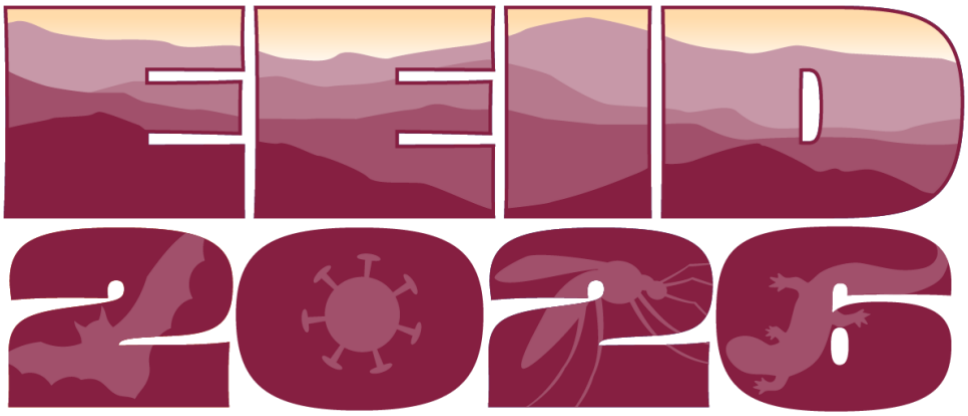


Blacksburg, VA June 1-4, 2026

Conference program

Schedule:

Monday June 1st, 2026

6:30 - 8:30 pm Welcome reception and Registration (University Club of Virginia Tech)

Tuesday June 2nd, 2026

7:45 - 8:15 am Registration and Coffee and pastries (Graduate Life Center - GLC)

8:30 - 8:45 Introduction and welcome remarks (GLC Auditorium)

Session 1. Variable impacts of a changing world

Moderator: Kate Langwig

8:45 - 9:10	**KEYNOTE: Cherie Briggs** (UC, Santa Barbara) *Beyond the outbreak: how climate and context shape the long-term persistence of an amphibian fungal pathogen*
9:10 - 9:35	**KEYNOTE: Rachel Penczykowski** (Washington U., St. Louis) *Responses of wild plant–pathogen systems to environmental change*
9:35 - 9:50	**Emma Krasovich Southworth** (Stanford) *Nonlinear effects of tropical cyclones on dengue transmission across 25 countries*
9:50 - 9:55	**Andrea Graham** (Princeton) and Stephen Gaughran (UC, Berkley) *Demographic and evolutionary origins of a severe immunopathology in the bottlenecked northern elephant seal*
9:55 - 10:00	**Desire Nalukwago** (Stanford) *How close is too hot? Quantifying thermal stress and the limits of behavioral buffering in mosquito disease vectors across global climate gradients*

10:00 - 10:10 Q&A

10:10 - 11:10 Coffee Break (GLC multipurpose room)

Session 2. Disease impacts and management

Moderator: Kate Langwig

11:10 - 11:35	**KEYNOTE: Scott Carver** (University of Georgia) *Advancing infectious disease management in free-ranging wildlife*
11:35 - 11:50	**Samantha Hoff** (University of Vermont) *Environmental conditions drive selection and recovery following disease-induced declines*
Cancelled	~~**Andrew Storfer** (Washington State University)~~ ~~*Speak of the devil: Community genomics of Tasmanian devils and a transmissible cancer*~~

11:50 - 12:00	Announcements
12:05 - 1:20	Lunch at Eggleston Lawn (with Optional EEID discussion)
12:45 – 1:10	Optional EEID community forum discussion with Pete Hudson and Paul Cross (GLC Auditorium)

Session 3. New and established disease interventions

Moderator: Joseph Hoyt

1:20 - 1:45	**KEYNOTE: Kim Pepin** (US Department of Agriculture) *Emergency management of infectious disease involving wildlife*
1:45 - 2:10	**KEYNOTE: Daniel Streicker** (University of Glasgow) *Interrupting pathogen transmission in natural populations*
2:10 - 2:25	**Scott Nuismer** (University of Idaho) *Human adaptation to climate change drives increased spillover risk*
2:25 - 2:30	**Samantha Bents** (Stanford) *Disentangling mechanisms behind semiannual SARS-CoV-2 dynamics in the post-Omicron era*
2:30 - 2:35	**Isabelle Danforth** (Virginia Institute of Marine Science) *An empirical test of the imperfect vaccine hypothesis with infectious hematopoietic necrosis virus (IHNV) in rainbow trout*
2:35 - 2:40	**Cora Hirst** (Emory) *Preventing disease emergence following eradication: applications to mpox*

2:40 - 2:50	Q&A
2:50 - 3:30	Coffee Break (GLC Multipurpose room)

Session 4. Novel Directions: Ecological Drivers and Intervention

Moderator: Joseph Hoyt

3:30 - 3:55	**KEYNOTE: Elizabeth McGraw** (Pennsylvania State University) *When years of basic research in EEID inform field interventions for disease control: stories from the current moment*

3:55 - 4:10	**Ben Lukubye** (Emory) *Experimental evidence that cattle manure drives the rise and fall of schistosome transmission*
4:10 - 4:15	**Elias Rosenblatt** (University of Minnesota) *Ecological drivers of SARS-CoV-2 outbreaks in white-tailed deer*
4:15 - 4:20	**Joseph DeMarchi** (University of Tennessee) *Load-dependent host competence links individual infection processes to pathogen persistence in multi-host communities*
4:20 - 4:25	**Shenglai Yin** (University of Oklahoma) *Multi-scale ecological processes shaping highly pathogenic avian influenza transmission*

4:25 - 4:40 Q&A (10 min) and Announcements

5:00 - 7:00	**Poster session 1: (Owens Ballrooms)** Even # Posters 5:00-6:00, Odd # posters 6:00-7:00 Please see the conference website for poster abstract program.

7:00 Dinner on your own (see website for recommendations)

Wednesday June 3rd, 2026

7:45 - 8:15 am Coffee and pastries (GLC Multipurpose room)

8:15 – 8:30 Announcements

Session 5. Embracing Variation in EEID

Moderator: Dana Hawley

8:30 - 8:55	**KEYNOTE: Jessica Metcalf** (Princeton) *The demographic thicket of immunity's tangled banks*
8:55 - 9:20	**KEYNOTE: Joe Mihaljevic** (Northern Arizona University) *Not all hosts are equal: Thermal gradients, stochasticity, and heterogeneous infection outcomes*

9:20 - 10:05 Coffee break (GLC Multipurpose room)

Session 6. Embracing Variation cont.

Moderator: Dana Hawley

10:05 - 10:30	**KEYNOTE: Daniel Becker** (University of Oklahoma) *Immunological diversity as a missing link in zoonotic risk prediction*
10:30 - 10:45	**Clara Malekshahi** (University of Pennsylvania)

	Wild bird ecology is driving the transmission and dissemination of HPAI H5N1 in North America
10:45 - 10:50	**Arik Hartmann** (Virginia Tech) *Exposure dose shapes infection outcomes and host responses to an emerging fungal pathogen*
10:50 - 10:55	**Carlos Molinero** (University of Georgia) *Linking host phylogeny, ecology, movement and parasite specialism to transmission in birds*

10:55 - 11:10 Q&A (10 min) and Announcements

11:15 - 12:20 Depart for hikes from GLC (Boxed lunch to go)

- McAfee's Knob - Bat
- Cascade Falls - Mosquito
- Mountain Lake - Salamander

5:00 - 6:30 Return from hike (Eggleston Lawn)

6:00 - 8:00	**Lawn Party (Eggleston Lawn)** Dinner and drinks provided

Thursday June 4th, 2026

7:45 - 8:15 am Coffee and pastries (GLC Multipurpose room)

8:15 – 8:30 Announcements

Session 7. Back to the Basics: Incorporating Ecological Feedbacks

Moderator: Lauren Childs

8:30 - 8:55	**KEYNOTE: Alex Strauss** (University of Georgia) *Updates to the healthy herds hypothesis and impacts of predators on disease: Thermal sensitivities and paratenic potential*
8:55 - 9:20	**KEYNOTE: Mallory Harris** (University of Maryland) Modelling behavior-disease feedback with social division
9:20 - 9:35	**Christina Harden** (Pennsylvania State University) *Rats everywhere, all the time: a mixed-methods approach to mapping the human-reservoir interface in Lassa-endemic Nigeria*
9:35 - 9:40	**Kyle Dahlin** (Virginia Tech)

	Rethinking mosquito biting rates: exploring how disturbed blood-feeding shapes vectorial capacity
9:40 - 9:45	**Michelle Launi** (University of Maryland) *Who drives transmission? Quantifying sex-based differences in pathogen transmissibility*

9:45 - 9:55 Q&A

9:55 - 10:45 Coffee Break (GLC Multipurpose room)

Session 8. Back to the Basics: Modeling mechanisms of disease

Moderator: Lauren Childs

10:45 - 11:10	**KEYNOTE: Megan Greischar** (Cornell) *Unraveling the constraints on evolution towards ever greater host exploitation*
11:10 - 11:25	**Daniela Florez Pineda** (Notre Dame) *Quantifying the strength of cross-protection between dengue and zika: A mechanistic analysis of subnational transmission in Brazil*
11:25 - 11:40	**Siyu Chen** (Cornell) *Multiscale modelling reveals accelerating community outbreak risks of measles in the United States*

11:40 - 11:55 Q&A (10 min) and Announcements

11:55 - 1:15 Lunch (with Optional Events)

12:00 –1:10 **Teaching Workshop (GLC Room C)- boxed lunch provided**
Organizers: Arietta Fleming-Davies and Sarah Budischak

12:15-1:05 **Careers Panel (GLC Auditorium) – grab lunch to go (Eggleston Lawn)**
Organizers: Evie Rynkiewicz, Dana Hawley

Session 9. Back to the Basics: Multi-host and multi-pathogen

Moderator: Leah Johnson

1:15 - 1:40	**KEYNOTE: Vanessa Ezenwa** (Yale) *Parasite interactions: coinfection, context, and complexity*
1:40 - 2:05	**KEYNOTE: Michael Cortez** (Florida State University) *Partitioning the effects of disease and non-disease processes on disease dynamics in multi-host communities*
2:05 - 2:20	**Sarah Troy** (UNC Chapel Hill) *Warming up to disease: Experimental warming alters seasonal multi-pathogen dynamics in tall fescue*
2:20 - 2:25	**Anna Pérez-Umphrey** (Virginia Tech) *Effects of coinfection on host viremia and scent in a zoonotic arbovirus system*

2:25 - 2:30	**Allyson Ray** (Vanderbilt University) *Trade-offs in defense against different classes of parasites maintain intraspecific variation in insect immune responses*
2:30 - 2:35	**Youngseo Jeong** (University of Toronto) *Immunodeficient hosts facilitate parasite trait evolution with consequences for virulence in immunocompetent hosts*

2:30 - 2:45 Q&A (10 min)

2:45 - 3:30 Coffee Break

Session 10. Novel directions: Animal Behavior and Disease

Moderator: Leah Johnson

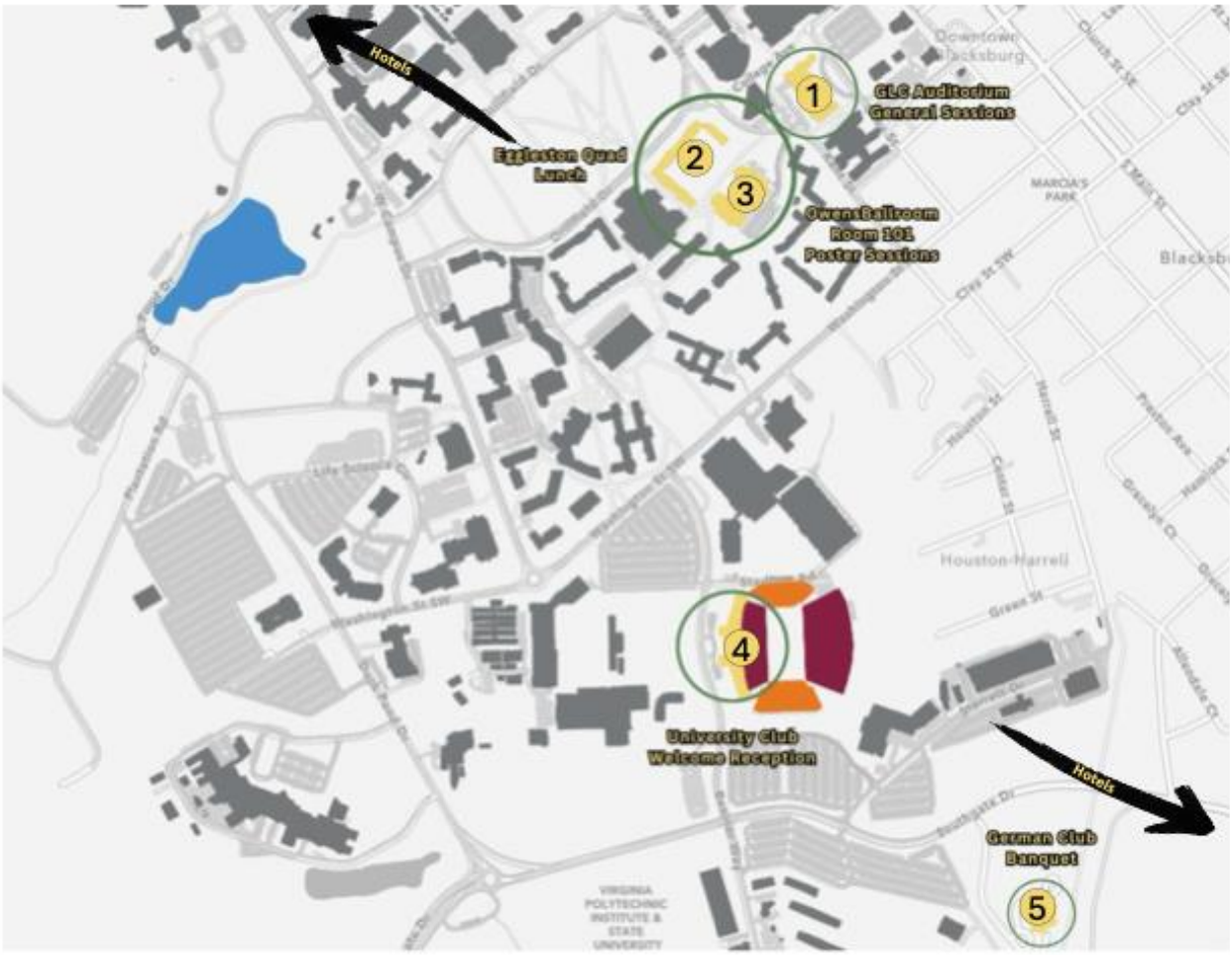
3:30 - 3:45	**Sonia Altizer** (University of Georgia) *Animal migration and infection dynamics in changing landscapes*
3:45 - 3:50	**Will Rogers** (Yale) *Social interactions buffer infection costs through distinct effects of resistance and tolerance*
3:50 - 3:55	**Caroline Amoroso** (University of Virginia) *Genetic architecture underlying variation in avoidance and resistance to parasites*
3:55 - 4:00	**Jack Leitch** (Virginia Tech) *Networks of indirect contact promote spread of an environmentally transmitted pathogen in a highly social species*

4:00 - 4:15 Q&A (10 min) and Announcements

4:30 - 6:30	**Poster session 2: (Owens Ballrooms)** Even # Posters 4:30-5:30, Odd # posters 5:30-6:30 Please see the conference website for poster abstract program.

7:00 - 10:00	**The Banquet (German Club of Virginia Tech)**

Locations:



1. Graduate Life Center (GLC)
   Conference Sessions, Registration (Tuesday-Thursday), Hike pick up/drop off
2. Eggleston Lawn
   Coffee breaks, Lunch and Lawn Party
3. Owens Ballroom
   Poster Session 1 & 2
4. University Club
   Welcome Reception and Registration (Monday)
5. German Club
   Banquet

EEID Acknowledgements:

Local hosts* and Planning committee (Virginia Tech)

*Dana Hawley, Biological Sciences
*Joseph Hoyt, Biological Sciences
*Kate Langwig, Biological Sciences
William Hopkins, Global Change Center
Kylene Kehn-Hall, Center for Emerging, Zoonotic, and Arthropod-borne Pathogens

Internal Members (Virginia Tech)

Kathy Alexander, Fish and Wildlife Conservation
Lauren Childs, Mathematics
Nisha Duggal, Biomedical Sciences & Pathobiology
Luis Escobar, Fish and Wildlife Conservation
Dana Hawley, Biological Sciences
Joseph Hoyt, Biological Sciences
Leah Johnson, Statistics
Chloé Lahondère, Biochemistry
Kate Langwig, Biological Sciences
Amy Pruden, Civil & Environmental Engineering

Regional Advisory Committee Members

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Charles Mitchell, UNC-Chapel Hill
David Rasmussen, NC State
Andrew Wargo, Virginia Institute of Marine Science
Mark Wilber, UT Knoxville

Additional Conference Support and Volunteers (Virginia Tech)

Marlon Cobos, Fish and Wildlife Conservation
Dane Conley, Biological Sciences
Kyle Dahlin, Mathematics
Sarah Gouger, Center for Emerging, Zoonotic, and Arthropod-borne Pathogens
Arik Hartmann, Biological Sciences
Christopher Kailing, Biological Sciences
Oleksandra Klynova, Biological Sciences
Jack Leitch, Fish and Wildlife Conservation
Steph McBride, Global Change Center
Juan-Carlos Mungaray, Biological Sciences
Michaella O'Brien, Global Change Center
Anna Pérez-Umphrey, Biological Sciences
Alice Stitzer, Biological Sciences
Eliza Tarimo, Biological Sciences
Ellie Timmins, Biological Sciences

Conference Workshops

EEID modeling workshop

Lauren Childs, Virginia Tech, Mathematics
Kate Langwig, Virginia Tech, Biological Sciences
Angela Peace, Virginia Tech, Mathematics
Michael Robert, Virginia Tech, Mathematics
Nick Ruktanonchai, Virginia Tech, Population Health Sciences
Omar Saucedo, Virginia Tech, Mathematics
Virginia Tech, Center for Mathematics of Biosystems

Vectorbyte workshop

Leah Johnson, Virginia Tech, Statistics
Samuel Rund, Notre Dame
Sadie Ryan, University of Florida
Catherine Lippi, Virginia Tech, Statistics
Alicia Surratt, Virginia Tech, Biological Sciences
Parul Patil, Virginia Tech, Statistics
Paul Huxley, University of York

EEID teaching workshop and Career panel

Sarah Budischak, Pitzer and Scripps College
Arietta Fleming-Davies, University of San Diego
Dana Hawley, Virginia Tech, Biological Sciences
Evie Rynkiewicz, Fashion Institute of Technology

Sponsors

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Fralin Life Science Institute
Global Change Center
Center for Emerging, Zoonotic, and Arthropod-borne Pathogens
Virginia Tech College of Agriculture and Life Sciences
Virginia Tech College of Natural Resources and Environment
Virginia Tech College of Science
Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine
College of Engineering (Pandemic Prediction and Prevention)
Center for the Mathematics of Biosystems