



American Committee of Medical Entomology (ACME)

Official Subgroup of the American Society of Tropical Medicine & Hygiene

ACME Executive Council 2025-2026

ACME welcomed new leadership and council members in 2025!

Maria Luisa Simoes

Chair

Solomon Kibret Birhanie

Chair-elect

Sarah Hamer

Past-chair

Nsa Dada

Secretary/Treasurer

Priscila Bascuñán

Secretary-Treasurer-Elect

ACME 2025: Year in Review

ACME at TropMed25 (Toronto)

ACME had a vibrant presence at the annual meeting, hosting symposia, networking events, and a lively booth.

Highlights included:

- ❖ Two ACME symposia: one on “Vector-based Genetic Interventions to Tackle Vector Borne Diseases”, and the Annual Business Meeting and Awards Ceremony.
- ❖ Trainee networking events and participation in ASTMH speed networking.
- ❖ The popular ACME booth, featuring the Vector Challenge trivia game, inflatable bugs, tattoos, bookmarks, and the returning mosquito piñata!
- ❖ ACME’s 40th anniversary celebration (1985-2025). The highlight of the celebration was a delicious, blood-filled bug cake that was enjoyed during the Business meeting. But let’s not forget the amazing [“40 Years of ACME Leadership”](#) video, featuring reflections from past leaders and capturing the organization’s legacy. Four decades in, and ACME is still buzzing strong!





Recognizing Excellence: 2025 ACME Awards

ACME proudly honored five outstanding contributors to medical entomology:

- **Harry Hoogstraal Medal:** Laura Harrington (Cornell University)
- **ACME Award of Distinction:** Alvaro Molina-Cruz (NIH)
- **Young Investigator Awards:**
 - Brian Polo (Graduate category)
 - Muhammed Camara (Graduate category)*
 - Simmoy Noble (International category)
 - Jacqueline Mgaya (International category)
 - Rene Ali (Postdoctoral category)*

*Students were recognized but not funded due to travel challenges preventing their attendance.



Council Highlights

As every year, the ACME Council met monthly throughout 2025 to coordinate activities and plan for the future.

Key initiatives included:

- ✓ Reviewing award processes and ways to support trainees
- ✓ Planning the Frank Collins Memorial Award (anticipated launch in 2026)
- ✓ Expanding ACME's social media presence, including the creation of a LinkedIn page
- ✓ Beginning updates to the ACME Charter



Looking Ahead

ACME's priorities for 2026 include:

- Launching the Frank Collins Memorial Award
- Continuing strong trainee support
- Expanding communications and visibility
- Developing the next five-year strategic plan

Yearly priorities change, but our mission remains the same: advancing medical entomology and supporting the scientists who make it happen.

Here's to another exciting year ahead for ACME!



Supporting the Next Generation

ACME continued to invest in trainees and early-career scientists through webinars and spotlight features.

2025 Webinars included:

- *Diverse Career Paths in Medical Entomology*
- *From Science to Solution: SIT in the Fight Against Vectors*
- *Translating Science: Communicating Medical Entomology to Diverse Audiences*

The **ACME Trainee Spotlight series** also highlighted **seven emerging scientists** from institutions across Africa and the United States, showcasing the future of the field. This initiative was led by ACME Trainee Representatives, Olayinka M. Olajiga and Akilah Stewart.

This year, we are excited to continue our Spotlight Series! If you are an ACME member and want to share your story, please contact Priscila B at: abascunan@cdcfoundation.org



Reminder corner

Now is the time to renew your **ACME membership!** When renewing your [ASTMH membership](#), please select the ACME subgroup 😊. Also, don't forget to follow us on X and LinkedIn for the latest news and events!

Join **ACME Today**
Free membership for trainees!

