

Updates from the Northeast Regional Center for Excellence in Vector-Borne Diseases



Our Leadership Team



- ▶ Cornell University, Department of Entomology (Center Hub)
 - ▶ Laura Harrington, PhD (Principal Investigator, Program Director)



- ▶ Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station
 - ▶ Theodore Andreadis, PhD (Co-Principal Investigator)



- ▶ New York State Department of Health
 - ▶ Bryon Backenson, MS (Co-Principal Investigator)



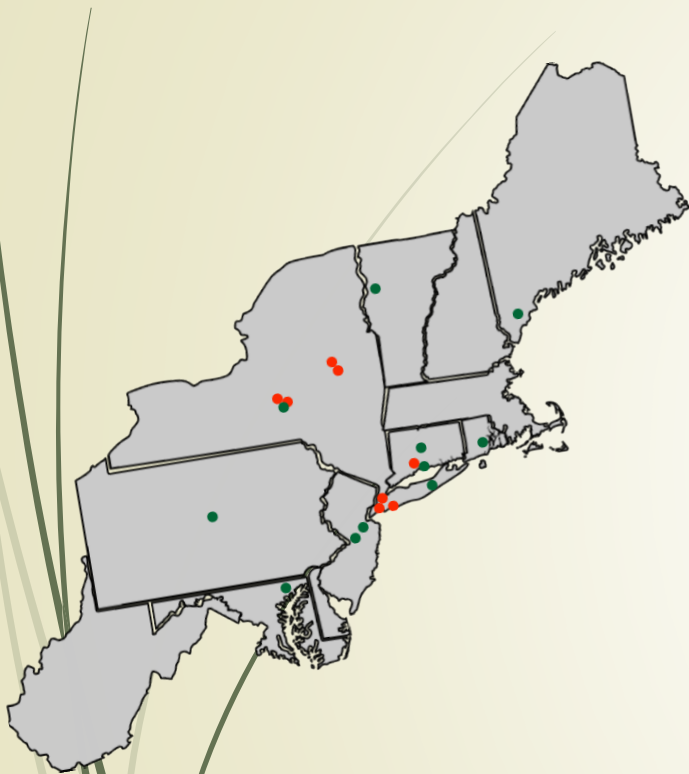
- ▶ Wadsworth Center, NYSDOH
 - ▶ Laura Kramer, PhD (Co-Principal Investigator)

- ▶ Columbia University, Department of Ecology, Evolution & Environmental Biology
 - ▶ Maria Diuk-Wasser, PhD (Co-Principal Investigator)



Our Regional Partners

Over 60 partners across more than 20 organizations in the Northeast



- ▶ Connecticut Department of Public Health
- ▶ Cornell College of Veterinary Medicine
- ▶ Cornell College of Agriculture and Life Sciences
- ▶ Earth Institute, Columbia University
- ▶ Calder Center, Fordham University
- ▶ Johns Hopkins University
- ▶ Maine Medical Center Research Institute
- ▶ New Jersey Mosquito Control
- ▶ New York City Department of Mental Health & Hygiene
- ▶ New York State Integrated Pest Management
- ▶ Pennsylvania State University
- ▶ Rutgers University
- ▶ Suffolk County (NY) Health Department
- ▶ SUNY at Albany
- ▶ University of Rhode Island Department of Plant Sciences & Entomology
- ▶ Vermont Department of Health
- ▶ Yale School of Public Health

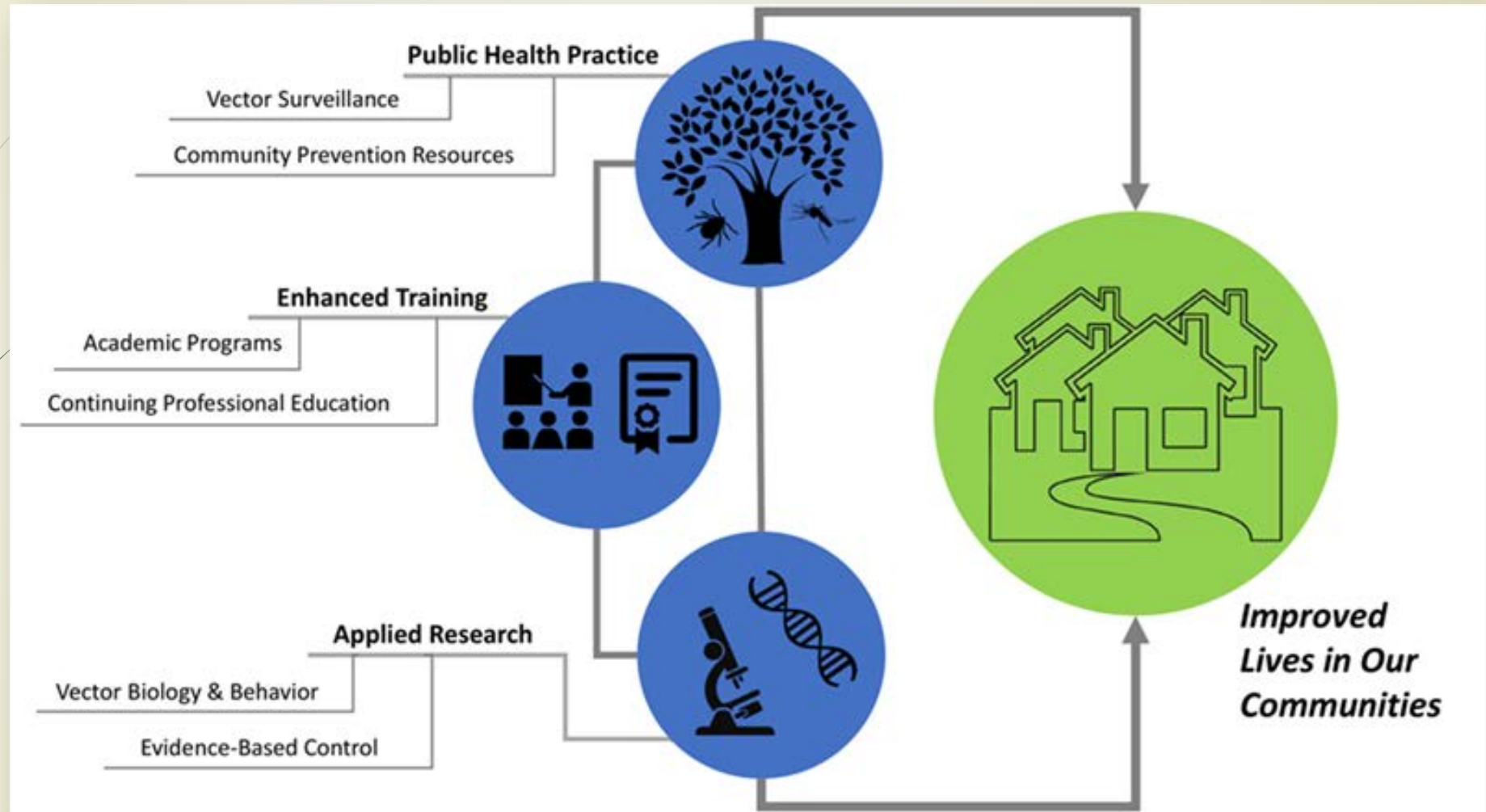


Our Goals

- ▶ **Train a cadre of public health entomologists** with the knowledge and skills required to rapidly detect, prevent and respond to vector-borne disease threats in the US
- ▶ **Build effective communities of practice** via collaborations between academic communities and public health organizations at federal, state, and local levels for vector borne disease surveillance, response and prevention
- ▶ To conduct applied research to **develop and validate effective vector-borne disease prevention and control tools and methods** necessary to anticipate and respond to disease outbreaks



Structure of Our Network



Academic Training Programs

- ▶ Master of Science in Entomology at Cornell University
 - ▶ Concentration: Medical and Veterinary Entomology
 - ▶ Program Focus: Vector Biology
 - ▶ Incoming class Fall 2018

- ▶ Master of Public Health Program at Cornell University
 - ▶ Concentration in Infectious Disease Epidemiology
 - ▶ Co-instruction of students
 - ▶ Placement for practicum and capstone experiences



MS in Entomology

- ▶ Foundation in skills needed to work in fields of
 - ▶ Public health vector-borne disease surveillance
 - ▶ Vector surveillance and control
- ▶ Development of new courses
 - ▶ Introduction to Disease Vectors
 - ▶ Vector-Borne Disease Control Lab
 - ▶ Vector-Borne Disease Modeling
 - ▶ Topical Seminars
- ▶ Public Health training
 - ▶ Epidemiology
 - ▶ Public Health Foundations
 - ▶ Public Health Ethics and Leadership

10-week Internship

Topical Areas

- Vector biology & modeling
- Vector surveillance
- Vector control
- Insecticide resistance
- Repellents
- Big data management
- Novel strategies for vector control
- Public health messaging
- Public perceptions of vector-borne disease



Professional Training Efforts

▶ NEVBD Needs Assessment & Workforce Interviews

▶ Training needs:

- ▶ vector/pathogen identification
- ▶ vector surveillance techniques
- ▶ vector ecology and behavior
- ▶ enhanced communication

▶ Training delivery: short courses, online webinars with targeted content

▶ 2018 Plans:

- ▶ Explore development of physician-targeted content
- ▶ Development of targeted webinars on focal public health topics

▶ 2018 Vector Biology Boot Camp

- ▶ Louis Calder Center, May 22-24, 2018
- ▶ Accepting applications until March 2, 2018 (visit our website to apply)
- ▶ Course curriculum in development



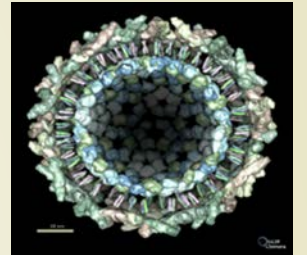
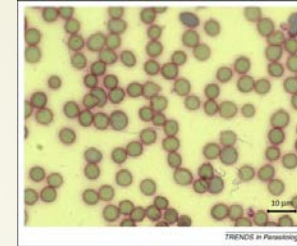
2018 Vector Biology Boot Camp

Arthropod Surveillance	Review of arthropod biology and behavior, major regional diseases and emerging threats, and key components of a vector surveillance program
Arthropod Collection & Testing	Hands-on exercises in monitoring and collecting ticks and mosquitoes. Review of best practices for processing field samples and how they are subsequently tested for pathogens.
Taxonomy & Identification	Hands-on exercises in the use of taxonomic keys for arthropod identification
Vector Control	Review of current vector control strategies for ticks and mosquitoes
Data Interpretation & Management	Overview of best practices for data entry and management; use of data to understand trends and inform program strategies; and best practices for displaying data to stakeholders



Applied Research and Public Health Challenges for the Northeast

- Invasive species range expansion
- Existing and emerging pathogens
- Need for new surveillance tools
- Need for new control strategies
- New diagnostics for human and arthropod samples
- Funding shortfalls to support applied research



Asian Tiger Mosquito

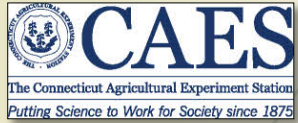


Black legged tick or 'deer tick'



Lone Star tick

Research Cluster 1: Evaluation of Novel Trapping & Surveillance Methods



Theodore Andreadis

Philip M. Armstrong



2018 Priorities:

1. Efficacy comparisons between existing traps and modified traps
 - Use of modified lures on BG traps
2. Continuation of larval surveys and citizen science efforts
3. Review of regional capacity for active tick surveillance

Research Cluster 2: Predicting Current & Future Human Risk of Infection

- ▶ Focus Area: human risk
- ▶ Focus Area: borne disease
- ▶ Focus Area: vectors in

2018 Priorities:

1. Continue development of TickApp
2. Continue development of climate models for key pathogens and vectors
3. Analysis of passive tick surveillance data
 - Tick testing labs across the region
 - Companion animal and wildlife passive surveillance
4. Explore standardization of surveillance methodologies to enhance regional-scale modeling efforts



Maria Diuk-Wasser



Research Cluster 3: Vector-Pathogen Interactions & Vector Competence

➤ Vector incre



Wadsworth Center
NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH



Laura Kramer



2018 Priorities:

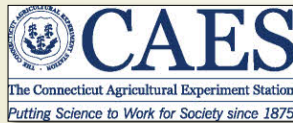
1. Baseline competence of Northeast *Ae. albopictus* strains
2. Impact of temperature variations on tick and mosquito vectorial capacity
3. *Ae. triseriatus* and La Crosse virus
4. Standardization of protocols across project teams

Research Cluster 4: Field Biology & Climate, Diapause and Overwintering

- ▶ Climate and
- ▶ Overwintering
- ▶ Overwintering
- ▶ Blood feeding

2018 Priorities:

1. Blood feeding and foraging behavior of *Ae. albopictus*
2. Continuation of tick overwintering studies in CT and ME
3. Lone Star tick overwintering and range expansion
4. Continuation of *Ae. albopictus* diapause study in Lower Hudson Valley
5. Host interactions of juvenile ticks



Goudarz Molaei

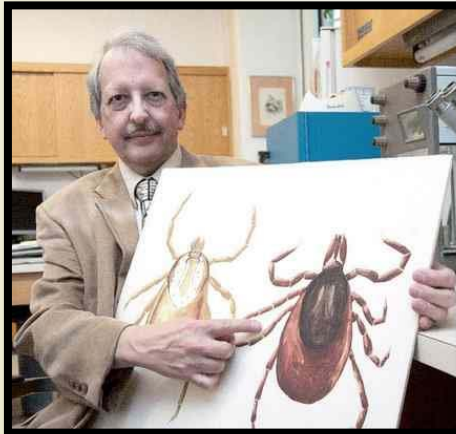


Research Cluster 5: Chemical Control, Resistance Monitoring & Management

- ▶ Testing new and improved insecticides
- ▶ Region-wide resistance monitoring

2018 Priorities:

1. Enhance partnerships with key organizations
2. Conduct resistance testing of ticks & mosquitoes
3. Resistance mapping in Northeast
4. Assess regional capacity for routine seasonal mosquito and tick control
5. Testing of tick and mosquito products in the field, including cost & efficacy evaluations



Kirby Stafford



Visit us online at:
Neregionalvectorcenter.com



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