

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS: METAMORPHOSIS¹

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The theme of this 50th Annual Conference is "Metamorphosis" which implies a change or a life cycle and I think this theme is particularly appropriate for our Association. As associations grow and mature, they pass through stages of development much like institutions, corporations, and even individuals. Typically, the motivation to establish an association centers on easily identified objectives which can run the gamut from professional camaraderie, continuing education, standardization, and legislative activity. A dynamic association will pass through many stages. It will be faced with assessing its purposes and reason for being, with evaluating its programs and services, and with assessing its members' needs. AMCA is changing and has changed over the years. We are *not* the same association that was formed 50 years ago. We have many new programs, we have members in 93 countries, and we talk about a few other Diptera besides mosquitoes.

We are now on the verge of a change that will affect this association to its core and that is the retirement of Thomas D. Mulhern as Executive Director. Tommy has always been there to help and lead the way. His doctor has advised him to slow down after his medical problem of the fall of 1984. It is my hope that we can get someone to replace Tommy on a full time basis because we can now afford to pay someone on a full time basis to run AMCA. We can fulfill the recommendations of at least two AMCA members, Robert Glasgow and Richard Peters, to get a full time Manager for AMCA.

The Board of Directors of AMCA, at its meeting of March 17, 1985 in Atlantic City, passed the following items regarding Thomas D. Mulhern:

1. Board honored his request for retirement.
2. Appointed him Executive Director Emeritus.
3. Authorized payment of his expenses to attend future annual meetings.

A change that I am most interested in is broadening AMCA's scope. The AMCA is uniquely qualified to be a leader in medical entomology and vector control because of its large stable membership, excellent financial situation, and mainly its unique combination of

industry, research, academic, and operational individuals. The changes I would like to see AMCA make is to expand its horizons beyond the narrow scope of closely related Diptera to include all of vector control. The Association should become the focus for medical entomology and vector control in North America and possibly the world. The reasons for this change are:

1. The vast majority of our members are broadly trained in medical entomology.
2. Our researchers, U.S.D.A., Military, and University often switch to vectors other than mosquitoes.
3. At least 35% and possibly 50% of our control agencies are controlling vectors other than mosquitoes.
4. The public's and politicians' views are that our control agencies offer the perfect vehicle for control of other vectors.
5. The National Science Foundation has outlined a potential problem of not having enough trained people in this field in the future.

Our Long Range Planning Committee chaired by Bruce Eldridge has recommended expanding the scope of our conferences and journals to include other vectors. So, where do we go from here? My recommendation to you the members is that the AMCA should consider in our discussions in the next year the possibility of AMCA becoming an International Vector Control Association. The word control is purposely left in the title because the greatest need in all of our work is how, where, and when to control vector organisms. AMCA should become a force in vector control in the world by providing leadership in this field and working in partnership with PAHO and WHO.

For years now I have heard the complaint that the operational aspect of this association is on the decline and that the academic side is taking over. The complainants, almost always of the operational persuasion, argue that not enough operational papers or presentations are being given. But it is the operational people that are the culprits in that they don't give operational papers. The excuses are, "there's nothing to report" or "I don't like to speak to large audiences." Obviously, many of their peers feel the same. However, I have never seen an agency that didn't have new ideas or made an improvement of a technique of some kind. So operational people if you want operational presentations, you are going to have to make them

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yourselves. Besides pleasing yourself, you will please your peers and stem the academic tide from overtaking us. Most importantly, you can stimulate the researchers to work on problems that you have not been able to solve yourself. You must remember that operational people are not the only persons wishing to hear these papers, there are trustees, students and researchers who want to hear these also.

My special interest is in the management of vector control agencies. The management of control agencies is highly unique because there are so many program elements to consider, and balancing the human and financial resources against the mission of nuisance and disease control is often a difficult job. It seems to me that we are hiring the best technical people to direct these programs but they have very little managerial training or education. There is a strong need for managerial training for our

control program directors and entomologists. I am constantly amazed at the novel solutions arrived at by our control programs in administrative, technical and operational aspects. These ideas, solutions and experiences need to be shared so that we may all use this information. The traditional areas of management: planning, organizing, controlling, directing and staffing ought to be prime areas of discussion of our program directors at these meetings. State and regional associations should set up management seminars for their local people. We should make management seminars part of our annual conferences.

In conclusion, AMCA should continue to "metamorphose" to become the focus for mosquito and vector control in the world and chart a course to make sure that major decisions regarding our field of endeavor are made with AMCA as an integral voice.