

## WHO WE ARE

Established in 1994, the Belize Vector & Ecology Center, or BVEC, is committed to providing an outstanding research platform for investigating a wide variety of ecological and public health concerns. Located in Orange Walk Town, Belize, Central America, BVEC is a field station managed by University of Notre Dame Eck Institute for Global Health and Department of Biological Sciences faculty, Dr. John P. Grieco and Dr. Nicole L. Achee. Through partnership with Belize Ministry of Health officials, domestic and international students, and researchers from around the world, BVEC ensures knowledge transfer and capacity building within local, regional and international public health arenas.



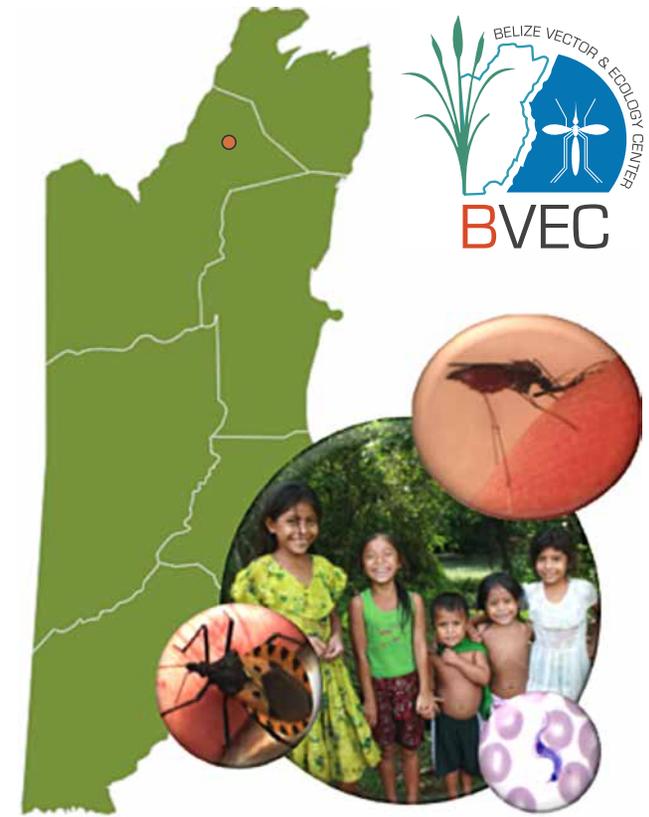
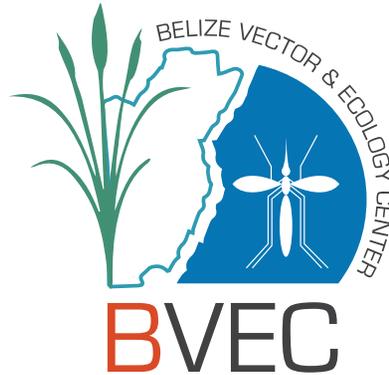
**DR JOHN P. GRIECO**  
Managing Director, BVEC

Department of Biological Sciences  
Eck Institute for Global Health  
University of Notre Dame  
[jgrieco@nd.edu](mailto:jgrieco@nd.edu)



**DR NICOLE L ACHEE**  
Managing Director, BVEC

Department of Biological Sciences  
Eck Institute for Global Health  
University of Notre Dame  
[nachee@nd.edu](mailto:nachee@nd.edu)



### ABOUT THE LOGO

The identity for BVEC was created by Emily Hoffman, a Notre Dame undergraduate student. It emphasizes the ultimate BVEC trifecta by combining: (1) the marsh cattails, (2) the country outline and (3) the vector silhouette.

Belize Vector and Ecology Center  
Orange Walk Town  
Orange Walk District  
Belize, Central America

# Belize Vector and Ecology Center

*Promoting public health research*

The Belize Vector and Ecology Center, BVEC, aims to provide an outstanding research platform for investigating a wide variety of ecological and public health concerns.



## RESEARCH

The foundation of BVEC is high quality research. Recent programs have focused on 1) the presence and distribution of tick-transmitted bacterial diseases, 2) man-made environmental impact on malaria transmission and 3) identification and modeling of risk factors for Chagas disease. BVEC projects have traditionally been externally funded by agencies such as the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and Global Emerging Infections Surveillance (GEIS) program, with funds supporting Ph.D. doctoral candidates.

## TRAINING

Alongside research, BVEC is dedicated to local public health capacity building. This is accomplished through a variety of training workshops conducted in partnership with the Belize Ministry of Health and other in-country organizations.



## TECHNOLOGY

BVEC is also committed to finding innovative ways to use technology for global health. Recently, BVEC partnered with the University of Notre Dame's Eck Institute for Global Health and the Belize Ministry of Health to implement a mobile database management system for dengue surveillance as an alternative to paper and pen.

## OUR FACILITIES

### FIELD STATION

The base of all research conducted throughout the country complete with dedicated office, dormitory, laboratory and working insectary space.



### INSECTARY

Fully equipped for colony maintenance of disease vectors, such as mosquitoes and triatomine bugs, that are used for both educational and research purposes.

### MICROSCOPY LAB

Houses both compound and dissecting microscopes for vector and parasite identification. Also serves for storage of voucher specimens of the insects of Belize.



### EXPERIMENTAL HUTS

Located off-site, these structures are used to evaluate insect behavior and how well industry products under development may reduce bites to humans.

## FUTURE GROWTH

Building on a strong foundation in Belize, BVEC aims to expand its reach to become a regional center, connecting researchers through Central America. Expansion of the current facilities and infrastructure would enable BVEC to host more visiting students and researchers from around the world, scale up operations and capacity building efforts, hold larger training workshops, and host research conferences in partnership with the University of Belize.

# GET INVOLVED

## STUDENTS

BVEC welcomes student researchers, and serves as an official host site for Capstone Projects, which are a core component of the Master of Science in Global Health (MSGH) curriculum at the University of Notre Dame. Such programs enable students to make connections between classroom training in global health topics and the real health needs of resource-poor populations around the world through hands-on experience.

## RESEARCHERS

Bring your project to our field station! BVEC can provide a base of operations and help with logistics, enabling you to focus on your research.

## DONATE

As BVEC continues to grow, it stands determined to bring positive change to the global health community. If you are interested in supporting our work, know that donations of any size will be greatly appreciated and put to good use meeting our current operational needs and enabling future expansion.

Make checks out to: University of Notre Dame

\*Please specify "BVEC" in the Memo area

Remit to: John P. Grieco

Department of Biological Sciences

University of Notre Dame

107D Galvin Life Science

Notre Dame, IN 46556

## CONTACT

Questions about our work or getting involved?

Phone: 1.574.631.1561

Email: [jgrieco@nd.edu](mailto:jgrieco@nd.edu) and [nachee@nd.edu](mailto:nachee@nd.edu)