

2018 Colorado Science & Engineering Fair

Guest Speaker

Dr. Janet McAllister
Center for Disease Control, Fort Collins, CO

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Science Behind Integrated Mosquito Management: It's Not Just Spraying

Many people still think of mosquito control as just spraying from a truck. Actually, there is a lot of science behind how to best control mosquitos. Knowledge of mosquitos themselves, non-target organism impacts, pathogens, toxicity, chemistry, equipment engineering, water management, modeling, physics of very small droplets and more all lead to making mosquito control happen in a responsible way that protects both people and the environment. The need for multiple disciplines to come together as a team to tackle real life saving problems is what keeps me fascinated with mosquitos and their control. In this talk, I will present what a mosquito control response looked like in Miami, Florida during a Zika virus outbreak and how knowledge from different scientific disciplines helped in making decisions.

About Speaker:



Janet McAllister is a Board Certified Medical Entomologist. She received her undergraduate and master's degrees from Louisiana State University. Her PhD in Entomology is from the University of Arkansas.

She currently works at the Centers for Disease Control in Fort Collins, CO where she is a research entomologist with the Division of Vector-Borne Infectious Diseases. Dr. McAllister conducts field and laboratory research on vector control and insecticide resistance in important vectors of arboviruses.

Current projects focus on evaluating how larvicide applications using trucks and aircraft effect

populations of mosquitoes that use small containers in the urban environment. In addition, Dr. McAllister serves as the subject matter expert and point of contact for vector control after disasters, deploying to Texas and US Virgin Islands in response to Hurricanes Harvey and Maria. Dr. McAllister also served as vector control team leader for the CDC Zika virus response.

Dr. McAllister is active in the American Mosquito Control Association and Entomological Society of America. She has served as the President of the American Mosquito Control Association, West Central Mosquito and Vector Control Association, and Louisiana Mosquito Control Association.