



Speaker Biographies:

Jorge Osorio, DMV, MS, PhD, is an Associate Professor in the Department of Pathobiological Sciences, School of Veterinary Medicine, University of Wisconsin-Madison. He is also the Director of a Center to Study Tropical Infectious Diseases and an Ad Honorem Professor at the Universidad de Antioquia in Medellin, Colombia. The Center is a joint effort between the University of Wisconsin and many institutions in Colombia and now has field sites and collaborators in many parts of Colombia, including remote and urban areas. Dr. Osorio was also a co-founder and Chief Scientific Officer of Inviragen, a biotechnology company that developed a novel chimeric tetravalent dengue vaccine that is currently being prepared for Phase 3 clinical trials. He also developed vaccines against chikungunya, influenza, rabies, plague and many other emerging infectious diseases. Dr. Osorio was also the Vice-President of Research and Vice-President of Scientific Affairs for the Vaccine Business Division of Takeda Pharmaceuticals. He has over 30 years of experience in vaccine research and development and in addition to Inviragen and Takeda, his industry career included positions at Heska Corporation (Ft. Collins, CO), Merial LTD (Athens, GA), and Chiron-Powderject Vaccines (Madison, WI). Currently, Dr. Osorio and his colleagues at UW-Madison are establishing a state-of-the-art research group that uses molecular approaches to unravel host-pathogen interactions for emerging diseases (e.g dengue, chikungunya, Zika). Dr. Osorio is committed to mentoring and guiding young bright students and to improving veterinary and human public health in developing countries, especially in Latin America.

Susan Paskewitz, PhD, MS, is a Professor, Medical Entomologist, and Chair of the Department of Entomology, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Susan received her MS degree from M.S. Southern Illinois University and her Ph.D. from the University of Georgia. She is an expert researcher in the areas of sub-organismal biology of insect and pathogen interactions. Her research focuses on the ecology and control of vector-borne disease. Paskewitz is also involved in researching deer ticks in hopes of giving people another tool to protect themselves from bugs that transmit Lyme disease. Current projects related to ticks include assessing control methods for reduction of deer tick populations, examining the frequency of pathogen genotypes in relation to tick behaviors, and evaluating the impact of nighttime activity by ticks on disease prevalence in the animal reservoirs. Paskewitz and her team of research students started monitoring the deer tick populations in May and laboratory tests will determine how many carry diseases. Her other projects related to mosquitoes include ongoing WNV surveillance and assessment of novel methods for repelling mosquitoes. Susan also works with the Wisconsin Mosquitoes and Control Lab to test mosquitoes infected with West Nile virus



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