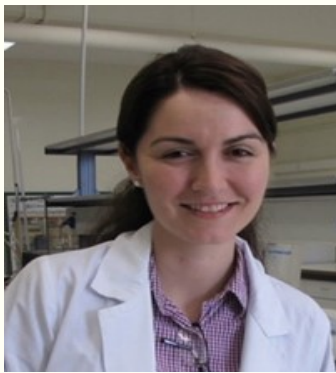


SOVE

Society for Vector Ecology

SOVE Newsletter

President's Message



Alexandra Chaskopoulou

Dear friends and colleagues, by the time you receive this newsletter, many of us will have already arrived at Charleston, South Carolina, for the SOVE annual conference in order to celebrate our scientific advancements and collaborations, while catching-up with friends and colleagues. Seeing the outstanding program put together under the guidance of Denise Bonilla, I have no doubt that this will be a highly informative, thought-provoking, and diverse scientific gathering. I am, particularly, excited to listen to this year's keynote speaker, Michael Yabsley (Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources, University of Georgia) who will be elaborating on how to best leverage networks to communicate vector-borne disease information to masses – a highly relevant topic in the era of high-speed, communication-enabling technologies and platforms. I cannot help but wonder how we - as one of the leading global societies in the field of vector ecology – can further

strengthen our role in promoting scientific information to the general public and I look forward to learning more, and, brainstorming with all of you on the best strategies moving forward. In this year's conference agenda, there will be two unique symposia topics that we have not seen for a while during our annual meetings: one symposium dedicated on career paths in the field of vector ecology addressed to our students and early career professionals, and another truly special symposium on delusions of parasitosis. In fact, it has been 30 years since the last time we discussed as a society on delusional infestations, and I can't wait to learn all about the progress and current challenges in addressing this important psychiatric disorder. Kudos, once again, to Denise and our symposia moderators for putting together such an exciting and unconventional scientific agenda!

-----*President's Message cont'd. on p.*

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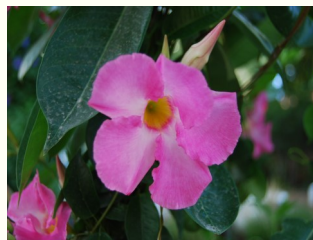
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I would like to congratulate our newly elected SOVE board members Lee Cohnstaedt (incoming Vice-President) from the National Bio and Agro- Defense Facility of the USDA, Edmund Norris (incoming Southeast Regional Director) from the Center of Medical and Veterinary Entomology of the USDA, and Ayat Abourashed (incoming Student Director) from Erasmus University Medical Center, Netherlands. I am delighted to welcome these highly talented and skilled scientists in our board, and I look forward to their fresh perspectives and valuable insights. I would also like to take a moment and thank our executive director, Michelle Brown, and international directors, Christina McCarthy, Ashwani Kumar, Filiz Gunay, Chu Hongliang, for their contribution to the SOVE students/early career professionals survey. A big thank you to Karen Poh (USDA-ARS), Ayat Abourashed (Erasmus MC) and Androniki Christaki (University of Crete) for their significant help in shaping the questions of the survey from the perspective of early career scientists. The survey is still in progress, yet we have already received input from more than 20 countries. I look forward to sharing with you the results of this collaborative effort that shall lay the foundation for future, well-informed actions, aiming to enrich the educational experiences of students and early career members during SOVE conferences, while also, provide them with more opportunities to excel in their field.

As much as I would have liked to close this article on a positive note, I cannot help but mention the catastrophic fires and floods that are increasingly overwhelming our planet with a high death toll and a disastrous environmental impact. My country – Greece – is among the countries severely hit for yet another year and it has been painful to watch our forests, cities, and communities, slowly burn. Our work as vector control professionals is becoming increasingly challenging as we – regardless of fires or floods – remain on the frontline to defend our communities from vector-borne diseases, which certainly do not cease in the presence of other crises. It has been inspiring to witness the dedicated service of vector control field personnel who selflessly continued to serve West Nile virus affected regions in North Greece, even though they were rampaged by fires. A big thank you to all the fearless men and women from across the world, fire-fighters, pilots, forestry service, paramedics, police officers, military personnel and our own – vector control field crews - who continue to fight under any circumstances to keep our communities safe.

Please, stay safe and I hope I will be seeing many of you in Charleston.

Alex





Northwestern Region, USA

Ben Beard

Regional Director

Greetings colleagues and friends,

World Mosquito Day was recognized on August 20 (<https://www.cdc.gov/parasites/malaria/>). Consequently, it was particularly noteworthy and perhaps ironic that during the same week, Maryland reported their first case of locally transmitted malaria in over 40 years. This event followed two other local malaria clusters that occurred earlier this summer, in Florida and in Texas. These cases, 9 in total between May and August, represent the first local transmission of malaria that has occurred in the continental U.S. in 20 years.

Malaria was once common throughout large portions of the U.S. It was eliminated in the early 1950s. In fact, most people today wouldn't realize it, but CDC was founded in July 1946 with the primary mission of preventing malaria from spreading across the nation (<https://www.cdc.gov/museum/history/our-story.html>). Today approximately 2,000 cases of malaria are reported to CDC each year in the U.S., typically in travelers from malaria endemic regions of the world. As summarized by Dye-Braumuller and Kanyangarara in a recent and perhaps prophetic article (1), *Anopheles* vectors of malaria can be found today in 32 US states and one US territory; and as this summer has demonstrated, we are in fact vulnerable to future outbreaks. The World Health Organization estimated that 247 million malaria cases and 619,000 deaths occurred globally in 2021 (<https://www.who.int/teams/global-malaria-programme/reports/world-malaria-report-2022>). Given the influence of climate change collectively on environmental change, global migration, and urbanization across much of the Global South, together with increasing international travel, the prospect of future local cases and outbreaks in the continental U.S. of diseases like malaria and dengue is increasingly likely [Note: local dengue transmission is also becoming more and more common in the continental U.S.].

All this to say, the work of public health entomologists and other professionals who work in the context of vector-borne disease ecology, prevention, and control is increasingly important. Continued support for these priorities is needed at local, state, and federal levels, and in all sectors – academics, industry, NGOs, and government.

This is the last newsletter prior to the upcoming annual SOVE meeting, which will take place in Charleston, SC on September 18-21. It should be an exciting meeting with a number of highly interesting presentations. In addition to the SOVE meeting, the Entomological Society of America meeting is scheduled for November 5 – 8 in National Harbor, MD. Dr. Shirley Luckhart of the University of Idaho, together with colleagues Ed Lewis, Sanford Eigenbrode, and Mike Riehle, are hosting a symposium highlighting the UI Institute for Health in the Human Ecosystem Biology of Vector-borne Diseases (BVBD) training course in the context of the Quadripartite (WHO, FAO, WOA, UNEP) One Health Joint Plan of Action. Invited speakers include past participants in the BVBD course, current instructors, and Colin Basler, Deputy Director of the CDC One Health Office. The symposium will include a panel discussion to engage the audience in Q&As. The session will take place on Sunday, November 5th, from 8:00AM to 12:00PM.

Another upcoming meeting opportunity that may be of interest is the TickNet Canada Symposium that will take place in Toronto, Ontario on October 24 and 25. For more information, you can go to the following link that was provided by Stefan Iwasawa of Vancouver Island University: <https://ticknet.ca/>.

References:

Dye-Braumuller, K.C. and Kanyangarara, M., 2021. Malaria in the USA: how vulnerable are we to future outbreaks?. *Current tropical medicine reports*, 8, pp.43-51.

END OF REPORT



Southwestern Region, USA

Lal S. Mian

Regional Director

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

The Southwestern Region of the United States has experienced some catastrophic weather phenomena in recent years, affecting California, Hawaii and most recently Nevada. California, known for wildfires and earth quacks, has its drought spell of several years broken by the record El-Nino-like wet weather in last winter and spring, resulting in flooding and mud slides in areas especially those previously affected by wildfires. Then came in the tropical storm Hillary that dumped inches of rain with strong winds and floods, which resulted in the loss of life and property. Most recently in Hawaii, we saw hurricane speed winds, resulting in catastrophic fires that swept through the Island of Maui especially Lanai, causing a tremendous loss of life and property damage. In recent weeks in Nevada, the monsoonal flooding has affected property as well as human activity in some areas. Arizona also reports flooding from monsoonal rains from time to time. So, will all these unfamiliar weather phenomena have an impact on the activity of vectors and the pathogens they transmit to humans and animals? Based on the data thus far, it will be too early to estimate since we still have 4 months to go.

Mosquito and Vector Control agencies at most state and local jurisdictions in the Region have been active in their routine disease surveillance and vector control operations. Using the CDC and state sources, a brief report by state on vector-borne disease surveillance in the Region is presented as follows:

Arizona (www.Azdhs.gov). As of September 1, 2023, the Arizona Department of Health Services reported 385 vector-borne and zoonotic diseases (VBZDs) in 2023. Mosquito-borne diseases caused by West Nile virus (WNV), dengue, and malaria accounted for 68 (7 deaths), 19, and 37 cases, respectively. Other VBZDs reported on September 9, 2023,

included Rocky Mountain spotted fever 1, Lyme disease 9, brucellosis 2, babesiosis 2, anaplasmosis 4, tularemia 2, Chagas disease 6, Colorado tick fever 1, and hantavirus 5. The WNV cases of 68 in 2023 thus far are lower than 73 in 2022, but we still have four months left in 2023 and the yearly figures may go higher.

California (www.cdph.ca.gov). As of September 8, 2023, California updated the 2023 distribution of two invasive mosquito species, *Aedes aegypti* and *Ae. albopictus*—the former species was found in 27 counties from San Diego and Imperial counties in the south to Shasta County in the north; the latter species maintained its presence in 5 counties—Orange, Los Angeles, San Bernardino, Sacramento and Shasta. Regarding vector-borne diseases in the state, as of September 1, 2023, WNV activity was reported in 98 human cases (5 deaths), 502 dead birds, 3,455 positive mosquito pools, 132 seropositive sentinel chicken samples, and 20 horse cases. Also, there was 1 human case in Kern County and 370 mosquito pools positive for Saint Louis encephalitis from 12 counties. The WNV activity was reported from 30 out of 58 California counties with 12 reporting human cases. Since its arrival in California in 2003, WNV has resulted in >7.5K human cases with >300 deaths.

Nevada (<https://snhd.org>). As of September 1, 2023, Clack County reported 5 mosquito pools (219 mosquitoes) positive for WNV.

New Mexico (<https://nmhealth.org>). As of September 7, 2023, New Mexico reported 41 cases of WNV with one death from 14 counties and 7 hantavirus cases in 3 counties.

Hawaii (www.health.hawaii.org), did not report any new cases of vector-borne diseases.

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

Stay healthy and safe!

Cordially,

Lal



Southcentral Region, USA

Steve Presley

Regional Director

Greetings Colleagues and Friends,

The occurrence of severe weather events (drought, floods, hurricanes, tornadoes, etc.) and other natural disasters (wildfires, mudslides, etc.) across the USA this year have caused numerous deaths, disrupted and displaced millions of people, and destroyed billions of dollars' worth of property. The Southcentral Region (Arkansas, Kansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, and Texas) has not been spared, as severe to extreme heat and drought conditions have persisted for months in much of Kansas, Louisiana, and Texas. Such natural disasters and the disruption of people, wildlife, and potential arthropod vectors of disease-causing pathogens, in many cases, increases the potential public health threat to humans, domestic animals, and wildlife. And such disruptions may contribute to the expansion of geographic range of arthropod vectors and the vertebrate primary reservoir hosts of zoonotic pathogens.

As the season transitions to Fall and the severe heat lessens, throughout much of the Southcentral Region the months of September and October are when the most West Nile virus (WNV) human cases occur. Hopefully the Southcentral Region will enjoy a repeat of the two-fold reduction of WNV human cases reported from 2021 to 2022 across the region (216 to 105), as well as the significant reduction of the overall number of counties/parishes reporting cases within the region (79 to 46 counties/parishes).

Thus far during 2023, as of 31 August, the occurrence of human cases of arthropod-vector diseases reported in the Southcentral Region has been surprisingly low. The following is a brief summary of human disease cases and arthropod vector surveillance findings reported from the various states in the region.

[There has been one human case of WNV infection reported in Arkansas, and a report of mosquito populations testing positive for WNV in only one county. There have also been three imported human cases of dengue fever reported in the state.](#) Nine human cases of WNV infection, two of which were fatal, have been reported from eight counties in Kansas, and WNV-positive mosquitoes were detected in 12 counties. There has also been one human case of Heartland virus (HRTV) disease reported during late May 2023 from one county in the southeastern region of the state.

Louisiana authorities have reported 15 human cases of WNV infection from 12 different parishes, and WNV-positive mosquito populations were detected in 14 parishes. One human disease case caused by eastern equine encephalitis virus (EEEV) has been reported, and three parishes reported EEEV-positive mosquito populations. Additionally, there have been three human cases of imported dengue fever. There have been five human cases of WNV infection reported in Oklahoma, and WNV was detected in mosquito populations from 12 different counties. Twenty-six human cases of WNV-caused disease has been reported from 17 counties in Texas, yet only ten counties have reported WNV-positive mosquito populations. Additionally, there has been one locally transmitted case of dengue fever reported.

There is an increasing public health concern resulting from the expanding geographic spread of HRTV throughout the midwestern and southern United States, which is somewhat concurrent with the range expansion of its primary vector the Lone Star tick (*Amblyomma americanum*). Since the discovery of HRTV in Missouri during 2009, human disease cases have been reported in 12 states, including Kansas, Oklahoma, and Arkansas. Additionally, studies have documented neutralizing antibodies to HRTV in vertebrate animals in seven states that have not reported confirmed human cases, including Texas and Louisiana.

I am looking forward to the many outstanding platform and poster presentations during the SOVE 2023 Meeting in Charleston, as well as the opportunity for conversations with old and new friends. Best regards, safe travels, and see you in Charleston.



European SOVE Region

Filiz Gunay

Regional Director

Dear friends and colleagues,

In this month's issue, I'd like to briefly pass on the developments about the upcoming ESOVE Conference that will take place next year. To meet in person with the European Community this year, you might want to check out the XI International European Mosquito Control Association Conference and 4th EMCA Training Course (November 6-10, 2023) that will take place in Palma de Mallorca, Spain.

Twelve years after organising the 18th Conference, Montpellier will once again host the European Society of Vector Ecology (ESOVE) Conference in 2024. This international Conference, recognised by the medical and veterinary community, is being organised by Vectopole Sud (<https://www.vectopole-sud.fr/>) and its 6 research partners in the Occitanie region: CIRAD, CNRS, INRAE, IRD, the University of Montpellier, the Toulouse Veterinary School and EID Méditerranée, the main public vector control operator in France. A local organising committee comprising 22 leading figures from institutes in the Occitanie region and an international scientific committee are involved in putting the event together. The 23rd Conference, entitled "*One Health in action: supporting and accelerating the bridging of the vertebrate health and plant health communities*", will take place from October 14-17, 2024 in Montpellier, at the Corum venue, downtown Montpellier. The Conference will focus on the "One Health" approach, with 4 days devoted to bringing together the scientific communities involved in different health areas (plants and vertebrates). Hosting this Conference is also an exceptional opportunity to highlight the need for collaborative and multi-sectoral research. Indeed, four keynote speakers have been invited to support our theme Conference: Cyril Caminade (Italy), Tine Huyse (Belgium), Cindy Norris (France) and Charles Wondji (UK).

Senior and young scientists, along with other stakeholders, are expected to present and discuss their research work on the arthropods responsible for transmitting pathogens to vertebrates and plants during 6 thematic sessions: integrative taxonomy and evolution, vector ecology and biology, eco-epidemiology of vector-borne diseases under anthropogenic and climate changes, interactions between hosts-vectors-pathogens-microbiota-environment, novel research avenues for innovative vector control strategies, vector surveillance: surveillance systems, community-based surveillance and management of vector-borne diseases.

Stay tuned for the website that will soon be ready to use!

Any sponsors interested in supporting ESOVE 2024, please get in touch with claire.garros@cirad.fr. I'll leave you with this. While we were dealing with our well-established vector mosquito, sand fly, tick, black fly, biting midge species and their gut bacterial faunas, all the pathogens they transmit; there's been an interesting finding in Europe this summer. One *Triatoma rubrofasciata* sample was found in a wallet! The closest this species got to Europe before was Azores. Though considered a poor vector of *Trypanosoma cruzi*, its wide distribution area and survival capacity of 25 to 67 days cause the possibility of the establishment of a new population in south eastern Spain, as it has in other regions of the world. Though the country is non-endemic for Chagas disease, the highest prevalence in Europe is in Spain, I think we should keep an eye on it. It could become another point of interest created through international trade. Be safe and have a great autumn.

Best wishes,
Filiz



Latin American SOVE Region Christina B. McCarthy Regional Director

Dear friends and colleagues,

The Latin American SOVE (LA SOVE) Board has been busy and working hard since the June newsletter! Here's our brief update:

We have launched our LA SOVE website!!! Check it out at <https://lasove.org/>

We have uploaded the LA SOVE 2022 Congress videos to our LA SOVE YouTube channel*! Check them out here: <https://congresos.unlp.edu.ar/lasove/latest-news/?lang=en>

*We uploaded videos for which the author/s have completed and signed an authorization for them to be shared publicly.

We have since had three more discussions panels:

--June 1: Current status of VBDs in Latin America

--July 12: Who works in science?

--August 23: Mapping rabies in Latin America

Apart from all this, we have already started working on the III LA SOVE Congress in 2024, which will be held jointly with the IV Congress of the Latin American Network of Vector Control (RELCOV), in Ciudad del Este (Paraguay): LA SOVE RELCOV 2024.

Below I share our first two releases, the first one announcing our joint Congress, LA SOVE RELCOV 2024, and the venue site (Ciudad del Este), and the second one announcing the Congress President (Antonieta Rojas de Arias from Paraguay):

I will be very sorry to miss out on the upcoming SOVE meeting in Charleston, but notwithstanding I will be sharing the LA SOVE regional report thanks to our President's willingness to step in and showcase it for me! Thank you Alexandra Chaskopoulou!

If you don't want to miss out on our activities and news, please visit our brand-new website and join our social media channels: <https://lasove.org/>; Facebook: @la sove, <https://www.facebook.com/LatinAmericanSOVE>; Instagram: lasove, https://www.instagram.com/lasove_/; X (ex Twitter): @LASOVE_: https://twitter.com/LASOVE_, or write to us at: lasove2022@gmail.com.

Keep well and healthy!

Christina



SOVE–Indian Chapter

Ashwani Kumar

Regional Director

Since its inception in 2017, the SOVE (Indian Chapter) has worked to improve the study and control of vectors and vector-borne diseases. Our main goal is to figure out how vectors, disease ecology, epidemiology, and good management techniques at the local, regional, and national levels all work together. We do a lot of things to make sure that these important goals are met. We get together for interesting talks and hands-on workshops that help us learn from each other. Our SOVE platform offers special lectures and meetings, such as international congresses, so that people can share useful information about vectors, vector-borne diseases, and how to deal with them. In our newsletters, we talk about the latest results of scientific study, so that our members always know what's going on. Also, we think it's our job to let people know about the possible dangers of diseases spread by insects. By spreading information, we give people the tools they need to keep themselves and their communities safe. Collaboration is a key part of how we work. We encourage the use of scientific knowledge and cooperation between different government agencies. This cooperation makes it possible to come up with robust strategies and plans for managing vectors, both locally and internationally. Through our work, we make a lively place where people can keep learning about vector ecology, vector-borne diseases, and the principles of applied ecology that are at the heart of good management. We really believe in the power of working together. By making it easy for scientific fraternity and

other groups to work together, we can share our knowledge and make a bigger difference. In essence, the SOVE (Indian Chapter) is not just a group; it is an active community with the goal to minimize the difficulties caused by vectors and vector-borne diseases. By sharing what we know, collaborating, and taking action, we open the way for a better tomorrow.

The ICMR-Vector Control Research Centre, Puducherry, organized a five-day, DHR-funded workshop titled "Molecular Xenomonitoring of Emerging and Re-emerging Pathogens of Public Health Importance." The workshop provided hands-on training to 17 participants from diverse biomedical backgrounds. They received instruction in morphological identification of mosquitoes, mites, ticks, and rodents, DNA extraction and quantification, conventional PCR for lymphatic filariasis diagnosis, gel electrophoresis, gel documentation, and real-time PCR for dengue, chikungunya, scrub typhus, malaria, and *Rickettsia* diagnosis. The program included lectures on epidemiology and diagnostics of various vector-borne diseases by VCRC scientists and faculty from Rajiv Gandhi Institute of Veterinary Education and Research, Puducherry. Practical field exercises covered vector collection and rodent trapping, enhancing participant skills. Incidentally, many resource persons are members of SOVE-Indian Chapter.

Initiated in 2003, the Global Program to Eliminate Lymphatic Filariasis (GPELF) encompasses mass drug administration (MDA) to halt disease transmission and morbidity management and disability prevention (MMDP) for lymphedema patients' basic care. However, the latter aspect remains under-addressed in National Programs. A significant portion of lymphatic filariasis' public health impact is tied to lymphedema-related impairments, hydrocele, and acute attacks. Hence, national efforts should prioritize disability prevention and morbidity management **Kumar cont'd on p. 9.**

Kumar cont'd from p. 8: These endeavors not only aid those chronically affected, but also enhance preventive drug distribution. The MMDP should persist in endemic communities' post-MDA and transmission verification, as chronic patients stay there long-term. With this goal, ICMR-Vector Control Research Centre (VCRC), in collaboration with the State National Centre for Vector Borne Diseases Control (NCVBDC) of Puducherry, recently organized a hands-on training workshop. The workshop involved 33 Medical Officers and three Filaria Inspectors from various Health Centres across the Union Territory. It centred on practical training on MMDP: limb hygiene, measurement, bandaging, massage, compression, exercises, and adeno-lymphangitis attacks (ADLA) management. The inauguration featured Dr. R Murali, Deputy Director (Public Health), Dr. Vasanthakumari, State Programme Officer, NCVBDC, and Ashwani Kumar, Director, ICMR-VCRC and Director Indian SOVE.

In India, our vision is to promote a substantial cohort of public health entomologists and enhance the nation's capacity for managing vector-borne diseases at the District, State, and National levels. The Indian Council of Medical Research-Vector Control Research Centre (VCRC) is leading this endeavor. The VCRC has initiated the National Public Health Entomology Programme (NPHE), which has completed M.Sc. PHE admissions at five ICMR sister institutes across India: VCRC Puducherry, Regional Medical Research Centre, Dibrugarh, Assam, Regional Medical Research Centre, Gorakhpur, Uttar Pradesh, ICMR-National Institute for Research in Tribal Health, Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh, and ICMR-Rajendra Memorial Research Institute of Medical Sciences, Patna, Bihar. ICMR-National Institute of Malaria Research, New Delhi, has recently shown keen interest in joining this capacity-building initiative. The NPHE aims to produce around 100 skilled public health entomologists annually, thereby creating a substantial workforce and critical mass of highly skilled entomologists. The M.Sc. course is effectively running in all designated institutes, with students set to complete their second semester by October 2023. Admissions are finalized, and the upcoming group of candidates selected for this distinctive course will soon commence their studies. They receive a monthly stipend of INRs 20,000 during the entire course duration—a first-of-its-kind initiative worldwide.

To address the increasing demand for skilled professionals on National, Regional, and Global levels, ICMR has established the International Centre of Excellence for Training in Medical Entomology (ICETIME). This facility, based at ICMR-VCRC, Puducherry, is dedicated to advancing public health entomology education and training. Alongside catering to students in India, ICETIME will also extend its training to other nations, enhancing vector control efforts in their respective regions. The facility is swiftly taking shape, with construction underway at a rapid pace. The SOVE Indian Chapter will be one of the major stakeholder in the functioning and programmes of ICETIME.

Achieving excellence in research requires state-of-the-art equipment, workshops, and support facilities. These resources are essential for scientists, research scholars, and students to conduct world-class research in both fundamental and practical sciences. However, it's often challenging for individual researchers to secure sufficient funds for the necessary research instruments. This is where a Central Instrumentation Facility (CIF) is the felt need of the hour. The CIF's main objective is to enhance available resources through shared access, thereby promoting research and development. This facility is coming up fast at the VCRC, Pondicherry.

Our vision necessitates strengthening the technological infrastructure to facilitate cutting-edge scientific pursuits all under one roof. This facility will not only benefit our institution but will also extend its services to other organizations. We aim to offer guidance in data acquisition and provide training in the operation and maintenance of advanced instruments. Additionally, we're committed to hosting short-term courses and workshops that focus on utilizing various spectroscopic and analytical techniques.

In essence, our goal is to create an environment where researchers can flourish, resources are shared, and knowledge is disseminated. This way, we're not only advancing research within our institution but also contributing to the broader scientific community. —————**Kumar cont'd. on p. 10.**



Bianca Rendon
Student Director

Hi all!

We look forward to meeting those that can attend in person! There is a wonderful nine-person line-up of student competitors covering a wide range of topics within vector ecology. The student composition is a great tool for students to get feedback from professionals within the field. Presentations are scheduled for Wednesday, September 20th from 1:30 – 3:30. I cannot wait to listen to all the great work everyone is doing. Like last year’s meeting, another informal student mixer and hangout will occur one of the nights of the conference. Plans for the mixer will be announced at the meeting. This is a great way to mingle with other students in a very laid-back environment.

See y’all in Charleston,

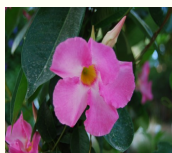
Bianca

Kumar *cont’d. from p. 9:*The SOVE Indian Chapter has experienced a remarkable surge in membership, reaching a commendable count of 149. Among these members, there are 92 regular members, 12 retired members, 44 students, and 1 sustaining member. Our ongoing endeavors are dedicated to expanding this membership base to encompass the entirety of our nation, aiming for a comprehensive PAN-India presence. We are dedicated to broadening our reach to every corner of the country, aspiring to create a vibrant community of vector enthusiasts and professionals. This will lay a solid foundation for the next phase of our journey, which involves extending our efforts to welcome members from neighbouring countries in the region starting 2025. The growing membership reflects not only the growing interest in vector-related fields, but also the collective commitment to advancing our understanding and collaboration and trust in the SOVE Indian Chapter. As we move forward, our focus remains on fostering a diverse, inclusive, and dynamic network that thrives on knowledge exchange and collaboration.

Approaching retirement as Director of ICMR-VCRC, I'm deeply grateful for our journey with SOVE, Indian Chapter. Serving this institution has been an honor, and I'm humbled by our collective scientific advancements. While roles shift, my dedication to advancing knowledge persists. Eager to collaborate anew, let's drive growth and innovation together in the scientific realm to address VBDs.

Ashwani Kumar

.....



THE 9TH INTERNATIONAL FORUM FOR SUSTAINABLE VECTOR MANAGEMENT

The 9th International Forum for Sustainable Vector Management (IFSVM), which is organized by the Chinese Preventive Medicine Association (CPMA) and Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention (China CDC), will be held during December 4-8, 2023 in Haikou, Hainan. The Forum is sponsored by Society for Vector Biology and Control (SVBC), CPMA; Hainan Center for Disease Control and Prevention (Hainan CDC); Haikou Center for Disease Control and Prevention (Haikou CDC); National Key Laboratory of Intelligent Tracking and Forecasting for Infectious Diseases (NITFID). The Forum is co-sponsored by the WHO Collaborating Centre for Vector Surveillance and Management (WHOCCVSM); National Institute of Communicable Disease Control and Prevention, China CDC (ICDC, CHINA CDC); Shenzhen Longray Technology Co., Ltd. (LONGRAY); Innovative Vector Control Consortium (IVCC); Asian Society of Vector Ecology and Mosquito Control (ASVEMC), Society for Vector Ecology (SOVE); Chinese Journal of Vector Biology and Control (CJVBC); and Society for Vector Laboratory Animal (SVLA); and Chinese Association for Laboratory Animal Sciences (CALAS).

Theme: Dealing with Climate Changes, Controlling Vectors and Protecting Public Health

Topics: The impact of Climate Changes, Globalization and Urbanization on Vector-borne Diseases and its coping strategies.

Challenges and Countermeasures for Global Vector Control: including challenges, countermeasures, resistance management strategies, development and application of public health insecticides and equipment.

Patriotic Health Campaign---Chinese Model for Vector Control.

Risk Assessment, Forecasting and Early Warning for Vector and Vector-borne Diseases, including vector capacity assessment.

Vector Control technologies, Standards and Guidelines, including genetic engineering and biological control methods.

Vector *Anopheles* control strategy, technique, and practice for malaria elimination.

DATES: Registration: December 4, 2023; Meeting: December 5-7, 2023; Adjourn: December 8, 2023

VENUE: Hainan Junhua Haiyi Hotel (<http://junhuahaiyi.hotelshaikou.cn/en>)

Address: No. 18 Wenhua Road, Binhai Avenue, Longhua District, Haikou, Hainan, China.

More information about this hotel: Located in Haikou's financial district, the Meritus Mandarin Haikou (Hainan Wenhua Dajiudian) is a short stroll from the harbor and beach. Two international golf courses are a 15-minute drive away from the hotel, while half hour drive takes guests to an airport. This Haikou hotel offers guests a wide range of dining choices. Qingsongting restaurant specializes in Cantonese cuisine. The Chatterbox serves decent international fare and there is also Ristorante Bologna Italian restaurant offering authentic Italian dishes. Guests looking for diversion have several venues to choose from including two fitness rooms, a heated swimming pool, outdoor pool, tennis court, sauna, and Jacuzzi.

Participants:

International experts will be invited for special reports.

Professionals from CDC, PHCCO, Inspection and Quarantine, Agricultural and Forestry Departments, Universities and Colleges, Research Institutions, PCO and all related fields are cordially invited.

Experts on research, development, management, application and other fields for Vector and vector-borne diseases are warmly welcome.

Program Format:

Plenary speeches, subtopic reports, special satellite symposia, exhibitions and trainings on new technologies and products.

Contact Information:

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Course




Biology of Vector-borne Diseases course

June 10-15, 2024

The University of Idaho Institute for Health in the Human Ecosystem 6-day **Biology of Vector-borne Diseases course** provides training for the next generation of professionals to understand plant, animal and human vector-borne diseases as interconnected pathosystems. Our scholarships are funded by **National Science Foundation Ecology and Evolution of Infectious Diseases (NSF EEID) Program**.

INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH IN THE HUMAN ECOSYSTEM
 Contact: 875 Perimeter Drive, MS 1122,
 Moscow, Idaho 83844-1122
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Application process

Applications accepted starting **October 1, 2023**

December 31, 2023
 Deadline to be considered for scholarships

February 15, 2024
 Announcement of scholarship recipients

March 15, 2024
 Final application deadline

Please email chhe@uidaho.edu with any questions

Symposium

On behalf of Patrick Leighton, Director of the Canadian Lyme Disease Research Network (CLyDRN), we would like to extend a personal invitation for your membership to attend the inaugural *TickNet Canada Scientific Symposium* that will be held in Toronto, Ontario October 24-25, 2023. The symposium will be held in-person at St. Paul's Bloor Street, 227 Bloor Street East, Toronto, Ontario M4W 1C8. Our two plenary speakers are Maria Diuk-Wasser (Columbia University) and John Aucott (Johns Hopkins University). For more information about the symposium and to register: [https://event.fourwaves.com/ticknet/pages\[event.fourwaves.com\]](https://event.fourwaves.com/ticknet/pages[event.fourwaves.com]).

Program schedule can be found here: [https://event.fourwaves.com/ticknet/schedule\[event.fourwaves.com\]](https://event.fourwaves.com/ticknet/schedule[event.fourwaves.com]). Abstracts will be accepted until September 1st, 2023 for a poster or oral presentation: [https://event.fourwaves.com/ticknet/submission\[event.fourwaves.com\]](https://event.fourwaves.com/ticknet/submission[event.fourwaves.com]).

Please do not hesitate to reach out if you have any questions about our event. Thank you,
 TickNet Canada Scientific Symposium Planning Committee

[Veronica Harris-McAllister](#)

Veronica.Harris-McAllister@kflaph.ca

Workshop

Lee County Mosquito Control District Aerial Workshop 2024 Monday April 15– Thursday April 18 details to follow at a later date. For more information, contact: Sabina Vilarchao (Vilarchao@lcmcd.org).

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. For mor information contact:

Data Ecosystem Discovery Portal

The National Institute of Allegy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) has launched the Data Ecosystem Discovery Portal (<https://data.niaid.nih.gov/> [data.niaid.nih.gov])! The Discovery Portal allows researchers to search simultaneously across millions of publicly available datasets to find infectious and immune-mediated disease data for reanalysis and accelerates the work of researchers, leading to faster development of diagnostics, therapeutics, and vaccines. The portal also includes datasets pertaining to vectors and vector-borne diseases.

[NIAID Data Ecosystem Discovery Portal \[data.niaid.nih.gov\]](https://data.niaid.nih.gov/)

The Discovery Portal can be used to: Search across repositories to quickly find datasets that you didn’t know were available to bring other dimensions into your analyses. Track research across funding programs or specific scientific areas. As we are continuously optimizing this new platform for the research community, if you have any feedback, please share it with NIAIDDataEcosystem@mail.nih.gov.

Adriana Costero-Saint Denis, PhD

Email: acostero@niaid.nih.gov

NIAID Vector Biology Program <https://www.niaid.nih.gov/research/vector-bio> [[niaid.nih.gov](https://www.niaid.nih.gov/)]

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ANNOUNCEMENTS cont’d.

Annual Meetings

Society For Vector Ecology: September 17-21, 2023, Charleston, South Carolina

American Mosquito Control Association: March 4—8, 2024, Dallas, Texas



Society for Vector Ecology

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We are on the Web!
www.sove.org

About SOVE

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

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

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