

SUTER SCIENCE SEMINARS 2025-26

Harnessing a One Health approach to investigate triatomine bugs, vectors of Chagas disease

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10:15 a.m. • Suter Science Center room 106

*Chagas disease is a zoonotic, vector-borne infection caused by the parasite *Trypanosoma cruzi*. The infection is lifelong and can lead to potentially fatal cardiac or gastrointestinal alterations. *Trypanosoma cruzi* is a parasite of mammals, and it is spread between mammal hosts by insect vectors called 'triatomine bugs.' Triatomine bugs comprise 162 species spanning the Americas, from the Great Lakes to Patagonia, throughout both sylvatic and domestic settings. Dr. Peterson will share her research into the Chagas disease system with a focus on using the triatomine bug to answer epidemiological questions in areas where the disease is not well-studied, such as the United States and the Caribbean islands.*

Dr. Jennifer K Peterson is an Assistant Professor of Medical Entomology in the Department of Entomology and Wildlife Ecology at the University of Delaware in Delaware, US. She earned her MA and PhD in Ecology from Princeton University, followed by post-doctoral positions at Princeton, the University of Pennsylvania, and University of Notre Dame. At the University of Delaware, Dr. Peterson leads the IDEAS lab (Infectious Disease Entomology Across Scales), which focuses on investigating vector-borne diseases using a cross-scales, One Health approach. She focuses on Chagas disease, which she investigates in Colombia, Peru, Panama, Trinidad and Tobago, and most recently, the northeastern United States.



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