

ACME Newsletter



Welcome from the Chair

Hello ACME members,
Happy Spring! In this edition of our newsletter we recap highlights from our virtual meeting in 2021 and look forward to the upcoming gathering in Seattle. The ACME Executive Council continues to support our unique community with ASTMH by organizing symposiums, awards, mentoring, and advocacy. This edition also contains a new "Trainee Corner" focused on trainee announcements and opportunities. If you are interested in joining us on the council to shape ACME initiatives and activities watch for solicitations for nominations in June. I am looking forward to seeing everyone in Seattle this October.—Doug Norris, Chair



ACME Executive Council

Douglas Norris
Chair, Councilor

Cate Hill
Chair-elect

Gabriel Hamer
Past-chair

Molly Duman Scheel
Secretary/Treasurer

Berlin Londono
Secretary/Treasurer Elect

Audrey Lenhart
Marco Neira
Eleanore Sternberg
Jennifer Stevenson
Lauren Cator
Adriana Troyo
Nsa Dada
Pamela Pennington

Trainee Representatives:
Renee Ali
Adeline Williams

Highlights from ASTMH 2021

The ASTMH 70th Annual Meeting in November provided an opportunity for ACME members to share research and interact. The meeting hosted over 3,000 members of the tropical medicine community.

Many visitors stopped by the virtual ACME booth, where guests had an opportunity to meet each other remotely and learn more about ACME. Trainees Paula Rozo Lopez and Fhallon Ware-Gilmore tied for first place in the Vector Challenge and won ASTMH memberships.



*Virtual ACME booth at
ASTMH 2021*

ACME hosted two symposia at the meeting. In the first session, we celebrated our award winners and learned more about the exciting research of these early career researchers (for more see Travel Awardees below). The gavel was also official passed to Prof. Doug Norris by outgoing Chair Prof. Gabe Hamer.



Symposium II “Fresh Voices in Neglected Vector-borne Diseases” **speakers:** Kaylee Arnold, Becky Trout Fryxell, Geoff Attardo (top row, left to right); Sarah Hamer, Job Lopez, and Nagila Secundino (bottom row, left to right).

In the second session, “Fresh Voices in Neglected Vector-borne Diseases”, we heard from researchers spanning the breadth of arthropods of medical importance including ticks, triatomines, sandflies, tsetse flies, and mosquitoes. This session was organized and co-chaired by Chair Doug Norris and Dr. Mary Gebhardt.

The Annual Meeting also served as a time to recognize those who have made significant and lasting contributions to the field of medical entomology. The Harry Hoogstraal Medal for Outstanding Achievement in Medical Entomology was established in 1987 to recognize the most influential medical entomologists for their contributions to their field. This year the Hoogstraal Medal was presented to Prof. Bruce Christensen in recognition of his inspiring

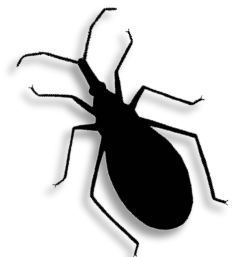


Lyric Bartholomay congratulates the 2021 Hoogstraal Awardee Bruce Christensen.

contributions to research, mentoring, and service. Before Entomology had a defined presence at ASTMH, Prof. Christensen presented his work on filariasis in a Parasitology session. One audience member stood up midway and declared, “There’s no immunity in mosquitoes!”. Dr. Christensen spent the next several decades using cutting edge techniques to prove this completely false. His work on mosquito-parasite interactions is foundational in the field of vector immunology. In addition to this research contribution, Prof. Christensen has trained and mentored many students and early career scientists through his position at the University of Wisconsin. He also served as NIH study section chair for 10 years, organized important scientific meeting such as “Towards the Genetic Manipulation of Insects”, and has served as the Chair of ACME. Congratulations Professor Christensen and thank you for all you have done for Medical Entomology!

Treasury Report

Net assets for all ACME funds totaled \$41,852 at the end of February 2022. Total revenue from membership dues this fiscal year to date is \$3,575, which is similar to last year at this time. We encourage you to remember to [renew your membership](#) and to recruit new members. As always, we are very grateful to our donors and the parent Board for their continued support. We have received \$16,180 in donations in fiscal year 2022, which is helping our council fund networking and training opportunities in medical entomology. 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 outgoing Secretary-Treasurer Molly Duman Scheel (mscheel@nd.edu) and Secretary-Treasurer-elect Berlin Londono (blondono@tulane.edu).



The following individuals received an ACME Travel Award and presented their work during the first ACME symposium at the ASTMH Annual meeting. Congratulations to all of our awardees!



Dr. Sarah Buezo Montero, Sapienza University of Rome, ACME Young Investigator Post-doctoral Awardee, “Serological biomarkers as epidemiological tools for the assessment of human exposure to *Aedes albopictus*”



Dr. L. Paulina Maldonado-Ruiz, Kansas State University, ACME Young Investigator Post-doctoral Awardee, “Red meat allergy and the lone star tick (*A. americanum*)”



Thomas Syme, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, ACME Young Investigator Graduate Award, “Pyrethroid-piperonyl butoxide (PBO) nets reduce the efficacy of indoor residual spraying with pirimiphos-methyl: an experimental hut evaluation in southern Benin”



Kyndall Dye-Braumuller, University of South Carolina, ACME Young Investigator Graduate Award, “The spotted fever group of rickettsioses in El Salvador”

Trainee Corner

Upcoming events for trainees During the 70th Annual Meeting, ACME & ACAV co-hosted a virtual “speed networking” event for trainees to meet professionals with diverse career paths. We had more than 60 participants, with 30 professionals representing careers ranging across academia, government, and global health. Thank you to all who attended and made for such a great time! Post-event survey respondents overwhelmingly indicated they loved meeting each other and feeling a sense of community, and that they wanted to see a similar event happen again. In light of this, at the upcoming Annual Meeting, **we are planning on hosting an informal mentor-mentee meet up after the ACME Symposium I Business Meeting.** Want to see or help it happen? Please [email](#) your ACME trainee representatives so that we can gauge interest! Look out for future correspondences closer to the date. We hope to see you there :)

Trainees: want to get more involved in ACME? ACME is committed to engaging the future leaders of our field and fostering supportive relationships across career stages and international boundaries. To further our mission, ACME is establishing the **ACME trainee leadership subcommittee** so trainees can be more involved in event planning, networking, and everything ACME. Interested in learning more? Please [email](#) your ACME trainee reps for more information.

We want to feature you! We want to highlight the success of our ACME trainees! Tweet us your successes @ACME_ASTMH or shoot us an [email](#) so that we can feature your graduations, field work, or any and all accomplishments to the field at large.

For more information, please email your ACME trainee representatives, Renee & Adeline, at renee.ali@sta.uwi.edu & adeline.e.williams@gmail.com.



ASTMH 2022 Annual Meeting (October 30 - November 3) Washington State Convention Center, Seattle, WA and virtually. Registration opens June 15th. Go to <https://www.astmh.org/annual-meeting> and follow #TropMed22 on Twitter for updates. Hope to see you there!

ACME Travel Awards- We have received many excellent applications for ACME Travel Awards and will be contacting winners in June.

2022 ACME Council Elections- Please look for an announcement from [Buffy Finn](#) in June and be sure to cast your votes for the ACME 2022 elections, which will, once again, be conducted on eBallot.

Accepting Nominations for ACME Awards 2022

Award application and nomination instructions can be found on the [ACME website](#). All nominations are due **May 23, 2022**.

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.

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.

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.

We thank our recent ACME Donors:

Lyric C. Bartholomay
Jefferson Archer Vaughan
Katherine Irene Young
Manuela Herrera-Varela

Molly Duman Scheel
Andrew Douglas Haddow
Bruce M. Christensen
Maude Meier

Would **you** like to support ACME?
Visit <https://www.astmh.org/subgroups/acme>
and click "Donate" to support activities like
trainee awards and educational initiatives.

6th Virtual Vector Biology (VBB) Seminar Series- Kevin Deitz (American Museum of Natural History) and Jean Tsao (Michigan State University) are co-hosting the current session of the Virtual Vector Biology Seminar series, which was created to provide a sense of community and to promote ongoing research across a variety of arthropods of medical or veterinary importance. This series is designed to make recent scientific advances in the field of vector biology and vector-borne disease as open and accessible as possible. Sign up is free and open to anyone. Please let others know about this series. The more the merrier. For up-to-date information about the speaker schedule, go to: <https://sites.google.com/view/vectorbiologyseminar> or follow on Twitter at @VectorSeminar.

NIH Notice of Special Interest: Immune responses to arthropod feeding on vertebrate hosts- NIH is soliciting transdisciplinary research projects to understand the immunologic events in the vertebrate host that occur at the bite site (skin) and systemically during and after feeding by hematophagous and ectoparasitic arthropods. Find more information at: <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/not-ai-21-059.html>

- a. **NIH Keystone Symposia on Molecular and Cellular Biology-** will run from February 13-16, 2023 in Breckenridge CO. Topics highlighted will include Vector Biology: Emerging Concepts and Novel Technologies and Skin-Immune Cross Talk. More information will be available at keystonesymposia.org.
- b. **BEI Resources can now provide live Black flies** in addition to several species mosquito, tick, triatomines, sand flies, and snails. For more information visit: <https://www.beiresources.org/Catalog/VectorResources.aspx>

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. ACME and the Foundation for the National Institutes of Health (FNIH) are presently coordinating a training webinar to review the addendum. Look for further details in your email inbox and on Twitter later this summer.

Connect with ACME! To keep up on all current announcements, please be sure to follow us on Twitter at ACME@ACME_ASTMH. We currently have 770 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 Twitter or email your tweet information to Molly Duman Scheel (mscheel@nd.edu) and Berlin Londono (blondono@tulane.edu). 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 Fall newsletter by end of August 2022!





Photo: Professor Emeritus Dave Severson from the University of Notre Dame and PhD Candidate Nikhella Winter from the University of the West Indies in Trinidad and Tobago conduct field surveys for the determination of suitable placement sites for mosquito traps in Trinidad.

MICROBIOLOGY, IMMUNOLOGY
AND PATHOLOGY
COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY

NIH National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases

Small RNAs for *Ae. aegypti*:
one giant step for virus control in
mosquitoes

Adeline E. Williams, MPH
4/1/2022
PhD Defense

Colorado State University
Center for Vector-Borne Infectious Diseases

Congratulations to our outgoing ACME trainee representative, Adeline Williams, for successfully defending her PhD from Colorado State University!

