Caroline Stephenson is a third year PhD Candidate researching the potential risk for local (autochthonous) dengue virus transmission in Florida (FL). She will give an overview of her proposal and present preliminary data relating to her dissertation work. Her overall aim is to (1) discern the biological ability of different populations of Aedes aegypti across FL to transmit the four serotypes of dengue virus and (2) evaluate county-level risk factors for autochthonous dengue transmission to develop a predictive model for the state.

Melissa will discuss her preliminary research assessing the effect of blood meals from different vertebrate species on the microbiome composition of the Aedes Aegypti mosquito, and how this in turn could influence arboviral transmission.