Society for Vector Ecology

SOVE Newsletter

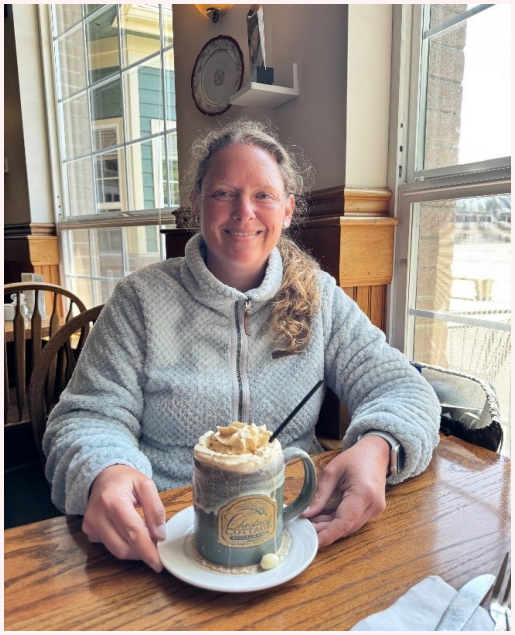
President's Message

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

I'm writing today from Northern Washington State where I'm taking some time with my family to regroup and bond among the mountain wildflowers, tide pools, and to do a bucket list whale watching tour. I might be bragging a little bit; I'm just extremely excited. I'm equally excited to be able to talk with you a little bit during this president's message. I would like to spend some time talking about how vector-borne disease brings people together. There is a warm place in my heart for seeing groups of people from all over the world with different backgrounds, pulling together for greater good, and working together in times of crisis. As an example, I'll use something that I've been living and breathing for the last nine months, New World screwworm (NWS). New World Screwworm is a fly that in its larval stage feeds on the living flesh of warm, blooded animals, including livestock, domestic animals, wildlife, birds and humans. As vector ecologists this is probably not a surprising thing for you but imagine how the public feels about flesh-eating flies. Sounds like a little bit of a nightmare scenario. If we were to get screwworm here in the United States, it would be a huge animal and public health challenge, but most it would greatly impact our livestock and agriculture sector. The explosive movement from the existing barrier zone in the Darien gap in Panama north through Central Mexico over the last two years has been extremely concerning. I just returned from Mexico City, where with a small group of coworkers, we went to speak with the Mexican government about NWS activities. The feeling among all of us involved in the Americas is one of cordial commiseration as we try to contain and slowly eradicate this terrible pest.

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

In this issue



Back at home as we get ready for a potential domestic response, state and federal agencies are thirsty for knowledge on response. Requests for information and coordination roll in. My coworkers whose normal day jobs have nothing to do with vectors, have become NWS specialists in short order. We are talking to industry and stakeholder groups, training field response specialists, coordinating, ordering supplies, stockpiling treatments, and readying for a response that we all hope will never happen. Entomologists, physicians, veterinarians, public and animal health agencies are all on alert for the finding of this terrible pest on U.S. soil. It is not often that the threat of a re-emerging vector (with no associated vectoborne disease) has garnered so much attention. Indeed, I hope this is just a drill, but it might be reality sooner than we think. Again, none of us wanted to be in this scenario, but we can use this unfortunate movement of flies out of the barrier zone as a lens to better examine the infrastructure and capacity we have here in the U.S. for responding to foreign vector-borne disease threats.

My transition 9 years ago into a role as a policy maker was somewhat serendipitous as I have always been more of a research-minded individual. However, now I am thankful for it and wish there were more people in similar positions. It is possible that never before have we had such an intense need for scientific minds to make best policy recommendations. The niche I occupy opens me to a vast world of different viewpoints on infectious diseases. All are important in one way or another and is a craft to pull together useful and practical policy that works both for lawmakers and most importantly stakeholders and the public. We all know that to respond to the increasing demands of emerging disease, more positions in the realm of vector ecology are needed. I thank those of you who are constantly advocating for more positions, funding, resource sharing, and for multi-disciplinary projects that tackle vectors and vector borne disease in innovative ways. Moreover, I hope that whatever project you are working on, you have support, cooperation, and coalition you need to be successful.

Times are uncertain but I still hope to see you all in Crete this year. I'm faithful that it will be yet another amazing SOVE meeting and those who can't make the international trip will be able to attend next year. I leave you with a photo of me warming up after my children dragged me all over the mountainside in Olympic National Park. I saw Orcas during our whale watching trip and again next to the bridge going to the ferry (Umm-why did I pay for a boat trip?). I was supported by my coworkers so that I could check off a bucket list item and then come back and continue the fight rested. I wish all of you the same community and remember you are all part of the SOVE family.

Regional Reports

Northeastern Region, USA
Doug Norris
Regional Director

The Norris Laboratory at John Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health has the following job opportunities:

***Postdocs** (2):*Mosquito ecology, behavior and genomics. The Norris lab at the Department of Molecular Microbiology and Immunology, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health (BSPH) in Baltimore, Maryland, is seeking two highly motivated individuals for postdoctoral positions focusing on anopheline mosquito ecology, behavior and genomics. The lab is interested in gaining a better understanding of ecological and behavior drivers of vector transmission of malaria parasites in a high transmission setting in Zambia, as well as implementation and evaluation of innovative approaches to vector control.

The postdoctoral position as part of a multi-institutional and cross-disciplinary research team, will be responsible for assisting in the design and implementation of a longitudinal field site for both detailed study of anopheline mosquitoes and evaluation of novel approaches to vector control. A thorough understanding of mosquito biology and behavior, and field experience is required. Experience in epidemiology and/or public health would be a tremendous asset. Due to the focus on field-based studies, successful applicants will be expected to spend approximately 30% of their time at the field site in Zambia. This individual will work closely with a diverse lab team and collaborators from academic and government partners.

The positions are available immediately for one year with the possibility of renewal. We are looking to fill these positions as soon as possible. . Salary is based on the NIH postdoc salary scale. Applicants should submit a CV, statement of research interests, writing/publication sample and contact information of three references.

***Research Technologist**:* Mosquito Biology / Ecology / Genomics

A Research Technologist position is available starting July 1, 2025 at the Norris Lab to support a collaborative research program with international partners seeking to better understand mosquito biology, ecology and genomics in the context of pathogen transmission with a focus on malaria. Approximately 50% or more of duties and responsibilities of the job will involve routine laboratory work involving molecular and genetic approaches, assisting other lab members with research protocols, maintaining reagent stocks, ordering supplies/equipment, arranging for maintenance and repair of laboratory equipment and ensuring the lab is compliant with biosafety standards. The remaining effort for the position will involve research coordination including generating, filing and managing IRB, ACUC, MTA and permit applications required for the research program.

Expertise or interest in at least some of the following areas is essential: biology, epidemiology, molecular biology, public health and computational analysis. Experience in infectious disease research, molecular bench work, bioinformatic software for DNA sequence analysis, and IRB applications is preferred.

Qualifications: Bachelor's degree in biology, chemistry, computation, public health, epidemiology or related field required. Some related post-undergraduate work experience preferred. Excellent organizational and communication skills required. Must be able to complete laboratory tasks proficiently and be comfortable working in a fast-paced environment. Some light lifting when performing laboratory and insectary tasks will be required. Applicants should be conscientious, reliable and have an interest in pursuing a long-term career in science and/or medicine. The candidate should have a strong commitment to working as a member of a team.

Please address preliminary inquiries to:
Dr Douglas Norris
Johns Hopkins Malaria Research Institute
Department of Molecular Microbiology & Immunology
Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health
615 N. Wolfe Street, E3628
Baltimore, MD 21205
Phone: +1-410-614-2710
douglas.norris@jhu.edu
https://www.norrislaboratory.com

SOUTHWESTERN REGION, USA

Lal S. Mian

Regional Director

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

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

Arizona (www. Azdhs.gov). As of June 6, 2025, Arizona Department of Health Services reported 1 case of Chagas disease, 4 hantavirus, 7 Rocky Mountain spotted fever, 6 Lyme disease, 10 dengue, 2 West Nile virus (WNV), and 5 malaria cases. As of June 19, 2025, Maricopa county reported I human case of WNV plus 16 mosquito pools sero-positive for WNV, and 10 pools for Saint Luis encephalitus virus (SLEV). These number will go up as we get into the warmer months of summer in Arizona.

California (www.cdph.ca.gov). As of June 6, 2025, California continued to show the distribution of two invasive mosquito species, *Aedes aegypti* and *Ae. albopictus.* The former species was found in 23 counties: Butte, Fresno, Glenn, Imperial, Kern, King, Merced, Madera, Orang, Placer, Riverside, Sacramento, San Bernardino, San Diego, San Joaquin, Santa Clara, Solano, Stanislaus, Sutter, Tulare, Ventura, Yuba, and Yolo. The latter species maintained its presence in 2 (5 in 2025) counties—Los Angeles and Shasta. Regarding vector-borne diseases in the state, there were zero human cases of WNV, 17 dead birds, 128 seropositive mosquito pools, 0 sentinel chickens, and 0 horses testing positive for WNV. The WNV activity was reported from 7 counties, which included Sacramento, Alameda, Santa Clara, Tulare, San Bernardino, Riverside and San Diego. Since its arrival in California in 2003, WNV has resulted in >8K cases with 4K deaths. Additionally, California reported 39 imported cases of dengue and 2 cases of chikungunya (Alameda and Solano counties). Moreover, there were 4 probable cases of flea-borne typhus in the state.

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

Nevada (https://dhhs.nv.org). As of June 6, 2025, the Southern Nevada Health District reported no human cases of Lyme disease, malaria and WNV. Of the 801 mosquito pools tested by tClark county thus far this year, all samples were negative for SLEV, WNV and the western equine encephalitus virus. Clark county [southernnevadhealth district.org]. The northern Nevada public health (formerly Washoe County.org) did report any vector-borne disease cases this year thus far. .

New Mexico (nmhealth.org). As of June 7, 2025, New Mexico Health Department reported 2 cases of hantavirus and zero cases of Hantavirus and plague in the state.

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

Stay healthy and safe!

Cordially,

Lal

Latin American SOVE REGION
Christina McCarthy
Regional Director

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

I am very pleased to invite you to the Third Congress of the Latin American Society of Vector Ecology(LA SOVE) and the Fourth Congress of the Latin American Vector Control Network (LA SOVERELCOV 2025), which will be held in La Plata (Buenos Aires, Argentina) from October 23 -28, 2025, at the Postgraduate and Convention Center – Karakachoff Building of the National University of La Plata (UNLP).

The central theme of the scientific program for our upcoming Congress, "An Integrated Approach for the Control of Vector-Borne Diseases in the Context of One Health and the Challenges of Climate Change, includes the following topics of particular relevance for our Latin American region: One Health, Chagas disease, diseases Ttansmitted by mosquitoes and other Diptea (Dengue, malaria, yellow Fever, Zika, chikungunya, Oropouche, etc.), tick-borne diseases (Rickettsia, Ehrlichia, Borrelia), 5), leishmaniasis, zoonotic diseases (Rabies, hydatidosis, among others), invertebrate Vector-borne diseases of agricultural Importance, Invertebrate vector-borne diseases of veterinary importance, comprehensive perspectives for action: Lessons learned in the territories, knowledge and practices of laboratory and field technicians, vector eco-biology, vector surveillance and control, innovative techniques for vector surveillance and management, and pesticide resistance. These topics will be addressed from a multidisciplinary perspective, aiming for an integrated and sustainable approach for communicable diseases in our region, in line with the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) initiative for disease elimination. The scientific program includes conferences, symposia, and turbo talks (short oral presentations), and/or electronic posters (e-posters) both in person and virtually. Furthermore, the Organizing Committee has incorporated a gender perspective committed to equity for this Congress, ensuring the presence of at least 50% women in all activities associated with the congress, including the conformation of the Scientific Committee, coordination and presentations at conferences, symposia, turbo talks, and awards, in accordance with the governing regulations of the United Nations.

Some of our confirmed speakers are: Ana Nilce Silveira Maia Elkhoury, PAHO; Lyric Bartholomay, University of Wisconsin – Madison, USA; Meritxell Pérez-Hedo, Institute of Molecular and Cellular Biology of Plants, Spain; Michelle Brown, West Valley Mosquito & Vector Control District, Ontario, CA, USA; Yara Traub-Czeko, Instituto Oswaldo Cruz Rio de Janeiro, Brasil; José Bento Pereira Lima LBCVIV/IOC/Fiocruz, RJ, Brazil; Manuel F. Lluberas, Mosquito Den LLC Puerto Rico, USA; Paulo Filemon Paolucci Pimenta, Fundação de Medicina Tropical Heitor Vieira Dourado, Brazil.

The LA SOVE RELCOV 2025 registrants who wish to present their work may choose between short oral presentations (turbo talks) or electronic posters (e-Posters). Turbo talks are of 5 min duration. Registrants who choose to present turbo talks, which will be uploaded to the cloud and organized by topic. They will be available exclusively for registrants duration of the Congress.. E-Posters will be presented digitally (not in print) via the event website. They will be openly available to the public in a Google Drive folder, accessible from the LA SOVE RELCOV 2025 website. Conference participants

McCarthy *cont'd from p..X :*will be able to view each poster individually and leave comments. Responses will be made by replying to the comments in the file. Commenters may leave their contact email address if they wish so.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Warmest regards. keep well and healthy!

Christina

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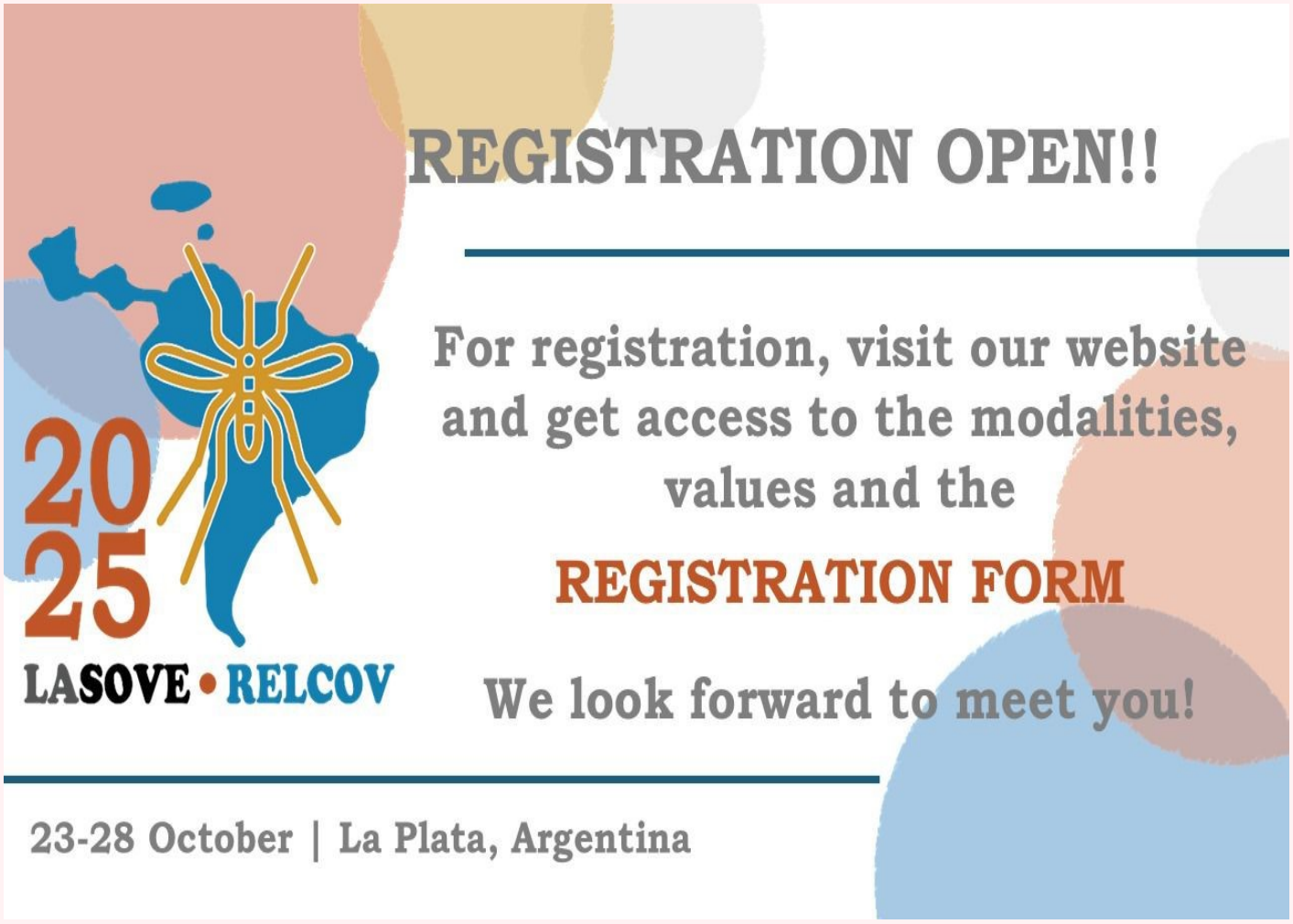


ASIAN SOVE REGION, USA
Hong-Liang Chu
Regional Director

Dear Colleagues,

The 9th International Forum for Surveillance and Control of Mosquitoes and Vector-borne Diseases (IFSCMVD) took place from May 26 to 29, 2025, in Xi'an, China. Organized by the Chinese Entomological Society, its Medical Entomology Committee, and the Shaanxi Entomological Society, the forum focused on recent advances in mosquito and vector-borne disease monitoring and control technologies. Over 180 experts from nine countries—including China, the United States, France, Greece, Singapore, Thailand, India, and Malaysia—participated in this leading academic event.

The forum featured two keynote speeches, five invited presentations, and 33 specialized sessions. Keynote addresses were delivered by Florence Fouque from the World Health Organization's Special Programme for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases (TDR) and Ary Faraji, Executive Director of the Salt Lake City Mosquito Abatement District in Utah, USA. They highlighted global explorations and challenges in using insect sterile techniques for dengue vector control, alongside the latest advances in mosquito control technologies.

Invited speakers also included Rui-De Xue (Anastasia Mosquito Control District), Tongyan Zhao (National Key Laboratory of Pathogen Microbiology and Biosafety), Qiyong Liu (Infectious Disease Prevention and Control Institute, China CDC) Xiaoguang Chen (Tropical Medicine Research Institute, Southern Medical University), and Gong Cheng (Tsinghua University).

The forum was organized into five thematic areas:

1) Mosquito and Vector-borne Disease Integrated Control, 2) Dengue Vector Control, 3) Malaria and Filariasis Vector Control, 4) Vector Control and Insecticide Resistance and 5) Mosquito Physiology and Pathogenomics.

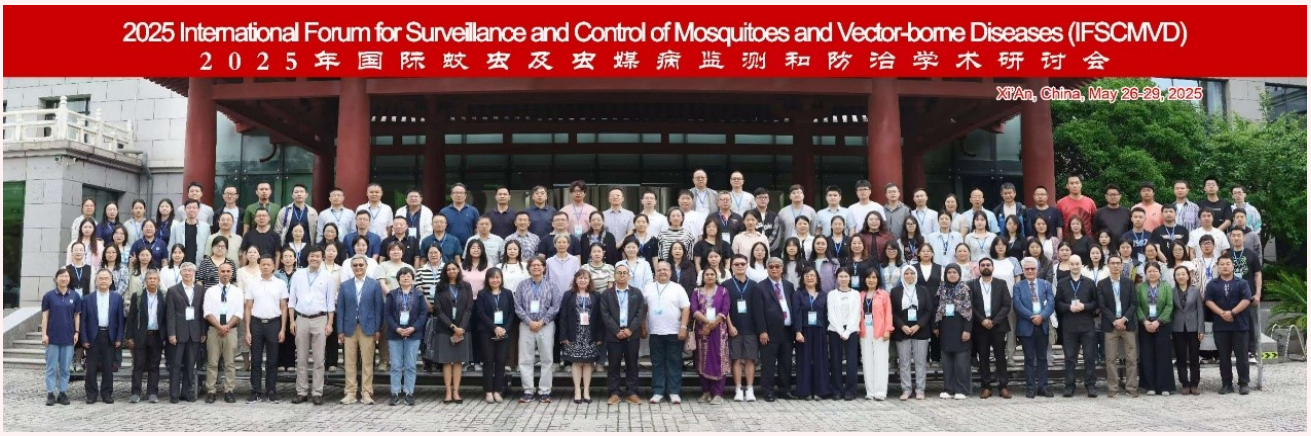
International scholars from Paul Valéry University (France), Ecodevelopment SA (Greece), the Environmental Health Institute of the National Environment Agency (Singapore), Kasetsart University (Thailand), Panjab University and Osmania University (India), National Institutes of Health (Malaysia), University of Malaya, and Universiti Sains Malaysia joined domestic experts from Peking University, Fudan University, Sun Yat-sen University, the Institute of Zoology at the Chinese Academy of Sciences, China CDC, and Jiangsu CDC to share their latest research findings during 33 specialized sessions.

The Asian Society of Vector Ecology and Mosquito Control (ASVEMC) Board Meeting was held during the 9th IFSCMVD. Led by ASVEMC President Xiaoguang Chen and Executive Director Hongliang Chu, the meeting followed a pre-approved agenda that included updates on organizational progress, the introduction of new elected vice president JiaHong Wu from Guiyang Medical University, China, and future plans. President Chen Xiaoguang announced the awards and signed the certificates: Two Outstanding Achievements - Ashwani Kumar from India and Lifeng Lin from China. One Outstanding Service Award- Pai from China. Three special guests—two from Singapore and one from India joined the session, contributing valuable insights.

———————-***Asian SOVE*** *cont'd. on page 9*

Asian SOVE*cont'd from p. X*

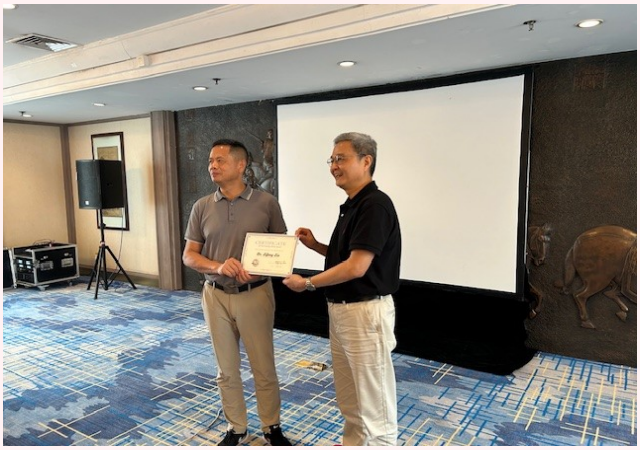
Key updates from the board meeting included preparations for ASVEMC's active participation in the 9th International Congress of the Society for Vector Ecology (SOVE), scheduled for October 12–17, 2025, in Greece. ASVEMC will host two symposia during this prestigious event, showcasing its ongoing work in vector ecology and control. Discussions also emphasized strengthening collaborations and enhancing engagement with international partners, reflecting on ASVEMC's commitment to advancing research and knowledge dissemination in the region. ==========



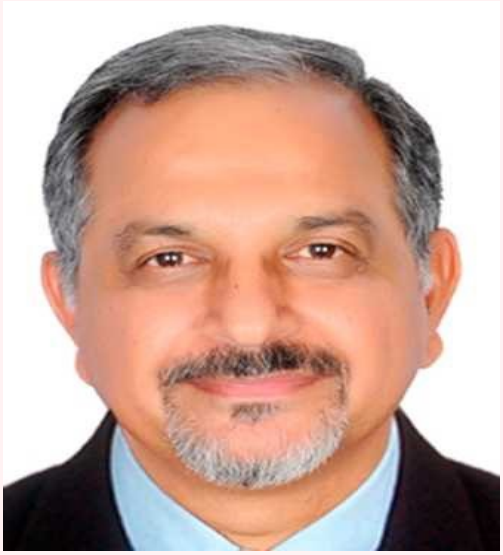
The 9th IFSCMVD Group Photo of the Participants

Photos of the conference venue

A SVEMC Board Meeting Group Photo of the Participants



ASVEMC President Xiaoguang Chen presenting the outstanding achievement award to Lifeng Lin



SOVE–Indian Chapter
Ashwani Kumar
Regional Director

On the sidelines of ICVBD 2025 held at Saveetha University in Chennai from 21-24 January 2025, the General Body meeting of the Indian Chapter of SOVE was organised.

The meeting was attended by the members who are in good standing, and also Rui-de-Xue, Vice President SOVE, USA and Prof Norbert Becker, University of Heidelberg, Inst. of Dipterology, Germany, as special invitees.

Prof Kumar told the GB that "The Society for Vector Ecology, Indian Region" was registered on July 27, 2017 in Panaji, Goa. The enrollment of members began in September 2017. SOVE (Indian Chapter) offers four types of membership, namely Regular, Retired, Students & Sustaining members. Presently, there are 159 members: Regular Members - 96, Retired Members - 14, Student Members - 48, Sustaining Members- 1. Of the 48 student members, some members have completed their Five-year term of membership. The student members, who have completed their studies and are now employed, will be requested to upgrade their SOVE membership to regular membership following a suitable procedure.

The nominations were invited to the posts of the President, the Secretary, the Treasurer and 6 Posts of the Executive Committee of the Society for Vector Ecology (India Region) on 9th October 2024 via emails sent to all the SOVE Indian Chapter members. The period for receiving completed nominations was 30 days. The below-mentioned valid nominations, complete in all respects, were received for various positions: S. No. Name of the Candidate Post Nomination received 1. Prof Rajpal Singh Yadav President 2. Deeparani Prabhu Secretary 3. Nandini Korgaonkar Treasurer 4. Prof Jagbir Singh Kirti Executive Member 5. Kedar P. Deobhankar Executive Member 2 of 5 6. Ajeet Kumar Mohanty Executive Member 7. Rajiv Tandon Executive Member 8. Rakhi Dhawan Executive Member 9. A.N. Shriram Executive Member 10. Stelson Quadros EC Member.

The General Body resolved unanimously to accept the names of the above-elected members as office bearers for the SOVE Indian Chapter for the 3-year tenure from the date of the formal takeover. The outgoing President and Secretary will formally hand over the charge of the SOVE IR to the elected President and the Secretary in due course.

The names of the elected Candidates for various posts are 1. Prof Rajpal Singh Yadav President 2. Deeparani Prabhu, Secretary 3. Nandini Korgaonkar, Treasurer, Prof Jagbir Singh Kirti Executive Member 5. Kedar P. Deobhankar Executive Member 6. Ajeet Kumar Mohanty Executive Member 7. Rakhi Dhawan Executive Member 8. A. N. Shriram Executive Member 9. Stelson Quadros Executive Member

The GB resolved to appoint Prof. Kumar as the Principal Advisor, as well as the following three members as the Advisors for the 3-year term: i) R. S. Sharma, ii) Rajiv Tandon and iii) Rina Tilak.

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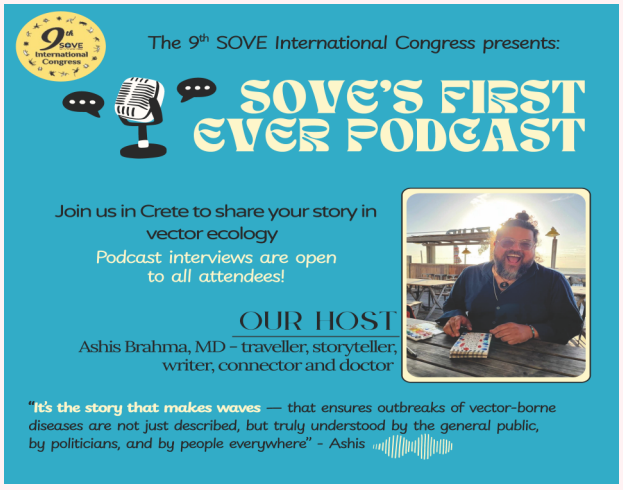
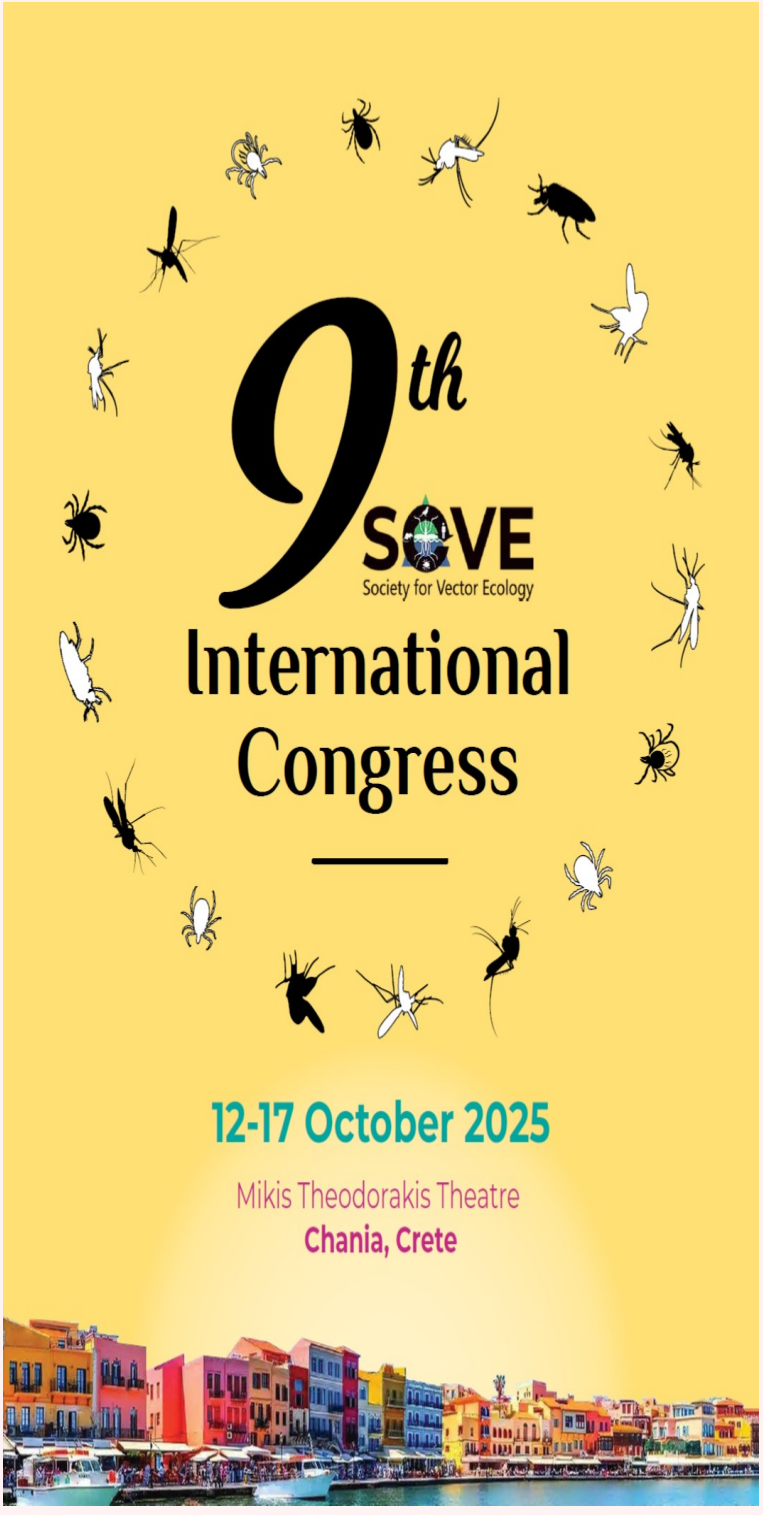
From the Desk of Executive Director, Michelle Brown, Ph.D.

Vice President Election - 2026

Hello Family of SOVE,

I invite each of your to participate in the annual election of the incoming Vice President for 2026. Please vote by **June 27, 2025** and use the link below:
https://forms.gle/38UYjzYKWaBU5igAA [b7nzzwdab.cc.rs6.net] f you have any additional questions, please contact me at admin@sove.org.
Best Regards,





9th SOVE International Congress

Connecting Vector Science Globally

12-17 October 2025

Mikis Theodorakis Theatre

Chania, Crete

From Traps to Tenure: Navigating career pathways in vector ecology

MEET OUR CAREER PANELISTS

WILLY WINT
ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH GROUP OXFORD

MARY CAMERON
LONDON SCHOOL OF HYGIENE & TROPICAL MEDICINE, UK

EVA VERONESI
UNIVERSITY OF APPLIED SCIENCES AND ARTS, SWITZERLAND

DAVE MALONE
THE GATES FOUNDATION

ARY FARAJI
SALT LAKE CITY MOSQUITO ABATEMENT DISTRICT, UTAH

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

SANDRA GEWEHR
ECODEVELOPMENT SA, GREECE

💬 LIVE Q&A & CAREER GUIDANCE

📣 REGISTER HERE FOR THE CONFERENCE

Introducing the European SOVE Education and Development Committee!

The Society for Vector Ecology (SOVE) Education and Development Committee (also known as the ECP Committee) is proud to announce the European SOVE Education and Development Committee! This committee was formed in 2025 and is committed to providing resources, guides, and training for Europe-based students and early career researchers within SOVE. The committee is led by Filiz Gunay (University of Florida; Hacettepe University), along with members Mine Altini (Bernhard-Nocht Institute for Tropical Medicine), Androniki Christaki (University of Crete; USDA), Giulia Ferrari (Fondazione Edmund Mach), Lison Laroche (Imperial College London), Mert Okbay (University of Zurich), and Jordy van der Beek (Leiden University, Naturalis Biodiversity Center).

While the ESOVE Education and Development Committee was recently formed in 2025, the members have been busy with planning events at the International Congress meeting in Crete! First, members Androniki and Giulia are leading a symposium, **"**From Traps to Tenure: Navigating career paths in vector ecology." The symposium and panel is designed to introduce students and early career researchers to different career sectors, including academia, industry, and the government, with representatives from both the US and Europe. Panelists will give a short presentation on their career journey in vector ecology and then Androniki and Giulia will lead a question and answer session with the panelists, taking questions from the audience. If you would like to submit a question ahead of time, contact Androniki (nikkichristaki@gmail.com) and Giulia (giulia.ferrari@fmach.it). All attendees at the International Congress meeting are invited to attend the symposium! Meet the career panelists: https://www.sove.org/post/featured-panelists-for-9th-international-congress-of-sove

Second, the ESOVE Education and Development Committee is excited to promote the podcast that will be recorded during the International Congress meeting! Ashis Brahma will be at the meeting to record a podcast focused on the diverse experiences in vector ecology. Podcast interviews are open to 10 attendees per day (first come, first serve) and recordings will be available for everyone to listen to after the conference. Stop by Brahma's podcasting station during the meeting to share your story and experiences! More information on the podcast and Brahma can be found on the SOVE website: https://www.sove.org/post/podcast-at-congress

If you can't make it to the International Congress meeting, the Education and Development Committee has resources available on the SOVE website for members! The resources were originally designed for US members, but SOVE members from any international chapter are welcome to use these resources. For more information on the Education and Development Committee and to access student/early career member professional development materials, visit the SOVE website: https://www.sove.org/early-career-professionals

Pre-recorded webinars on the SOVE website (need to be a SOVE member to access, https://www.sove.org/webinars)

- We highly recommend watching the webinar "**Unlocking the Secrets to Successful Networking**" before attending the International Congress meeting!

Education and Development Committee Blog on the SOVE website (https://www.sove.org/early-career-professionals)

———————————————-***SOVE-EDC*** *cont,d. on p.*

SOVE-EDC cont'd. from p. X: If you are interested in contributing a story or writing a blog post focused on student/early career professional development and/or on a timely topic, please reach out to Filiz Gunay (gunayf@gmail.com) or Karen Poh (karen.poh227@gmail.com)

If you are interested in being a reviewer for the Journal of Vector Ecology, fill out this form (https://tinyurl.com/fkuwjmzx)

The committee is also dedicated to creating webinar resources for members. The ESOVE Education and Development Committee is working in collaboration with the US SOVE Education and Development Committee to develop a webinar focusing on CV building for academia, government, and industry ("Crafting your path: CV and Resume writing workshop across sectors"). Patil Tawidian (US SOVE) and Androniki will be facilitating the webinar with speakers from the US and Europe. The date and time for this webinar are being finalized and will be communicated with members soon. To be notified of the finalized plans for this and future webinars, be sure to follow the committee on social media and join the email list (see below).

Stay Connected!

The committee is growing and always looking for new ideas on resources to provide for student and early career members in SOVE! If you are interested in joining the ESOVE Education and Development Committee or have topics the committee should highlight, please reach out to Filiz Gunay (gunayf@gmail.com). If you are located in another SOVE international chapter and are interested in starting a chapter in your region, contact Dr. Karen Poh (karen.poh227@gmail.com) for more information.

Interested in keeping up with the committee? You can join our mailing list and learn more about upcoming events from the committee (your email will not be shared with third parties): https://www.listserv.dfn.de/sympa/subscribe/esove_ecps/subscribe. Also, connect with the ESOVE Education and Development Committee and fellow student/early career professionals onLinkedI-nhttps://www.linkedin.com/company/esove-ecp/).

The ESOVE Education and Development Committee looks forward to working with everyone and providing resources to help early career researchers define their next steps in their careers!

Karen Poh, PhD, MPH
esearch Entomologist
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Agricultural Research Service
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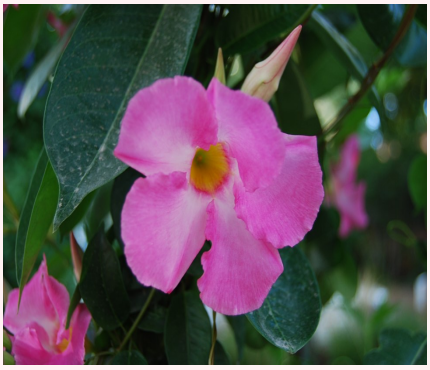
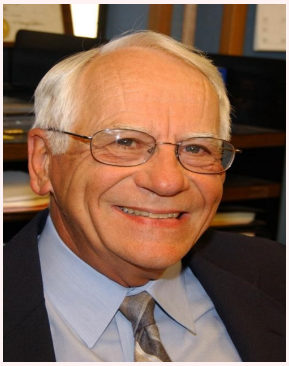


Bruce Frederick Eldridge

March 26, 1933 – February 5, 2025



Bruce Frederick Eldridge, a pioneering entomologist, dedicated educator, military entomologist, and beloved family man, passed away peacefully on February 5, 2025, at the age of 91 in Davis, California. Bruce was known for his groundbreaking work in medical entomology, his commitment to public health, and his devotion to family and community. His life spanned multiple careers advancing science, education, and service to his colleagues.

Bruce was born on March 26, 1933, in San Jose, California, the youngest of three boys. From an early age, he demonstrated an extraordinary affinity for the natural world, an interest fostered by his mother, who introduced him to the outdoors. His childhood in San Jose, surrounded by nature, laid the foundation for what would become a lifelong passion for biology and entomology.

During World War II, when his mother took on a full-time job, Bruce spent his summers at his grandparents' chicken farm in Santa Cruz, California. It was here that he developed a fascination with trains, a lifelong passion that would later lead him to serve as a director of the Sierra Northern Railway. In his 60s, Bruce also became a licensed locomotive engineer and operated passenger trains in the Woodland, California area for several years.

Following high school, Bruce embarked on a career in biology, obtaining his bachelor's degree in biological sciences from San Jose State College in 1954. He subsequently pursued further studies at Washington State University, where he earned a master's degree in entomology in 1956. Bruce later earned his Ph.D. in entomology in 1965 from Purdue University under the mentorship of Professor Leland Chandler.

In 1956, Bruce joined the U.S. Army as a commissioned officer, which marked the beginning of an illustrious 21-year military career. It was during this time that Bruce met the love of his life, Shirley. The two were married on April 20, 1957, and together raised three children: Deborah, Stuart, and Kenneth. Their family moved frequently due to Bruce's military assignments, living in Washington D.C., Maryland, Indiana, the Panama Canal Zone, Oregon, and California.

Eldridge's military career took him around the world and provided him with the opportunity to serve his country in numerous capacities. Bruce retired from the U.S. Army in 1978, holding the rank of colonel and serving as Head of the Entomology Department at the prestigious Walter Reed Army Institute of Research (WRAIR), the highest position for a military entomologist. Over the course of his military service, he received multiple honors, notably the Meritorious Service Medal in 1972 and the Legion of Merit in 1977.

After his retirement from the military, Bruce transitioned into academic research and administration, accepting a position as professor and chair of the Department of Entomology at Oregon State University (OSU), where he served from 1978 to 1986. During his time in Oregon, he began studies on the biology and control of snow pool mosquitoes in the mountains of Oregon and California, work which he would continue when he joined the University of California, Davis (UC Davis) faculty in 1986.

At UC Davis, Bruce served as Director of the statewide University of California Mosquito Research Program (UCMRP) for 14 years. This program was a flagship program of the UC system for decades, and Bruce's capable stewardship and advocacy for the program helped shape vector control efforts across California and beyond. The UCMRP also provided critical funding support for many applied research projects that enabled UC faculty and students to develop vibrant collaborations with mosquito control and public health agencies and served as a model for the Pacific Southwest Center of Excellence in Vector-Borne Diseases that has been established with CDC funding since 2017.

His research led to 153 scientific publications, some of which are considered seminal works in the field. Among his notable achievements were studies on the overwintering behavior of mosquitoes, particularly members of the *Culex pipiens* complex, and their role in the transmission of arboviruses such as St. Louis encephalitis. Bruce's studies provided critical insights into the ecological relationships between mosquitoes and the viruses they transmit, helping shape surveillance and control programs to prevent the spread of disease.

Bruce's work was not only groundbreaking in the field of entomology, but it also earned him numerous accolades. In 2007, he was awarded the prestigious Harry Hoogstraal Medal for Outstanding Achievement in Medical Entomology by the American Society for Tropical Medicine and Hygiene. He was one of only 15 entomologists to receive this honor since its inception in 1987. His contributions to the understanding of mosquitoes, their ecology, and the viruses they transmit were instrumental in advancing public health and vector control strategies around the world.

Bruce was a well-respected leader in the field of medical entomology and served as the elected Chair or President of the four major American medical entomology organizations: American Mosquito Control Association (AMCA), American Committee of Medical Entomology of the American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene, Section D of the Entomological Society of America, and the Society for Vector Ecology (SOVE). Bruce served as President of AMCA in 1988 and SOVE in 1995, and he received many other recognitions for his leadership. Among these were the SOVE Distinguished Achievement Award in 1998, the AMCA Medal of Honor in 1999, and the AMCA John N. Belkin Award in 2023 for his contributions to mosquito systematics and biology. Bruce was selected twice as the AMCA Memorial Lecturer, first in 1992 to honor Sir Patrick Manson, and again in 2005 to honor William E. Hazeltine. Bruce also served as Editor of the Journal of the American Mosquito Control Association from 1999 to 2003.

Bruce also played a pivotal role in the establishment of the Center for Vector-borne Diseases (CVEC) at UC Davis, which became a key player in arbovirus research and surveillance in California. His collaborative work with public health officials and his involvement with the Mosquito and Vector Control Association of California were instrumental in shaping the state's mosquito surveillance and control efforts. Bruce's contributions in this area included working with Dr. William Reisen to modernize mosquito surveillance data systems, which would later become crucial in responding to the West Nile virus outbreak in the early 2000s and laid the groundwork for the current VectorSurv system.

In addition to his scientific achievements, Bruce was deeply committed to education. He mentored numerous graduate students and postdoctoral researchers, many of whom went on to have successful careers of their own in the field of public-health entomology. His teaching and mentorship style was characterized by humility, honest and constructive criticism, respect for his students, and a dedication to fostering intellectual curiosity.

Bruce's legacy extends far beyond his professional accomplishments. He was a quintessential Renaissance man whose professional endeavors never seemed to diminish his personal interests and passions. He was a lover of music, often singing in church choirs or playing the banjo. Throughout his life, he played in several bluegrass bands, bringing joy to his family, friends, and even graduate students who would come out to local venues to hear him play. Bruce was also a talented actor, appearing in community theater productions, where his humor and charisma were on full display.

Always a man of principle, Bruce was eager to listen and help others, and curiosity and willingness to explore new ideas were hallmarks of his character. His passing leaves a void in the lives of all who knew him. He will be remembered as a remarkable scientist, a devoted family man, a passionate administrator and educator, and a true friend. His contributions to the world of entomology and public health will continue to impact generations to come.

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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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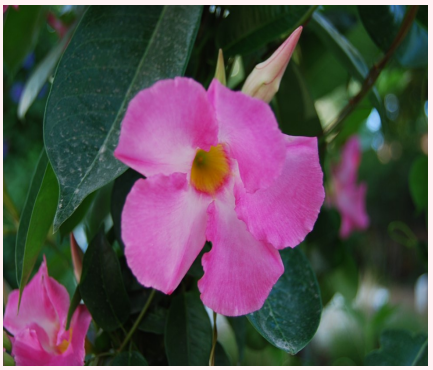
American Mosquito Control Association

Annual Meeting

Portland, Oregon

March 23-27, 2026



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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.

2025 SOVE Board Members, Editors