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Highlights from the 2017 ASTMH Meeting

ACME organized two symposia that included the Annual Business Meeting, Awards and Hoogstraal Medal Presentations and a session titled "New and Young Investigators in Medical Entomology". This event served as an opportunity to hear great talks from a variety of sub-disciplines in medical entomology and to recognize the outstanding achievements from both long-term and junior members of ACME. Our keynote speaker, Dr. Audrey Lenhart from the CDC, spoke about the role of medical entomology in response to the Zika virus epidemic and how this crisis is stimulating efforts to rebuild capacity in public health entomology in the Americas.



Photo: ACME Past-chair, Dr. Gonzalo Vazquez-Prokopec receives recognition for his service at the ACME Symposium from Chair, Dr. Phil Armstrong.



ACME's Future Leaders Fellowship in International Medical Entomology

Congratulations to the two recipients of the 2017 Future Leader Awards. Dr. Nsa Dada from the CDC for her pioneering research on the microbiota of mosquitoes and Eric Ochomo from Kenya Medical Research Institute for his outstanding work on insecticide resistance in mosquitoes.

2017 Harry Hoogstraal Medal

We congratulate Dr. Willem Takken as the 2017 recipient of the Hoogstraal Award for lifetime achievement in Medical Entomology. Dr. Takken received this award for his outstanding contributions on integrative approaches for vector control. He has focused on the development and application of novel interventions such as the use of pathogenic fungi for biocontrol. He also pioneered research on the development of lures and traps to reduce mosquito vectors and disease. He has published over 250 peer-reviewed papers and mentored numerous students, post-docs, and other trainees over the last four decades.



Photo: Dr. Willem Takken receiving the 2017 Harry Hoogstraal Medal from Dr. Steve Lindsay and Dr. Tom Burkot during the ACME Symposium.



SC Johnson Breakthrough in Medical Entomology Award

The ACME's Breakthroughs in Medical Entomology Award, sponsored by SC Johnson, was given to Dr. Zhijian Tu from Virginia Tech in recognition for his recent work on sex determination in mosquitoes. His group identified the Nix gene as a male-determining factor in *Aedes aegypti* mosquitoes that ultimately can be used to develop novel tools in vector control (Hall AB et al. 2015. Sex determination. A male-determining factor in the mosquito *Aedes aegypti*. *Science* 348(6240):1268-70).



Photo: Dr. Zhijian Tu receiving the SC Johnson Breakthroughs in Medical Entomology Award from Dr. Igor Sharakhov at the ACME symposium, during the ASTMH Annual Meeting.

ACME's Travel Awards for Young

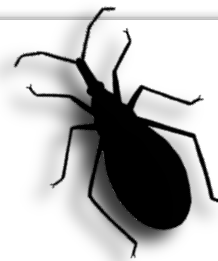
Investigators:

In additional, we awarded three 2017 Young Investigator travel awards for their outstanding abstracts presented at ASTMH.

Young Investigator Award - Graduate: Carolyn Hodo from Texas A&M University "*Trypanosoma cruzi* transmission ecology at non-human primate facilities in Texas".

Young Investigator Award - International: Om Prakash Singh from Banaras Hindu University "Quantification of infection reservoirs in human visceral leishmaniasis by xenodiagnosis".

Young Investigator Award - Post-doctoral: Hannah Romo from Colorado State "Decreased transmission of Zika virus in *Aedes aegypti* mosquitoes co-inoculated with an insect-specific virus".



American Committee of Medical Entomology (ACME) ACME Young Investigator Travel Awards

Application deadline - April 4, 2018

Apply online

- Young Investigator Award - Graduate (Master's or Doctoral Career Level in 2018)
 - Eligibility requirements: Eligibility is limited to any graduate student who is currently conducting research that directly or indirectly involves arthropods of medical importance. The award recipient will present his/her research either orally or as a poster during the Annual Meeting.
 - Award: Complimentary registration and *up to* \$900 USD cash award
- Young Investigator Award - Post-Doctoral (2016-2018 Graduates)
 - Eligibility requirements: Eligibility is limited to any post-doc who is currently conducting research that directly or indirectly involves arthropods of medical importance. The award recipient will present his/her research either orally or as a poster during the Annual Meeting.
 - Award: Complimentary registration and *up to* \$900 USD cash award
- Young Investigator Award: International (Primary institution must be non-U.S.)
 - Eligibility requirements - Eligibility is limited to an international student who is currently conducting research that directly or indirectly involves arthropods of medical importance. The award recipient will present his/her research either orally or as a poster during the Annual Meeting.
 - Award: Complimentary registration and *up to* \$2,000 USD cash award

ACME AWARDS

ACME provides three awards each year and the nomination period for these three awards in 2018 is from April 5th to May 24th and can be submitted online:

1. Breakthrough in Medical Entomology

ACME seeks to award funding of \$1,000 to outstanding recent contributions (within the past 5 years) to the study and/or practice of Medical Entomology that ultimately will contribute to reducing the burden of human diseases transmitted by arthropods. This award is designed to encourage and acknowledge significant advances in the field by investigators at any career stage. Examples of such advances include breakthrough research findings in vector biochemistry, molecular biology, genetics, genomics or insecticide resistance, or significant advances in technologies for vector surveillance or control. Nominees/applicants must be a member of the ASTMH and ACME. Women are particularly encouraged to apply. Download the guidelines. Not a current member of ACME? Download the application here.

2. Future Leaders in International Medical Entomology

The Future Leaders fellowship is a competitive award that will be offered to an outstanding junior medical entomology researcher (must be at the undergraduate to post-doctoral level) to showcase individuals that have matched interests to ACME's objectives of promoting medical entomology and reducing the burden of human diseases transmitted by arthropods globally. Applicants must be a non-US citizen from an LMIC.

One awardee will receive \$2,000 to be used towards attending the ASTMH annual conference and/or research supplies. The awardee must present their research at ASTMH and acknowledge the ACME Future Leaders Fellowship in their presentation and when publishing research supported by the fellowship. Women are encouraged to apply. Download the guidelines.

3. The Harry Hoogstraal Medal for Outstanding Achievement in Medical Entomology. Nominations for the Harry Hoogstraal Medal for outstanding Achievement in Medical Entomology may be submitted online during the Call for Nominations. Each year, the Executive Council shall consider all nominations submitted as well as any nominations submitted during the previous three years, and decide whether to make an award at the business meeting to be held during the current year Annual Meeting. Any living medical entomologist not serving on the Executive Council is eligible to be selected to receive the award. Submit your nomination online.



ACME News and Events

We sponsored two trainee events. An informal lunch session with trainees bringing bag lunches from the meeting. We also participated in the speed networking event. Thanks to the trainers and trainees who attended. Maria Luisa Simoes, our new ACME trainee councilor, is to be commended for her enthusiastic and effective organization of these events.

Our booth continues to bring revenue and connections within the ACME community. The new merchandise generated a lot more traffic and interest than in past years. Thank you all for making our booth a success! Extra thanks to Rebekah Kading and her grad student for the super rad 80's aegypti mugs/mouse pads and Gonzalo Vazquez Prokopec for the mosquito posters and cards.

ACME is actively pursuing individual, foundation or corporate sponsorship to increase the number and amount of ACME Young Investigator Awards. These awards are critical for strengthening the future of medical entomology research. ACME members who are interested in such sponsorship, or who have connections with foundations or corporations that may be interested in such sponsorship are encouraged to contact ACME Chair, Phillip Armstrong (philip.armstrong@ct.gov).

In Memoriam

ACME members were saddened to hear about the recent passing of Dr. Michael Service at the age of 84. Dr. Service was a longtime leader and professor in medical entomology at the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine (LSTM). He divided his time between teaching, research, and public service, participating in several WHO working groups on vectors and their control and visiting 55 countries professionally. He received a number of awards, including Sir Samuel Rickard Christophers Medal in 1997 from the Royal Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene and the Harry Hoogstraal Medal in 2002 from the American Society for Tropical Medicine and Hygiene. In the words of LSTM's Director Professor Janet Hemingway "Mike was a long-standing member of the LSTM vector biology department and one of the last great field entomologists with an extraordinary breadth of expertise. He produced a number of seminal textbooks and is still fondly remembered by the generations of field entomologists that he taught. He will be dearly missed by his colleagues both here in the UK and throughout the world."





The National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) is sponsoring a conference called: A Primer for the Design and Conduct of Clinical Trials for Vector Interventions that will take place in Rockville, MD on May 7 – 8, 2018.

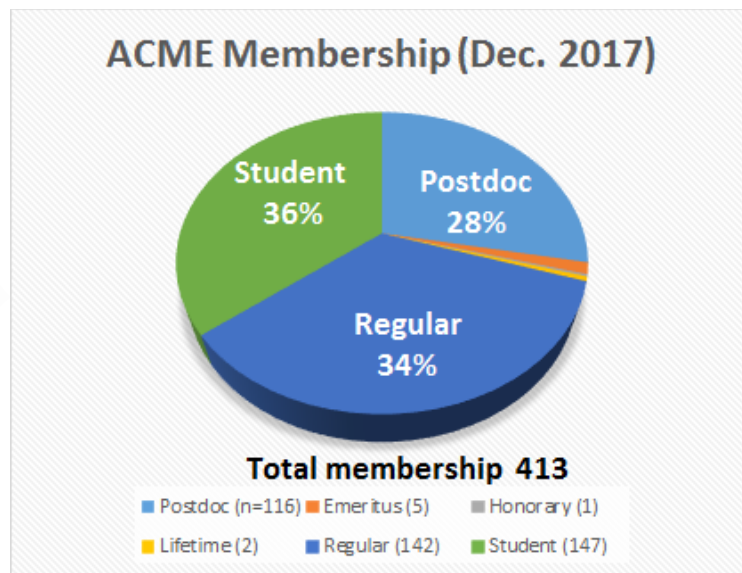
As you are aware, there is a need to develop clinical trials that can generate evidence to inform decision-makers about the public health impact of vector interventions. NIAID supports funding opportunities to support this type of studies. However, given the complexity and cost of planning and performing these trials, we want to provide an opportunity for a multidisciplinary group of participants to come together and discuss how to develop strong collaborative studies to support this need.

The **purpose of this meeting** is to discuss the planning of clinical trials for a variety of vector interventions, emphasizing the importance of multidisciplinary collaborations, site selection, trial design, and community engagement with the goal of generating strong applications that can be submitted to NIAID funding opportunities.

Contact Dr. Adriana Costero-Saint Denis (adriana_costero@nih.gov) for more details.

ACME Membership

ACME membership continues to increase, as of December, 2017 was 417 strong, this is 15% higher than the previous year. Most of our members (64%) are non-paying students and postdocs. We thank all the returning members and welcome our new members!





Biology of Vector-borne Diseases six-day training course

The Center for Health in the Human Ecosystem at the University of Idaho hosts the annual Biology of Vector-borne Diseases six-day course. This course provides accessible, condensed training and "knowledge networking" for advanced graduate students, postdoctoral fellows, new faculty and current professionals to ensure competency in basic biology, cutting edge technology and tools, expertise and resources for U.S. and global vector-borne diseases of plants, animals and humans. It seek to train the next generation of scientists and help working professionals to more effectively address current and emerging threats with new tools and a strong network of collaborators and mentors. The course is both lecture- and lab-based, delivered by internationally recognized experts, with integrated case studies of emerging vector-borne pathogens to highlight parallels and key distinctions in biology and technology across plant, animal and human vector-borne diseases. This course sets an example of new vision, through leadership of the Center for Health in the Human Ecosystem, to create an enduring community of participants and instructors to expand the impact and sustainability of these approaches. The first annual Biology of Vector-borne Diseases course is scheduled for **Sunday through Friday, June 24-29, 2018.**

For more information visit <http://www.uidaho.edu/cals/center-for-health-in-the-human-ecosystem/education/vector-borne-diseases>.

Vector Encounter

The 2018 Vector Encounter will be held at The Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health in Baltimore, Maryland on **Thursday, June 7th and Friday, June 8th**. **This well regarded chalk-talk meeting has an excellent environment to promote collaboration, partnership and idea sharing. The schedule and program allows for networking and socializing over the two day encounter with minimal registration cost (\$30).** In particular, it encourages the participation from people working with non-mosquito vectors and from people doing field work. For more information visit <http://malaria.jhsph.edu/conferences/> or contact trish.ward@jhu.edu with any questions that you may have.