

Eleanor [Ellie] Field

Ph.D. Student, Medical Entomology

Twitter (@EllieNField1)

Interviewed by: Amanda Bries

Favorite podcast: "This week in virology"

What **sparked her interest** in entomology stems from various trips around the world, "I went on a humanitarian mission in Guatemala. While I was traveling, there was a Chikungunya outbreak (a mosquito-borne virus) which brought in public health specialists who interviewed people about their symptoms, exposures, and collected mosquito samples; I immediately thought to myself 'I want to do that - I could see myself in this position'". She pursued a Master's in Global Health at Georgetown University, and conducted a mosquito surveillance and dengue awareness study in Pondicherry, India. After completing her Master's, she continued with her interests in mosquitoes and is currently in her second year as a PhD student in Ryan Smith's laboratory.



What motivates Ellie everyday is the **curiosity** about her research. Despite the challenges, she is working on one first-author publication and two co-authored publications across a wide range of areas within Medical Entomology. - "I am planning to do *E.Coli* and phagocytosis challenges to investigate how *Culex* mosquito immune system changes over the year, as well as identify any behavioral and reproductive changes".

Ellie is walking away with a lot of tools from her Ph.D. Her doctoral research has been **dynamic** - spanning from field work, to using computational statistics, to molecular methods in the lab. "What I love about my field is discovery. Every field season we're finding new species, new interactions, or new methods to evaluate mosquitoes. There is always so much to learn." - Ellie Field.

The sophistication doesn't stop with her entomological research. Ellie is fascinated by exploring and practicing various languages through Duolingo. After comfortably speaking Spanish and French, she has moved onto Russian. Ellie, "loves Russian because of the grammatical challenges the language brings". Her favorite Russian saying is, "Без муки нет науки," which translates to, "without torture, there is no science" or "no pain, no gain".

Post-graduation, Ellie aspires work for the Centers for Disease Control: "I want to be an entomologist who is called onto sites to investigate vector-borne disease outbreaks and study vector populations."