



## ACME participation at the ASTMH 66th Annual Meeting, November 5-9, 2017, Baltimore:

ACME has organized two symposia with excellent speakers, networking events for trainees, and is planning a fun social time between the symposia to catch up with colleagues. Many ACME members will be giving oral presentations and posters throughout the meeting; please support ACME by attending their presentations!!

### Session 97. American Committee of Medical Entomology (ACME) Symposium I: Annual Business Meeting, Awards and Hoogstraal Medal Presentations and Networking Reception.

Tuesday, November 7, 2017, 1:45 pm - 3:30 pm. Convention Center - Room 327/328/329 (Level 300).

The keynote speaker will be Dr. Audrey Lenhart (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) who will present the talk "CDC's role in the global Zika response: A public health entomology call to action".

- 1:45 - 2:00 PM - ACME Annual Business Meeting and Awards Presentation
- 2:00 - 2:30 PM - Hoogstraal Medal Presentation
- 2:30 - 2:45 PM - SC Johnson Awards
- 2:45 - 3:15 PM - Keynote Talk. Audrey Lenhart (CDC, Atlanta, GA)
- 3:15 - 3:30 PM - Networking and Social Time

### Session 110. American Committee of Medical Entomology (ACME) Symposium II: New and Young Investigators in Medical Entomology.

Tuesday, November 7, 2017, 4:00 pm - 5:45 pm.

Convention Center - Room 327/328/329 (Level 300). The speakers for the event are:

- 4:00 - 4:15 PM - Presentation by ACME Travel Award Recipient
- 4:15 - 4:30 PM - Plant oils are capable of enhancing diverse insecticides against susceptible and resistant strains of mosquitoes. Edmund Norris (Iowa State University, Ames, IA).
- 4:30 - 4:45 PM - Genomic analysis of behavioral resistance in *Anopheles coluzzii* points towards flight activity as the underlying mechanism. Jacob I. Meyers (Texas A&M University, College Station, TX).
- 4:45 - 5:00 PM - Climate impacts on blacklegged tick host-seeking behavior. Max McClure (Columbia University, New York, NY).
- 5:00 - 5:15 PM - *Aedes aegypti* genetic diversity and arboviral disease transmission. Andrea Gloria-Soria (Yale University, New Haven, CT).
- 5:15 - 5:30 PM - *Trypanosoma cruzi* transmission ecology at non-human primate facilities in Texas. Carolyn Hodo (Texas A&M University, College Station, TX).
- 5:30 - 5:45 PM - The biology of mosquito sperm. Ethan Degner (Cornell University, Ithaca, NY).

**American Committee of Medical Entomology (ACME) Networking Lunch.** Monday, November 6, 2017, 12:00 noon - 1:00 pm. Hilton - Peale A (East Building, First Floor). Please stop by the poster sessions and pick up a lunch, then join us for some informal networking.

**Session 116. Speed-Networking with the Experts.** Tuesday, November 7, 2017, 5:00 pm - 6:45 pm  
Hilton - Holiday Ballroom 2 (East Building, Second Floor)

## ACME Newsletter Volume 5, Issue 1 October 2017

Gonzalo Vazquez-Prokopec  
Chair, Councilor

Philip Armstrong  
Chair-elect, Councilor

Lyric Bartholomay  
Past-chair, Councilor

Alvaro Molina-cruz  
Secretary/Treasurer,  
Councilor

Rebekah Kading  
Past-Secretary/Treasurer,  
Councilor



## **ACME Booth at the ASTMH Meeting**

The ACME booth at the annual meeting has always been an excellent opportunity for ACME outreach. Plan to stop by at the booth (#411 Exhibit Hall) to get to know some of ACME's activities and its members, and pick up some cool entomology schwag! If you would like to help work the booth please email [amolina-cruz@niaid.nih.gov](mailto:amolina-cruz@niaid.nih.gov).

## **Why join ACME**

Do you want to connect with vector biologists worldwide? Interested in applying for one of ACME awards? Interested in influencing the future of medical entomology research and policy? Interested in promoting the field of medical entomology to decrease disease burden worldwide? JOIN ACME!!!

Membership is free for students and post doctoral researchers, and just \$25 for full membership. Don't forget to renew your dues! ACME membership dues remain a primary source of income that supports our activities at the Annual Meeting.



Do you like this photo? Check out our mugs, mouse pads and other gear. All purchases contribute directly to support ACME's awards and activities.



## **ACME Awards:**



### **ACME Travel Awards**

One of ACME's missions is to promote trainees by providing cash awards for our outstanding junior members to present their work at the ASTMH annual meeting. This year we have three awardees that will be announced and present their work during the ACME symposia. You won't want to miss these presentations from up-and-coming leaders in the field!

### **ACME Breakthroughs in Medical Entomology Award**

ACME seeks to award outstanding recent (within the past 5 years) contributions 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 was 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, or insecticide resistance, or significant advances in technologies for vector surveillance or control. Women are particularly encouraged to apply. More information: <http://www.astmh.org/getattachment/Subgroups/ACME/Breakthroughs-in-MedicalEntomology-application-guidelines-2017.pdf>

## ACME Awards

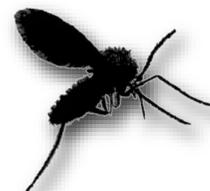
### **ACME Future Leaders in International Medical Entomology Fellowship**

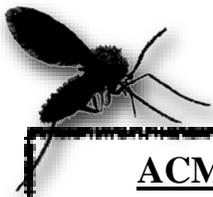
Thanks to a generous donation from SC Johnson: A Family Company, ACME instituted a new award last year to recognize future leaders in the field of medical entomology. The Future Leaders fellowship is a competitive award that is offered to an outstanding non-US citizen junior medical entomology researcher (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 global burden of human diseases transmitted by arthropods. For further information and application instructions, visit:

<http://www.astmh.org/getattachment/Subgroups/ACME/Future-Leaders-inInternational-Medical-Entomology-2017.pdf>



Photo: Dr. Aksoy (center-right) exhibiting the ACME's Breakthroughs in Medical Entomology plaque, joined by ACME and SC Johnson representatives: Dr. Lyric Bartholomay (left), Dr. Maude Meier (SC Johnson), Dr. Nicole Achee and Dr. Cavid Eland (SC Johnson).





## ACME well-represented in new CDC Centers for Excellence in Vector Borne Diseases:

In 2016, the CDC awarded nearly \$40 million to several universities for the establishment of centers to work on emerging and exotic vector-borne diseases in the the US. These Centers will carry out research and training to ensure appropriate and timely public health action for vector-borne diseases throughout the country. ACME members Lyric Bartholomay (U. of Wisconsin-Madison, Past Chair), Laura Harrington (Cornell U., Councilor), Christopher Barker (UC-Davis, Councilor elect) and Gabriel Hamer (Texas A & M U., Councilor elect) are some of the leaders in this important initiative. Following is a description of the Centers of Excellence programs.

### Northeast Regional Center for Excellence



- Conduct applied research to develop and validate effective vector-borne disease prevention and control tools and methods necessary to anticipate and respond to disease outbreaks
  - Train a cadre public health entomologists with the knowledge and skills required to rapidly detect, prevent and respond to vector-borne disease threats in the United States
  - Build effective collaborations between academic communities and public health organizations at federal, state, and local levels for vector-borne disease surveillance, response and prevention
- For more information visit <http://neregionalvectorcenter.com/>

### The Midwest Center for Excellence:

Center goals include development of systems and processes for sharing information between federal, state and local public health, vector control operations and academic partners, developing and increasing access to training opportunities for current vector control professionals, testing and improving the evidence base for current methods of vector management, and bringing innovative research in health information systems, optimization science, and diagnostic development to bear on these issues. Results and conclusions will be directly relevant to both the major VBD issues of the region as well as broadly applicable to public health entomology in the United States.



For more information, please visit <http://mcevbd.wisc.edu/>

### Western Gulf Center of Excellence

The mission of the Western Gulf Center of Excellence for Vector-Borne Diseases is to enhance the capacity to anticipate, prevent, and control vector-borne diseases (VBD). Center activities include: 1) improve the prediction of VBD emergence through enhanced modeling informed by more accurate, efficient, and reliable surveillance; 2) enhance the capabilities and tools of local- and state-level public health agencies through training and the implementation of improved surveillance and control methodologies; and 3) educate a new generation of public health-oriented vector biologists with broad expertise from basic science to applied entomology to span the academic and government scientific communities and drive innovation for decades to come. Our approach will develop new and long-lasting partnerships with academia and public health teams in the region so that, collectively, we can make



**Western Gulf Center of Excellence  
for Vector-Borne Diseases**



### Southeastern Region Center for Excellence Goals:

The CDC Center of Excellence in Vector Borne Diseases: Gateway Program is not limited in scope to only *Aedes*- and tick-transmitted pathogens. We have an extensive layer of research expertise in all aspects of Malaria (epidemiology, medical geography, parasite cell biology, vector biology, immunology, diagnostics, as well as drug and vaccine development).

Center Goals:

- Understanding vector ecology, arbovirus infectious rates & insecticide resistance to optimize mosquito control.
- Breaking the transmission of zoonotic arboviruses by mosquitoes.
- Ecological and acaricide-resistance models of tick vectors in the Southeast US.
- Multi-scale, modular models for Vector-Borne Disease

For more information visit [info@cdcsercoevbd-flgateway.org](mailto:info@cdcsercoevbd-flgateway.org)

### The Pacific Southwest Regional Center for Excellence:

UC Davis and UC Riverside, along with public-health and vector-control partners, aim to increase the capacity of the United States to respond to vector-borne disease threats by (1) conducting applied research to develop and validate effective prevention and control tools and methods to anticipate and respond to invasive mosquitoes and disease outbreaks, (2) training vector biologists, entomologists, and physicians in the knowledge and skills required to address vector-borne disease concerns, and (3) strengthening and expanding already effective collaboration between researchers and public health organizations for surveillance, prevention, and response.

For more information visit: <http://pacvec.us>

### More News

**ACME at the CDC Zika Summit.** The high level meeting on Vector Control Strategies for *Ae. aegypti* - transmitted Diseases, February 27-28 was attended by members of government, industry and research institutions. The discussion was mainly on innovative measures for vector control. ACME members that participated at the meeting included Nicole Achee (former chair), Stephen Dobson (former chair), and Gonzalo Vazquez-Prokopec (chair).

### **Building out vector-borne diseases in Africa: new research network and funding call**

Durham University and University College London are pleased to announce the establishment of a new multi-disciplinary research network called the BOVA (Building out vector-borne diseases in sub-Saharan Africa) Network. The Network, funded by the Global Challenges Research Fund aims to bring together researchers and practitioners working in the fields of the built environment and vector-borne diseases such as malaria and dengue.

The goal of the network is to stimulate inter-sectoral collaboration by forming a multi-disciplinary network of stakeholders with an interest in reducing vector-borne diseases through improving the built environment in sub-Saharan Africa. We aim to do this through three key activities: global advocacy to engage stakeholders, capacity building and providing funding for small pilot research projects (approx. 8 projects of £100,000) to stimulate larger research projects.

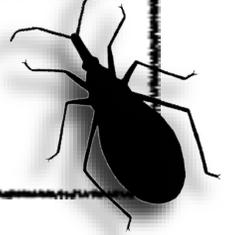
Interested parties are encouraged to join the BOVA Network via the website at [www.bovanetwork.org](http://www.bovanetwork.org).



**BOVA**  
network

## ACME leadership happenings

ACME welcomes new elected council members Drs. Gabriel Hamer (UTMB), Chris Barker (UCDavis) and Ellen Dotson (CDC), along with our trainee council member, Dr. Maria Luisa Simoes (Johns Hopkins). Alvaro Molina-Cruz was nominated and elected to the Secretary-Treasurer position. Many thanks to all of you for joining forces to propel ACME ever forward. This year, Drs. Maria Diuk Wasser, Rebekah Kading and Gonzalo Vazquez-Prokopec finish their terms on ACME council. ACME is grateful for their service.

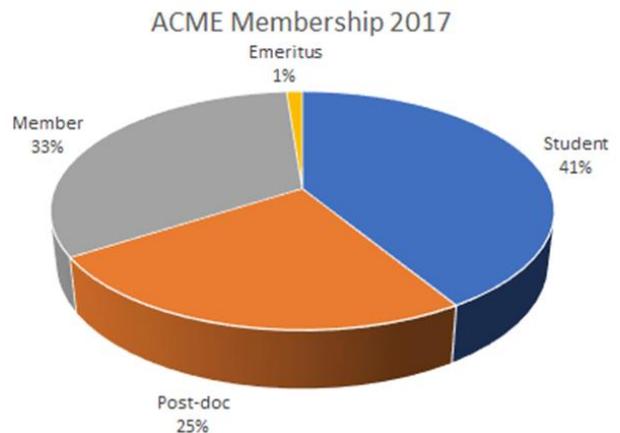


## Get involved !

If you are interested in learning more about ACME year-round activities or serving on the ACME Executive Council, please contact Phillip Armstrong ([philip.armstrong@ct.gov](mailto:philip.armstrong@ct.gov)).

## Renew your membership- benefits

**RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP!** Your membership dues of \$25 are vital to support ACME activities including the ACME Young Investigators Travel Awards program and the ACME Symposia at the annual meeting. Look to the ASTMH website for full membership dues information. Membership in ACME connects you to a global community of Medical Entomologists both at the ASTMH annual meeting and throughout the year. Membership gives you access to ACME communications, including our bi-annual newsletter and email communications that include job postings and announcements about happenings that impact our research and practice as Medical Entomologists. Membership is free for students and post-doctoral trainees. We take great pride in fostering community for our trainees; through your membership, you will be kept in the loop on meeting events for trainees, job openings, and opportunities for awards to participate in the ASTMH meeting.



ACME membership continues to increase, as of March 2017 was 417 strong, this is 17% higher than 2016. Most of our members (75%) are non-paying student and postdocs. We thank all the returning members and welcome our new members!

## Call for sponsorship

ACME is actively pursuing individual, foundation or corporate sponsorship to increase the number and amount of ACME Young Investigator Awards. These awards are critical for strengthening the future of medical entomology research. ACME members who are interested in such sponsorship, or who have connections with foundations or corporations that may be interested in such sponsorship are encouraged to contact ACME Chair, Phillip Armstrong ([philip.armstrong@ct.gov](mailto:philip.armstrong@ct.gov)).

## **Financial Report**

The total net assets for all ACME funds were \$10,725 for the period ending in June 30, 2017. ACME continues to benefit from the generous contribution of SC Johnson toward two annual mid-career investigator awards. The revenue from memberships for the period 2016-2017 was \$3,600. The ASTMH Council has continued to donate a \$1,500 grant to ACME toward student travel awards. As the expenses associated with the annual ACME Council meeting have continued to increase, \$3,748 for the period, ACME is actively working on strategies to decrease them. We thank the parent council for their continued support and all of our donors that enable awards for outstanding trainees to attend the meeting and for researchers that have made important contributions in medical entomology!