

# 2019 NEVBD Annual Meeting Report

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Northeast Regional Center for Excellence  
in Vector-Borne Diseases



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# Overview

The Northeast Regional Center for Excellence in Vector-Borne Diseases (NEVBD) membership convened 24 January – 25 January 2019, at the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station campus in New Haven, Connecticut. Laura C. Harrington, Program Director, presided at this second annual meeting for the NEVBD network. A full list of meeting attendees is reported in Appendix A.

The agenda for the first day of the meeting featured research updates from NEVBD core collaborators through oral presentations and a poster session. The first day also featured three panel discussions on key vector-borne disease topics and issues for the Northeast region. The second day of the meeting included a smaller subset of meeting attendees, who participated in a series of strategic planning discussion sessions. The discussions followed a break out group format, wherein attendees were able to participate in two of three break out group discussions:

- Tick Surveillance and Management
- Mosquito Surveillance and Management
- Community of Practice

Each break out group was held twice during the meeting period to allow attendees to provide feedback across multiple topic areas. During each break out group session, attendees reviewed key issues for the discussion topic area, identified priorities and opportunities for the NEVBD to address these issues, and reported a summary of the discussion to the wider group. Full findings and recommendations from the planning session are reported in Appendix B.

The full meeting agenda is listed below in Figures 1a and 1b. Attendees were also asked to complete event evaluation forms. Summary responses to the event evaluations can be found in Appendix C.

Figure 1a. 2019 NEVBD Annual Meeting Agenda - January 24, 2019

Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station  
Jones Auditorium  
123 Huntington Street, New Haven CT



## 2019 Annual Meeting for the Northeast Regional Center for Excellence in Vector-Borne Diseases

January 24, 2019

7:30 – 8:30 AM	Arrival and Registration
8:30 – 8:35 AM	Greetings and Event Introduction
<b>RESEARCH UPDATES</b>	
8:35 – 9:15 AM	<b>Updates in Mosquito Surveillance</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Evaluation of Novel Lures for Monitoring Invasive <i>Aedes spp.</i> Mosquitoes, <i>Gillian Eastwood, Virginia Tech, CAES</i></li> <li>❖ Temperature and Hydrology Improve the Prediction of WNV in NY and CT, <i>Alexander Keyel, SUNY Albany</i></li> <li>❖ A Multi-Model Forecast System for Environmental Suitability of <i>Aedes</i>-borne Diseases in the US, <i>Angel Muñoz, IRI Columbia University</i></li> </ul>
9:15 – 10:10 AM	<b>Updates in Tick Surveillance</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ The TickApp: Understanding the Drivers of Human-Tick Contact, <i>Maria del Pilar Fernandez, Columbia University</i></li> <li>❖ Predicting Lyme Disease Expansion Using Active and Passive Tick and Human Disease Surveillance, <i>Maria del Pilar Fernandez, Columbia University</i></li> <li>❖ H. longicornis surveillance, <i>Andrea Egizi, Monmouth County Tick-borne Disease Laboratory</i></li> <li>❖ Surveillance for <i>Amblyomma americanum</i> in NY and CT, <i>Bryon Backenson, NYSDOH</i></li> </ul>
10:10 – 10:25 AM	<b>BREAK</b>
10:25 – 11:05 AM	<b>Vector Competence</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Future Directions &amp; Impact in Vector Competence, <i>Laura Kramer, Wadsworth Arbovirus Laboratory</i></li> <li>❖ Vector Competence of <i>Ae. albopictus</i> populations from the Northeastern US for Chikungunya and Zika Viruses, <i>Philip Armstrong, CAES</i></li> <li>❖ The Impact of Variation in Temperature on the Vectorial Capacity of <i>Ae. albopictus</i> for Zika Virus and Gut Microbiota, <i>Maria Onyango, Wadsworth Arbovirus Laboratory</i></li> </ul>
11:05 – 11:45 AM	<b>Vector Control &amp; Management</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Mosquito Resistance Monitoring Program, <i>James Burtis, Cornell University</i></li> <li>❖ Integrated Tick Management – A Connecticut Update, <i>Kirby Stafford, CAES</i></li> <li>❖ Hydraulic vs. Backpack Sprayers for Tick Control: A Comparison <i>Scott Williams, CAES</i></li> </ul>
11:45 AM – 12:15 PM	<b>Poster Abstracts and Review Session</b>
12:15 – 1:15 PM	<b>NETWORKING LUNCH + POSTER REVIEW SESSION</b>
<b>UPDATES FROM REGIONAL PARTNERS</b>	
1:15 – 1:30 PM	Mosquito Control Citizen Science, <i>Tom Iwanejko, Suffolk County Department of Public Works</i>
1:30 – 1:45 PM	Bottle Bioassay Training Program, <i>Scott Crans, NJ Mosquito Control Commission</i>
1:45 – 2:00 PM	Backyard Integrated Tick Management, <i>Neeta Connally, WCSU</i>
2:00 – 2:15 PM	Powassan Virus, <i>Robert Smith, Maine Medical Center Research Institute</i>
2:15 – 2:30 PM	A High Resolution Arena-Based Method for Acaricide Efficacy Assessment, <i>Moses Cucura, Suffolk County Department of Public Works</i>
2:30 – 2:45 PM	<b>BREAK</b>
<b>DISCUSSION PANEL SESSIONS</b>	
2:45 – 3:45 PM	Discussion Panel: Tick Surveillance in the Northeast
3:45 – 4:45 PM	Discussion Panel: Mosquitoes & Mosquito-Borne Disease Control in the Northeast
4:45 – 5:45 PM	Discussion Panel: Integrated Tick Management in Practice
5:45 -5:50 PM	Closing Remarks



NEVBD is supported through Cooperative Agreement Number 1U01CK000509-01 between the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and Cornell University

Figure 1b. 2019 NEVBD Annual Meeting Agenda - January 25, 2019

Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station  
Jones Auditorium  
123 Huntington Street, New Haven CT



## 2019 Strategic Planning Meeting for the Northeast Regional Center for Excellence in Vector-Borne Diseases

January 25, 2019

<b>8:00 – 8:30 AM</b>	<b>Arrival and Registration</b>
<b>8:30 – 8:45 AM</b>	<b>Introduction to Planning Session</b>
<b>PLANNING SESSION</b>	
<b>8:45 – 9:45 AM</b>	<b>Break Out Groups: Session 1</b> A. Tick Surveillance and Management B. Mosquito Surveillance and Management C. Community of Practice
<b>9:45 – 10:15 AM</b>	<b>Session 1 Recap</b>
<b>10:15 – 10:30 AM</b>	<b>Break</b>
<b>10:30 – 11:30 AM</b>	<b>Break Out Groups: Session 2</b> A. Tick Surveillance and Management B. Mosquito Surveillance and Management C. Community of Practice
<b>11:30 AM – 12:00 PM</b>	<b>Session 2 Recap</b>
<b>12:00 – 12:30 PM</b>	<b>Discussion Period</b>
<b>12:30 – 1:00 PM</b>	<b>Finalization of 2019 NEVBD Strategic Priorities</b>





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# 2019 Action Plan

The NEVBD will focus on the following objectives in calendar year 2019. These targets were identified through a synthesis of the panel discussion sessions, planning session outcomes, and feedback generated through program evaluations completed by meeting attendees. Please reference Appendix C to review full details on planning group discussions.

## 1. Regional Support for Tick Surveillance Efforts

NEVBD will build on the resources developed by the CDC to support broader implementation of tick surveillance programs across the region. Our team will explore multiple avenues to provide responsive feedback and guidance to regional tick surveillance programs, including webinars, advisory groups, and annotated guidance documents.

## 2. Mosquito-Borne Disease Preparedness

NEVBD will explore opportunities for applied research into mosquito-borne arboviruses in the Northeast, with a particular focus on the impact of mosquito control on reduced burden of human disease and less emphasized arboviruses in the region. NEVBD will work with our public health community to develop communication mechanisms regarding regional mosquito-borne disease outbreaks and threats, as well as resources to help local and state mosquito control organizations respond to emerging pathogens.

## 3. Strengthen Connections to the Vector-Borne Disease Professional Community

We will work throughout 2019 to strengthen our connections to the public health and vector control communities in the Northeast. NEVBD will expand our relationships with regional and national professional organizations, develop targeted working groups with regional stakeholders, and continue to expand our communication projects to disseminate resources and research updates to professionals, elected officials, and the public.

## 4. Training Programs and Resources

NEVBD will focus on expanding and improving training resources for professionals working in the field of vector-borne disease and public health. We will implement the second year of the Vector Biology Boot Camp, and will develop additional training opportunities expanding on the topics covered in this program to reach a wider audience. NEVBD will explore the feasibility of developing a peer-to-peer technical assistance program within the region, as well as hosting a resource compendium of high-quality materials and programs on our website.

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## 5. Continue Applied Research Efforts Prioritized in Cooperative Agreement

NEVBD has several applied research projects addressing important questions and knowledge gaps in vector-borne disease, both ongoing and in development. Research collaborators will continue their current efforts on assessing the geographic distribution of invasive species, surveillance of tick- and mosquito-borne disease, and evaluation of control efforts. We will also implement a concerted effort focused on understanding the biology, behavior, and public health impact of the invasive Asian longhorned tick in the Northeast. NEVBD will strive to effectively and rapidly communicate research findings to the public health and vector control communities in our region.

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# Appendix A. Meeting Participants

## NEVBD Principal Investigator Team

- **Laura C. Harrington**, Professor of Entomology, Cornell University
- **Theodore Andreadis**, Director, Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station
- **Bryon Backenson**, Epidemiologist, Director, Investigations and Vector Surveillance Units, Bureau of Communicable Disease Control, New York State Department of Health
- **Maria Diuk-Wasser**, Associate Professor of Ecology, Evolution and Environmental Biology, Columbia University
- **Dina Fonseca**, Professor of Entomology, Rutgers University
- **Laura Kramer**, Director, Arbovirus Laboratory, Wadsworth Center, New York State Department of Health
- **Emily Mader**, Program Manager, NEVBD

## CDC Division of Vector-Borne Diseases

- **Lars Eisen**, Technical Advisor and Collaborator for the Northeast Center of Excellence in Vector-Borne Diseases
- **Alison Hinckley**, Technical Advisor and Collaborator for the Northeast Center of Excellence in Vector-Borne Diseases
- **Joanie Kenney**, Technical Advisor and Collaborator for the Northeast Center of Excellence in Vector-Borne Diseases
- **Courtney Nawrocki**, ORISE Fellow, CDC Division of Vector-Borne Disease
- **Ann Powers**, Technical Advisor and Collaborator for the Northeast Center of Excellence in Vector-Borne Diseases

## NEVBD Trainees

- **James Burtis**, Postdoctoral Researcher, Cornell University
- **Maria del Pilar Fernandez**, Postdoctoral Researcher, Columbia University
- **Megan Linske**, Postdoctoral Researcher, Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station
- **Eliza Little**, Postdoctoral Researcher, Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station
- **Joseph McMillan**, Postdoctoral Researcher, Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station
- **Maria Onyango**, Postdoctoral Researcher, Wadsworth Center, NYSDOH
- **Kara Fikrig**, Doctoral Student, Cornell University
- **Pallavi Kache**, Doctoral Student, Columbia University
- **Alexander 'Sasha' Keyel**, Postdoctoral Researcher, Wadsworth Center, SUNY Albany
- **James Stewart**, Graduate Student, Cornell University
- **Meredith VanAcker**, Doctoral Student, Columbia University
- **Bailey Willett**, Undergraduate Student, Cornell University

## NEVBD Partners & Collaborators

Philip	Armstrong	Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station
Doug	Brackney	Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station
Angela	Brasfield	Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station
Catherine	Brown	Massachusetts Department of Health
Scott	Campbell	Suffolk County Health Department
Kim	Cervantes	New Jersey Department of Health
Alexander	Ciota	Wadsworth Center, New York State Dept. of Health
Tonya	Colpitts	Boston University School of Medicine
Neeta	Connally	Western Connecticut State University
Janelle	Couret	University of Rhode Island
Duncan	Cozens	Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station

Scott	Crans	NJ State Mosquito Control Commission
Moses	Cucura	Suffolk County DPW, Division Vector Control
Paul	Curtis	Cornell University
Meaghan	Daley	Massachusetts Department of Health
Adrian	Diaz	Wadsworth Center Arbovirus Laboratory, NYSDOH
Andrew	Donnellycolt	Connecticut Department of Energy & Environmental Protection
Eric	Dotseth	West Virginia Department of Health
Gillian	Eastwood	Virginia Tech
Marten	Edwards	Muhlenberg College
Andrea	Egizi	Monmouth County, NJ Tick Lab, Rutgers University
Oliver	Elison Timm	SUNY Albany
Rich	Falco	Fordham University
Megan	Fritz	University of Maryland
Matt	Frye	New York State Integrated Pest Management
Jody	Gangloff-Kaufmann	New York State Integrated Pest Management
Daniel	Gilrein	Cornell Cooperative Extension of Suffolk County
Andrea	Gloria-Soria	Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station
Michael	Gosciminski	Rhode Island Department of Health
Chelsea	Gridley-Smith	NACCHO
AmberJean	Hansen	Yale Emerging Infections Program
Brandi	Hopkins	Massachusetts Department of Health
Josephine	Hyde	Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station
Tom	Iwanejko	Suffolk County DPW, Division Vector Control
Robert	Jordan	Monmouth County, NJ Mosquito Control Division
Natalie	Kwit	Vermont Department of Health
Joellen	Lampman	New York State Integrated Pest Management
Jillian	Leikauskas	Vermont Department of Health
Charles	Lubelczyk	Maine Medical Center Research Institute
Karen	Luther	Rhode Island Department of Health
Timothy	Lynam	Massachusetts Department of Health
Erika	Machtiger	Pennsylvania State University
Erin	Mann	Massachusetts Department of Health
Thomas	Mather	University of Rhode Island
Bill	Meredith	Delaware Mosquito Control Section
Elena	Mircoff	Virginia Department of Health
Goudarz	Molaei	Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station
Ángel	Muñoz	Columbia University
Robyn	Nadolny	Army Public Health Service
Sara	Niesobecki	TickNET Program, Yale Emerging Infections Program
Matthew	Osborne	Massachusetts Dept. of Public Health
Tanya	Petruff	Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station
Nicholas	Piedmonte	New York State Dept. of Health
Melissa	Prusinski	New York State Dept. of Health
Rebecca	Robich	Maine Medical Center Research Institute
Isobel	Ronai	Columbia University
Brittany	Schappach	Western Connecticut State University
Sarah	Scotland	Massachusetts Department of Health
John	Shepard	Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station
Sally	Slavinski	NYC Dept. of Health and Mental Hygiene
Robert	Smith	Maine Medical Center Research Institute
Kirby	Stafford	Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station
Blaire	Steven	Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station
Jianxin	Sun	Connecticut Department of Health
Saravanan	Thangamani	SUNY Upstate Medical University
Dennis	White	New York State Dept. of Health

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Jennifer	White	New York State Dept. of Health
Scott	Williams	Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station
Karen	Worthington	New Jersey Department of Health
Sandra	Zapata Ramirez	Western Connecticut State University

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# Appendix B. Planning Session Findings and Recommendations

## GROUP 1: Tick Surveillance in the Northeast

### Discussion Summary

The two breakout groups covered a range of topics with an emphasis on the need for unified guidelines and recommendations for sampling regionally for the three major tick species of concern. Actionable items for 2019 included promoting CDC's recently-published sampling document, expanding surveillance capacity through "tick blitz" surveys, incorporating passive surveillance data where possible, and updating the tick management handbook, with sections made available online. For 2019, there is a need for webinars and how-to videos to aid those setting up initial tick surveillance programs. A main research focus for 2019 stemming from this increased surveillance could be a better understanding of how tick abundance and human contact rates are related, as well as critical distribution information for the lone star and Asian longhorned ticks.

### 2019 Opportunities

1. IDENTIFY REGIONAL PARTNERS CURRENTLY CONDUCTING TICK SURVEILLANCE ACTIVITIES AND LEARN ADDITIONAL DETAILS ABOUT THEIR PROGRAMS
  - Identify program constraints for pathogen testing and specimen identification
  - Understand how programs engage with partners and approach data collection and sharing
2. GENERATE NORTHEAST-SPECIFIC TICK SURVEILLANCE GUIDANCE DOCUMENTS
  - Guidance for active tick surveillance and passive tick surveillance by program objective
  - Best practices with annotations based on likely scenarios or constraints a program will encounter
  - Options to overcome barriers to specimen identification and pathogen testing
3. CREATE ACCESSIBLE TOOLS TO HELP BROADER COMMUNITY IMPLEMENTATION OF ACTIVE TICK SURVEILLANCE
  - How-to videos on collection techniques and specimen processing
  - Webinars reviewing guidance documents and important considerations for starting a program
  - Fall webinar on lessons learned from the 2019 field season on the Asian longhorned tick

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## GROUP 2: Mosquito Surveillance in the Northeast

### Discussion Summary

These discussion groups focused on emergency preparedness for new viruses or other pathogen/parasite introductions. For 2019, arbovirus surveillance guidelines could be updated for the Northeast region. In addition, test kits with primer sets and protocols for detecting new pathogens could be provided to surveillance units in 2019 for more rapid responses. Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station and Wadsworth Center could provide guidance regionally in case of an emergency. Another actionable item for 2019 is the establishment of a separate email listserv that would provide regional partners with regular updates about what colleagues are finding in neighboring states, especially for arboviruses. A need to increase research on less emphasized arboviruses (EEE, LACV and JCV) and capturing those vectors in traps was highlighted as a focus for the 2019 season.

### 2019 Opportunities

1. INVESTIGATE LURES FOR ENHANCED MOSQUITO TRAPPING
2. DEVELOP TOOL KITS FOR RAPID RESPONSE TO NEW PATHOGENS
  - Primer sets and positive controls
3. ORGANIZE A MOSQUITO SURVEILLANCE LISTSERV TO TRACK OUTBREAKS IN THE REGION
4. ONLINE RESOURCES FOR INSECTICIDE TRUTHS AND MYTHS
5. ENHANCED ARBOVIRUS SURVEILLANCE APPLIED RESEARCH
  - EEE action thresholds
  - Larvicide impact on West Nile virus human cases
  - Vector competence studies for LACV and JCV

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## GROUP 3: Regional Community of Practice

### Discussion Summary

These discussion groups focused on streamlining communication with NEVBD partners and filling regional needs-based gaps. Actionable items for 2019 included reissuing the needs assessment survey through updated and broader networks, a shadowing program for partners to visit and work with NEVBD scientists, increasing material on our website to create a “clearinghouse for vetted information”, offering additional training for academic young professionals similar to the Vector Biology Boot Camp, and a “peer-to-peer technical advising program”. The formation of an advocacy working group and creation of materials for promoting vector surveillance and control is another actionable item for 2019. Surveying our Vector Biology Boot Camp attendees at one or more years out was another idea for fine-tuning that training event.

### 2019 Opportunities

1. CATALOG CONTACT INFORMATION FOR PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN THE REGION
  - Continue to highlight services and achievements at professional meetings
2. REFORMAT PUBLIC HEALTH PARTNERS WORKING GROUP FOR ENHANCED ENGAGEMENT
  - Specific working groups of interested parties in the region, such mosquito control and tick surveillance
  - Open participation format similar to USDA Asian longhorned tick structure
3. REFORMAT AND IMPLEMENT NEEDS ASSESSMENT FOR THE REGION
  - Target broader engagement through professional organization listservs and non-VBD public health workforce
4. DEVELOP RESOURCE CLEARINGHOUSE ON NEVBD WEBSITE
  - Resources identified, vetted, and best examples highlighted on website
  - Videos, small media, public education toolkits, training programs
5. ENHANCED TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES
  - Develop contact list of individuals willing to support ‘shadowing’ visits for public health professionals to gain targeted skills, like mosquito colony maintenance, tick ID, resistance assays
  - Create a peer-to-peer technical assistance program for the community following CSTE model
  - Young professionals Boot Camp held at partnering universities

# Appendix C. Summary of Annual Meeting Evaluations

## Day 1: Network Research and Program Updates

Attendees were asked to complete an evaluation form assessing the Day 1 of the Annual Meeting; 52 attendees completed an evaluation form. The evaluation form included a series of Likert scale questions (see Table A) and open-ended questions. The majority of attendees reported that they were satisfied with the event and that it was worth their time to attend. Constructive feedback provided by 13 attendees regarding the overall event included increased discussion resulting in identified priority areas for the network, a stronger connection linking the research outputs to public health action; increased length of the meeting time to facilitate interactive question-answer periods after presentations; and increased cohesion in the material presented, centered on network goals.

The majority of respondents rated other aspects of the event, including the quality of the presentations, relevance of the material presented, and networking opportunities, at excellent and good quality. Areas for improvement in future years of the meeting centered on event facilities and length of the meeting.

Table A. Attendee Response Distributions for the Day 1 Evaluation

Question Item	Response Distributions				
	Very Satisfied	Somewhat Satisfied	Neutral	Somewhat Dissatisfied	Very Dissatisfied
Please indicate your overall satisfaction with this event	32	16	3	0	0
	Extremely	Very	Moderately	Slightly	Not At All
To what extent was attending this meeting worth your time	20	26	5	0	0
	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Very Poor
The relevance of presentation contents to my work	27	20	3	1	0
Quality of presentations	30	20	1	0	0
Providing a forum for information exchange with other participants	37	13	1	0	0
Quality of the material circulated by the organizers	30	18	3	0	0
Registration process	42	8	0	1	0
Organizational arrangements for and during the event	39	8	2	0	0
Date of the event	37	10	4	0	0
Convenience of meeting venue location	35	13	2	0	0
Event venue/facilities comfort and size	29	13	8	1	0
	A Lot	Quite a Bit	Some	A Little Bit	Not At All
To what extent do you think you can apply the information presented today to your work	10	24	15	2	0

Fifty attendees provided feedback on what they considered the most valuable aspect of the 2019 NEVBD Annual Meeting. Close to half of the respondents (46%, 23 respondents) stated that the

ability to personally interact with others and network with attendees was the most valuable aspect of the meeting. Attendees also indicated they appreciated the ability to learn about the wide variety of activities ongoing within the NEVBD, as well as learn about specific updates in the area of tick surveillance and control. Table B below provides a summary of attendee responses.

**Table B. Attendee Responses: Most Valuable Aspect of 2018 NEVBD Annual Meeting**

Response Category	# of Respondents	% of Respondents
Interactions with others and in-person networking	23	46%
Diversity and content of research presentations	17	34%
Discussion panels & poster presentations	14	28%
Updates in tick research and the Asian longhorned tick	7	14%
Perspectives and approaches to disease surveillance & vector control	7	14%
Overview of network activities	3	6%
Diversity of attendees	2	5%

Forty-two attendees provided feedback on what they considered the least valuable aspect of the 2019 NEVBD Annual Meeting. The following response categories were most frequently mentioned:

- Format of panel discussions was not conducive to broader participation (13 respondents, 31%)
- Time devoted to material not applicable to participant experience, including modeling and vector control (13 respondents, 31%)
- Poster pitch format (3 respondents, 7%)
- Research presentations similar to information shared at other professional meetings (2 respondents, 5%)
- Small group of presenters dominated conversations (2 respondents, 5%)
- N/A (9 respondents, 21%)

Specific feedback in these responses also highlighted a desire for targeted group discussions on topics specific to the Northeast region, such as break out groups where multiple perspectives could be voiced.

Meeting attendees were asked to provide feedback on topics and themes they would like to see addressed in the 2020 NEVBD Annual Meeting, with 43 attendees providing responses. A wide variety of subjects were covered, with the most comments focusing on increased coverage for new approaches to tick and mosquito control, a stronger focus on public health action and practice, and updates on invasive species and species range expansion in the region.

## Day 2: Planning Session

Attendees who participated in the Day 2: Planning Session of the Annual Meeting were asked to complete an additional evaluation. Twenty-eight participants completed evaluations for the Planning Session. The evaluation included a series of Likert scale questions (see Table D) and open-ended questions.

Table D. Attendee Response Distributions for the Planning Session Evaluation

Question Item	Response Distributions		
	Strongly Agree	Neutral	Strongly Disagree
The objectives of the planning session were clear to me	23	5	0
My break out groups had the necessary people involved to complete our objectives	26	2	0
My break out group facilitators encouraged participation	25	3	0
My break out group facilitators respected my knowledge and experience	25	3	0
My break out group facilitators helped the group build consensus	22	6	0
My break out group facilitators helped the group establish priorities	20	8	0
I feel my voice was heard in the break out group discussions	25	3	0
I am comfortable with the recommendations provided by my break out groups	27	1	0
The break out group format was a useful way to gain feedback from NEVBD partners	26	2	0

  

Question Item	Response Distributions				
	Very Satisfied	Somewhat Satisfied	Neutral	Somewhat Dissatisfied	Very Dissatisfied
Please indicate your overall satisfaction with the planning session	20	6	1	1	0

Planning session attendees were generally satisfied with their break out group experiences, and viewed the exercise as a useful way to gain feedback from NEVBD partners. Overall, attendees were generally satisfied with the planning session activities and outcomes. Specific feedback to improve the event included broadening participation in the break out groups so that all attendees can contribute to each conversation, use of white boards for idea generation and planning, and providing a summary of the previous year's identified priorities with a description of progress made prior to the next annual meeting.

Planning session attendees were asked to describe what actions they would take as a result of participating in the planning portion of the 2018 NEVBD Annual Meeting; 15 individuals provided feedback to this question. The top three response categories included supporting broader engagement and the regional community of practice, increasing collaborative efforts, and contributing materials to be broadly shared across the network.

Planning session attendees were then asked to describe what actions they would like the NEVBD to take as a follow up to the planning portion of the event, with 25 individuals providing feedback. The majority of respondents mentioned receiving a written summary of the planning session outcomes. Additionally, respondents mentioned the establishment of working groups or committees to follow up on identified priorities. Several respondents also asked for a contact list of those who attended the meeting.