

Luis E. Escobar (he, him, él)

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Department of Fish and Wildlife Conservation
Virginia Tech
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Background

Education

- 2014 **PhD**, Universidad Andres Bello, College of Ecology and Natural Resources, Santiago, Chile.
Doctor in Conservation Medicine/One Health (*Summa Cum Laude*)
- 2012 **MVS**, Universidad Andres Bello, College of Ecology and Natural Resources, Santiago, Chile.
Master of Veterinary Sciences
- 2011 **MSc**, Universidad de San Carlos, Guatemala City, Guatemala.
Master of Science in Wildlife Management
- 2009 **DVM**, Universidad de San Carlos, Guatemala City, Guatemala.
Doctor of Veterinary Medicine

Appointments

- 2024 - present **Associate Professor**, Dept. of Fish & Wildlife Conservation, Virginia Tech
- 2017 - 2024 **Assistant Professor**, Dept. of Fish & Wildlife Conservation, Virginia Tech
- 2015 - 2017 **Postdoc**, Dept. Fisheries, Wildlife & Cons. Biology, University of Minnesota
- 2014 **Postdoc**, Dept. Microbiology & Immunology, SUNY Upstate Medical University

Research and Teaching Interests

- Climate change
- Epidemiology and Disease Ecology
- Invasive Species
- Macroecology and Biogeography
- One Health
- Physiology, Ecology and Evolution

Most Relevant Awards

- 2025 Faculty Research Award, Center for Emerging, Zoonotic, and Arthropod-borne Pathogens, Virginia Tech
- 2024 Research Fellow, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, Spain
- 2024 Visiting Professor Fellowship, Benemerita Universidad Autonoma de Puebla, Mexico
- 2024 Visiting Fellow, Chinese Academy of Sciences President's International Fellowship Initiative, China
- 2023 Professional of the Month, Diverse Professionals Network, New River and Roanoke Valleys, US
- 2023 Mentored Research (K01), Career Development Award, NIH NIAD, US
- 2023 CAREER Award. Faculty Early Career Development Program, NSF, US
- 2016 Spirit Award. Minnesota's Aquatic Invasive Species Center, University of Minnesota, US
- 2015 Bronze Medal. Forecasting Chikungunya DARPA Challenge, US Department of Defense, US
- 2014 Alumni Award: Research, University Andres Bello, Santiago, Chile
- 2013 George M. Baer Latin American Investigator Award, Rabies in the Americas Conference, Canada

International Activities

Teaching/Research: Instructor, co-instructor, and lecturer in workshops and courses in the US, Mexico, Guatemala, Colombia, Ecuador, Chile, Denmark, Republic of Georgia, Portugal, Senegal, and China. Adjunct faculty positions in Chile and Colombia. Research/fieldwork in the US, Guatemala, Colombia, Ecuador, Chile, Senegal, and China.

Mentoring: Advisor of graduate students from Bangladesh, Thailand, Colombia, Mexico, and the US, and supervisor of postdocs from Libya and China. Serving as external advisor, co-advisor, or committee member for students in Guatemala, Chile, Colombia, Brazil, Pakistan, and Mexico. Host of visiting scholars from Mexico, Guatemala, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Chile, Argentina, Thailand, the US, and China.

Research: PI, Co-PI, or Collaborator in projects to conduct research in Guatemala, Colombia, Chile, Senegal, Mali, Burkina Faso, Republic of Georgia, Ukraine, the UK, and the US. Visiting scholar in Denmark, China, Mexico, and Barcelona. Grant proposal referee in the US, Chile, Poland, and Sweden. Member of the Latin American Lancet Countdown Consortium on Climate Change and Health.

Work with Biorepositories

I have organized the collection of vectors and wildlife specimens for pathogen detection during the last decade in Colombia, Chile, Guatemala, and Senegal for organ-level, disease ecology studies. My group has accessed specimens from biorepositories to generate the first genome of a main hantavirus reservoir in South America (*Oligoryzomys longicaudatus*), map and date mange (*Sarcoptes scabiei*) infections in carnivores in the US, and population structure of the rabies reservoir (*Desmodus rotundus*) in Latin America, among others. I recently led a protocol for sample management, phlebotomy, and biosecurity for bat-pathogens research ([link](#)).

Publications

I have 8 book chapters and 126 articles published, an h-index of 46 (if I had 46 publications they would have 46 citations each), an i10 index of 92 (publications with at least 10 citations), and have accumulated >13,000 citations. <https://scholar.google.com/citations?user=okcZNYoAAAAJ&hl=en>

Book Chapters (8)

1. Navarro J-C, Romero-Alvarez D, Escobar LE, Aguilar PV. (2024). Oropouche Fever: A Growing Threat in Latin America. In *Emerging Viruses in Latin America*. Pujo FH, Paniz-Mondolfi AE. (Eds.) Cham, Springer Nature. <https://link.springer.com/book/10.1007/978-3-031-68419-7>
2. Parmesan, C., Morecroft, M., Trisurat, Y., Adrian, R., Anshari, G. Z., Arneth, A., Gao, Q., Gonzalez, P., Harris, R., Price, J., Stevens, N., Talukdar, G. H., Ackerly, D., Anderson, E., Bermerich, V., Brotons, L., Chen, Y., Domisch, S., Douwes, E., **Escobar, L. E.**, Flecker, A., Foden, W., Gallagher, R. V., Goulding, M., Gaxiola, A., Grey, K. A., Harrison, S., Keith, D. A., Kraemer, B. M., Langhans, S., Latimer, A., Loisel, J., Midgley, G., Mordecai, E., Moreira, F., Myers-Smith, I., Pearce-Higgins, J., Peterson, A. T., Postigo, J. C., Rocklöv, J., Romanello, M., Gallego-Sala, A., Seddon, N., Singer, M. C., Slingsby, J., Strutz, S. E., Turner, B., Turetsky, M. and Young, K. (2022) Chapter 2: Terrestrial and Freshwater Ecosystems and their Services. in *IPCC, 2022: Climate Change 2022: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability*. Cambridge University Press, Geneva. https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/wg2/downloads/report/IPCC_AR6_WGII_Chapter02.pdf
3. **Escobar, L.E.** (2021). Ecological Niche Modeling: An Introduction for Veterinarians and Epidemiologists. In *Principles and Challenges of Fundamental Methods in Veterinary Epidemiology and Economics*. Dürr S, Brookes VJ, & Perez AM (Eds.). Lausanne, Frontiers. <https://www.frontiersin.org/research-topics/9562/principles-and-challenges-of-fundamental-methods-in-veterinary-epidemiology-and-economics>
4. Castaneda, D., **Escobar, L.E.**, Astorga, F. 2021. Sarcoptic Mange: Impacts in Wildlife and Livestock. In: *Las Agrociencias Como Soporte a una Producción Agropecuaria Sostenible*. Chacon Jaramillo L. (Ed.). Bogota: Ediciones Unisalle. https://ciencia.lasalle.edu.co/edunisalle_agrociencias/3/ (Spanish)
5. Garcia, V. & **Escobar, L.E.** (2019). Impacts, Vulnerability, and Adaptation. In: *First Report of the Assessment of Knowledge of Climate Change in Guatemala*. Castellanos, E., Paiz-Estévez, A., Escribá, J., Rosales-Alconero, M., & Santizo, A. (Eds.), Editorial Universitaria UVG. Retrieved from <https://sgccc.org.gt/category/reporte-de-cambio-climatico-guatemala/> (Spanish)
6. **Escobar, L.E.** & Craft, M.E. (2017) Advances and Limitations of Disease Biogeography Using Ecological Niche Modeling. In: *Applications of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) Tools in Microbiology of Infectious Diseases*. Alvarez, J., & Perez, A.M. (Eds.). pp. 203–223. Saint Paul: Frontiers. Retrieved from <https://www.frontiersin.org/research-topics/3708/applications-of-stem-science-technology-engineering-and-mathematics-tools-in-microbiology-of-infecti>
7. **Escobar, L.E.** (2013) Conservation from Heaven: Remote Sensing and Open Access Tools to Guide Biodiversity Conservation. In: *New Hope for Conservation*. Beijing: Beijing Forum-Peking University. pp. 13–27. Retrieved from https://www.researchgate.net/publication/259391621_Conservation_from_heaven_remote_sensing_and_open_access_tools_to_guide_biodiversity_conservation
8. **Escobar, L.E.**, Rodríguez, Y.V. & Medina-Vogel, G. (2012) Emerging Diseases and Biodiversity Conservation in Chile. In: *Actas de las VI Jornadas de Derecho Ambiental*. Aranda J, Insunza, X., Montenegro, S.,

Moraga, P. & Uriarte, A.L. (Eds.), pp. 275–285. Santiago: Thomson Reuters. (Spanish). Retrieved from http://thomsonreuters.cl/PortalLN/carro_new/nw_Ficha_Producto.asp?id_producto=2976

Peer-review Articles (126)

(***Escobar** corresponding, Student mentored, IF =Impact Factor in 2024, Q=Journal Quartile in 2024)

2025 (n=17)

126. Hernandez-Mazariegos WC, Torres FI, Brennan R, **Escobar LE**, Palma RE, Ibáñez CM. Phylogenetic and functional biogeographic approach for rodent conservation across an environmental gradient in Chile. *JOURNAL OF BIOGEOGRAPHY*. In press. (IF 3.6, Q1)
125. Cifuentes-Rincon AL, Sarmiento-Arias KD, Soler-Tovar D, Rodriguez-Bolanos A, Reyes-Amaya N, Avila-Vargas L, **Escobar LE***. Assessing sexual dimorphism in the common vampire bat, *Desmodus rotundus*. *PLOS ONE*. Accepted. (IF 2.6, Q2)
124. Hartinger SM, Palmeiro-Silva Y, Llerena-Cayo C, Santos Araujo Palharini R, García-Witulski C, Fernanda Salas M, Valdes-Ortega N, Diaz A, **Escobar LE**, Gil Posse C, Helo Sarmiento J, Lescano AG, Melo O, Pí-nilla-Roncancio M, Rojas-Rueda D, Takahashi B, Blanco-Villafuerte L, Borchers-Arriagada N, Chame M, Chesini F, Dalin C, Estrada F, Firpo Porto M, Gouveia N, Hurtado Diaz M, Kennard H, Lima E, Martins de Carvalho A, Miranda-Chacón Z, Mohajeri N, Pantoja C, Ribeiro Alves Cunha L, Risso A, Rusticucci M, Saez Reale A, Santiago R, Santos-Vega M, Sauma E, Savila S, Sergeeva M, Souza de Camargo T, Sorensen C, Umaña JD, Valdes-Velasquez A, Wotzasek Rulli Villardi J, Buss D, Romanello M. The 2025 Lancet Countdown Latin America report: moving from promises to equitable climate action for a prosperous future. *THE LANCET REGIONAL HEALTH - AMERICAS*. doi: [10.1016/j.lana.2025.101276](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.lana.2025.101276). (IF 7.4, Q1)
123. Medina-Rodríguez T., Osejo A., Urizar J, Van de Vuurst P., Rojas-Sereno Z., Soler-Tovar D., **Escobar LE***. Rabies spillover risk from vampire bats to livestock in Colombia. *REVISTA VETERINARIA CORDOBA*. In press. (IF 0.3, Q4)
122. Van de Vuurst P, Cifuentes-Rincon A, Bertke AS, Soler-Tovar D, Reyes Amaya NR, Rodriguez Arevalo F, Cardenas Hincapie JS, Rivera Monroy JR, **Escobar LE**, Hallerman EH. Assessing the effects of environmental variation on population genetic structure of the common vampire bat (*Desmodus rotundus*) in Colombia. *PEERJ*. Accepted. (IF 2.4, Q2)
121. Qiao H, **Escobar LE***. A brief theoretical framework for understanding ecological niche modeling. *THE INNOVATION LIFE*. Accepted. (IF N/A)
120. Van de Vuurst P, Rist C, Medina-Rodríguez T, Osejo-Varona AF, Soler-Tovar D, **Escobar LE***. Drivers of rabies virus spillover risk from bats to livestock. 19:e0013508. doi: [10.1371/journal.pntd.0013508](https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pntd.0013508). *PLoS NEGLECTED TROPICAL DISEASES*. (IF 3.4, Q1)
119. Montufar Patino J, Soler-Tovar D, **Escobar LE***. Presas de *Desmodus rotundus* en las Américas: Análisis bibliométrico. *VETERINARIA MEXICO OA*. In press. (IF 0.5, Q4)
118. VanderGiessen M, Upshur IF, Castaneda-Guzman M, **Escobar LE**, Vinauger C, Lahondère C. Mosquito species abundance and sugar feeding along landscape gradients. *JOURNAL OF MEDICAL ENTOMOLOGY*. doi: [10.1093/jme/tjaf140](https://doi.org/10.1093/jme/tjaf140). (IF 3.6, Q2)
117. Feng S, Yang Q, **Escobar LE**, Yan X, Qiao H. Stopover hotspots for migratory birds in North and Central America. *BIODIVERSITY INFORMATICS*. 19:7-32. doi: [10.17161/bi.v19i.23641](https://doi.org/10.17161/bi.v19i.23641) (IF 5.2, Q1)
116. Islam S, Castaneda-Guzman M, Soler-Tovar D, **Escobar LE***. Ecological niche modeling applications to infectious diseases. *BIODIVERSITY INFORMATICS*. 19:61-84. doi: [10.17161/bi.v19i.23725](https://doi.org/10.17161/bi.v19i.23725) (IF 5.2, Q1)
115. Islam S, Kangoye M, Velasco-Villa A, Diallo AH, Katani R, **Escobar LE***. Ecological niche modeling applications to infectious diseases. *FRONTIERS IN VETERINARY SCIENCE*. 12: 1605150. doi: [10.3389/fvets.2025.1605150](https://doi.org/10.3389/fvets.2025.1605150). (IF 2.9, Q1)
114. Hernandez-Mazariegos WC, Palma RE, **Escobar LE**. The Rodents of Chile: A Brief Appraisal of their Conservation Status and Ecological Significance. *ZOOKEYS*. In press. (IF 1.3, Q2)
113. Marques R, Jiménez-García D, **Escobar LE**, Kütter Krolow T, Ferreira Krüger R. (2025) Spatial epidemiology of *Tabanus* (Diptera: Tabanidae) vectors of *Trypanosoma*. *PARASITES AND VECTORS* 18:128. doi: [10.1186/s13071-025-06708-z](https://doi.org/10.1186/s13071-025-06708-z). (IF 3.5, Q1)
112. Astorga F, Alkishe A, Paansri P, Mantilla G, **Escobar LE***. (2025) Hantavirus in Rodents in the United States: temporal and spatial trends and report of new hosts. *ECOSPHERE*. 16:e70209. doi: [10.1002/ecs2.70209](https://doi.org/10.1002/ecs2.70209) (IF 2.9, Q2)

Featured in Infobae (Spanish) <https://www.infobae.com/salud/ciencia/2025/04/14/descubren-6-nuevas-especies-de-roedores-que-pueden-transmitir-el-hantavirus/>

111. Van de Vuurst P, Gohlke JM, **Escobar LE***. (2025) Vampire bats, emerging disease, and future climate change. *SCIENTIFIC REPORTS*. 15: 5989 doi: [10.1038/s41598-025-87977-7](https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-025-87977-7) (IF 3.9, Q1)
110. Soler-Tovar D, **Escobar LE***. Rabies transmitted from vampires to cattle: An overview. *PLOS ONE*. 20:e0317214. doi: [10.1371/journal.pone.0317214](https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0317214). (IF 2.6, Q2)

2024 (n=7)

109. Avila Vargas LV, Soler-Tovar D, **Escobar LE***. (2024) Anticoagulants for the control of the common vampire bat (*Desmodus rotundus*). *ZOONOSES AND PUBLIC HEALTH*. 72:101-116. doi: [10.1111/zph.13196](https://doi.org/10.1111/zph.13196) (IF 2.4, Q1)
108. Muller JA, López K, **Escobar LE**, Auguste JA. (2024) Ecology and Geography of Cache Valley Virus Assessed Using Ecological Niche Modeling. *PARASITES & VECTORS*. 17:270. doi: [10.1186/s13071-024-06344-z](https://doi.org/10.1186/s13071-024-06344-z) (IF 3.5, Q1)
107. Brennan R, Paulson S, **Escobar LE***. Estimating Pathogen Spillover Risk Using Host-Ectoparasite Interactions. *ECOLOGY AND EVOLUTION*. 14:e11509. doi: [10.1002/ece3.11509](https://doi.org/10.1002/ece3.11509) (IF 2.3, Q1)
106. Meriño-Olivella S, Sánchez-Bonilla MP, **Escobar LE**, Correa-Valencia Human NM. (2024) Cat borne rabies as the new epidemiology of the disease in the Andes Mountains. *ZOONOSES AND PUBLIC HEALTH*. 71:600-608. doi: [10.1111/zph.13141](https://doi.org/10.1111/zph.13141). (IF 2.4, Q1)
105. Hartinger SM, Palmeiro-Silva YK, Llerena-Cayo C, Blanco-Villafuerte L, Lescano AG, **Escobar LE**, Diaz A, Rojas-Rueda D, Helo Sarmiento J, Melo O, Takahashi B, Callaghan M, Chesini F, Dasgupta S, Gil Posse C, Gouveia N, Martins de Carvalho A, Miranda-Chacón Z, Pan-toja C, Robinson EJZ, Salas MF, Santiago R, Sauma E, Santos-Vega M, Scamman D, Souza de Camargo T, Sorensen C, Umaña JD, Yglesias-González M, Walawender M, Buss D, Romanello M. (2024) The 2023 Latin America Report of The Lancet Countdown on Health and Climate Change: The Imperative for health-centred climate-resilient Development. *THE LANCET REGIONAL HEALTH – AMERICAS*. 33:100746. doi: [10.1016/j.lana.2024.100746](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.lana.2024.100746) (IF 7.4, Q1)
104. Qiao Q, Paansri P, **Escobar LE***. (2024) Global Mpox spread due to increased air travel. *GEOSPATIAL HEALTH*. 19:1261. doi: [10.4081/gh.2024.1261](https://doi.org/10.4081/gh.2024.1261) (IF 0.9, Q2)
103. Kinsley A, Kao SYZ, Enns EA, **Escobar LE**, Qiao H, Craft ME, Muthukrishnan R, Larkin DJ, Phelps NDB. (2024) Modeling the risk of aquatic species invasion spread through boater movements and river connections. *CONSERVATION BIOLOGY*. 38:e14260. doi: [10.1111/cobi.14260](https://doi.org/10.1111/cobi.14260). (IF 5.5, Q1)

2023 (n=8)

102. Van de Vuurst P, Qiao H, Soler-Tovar D, **Escobar LE***. (2023) Climate change has affected the risk of bat-borne disease spillover. *ECOGRAPHY*. 2024:e06714. doi: [10.1111/ecog.06714](https://doi.org/10.1111/ecog.06714). (IF 4.7, Q1)
Featured in [WIRED Magazine](#), [Phys.org](#), [Earth.com](#), [ScienceAlert](#), [USToday](#), [Upi](#), [2EC](#), [The Hands of India](#), [Roanoke Times](#), [Science Daily](#).
101. Lewin, Z., Astorga, F., **Escobar, L.E.**, Carver S. (2023) Assessing variation in disease impacts for a multi-host pathogen. *TRANSBOUNDARY AND EMERGING DISEASES*. doi: [10.1155/2023/4003285](https://doi.org/10.1155/2023/4003285) (IF 3, Q1)
100. Van de Vuurst, P., **Escobar, L.E.*** (2023) Climate change and infectious disease: A review of evidence. *INFECTIOUS DISEASES OF POVERTY*. 12:51. doi: [10.1186/s40249-023-01102-2](https://doi.org/10.1186/s40249-023-01102-2) (IF 5.5, Q1)
99. Romero-Alvarez, D., **Escobar, L.E.**, Auguste, A.J., Del Valle, S.Y., Manore C.A. (2023) Transmission risk of Oropouche fever in the Americas. *INFECTIOUS DISEASES OF POVERTY*. 12:47. doi: [10.1186/s40249-023-01091-2](https://doi.org/10.1186/s40249-023-01091-2) (IF 5.5, Q1)
Featured in [Science](#), [News-Medical](#).
98. Magalhães, A.R., Codeço, C.T., Van de Vuurst, P., Svenning, J.C., **Escobar, L.E.**, Gonçalves-Souza, T. (2023) Poverty and habitat loss are key predictors of neglected tropical diseases in Brazil. *INFECTIOUS DISEASES OF POVERTY*. 12:32 doi: [10.1186/s40249-023-01084-1](https://doi.org/10.1186/s40249-023-01084-1) (IF 5.5, Q1)
Featured in BioMed Central "[BugBitten Blog: NTDs, poverty, and ecosystem destruction. Predicting disease risk and breaking the poverty trap](#)"

97. Brown, N., **Escobar, L.E.*** (2023) The diet of the common vampire bat (*Desmodus rotundus*), the main rabies reservoir in Latin America. *MAMMAL BIOLOGY*. 12:1-21. doi: [10.1007/s42991-023-00358-3](https://doi.org/10.1007/s42991-023-00358-3) (IF 2.3, Q2)
96. **Escobar, L.E.***, Velasco-Villa, A., Panayampally, S., Nakazawa, Y., Van de Vuurst, P. (2023) Defining “Spillover transmission” and future avenues of research. *INFECTIOUS DISEASES OF POVERTY*. 12:10. doi: [10.1186/s40249-023-01062-7](https://doi.org/10.1186/s40249-023-01062-7) (IF 5.5, Q1)
95. Di Napoli, C., Romanello, M., Minor, K., Chambers, J., Dsgupta, S., **Escobar, L.E.**, Hang, Y., Hannien, R., Liu, Y., Lotto Batista, M., Lowe, R., Murray, K.A., Owfi, F., Rabbaniha, M., Shi, L., Sofiev, M., Tabatabaei, M., Robinson, E.J.Z. (2023) The role of global reanalyses in climate services for health: insights from the Lancet Countdown. *METEOROLOGICAL APPLICATIONS*. 30:e2122. doi: [10.1002/met.2122](https://doi.org/10.1002/met.2122) (IF 2.5, Q2)

2022 (n=5)

94. Van de Vuurst, P., Diaz, M. M., Rodriguez-San Pedro, A., Allendes, J. L., Brown, N., Gutierrez, J. D., . . . **Escobar, L. E.*** (2022). A database of common vampire bat reports. *SCIENTIFIC DATA*. 9:7. doi:[10.1038/s41597-022-01140-9](https://doi.org/10.1038/s41597-022-01140-9) (IF 6.91, Q1)
93. Romanello, M., Di Napoli, C., Drummond, P., Green, C., . . . **Escobar L. E.** . . . Costello, A. (2022) The 2022 Report of The Lancet Countdown on Health and Climate Change. *LANCET*. 400:1619-1654. doi: [10.1016/S0140-6736\(22\)01540-9](https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(22)01540-9) (IF 88.5, Q1)
92. Di Napoli, C., McGushin, A., Romanello, M., Ayeb-Karlsson, S., Cai, W., Chambers, J., . . . Robinson, E. J. (2022). Tracking the impacts of climate change on human health via indicators: lessons from the Lancet Countdown. *BMC PUBLIC HEALTH*. 22:8. doi:[10.1186/s12889-022-13055-6](https://doi.org/10.1186/s12889-022-13055-6) (IF: 4.1, Q1)
Editor's Choice
91. Urushadze, L., Babuadze, G., Shi, M., **Escobar, L. E.**, Mauldin, M. R., Natradeze, I., . . . Velasco-Villa, A. (2022). A Cross Sectional Sampling Reveals Novel Coronaviruses in Bat Populations of Georgia. *VIRUSES-BASEL*, 14(1), 16 pages. doi:[10.3390/v14010072](https://doi.org/10.3390/v14010072) (IF: 3.5, Q2)
90. Peterson, A. T., Aiello-Lammens, M., Amatulli, G., Anderson, R., . . . **Escobar L. E.** . . . Zurell, D. (2022). ENM2020: A free online course and set of resources on modeling species niches and distributions. *BIODIVERSITY INFORMATICS*, 17, 1-9. doi:[10.17161/bi.v17i.15016](https://doi.org/10.17161/bi.v17i.15016) (IF: 6.2, Q1)

2021 (n=11)

89. **Escobar, L. E.**, & Morand, S. (2021). Disease Ecology and Biogeography. *FRONTIERS IN VETERINARY SCIENCE*, 8, 4 pages. doi:[10.3389/fvets.2021.765825](https://doi.org/10.3389/fvets.2021.765825) (IF 2.9, Q1)
88. **Escobar, L. E.***, Carver, S., Cross, P. C., Rossi, L., Almberg, E. S., Yabsley, M. J., . . . Astorga, F. (2021). Sarcoptic mange: An emerging panzootic in wildlife. *TRANSBOUNDARY AND EMERGING DISEASES*. doi:[10.1111/tbed.14082](https://doi.org/10.1111/tbed.14082) (IF: 3, Q1)
87. Castaneda-Guzman, M., Mantilla-Saltos, G., Murray, K. A., Settlege, R., & **Escobar, L. E.*** (2021). A database of global coastal conditions. *SCIENTIFIC DATA*, 8(1), 8 pages. doi:[10.1038/s41597-021-01081-9](https://doi.org/10.1038/s41597-021-01081-9) (IF 6.9, Q1)
86. Winter, S. N., Kirchgessner, M. S., Frimpong, E. A., & **Escobar, L. E.*** (2021). A Landscape Epidemiological Approach for Predicting Chronic Wasting Disease: A Case Study in Virginia, US. *FRONTIERS IN VETERINARY SCIENCE*, 8, 13 pages. doi:[10.3389/fvets.2021.698767](https://doi.org/10.3389/fvets.2021.698767) (IF 2.9, Q1)
85. Van de Vuurst, P., Moore, S. A., Isaac, E. J., Chenaux-Ibrahim, Y., Wolf, T. M., & **Escobar, L. E.** (2021). Current Zoology Reconstructing landscapes of ungulate parturition and predation using vegetation phenology. *CURRENT ZOOLOGY*, 68(3), 275-283. doi:[10.1093/cz/zoab058](https://doi.org/10.1093/cz/zoab058) (IF 2, Q1)
84. Romanello, M., McGushin, A., Di Napoli, C., Drummond, P., . . . **Escobar L. E.** . . . Hamilton, I. (2021). The 2021 report of the Lancet Countdown on health and climate change: code red for a healthy future. *LANCET*, 398(10311), 1619-1662. doi: [10.1016/S0140-6736\(21\)01787-6](https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(21)01787-6). (IF 88.5, Q1)
Featured in 1.2k+ media stories featuring the key messages on health & climate from the publication, including publications in the New York Times, The Economist, BBC Radio 4, El Pais & AFP, across 44 countries worldwide & every continent, reaching more than 1 billion people according to consortium estimates.

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Featured in Smithsonian Magazine “[Wolves Keep Brain Worm–Spreading Deer Away From Moose Populations in Minnesota](#)” and Kanabec County Times “[Wolves might help moose avoid a deadly parasite](#)”.
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27. Cuervo-Robayo A.P., **Escobar L.E.***, Osorio-Olvera L.A., Nori J., Varela S., Martínez-Meyer E., Velásquez-Tibatá J., Rodríguez-Soto C., Munguía M., Castañeda-Álvarez N.P., Lira-Noriega A., Soley-Guardia M., Serra-Díaz J.M., Peterson A.T. (2017) Introducción a los análisis espaciales con énfasis en modelos de nicho ecológico. *BIODIVERSITY INFORMATICS*, 12, 45-57. Retrieved from <https://journals.ku.edu/jbi/article/view/6507> (IF 5.2, Q1).
26. Lepe-López, M. A., Davila, M., Canet, M., Lopez, Y., Flores, E., Davila, A., & **Escobar, L. E.** (2017). Distribution of *Aedes aegypti* and *Aedes albopictus* in Guatemala 2016. *CIENCIA, TECNOLOGÍA Y SALUD*, 4, 1-11. Retrieved from <https://digi.usac.edu.gt/ojsrevistas/index.php/cytes/article/view/239>

2016 (n=8)

25. Qiao, H., Peterson, A. T., Campbell, L. P., Soberon, J., Ji, L., & **Escobar, L. E.*** (2016). NicheA: Creating virtual species and ecological niches in multivariate environmental scenarios. *ECOGRAPHY*, 39(8), 805-813. doi:[10.1111/ecog.01961](https://doi.org/10.1111/ecog.01961) (IF 4.7, Q1)
24. **Escobar, L. E.**, & Craft, M. E. (2016). Advances and limitations of disease biogeography using ecological niche modeling. *FRONTIERS IN MICROBIOLOGY*, 7, 21 pages. doi:[10.3389/fmicb.2016.01174](https://doi.org/10.3389/fmicb.2016.01174) (IF 4.5, Q1)
23. **Escobar, L. E.**, Qiao, H., Phelps, N. B. D., Wagner, C. K., & Larkin, D. J. (2016). Realized niche shift associated with the Eurasian charophyte *Nitellopsis obtusa* becoming invasive in North America. *SCIENTIFIC REPORTS*, 6, 15 pages. doi:[10.1038/srep29037](https://doi.org/10.1038/srep29037) (IF 3.9, Q1)
22. **Escobar, L. E.**, Romero-Alvarez, D., Leon, R., Lepe-López, M. A., Craft, M. E., Borbor-Cordova, M. J., & Svenning, J. -C. (2016). Declining prevalence of disease vectors under climate change. *SCIENTIFIC REPORTS*, 6, 8 pages. doi:[10.1038/srep39150](https://doi.org/10.1038/srep39150) (IF 3.9, Q1)
21. **Escobar, L. E.** (2016). Ecological niche modeling in public health: Five crucial questions. *PAN AMERICAN JOURNAL OF PUBLIC HEALTH*, 40(2), 98. Retrieved from <http://iris.paho.org/xmlui/handle/123456789/31163> (IF 2.2, Q2)
20. Peterson A.T., Osorio J.E, Qiao H. & **Escobar L.E.** (2016) Zika virus, elevation, and transmission risk. *PLOS CURRENTS OUTBREAKS*. 1, 1–9. Retrieved from <http://currents.plos.org/outbreaks/index.html%3Fp=67728.html>
19. **Escobar, L. E.**, Qiao, H., & Peterson, A. T. (2016). Forecasting Chikungunya spread in the Americas via data-driven empirical approaches. *PARASITES & VECTORS*, 9, 12 pages. doi:[10.1186/s13071-016-1403-y](https://doi.org/10.1186/s13071-016-1403-y) (IF 3.5, Q1)
18. Poo-Munoz, D. A., Elizondo-Patrone, C., **Escobar, L. E.**, Astorga, F., Bermudez, S. E., Martinez-Valdebenito, C., ... Medina-Vogel, G. (2016). Fleas and ticks in carnivores from a domestic-wildlife interface: Implications for public health and wildlife. *JOURNAL OF MEDICAL ENTOMOLOGY*, 53(6), 1433-1443. doi:[10.1093/jme/tjw124](https://doi.org/10.1093/jme/tjw124) (IF 3.6, Q2)

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17. **Escobar, L. E.**, Awan, M. N., & Qiao, H. (2015). Anthropogenic disturbance and habitat loss for the red-listed Asiatic black bear (*Ursus thibetanus*): Using ecological niche modeling and nighttime light satellite imagery. *BIOLOGICAL CONSERVATION*, 191, 400-407. doi:[10.1016/j.biocon.2015.06.040](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.biocon.2015.06.040) (IF 4.4, Q1)
16. **Escobar, L. E.**, Restif, O., Yung, V., Favi, M., Pons, D. J., & Medina-Vogel, G. (2015). Spatial and temporal trends of bat-borne rabies in Chile. *EPIDEMIOLOGY AND INFECTION*, 143(7), 1486-1494. doi:[10.1017/S095026881400226X](https://doi.org/10.1017/S095026881400226X) (IF 2.5, Q2)

15. **Escobar, L. E.**, Peterson, A. T., Papes, M., Favi, M., Yung, V., Restif, O., Medina-Vogel, G. (2015). Ecological approaches in veterinary epidemiology: Mapping the risk of bat-borne rabies using vegetation indices and night-time light satellite imagery. *VETERINARY RESEARCH*, 46, 10 pages. doi:[10.1186/s13567-015-0235-7](https://doi.org/10.1186/s13567-015-0235-7) (IF 3.5, Q1)
14. **Escobar, L. E.**, Ryan, S. J., Stewart-Ibarra, A. M., Finkelstein, J. L., King, C. A., Qiao, H., & Polhemus, M. E. (2015). A global map of suitability for coastal *Vibrio cholerae* under current and future climate conditions. *ACTA TROPICA*, 149, 202-211. doi:[10.1016/j.actatropica.2015.05.028](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.actatropica.2015.05.028) (IF 2.5, Q1)
Featured in Popular Science June 2015 (<https://www.popsci.com/looming-8th-pandemic-climate-change-and-cholera>)
13. **Escobar, L. E.**, Peterson, A. T., Favi, M., Yung, V., & Medina-Vogel, G. (2015). Bat-borne rabies in Latin America. *REVISTA DO INSTITUTO DE MEDICINA TROPICAL DE SAO PAULO*, 57(1), 63-72. doi:[10.1590/S0036-46652015000100009](https://doi.org/10.1590/S0036-46652015000100009) (IF 1.7, Q3)
12. **Escobar, L. E.**, Juarez, C., Medina-Vogel, G., & Gonzalez, C. M. (2015). First report on bat mortalities on wind farms in Chile. *GAYANA*, 79(1), 11-17. doi:[10.4067/S0717-65382015000100003](https://doi.org/10.4067/S0717-65382015000100003) (IF 0.4, Q4)
11. **Escobar, L. E.**, Yung, V., Vargas-Rodriguez, R., Medina-Vogel, G., & Favi, M. (2015). Wildlife veterinarians rabies vaccination in Chile: A survey. *REVISTA CHILENA DE INFECTOLOGIA*, 32(3), 289-293. doi:[10.4067/S0716-10182015000400006](https://doi.org/10.4067/S0716-10182015000400006) (IF 0.2, Q4)
10. Astorga, F., **Escobar, L. E.**, Poo-Munoz, D. A., & Medina-Vogel, G. (2015). Dog ownership, abundance and potential for bat-borne rabies spillover in Chile. *PREVENTIVE VETERINARY MEDICINE*, 118(4), 397-405. doi:[10.1016/j.prevetmed.2015.01.002](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.prevetmed.2015.01.002) (IF 2.4, Q1)
9. Astorga, F., Poo-Munoz, D. A., **Escobar, L. E.**, & Medina-Vogel, G. (2015). In response to: "Increased dog population and potential for bat-borne rabies spillover in Chile in response to "Dog management, abundance and potential for bat-borne rabies spillover in Chile" by Astorga et al. [Prev. Vet. Med. 118:397-405]" by Acosta-Jammet, G.. *PREVENTIVE VETERINARY MEDICINE*, 120(2), 248-249. doi:[10.1016/j.prevetmed.2015.04.002](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.prevetmed.2015.04.002) (IF 2.4, Q1)

2014 (n=3)

8. **Escobar, L. E.**, Lira-Noriega, A., Medina-Vogel, G., & Peterson, A. T. (2014). Potential for spread of the white-nose fungus (*Pseudogymnoascus destructans*) in the Americas: use of Maxent and NicheA to assure strict model transference. *GEOSPATIAL HEALTH*, 9(1), 221-229. doi:[10.4081/gh.2014.19](https://doi.org/10.4081/gh.2014.19) (IF 0.9, Q2)
7. Tocchio, L. J., Gurgel-Goncalves, R., **Escobar, L. E.**, & Peterson, A. T. (2015). Niche similarities among white-eared opossums (Mammalia, Didelphidae): Is ecological niche modelling relevant to setting species limits? *ZOOLOGICA SCRIPTA*, 44(1), 1-10. doi:[10.1111/zsc.12082](https://doi.org/10.1111/zsc.12082) (IF 2, Q1)
6. Poo-Munoz, D. A., **Escobar, L. E.**, Peterson, A. T., Astorga, F., Organ, J. F., & Medina-Vogel, G. (2014). *Galictis cuja* (Mammalia): An update of current knowledge and geographic distribution. *IHERINGIA SERIE ZOOLOGIA*, 104(3), 341-346. doi:[10.1590/167-476620141043341346](https://doi.org/10.1590/167-476620141043341346) (IF 0.7, Q4)

2013 (n=3)

5. **Escobar, L. E.**, Peterson, A. T., Favi, M., Yung, V., Pons, D. J., & Medina-Vogel, G. (2013). Ecology and geography of transmission of two bat-borne rabies lineages in Chile. *PLOS NEGLECTED TROPICAL DISEASES*, 7(12), 10 pages. doi:[10.1371/journal.pntd.0002577](https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pntd.0002577) (IF 3.4, Q1)
4. **Escobar, L. E.***, & Peterson, A. T. (2013). Spatial epidemiology of bat-borne rabies in Colombia. *PAN AMERICAN JOURNAL OF PUBLIC HEALTH*, 34(2), 135-136. Retrieved from <http://gateway.webofknowledge.com/> (IF 2.2, Q2)
3. de Oliveira, S. V., **Escobar, L. E.**, Peterson, A. T., & Gurgel-Goncalves, R. (2013). Potential geographic distribution of hantavirus reservoirs in Brazil. *PLOS ONE*, 8(12), 8 pages. doi:[10.1371/journal.pone.0085137](https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0085137) (IF 2.6, Q2)

2011 (n=2)

2. **Escobar, L. E.***, Álvarez, D., Villatoro, F. J., Morán, D., & Estévez, A. (2011). Two new flea records from Guatemala: *Pulex simulans* and *Echidnophaga gallinacea* (Siphonaptera: Pulicidae), and their host-parasite relationship. *JOURNAL OF PARASITOLOGY AND VECTOR BIOLOGY*, 3, 40-43. doi:[10.5897/JPV.B](https://doi.org/10.5897/JPV.B)

1. **Escobar, L. E.*** (2011). Avian flu and Newcastle antibodies in Great-tailed Grackles (*Quiscalus mexicanus*) in Guatemala City. *REVISTA ELECTRONICA DE VETERINARIA*, 12, 1. Retrieved from <https://www.researchgate.net/>

Articles under review (4)

* corresponding, Student

1. Hernandez-Mazariegos WC, Torres FI, Rodriguez M, Ibanez CM, **Escobar LE***, Villatoro FJ. Household factors influencing cockroach infestations. *PLOS ONE*. In revision. (IF 2.6, Q2)
2. Poo-Muñoz D, Astorga F, **Escobar LE**, Qiao H, Medina-Vogel G. Drivers of dog presence in a Mediterranean biodiversity hotspot in South America. *GAYANA*. In revision. (0.4, Q4)
3. Powell-Romero F, **Escobar LE**, Clark NJ, Bevins S, Fountain-Jones N. Unravelling subtype-specific drivers of Influenza A in wild bird hosts with multi-response machine learning. *MOLECULAR ECOLOGY*. Rejected.
4. Brennan RN, Palma E, Paulson S, **Escobar LE***, Environmental and Evolutionary Drivers of Viral and Parasite Diversity. *PLoS NTD*. 2024 (IF 3.4, Q1)

Articles in progress (3)

1. Rojas-Sereno ZE, Pierce K, Kirchgessner MS, Ramirez-Barrios R, Astorga F, **Escobar LE***. Mange in American Black Bears in Virginia, USA.
2. Robles A, **Escobar LE***. Finding the missing links. Predicting host-virus interactions in endemic rodents in North America with an enhanced machine learning framework.
3. Sarmiento-Arias KD, Soler-Tovar D, Mahecha-J O, **Escobar LE***. Body size variability of *Desmodus rotundus* (Chiroptera: Phyllostomidae) in relation to geographic and climatic factors.

Invited Keynote Speaker (5)

5. **Escobar LE**. (2021) "Infectious Diseases and Climate Change." Iran Launch of the 2021 The Lancet Countdown Report on Climate Change and Health. Iran University of Medical Sciences, Tehran, Iran. 11/15/21.
4. **Escobar LE**. (2021) "Biogeography of Zoonotic Wildlife Diseases." Ecology and Evolutionary Biology Symposium. Ecology and Evolutionary Biology Society of Turkey. Istanbul, Turkey. 08/20/21.
3. **Escobar, L. E.** (2020) "Ecoinformatics in Times of COVID-19" XI Congress of Biochemistry and Microbiology, University del Valle, Guatemala City, Guatemala. 24-28/08/20
2. **Escobar, L.E.** (2019) "Global Change and Infectious Diseases in Latin America." V Meeting of Agrosociences and Graduate Studies, La Salle University, Bogota, Colombia. 19/07/19
1. **Escobar, L. E.** (2014) "Rabies in Latin America." International Meeting for Research on Infectious Disease, Pontific Catholic University of Ecuador. Quito, Ecuador. 21-23/07/14

Seminars by Invitation (67)

67. **Escobar LE**. (2025) "Navigating Graduate School in the Animal Sciences". Direccion General de Investigacion & Facultad de Medicina Veterinaria y Zootecnia, Universidad de San Carlos, Guatemala. Oct/23/2025
66. **Escobar LE**. (2025) "Applications of Biogeography in the Animal Sciences". Direccion General de Investigacion & Facultad de Medicina Veterinaria y Zootecnia, Universidad de San Carlos, Guatemala. Oct/22/2025
65. **Escobar LE**. (2025) "Addressing complex problems from an international and interdisciplinary perspective". Latin American Graduate Student Association, Virginia Tech, Virginia. Oct/10/2025
64. **Escobar LE**. (2025) "A sabbatical journey studying wildlife disease". Pandemic Prediction and Prevention Destination Area, Virginia Tech, Virginia. Oct/3/2025
63. **Escobar LE**. (2025) "My Research Leave: A Remarkable Year of Adventures and Growth". Fralin Life Science Institute, Virginia Tech, Virginia. Sept/05/2025
62. **Escobar LE**. (2025) "Biogeography of Hantavirus". Facultad de Recursos Naturales, Universidad de La Frontera, Temuco, Chile. March 11/2025
61. **Escobar LE**. (2025) "Applications of Biogeography to Advance Epidemiology in a Changing World" CReSA (Animal Health Research Center), IRTA, Universidad Autonoma de Barcelona, Sabadell, Spain. Feb 14/2025
60. **Escobar LE**. (2024) "Macroecology of Host-parasite Systems". Institute Seminar, Institute of Zoology, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Beijing, China. 09/27/24

59. **Escobar LE.** (2024) "Biogeography of Wildlife Diseases". Sun Yat-sen University School of Medicine, Shenzhen, China. 09/08/24
58. **Escobar LE.** (2024) "Ecology and Geography of Rabies in Vampire Bats in Latin America ". Faculty of Science, The University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong, China. 09/06/24
57. **Escobar LE.** (2024) "Exploring Climate Change and Health Using Biogeography". Frontier Forum on Global Change Ecology, Beijing, China. 09/21/24
56. **Escobar LE.** (2024) "Ecology of Zoonotic Wildlife Diseases". One Health Seminars, Universidad Andres Bello, Santiago, Chile. 05/24/24
55. Van de Vuurst P & **Escobar LE.** (2024). "Climate Change and Infectious Diseases: A Review of Evidence". Presented: ADA Innovate International Conference on the Greenhouse Effect and Climate Change: 200 Years since Joseph Fourier, Cardiff, United Kingdom. 07/12/2024
54. **Escobar LE.** (2024) "Using Biogeography to Study Climate Change and Pathogen Spillover". Center for Infectious Disease Dynamics, The Pennsylvania State University, University Park, PA. 04/02/24
53. Van de Vuurst P & **Escobar LE.** (2023). "Climate Change and Infectious Diseases". 13th World Society of Pediatric Infectious Diseases Conference, Durban, South Africa.
52. **Escobar LE.** (2023) "Disease Biogeography". Ecology & Evolutionary Biology Seminar. College of Arts & Sciences, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN. 09/22/23
51. **Escobar LE.** (2022) "Linkages Between Climate Change, Zoonotic Diseases, and Wild Life" Distinguished Speaker Seminar Series in Infectious Diseases. Center for Emerging, Zoonotic and Arthropod-borne Pathogens, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA 09/15/22
50. **Escobar LE.** (2022) "Disease Biogeography in Aquatic and Terrestrial Ecosystems." Department seminar, Department of Biology, University of North Carolina Greensboro. Greensboro, NC. 3/2/22
49. **Escobar LE.** (2022) "Climate change and human health in the Mid-Atlantic region" Climate Forum, District of Columbia Commission on Climate Change & Resiliency. Washington D.C. 1/8/22
48. **Escobar LE.** (2021) "Wildlife Diseases of Human Risk" Virginia Forest Summit. Harrisonburg, VA. 9/29/21
47. **Escobar LE.** (2021) "Ecology of Wildlife Diseases: A Career Path" Public Veterinary Practice Club, Virginia Tech. Blacksburg, VA. 9/23/21
46. **Escobar LE.** (2020) "Macroecology to Trace Emerging Infectious Disease" Odum School of Ecology, University of Georgia. 10/20/20 (Seminar speaker, lunch meeting with students, one in one meeting with faculty)
45. **Escobar LE.** (2020) "Tuberculosis vaccination and COVID-19 cross-protection" 51st Union World Conference on Lung Health. 20-24 October 2020. Invitations to serve as a Presenter and in the Meet the Expert session. [Declined to prioritize other academic activities interrupted due to COVID-19 including proposals writing].
44. **Escobar LE.** (2020) "Assessment of Student Learning" Course Design Clinic, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Blacksburg, VA. 08/11/20
43. **Escobar LE.** (2020) "Induced Immunity and COVID-19" Seminar Series, School of Veterinary Medicine, University Mariano Galvez, Guatemala City, Guatemala. 08/14/20 (Seminar speaker, lunch meeting with students, one in one meeting with faculty)
42. **Escobar LE.** (2020) "Bat-borne Diseases" Seminar Series, Bats Conservation Program, Santiago, Chile. 08/07/20
41. **Escobar LE.** (2020) "Induced Immunity and COVID-19" Seminar Series, College of Veterinary Medicine, University of San Carlos, Guatemala City, Guatemala. 06/16/20
40. **Escobar LE.** (2020) "Assessment of Student Learning" Course Design Clinic, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Blacksburg, VA. 06/18/20
39. **Escobar LE.** (2020) "The Origins of Pandemics, a One Health Approach" Seminar Series, College of Veterinary Medicine and Agriculture, Universidad de Las Americas, Santiago, Chile. 05/13/20
38. **Escobar LE.** (2020) "The Role of Parasites in Ecosystems" Seminar Series, School of Veterinary Medicine, Universidad Mayor, Temuco, Chile. 05/18/20
37. **Escobar LE.** (2020) "COVID-19 and Veterinary Medicine" Symposium: Challenges of Veterinary Sciences in the XXI Century. College of Veterinary Medicine, Universidad Cooperativa, Ibagué, Colombia. 11/26/20 (Seminar speaker)

36. **Escobar LE.** (2020) "Macroecology to Trace Emerging Infectious Disease" Center for Emerging, Zoonotic and Arthropod-borne Pathogens, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA 10/20/20 [via Zoom] (inaugural Seminar speaker)
35. **Escobar LE.** (2020) "The Origin of Pandemic, a One Health Approach" Symposium, College of Veterinary Medicine, Universidad de Los Andes, Santiago, Chile. Online due to COVID-19.
34. **Escobar LE.** (2020) "No Epidemic Makes Sense Except in the Light of Evolution" Lecturer Series, Biology Department, Radford University, Radford, VA. Cancelled due to COVID-19.
33. **Escobar LE.** (2020) "Climate Change and Health." Virginia Tech for Climate Justice, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Blacksburg, VA. Online due to COVID-19. <https://www.facebook.com/watch/VTforClimateJustice/586258368673362/>
32. **Escobar LE.** (2020) "An Ecological Framework for Modeling the Geography of Disease Transmission" Population Health and Pathobiology Forum, College of Veterinary Medicine, North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC. 1/27/20
31. **Escobar LE.** (2019) "Vector-borne Diseases and Climate Change" Seminar Series, Department of Entomology, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Blacksburg, VA. 10/12/19 (Seminar speaker, lunch meeting with students, one in one meeting with faculty)
30. **Escobar LE.** (2019) "The Mangle Pandemic." Convergencia, San Carlos University, Guatemala City, Guatemala. 7/23/19
29. **Escobar LE.** (2019) "The Mangle Pandemic in Wildlife." V Meeting of Agrosciences and Graduate Studies, La Salle University, Bogota, Colombia. 7/19/19
28. **Escobar LE.** (2019) "Health, Microbiology, and Biotechnology." Convergencia, Del Valle University, Guatemala City, Guatemala. 7/24/19
27. **Escobar LE.** (2019) "Water-sensitive infectious diseases and climate change." 2019 Microbiology at the Nexus of Food, Energy, Water, and Health Systems (MicroFEWHS) Mini-symposium, Virginia Tech. Blacksburg, VA. 5/6/19
26. **Escobar LE.** (2019) "Parasite Spillover Between Invasive and Native Species." Global Change Center Annual Retreat, Virginia Tech. Blacksburg, VA. 3/1/19
25. **Escobar LE.** (2019) "The Mangle Pandemic in Wildlife." Convergencia, University Mariano Galvez, Guatemala City, Guatemala. 7/25/19
24. **Escobar LE.** (2019) "Modeling Water-borne Diseases Under Future Climate Conditions" Seminar Series, Department of Mathematics, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Blacksburg, VA. 10/02/19
23. **Escobar LE.** 2018. "Ecology and Geography of Infectious Diseases" University Del Valle and Convergencia 2018. Guatemala City, Guatemala. 7/24/19
22. **Escobar LE.** 2018. "Infectious Diseases Biogeography" MPE Workshop on Global Change and Vector-borne Diseases: Mapping Emerging Infectious Diseases. George Mason University, Fairfax, VA, USA. 8/13-15/18
21. **Escobar LE.** (2018) "Disease Biogeography." National Science Foundation-National Science Foundation China (NSF-NSFC) Workshop on Frontiers of Ecology and Evolution of Infectious Diseases. UC Berkeley, CA, USA.
20. **Escobar LE.** (2018) "The Macroecology of Infectious Diseases." DIMACS Center for Discrete Mathematics and Theoretical Computer Science, NSF, Mapping Emerging Infectious Diseases. Fairfax, VA.
19. **Escobar LE.** (2018) "Biogeography of Infectious Diseases." Faculty of Biology and Pharmacy, University of San Carlos, Convergencia 2018, Guatemala City, Guatemala. 7/25/19
18. **Escobar LE.** 2018. "Disease Biogeography" Center for Health Studies, Seminar Series. University Del Valle, Guatemala City, Guatemala.
17. **Escobar LE.** (2018) "Mathematics vs. biology: Limitations to predict the effects of climate change" Third International Symposium of Research and Innovation. International University SEK. Quito, Ecuador.
16. **Escobar LE.** (2018) "Disease Ecology and Biogeography" The Wildlife Society, Virginia Tech Student Chapter. Blacksburg, VA.
15. **Escobar LE.** (2018) "One Health, Examples from Latin America" Seminar Series. International Lecturers. University of San Carlos. Zacapa, Guatemala.
14. **Escobar LE.** (2018) "Disease Biogeography." University Del Valle. Guatemala City, Guatemala.

13. **Escobar LE.** (2018) "Mapping Infectious Diseases." Metropolitan University Center, University of San Carlos and ConverCiencia, Guatemala City, Guatemala. 7/26/19
12. **Escobar LE,** Romero-Alvarez D, Phelps N. (2016). "Aquatic Invasive Species: *Nitellopsis obtusa*." University of Minnesota Spatial Forum. University of Minnesota. Minneapolis, USA.
11. **Escobar LE.** (2016) "Vector Borne Diseases in the Americas." International Meeting for Research on Infectious Disease. Quito, Ecuador.
10. **Escobar LE.** (2016) "Reconstructing the Spread of Chikungunya in the Americas." Congress of Transmissible Diseases. Quito, Ecuador.
9. **Escobar LE,** Phelps N. (2016) "Network Analysis in Biological Invasions" Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center. University of Minnesota. Saint Paul, USA.
8. **Escobar LE,** Phelps N. (2015) "Modeling Aquatic Invasive Species." Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center. University of Minnesota. Saint Paul, USA.
7. **Escobar LE.** (2015) "Advances in Epidemiological Research." Annual Meeting of the Guatemalan Veterinary Society. Guatemala City, Guatemala.
6. **Escobar LE.** (2015) "Climate Change and Water Sensitive Diseases." Escuela Superior Politecnica del Litoral. Guayaquil, Ecuador.
5. **Escobar LE,** Medina-Vogel G. (2013) "Bat-borne Rabies in Chile." Universidad Iberoamericana, Chile.
4. **Escobar LE,** Peterson AT, Favi M, Yung V, Pons DJ, Medina-Vogel G. (2013) "Bat-borne Rabies in Chile." Institute of Public Health. Santiago, Chile.
3. **Escobar LE.** (2012) "Bat-borne Rabies in Chile." Universidad de Chile. Santiago, Chile.
2. **Escobar LE.** (2011) "Bat-borne Rabies in Chile." Institute of Public Health. Santiago, Chile.
1. **Escobar LE.** (2011) "An Introduction to Mendeley." Mendeley Webinar. Central and South America.

Oral Presentation from Abstract (54)

2025 (n=1)

54. **Brennan RN,** Paulson S, **Escobar LE.** Environmental, genetic, and geographic drivers of host-parasite relationships in the hantavirus system. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Coronavirus and Other Respiratory Viruses Division Meeting (CORVD), Atlanta, Georgia, June 2025.

2024 (n=3)

53. **Brennan RN,** **Escobar LE.** Ecological and phylogenetic factors of hantavirus spillover in Chile. VI Congreso Latinoamericano de Mastozoología. Universidad Santo Tomás, Santiago, Chile, October 2024.
52. **Paansri P,** **Escobar LE,** (2024). The long-term ecological observations: a case study of rodent niche-centroid hypothesis. 4th National and the 2nd International MJU-Phrae Conference, Maejo University Phrae Campus. Phrae Nakara Hotel, Phrae, Thailand.
51. **Van de Vuurst P,** Rist C, Medina Rodriguez T, Osejo Varona AF, **Escobar LE.** (2024) Using Ecological Niche Modeling and Biogeography for Preventing Bat Borne Rabies. International Society of Biogeography. Prague.

2023 (n=9)

50. **Hughes CJ,** **Escobar LE,** Frimpong EA, Haas CA. (2023). Exploring Bog Turtle Habitat Using Retrospective Microclimatic Data. Southern Bog Turtle Population Meeting hosted at Bent Creek Forestry Research and Training Center, Ashville, NC.
49. **Hughes CJ,** **Escobar LE,** (2023) A Synthesis Work on Climate Change and Coastal Ecosystem Health. Center for Emerging, Zoonotic and Arthropod-borne Pathogens Symposium, Blacksburg, VA.
48. **Hughes CJ,** **Van de Vuurst P,** **Escobar LE.** (2023) The Escobar Lab: Disease Ecology and Biogeography. Steger Work in Progress Seminar. Blacksburg, VA.
47. **Islam S,** and **Escobar LE.** 2023. Trait-based modelling of predator-prey dynamics in vampire bat rabies endemic countries. Center for Emerging, Zoonotic, and Arthropod-borne Pathogens Symposium 2023. October 6, 2023, Blacksburg, Virginia Tech., USA.
46. Muller JA, **Lopez K,** **Escobar LE,** Augustine AJ. Ecological Niche Models of Cache Valley Virus; an emerging Orthobunyavirus in North America. Center for Emerging, Zoonotic, and Arthropod-borne Pathogens Research Symposium; Blacksburg, Virginia, October 6, 2023.
45. **Soler-Tovar D,** **Castaneda-Guzman M,** **Escobar LE.** (2023) Geographical Distribution of Rabies Transmitted

by the Common Vampire Bat (*Desmodus rotundus*) In Cattle in the Americas. XXXIII Rabies In The Americas (RITA). Mexico.

44. Sarmiento-Arias KD, Soler-Tovar D, **Escobar LE**. (2023). Evaluation of the Bergmann's Rule in disease ecology. VI Wildlife Disease Association – Latin American Meeting. November 16, 2023. Antigua Guatemala, Guatemala.

43. Avila Vargas LV, Soler-Tovar D, **Escobar LE**. (2023). Use of anticoagulants to control paralytic rabies and common vampire bat (*Desmodus rotundus*) populations: Historical analysis and perspectives. XXXIV Rabies In The Americas (RITA). October 16-20, 2023. Bogota, Colombia. (Won best oral presentation)

42. **Escobar LE**. (2023). Sarna, una panzootia en vida silvestre. VI Wildlife Disease Association – Latin American Meeting. November 16, 2023. Antigua Guatemala, Guatemala.

2022 (n=12)

41. Soler-Tovar D, Castaneda-Guzaman M, **Escobar LE**. (2022). Geographical Distribution of Rabies Transmitted by the Common Vampire Bat (*Desmodus rotundus*) In Cattle in the Americas. Rabies in the Americas (RITA). Mexico.

40. Merino-Olivella S, Sanchez-Bonilla MP, **Escobar LE**, Correa-Valencia M. (2022) The New Epidemiology of Rabies in the Colombian Andes: Recent Cat-Related Human Cases. XXXIII Rabies In The Americas (RITA). Mexico.

39. Castaneda-Guzman M, **Escobar LE**. (2022) "Modeling *Vibrio cholerae* transmission risk in aquatic ecosystems using a density-based clustering algorithm" 2022 Infectious Diseases Symposium. Center for Emerging, Zoonotic and Arthropod-borne Pathogens, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA.

38. Van de Vuurst P, Velasco-Villa A, Nakazawa Y, **Escobar LE**. (2022) "Defining "Spillover Transmission" and Future Avenues of Research" 2022 Infectious Diseases Symposium. Center for Emerging, Zoonotic and Arthropod-borne Pathogens, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA 10/07/22

37. Van de Vuurst P, **Escobar LE**. (2022) "Research equity in climate change and disease research" 2022 Infectious Diseases Symposium. Center for Emerging, Zoonotic and Arthropod-borne Pathogens, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA.

36. **Escobar LE**. (2022) "Global Monkeypox Spread Due to Increased Air Travel" 2022 Infectious Diseases Symposium. Center for Emerging, Zoonotic and Arthropod-borne Pathogens, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA.

35. **Escobar LE**. (2022) "Wildlife Diseases in Virginia: What Every Wildlife Professional Needs to Know About Sarcoptic Mange." 2022 Annual Meeting Virginia Chapter of The Wildlife Society. Waynesboro, VA.

34. Guarda Miranda JP, Pereyra E, LeCuyer T, Castaneda-Guzman M, **Escobar LE**, Gleich T, Logan W, Ramirez-Barrios R. (2022) High Prevalence of *Trypanosoma cruzi* in Hunting Dogs of Virginia and West Virginia. Preliminary results. 66th Annual Meeting of the American Association of Veterinary Parasitologists (AAVP). Snowbird, UT.

33. Wolf TM, Oliveira-Santos LGR, Severud WJ, Forester JD, Isaac EJ, Chenaux-Ibrahim Y, Garwood T, **Escobar LE**, Moore SA. (2022) Grey Wolves Reduce *Parelaphostrongylus tenuis* Transmission Risk from White-Tailed Deer to Moose. International Wolf Symposium, International Wolf Center. Minneapolis, MN.

32. Van de Vuurst P, Qiao H, **Escobar LE**. (2022) "Climate Change Effects on Wildlife-disease Reservoirs: The Emblematic Case of Wildlife Rabies." Annual Meeting Virginia Chapter of The Wildlife Society. Waynesboro, VA.

31. Castaneda-Guzman M, Kirchgessner M, **Escobar LE**. (2022) "Wildlife Disease in Virginia: What Every Wildlife Professional Needs to Know About CWD." 2022 Annual Meeting Virginia Chapter of The Wildlife Society. Waynesboro, VA.

2021 (n=3)

30. Van de Vuurst P, Qiao H, **Escobar LE**. (2021) "Resolving the Distributional Ecology of *Desmodus rotundus* Under Climate Change." XXXII Rabies In The Americas (RITA). Brazil.

29. Cediell N, **Escobar LE**, Soler-Tovar D, Restrepo D, Ruiz-Sáenz J. (2021). Rabies control program in Colombia: An evaluation for further One Health implementation. XXXII Rabies In The Americas (RITA). Brazil.

28. Wolf TM, Oliveira-Santos LGR, Severud WJ, Forester JD, Isaac EJ, Chenaux-Ibrahim Y, Garwood T, **Escobar LE**, Moore SA. (2021) Grey Wolves Reduce *Parelaphostrongylus tenuis* Transmission Risk from White-Tailed Deer to Moose. 54th North American Moose Conference, University of Minnesota. Saint Paul, MN.

2019 (n=1)

28. **Escobar LE**. (2019) "The Risks of Modeling the Potential Distribution of Ticks Under Future Climate." Tick Summit VIII. Center for Zoonotic and Vector-borne Diseases. Maryland Department of Health. Laurel, MD.

2018 (n=4)

27. **Oubre M, Escobar LE, Larson P**. (2018). "Habitat Suitability for Four Species of Invasive Carp in the Minnesota River, South-Central, Minnesota." USA. American Fisheries Society. Atlantic City, NJ.

26. **Escobar LE, Qiao H**. (2018) "A Theoretical Framework to Forecast Biological Invasions." International Biogeography Society, Climate Change Biogeography. Evora, Portugal.

25. **Qiao H, Escobar LE**. (2018) "Ecological Niche Modeling Design and Interpretation." International Biogeography Society, Climate Change Biogeography. Evora, Portugal.

24. **Machado G, Peterson AT, Qiao H, Escobar LE**. (2018) "Machine learning to find hotspots of vector-borne diseases." PREventing Emerging Pathogenic Threats (PREEMPT). DARPA, Department of Defense. Arlington, VA.

2017 (n=4)

23. **Romero-Alvarez D, Lepe-Lopez MA, León R, Borbor-Cordova M, Escobar LE**. (2017) "Climate change may decline prevalence of disease vectors in Ecuador." 66th Annual Meeting of the American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene (ASTMH). Baltimore, MD.

22. **Oubre M, Escobar LE, Larson P**. (2017) "VHS virus in Fish of the Great Lakes." American Fisheries Society 147th Annual Meeting. Tampa, FL.

21. **Feng X, Qiao H, Escobar LE, et al**. (2017). "An Evaluation of Model Transferability" 8th Biennial Conference of the International Biogeography Society. Tucson, AZ.

20. **Escobar LE, Escobar-Dodero J, Phelps N**. (2017). "Biogeography of Diseases in Fish." 8th Biennial Conference of the International Biogeography Society. Tucson, AZ.

2016 (n=6)

19. **Lepe-López MA, Escobar LE et al**. (2016) "Distributional Ecology of *Aedes* Mosquitoes in Guatemala" I International Congress of Veterinary Sciences and Zootechny. Olancho, Honduras.

18. **Escobar LE, et al**. (2016) "Distributional Ecology of VHS virus in Freshwater Fish" Ecological Society of America. Fort Lauderdale, FL.

17. **Escobar LE, et al**. (2016) "Climate Change and Vector-borne Diseases in Ecuador" International Meeting for Research on Infectious Disease. Quito, Ecuador.

16. **Romero-Alvarez D, Escobar LE, et al**. (2016) "Risk of Zika virus Transmission Across Elevations in Latin America" International Meeting for Research on Infectious Disease. Quito, Ecuador.

15. **Escobar LE, et al**. (2016) "Epidemiology of VHS virus in Fish of the Great Lakes" Western Fish Disease Workshop and AFS Fish Health. Jackson Hole, WY.

14. **Borbor-Córdoba MJ, Escobar LE et al**. (2016) "Forecasting Harmful Algal Blooms Using Remote Sensing Data" 17th International Conference of Harmful Algal Blooms. Florianopolis, Brazil.

2015 (n=1)

13. **Lepe-López MA, et al., Escobar LE**. (2015) "Risk of Pathogen Spillover from Horses to Tapir in Central America" Peking Forum. Beijing, China.

2014 (n=4)

12. **Escobar LE, Qiao H** (2014) "NicheA, a Novel Tool to Model Ecological Niches and Geographic Distributions" Peking Forum. Beijing, China.

11. **Velasco-Villa A, et al., Escobar LE, Hanlon C**. (2014) "The History of Rabies in the Western Hemisphere" Rabies in the Americas (RITA). Cancun, Mexico.

10. **Escobar LE, et al**. (2014) "Ecoinformatics of Hantavirus in Brazil" Latin-American Network of Molecular Epidemiology and Evolutionary Genetics of Infectious Diseases (LAN MEEGID). Quito, Ecuador.

9. **Poo-Muñoz DA, Escobar LE, et al**. (2014) "Flea-borne Diseases in the Human-wildlife Interface" Latin-American Network of Molecular Epidemiology and Evolutionary Genetics of Infectious Diseases (LAN MEEGID).

Quito, Ecuador.

2013 (n=5)

8. **Escobar LE**. (2013) "Conservation from Heaven: Estimating Pristine areas for Wildlife Conservation Using Satellite-derived Data" Peking Forum. Beijing, China.
7. **Escobar LE, et al.** (2013) "Ecology and Geography of Two Rabies Lineages in Chile" Rabies in the Americas (RITA). Toronto, Canada.
6. **Escobar LE, et al.** (2013) "The Predicted Biogeography of the White-nose Syndrome in Latin America" Wildlife Disease Association. São Paulo, Brazil.
5. **Escobar LE, et al.** (2013) "Forecasting the White-nose Syndrome in Latin America" Student Conference in Conservation Science. Cambridge, United Kingdom.
4. **Escobar LE, et al.** (2013) "Ecology and Geography of Bat-borne Rabies in Chile" Conservation Medicine Symposium. Santiago, Chile.

2012 (n=3)

3. **Escobar LE, et al.** (2012) "Bat-borne Rabies in Latin America" Latin America Congress in Mastozoology. Buenos Aires, Argentina.
2. **Escobar LE, et al.** (2012) "Bat-borne Rabies in Latin America" Universidad de Chile. Santiago, Chile.
1. **Escobar LE, Medina-Vogel G** (2012) "Zoonosis in Chile." Catholic University of Temuco. Temuco, Chile.

Poster Presentation (52)

2025 (n=2; Student)

52. **Hughes C, Haas CA, Escobar LE**. Bog Turtle Conservation Relies on Partnerships with Private Landowners. Southeast Partners for Amphibian and Reptile Conservation (SEPARC) 2025 Meeting, Lake Guntersville State Park, AL. Awarded 2nd Place in Student and Early Career Poster Competition. March 2025.
51. **Brennan RN, Paulson S, Escobar LE**. Generators of parasite diversity: environment, genetics, geography. Institute for Critical Technology and Applied Science, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Blacksburg, Virginia, April 2025.

2024 (n=4)

50. **Paansri P, Escobar LE**, (2024). Niche Overlap and Habitat Shift: Assessing Future Hantavirus Risks. VI Congreso Latinoamericano de Mastozoología. Santiago, Chile.
49. **Brennan RN, Paulson S, Escobar LE**. Estimating pathogen spillover risk using host-ectoparasite interactions. Global Change Center Graduate Symposium, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Blacksburg, Virginia, April 2024.
48. **Paansri P, Escobar LE**, (2024). The abundant niche-centroid of rodents. In the 2024 Pandemic Prediction and Prevention Symposium. Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA, USA.
47. **Sridhar S, Madelón MI, Estallo EL, Ludueña-Almeida F, Escobar LE, Robert MA, Büyüktaktin Toy IE**. (2024). Enhancing Mosquito Control via Machine Learning: An Integrated Climate-Driven Simulation Modeling Approach. CeZAP Symposium, Virginia Tech.

2023 (n=6; Student)

46. **Brennan RN, Paulson S, Escobar LE**. Estimating pathogen spillover risk using host-ectoparasite interactions. Center for Emerging Zoonotic and Arthropod-borne Pathogens Research Symposium, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Blacksburg, Virginia, October 2023.
45. **Islam S, Castaneda-Guzman M, Soler-Tovar D, and Escobar LE**. 2024. Evaluation of ecological niche modeling (ENM) of infectious diseases: A systematic review. 9th Annual Graduate Research Symposium. April 5, 2024, Blacksburg, Virginia Tech, USA.
44. **Brennan R, Escobar LE** (2023). Hantavirus spillover risk in Chile predicted by rodent-ectoparasite relationships. VI Wildlife Disease Association, Latin American Meeting. Antigua Guatemala, Guatemala.
43. **Cifuentes-Rincón A, Sarmientos K, Lozano A, Rodriguez Bolanos A, Soler Tovar D, Escobar LE**. (2023). Morfometría filogenética aplicada a la caracterización de poblaciones de reservorios de virus zoonóticos. VI

Wildlife Disease Association, Latin American Meeting. Antigua Guatemala, Guatemala.

42. Montufar Patiño J, Soler-Tovar D, **Escobar LE**. (2023). Poster: A bibliometric survey of the common vampire bat prey. XXXIV Rabies In The Americas (RITA). October 16-20. Bogota, Colombia.

41. Dong Q, **Escobar LE**. (2023). Sampling Methods for Disease-diversity Relationship Studies in South America. VI Wildlife Disease Association, Latin America. Antigua Guatemala, Guatemala.

40. Montufar Patiño J, Soler-Tovar D, **Escobar LE**. (2023). A bibliometric survey of the common vampire bat prey. XXXIV Rabies In The Americas (RITA). October 16-20, 2023. Bogota, Colombia.

39. Brennan R,* Paulson S., **Escobar LE***. (2023) Connection through parasites: Host-parasite relationships in a rodent-ectoparasite system in Chile. Conference: Institute for Critical Technology and Applied Science, Virginia Tech. Blacksburg, Virginia

2022 (n=4; **Student**)

38. Muller JA, Lopez K, **Escobar LE**, Auguste AJ. (2022) Exploring the potential range of Cache Valley Virus across North America using host, vector, isolates, and sero-positive. Seattle, Washington.

37. Winter SN, Kirchgessner MS, Frimpong EA, **Escobar LE**. (2022) Enhanced Vegetation Index Predicts Chronic Wasting Disease Risk in Virginia White-Tailed Deer. Spokane, Washington.

36. Harp D and **Escobar LE**. (2022) Zoonotic Spillover Research of Vampire Bats Across the Andes Mountains Insights, Virginia Tech. Blacksburg, Virginia.

35. Van de Vuurst P, Qiao H, and **Escobar LE**. (2022) Biogeographic story of vampire bats (*Desmodus rotundus*) reveals synchronic distributional and climatic variation. in Translational Biology, Medicine, and Health - First Year Research - Poster Session, Virginia Tech. Blacksburg, VA.

2021 (n=4; **Student**)

34. Van de Vuurst P, Soler-Tovar D, Díaz MM, Rodríguez-San Pedro A, Allendes JL, Brown N, Gutierrez JD, Zarza H, de Oliveira SV, Cárdenas-Canales E, Barquez JRM, **Escobar LE**. (2021). An updated database of common vampire bat (*Desmodus rotundus*) occurrence data for ecological, public health, and epidemiological research. XXXII Rabies In The Americas (RITA). 26-29 Oct 2021. Brazil.

33. Van de Vuurst P, Moore SA, Isaac EJ, Ibrahim YC, Castaneda-Guzman M, Wolf TM, **Escobar LE**. "Reconstructing landscapes of ungulate depredation." The Wildlife Society, Annual Meeting, 10/01/2020. Awarded Second Place in the GIS and Telemetry in Wildlife poster session.

32. Catalan VJ, Van de Vuurst P, **Escobar LE**. (2021) "Reviewing Taxa: Scoping Research Trends of the Effects of Climate Change on Infectious." Undergraduate Research Expo. May 5th, Virginia Tech, VA.

31. Gaspar-García M, Salarzar R, Lepe M, Cáceres-Cortez RM, **Escobar LE**, Buch M, Ignowh J. (2021) "Inclusion and Representation of Women in Agricultural Education in Guatemala." Women and Gender in Development Virtual Conference, Virginia Tech, VA.

2019 (n=5; **Student**)

30. Enriquez C, **Escobar LE**, Medizabal-Cabrera R. (2019). Ecoepidemiological Analysis of Cutaneous *Leishmaniasis* in Guatemala. Poster session presented at the Congress of Biochemistry and Microbiology of Guatemala, Guatemala City, Guatemala.

29. Van de Vuurst P, **Escobar LE**. (2019) "Sinking Cities: Translocation of Indonesia's Capital to Borneo." Virginia Tech Hazard Research Day, Virginia Tech. Blacksburg, Virginia.

28. Flowers JG, Worsley-Tonks KEL, Fountain-Jones NM, **Escobar LE**. (2019) "Global Geography and Ecology of Rabies Reservoirs." The Wildlife Society. Blacksburg, Virginia.

27. Winter SN, Kirchgessner M, Frimpong E, **Escobar LE**. (2019) "Landscape Ecology of Chronic Wasting." Transdisciplinary Communities Research Symposium, Virginia Tech. Blacksburg, VA.

26. Stormont C, Dominguez E, Van Wick P, Kirchgessner M, **Escobar LE**. "Sarcoptic Mange is an Emerging Threat to Wildlife and Human Welfare." First Annual Fish and Wildlife Research Expo, FiWC, Virginia Tech. Blacksburg, VA.

2018 (n=2; **Student**)

25. Flowers JG, Worsley-Tonks KEL, Fountain-Jones NM, **Escobar LE**. (2018) "Global Geography and Ecology of Rabies Reservoirs." First Annual Fish and Wildlife Research Expo, FiWC, Virginia Tech. Blacksburg, Virginia.

24. Oubre M, **Escobar LE**, Larson P. (2018) "Assessing Habitat Availability for Invasive Bighead Carp in the Minnesota River." Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference. January 28-31 2018 Blacksburg, Virginia.

2017 (n=1; **Student**)

23. Oubre M, **Escobar LE**, Larson P. (2017) "A Framework for Modeling the Risk of Biological Invasions" American Fisheries Society 147th Annual Meeting. Tampa, Florida.

2016 (n=7)

22. Ryan SJ, *et al.* (2016) "Ecology of Pathogenic *Vibrio cholerae* in Coastal Ecuador" American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene. Atlanta, Georgia.

21. **Escobar LE**, *et al.* (2016) "Forecasting the Spread of Diseases in Fish Using Boater Movement Data" Research Day, University of Minnesota. Minneapolis, Minnesota.

20. Vilges de Oliveira S, *et al.* (2016) "Tick-borne Diseases Under Climate Change in Brazil" XIX International Congress for Tropical Medicine and Malaria. Brisbane, Australia.

19. **Escobar LE**, *et al.* (2016) "The Epidemiology of VHS Virus in Freshwater Fish" Ecology and Evolution of Infection & Diseases. Cornell, New York.

18. **Escobar LE**, *et al.* (2016) "The Epidemiology of VHS Virus in Freshwater Fish" International Conference on One Medicine One Science. Minneapolis, Minnesota.

17. **Escobar LE**, *et al.* (2016) "Distributional Ecology of VHS virus in Freshwater Fish of the Great Lakes region" Congress of Transmissible Diseases. Quito, Ecuador.

16. Borbor-Cordova MJ, *et al.* (2016) "Forecasting Harmful Algal Blooms Using Remote Sensing Data" American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene. Philadelphia.

2015 (n=3)

15. de Oliveira Goncalves Ferreira GM, ... **Escobar LE**, *et al.* (2015) "Hantavirus in Brazil" Congresso da Sociedade Brasileira de Medicina Tropical. Fortaleza, Brazil.

14. **Escobar LE**, *et al.* (2015) "Forecasting Infectious Diseases in Fish in the Great Lakes Region" Research Day, University of Minnesota. Saint Paul, Minnesota.

13. **Escobar LE**, *et al.* (2015) "Climate-sensitive Infectious Diseases in Seawaters" American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene, Latin America Section. Lima, Peru.

2014 (n=3)

12. Canto G, ... **Escobar LE**, *et al.* (2014) "Phylogeography of *Tadarida brasiliensis* in South America" Chilean Congress of Veterinary Medicine. Santiago, Chile.

11. **Escobar LE**, *et al.* (2014) "Water-borne Diseases and Climate Change" American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene. New Orleans, Louisiana.

10. Rodriguez-Alvarado YV, ... **Escobar LE**, *et al.* (2014) "Livestock Depredation by Wildlife in Chile" Student Conference in Conservation Science. Cambridge, United Kingdom.

2013 (n=1)

9. Fuentes-Hurtado M, *et al.* (2013) "Phylogeography of the River Otter in Chile" Congreso de la Sociedad Chilena de Evolucion. Lican Ray, Chile.

2012 (n=5)

8. **Escobar LE**, *et al.* (2012) "Bat-borne Rabies Spillover" Chilean Congress of Veterinary Medicine. Valdivia, Chile.

7. **Escobar LE**, *et al.* (2012) "Bat-borne Rabies in Latin America" Reunion Anual de la Sociedad de Botanica de Chile. Concepcion, Chile.

6. Astorga F, ... **Escobar LE**, *et al.* (2012). "Rabies Spillover from Bats to Dogs in Chile" Chilean Congress of Veterinary Medicine. Valdivia, Chile.

5. Poo-Munoz DA, ... **Escobar LE**, *et al.* (2012) "Human-wildlife Conflicts in Chile" Annual Meeting of the Chilean Society of Ecology. Concepcion, Chile.

4. Astorga F, ... **Escobar LE**, *et al.* (2012) "Effects of Anthropogenic Disturbance on Carnivores in a Natural Reserve of Chile" Annual Meeting of the Chilean Society of Ecology. Concepcion, Chile.

2011 (n=2)

3. **Escobar LE, et al.** (2011) "Fleas and in Rodent Communities in Guatemala" Conservation Medicine Symposium. Santiago, Chile.
2. Uribe D, ... **Escobar LE, et al.** (2011) "Bat-borne Rabies in Chile" Conservation Medicine Symposium. Santiago, Chile.

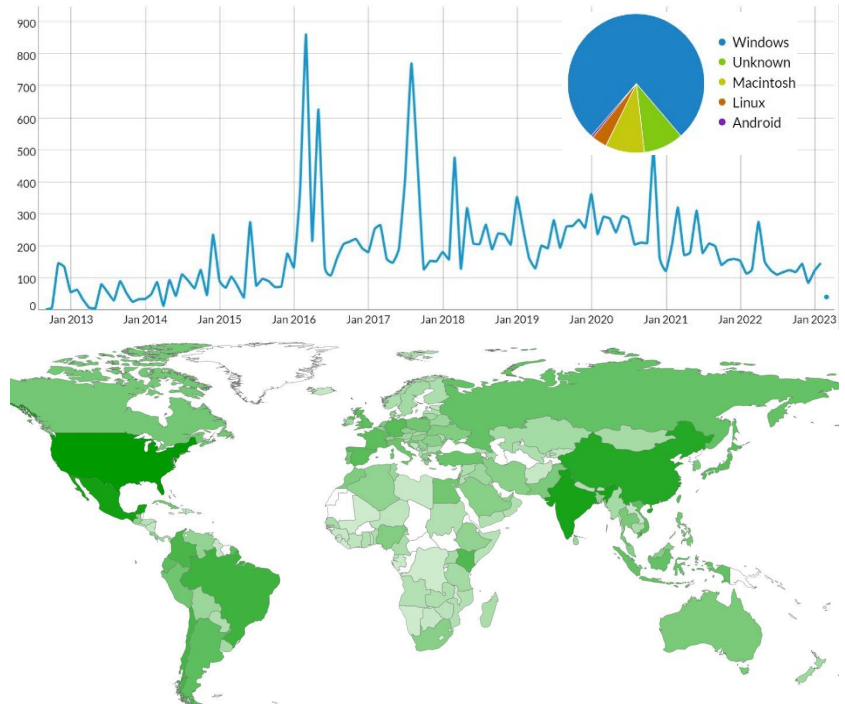
2010 (n=1)

1. Estevez A, ... **Escobar LE, et al.** (2010) "Flea-borne Diseases in Guatemala". Emerging Diseases Conference. Center for Disease Control and Prevention, Atlanta, Georgia

Software (2)

1. Qiao, H., & **Escobar, L.E.** 03/04/2018, "NicheA. Version 3.0.1" Software to reconstruct fundamental niches. Available at <http://nichea.sourceforge.net>

The figure below denotes the temporal trajectory of the NicheA downloads. By September 2025, NicheA has been cited in the scientific literature 240 times and has been downloaded >27,000 times globally for research and teaching. Most installations occurred in Windows and Mac (pie chart), and countries with more downloads include the United States, Mexico, and India (map).



2. **Castaneda-Guzman M, Qiao, H., & Escobar, L.E.** 09/30/2022, "Marble. Version Beta" Software to reconstruct realized niches. In progress.

Funding

External Funding (Total \$10,180,470; Escobar share \$2,479,363)

1. National Institutes of Health, *Mentored Research (K01) Integrative Spatial Epidemiology Study of Wildlife Rabies Spillover*. Award #: 1K01AI168452-01A1. Amount: \$628,340 (Escobar 100%), Principal Investigator: Escobar, 06/28/2023-2028. (This award covers US\$75,000/annual salary + fringes × 5 yrs)
2. Wildlife Conservation Society, *Support for Paanwaris Paansri to Assess the Ecology and Conservation of Large Felids*. Award #: F79161. Amount Awarded: \$51,000 (Escobar \$48,445), Principal Investigator: Escobar, 7/2025-2026. (This award supports a PhD in my lab, + workshop & fieldwork in Thailand)
3. Department of Defense, *DTRA Risk of Emerging Infections from Insectivorous Bats in Ukraine and Georgia*. Award #: HDTRA12110043. Amount Awarded: \$3,154,519 (Escobar \$217,644; 7%), Principal Investigator: Velasco-Villa, 10/01/2023-2026. (Collection/analysis of specimens for pathogen research. Project interrupted due to the Russia-Ukraine war)
2. National Science Foundation, *CAREER: Marshaling NEON Resources to Understand Wildlife Disease Transmission*. Award #: 2235295. Amount Awarded: \$703,986 (Escobar 100%), Principal Investigator: Escobar, 8/01/2023. (Collection/analysis of specimens for pathogen research in the US and Chile)
3. National Science Foundation, *Examining the Geography of Pathogen Spillover*. Award #: 2116748. Amount: Amount Awarded: \$357,749 (Escobar 100%), Principal Investigator: Escobar, 12/01/2021. (Collection/analysis of high-consequence pathogens along elevational gradients in Colombia)
4. Hound Heritage Foundation, *Disease Ecology Study of Chronic Wasting Disease in Virginia*, Award #: 878632. Amount Awarded: \$28,500 (Escobar 100%), Principal Investigator: Escobar, 03/01/2023. (Collection/analysis of specimens for population structure to understand CWD spread)

5. Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources (DWR), *Expanding knowledge of bog turtle distribution across Virginia*, Amount Awarded: \$318,359 (Escobar 100%), Principal Investigator: Escobar, 01/01/2022. (Collection/analysis of specimens for modeling environmentally explicit distributions)
6. Department of Defense, *DTRA Coordinated One Health approach to risk assessment of hemorrhagic fever viruses in West Africa (COHWA)*, Award #: HDTRA12110036. Amount Awarded: \$4,468,217 (Escobar \$99,540; 2.2%), Principal Investigator: Radzio-Basu, 11/21/2022. (Collection/analysis of bat, rodent, ruminant specimens for high-consequence pathogen research in Senegal, Mali, Burkina Faso)
7. Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources, *Eco-epidemiological Model to Assess CWD Management in Virginia*, Amount Awarded: \$48,000 (Escobar 100%), Principal Investigator: Escobar, 10/10/2020. (Modeling the landscape epidemiology of CWD and minimum sample size for detection in Virginia)
8. World Bank 6236090, *Health Effects of Coastal Ecosystems Degradation in Indonesia*, Amount Awarded: \$20,000 (Escobar 100%), Principal Investigator, Escobar, 02/23/2021. (This project supported a visiting scholar to conduct a review on coastal ecosystem health in Indonesia)
9. Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund Recommendations 018-A - 2019, *Next Steps in Helping Minnesota's Moose: Understanding Brainworm Transmission to Find Solutions*, Amount Awarded: \$400,000 (Escobar \$7,000; 2%), Principal Investigator: Wolf, 08/1/2019. (This project funded a postdoc to study the host-parasite relationships of moose and worms across paleo and current climates)
10. USAID – CIDER VT, *Technical-Pedagogical Actualization Program of Faculty in Mid-School Establishments of Agriculture, Animal Production, and Forestry*, Amount Awarded: \$1800 (Escobar 100%), Principal Investigator: Escobar, 03/03/2019. (Project for capacity building in academia in Guatemala)

Internal Funding (Total \$12,708,250; Escobar \$207,950)

1. Center for Emerging Zoonotic and Arthropod-borne Pathogens, *Leveraging the use of roadkill biobanks toward wildlife pathogen detection through a metagenomics approach*, Amount: \$20,000 (Escobar 0%), Principal Investigator: W. Chaves. Award Number: 202406, 6/6/2024. (Lab work of roadkill samples)
2. Destination Area 2.0 Program *Invasive Species: Mitigating a Global Threat to Health, Economic, and Environmental Security*, Amount Awarded: \$6,200,000 (Escobar; 0%), Principal Investigator: Barney, Co-PI Escobar et al. 06/01/2023. (Co-wrote project to develop six tenure-track faculty lines & establish a new research unit focused on invasive species, including disease vectors, reservoirs, and pathogens)
3. Destination Area 2.0 Program *Pandemic Prediction and Prevention*, Amount Awarded: \$6,200,000 (Escobar \$52,000; 1%), Principal Investigator, Murali, Co-PI Escobar et al. 6/01/2022. (Co-wrote project to develop six tenure-track faculty lines & establish a new unit on pandemic forecasting and outreach)
4. Destination Area 2.0 Planning and Development Grant, *Invasive Species: Mitigating a Global Threat to Health, Economic, and Environmental Security*, Amount Awarded: \$50,000 (Escobar \$2000; 4%), Principal Investigator: Barney, 01/01/2023. (Co-PI to secure funding to write a large proposal)
5. Destination Area 2.0 Planning and Development Grant, *Pandemic Prediction and Prevention*, Amount Awarded: \$50,000 (Escobar; 0%), Principal Investigator, Murali, 10/01/2022. (Co-PI to write a proposal)
6. Center for Emerging Zoonotic and Arthropod-borne Pathogens, *Employing avian and arthropod surveillance to predict pathogen emergence in Virginia*, Amount Awarded: \$20,000 (Escobar; 0%), Principal Investigator: Auguste, 10/01/2022. (Funding to collect bird organs and skins for museum/pathogens)
7. Institute for Critical Technology and Applied Science, *Global Change and Wildlife Pathogen Spillover*, Amount Awarded: \$80,000 (Escobar 100%), Principal Investigator: Escobar, 10/01/2022. (Funding to revise skins along natural history collections in the US to map mange across taxa, space, and time)
8. Center for Emerging Zoonotic and Arthropod-borne Pathogens, *The Effect of Forest Degradation on Mosquito Arboviruses*, Amount Awarded: \$20,000 (Escobar \$0), Principal Investigator: Eastwood, 11/11/2020. (Funding to study the effect of deforestation on mosquito communities in Guatemala)
9. Center for Emerging Zoonotic and Arthropod-borne Pathogens, *Relationship between Lyme disease and land-form variables*, Amount Awarded: \$20,000 (Escobar 100%), Principal Investigator: Escobar, 11/11/2020. (Funding to study the microclimatic conditions that explain tick spread)
10. VT Learning Systems Innovation and Effectiveness Program, *Ecology and Geography of a Prion Disease in Virginia*, Amount Awarded: \$10,000 (Escobar 100%), Principal Investigator: Escobar, 11/01/2018. (Funding to study the spatiotemporal epidemiology CWD in deer in Virginia)

11. Global Change Center, *Climate Change and the Dynamics of Mosquito Populations in Virginia*, Amount Awarded to Date: \$17,300 (Escobar \$1000; 6%), Principal Investigator: Lahondere, 10/01/2018. (Funding to collect mosquitoes to assess their diet and use of micro climatic conditions)
12. New Faculty Mentoring Project Grant, Virginia Tech, Amount Awarded: \$1500 (Escobar 100%), Principal Investigator: Escobar, 07/02/2018. (Funding to visit colleague at Aarhus University in Denmark)
13. Global Change Center, *Parasites Spillover from Invasive to Native Populations*, Amount Awarded: \$19,450 (Escobar 100%), Principal Investigator: Escobar, 10/01/2017. (Funding for a workshop and collections of samples from museum specimens)

Teaching and Advising

Course Instructor at Virginia Tech

- Independent Study: Advanced Phylogenetic Comparative Methods and Genomics Applied to Wildlife Diseases, 2025
- Independent Study: Disease Biogeography: Theory and Methods, 2025
- Applied Epidemiology of Fish and Wildlife Diseases, 2023
- Advanced Biogeography & Macroecology in the Anthropocene, 2020, 2023
- Special Study: Species Distribution Modeling of Aquatic Organisms, 2022
- Foundations of Fish & Wildlife Diseases, 2019, 2020
- Disease Ecology & Ecosystem Management, 2018

Course Co-Instructor at Virginia Tech

- Seminar 2. Interfaces of Global Change IGEP, 2023, 2025
- Seminar 1. Interfaces of Global Change IGEP, 2024
- Seminar 3. Interfaces of Global Change IGEP, 2024
- Steering Committee. Infectious Disease Interdisciplinary Graduate Education Program ID IGEP, 2024
- Steering Committee. Infectious Disease Interdisciplinary Graduate Education Program ID IGEP, 2023

Guest Lecturer at Virginia Tech (23)

- Fall 2025 NR 2234 First Semester Experience (for transfer students)
- Fall 2025 First Year Experience
- Fall 2023 BIOL 3454 Introductory Parasitology
- Fall 2023 BIOL 5564 Advanced Infectious Disease Ecology
- Spring 2023 FiW 211 Principles of Fish and Wildlife
- Fall 2022 BIOL 3454 Introductory Parasitology
- Fall 2022 GRAD 5984 Special Study: Critical Analysis of Infectious Disease
- Fall 2022 PHS 5344 Neglected & Emerging Infectious Diseases
- Spring 2022 GEOG 4044 Biogeography
- Fall 2021 NR 2234 First Year Experience for Transfer Students
- Spring 2021 PHS 4054 Concepts in One Health
- Spring 2021 BSE 4394/UAP 5324 Water and Sanitation in Developing Countries
- Fall 2020 NR 2234 First Year Experience for Transfer Students
- Fall 2020 FiW 5004 Graduate Seminar
- Fall 2019 FiW 211 Principles of Fish and Wildlife
- Fall 2019 ENT6004 Field Entomology Skills
- Fall 2019 FiW 5004 Graduate Seminar
- Fall 2019 NR 2234 First Year Experience for Transfer Students
- Fall 2019 GEOG 4044 Biogeography
- Fall 2018 FiW 5004 Graduate Seminar
- Fall 2018 FiW 211 Principles of Fish and Wildlife
- Fall 2018 PHS 5344 Neglected & Emerging Infectious Diseases

- Fall 2018 NR 2234 First Year Experience for Transfer Students
- Fall 2018 VM 8485 Developing the Public Veterinary Practitioner
- Fall 2017 NR 2234 First Year Experience for Transfer Students
- Fall 2017 FiW 5004 Graduate Seminar

Guest Lecturer External (6)

- 2023 Effective Writing for ESL Researchers. BUAP, Mexico
- 2019 Successful Scientific Writing for Non-native English Speakers. Universidad Nacional, Colombia
- 2019 Conservation Medicine and Wildlife Diseases. Universidad Mayor, Temuco, Chile
- 2019 Ecological Niche Model Transference. Universidad Estatal Amazonica, Ecuador
- 2018 Ecology of Vector Borne Diseases. University of San Carlos Zacapa
- 2018 My Career Path in Science. Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, University of Kansas

Workshop Instructor (16)

Date	Course Name	Description
Fall 2025	Challenges and Opportunities in the Animal Sciences.	Direccion General de Investigacion & Facultad de Medicina Veterinaria y Zootecnia, Universidad de San Carlos, Guatemala. Oct/24/2025
Spring 2025	Advanced Techniques for Disease Ecology Research with Wildlife	Hands-on workshop to generate specimens for biorepositories for zoonotic disease research. Universidad de La Frontera. Temuco, Region De La Araucania, Chile.
Spring 2025	Oropouche fever in the Americas: Discovering the mystery of the virus behind an emerging zoonosis.	Goller, C. C., Romero-Alvarez, D., Escobar, L. (2025). Oropouche fever in the Americas: Discovering the mystery of the virus behind an emerging zoonosis . OCELOTS, QUBES Educational Resources. doi:10.25334/ATXD-WK91
Summer 2024	Advanced Techniques for Disease Ecology Research with Wildlife	Hands-on workshop to generate specimens for biorepositories for zoonotic disease research. Universidad Andres Bello. Cajon del Maipo, Region Metropolitana, Chile.
Spring 2024	Ecological Niche Modeling Applied to Medical Geography	Hands-on workshop to describe and predict the geographic and environmental distribution of zoonotic pathogens. National Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Tbilisi, Republic of Georgia.
Summer 2023	II International Workshop on Research on Bats: Responding to New Health Dynamics	Hands-on workshop to generate specimens for biorepositories for disease research. Faculty and graduate students from four universities, one state agency, one NGO, from the US and Colombia. Universidad La Salle, Bogota, Colombia
Summer 2023	Bat and Rodent Sampling for High-consequence Pathogens Research	Hands-on workshop to capture, handle, and sample wildlife for the collection of biospecimens to detect high-consequence viruses and bacteria. Foundation Meriux, Saly, Senegal

Summer 2023	Ecological Niche Modeling Applications to Zoonotic Pathogen Mapping	Hands-on workshop to describe and predict the geographic and environmental distribution of zoonotic pathogens. Institute Pasteur, Saly, Senegal
Summer 2022	I International Workshop on Research on Bats: Responding to New Health Dynamics	Hands-on workshop to generate specimens for biorepositories for disease research. Faculty and graduate students from six universities, two state agencies, one NGO, students from the US, Colombia, Peru. Universidad La Salle, Bogota, Colombia
Summer 2021	Virtual Ecology Using NicheA Software	Benemerita Universidad Autonoma de Puebla, Mexico
January – August 2020	ENM2020 course	Six months online open-access course describing the theory and methods on ecological niche modeling by experts in the field. (6 months)
Fall 2018	Applications of Spatial Data: Ecological Niche Modeling	Workshop Co-Instructor. NIMBioS /NSF. University of Tennessee, Knoxville.
Fall 2018	Applications of NicheA for Research in Biogeography	Workshop Instructor. International Biogeography Society, University of Evora – Evora, Portugal.
Summer 2019	Ecological Niche Modeling	Rewilding graduate course. Aarhus University, Denmark.
January-July 2018	Ecological Niche Modeling Course	Workshop Instructor. Biodiversity Informatics Training Curriculum (6 months)
Fall 2017	Introductory Ecological Niche Modeling Course	Workshop Instructor. College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences, University of Minnesota
Fall 2017	Introductory Ecological Niche Modeling Course	Workshop Instructor. Tianjin Normal University, Tianjin, China

Graduate students completed (4)

1. PhD, Victoria “Paige” Van de Vuurst, USA, Completed Fall 2024 (Advisor at VT). Currently a Visiting Professor at The George Washington University, Department of Geography and Environment, Columbian College of Arts and Sciences. Washington D.C.
2. MSc, Mariana Castaneda Guzman, Guatemala, Completed Summer 2022 (Advisor). Currently PhD student at Virginia Tech.
3. MSc, Victoria “Paige” Van de Vuurst, USA, Completed Summer 2021 (Advisor). Currently a Visiting Professor at George Washington University.
4. MSc, Steven Winter, USA, Completed Fall 2020 (Advisor). Current PhD student Washington State University

Graduate students in progress (8)

At Virginia Tech (5)

1. PhD, Connor Hughes, USA, expected Spring 2026 (Advisor at VT)
2. PhD, Shariful Islam, Bangladesh, expected Fall 2026 (Advisor at VT)
3. PhD, Paanwaris “Nine” Paansri, Thailand, expected Fall 2027 (Advisor at VT)
4. PhD, Reilly Brennan, USA, expected Summer 2026 (Co-Advisor at VT)
5. PhD, Analorena Cifuentes-Rincon, Colombia, expected Spring 2027 (Advisor at VT)

External (3)

6. PhD, Diego Soler-Tovar, Colombia, expected Fall 2025 (Advisor at U La Salle, Colombia)
7. PhD, Jorge Garces, Mexico, Expected Spring 2026 (Co-Advisor at UNAB, Chile)
8. MSc, Karen Sarmientos, Expected Fall 2027 (Co-Advisor at BUAP, Mexico)

VT Graduate Students Committee (6)

1. Sushyanth Sridhar, Ph.D., Dept. Industrial & Systems Engineering. In progress.
2. Kimiya Mohammadi-Jozani, Ph.D., Dept. Industrial & Systems Engineering. In progress.
3. Jack Leitch, PhD Student, Department of Fish and Wildlife Conservation. In progress.
4. Krisangel Lopez, PhD Student, Department of Entomology. Completed Fall 2024.
5. Katherine Louise Slack, MSc, Dept. Fish & Wildlife Conservation. Completed Spring 2024
6. Samuel Richard Freeze, PhD, Dept. Fish & Wildlife Conservation. Completed Fall 2024

DVM VT Students Supervised (6)

1. Rylee Clark, Summer clerkship 2025.
2. Byung Kim, Summer clerkship 2023.
3. Sarah Hooper, Summer clerkship 2022.
4. Natalie Brown, Research Assistant. Spring 2021-Spring 2023.
5. Taylor Williams, Summer clerkship 2021.
6. Kimberly Wingfield, Summer clerkship 2018.

Postdocs (2)

1. Hujie Qiao, 2016, currently Associate Professor at the Chinese Academy of Sciences
2. Abdelkafar 'Abdu' Alkishe, 2022-2024, Presidential Postdoctoral Fellow at Virginia Tech

Visiting Scholars (14)

1. Francisca Astorga, Faculty, University Adres Bello, **Chile**, visited my lab to develop one proposal and one manuscript related to hantavirus and mange in wildlife. 06/7/2025 - 06/14/2025
2. Gideon Wasserberg, Professor, University of North Carolina in Greensboro, **North Carolina**, visited my lab during his sabbatical leave to work on leishmaniasis. 06/01/2025 - 05/30/2026
3. Zulma Rojas-Sereno, PhD (c), University Adres Bello, **Chile**, visited my lab to develop two manuscripts related to rabies and mange in wildlife. 08/01/2024 - 10/19/2025
4. Francisca Astorga, Faculty, University Adres Bello, **Chile**, visited my lab to develop two manuscripts related to hantavirus and mange in wildlife. 04/24/2024 - 03/09/2024
5. Dennis Mamani, Faculty, Universidad Mayor de San Marcos, **Peru**. Ecology of blue tongue virus. 03/03/2024-05/03/2024
6. Wendy Hernandez, PhD, student, Universidad Andres Bello, **Chile**. Phylogeography of rodents to inform the design of a network of protected areas in Chile. 03/10/2023-04/11/2023
7. Daniel Jimenez-Garcia, PhD, MSc, Professor, Benemerita Universidad Autonoma de Puebla, **Mexico**. Descriptive and predictive models of roadkill wildlife. 03/10/2022-04/11/2022
8. Analorena Cifuentes, DVM, MSc, Universidad Cooperativa de Ibague, Ibague, **Colombia**, visited my lab to conduct research on vampire bat rabies. 03/10/2021-05/11/2021
9. Oscar Lopez, Colegio de la Frontera Sur, ECOSUR, Chiapas, **Mexico**, visited my lab to analyze data for his Ph.D. dissertation related to biogeography of bumblebees using the software kuenm and NicheA. 06/12/2019 - 07/06/2019
10. Aigorn Chaiyes, PhD(c), Kasetsart University, Bangkok, **Thailand**, visited my lab to analyze data for her Ph.D. dissertation related to Nipah virus risk in Thailand. Developed and submitted one manuscript as a result of her visit. 10/19/2018 - 03/31/2019
11. Whitney Mgbara, PhD(c). University of California-Berkeley, **California** (Fall 2019). Spent a month in my laboratory learning about spatial epidemiology.
12. Francisca Astorga, University Mayor, **Chile**, visited my lab to learn about parasite spillover in wildlife and developed two manuscripts as a result of her visit. 06/02/2018 - 03/09/2019

13. Manuel Barrios, PhD, University San Carlos, **Guatemala**, visited my laboratory to develop one grant proposal submitted for an agency in Guatemala in August 2019. He is also developing one manuscript from his visit. 02/01/2018 - 02/10/2018
14. Yamilet Aldana, University San Carlos, **Guatemala**, visited my laboratory to learn analytical techniques in phylogeography. 02/01/2018 - 02/10/2018

VT Undergraduate students mentored (29)

1. Gilliam Warburton. Spring 2025. Hantavirus monitoring in Chile.
2. Maranda Stricklin. Spring 2025. Hantavirus monitoring in Chile.
3. Vanessa Ashley Vowell. Spring 2025. Hantavirus monitoring in Chile.
4. Katelyn Renee Domke. Spring 2025. Hantavirus monitoring in Chile.
5. Kameryn Alexis Brenner. Spring 2025. Hantavirus monitoring in Chile.
6. Nia Whitney Carroll. Spring/Fall 2025. Hantavirus monitoring in Chile and phylogenetics.
7. Carlos Hinojosa. Summer 2023. Vampire bats monitoring in Colombia.
8. Kaitlyn Enstice. Summer 2023. Vampire bats monitoring in Colombia.
9. Julia Alexander. Summer 2023. Vampire bats monitoring in Colombia.
10. Quan Dong. Summer 2022, Fieldwork in Colombia.
11. Sophie Foster Trask. Fall 2022, Bog turtle diseases, wildlife diseases outreach. (
12. Faith Ludwig. Summer 2022, Fieldwork in Colombia.
13. Dyess Harp. Summer 2022, Fieldwork in Colombia.
14. Elena Ahwee-Marrah. Spring 2022, Disease Risk Mapping
15. David Trenor. Spring 2021, The effects of habitat loss on the burden of infectious diseases.
16. Caroline S. Ilse. Spring 2021, Climate change and infectious diseases.
17. Abigail Parch. Spring 2021, Climate change and infectious diseases.
18. Tabatha Gentry. Spring 2021, Climate change and infectious diseases.
19. Alma Talcott. Fall 2020 – Spring 2021. Climate change and wildlife diseases.
20. Catherine Schumacher. Summer 2020. Climate change and infectious diseases.
21. Victor J. Catalan. Summer 2020. Climate change and infectious diseases.
22. Juhi Seth. Summer 2019 – Fall 2019, Chronic Wasting Disease.
23. Sami Livingston. Summer 2019. CWD direct and environmental transmission
24. Rosaline Goude. Fall 2018, Mange in Wildlife.
25. Caitlin Storment. Fall 2018, Mange in Wildlife.
26. Dina Coutu. (The Biogeography of Rabies in Wildlife.
27. Joy Flowers. Fall 2018, Habitat loss and infectious diseases.
28. Alex Grimaudo. Fall 2018, International Workshop of Mange in Wildlife.
29. Kayla Keith. Summer 2018, International Workshop of Mange in Wildlife.

Reviewer

External Evaluator Student PhD Thesis (3)

1. **Brazil**: Serving as candidacy evaluator for Miriam Reyes Ortiz, a Ph.D. student at Universidade Estadual de Campinas. Her research is on the effects of the biogeography of *Mycobacterium leprae*. 2025
2. **Mexico**: Serving as candidacy evaluator for Brenda Aline Maya Badillo, a Ph.D. student from Autonomous National University of Mexico, Mexico City. Her research is on the effects of landscape fragmentation on the circulation of influenza virus in bats and birds. 2022
3. **Pakistan**: Serving as thesis evaluator for Uzma Ashraf, a Ph.D. student from University of Punjab, Lahore. Her research was on the effects of climate change on olive trees. 2019

International Grant Reviewer (3)

1. **Chile**: Red Chilena Interuniversitaria. *Ad Hoc* reviewer. Concurso Interuniversitario de Iniciación en Investigación Asociativa (nine universities). 2023.
2. **Poland**: National Science Centre. *Ad Hoc* reviewer. Panel Diagnostic Tools, Therapies and Public Health in 2020 and Human and Animal Immunology and Infection Section in 2022.
3. **Sweden**: Environmental Protection Agency. *Ad Hoc* reviewer. Scientific Committee for Wildlife Research

in 2021.

Reviewer Research Grants (22)

1. National Science Foundation. Panel Reviewer. BIO CAREER. Dec 2025.
2. Michigan Sea Grant. Panel Reviewer. Sep 2025.
3. National Institutes of Health. Panel Reviewer. Social and Environmental Determinants of Health. NIH reviewers are seen as experts, with integrity, in their field. Jun 2025.
4. National Science Foundation. BIO/DBI. NSF Postdoctoral Fellowship in Biology. Panel Reviewer. Feb 2025.
5. National Institutes of Health. Ad Hoc Reviewer. Organization and Delivery of Health Services study section. Feb 2025.
6. National Science Foundation. *Ad Hoc* reviewer. Division of Environmental Biology, Population and Community Ecology. Jan 2025.
7. National Institutes of Health. Panel Reviewer. International Research in Infectious Diseases Study Section. Nov 2024.
8. National Institutes of Health. Panel Reviewer. Population based Research in Infectious Disease (PRID) Study Section. Oct 2024.
9. National Science Centre, Poland. *Ad Hoc* reviewer. Panel: NZ7 (Diagnostic tools, therapies and public health). Oct 2022.
10. National Science Foundation. Panel Reviewer. Partnership to Advance Conservation Science and Practice. Nov 2022.
11. National Science Foundation. Human-Environment & Geographical Sciences. *Ad Hoc* Reviewer. Mar 2022.
12. National Science Foundation. BIO/DBI. NSF Postdoctoral Fellowship in Biology. Panel Reviewer. Jan 2022.
13. Swedish Environmental Protection Agency. *Ad Hoc* reviewer. Scientific Committee for Wildlife Research. Oct 2021.
14. National Science Foundation. Panel Reviewer. MacroSystems Biology and NEON-Enabled Science. Mar 2021.
15. National Institutes of Health. Panel Reviewer. Biostatistical Methods and Research Design (BMRD) Study Section. Oct 2020.
16. National Science Foundation. Panel Reviewer. MacroSystems Biology and NEON-Enabled Science. May 2019.
17. National Science Centre, Poland. *Ad Hoc* reviewer. Human and Animal Immunology and Infection Section. Sep 2020.
18. National Science Foundation. *Ad Hoc* reviewer. Division of Environmental Biology, Population and Community Ecology. Jan 2020.
19. Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center. *Ad Hoc* reviewer. University of Minnesota. Mar 2019.
20. National Science Foundation. *Ad Hoc* reviewer. Division of Industrial Innovation and Partnerships NSF SBIR/STTR Program. Oct 2018.
21. National Science Foundation-National Science Foundation China (NSF-NSFC) Workshop on Frontiers of Ecology and Evolution of Infectious Diseases. June 27-29, 2018. UC Berkeley, CA, USA.
22. National Science Foundation-National Science Foundation China Workshop on the Frontiers of Ecology and Evolution of Infectious Diseases. Panel member. Shenzhen Center for Disease Control and Prevention, Shenzhen, China, April 9-13, 2018.

Editorial Service Journals (5)

1. *Current Landscape Ecology Report*. Editor in Chief. A >10-yr journal in landscape ecology [link](#)
2. *Biodiversity Informatics*. Associate Editor. This electronic journal focuses on the emerging field of biodiversity informatics - the creation, integration, analysis, and understanding of massive information regarding biological diversity. (IF 5.6). <https://journals.ku.edu/jbi/about/editorialTeam> Since 2019

3. *Current Zoology*. Associate Editor. This journal focuses on all areas of zoology. (IF 2). https://academic.oup.com/cz/pages/Editorial_Board (Since 204)
4. *Scientific Data* Springer Nature. Editorial Board. Peer-reviewed, open-access journal for descriptions of scientifically valuable datasets, and research that advances the sharing and reuse of data. The journal is open to content from a wide range of scientific disciplines. Since Spring 2019.
5. *Frontiers in Veterinary Sciences*. Guest Editor. Special Issue: Disease Ecology and Biogeography. Spring 2019 - Spring 2020. [link](#)

[Review Journals \(59\)](#)

1. *Acta Ecologica Sinica*
2. *Acta Tropica*
3. *American Journal of Botany*
4. *Animal Conservation*
5. *Animal Behavior and Cognition*
6. *Biodiversity Informatics*
7. *Biological Invasions*
8. *Biomedica*
9. *BMC Evolutionary Biology*
10. *BMC Infectious Diseases*
11. *BMC Veterinary Research*
12. *BMJ Evidence-Based Medicine*
13. *Critical Reviews in Biotechnology*
14. *Current Landscape Ecology Reports*
15. *Diversity and Distributions*
16. *EcoHealth*
17. *Ecology and Evolution*
18. *Ecosphere*
19. *Emerging Infectious Diseases*
20. *Evolutionary Biology*
21. *Foods*
22. *Frontiers in Microbiology*
23. *Global Change Biology*
24. *Global Ecology and Biogeography*
25. *International Journal of Health Geographics*
26. *Journal of Animal Ecology*
27. *Journal of Applied Ecology*
28. *Journal of Biogeography*
29. *Journal of Public Health and Epidemiology*
30. *Journal of the Great Lakes Research*
31. *Journal of Vector Ecology*
32. *Journal of Veterinary Entomology*
33. *Molecular Ecology*
34. *MEEGID Infection, Genetics and Evolution*
35. *Nature Ecology and Evolution*
36. *Nature Heredity*
37. *Nature Microbiology*
38. *Nature Scientific Reports*
39. *Nature Scientific Data*
40. *Parasites & Vectors*
41. *PeerJ*
42. *PLoS Neglected Tropical Diseases*
43. *PLoS ONE*
44. *Preventive Veterinary Medicine*

45. *Prion*
46. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences USA*
47. *Proceedings of the Royal Society B*
48. *Remote Sensing of Environment*
49. *Research Opinions in Animal & Veterinary Science*
50. *Science Advances*
51. *Spatial and Spatio-temporal Epidemiology*
52. *The Lancet Planetary Health*
53. *Transactions of the Royal Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene*
54. *Transboundary and Emerging Diseases*
55. *Tropical Medicine & International Health*
56. *Vector-Borne and Zoonotic Diseases*
57. *Wildlife Society Bulletin*
58. *Zoologica Scripta*
59. *Zoonoses and Public Health*

Professional meetings organized (3)

1. 2018. International Workshop on Mange in Wildlife. Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA.
<https://vtnews.vt.edu/articles/2018/08/82318-Fralin-Escobar-sarcoptic-mange.html>
2. 2016. Workshop on the Ecology of Avian Influenza. University of Minnesota, Saint Paul.
3. 2016. Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Showcase. University of Minnesota, Saint Paul.

Interdisciplinary efforts to attract underrepresented students (1)

2018-Present, Mentor, Wildlife Disease Association, Virginia Tech Student Chapter.

2. Participation in campus, local, regional, or national organizational efforts to promote diversity and inclusion in scholarly or professional fields (10)

1. Completed the **Creating and Inclusive Climate** course at Virginia Tech to ensure that the places where students conduct research, live, work, study, and socialize are welcoming, affirming, safe, and accessible to all. 5/2023
2. Participated in course for inclusive pedagogy **Fostering an Inclusive Classroom Environment**. This workshop fosters the process of writing and communicating guidelines that improve community and accountability among students at Virginia Tech. 01-05/2023
3. Participated in workshop for inclusive pedagogy **Advancing Diversity Gathering**. An annual InclusiveVT Touchpoint event that brings together diversity and inclusion stakeholders across the university for sharing best practices and learning from one another. 01/2023
4. Participated in course for inclusive pedagogy **The Inclusive Pedagogy Pathway**. I am taking this year-long cohort course on the core principles and practices of inclusive pedagogy Office for Inclusion and Diversity, Virginia Tech. 04/2022-2023
5. Participated in summit for inclusive pedagogy **InclusiveVT Summit**. Diversity and Inclusion in Higher Education. Office for Inclusion and Diversity, Virginia Tech. 04/2022
6. Participated in workshop for inclusive pedagogy **Inclusive Pedagogy: How Student Identities Matter**. Technology-enhanced Learning and Online Strategies, Virginia Tech. 02/2021
7. Mentor of VT undergraduate students from minorities in STEAM, including students self-identified as Hispanic, women, disability, first generation
8. Mentor of VT graduate students from minoritized groups in STEAM, including self-identified students as African-American, women, LGBTQIA+, disable
9. Participated in workshop for inclusive pedagogy: **OID Inclusive Pedagogy training**. Taking student data and turning it into powerful inclusive pedagogy. Virginia Tech. Dr. Tiffany Drape. 1/2019
10. Participated in workshop on race and inclusion: **Virginia's Incomplete History: Race and Miseducation in Virginia**. Virginia Tech, Dr. Peter Wallenstein. 5/2019.

University (18)

1. **Pandemic Prevention | Destination Areas 2.0.** Steering Committee, Virginia Tech, 2023-present.
2. **Invasive Species | Destination Areas 2.0.** Steering Committee, Virginia Tech, 2023-2024.
3. **Infectious Disease | Interdisciplinary Graduate Education Program.** Steering Committee, Center for Emerging, Zoonotic, and Arthropod-borne Pathogens, Virginia Tech, 2023-present.
4. **Interfaces of Global Change | Interdisciplinary Graduate Education Program.** Steering Committee, Global Change Center, Virginia Tech, 2023-present.
5. **Panel speaker.** National Science Foundation's CAREER Award program workshop for junior level, tenure-track faculty workshop to learn how to prepare effective proposals. Office of Research and Innovation, Virginia Tech, April 2023.
6. **Affiliated Faculty,** Kellogg Center for Philosophy, Politics, and Economics, Virginia Tech, Nov 2022 - present
7. **Steering Committee,** Invasive Species Working Group, Virginia Tech, Oct 2022 - present
8. **Affiliated Faculty,** Center for Emerging, Zoonotic, and Arthropod-borne Pathogens, Jan 2020 - present
9. **Affiliated Faculty,** Ph.D. Program on Translational Biology, Medicine, and Health, Virginia Tech, Mar 2018 - present
10. **Affiliated Faculty,** Global Change Center, Virginia Tech, Oct 2017 - present
11. **Adjunct Professor,** School of Agricultural Sciences, Universidad de La Salle, Oct 2020 - present
12. **Judge,** graduate student presentations at the CeZAP Symposium. 2022
13. **Participant,** two Destination Areas workshops organized by Todd Nicewonger and Anne Khademian to discuss research on transdisciplinary communities.
14. **Participant,** Destination Areas the workshops based on "active involvement with the Destination Areas and/or transdisciplinary research and teaching" February 25th and December 11th, 2019.
15. **Member,** Virginia Tech Lyme Disease Working Group, 2017-Present
16. **Judge,** One Health Student Competition. VA-MD College of Veterinary Medicine, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA. 2017-2020
17. **Participant,** Hokie Focus: Majors Breakout Sessions, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, 2019, 2022, 2023. Discussion with students and parents to increase the recruitment of new student in our Department.
18. **Search Committee,** new hire, Collegiate Assistant Professor of Wildlife Management and Collection Curation, Member, FiW, 2018

Other Pertinent Activities

Training

6/24/25	Online Abuse Self-Defense Training (Online). American Association for the Advancement of Science. Dr. Tori Espensen.
2/21/2024	Research Management and Leadership Certificate. 6-week training by the University of Colorado on management, leadership, grant finance and administration, and team management skills such as hiring, supervising, and mentoring in an academic context.
13-14/11/23	Introduction to molecular epidemiology of emerging pathogens (Hands-on Workshop). Wildlife Disease Association. Guatemala City, Guatemala. Drs. Claudio Verdugo and Cristobal Verdugo.
4/02/22	Animal Welfare Challenges in Research and Education on Wildlife, Non-Model Animal Species and Biodiversity (Workshop). National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine.
01/22	Faculty Writing Retreat. Training and consulting to improve implementation and teaching of academic writing. Assistant Provost, Faculty Initiatives & Policies, Virginia Tech.
09/21	Jupyter Notebooks and GitHub. Department of Geosciences, Virginia Tech. Dr. Susanna Werth, Dr. D. Sarah Stamps.
08/21	Genomics of Wildlife Disease. Colorado State University, Boulder, Colorado, Dr. Jill Pecon-Slatery, Dr. Sue VandeWoude.
06/21	Working with the IACUC. AALAS Learning Library.
08/20	Guest speaker: Escobar LE. (2020) "Assessment of Student Learning" Course Design Clinic, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Blacksburg, VA. Speaker. [via Zoom]
06/20	Guest speaker: Escobar LE. (2020) "Assessment of Student Learning" Course Design Clinic, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Blacksburg, VA. Speaker. [via Zoom]

08/18-12/18	[NLI] New Faculty Community (Limited to new faculty hires).
4/19	Metaphors on Transdisciplinarity and Disparities of the Urban Rural Continuum. Destination Areas, Virginia Tech. Dr. Anne Khademan.
3/19	Social & Behavioral Research. Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative. Requirement set by Virginia Tech, IRB Basic Stage.
2/19	Undergraduate Mentoring Discussions. College of Natural Resources and Environment, Virginia Tech. Keith W. Goyne, Ph.D.
9-10/18	Change Detection for Land Cover Mapping. NASA's Applied Remote Sensing Training Program (ARSET). PhDs. Cindy Schmidt, Amber McCullum
2-7/18	PDI Mentoring Program. Course to learn how to prepare and assess NSF proposals. Virginia Tech.
1-5/18	NIH New Investigator R01 Proposal Preparation Program. Course to learn how to prepare and assess NIH proposals. Virginia Tech.
12/18	New Principal Investigator (PI) Orientation. Training to understand the Pre-Award system at Virginia Tech. Office of Sponsored Programs

Extension publications (1)

1. Rodriguez YV, Poo-Muñoz DA, **Escobar LE***, Astorga F, Medina-Vogel G. (2019) *Guide for Environmental Education to Prevent Livestock Depredation*. Description: This guide contains science-informed livestock management to reduce the risk of livestock depredation by wildlife. Available at: https://data.lib.vt.edu/articles/dataset/Supplementary_Material_Carnivore-Livestock_Conflicts_in_Chile_Evidence_and_Methods_for_Mitigation/14102846

Media Interviews

Escobar lab featured by Virginia Tech media (22):

1. **VTNews**. Deadly rodent-borne hantavirus is an emerging disease with pandemic potential. April 2025. <https://news.vt.edu/articles/2025/04/hantavirus-environmental-factors-influence-distribution-paanwaris-paansri-luis-escobar.html>
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21. **VTNews.** Seed grants helping to grow Virginia Tech's transdisciplinary capacities, contributions. November 2018. <https://vtx.vt.edu/articles/2018/11/seed-grants-transdisciplinary-research.html>
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1. **Newsweek.** Deadly Disease Detected at Grand Canyon. July 9, 2025. <https://www.newsweek.com/deadly-disease-detected-grand-canyon-2096483>
2. **Science Magazine.** Vampire bats' mutual grooming helps spread innovative rabies vaccine. July 2025. <https://www.science.org/content/article/vampire-bats-mutual-grooming-helps-spread-innovative-rabies-vaccine>
3. **Yale Climate Connections.** To disseminate research discoveries with the public, in October 2024 Escobar spoke with Yale Climate Connections radio to develop a short story about results of this project. The article began airing nationwide on 10-31-2024 on more than 700 radio station frequencies. You can listen, download, and share the audio segment directly here: <https://traffic.libsyn.com/climateconnections/CX241031.mp3>, and see the accompanying post on their website here: <https://yaleclimateconnections.org/2024/10/Vampire-bats-are-moving-north-as-the-climate-warms>.
4. **WIRED Magazine.** The Vampire Bat Is Moving Closer to the US. That's a Problem. <https://www.wired.com/story/the-vampire-bat-is-moving-closer-to-the-us-thats-a-problem/>
5. **abc 8News.** Virginia Tech leads effort to stop disease threatening Virginia deer herds. September 19, 2023. <https://www.wric.com/news/virginia-news/virginia-tech-leads-effort-to-stop-disease-threatening-virginia-deer-herds/>
6. **National Public Radio (NPR).** Zoonotic diseases like COVID-19 and monkeypox will become more common, experts say. September 29, 2022. <https://www.npr.org/2022/09/29/1119561088/monkeypox-climate-change-zoonotic-diseases>

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[KBBJ](#), [KAWC](#), [KASU](#), [Iowa Public Radio](#), [Georgia Public Broadcasting Network](#), [Fyne Fettle](#), [Aspen Public Radio](#), [SpaceWeekly](#), [Blogarama](#), [WVPE](#), [wvasfm](#), [wutc](#), [WSIU](#), [WPSU-FM](#), [wprl](#), [WNYC-AM](#), [WKNO-FM](#), [Wisconsin Public Radio](#), [wcmu](#).

7. **TheScientist**. How Mange Remade an Ecosystem. July 2022. <https://www.the-scientist.com/magazine-issue/how-mange-remade-an-ecosystem-70146>
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9. **Voice of America** (largest and oldest US-funded international broadcaster), Deer and COVID-19. December 2021, https://www.voanews.com/a/latest-potential-incubator-for-pandemic-bambi/6349000.html?utm_source=cmpgn_news&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=vtAdvUnirelClipReportsCMP_weekly12%2F10
10. **El Espectador** (2nd biggest newspaper in Colombia). Climate change and Global Human Health. October 2021. <https://www.elespectador.com/ambiente/las-345-mil-muertes-y-otros-43-problemas-de-salud-que-trae-el-cambio-climatico-the-lancet-countdown/>
11. **El Espectador** (2nd biggest newspaper in Colombia). Climate change and *Vibrio* bacteria. October 2021. <https://www.elespectador.com/ambiente/que-es-la-vibrio-la-bacteria-indicadora-del-cambio-climatico-que-esta-en-aumento/>
12. **Critically Speaking**, Guest Speaker, a highly visited podcast ranked 4.8/5 in Apple Podcasts section Science and hosted by Dr. Therese Markow, an award-winning geneticist who has held endowed professorships at major universities in the United States. As a guest Speaker in June 2021, I discussed in everyday language that we all can understand, fundamental issues of climate change that impact our health, our society, and our planet. My podcast is entitled **Climate Change and Infectious Diseases** and is available at: <https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/a-warming-world-expands-the-range-of-deadly-disease/id1463016517?i=1000527330875>
13. **WTOP News Radio** (<https://wtop.com/coronavirus/2020/04/its-possible-for-domestic-pets-to-get-spread-coronavirus-officials-say/>)
14. **WVTF / RADIO IQ** / Virginia Public Radio. Coronavirus epidemic. February 2020. (<https://www.wvtf.org/post/coronavirus-and-climate-change#stream/0>)