

**Minutes**  
**Meeting of ASA Governing Board**  
**Via Zoom 4-14-2021 3:00-4:00 EST**

**In attendance:** Lorena Lopez, Kaitlin Campbell, Paula Lado, Ray Fisher, Maria Navajas, Alexandra Revynthi, Patricia Pietrantonio, Monica Farfan, Carlos Barreto, Guest:Carrie DeJesus (student)

**Not in attendance:** Beto Perez de Leon

Recorded and Submitted by Kaitlin Campbell (Secretary/Treasurer)

1. ASA's advisory role with the recently created global Mite Specialist Group (MSG).
  - a. Dr. Sebahat Sullivan is the chair, others on the group include: Maria Arnova (?) and Ashley Dowling, 37 members from 28 countries on 5 continents.
  - b. "The group will aim to have a number of activities and projects established or completed by the end of 2021, e. g., establish links to the IUCN agencies, governments, universities and research institutions, acarology societies, the private sector and NGOs to better incorporate mite conservation into research, education and conservation initiatives, have a number of mite species assessed for the IUCN Red List, establish a website devoted to mite conservation issues; and contact conservation-oriented scientific journals to encourage them to support the publication of mite conservation research; and produce media releases about the intrinsic and ecological importance of mites."
  - c. In essence, **MSG members and advisory groups are encouraged to do whatever they can personally and through their networks to contribute to a global effort to conserve mite diversity through research, education, advocacy and direct conservation initiatives**, e. g.,
    - i. consider species for red listing via the MSG; we can also do red list assessments of ecosystems
    - ii. contribute images, text and links to a MSG website that will promote mites and their conservation
    - iii. support and engage in ecological studies that contribute to real conservation gains
    - iv. form direct links with NGOs (e. g. conservation groups, farmer organizations, reforestation societies), landholders and government agencies to achieve measurable conservation outcomes
    - v. support and contribute to initiatives that address habitat destruction, climate change, pollution and other drivers of biodiversity loss
    - vi. work to incorporate mites (and other invertebrates) into the fabric of the biology and curricula in schools and higher education institutions
    - vii. encourage journals to publish research related to mite conservation issues
    - viii. establish links with media and a presence in on-line platforms to promote the group and its activities
    - ix. educate/inform governments, conservation area managers and the public about the fundamental role that mites and the other invertebrates play in diverse, healthy, productive ecosystems.
  - d. Will be asking us for input, promoting conservation, no mention yet of any monetary commitments

- e. Lorena suggests that a person represent ASA to attend their meetings, be involved, connect ASA community where needed, and report back to ASA board and ASA as a whole
- f. 2-3 year term?
- g. Patricia suggests that person is knowledgeable and has extension/outreach experience.
- h. Alexandra suggests that extension, conservation members of ASA could form group that would be supportive or connect with them as a group.
- i. Ray is interested in doing it and could create a task force up to 4 if needed
  - i. Monica volunteered to help in the future as well
- j. Board voted for Ray to be our representative and pull together task force if needed.

2. **Symposia subcommittee** updates:

<b>Member Symposium</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Organizers</b>
<i>Current Advances in Acarology</i>	Accepted	Lorena Lopez, Emilie Demard, and Samantha Willden
<i>Acarology in Sustainable Agriculture</i>	Accepted	Emilie Demard, Samantha Willden, and Lorena Lopez
<i>From Ecological to Molecular Mechanisms in Parasitic Mites and Ticks</i>	Accepted	Shahid Karim, Amy Murillo, and Patricia Pietrantonio

- a. Deadlines:
  - i. Confirm speakers: **May 17<sup>th</sup>**.
  - ii. Obtain the following information from each presenter:
    1. Presentation title.
    2. Author information (for all contributing authors) including name, email address, affiliation, and city, state (US) or city, country (international).
    3. Abstract (strongly recommended, but not required).
    4. Format: virtual or in person.
    5. Remind them about the meeting REGISTRATION.
    6. Confirm they have not committed to another symposium (ESA's 1 presentation rule).

3. **Webinars subcommittee** (Beto, Ray, and Alexandra):

- a. 2021 webinar series featuring acarology experts from around the globe.
- b. Starting on summer 2021, sometime in June until November.
- c. Title for seminar series?
- d. Is it going to be a 6-month series? Every month of the year?

- e. One acarologist per continent representing any of 6 disciplines and 1 webinar per Month
  - i. How we they be selected?
- f. Alexandra suggests that normally the seminar series should run academic year and avoid November webinar because of ESA meeting. Start in september this year?

<b>Discipline</b>	<b>Continent</b>
Mite ecology	North America
Mite management (IPM)	South America
Systematics	Europe
Genomics	Africa
Ticks	Asia
Other parasitic mites	Australia

- i. Supported by several members of the board
  - ii. Patricia proposes that we should discuss the audience and advertising. It will be discussed in a future meeting.
  - iii. If anyone has suggestions for speakers- send them to subcommittee members. Board will decide who to choose for the speakers for webinar series.
  - iv. Ray suggests that maybe they don't need to be the biggest most influential people so long as they are interesting and doing valuable work. Also if there are only 6 speakers, then significance of each speaker is more important.
  - v. Ray, Beto and Alexandra are going to propose an idea and short list of people and put it to the board at the next meeting
4. **Social Media subcommittee** (Carlos and Lorena):
  - a. Board member profiles on Twitter to recognize our governance roles (picture, role in ASA, short bio, ~100 words).
  - b. Lorena and Carlos will schedule meeting to talk about website updates.
  - c. Carlos will organize and standardize the images. Lorena will send an email to collect the info for these things.
  - d. Facebook page? Maybe check with Michael Skvarla
  - e. Monica recommends-Write membership about pubs and social media posts
5. **Student group subcommittee** updates (Carrie, Carlos? and Lorena)?
  - a. "Students of Acarology" Group used to email
  - b. Start contacting and getting students involved with the group
  - c. Patricia recommends also contacting entomology graduate student organizations to find acarology students.
  - d. Carrie will be looking into ESA's website for all of the entomology programs and then contact graduate student associations at the schools. She will also work on an add to send out for recruiting.
  - e. Kaitlin recommends sending out email to the ASA membership to get students that are not active members right now.
6. Lorena reminds everyone that when subcommittee members are ending board term or graduating make sure that replacements are found and trained up. Maintain continuity.