## **Urban IPM Priorities from SCOPE Working Group**

## **Urban IPM Priorities – from the perspective of pest exclusion and structures**

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These priorities were developed in three meetings of the SCOPE 2020 Working Group, which consists of extension and research entomologists, public health officials and pest management professionals.

Determine whether interior sealing of gaps (along moldings, walls, floors, cabinets, outlets) help mitigate populations of bed bugs, cockroaches and/or other indoor pests.

Identify the top priority pest exclusion points for ensuring rodent exclusion in multifamily housing. This might be door sweeps, foundation openings, vent screens, utility chases or any other opening.

Identify the environmental and human health impacts of pest management practices, both positive and negative. (John Carlson Felicia Rabido)

Conduct a cost/benefit analysis of pest exclusion in a setting that helps determine the value of exclusion versus monthly pest control costs or another conventional program.

Develop a scientifically-validated pest proofing "report card" system for multi-family housing. The intent of which would be to inform residents and potential renters about a building's pest safety risks and encourage better practices among residents, landlords and managers.

Study the biology and ecology of urban pests with the intention of finding vulnerabilities for use in lower-risk control options.

Develop a building-wide pest management program for private multi-family housing, including model policy and plan, educational resources, best materials and methods. Provide plans for adoption of such a program.

Investigate better methods of monitoring and treating sanitary (sewer) systems and underground infrastructure for pests such as American cockroaches, Norway rats, or flies.

Determine what the most common sources of pest and pest management information are for the general public today, for example the internet, pest management companies, neighbors, family and friends, or the library.

Develop model IPM programs (policy, plan, contract) for underserved types of pest management contracts, such as child care, public housing, private rentals, restaurants, office buildings, hospitals, or nursing homes using improved IPM criteria.

Design and conduct IPM outreach using an interdisciplinary approach involving sociologists, psychologists, community health workers and others who specialize in human behavior change.

Develop more effective communication for a wider audience to prevent the use of dichlorvos strips and rodent tracking powder in illegal settings (such as in restaurants and bars).

Find innovative strategies to improve urban IPM awareness and adoption. Develop an alternative to the agricultural IPM model (7 steps of IPM).

Define target audiences among "the general public" and shape urban IPM messaging to those audiences. (renters, homeowners, property managers, travelers, pet owners, cooks, gardeners, construction experts, architects, etc.).

Work with agencies responsible for heath (food service) and housing inspection to assure that pest monitoring is included, adequate and that inspectors are well trained.

Develop and enhance access to multilingual outreach materials including and beyond Spanish, especially for public health pests.

Develop in-depth IPM skills training for prospective and current pest management professionals, that includes hands-on pest exclusion (building repair) training and communication skills.

Develop ways to incorporate IPM plans into other health, safety and energy efficiency programs such as LEED, HACCP, or the Food Safety Modernization Act.