

ACME Newsletter



Highlights from the Virtual ASTMH 69th Annual Meeting, Nov. 15-19, 2020

ACME organized two symposia, a Pre-Meeting Course and a virtual booth. One of the two symposia included the Annual Business Meeting during which time several award winners were recognized.



Photo: ACME Past-chair, Ellen Dotson, virtually passes the gavel to our new chair, Gabe Hamer during the ASTMH 2020 virtual Annual Meeting.

ACME Executive Council

Gabriel Hamer
Chair, Councilor

Douglas Norris
Chair-elect, Councilor

Ellen Dotson
Past-chair, Councilor

Molly Duman Scheel
Secretary/Treasurer, Councilor

Councilors:

Christopher Barker

Lauren Cator

Ellen Dotson

Gabriel Hamer

Catherine Hill

Molly Duman Scheel

Audrey Lenhart

Douglas Norris

Marco Neira

Eleanore Sternberg

Jennifer Stevenson

Adriana Troya

Student Representative:

Adeline Williams



2020 Harry Hoogstraal Medal

We congratulate Stephen Higgs, PhD, FRES, FASTMH as the 2020 recipient of the Hoogstraal Award for lifetime achievement in Medical Entomology. Dr. Higgs presented a virtual seminar in which he provided an overview of his career in medical entomology research, highlighting research endeavors with his many collaborators and talented trainees.



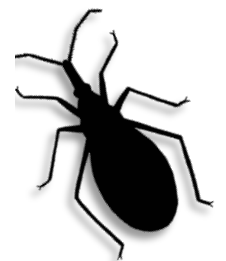
Photos: Dr. Higgs receives the Hoogstraal Medal (left). After his research presentation, Dr. Higgs participated in a virtual roundtable discussion (right).

ACME's Future Leader Fellowship in International Medical Entomology


Congratulations to the recipient of the 2020 Future Leaders Award in International Medical Entomology: Cusi Ferradas, DVM, MPH, Universidad Peruana Cayetano Heredia, Lima, Peru. She investigates the role of domestic animals and rodents in the eco-epidemiology of *Rickettsia* in the Peruvian Amazon basin.



Photo: Dr. Ferradas, 2020 Future Leaders Award in International Medical Entomology, participates in a virtual roundtable discussion at the ACME Symposium.




Congratulations to our 2020 ACME travel award recipients Mary Gebhardt, Adeline Williams, Astri Nur Faizah, DVM, Maria Cristina Carrasquilla Ferro, PhD, Gabriela De Azambuja Garcia, PhD, and Thiago Soares de Souza Viera, PhD. The travel awards covered their registration fees for the 2020 ASTMH virtual Annual Meeting and provided a \$500 stipend to support the recipients' professional development.



ACME YIA Travel Award: Graduate

Mary Gebhardt

PhD Candidate
Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health



Abstract Title:
Characterizing early-foraging anophelines in a holoendemic malaria setting in Nchelenge District, Zambia



ACME YIA Travel Award: Graduate

Adeline Williams

PhD Student
Colorado State University



Abstract Title:
Engineering transgenic *Aedes aegypti* resistant to arbovirus transmission

ACME YIA Travel Award: International

Astri Nur Faizah, DVM

PhD Candidate
University of Tokyo, Japan



Abstract Title
Evaluating the Competency of the Invasive Mosquito Species, *Aedes j. japonicus*, in Transmitting Various Japanese Encephalitis Virus Genotypes



ACME YIA Travel Award: International

María Cristina Carrasquilla Ferro, PhD

Postdoctoral Fellow
Universidad del Los Andes
Bogata, Colombia




Abstract Title
Entomological characterization of *Aedes* mosquitoes and arbovirus detection in Ibaguè, Colombia




ACME YIA Travel Award: Postdoctoral

Gabriela De Azambuja Garcia, PhD

Postdoctoral Fellow
FioCruz, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil




Abstract Title
The rapid detection of Zika, dengue and chikungunya viruses in *Aedes aegypti* mosquitoes to produce a rapid response vector control




ACME YIA Travel Award: Postdoctoral

Thiago Soares de Souza Viera, PhD

Post-doctoral Fellow
National Institutes of Health, Washington, DC



Abstract Title
Blood feeding and saliva of disease vectors trigger heme oxygenase-1 production in host skin



Photos: The names, affiliations, photos, and presentation titles of the six 2020 ACME Travel Award Recipients are shown above.



Another Successful Pre-Meeting Course

Many thanks to ACME Council members Laura Harrington and Chris Barker for organizing another excellent Pre-Meeting Course! The course, “Vector-Borne Disease Risk and Prevention for the Clinician,” was successfully converted to a virtual format and well attended. It was designed to help medical professionals advise their patients about risks and prevention measures against biting insects and ticks.

Virtual Booth Attracts a Global Audience

The ACME Virtual Booth was a success, attracting visitors from academic, government, and corporate institutions throughout the United States and across the world, including meeting attendees from Japan, Costa Rica, Trinidad and Tobago, the United Kingdom, and Nigeria.



Photo: The ACME Virtual Booth, Insect photo credits: James Gathany.

Looking at the Past, Present, and Future of ACME

Thanks to Gabe Hamer for organizing an interesting and informative ACME symposium and to all of the symposium speakers for featuring highlights of the past, present, and bright future of our subgroup.



Photos: A virtual roundtable discussion during the Past, Present, and Future of ACME Symposium; top row, left to right: Ellen Dotson, Mike Turell, and Rebekah Kading; bottom row left to right: Pamela Pennington, Gabe Hamer, and Meredith VanAcker.

At the 2021 ASTMH Annual Meeting, we will announce the recipients of the following awards. Award application and nomination instructions can be found on the [ACME website](#).

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 a non-US citizen from an LMIC. Please [submit online](#) beginning April 28, 2021.

ACME Travel Awards for Young Investigators

ACME now offers three Young Investigator Travel Awards: Masters, Doctoral and Post-doctoral and International. All research must involve arthropods of medical importance. Recipients will receive a complimentary registration to the Annual Meeting and up to \$900 to support travel and accommodation costs. Please [submit online](#) by April 21, 2021.

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. [Submit applications](#) online beginning April 28, 2021.

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](#) beginning April 28, 2021. Each year, the Executive Council shall consider all nominations so submitted 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.

Announcements

2021 ACME Council Elections

Please look for an announcement from Buffy Finn later this spring and be sure to cast your votes for the ACME 2021 elections, which will be conducted on eBallot.

Future Symposia and Conferences:

ASTMH 70th Annual Meeting

November 17-21, 2021,

Gaylord National Resort and Convention Center, National Harbor, Maryland, USA

[Abstracts](#) and [Travel Award Applications](#) are due on April 21, 2021.

Johns Hopkins World Malaria Day Symposium

Malaria Vector Biology and Control

Friday, April 23, 2021 | *Free Registration* at this [link](#).

Cross Center of Excellence (CoE) Seminar Series – Spring 2021

The Regional Centers of Excellence for Vector-Borne Diseases (CoE) invite you to attend their monthly seminar series. Seminars include presentations and a moderated Q&A session featuring applied research projects across their programs. The next seminars are scheduled for Thursday, April 29 and Thursday, May 27 at 2:30–4:00 pm EDT, when attendees will learn more about CoE research into vector-borne disease modeling and risk assessment and investigations of vector biology and behavior across the United States. Further details and registration can be found at <https://www.neregionalvectorcenter.com/online-programs>.





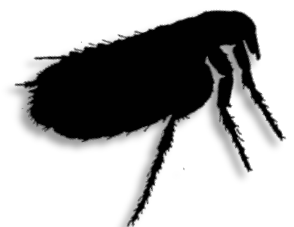
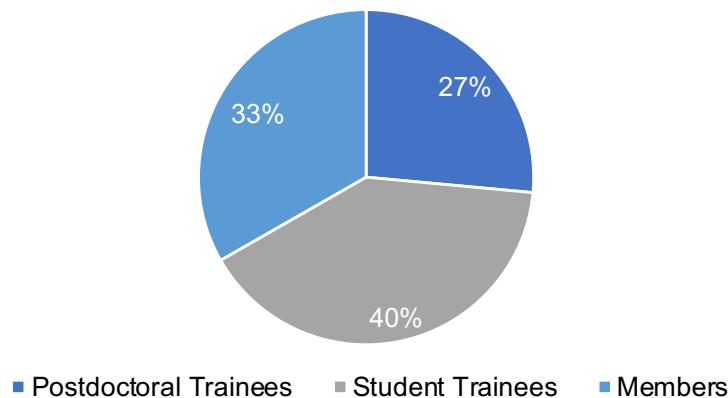
To keep up on all current announcements, please be sure to follow us on Twitter at [ACME@ACME_ASTMH](https://twitter.com/ACME@ACME_ASTMH). We have been actively tweeting since last November and have already acquired 199 followers! We are hoping to build this as a primary means of communication between 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). Please remember that you can still also post and receive announcements by subscribing to [My Communities](#).

Renew your Membership

[RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP](#) AND ENCOURAGE OTHERS TO JOIN ACME! The \$25 membership fees collected from professional members are a critical source of support for our activities, such as trainee attendance and networking opportunities at the Annual Meeting. Membership connects you to an active global community of medical entomologists both at our ASTMH Annual Meeting and throughout the year. Please remember that membership is free for both student and post-doctoral trainees and grants them access to information on mentoring opportunities at the Annual Meeting, job postings, and travel awards. Please visit the [ASTMH website](#) for full membership dues information.

ACME membership remains strong in 2020-2021. We presently have 442 members, with trainees comprising two-thirds of our membership.

ACME 2020-2021 Membership



Net assets for all ACME funds totaled \$27,058 at the end of February 2021. Total revenue from membership dues this fiscal year to date is \$3,450, exceeding our prior year to date by \$650! Despite moving to a virtual booth format, we were still able to raise \$660 in donations during the first half of this fiscal year. As always, we are grateful to our donors and the parent Board for their continued support of our medical entomology initiatives. ACME hopes to initiate new fundraising efforts to support trainee attendance at the ASTMH Annual Meeting and other ACME causes. If you are aware of potential donors, have fundraising ideas, or have interest in forming and serving on a fundraising task force, please contact Molly Duman Scheel (Secretary-Treasurer), mscheel@nd.edu.

Arthropod Containment Addendum Update

ACME has worked with the FNIH to create an addendum to our Arthropod Containment Guidelines that includes recommendations for containing arthropods used in gene drive research. The addendum was prepared by a writing group that included ACME members Nicole Achee, Zach Adelman, Mark Benedict, Ellen Dotson, Molly Duman Scheel, Monika Gulia-Nuss, and Brian Tarimo, with support from Stephanie James and David O'Brochta at FNIH and Fil Randazzo (Leverage Science, LLC). All members of the writing group agreed that this was a rewarding, engaging, and at times challenging task that generated many interesting and important discussions. Thanks to the writing group and to our ACME membership for their input and critical review of the addendum, which was recently submitted for formal peer review.

In Memoriam

Gary G. Clark **March 18, 1945-October 27, 2019**

ACME was saddened to learn of the passing of former councilor, Gary G. Clark. Gary was born to Champ and Louise (Donoho) Clark on March 18, 1945, in San Diego, California, and was raised in Marion, Illinois, where he met his wife Carol Shillinger whom he married in 1967. They were married 52 years and raised three children together. Gary graduated from Southern Illinois University where he received a bachelor's degree in zoology. He earned a master's in wildlife biology and a doctorate in medical/veterinary entomology from Colorado State University. During his postdoctoral studies at the UCLA School of Public Health he conducted mosquito and virus field research in the deserts of Riverside and Imperial Counties, California with world renowned arbovirologist Telford Work. This arduous research under the supervision of Dr. Work helped hone his scientific skills and especially his keen sense of humor which he retained throughout his illustrious career. He was highly regarded and known around the world in his field of arbovirology. He held several positions including serving as a U.S. Army Medical Service Corps Officer while conducting entomology and virus research at the high containment laboratories of USAMRIID at Fort Detrick, Maryland. He subsequently transferred to the United States Public Health Service (USPHS) and eventually served for many years as Chief, Dengue Branch, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in San Juan, Puerto Rico. After retiring from the USPHS at the rank of Captain he served as Research Leader of the Mosquito and Fly Research Unit at the U.S. Department of Agriculture Center for Medical, Agricultural and Veterinary Entomology in Gainesville, Florida leading the Deployed Warfighter Protection Research program in the Unit. He also served as President of the American Mosquito Control Association (AMCA) and received its most prestigious award, the Medal of Honor. Within the AMCA he founded, led, and published symposia review for the Latin American group and was a co-moderator for the first Spanish speaking session at an AMCA meeting. Gary was behind the creation of 'National Mosquito Control Week.' He held numerous consultative positions for multiple organizations, such as the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), the World Health Organization (WHO), the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and served as president of the San Juan (Puerto Rico) Rotary Club. He was appointed ACME councilor from 1988-1990. Gary passed away on Sunday, October 27, 2019, at the age of 74, surrounded by loved ones in Lakeway, Texas. He will always be fondly remembered for his scientific achievements, support, and humor by his many colleagues. Please find a link to his obituary notice [here](#).



Photo: Nikhella Winter (left) and Akilah Stewart (right), doctoral students at the University of the West Indies at St. Augustine, Trinidad and Tobago (UWI), work to reconstruct a semi-field trial enclosure on the rooftop of the research building at UWI, where research had been in hibernation due to the pandemic. The UWI team is happy to be re-initiating research in collaboration with Molly Duman Scheel (Indiana University School of Medicine, ACME Secretary-Treasurer) and David Severson (University of Notre Dame).

Photo: ACME Council Member Adriana Troyo, PhD, was featured in two books: *The Intrepids: Costa Rican Women in Science and Technology* by Ana Luisa Monge-Naranjo and Bruce James Callow. One book includes interview-style chapters of the experiences and lives of 18 women. The other is a coloring book for children, which features a short description and cartoon drawing of each scientist.

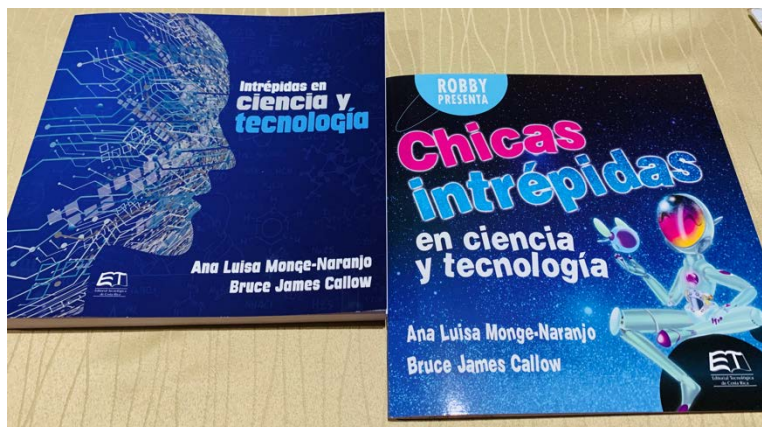


Photo: Nicole Scavo, PhD student in the Gabriel Hamer Lab, collects a triatomine kissing bug in South Texas in April, 2021. Nicole is in the Ecology and Evolutionary Biology Interdisciplinary Doctoral Degree Program at Texas A&M University and will be studying the ecology and control of *Aedes aegypti* during her program.