



Statement on World Health Day 2014: “Small bite, big threat”

April 7, 2014— Today on World Health Day, the American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene and its subgroup, the American Committee of Medical Entomology (ACME), join with the international community to highlight the global risk posed by vector-borne diseases, the need for appropriate resources for better prevention and to respond to these threats.

More than half the world’s population is at risk from vector-borne diseases – the small bites that deliver big threats – which include: malaria, dengue, leishmaniasis, Lyme disease, schistosomiasis, yellow fever and others. Every year, more than one billion people are infected and more than one million die from diseases carried by mosquitoes, flies, ticks and other vectors. These diseases often affect the poorest populations, particularly where there is a lack of access to adequate housing, safe drinking water and sanitation.

ACME members have made key contributions to the global research and control of vector-borne diseases on a myriad of fronts. Our members have contributed significantly to the study of the vector-borne disease burden worldwide; they have been and continue to be on the frontlines responding to outbreaks and have helped improved vector control methods to prevent these diseases. [Read more here](#).

On World Health Day 2014, we join with the World Health Organization in calling for a renewed focus on vector control and better provision of safe water, sanitation and hygiene – key strategies for the control, elimination and eradication of neglected tropical diseases.

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About the American Committee of Medical Entomology (ACME)

A subgroup within ASTMH, ACME provides a forum for the exchange of scientific information among medical entomologists whose specialty relates to insect-borne diseases. Entomology is the scientific study of insects.

About the American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene

ASTMH, founded in 1903, is a worldwide organization of scientists, clinicians and program professionals whose mission is to promote global health through the prevention and control of infectious and other diseases that disproportionately afflict the global poor.