

2026 Vermont Disease Ecology Conference

Thursday, July 30 at Norwich University ~ Mack Hall Room 005

Thank you to the Vermont Biomedical Research Network (VBRN) and the New England Center of Excellence in Vector-borne Diseases (NEWVEC) for providing lunch!

9:30am - 10:00am	Arrive/Test Presentations/Coffee
10:00am - 12:00pm	Welcome and Introductions Allison Neal: VBRN Disease Ecology Working Group Everyone: Introduce Yourself! Michelle Sama: Antimicrobial Resistance Genes in Arctic Permafrost: Metagenomic Analyses of Ancient Microbial Communities Brittany Mosher: Understanding the potential for human-mediated spread of chronic wasting disease to Vermont Elias Rosenblatt: Landscape structure and animal movement shape the fate of SARS-CoV-2 spillover in white-tailed deer Break Nasreen Broomand: Invasion: Genomic Insights on Vermont Rodents, Pathogens, and Vectors M. Elise Lauterbur: Genomic Signals of Disease Adaptation Reflect Ecological Drivers of Pathogen Exposure Gwen Ellis: The role of Prnp coding variation in Chronic Wasting Disease dynamics of New England white-tailed deer
12:00pm – 1:00pm	Lunch
1:00pm – 3:00pm	VBRN and NEWVEC M. Elise Lauterbur: MAP2LE and Ticks Julie Dragon: Tick CURE Bill Landesman: NEWVEC Overview Dave Allen: A blacklegged tick population dynamics model validated against multiple, long-term data sets Sam Troast: Model simulating thermoregulatory behavior, movement, and pathogen dynamics of adult eastern newts (<i>Notophthalmus viridescens</i>) Julie Dragon: The sixth modality of disease, revisited Break James Tsalah: Quantifying Vegetation Associated with <i>Ixodes scapularis</i> Density at Long-Term Tick Surveillance Sites, Western Massachusetts Marley Shepherd: Surveillance of Tick-Borne Pathogens in New England Deer Ticks Using 16S Metabarcoding and qPCR Andrew Swafford: Mechanisms of Motility and Host Recognition in the Fungal Pathogen <i>Bd</i>
3:00pm	Conclude