Project Name: Vector Entomology Internship

Location: Environmental Health Division – Vector Control

Contact Person(s): Vivek Raman

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Time Requirement: 20 hrs/week – June through August

Skill Requirements: Entomology background, Ability to use dichotomous keys, Word Processing,

Type of personnel student will work with: Vector Borne Disease Surveillance and Control Environmental Health Specialists

**Project Description:** The Southern Nevada Health District’s (SNHD) Vector Control office is responsible for mosquito control and mosquito borne diseases surveillance, including West Nile virus (WNv), Western Equine Encephalitis (WEE), and St. Louis Encephalitis (SLE). Mosquito trapping and testing remains the cornerstone of SNHD’s arbovirus surveillance program. This project has been designed as a means to support the Vector Control office primarily with adult mosquito species identification, sorting, and submission to the Department of Agriculture for arbovirus analysis. Additionally, the student will occasionally accompany Vector Control staff with surveying mosquito breeding sites, observing breeding control methods, and assist with mosquito trapping.

**Learning Objectives:**

- Apply classroom based entomology knowledge towards speciating, sorting and submitting mosquito vectors for arbovirus analysis.
- Apply vector entomology knowledge towards arbovirus surveillance and control methods.
- Apply Integrated Pest Management concepts towards understanding the interaction between Public Health and Pest Control.
- Gain background knowledge on the Nevada communicable disease laws.
- Interact with Southern Nevada Health District staff to gain a first hand perspective on a career in Vector Control and Vector Entomology.