

Richard Lance

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Dr. Lance joined the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Environmental Laboratory in 2001. He is the Team Leader for Conservation & Ecological Genetics and is currently co-leading a team for eDNA monitoring of invasive Asian carp in the Chicago area, as well as leading efforts to develop eDNA tools for endangered North American sturgeon and invasive zebra and quagga mussels.

Dr. Lance is originally from Las Vegas, NV. In 1994 he earned a B.S. in Zoology from Brigham Young University in Provo, UT. He subsequently accepted a Louisiana Board of Regents Doctoral Fellowship at the University of Southwestern Louisiana (later, University of Louisiana at Lafayette). Dr. Lance completed his PhD studies on the population genetics and ecology in several southeastern bat species in 1999.

Following a one year Post-doctoral Fellowship at The University of Memphis, Dr. Lance began working for the Environmental Laboratory on the Waterways Experiment Station in Vicksburg, MS. He started as a contract scientist in 2000 and then took a federal position in 2001. Dr. Lance served as Chief of the Environmental Processes Branch from 2007-2009, but returned to full time research in 2010. During his years with the Environmental Laboratory, Dr. Lance has worked on a number of different projects, including genetic studies of zebra mussels, endangered songbirds, endangered bats, native grasses, agave, fleabanes, nectar-dwelling yeasts, and cave crickets. He has also continued to conduct research into bat ecology, and led two recent pollination ecology projects. Currently, much of Dr. Lance's focus has been on developing new eDNA capabilities for USACE and other natural resources stakeholders. Dr. Lance has authored or coauthored more than 20 peer-reviewed scientific papers.

In his spare time, Dr. Lance enjoys reading, birding, sports, and serving in various capacities at church. Mostly, he likes to spend time with his wife of 22 years and 6 children.