



Medical Entomology Pre-Meeting Course:
Vectors on the Move: The Changing Landscape of Vector-borne Disease
November 18th, 2026; 8 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Georgetown Capitol Campus, Washington, DC
<https://capitolcampus.georgetown.edu>

Georgetown University is one of the oldest institutions of higher learning in the United States, founded on a “Jesuit tradition of Restless Inquiry”. At Georgetown, students are encouraged to learn through experience and connect across disciplines, recognizing that solving complex issues requires multidisciplinary thinking across fields of study.

Working together to integrate multiple lenses, a One Health collaboration brings together physicians, veterinarians, and environmental scientists to communicate and share resources to address zoonotic and vector-borne diseases. Addressing the expansion of disease vectors into new regions, shifts in vector abundance, spatial variation across vector range and a greater burden in socioeconomically disadvantaged urban areas requires the integration of experts from human, animal and ecosystem science.

This course is designed for medical professionals, public health practitioners, epidemiologists, researchers, students, and trainees. It will include short talks, hands-on laboratory, and modeling sessions from experts in medical entomology and researchers working in vector-borne disease expansion.

Course Organizers:

Sarah R Michaels, PhD, MSPH, Department of Tropical Medicine & Infectious Disease, Tulane University, New Orleans, Louisiana, United States

Courtney Murdock, PhD, Department of Entomology, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York, United States

Maria Luísa Simões, PhD, Department of Biomedical Sciences, Institute of Tropical Medicine Antwerp, Antwerp, Belgium

Agenda:

8 a.m. **Welcome & Overview of the Course – Introduction**
Peter Marra, PhD, Dean, Earth Commons Institute for the Environment and Sustainability and Laudato Si’ Professor of Biology and the Environment, Georgetown University, Washington, DC, United States

- 8:20 a.m. **ACME Welcome: Navigating Environmental Shifts in Medical Entomology**
Maria Luísa Simões, PhD, ACME Chair, Institute of Tropical Medicine, Antwerp, Belgium
- 8:40 a.m. **Urban Malaria & Mosquito Vectors**
Courtney Murdock, PhD, Department of Entomology, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York, United States
- 9 a.m. **Changing Distribution of Dengue in Peru**
Amy Morrison, PhD, School of Veterinary Medicine, University of California Davis, Davis, California, United States
- 9:20 a.m. **Urban Gradients & Aedes Mosquito Vectors**
Paul Leisnham, PhD, Department of Environmental Science and Technology, University of Maryland, College Park, Maryland, United States
- 9:40 a.m. **Shifting Tick Geographies and Tickborne Disease Risk**
Shannon LaDeau, PhD, Disease Ecologist, Cary Institute, Millbrook, New York, United States
- 10 a.m. **Kissing Bugs & Chagas Disease Along the Texas/Mexico Border**
Sarah Hamer, PhD, DVM, Department of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences, Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas, United States
- 10:20 a.m. Coffee break
- 10:40 a.m. **Laboratory Identification of Insects & Arthropods of Medical Importance**
Adriana Troyo, PhD, Department of Medical Entomology, Universidad de Costa Rica, San Jose, Costa Rica

Priscila Bascunan, PhD, CDC Foundation fellow, Division of Parasitic Diseases and Malaria, Entomology Branch, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Atlanta, Georgia, United States

Sarah R Michaels, PhD, MSPH, Department of Tropical Medicine & Infectious Disease, Tulane University, New Orleans, Louisiana, United States
- Noon Lunch (on your own)
- 1 p.m. **Modeling Workshop: Vector-borne Disease Geospatial Risk Models**
Sadie Ryan, PhD, Professor of Medical Geography, University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida, United States

Shannon LaDeau, PhD
- 2:20 p.m. **Changing Landscapes of Vector-borne Disease**
Peter Armbruster, PhD, Department of Biology, Georgetown University, Washington, DC, United States
- 3 p.m. Course Wrap-up, Networking Sessions
- 3:30 p.m. Course Adjourns, Shuttle to Gaylord National Harbor