

**PENNSYLVANIA VECTOR CONTROL ASSOCIATION  
ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

Graduate State College  
October 21-23, 2024

**Agenda**

Monday, October 21, 2024

12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.

**Registration**

1:00 p.m. – 1:10 p.m.

**Welcome/Opening Remarks**

Christian Boyer, PVCA President

Session 1

Moderator: Christian Boyer

1:10 p.m. – 2:10 p.m.

**Rodents and Their Control**

Dr. Jamie Kopco, PSU Extension

2:10 p.m. – 2:40 p.m.

**Using a rodent-targeted vaccine to reduce *Borrelia burgdorferi* in questing *Ixodes scapularis* nymphs**

Dr. Danielle Tufts, University of Pittsburgh

2:40 p.m. – 2:55 p.m.

**Prevalence and Seasonality of the Lone Star Tick, *Amblyomma americanum*, at multiple locations in Pennsylvania**

Suzanne Schaer, Shippensburg University

\*Student Award Winner

2:55 p.m. – 3:20 p.m.

**Break**

Session 2

Moderator: Brooke Coder

3:20 p.m. – 3:35 p.m.

**Retrospective analysis of avian and mammalian samples for the presence of *Orientia* in Pennsylvania**

Manisha Kapoor, Shippensburg University

\*Student Award Winner

3:35 p.m.- 3:50 p.m.

**Communicating with the Public – Answering Their Questions and Concerns**

Jeff Hottenstein, Clarke

3:50 p.m. – 4:10 p.m.

**Nifty Nikon Nuances**

Ben Paul, PA DEP

- 4:10 p.m. – 4:40 p.m. **Delaware Update**  
Dr. Ashley Kennedy, DNREC
- 4:40 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. **Vendor Presentations**
- 5:00 p.m. **Adjourn**  
Christian Boyer, PVCA President
- 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. **Vendor Social- Atherton Room**

Tuesday, October 22, 2024

- 7:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. **Breakfast Buffet Available**
- 8:30 a.m. – 8:35 a.m. **Introduction**  
Christian Boyer, PVCA President

Session 3  
Moderator: Chris Hooper

- 8:35 a.m. – 9:05 a.m. **West Virginia Update**  
Eric Dotseth, WV DOH
- 9:05 a.m. – 9:25 a.m. **2024 Black Fly Program Update**  
Steve Means, PA DEP
- 9:25 a.m. – 9:45 a.m. **2024 Tick Program Update**  
Christian Boyer, PA DEP
- 9:45 a.m. – 10:05 a.m. **2024 WNV Update**  
Jen Stough, PA DEP
- 10:05 a.m. – 10:25 a.m. **Vector Management Lab Update**  
Keith Price, PA DEP
- 10:25 a.m. – 10:40 a.m. **Break**

Session 4  
Moderator: Ray Delaney

- 10:40 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. **New Jersey Update**  
Scott Crans, NJDEP Office of Mosquito Control Coordination
- 11:00 a.m. – 11:20 a.m. **Human Arbovirus Season Update for Pennsylvania 2024**  
**Oropouche Virus Overview**  
Krystal Mason, PA Department of Health

11:20 a.m. – 11:35 a.m. **PA Department of Health Lyme Disease and Other Tickborne Diseases Update**  
Leah Lind, PA Department of Health

11:35 a.m. – 12:05 p.m. **Pesticide Regulatory Updates**  
Brittany Clark, PA Department of Agriculture

12:05 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. **Lunch and Photo Salon/Awards**

Session 5

Moderator: Tom Simmons

1:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. **Pesticide Label Literacy**  
Brittany Clark, PA Department of Agriculture

1:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. **Genomic and behavioral divergence among *Culex pipiens* assemblage vectors of West Nile virus**  
Dr. Megan Fritz, University of Maryland

2:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. **Tracking West Nile virus in the Windy City: linking viral prevalence, look-alike mosquitoes, and mispredicting models in Chicago, IL**  
Ben Burgunder, University of Maryland

2:30 p.m. – 2:50 p.m. **The NEVBD Teaching & Evaluation Center: Our New Focus and Recent Community-Engaged Research Results**  
Emily Mader, NEVBD

2:50 p.m. – 3:20 p.m. **Break**

Session 6

Moderator: Ray Buckley

3:20 p.m. – 3:50 p.m. **AMCA Update**  
Priscilla Matton, AMCA North Atlantic Director

3:50 p.m. – 4:20 p.m. **B.I.T.E. a novel green tick repellent**  
Dr. Jill Henning, University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown

4:20 p.m. – 4:40 p.m. **A Study on the UpTick of Disease: Pathogen surveillance in ticks and White-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*) in Pennsylvania using a combination of QPCR, metagenomic sequencing, and RT-QuIC**  
Shelby Monnin, Penn Futures

4:40 p.m. – 5:10 p.m. **Vendor Presentations**

5:10 p.m. **Adjourn**  
Christian Boyer, PVCA President

Wednesday, October 23, 2024

7:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. **Breakfast Buffet Available**

8:30 a.m. – 8:35 a.m. **Introduction**  
Christian Boyer, PVCA President

Session 7  
Moderator: Brooke Coder

8:35 a.m. – 9:05 a.m. **Go west young tick! A historical perspective on blacklegged ticks and Lyme disease in western PA**  
Dr. Tom Simmons, Indiana University of Pennsylvania, Retired

9:05 a.m. – 9:20 a.m. **Vector Management Education and Outreach**  
Brooke Coder, PA DEP

9:20 a.m. – 9:50 a.m. **LaCrosse Virus Overview**  
Drew Lysaker, PSU

9:50 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. **Flooding Response**  
Eric Mosbacher & Dave Hurley, PADEP

10:00 a.m. – 10:35 a.m. **Break/Checkout**

Session 8  
Moderator: John Bitner

10:35 a.m. – 11:05 a.m. **Beyond Fido: Trials and tribulations of a Lyme disease vaccine for humans**  
Dr. Tom Simmons, Indiana University of Pennsylvania, Retired

11:05 a.m. – 11:20 a.m. **Powassan Virus Coordinated Response**  
Nicholas Baldauf, Allegheny Health Department; Christian Boyer, PA DEP

11:20 a.m.- 11:35 a.m. **Luzerne County- Coordinated Flood Response**  
Keith George, Luzerne County; Olivia Wolfe, PA DEP

11:35 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. **Business Meeting/Door Prizes**  
Christian Boyer, PVCA President

12:00 p.m. **Closing Remarks**  
Christian Boyer, PVCA President