board, unless it is already approved by the Board in the annual budget.

Section 3. Dues. The amount of dues attached to each membership category will be established by the Board. Society members who fail to pay their dues by July 1 will be notified by the executive director and declared in arrears. Such membership in arrears will be terminated.

Section 4. Publication Charges. All publication charges including page charges, reprint costs, advertising, and others will be established and approved by the Board.

Section 5. Fiscal Year. The fiscal year will commence January 1 and end December 31 of each calendar year.

Section 6. Liability. No officer or member of the Society will be held personally liable for any debts, liabilities, and obligations of the Society.

ARTICLE XII

Publications

Section 1. Journal. The Journal of Vector Ecology is the official refereed publication of the SOVE for scientific, technical, and operational papers germane to the field of vector ecology. The Journal will be published twice annually (volumes) in June (no. 1) and December (no. 2).

Section 2. Journal Editors. The journal editor will be appointed by the Board.

Section 3. Newsletter. The newsletter of the Society will provide information on current events, programs, meeting announcements of other organizations, Society/members affairs, and the status of vector ecology and control efforts around the world. The newsletter will be published at least twice a year.

Section 4. Newsletter Editor and Associate Editors. The editor and associate editors of the newsletter will be appointed by the Board. Articles submitted for publication either by correspondents appointed by the newsletter editor or members at large will be reviewed by the newsletter editor.

ARTICLE XIII

Awards

Section 1. Distinguished Awards. The Society may bestow awards for 1) distinguished service and 2) distinguished achievement upon members in recognition of their exceptional contribution to the field of vector ecology.

a. *Distinguished Service Award.* This award is bestowed upon Society members who have demonstrated exceptional commitment and dedication to the Society.

b. *Distinguished Achievement Award.* This award is bestowed on Society members who have contributed significantly to the scientific understanding of vector ecology and related disciplines.

c. *Distinguished Lifetime Awards:* The Board may bestow:

(1) *Distinguished Lifetime Achievement Award (s)*

(2) *Distinguished Lifetime Services Award (s)* upon members who have contributed exceptional achievements and exceptional long-term services to the Society. These awards shall be given every four years at the international congress.

Section 2. Honors and Special Awards. Honors and Special Awards may be established either with or without stipends. This award category also includes awards supported by an endowment in the name of the donor and with the approval of the Board.

Section 3. Nominations for all awards to be presented to distinguished Society members will be made by the Awards Committee and subsequently approved by the Board. The criteria and evaluation procedures for each award nominee will be developed by the Awards Committee.

ARTICLE XIV

Amendments

Section 1. A proposal to amend these bylaws may be submitted on the recommendation of the Board, the Bylaws Committee, or by written petition of at least by five percent of members made to the Board. Any proposed amendments will be submitted for voting by ballot to the entire membership according to Article IV.

Section 2. Members must be given a minimum of 30-day prior written notice of proposed changes.

Section 3. Majority. A simple majority of the voting members will be required to approve amendments to the bylaws.

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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.

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