



American
Committee on
Arthropod-borne
Viruses and Zoonotic Viruses

STRATEGIC PLAN 2019

Vision Statement: A world free from arboviral and zoonotic viral diseases.

Membership: The American Committee on Arthropod-borne Viruses and Zoonotic Viruses (ACAV) is the largest international scientific organization of experts aimed at reducing the global burden of diseases caused by arthropod-borne viruses (arboviruses) and zoonotic viruses of global importance including the hemorrhagic fever viruses.

Mission Statement: We generate and share scientific evidence, inform health and science policy, guide considerations of arbovirus taxonomy, form standards for biosafety in laboratory work on arboviruses and zoonotic viruses, maintain an international catalog of arboviruses,

promote career development of virologists working with arboviruses and zoonotic viruses, recognize excellence in arbovirus and zoonotic virus research, provide trainee scholarships to attend meetings of the American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene (ASTMH), and advocate for investment in arbovirus and zoonotic virus research.

Goals and Objectives

1. **Position ACAV to serve as the leading professional subgroup advancing knowledge of arboviruses and zoonotic viruses globally**
 - a. Generate and share scientific evidence on arboviruses and zoonotic viruses
 - b. Inform health and science policy on arboviruses and zoonotic viruses
 - c. Guide considerations of arbovirus and zoonotic virus taxonomy including advising the *International Committee on the Taxonomy of Viruses*
 - d. Promote career development of virologists working with arboviruses and zoonotic viruses
 - e. Recognize excellence in arbovirus and zoonotic virus research
 - f. Provide trainee scholarships to attend meetings of the American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene (ASTMH)
 - g. Advocate for investment in arbovirus and zoonotic virus research
 - h. Provide a ready human resource to health policy makers, media, and advocates through an up-to-date ACAV member directory with contact information and subject matter expertise on arboviruses and zoonotic viruses
 - i. Maintain and update the Arbovirus Catalog as an international arbovirus resource
2. **Expand educational offerings from ACAV members**
 - a. Build and maintain a new ACAV website that is regularly updated to include information about the ACAV mission, members, benefits to membership, arbovirus and zoonotic virus history, videos of prominent virologists working with arboviruses and zoonotic viruses, and links to related websites and resources
 - b. Strengthen ACAV Twitter and Facebook pages with regular content posts, including to represent ACAV with a new logo

- c. Encourage ACAV members to publish scientific articles in leading peer-reviewed publications, including occasional reviews and opinion pieces in response to emerging viral threats and virus taxonomy
- d. Organize scientific symposia at ASTMH meetings; submit pre-meeting symposia and meeting presentations to the American Society for Virology and other relevant meetings such as positive strand RNA virus meetings
- e. Provide educational opportunities in arbovirus and zoonotic viruses via pre-meeting courses at annual ASTMH meetings
- f. Organize remote trainings for graduate student trainees in virology to include topics like competitive grant writing strategies and manuscript development, submission and peer review

3. Augment ACAV member value by serving as the primary site for professional interactions between virologists working with arboviruses and zoonotic viruses

- a. Ensure year-round communication within the ACAV member base
- b. Recruit new ACAV members and foster transitions of trainee members to full members
- c. Confer the Richard M. Taylor, Dalrymple/Young and Scherer/Hardy awards to individuals who make outstanding contributions to arbovirus and zoonotic virus research
- d. Provide financial support in the form of travel awards to students and trainees to attend ASTMH meetings
- e. Promote participation of scientists at all levels of career development and nationality.
- f. Maintain and promote communication and coordination with the American Committee on Medical Entomology (ACME)

4. Expand the global influence of ACAV

- a. Foster membership of international ACAV members via targeted outreach, mentoring, and support, especially in the form of international travel awards to attend ASTMH meetings
- b. Seek out international partnerships that enable ACAV to augment its global reach
- c. Provide leadership opportunities for international members

5. Increase training opportunities in arbovirus and zoonotic virus research

- a. Promote student and post-doctoral trainees presenting science at ASTMH and other scientific meetings
- b. Provide mentoring in arboviruses and zoonotic viruses and leadership
- c. Encourage trainee exchanges between ACAV and ACME laboratories

6. Strengthen the financial position of ACAV

- a. Fundraise to support initiatives that are important to ACAV membership
- b. Establish a fundraising subgroup to identify new revenue streams to support the ACAV mission
- c. Reconcile current debts by fundraising or freeing use of restricted funds