

ACME Newsletter



A welcome from our Leadership Team

ACME Executive Council

Message from our Chair!

Dear ACME members,

This is an exciting time for ACME, with our members and trainees doing so much good for public health and human wellbeing in general, from various sectors of academia, industry, education, medical practice, and so many others! Medical entomology is diverse by definition, and our ACME community is striving to represent this diversity. We are proud to have members from 55 different countries, but we continue to work hard to increase representation, especially from low- and middle-income countries, and trainees in particular.



It was great to come together for another ASTMH Annual Meeting in Chicago (check out the pictures in this newsletter!!). A special thanks to our outgoing Executive Council members for their dedication and support of ACME during these 4 years, and a warm welcome to our incoming Executive Council members, who began their term in Chicago. During the 2023 Annual Meeting, ACME was especially active with both symposia, recognizing fellow medical entomologists and trainees in the awards ceremony, increasing our visibility at the booth (with this year's biggest star: the giant kissing bug), and several networking events. The trainee lunch was especially exciting, so we are already planning a similar event and various other activities for Trop Med 2024 in New Orleans. We will be giving updates of all events in ACME's X account and soon to be LinkedIn account, as well as the next newsletter.

Adriana Troyo
Chair, Councilor

Sarah Hamer
Chair-elect

Catherine Hill
Past (or Outgoing)-chair

Teresia Njoroge
Trainee Representative

Berlin Londono
Secretary/Treasurer

Nsa Dada
Secretary/Treasurer-elect

Councilors

Maria Luísa Simões

Serap Aksoy

Akilah Stewart

Eleanore Sternberg

Lauren Cator

Kingsley Badu

Pamela Pennington

Zach Adelman

Jewelna Akorli

As in previous years, ACME will be supporting several 2024 *Travel Awards for Young Investigators*, and nominations for other important ACME awards will be open soon: the *Breakthrough in Medical Entomology Award*, the *Future Leaders Fellowship in International Medical Entomology*, and the *Harry Hoogstraal Medal for Outstanding Achievement in Medical Entomology*. If you know someone who should be recognized for their work through any of these awards, please make sure they are nominated!

On behalf of ACME leadership, I want to thank all our donors for making these awards, trainee support, and other ACME activities possible. The list of donors is included in this newsletter.

Also included in this newsletter is the link to a survey about best practices in field-based medical entomology research. We are asking ACME members to help us gather this information by filling out the survey and sharing it with colleagues. Thank you all in advance!!

See you in New Orleans!

Sincerely,
Adriana

Message from our Chair elect!



I am honored to serve in this leadership role and look forward to advancing ACME to New Orleans and beyond! One of my first roles as Chair-elect has been to organize an ACME symposium for the Annual Meeting, and I'm thankful for all the experts who will share their research on our theme of 'animal-targeted interventions to protect humans from vector-borne disease'. If you have any ideas on how we can improve ACME, add value for members, or grow our network, please reach out anytime: shamer@tamu.edu.

Sincerely,
Sarah

ACME@ASTMH2024

We will have several ACME-related activities during the Annual Meeting in New Orleans this year. Be sure to check them out when the ASTMH Annual Meeting schedule comes out!

Excellence in Insect Science Symposium

This event is organized by the Department of Entomology at Michigan State University. The event is a 2-day meeting connecting entomology faculty with industry, government, and other partners. Several themes will be discussed: Leveraging Insect Science for Global Grand Challenges. Sessions center on One Health, Climate Resilience, and STEM Education.

The symposium will take place on **May 16-17, 2024** at East Lansing, Michigan. More information [here](#).



Epidemic Intelligence Service (EIS)

The application period for EIS Class of 2025 is **open now through June 5, 2024**.

EIS is a fellowship program, focused in training new generations enhancing investigative and emergency response efforts. Candidates will learn about the disease detectives and alumni who make up this program's distinguished network. More information [here](#).

Funding opportunities – NIH

[Immune responses to arthropod feeding on vertebrate hosts NOT-AI-21-059](#)

[Notice of Special Interest \(NOSI\): Targeting the Pathogen within the Arthropod Vector](#)

[Notice of Special Interest \(NOSI\): Advancing Research for Tickborne Diseases \(TBDs\)](#)

[Climate Change and Health](#)

[NIH Climate Change and Health Initiative](#)

[Tick-borne disease](#)

Treasury News!



As of December 2023, ACME has \$45,395 in total funds. The amount collected from active member renewals is \$3,608 which is \$1,067 more than what we reported in Fall 2023.

ACME expenditures supporting the Future Leaders and travel awards was \$6,700. ACME also spent \$3,227.70 in swag. The total expenses for the past year was \$11,417.97.

If you are aware of potential donors, have fundraising ideas, have interest in assisting with fundraising, or have suggestions about ways that ACME can support medical entomology training or mentoring endeavors, please contact Secretary/Treasurer [Berlin Londono](#).

Would **you** like to support ACME?

Visit ACME's [page](#) and click "Donate" to support activities like trainee awards and educational initiatives.

We thank all our new ACME members!!

This year, we **have reached more than 400 members! All from 55 countries!!**

Thanks for supporting this group.

We need you!



More than 20 years ago, ACME led the development of a guidance document for working with arthropod vectors either alone or in the presence of the pathogens they transmit. A number of revisions have further broadened the utility of this document, and today the Arthropod Containment Guidelines are the gold standard used by researchers and biosafety professionals across the globe.

The Arthropod Containment Guidelines, a guidance document that outlines best practices for research laboratories to safely handle arthropods of public health importance, was recently updated by ACME with a special [addendum](#) focused on gene drive.

However, the scope of the ACG is limited to the laboratory environment only. In recent years, several ACME members have remarked that in some cases it has been challenging to get biosafety approvals completed in a timely manner for field-based work that is otherwise considered standard in medical entomology, but for which there is no corresponding document for biosafety professionals to use as a reference point. As a first step in addressing these concerns, we at ACME council seek to better understand the challenges faced by our members, and whether developing a field-based guidance document would be helpful.

We value your opinion, and ask that you take 5 minutes to complete the following short survey. Please feel free to forward to colleagues or collaborators that also work in medical entomology!

You can find the survey [here](#)

To be clear, our goal is not to establish any new regulations, but to determine what consensus practices experienced medical entomologists are currently using, to both formalize training of new medical entomologists and provide guidance for biosafety professionals.

Trainee Corner



Email your ACME trainee representatives [Teresia Njoroge](#) and [Akilah Stewart](#) if you are interested in learning how to be part of this vibrant community! Self-nominations are accepted! Stay tuned for more information in our Fall 2024 newsletter.

Also, please check the [ASTMH Annual Meeting website](#) for more information.

ACME is committed to engaging the future leaders of our field and fostering supportive relationships across career stages and international boundaries. Our ACME Trainee



Leadership group is established! At the November Annual Meeting, a new trainee will be appointed as the second trainee representative along with **Teresia Njoroge** and **Lauren Cator** as our trainee advisor.

We want to feature you! We want to highlight the success of our ACME trainees! Shoot us an email so that we can post on X (tweet) about your graduations, field work, or any and all accomplishments. You can also post your successes @ACME_ASTMH

Funding opportunities for trainees:

[PA-23-260](#), Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award (NRSA) Individual Fellowship for Students at Institutions with NIH-Funded Institutional Predoctoral Dual-Degree Training Programs (Parent F30)

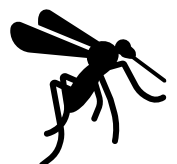
[PA-23-272](#), Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award (NRSA) Individual Predoctoral Fellowship (Parent F31)

ACME Awards 2024



ACME Future Leaders Fellowship 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 non-US citizens from an LMIC. **We will begin accepting applications from May 14 to June 17.**

ACME Breakthroughs in Medical Entomology Award: 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, ecology, evolution or significant advances in technologies for vector surveillance or control. **We will begin accepting applications from May 14 to June 17.**

Hoogstraal Award: *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 during the current call 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. **Will begin accepting nominations from May 14 to June 17.**

Job Announcements



PhD and Postdoctoral candidates:

The Simões Laboratory at The Institute of Tropical Medicine Antwerp (Belgium) is looking for PhD and Postdoctoral candidates to work on *Anopheles/Plasmodium* molecular biology. Please, contact the PI [here](#), if you are interested.

Postdoctoral positions:

Post-Doctoral Associate at [Department of Entomology College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences \(CFANS\) University of Minnesota St Paul, MN](#)

Faculty positions:

Assistant/Associate Clinical Professor, Teaching and Learning in Entomology at [The](#)

[Department of Entomology at Purdue University.](#)

Other important items

PacVec Seminars- The Pacific Southwest Center of Excellence in Vector-Borne Diseases holds monthly seminars that convene public health and vector control professionals and feature the work of the center's researchers that are relevant to the center's mission. Seminars are held monthly during the academic year from October through June and are available both in-person and via Zoom. For more information visit the [website](#).

BEI Resources can now provide live black flies in addition to several species of mosquito, tick, triatomes, sand flies, and snails. For more information [click here](#).

Connect with ACME



To keep up on all current announcements, please be sure to follow us on X (Twitter) at [ACME@ACME_ASTMH](#). We currently have 1,137 followers! We are hoping to build this as a primary means of communication between newsletters and conferences and have used this platform to facilitate interactions with other entomological communities worldwide.

Do you need to send a job ad, a webinar announcement, or other information out to the ACME community? You can direct message us on X (Twitter) or email your tweet information to [Adriana Troyo](#).

Please remember that you can still also post and receive announcements by subscribing to [My Communities](#). You can also provide items for the newsletter. Please send us any announcements, events, or items for the October-November 2024 newsletter!

ACME in Action



Our ACME leadership at the beginning of the 2023 Council meeting in Chicago! Featuring in this picture from left to right: Nsa Dada, Serap Aksoy, Akilah Stewart, Douglas Norris, Adriana Troyo, Cate Hill, Maria Luísa Simões, Sarah Hamer, Kingsley Badu and Teresia Njoroge.

Photo Credit: Gabe Hamer.



Drs. Sarah Hamer and Gabe Hamer kindly brought this beautiful giant kissing bug that accompanied us at our ACME booth last year!

Photo Credit: Francisco Ferreira.



The Department of Tropical Medicine folks at the Tulane University Mixer during ASTMH 2023. You will see them again this year during our Annual Meeting in New Orleans!

Photo credit: Berlin Londono



Our ACME trainees representative Dr. Akilah Stewart (left) and Dr. Teresia Njoroge (right).

Photo credit: Sarah Hamer.



Our Outgoing Chair, Dr. Cate Hill and Dr. Adriana Troyo, our current chair at the ACME symposium I during ASTMH.

Photo credit: Gabe Hamer.



Sharing ACME news at our 2023 booth! Featuring (From left to right) Serap Aksoy, Maria Luisa Simoes, Adriana Troyo and Zach Adelman.

Photo credit: Gabe Hamer.

Our ACME swag winners during our 2023 trainee lunch at the ASTMH Annual Meeting.

Photo credit: Sarah Hamer.