AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES NEWS

08/31/15

DREISSENID MUSSELS

SD: Zebra Mussels Discovered in Lewis and Clark Lake; Boats to Be Inspected (8/20/15)

The mussels were of multiple sizes, indicating that zebra mussels are reproducing in Lewis and Clark Lake. Back in November 2014, a single adult mussel was found by the South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks (GFP) staff on a dock removed from the lake. That discovery, along with the discovery of larval quagga mussels at Angostura Reservoir in western South Dakota, prompted GFP officials to put new rules in place prompting boaters to remove all drain plugs from watercraft prior to leaving boat ramp areas. While officials believe that most boaters are complying with the law, the now confirmed presence of these invasive mussels makes compliance even more critical….

Related Stories: Zebra Mussels Invade Lewis and Clark Lake (w/audio 8/24/15) and Agencies Attacking Mussel Infestation (8/21/15)

[Note: Mike Smith, SDGFP AIS Coordinator also said “This lake is a border water between South Dakota and Nebraska. A joint meeting of multiple state and federal agencies was held today [8/20/15]. Initial discussions included potential eradication attempts; however, while I was in the meeting I sent our other surface dive team to additional locations and they were able to confirm that the infestation was much more widespread than we believed after the surface dives we completed yesterday. Mussels were found at boat ramps starting right next to the dam and at every ramp upstream to the Tabor boat ramp. This waterbody was designated suspect last November, and a veliger appeared in out June sample set this year. This sample was sent to a private lab for PCR confirmation, and while awaiting these results we found mussels on boats this past Monday, 8/17. We quickly assembled surface dive teams and inspected 111 of the approximately 375 boats in the Marina yesterday. Rough analysis of the data showed approximately 34% of all boats in the Marina had at least one mussel attached and all dock structures were infested. Interestingly, the boat type with the highest percentage infestation were pontoon boats (81% of all pontoon boats had at least one mussel)”].
Calif: County officials to meet with feds at San Justo Reservoir (8/28/15)

San Benito County officials are planning to meet Monday with representatives of the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation at San Justo Reservoir to discuss the eradication plan for the site. San Justo Reservoir has been closed since January 2008 after the discovery of the invasive zebra mussels there. Federal officials with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation have been working with the San Benito County Water District on an eradication plan since then as the reservoir, a popular fishing spot, has remained closed to the public. That eradication plan focuses on the use of a natural substance called potash—sodium chloride—to kill the mussels, which can clog water systems and cause costly damage. The federal agency is nearing the completion of its environmental work on the project…..

Related Stories: Calif County: Feds finally move on San Justo mussel infestation (8/18/15) and Calif: Community Board: We'll believe it when San Justo reopens (8/27/15) and Great Mussel Bakeoff at San Justo Reservoir (8/26/15) [Humor]


Abstract: Zebra mussels were introduced in the mid-1980s to the Great Lakes of North America via ballast water exchange. These highly invasive mollusks have made negative impacts upon native aquatic ecosystems and have been a major concern to managers of all types of water delivery systems, including potable water treatment, agriculture, industry, power generation, and fire protection. Since this invasive organism's introduction, a number of chemicals and biopesticides with previously known or newly discovered molluscicidal properties have been used to control it. The goal of any chemical control program is to choose products that will be effective against the target organism, will work rapidly, and have minimal environmental impact. This report is an update of an original version, Zebra Mussel Chemical Control Guide, by S. L. Sprecher and K. D. Getsinger, report number ERDC/EL TR-001, published in January 2000, and describes basic guidelines for the use of those compounds currently registered with the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) for control of zebra mussels. Included in Version 2.0 is a summary of the USEPA registration process, as well as up-to-date information on available molluscicide products, their use strategies, formulations, mode of action, application rates and techniques, maximum water concentrations, use restrictions, toxicological data, and precautions on product handling.

Manitoba: Aquatic Invasive Species Update Bulletin # 8 (8/13/15)

Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship reports that watercraft inspection stations with decontamination units targeting aquatic invasive species (AIS) will be available for boaters at...
ND: Grand Forks sees zebra mussels more as a nuisance than a concern (8/6/15)

If zebra mussels aren't controlled, they can be a costly problem for cities, some more than others. But officials in Grand Forks said they don't believe zebra mussels will disrupt anything here……

TX: Lake Waco testing shows no sign of zebra mussels (8/3/15)

For officials testing Lake Waco’s water for evidence of invading zebra mussels, a negative is a positive. And the most recent test by Texas Parks and Wildlife Department turned up negative, showing no traces of zebra larvae or DNA material in samples collected July 10 at several points around the lake. “That does not mean zebra mussels are not there or that they haven’t established themselves in the lake, but it’s certainly an encouraging sign,” said Brian Van Zee, TPWD inland fisheries regional director based in Waco. The discovery last summer of a small zebra mussel colony near the Ridgewood Country Club boat ramp raised worries that the mollusks could quickly dominate the lake, clogging intake pipes and upsetting the ecosystem.

ND: Emergency Aquatic Nuisance Species Rules in Place on Red River (8/4/15)

The North Dakota Game and Fish Department is implementing two new emergency rules designed to prevent the spread of zebra mussels outside the Red River…..

Related Stories: Zebra mussels in the Red River impact remains unseen (8/7/15) and ND: Signs posted for zebra mussel infestation (8/8/15)

SD: Zebra mussels discovered on boat at Rocky Point Recreation Area (7/31/15)

….These results indicate that Belle Fourche Reservoir was likely not the source of the mussels found on the boat…..

MT: Genetics Analysis Can Help Detect Early Presence Of Invasive Freshwater Mussels (8/25/15)

Scientists at the University of Montana are perfecting a technique to detect the presence of invasive freshwater mussels long before they form massive colonies that can clog water intakes, impact hydropower and irrigation facilities, cover marinas and beaches, and ruin fisheries by robbing the water of nutrients. In a recent presentation to the Council, Dr. Gordon Luikart, a professor of conservation ecology and genetics at the Flathead Lake Biological Station of the University of Montana, described the use of environmental DNA in a laboratory analysis so sensitive that even the presence of a single mussel can be detected from a water sample. The early warning provided by the presence of environmental DNA would help fish and water managers identify and treat
initial infestations early before they spread, jump-start prevention efforts, and potentially save millions of dollars in mitigation costs……

BOAT INSPECTION/DECON NEWS

Lake Minnetonka marina owner fights a constant battle advocating for lakes (8/22/15)

Preserving and protecting Minnesota’s lakes is personal for Gabriel Jabbour. He owns several boat businesses on Lake Minnetonka — the Twin Cities’ largest and most popular lake — and has a modern mansion on the shore. But he’s not just worried about his backyard. As invasive species like zebra mussels spread to more Minnesota lakes, Jabbour has emerged as one of the state’s most outspoken lakes advocates, serving on a state committee and spearheading a national summit this year on boat designs that could help prevent the spread of invasive species….

New study finds Michigan boaters unsure on invasive species prevention (8/5/15)

With over 11,000 lakes and 35,000 miles of navigable streams and rivers, Michigan offers plenty of opportunity for power boating and paddling. Over 800,000 boats and other watercraft are registered in the state, so there is also plenty of potential for accidental movement of zebra mussels and other troublesome invaders.

AZ: Lake Havasu State Park boat decontaminator gets first customer (8/19/15)

………“I hope the scientists will come up with the silver bullet, but until that we should do what we can to hold them off as long as we can,” said quagga specialist Debra D. Davis. “Why wouldn’t we do all we can to protect our natural resources?”……….. “Other western states are like, ‘Hey, you have the mussels, you need to contain them,’” said Kami Silverwood, Game and Fish aquatic invasive species specialist.

BC: Invasive mussels found on boats during decontamination training (8/19/15)

Those attending an invasive mussel inspection workshop earlier this week got more than expected when a boat carrying the concerning molluscs showed up for an actual inspection and decontamination, say event organizers. The workshop, held in Kelowna’s Cook Street Boat Launch parking lot Monday, was organized by the Okanagan Basin Water Board and its WaterWise Program’s “Don’t Move A Mussel” initiative in partnership with the B.C. Ministry of Environment. It was geared to marina and yacht club operators but included RCMP boat program and local government bylaw staff, as well as Okanagan Nation Alliance fisheries representatives…..
AB: Man’s best friend is a mussel’s worst enemy (8/7/15)

Aquatic invasive species, including zebra and quagga mussels, are serious threats to Alberta’s waterways. The province is so committed to keeping Alberta mussel-free that mussel-sniffing dogs are now a permanent addition to the Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Program…..

Related Story: MN: Zebra mussels get sniffed out by DNR dog Reggie (8/16/15)

Manitoba: Aquatic Invasive Species Update Bulletin #5 (7/23/15)

Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship reports that watercraft inspection stations with decontamination units targeting aquatic invasive species (AIS) will be available for boaters at Selkirk Park in Selkirk and St. Vital Park in Winnipeg today to Monday, July 27. In addition, another watercraft inspection team will rove between Balsam Bay and Winnipeg Beach on the South Basin of Lake Winnipeg…….

MARINE/BALLAST WATER

Canada: High hopes for fishing of invasive green crabs (8/13/15)

P.E.I.'s first commercial green crab fishery is underway. Fourteen fishermen have been granted licences from the federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans to fish this invasive species until mid-November. Not a lot of green crab has been landed so far. Fishermen believe the two recent harsh winters have knocked numbers down……

Great Lakes’ viral invaders

Viral invasions would make for a good plot in the next Spielberg blockbuster, but according to Michigan State University water researchers, it’s not a Hollywood fantasy. In fact, millions of tiny, dangerous microbes have been attacking native species in the Great Lakes for decades. Published in the journal Environmental Science and Technology, the study produced the most-detailed list of viruses in ballast water to date, and aims to provide engineers, environmental scientists and policy makers with vital information on how ships spread viruses. In addition, it will help support evaluation of ballast water quality to protect public health from invasive viral pathogens.

St. Louis County offers cash for ballast treatment (8/5/15)
St. Louis County expanded its aquatic invasive species grant program Tuesday, approving $50,000 for the Izaak Walton League of America to fight against invaders suspected in ballast water in Great Lakes freighters. The County Board voted 5-2 to approve $50,000 for the Ike’s Minnesota division, contingent on the group securing $50,000 from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and $50,000 from the National Park Service……

Canadian Ship Owners Ballast Water Initiative Shortlisted for International Award (8/20/15)

OTTAWA -- The Canadian Shipowners Association’s CSA Ballast Water Research and Technology Evaluation ……

OTHER

Turtles turning up in Anchorage: Are they surviving the Alaska winter? (8/6/15)

A 7-inch-long male red-eared slider turtle was pulled out of Chester Creek by a wildlife biologist Tuesday, another indication that Alaska's largest city might have a turtle problem -- or more exactly, a people-turtle problem……

Lake Tahoe Environmental Summit covers major issues impacting California & Nevada (8/20/15)

………On the aquatic invasive species front, the joint plan moves from prevention to proactive control. Jesse Patterson, deputy director of the League to Save Lake Tahoe, said while the basin’s preventative measures like boat checks have helped, there hasn’t been much effort to control non-native species already in the lake. “Action should happen now and this plan really steps it up,” Patterson said. He added that it wasn’t just a South Shore problem since invasive species are spreading across the lake…………

The New Wild (8/18/15)

When journalist Fred Pearce set out to write a book about the role invasive species play in our environment, he imagined it would be about the havoc they cause. What he found surprised him though. He says the horror stories are overblown and that these resourceful plants and animals are often responding to the damage that humans have wrought. They push their way through concrete and thrive in pollution. Tuesday, Pearce joins Doug to explain why he says invasive species could be nature’s salvation…..[With Audio]

The Book The New Wild: Why Invasive Species Will Be Nature's Salvation can be ordered @ [Indiebound]Amazon].

Related Story HERE
**Protecting Lake Tahoe, many projects at a time (8/13/15)**

….“With a serious and sustained effort, we can protect Lake Tahoe’s native species and the health of Tahoe shorezones from unwanted invasive species,” Sudeep Chandra, biologist and limnologist from the University of Nevada, Reno, said…..

**Related Stories:** Plan Targets Tahoe Invasive Species (W/Video, 8/12/15) and **$250,000 Tahoe Keys weed management plan includes herbicides (8/14/15)**

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**From Mussels to Crayfish and Gobies: Have the Great Lakes Experienced an “Invasional Meltdown?” (8/10/15)**

…….Our research asks: are quagga and zebra mussels really helping round gobies and rusty crayfish coexist, particularly at such high abundances?.......

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**WEEDS**

**Scientists working to control invasive weeds along the Truckee River (8/28/15)**

Truckee, Calif. — It’s still not entirely clear how it got there in the first place, but area scientists and residents have just about had it with the ever-increasing spread of an invasive plant that’s taken root along the Truckee River. Eurasian watermilfoil, a plant native to areas of Europe, Asia and North Africa, has had widespread impact in North America since reports of its negative impact started becoming prominent in the early 1940s…..

**Environmental activists claim “misguided war” on invasive plants is big business for Monsanto, glyphosate (8/19/15)**

Nowadays, the notion that plants and animals have a “natural” habitat, from which outsiders must be expelled, has taken firm hold in the United States — first among a cadre of biologists, then in the media, and ultimately at the highest levels of the federal government. What happened?

**Columbia River: Divers prepare to yank irrigation-clogging weed (8/13/15)**

Divers equipped with suction hoses will soon begin removing flowering rush from sites on the Columbia river where the irrigation canal-clogging weed was discovered last year. The invasive species was first found on the Oregon side of the river near McNary Dam in August 2014, but regulatory hurdles prevented it from being dug out immediately. Flowering rush is already a problem in Washington, Idaho, and Montana, where its
thickly growing leaves impede water movement to the detriment of irrigators and fish……

OR: Beetles meant to curb weeds invade Portland Neighborhood (8/11/15)

PORTLAND, Ore. -- Sellwood residents say it's like nothing they've ever seen before: Swarms of tiny beetles are invading their yards, gardens, even some homes. And it turns out, the bugs were released on purpose by the state.…

Related Stories: Sellwood beetle infestation should be short-lived, experts say (8/12/15) and ODA: Sellwood Neighborhood Biocontrol Migration Event Fact Sheet (8/12/15) and Some Relief for Oregon Neighborhood Facing Onslaught of Government Beetles (8/18/15)

[Editor’s Note: This event occurred about one mile from the PSMFC Office. We were able to collect numerous beetles on our window sills at the early stages of the outbreak. As of 8/31/15, it appears the beetles have died off.]

CO: Local rafters raise money to manage invasive vegetation (8/24/15)

Grand Junction, Colo: The 2nd annual Raft the River took to the Colorado River Sunday morning to raise money and awareness for managing invasive plant species…. [W/Video]

Over 13000 Invasive Plant Species Causing Billions Of Dollars In Damage (8/20/15)

In a study featured in the journal Nature, the researchers found that 13,168 species of plants, roughly amounting to 3.9 percent of the total number of species in the world, have become naturalized in different parts of the globe as a consequence of human activity…..

Aquarium & Pond Plants of the World, Edition 2.1 (8/7/15)

If you have ever needed a reliable source for identifying an invasive aquatic species, you might have waded through the USDA APHIS ITP’s “Aquarium& Pond Plants of the World” (APPW). Edition 2.1 was released yesterday. The USDA APHIS ITP announcement states APPW still has “fact sheets, images, an illustrated glossary, and an interactive key to support the identification process for over 140 genera of plant and plant-like organisms grown and used in the aquarium and pond plant trade”. The resource has been updated with a new design and increased user capabilities. The tool is now responsive for use across multiple platforms including smartphones and tablets…..

FISH

Scientists fighting Tahoe's invasive species make bad fish good fish for Reno homeless (8/16/15)
RENO, Nevada — Largemouth bass and bluegills that were making their home in parts of Lake Tahoe where they don't belong are ending up in the stomachs of some of Nevada's poor and homeless as part of an offshoot of a research project to combat invasive species. Scientists at the University of Nevada, Reno have entered into a partnership with area conservation groups and a food pantry affiliated with a local homeless shelter to make sure the aquatic trespassers they remove from the alpine waters don't go to waste.

Seismic Water Guns Studied as a Deterrent against the Invasion of Asian Carp in the Great Lakes (July 2015)

The Bighead Carp and Silver Carp are two Asian carp species that may pose a threat to the Great Lakes ecosystem if they move from the Mississippi River basin into the Great Lakes. Introduced into the Mississippi River basin during the 1970s, they spread across the basin. If these carp get into the Great Lakes they may deplete resources that are normally consumed by native fish species and could adversely affect the sport and commercial fisheries industries in the Great Lakes……

Yellowstone to clear Soda Butte Creek of nonnative fish (8/2/15)

JACKSON — Before moving ahead with a plan to destroy exotic brook trout in Yellowstone National Park's Soda Butte Creek, fisheries managers will first try to capture native cutthroat trout from the stream to salvage them. In response to public comment, Yellowstone decided to sweep Soda Butte to gather live cutthroat, adding a step to its usual protocol for restoring a fluvial fishery back to its native fish. Rotenone, a piscicide, will then go into Soda Butte's waters to kill off the mostly remaining nonnative brook trout, Yellowstone fisheries program leader Todd Koel said.

WDFW schedules meetings on proposed freshwater gamefish rules (8/7/15)

WDFW is recommending further discussion on proposals that would:

- Eliminate size restrictions and daily limits for eastern brook trout in most western Washington streams and crappie in several western Washington lakes.
- Eliminate size restrictions and daily limits for bass, channel catfish and walleye for areas in the Columbia River and tributaries contiguous with Oregon

Related Story: State proposes no limits on lower Columbia bass, walleye catch (8/13/15)
Watercraft Inspection and Decontamination Training

The Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission and its 100th Meridian Initiative partners are announcing and sponsoring Watercraft Inspection and Decontamination Trainings for Fall of 2015 for the following dates and locations:

10/6 – 10/7, 2015            Lake Pleasant
11/17 – 11/18, 2015       Lake Mead

Openings are limited!!!

For further information go to http://www.westernais.org/upcoming-classes or contact “Quagga D” Davis at: quaggadee@cox.net or (702) 236-3814.

JOBS

Calif: Lake County seeking ramp monitors

Lake County Water Resources is seeking part time employees to monitor the public boat ramps on Clear Lake for quagga mussel sticker compliance. According to Mark Miller of Water Resources the monitors will be paid $14 per hour and will have a flexible work schedule. Job applications can be downloaded from the county’s web site at www.co.lake.ca.us and click on job opportunities. Those who want more information on the position can call Miller at (707) 272-0760.

COURTS

Puget Sound: Fish farms could prompt lawsuit against government (8/26/15)

In 2012, the IHN virus infected thousands of salmon farmed in net pens in Puget Sound. Now, the Wild Fish Conservancy intends to sue the EPA and NOAA if action is not taken to develop stricter rules governing large net pens…[W/Video]

AL: Smith Lake Guides cited for importation of invasive blueback herring (8/30/15)

The Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources has been puzzled for some time as to how blueback herring, a baitfish species not commonly found in the Sipsey/Warrior River system, got into Lewis Smith Lake several years back--but this month they got a pretty strong clue. ACDNR officers arrested two Smith Lake fishing guides in possession of the fast-breeding baitfish while on the water conducting striped bass fishing trips. The stripers can't resist the herring, it seems, but the guides should have--moving a non-resident species into state waters is a major faux pas, to say the least--and the state says it may earn the guides jail time in addition to large fines…..

ADVOCACY
Regional Commissions seek funding for aggressive Asian carp protection (7/21/15)

Protecting the Great Lakes from Asian carp and other aquatic nuisance species is a top priority for regional stakeholders and the President’s budget should reflect this sense of urgency. This was conveyed this week to President Obama in a joint letter from the Great Lakes Commission and the Great Lakes Fishery Commission urging funding for a robust and aggressive program to protect the Great Lakes from Asian carp in the FY 2017 federal budget, now being prepared……………

FEDERAL/STATE/PROVINCIAL LEGISLATION, ACTIONS

British Columbia: - Protecting Our Lakes and Economy From Invasive Species Act, 2015

This Bill (M 226 – 2015) protects freshwater lakes and rivers in British Columbia from invasive species by requiring mandatory inspection of incoming watercraft at British Columbia entry points and prior to entering British Columbia waters. Any boat or vessel arriving from out of province must report to an inspection site. Individuals entering with watercraft must obey signage and proceed to an inspection station. Failure to comply may result in fines and all monies collected in fines must be administered for the purpose of supporting relevant fisheries programs.

Related Story HERE

FEDERAL

****US Congress is out on recess and will return on September 8****

Clawson Introduces L.E.A.P. Act of 2015 to Help Fight the Onslaught of Lionfish in Florida Waters (8/4/15)

WASHINGTON – Congressman Curt Clawson (FL-19) has spent several months developing a legislative measure to help in the fight against the burgeoning population of lionfish in the coastal waters off Florida…..

H. R. 3202 can be found HERE

Vessel Incidental Discharge Act (S. 373) Report Language Released (7/29/15)

This S. 373 was passed out of committee on 2/26/15. The bill report language was released 7/29/15 and can be found HERE.
The states of Oregon, Washington and California have serious concerns with S. 373 and its companion bill in the House H.R.980 as it “would preempt a States’ authority to address vessel discharges including ballast water, within state waters.” Supporting the legislation are numerous U.S. and international vessel owners and operators (e.g. American Waterways Operators and World Shipping Council).

The Senate Environment and Public Works Committee passes (8/5/15) the Sensible Environmental Protection Act of 2015 (S. 1500)

S. 1500, introduced by Sens. Mike Crapo (D-Idaho) and Claire McCaskill (D-Mo.), would reverse a 2009 federal appeals court decision in National Cotton Council v. EPA that requires the agency to issue Clean Water Act permits for spraying pesticides over navigable waters. According to the Senate EPW Committee (Majority):

This bill, supported by committee members from both sides of the aisle and introduced by Sens. Mike Crapo, John Barrasso, John Boozman, Jim Inhofe, Deb Fischer, Tom Carper and others would amend the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) the Clean Water Act (CWA) regarding the regulation of the use of pesticides. More specifically, it would eliminate duplicative permitting under FIFRA and the CWA for the discharge into navigable waters of pesticide residues or pesticides if the pesticide is already authorized for sale, distribution, or use under FIFRA. The bill includes exceptions to this prohibition including discharges resulting from the use of pesticides in violation of FIFRA, stormwater discharges regulated under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES), and discharges of manufacturing or industrial effluent, treatment works effluent, and discharges incidental to the normal operation of a vessel. This bill would also require the EPA to submit a report to Congress. EPA originally did not require permits under both statutes, however, following a 6th Circuit Court of Appeals decision, ultimately issued a general permit under the CWA. This bill clarifies the duplicative permitting is not required under the CWA and FIFRA as EPA originally determined.

MEETINGS

SEPTEMBER


OCTOBER
Save the Date: Society of Wetland Scientists PNW Chapter 2015 Regional Conference --
October 6th, 7th & 8th 2015, Red Lion Conference Center, Olympia, WA

The Columbia River Basin Team of the 100th Meridian Initiative will meet October 7&8, 2015 at the Embassy Suites Portland Airport. Stay tuned to this list serve for details.


NOVEMBER

Coastal & Estuarine Research Federation November 8-12 Portland, Oregon.

2016

January

ICMB-IX - Hulls, harbours and other invasion hotspots: 19-21 January 2016, Sydney, Australia
The International Society for the Study of Marine Bioinvasions invites you to participate in the 9th International Conference on Marine Bioinvasions (ICMB-IX), in Sydney, Australia. Abstracts should be submitted to the ICMB Scientific Steering Committee using the electronic form on the 'Call for Abstracts' page.

February

Invasive Species Council of BC, INVASIVES 2016: Invasive Species Council of BC's Public Forum & AGM, will be held Feb. 2-3, 2016 at the Pacific Gateway Hotel in Richmond, BC. Everyone welcome! Enjoy two action-filled days of learning, networking and sharing with colleagues from across North America. Registration is open; be sure to enjoy early bird rates until Dec. 15th, 2015. See the Draft Agenda (as of July 28, 2015). REGISTER

April

ICAIS: 19th International Conference on Aquatic Invasive Species Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada; April 10-14, 2016. CALL FOR ABSTRACTS Submit abstracts in electronic format to the Conference Administrator before September 18, 2015

MAY


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