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.

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"The foundations of BVEC are solid, based on decades of high quality research and forging local collaboration and cooperation."
- Joe Wagman
USUHS Ph.D. student, Class of 2014

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

Promoting public health research

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.
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.

**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 triatoma 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 throughout 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.

**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.

**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  
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**CONTACT**
Questions about our work or getting involved?
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“BVEC is an invaluable resource to both the health community in Belize and the global research community at-large.”
- Michael Clark, Notre Dame MSGH Class of 2014