

ACME Newsletter



A welcome from our Leadership Team

ACME Executive Council

Message from our Chair!

Dear ACME members,

We are ready for the ASTMH Annual Meeting, which will take place in New Orleans, November 13-17, 2024. This will be a great opportunity to see friends and colleagues again, meet new people, network, present results, learn, and just have some good academic fun!



ACME and collaborators at Tulane University have organized a wonderful in-person Pre-Meeting Course for Wednesday November 13th: Medical Entomology for the Public Health Practitioner & Clinician. It will include hands-on lab experience in identifying important vectors, as well as a field visit to a historical cemetery. I highly recommend taking advantage of this opportunity... don't miss it!

ACME will have two symposia at the ASTMH Annual Meeting, both scheduled for Thursday November 14th. Symposium I will be on "Animal-Targeted One Health Interventions to Protect Humans from Vector-Borne Diseases", and will feature discussion from various topics that include tick-borne diseases, malaria, and arboviruses. Symposium II will be our Business Meeting, Awards Ceremony, and Networking reception. This year, the recipients of all of our awards have confirmed in-person attendance (Young Investigator Travel Awards, Breakthrough in Medical Entomology, Future Leaders in International Medical Entomology, Award of Distinction, and Hoogstraal Medal). This will be an exciting event, where we will be able to meet all of them, and our Hoogstraal Medal awardee will give a presentation. It will be an honor to have such outstanding medical entomologists in New Orleans.

It is a priority for ACME's Executive Council to support trainee and networking activities. The trainee lunchtime event was a huge success in Chicago, and we will

Adriana Troyo
Chair, Councilor

Sarah Hamer
Chair-elect

Catherine Hill
Past-chair

Teresia Njoroge
Trainee Representative

Berlin Londono
Secretary/Treasurer

Nsa Dada
Secretary/Treasurer-elect

Councilors

Zach Adelman

Jewelna Akorli

Serap Aksoy

Kingsley Badu

Lauren Cator

Pamela Pennington

Maria Luísa Simões

Akilah Stewart

have it again in New Orleans on Thursday, November 14th. This is open to all ACME trainees, members, and any non-members who are interested in medical entomology. So, remember to grab your boxed lunch and meet us at the designated room for prizes, networking, and fun. In addition, the ASTMH Speed Networking event will be on Friday, November 15th, so mark your calendars for all of these opportunities!

We welcome our newly elected ACME Councilors, who will begin their terms during the meeting in New Orleans: Priscila Bascunan, Troy Anderson, Solomon Kibret, and Olayinka Olajiga. We are thrilled to have you on the Executive Council and look forward to working with all of you to promote medical entomology and help improve public health worldwide, especially in those areas where it is most needed. Also in New Orleans, Catherine Hill, Lauren Cator, and Teresia Njoroge will rotate off ACME's Executive Council. In addition, Catherine Hill and Berlin Londono end their respective terms as Past Chair and Secretary Treasurer. Thank you all for your volunteer service to ACME, your work and effort has been highly significant, and we appreciate it very much!!

My terms as Chair and Councilor will also come to and end in November, but I will continue to collaborate with ACME as Past Chair. Working with all of you in ACME, especially within the Executive Council, has been a wonderful and rewarding experience!! I wish Sarah Hamer and Nsa Dada the best in their upcoming roles as Chair and Secretary Treasurer, respectively, and thank them for all the work and enthusiasm they have already given ACME as Councilors, Chair-Elect, and Secretary Treasurer-Elect. ACME is in great hands!

See you in New Orleans!

Sincerely,

Adriana

Message from our Chair elect!



I hope you are each finding a great benefit to being involved in ACME, and we would love to hear your ideas on how our group can have more impact in your lives. As we look forward to the meeting in November, I wanted to provide a sneak peek at a new addition that is in preparation for our ACME booth and symposia to raise awareness and conversations about vectors. Dr. Gabe Hamer and I have been working back and forth with a custom inflatable designer for a giant (6-foot) *Ixodes scapularis* adult female (blacklegged tick; vector of the agents of Lyme disease, babesiosis, anaplasmosis, Powassan virus and more). The images below show the current proofs. Please appreciate the dorsal and

ventral patterning! Although we tried for separated palps and hypostome, the designer reminded us this is an inflatable, and not a real replica; some features were not possible. Gabe let them know that the world's best tick experts may be scrutinizing the tick at the conference 😊. If you attend the conference, join us at the booth and take a selfie with the tick as we all discuss the science of ticks and other blood-sucking arthropod vectors. We thank the ACME board for voting to fund this new outreach tool which can be used by members for years to come!

Sincerely,

Sarah



ACME@ASTMH2024

ACME is organizing a Medical Entomology Pre-Meeting Course:



Medical Entomology for the Public Health Practitioner & Clinician
In-person only

Wednesday, November 13, 2024

7:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. Central Time
Tulane School of Public Health & Tropical Medicine
New Orleans, LA, USA

NOTE: Transportation will be provided from the New Orleans Ernest N. Morial Convention Center to Tulane.

Course Organizers: Berlin Londono, PhD, Sarah Michaels, PhD, MSPH and Maria Luísa Simões, PhD

Vector-borne diseases have shaped the formation of cities and continue to have profound impacts on our global community. This is especially true for the city of New Orleans, the site of the last outbreak of yellow fever in the United States. Tulane University's Schools of Medicine and of Public Health and Tropical Medicine were founded in 1834, from the university's founding physicians' desire to study and control public health threats in the environments in which they occur. The course is designed for medical professionals, epidemiologists, and **student trainees** and includes field and laboratory sessions and short talks on malaria, dengue and Chagas disease from experts in medical entomology and clinical care. We will also address preventative options against vectors and discuss current issues affecting vector-borne disease expansion, including climate change. Attendance for this course will be capped at 40 people.

Course schedule and fees can be found [here](#).

ACME Symposia - ASTMH 2024

We have prepared two ACME Symposia:

American Committee of Medical Entomology (ACME) Symposium I: Animal – Targeted One Health Interventions to Protect Humans from Vector-Borne Diseases.

Vector-borne diseases continue to emerge worldwide, with new options needed for management of vectors and pathogens in nature. Wild and domestic animals serve as reservoirs for zoonotic pathogens and hosts for blood feeding arthropod vectors. There is increasing attention in various ways in which the animal hosts can be targeted with management approaches to reduce human disease risk. The goals of animal targeted interventions are typically to (i) reduce the number of animal hosts; (ii) reduce the infection prevalence in animal hosts; and/or (iii) reduce vector densities by creating toxic animal bloodmeals. Approaches include culling of wildlife; treating of domestic or wild animals with insecticides; vaccination of domestic or wild animals and more. This symposium will feature research programs aimed at developing or evaluating animal-targeted interventions to reduce human risk of vector-borne diseases. Speakers will feature diverse vector-borne disease systems for which innovative public health solution are needed. Presented works will focus on managing dogs, wild birds, livestock and deer in order to reduce risk of sand fly, mosquito, and tick-borne disease. Our speakers include those with backgrounds in human medicine, veterinary medicine, entomology and ecology, and together will feature key elements of animal-targeted 'One Health' solutions for vector-borne disease.

American Committee of Medical Entomology (ACME) Symposium II: Annual Business Meeting, Awards Ceremony, Hoogstraal Medal Presentation, and Networking Reception.

This symposium provides a forum for exchange of information among people interested in research on arthropods that cause disease or transmit disease-causing agents. The session

begins with a short ACME business meeting followed by presentation of the 2024 ACME awards. The awards ceremony features the ACME Young Investigator Travel Awards, Breakthrough in Medical Entomology Award, Future Leaders in International Medical Entomology, Award of Distinction, and the Hoogstraal Medal, the highest distinction conferred by ACME. The awards ceremony will highlight the next generation of medical entomologists and recognize the early, mid- and late career achievements of individuals in the field on medical entomology. After the awards ceremony, a lecture will be delivered by the Hoogstraal Medal recipient, which will feature contributions of the awardee to advancing the field of medical entomology. The symposium will continue with the passing of the gavel (transfer of office), and conclude with the ACME professional networking and socializing session.

The specific times and locations will be published soon on the [ASTMH web page](#).

Big bug is coming to town!

After the success of our big bug last year (pictured), a giant *Ixodes scapularis* is coming to NOLA! Come visit our booth during the Annual Meeting!



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!

Funding Opportunities and

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) is taking bold leaps to transform health in our lifetime and pave the way, together, to a future where health is no longer a privilege, but a right. RWJF's Health Policy Fellows program supports this vision by creating a strong and diverse leadership in health policy committed to advancing health. More information can be found [here](#).

The Public Health Entomology for All (PHEFA)

Applications for the 2025 cohort will open in December 2024.

This program is a partnership between CDC's Division of Vector-Borne Diseases (DVBD) and the Entomological Society of America (ESA). PHEFA was created to increase diversity in the field of entomology and related fields where, according to the National Science Foundation, only 2.3% of entomology and parasitology graduate students are Black, and 4.9% are Hispanic/Latinx. More information regarding the program can be found [here](#).

NIH has the following opened funding opportunities:

[Notice of Special Interest \(NOSI\): Immune Responses to Arthropod Feeding on Vertebrate Hosts](#)

[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](#)

[Tick-borne disease](#)

Treasury News!



As of June 2024, ACME has \$51,095 in total funds. The amount collected from active member renewals and other gains is \$3,897 which is \$289 more than what we reported in Spring 2023.

ACME expenditures sum a total of \$12,424.73 that includes costs of swag, food and beverage for activities during ASTMH 2023 and miscellaneous expenses (gavel, crystal, ballot fees, etc.)

We are open for potential new donors! If you have fundraising ideas, interest in assisting with fundraising, or 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!!

We are close to **400 members!** All from **55 countries!!** Thank you for your support!

Trainee Corner



American Committee of Medical Entomology (ACME) Trainee Networking Lunch Event

We will held this event for trainees on Thursday, November 14, 2024, from 12:15 pm to 1:30 pm at the Convention Center - Room 398 (3rd Floor).

Speed-Networking with the Experts

This event will happen on Friday, November 15, 2024, 6:15 pm - 8:00 pm at the Hilton - Churchill D (2nd Floor).

More trainee news!!

Our recent ACME/ACAV Early-Career Trainee Webinar was a success!

For those who missed it, the webinar is now posted to ASTMH's resource platform GOTropMED.



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 following 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 LinkedIn or X 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

The names of the ACME award recipients will be announced during the ASTMH Annual Meeting. This year, we received nominations for the following awards:

[Young Investigator Travel Awards](#)

[ACME Future Leaders in International Medical Entomology](#)

[ACME Award of Distinction](#)



[Hoogstraal Medal](#)

[ACME Breakthrough in Medical Entomology Award](#)

Young Investigator Travel Awards: ACME has several categories for travel awards. Specific description can be found [here](#)

ACME 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 non-US citizens from an LMIC. **We will begin accepting applications in early 2025.**

ACME Award of Distinction: The ACME Award of Distinction was established in 2022 to

help recognize individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the field of medical entomology.

Hoogstraal Medal: *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 in April/May 2025.**

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 in early 2025.**

Job Announcements

Laboratory and Insectary Coordinator and a Research Technician. The Dada Lab in the School of Life Sciences at Arizona State University is seeking to fill two full-time, benefits-eligible positions - Both roles are for two years with the possibility of annual renewal

based on performance and resource availability.

Our lab focuses on understanding how microbes shape mosquito biology and how this knowledge can be applied to mosquito-borne disease surveillance and control. We use a variety of entomological, molecular, and bioinformatics tools to study mosquito populations and their complex microbial interactions in natural and laboratory settings.

The Laboratory and Insectary Coordinator will coordinate lab (BSL-2) and insectary (ACL-2+) operations and safety and may be involved in research depending on career level and interest; while the Research Technician will support experiments, field work, and lab procedures. Interested applicants, please contact Nsa Dada (Nsa.Dada@asu.edu) directly for more details.

Research Technician - Entomology and Plant Pathology: North Carolina State University Raleigh, NC
More information can be found at the [institution website](#)

Assistant Professor - Forest Insect Management & Conservation:
University of Massachusetts - Amherst Amherst, MA.
If you are interested, you can find more information and apply [here](#).

Other important items

NIAID Bioinformatics Resource Centers for Infectious Diseases (BRCs) has been recently renewed to address the concern in our entomology research community regarding the accessibility of bioinformatics data on vectors under the new awards. The link below

contains publicly available information regarding this topic.

The BRCs website can be accessed [here](#). If you have questions regarding the bioinformatics resources at NIAID you can email [Wiriya Rutvisuttinunt](mailto:Wiriya.Rutvisuttinunt).

Information on the BRC new awards: NIAID Funds Cutting-Edge Genomics and Bioinformatics Programs | NIAID: [National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases](#).

NCBI also has vector data in a comprehensive, easy to navigate format. Here is an example for *Aedes aegypti*: Search: *Aedes aegypti* - NLM (nih.gov) Information on other vectors can be accessed by placing the name of the vector in the search box.

GCRF: Networks in Vector Borne Disease Research – To grow our scientific community, the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC) and Medical Research Council (MRC) have committed funds for creating Networks in Vector Borne Disease (VBD) Research and assist in the assemblage of interdisciplinary Networks focused on solving problems related to VBD of plants, animals and humans. More information regarding this initiative can be found [here](#).

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, triatomines, sand flies, and snails. For more information [click here](#).

Connect with ACME



ACME has finally launched the new **LinkedIn** page! To keep up with all current announcements follow us here:

[American Committee of Medical Entomology \(ACME\): Overview | LinkedIn](#).

Be sure to follow us also on X (Twitter) at [ACME@ACME_ASTMH](#). We currently have 1,137 followers! These pages are primary means of communication between newsletters and conferences and facilitate ACME's 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 LinkedIn or X or email your information to [Adriana Troyo](#).

ACME in Action



Maria Luísa Simões, ACME Councilor, launched the Simões Lab at The Institute of Tropical Medicine Antwerp

(Belgium) in 2023 (lab members pictured).

She's looking for **PhD and Postdoctoral candidates** to work on *Anopheles-Plasmodium* interactions and innate immunity. Contact her at mlsimo@itg.be if you are interested.



Toria Jones, a summer intern from the Indiana Clinical and Translational Science Institute (CTSI) being trained in mosquito identification by ACME Trainee Councilor, postdoctoral fellow Akilah Stewart, in the lab of ACME member Prof Molly Duman Scheel, Indiana University School of Medicine.

Adriana Troyo, ACME Councilor and Chair, collecting ticks and testing a device prototype with Sarah Manning and Rachelle Gomez-Guevara, senior biomedical engineering students from University of Rochester. A video and more information about their project is available [in YouTube](#) and at the [University of Rochester](#).

