

NPMA Blue Ribbon Bed Bug Task Force

Research and Efficacy Workgroup

Conference Call 29 November 2010, 3:00 PM EST

Attendees:

Dr. Dini Miller, Virginia Tech

Jay Breusch, Plunketts Pest Control

Dr. Stephen Kells, University of Minnesota

Michael Botha, Sandwich Isle Pest Control

Dr. Phil Koehler, University of Florida

Dr. Ron Harrison, Orkin Pest Control

Dr. Susan Jones, Ohio State University

Steve Dwinel, FDACS

Lois Rossi, EPA

Dr. Changlu Wang, Rutgers University

Kevin Sweeny, EPA

Dr. Stuart Mitchell, NPMA

Jennifer Urbanski, EPA

Jim Fredericks, NPMA

Discussion:

What research does the industry need?

1. Basic bed bug biology, chemical ecology and behavior.
2. Applied research into effective monitoring and detection techniques including:
 - Trapping / monitoring bed bugs in the environment
 - Detecting bed bugs with canine or other biological means
 - Detecting bed bugs with novel technologies
 - What is the level of detection? What percentage of a population is responding to monitoring efforts?
 - Active versus passive monitoring – how can recently-fed bed bugs be monitored?
3. What is the role of bed bugs as a public health threat?
 - Threats to mental health?
 - Can bed bugs be linked to clinical cases?

Where will the funding come from?

- Pest Management Foundation (NPMA) needs to better communicate the reasons for not approving proposals and timelines for approval.
- Interagency Bed Bug Task Force – EPA, NIH, USDA
- Is Health and Human Services a viable funding source?
- Industry Suppliers

Product Efficacy Testing

EPA currently requires efficacy testing data for registration of bed bug products due to their classification as public health pests.

Product efficacy “clearinghouse” made up of university cooperators to test:

- Insecticides
- Repellants
- Devices

Creation of an Efficacy Testing Protocol Development Sub-Committee comprised of:

- Dr. Changlu Wang
- Steve Dwinell
- Lois Rossi
- Dr. Dini Miller
- Dr. Stephen Kells

Subcommittee will work on developing protocols for testing product efficacy. Jim will contact volunteers and coordinate a meeting of the subcommittee.

The source of funding for product efficacy testing is unclear.

Meeting adjourned at 2:55 PM EST.