

# ACME Newsletter



## A welcome from the Chair

### ACME Executive Council

Dear ACME members,

Happy spring! In this edition of our newsletter, we recap highlights of the 71<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting in Seattle, share news of ACME members, activities and funding opportunities, and look forward to the upcoming meeting in Chicago.

Please join me in extending a warm welcome to our new Executive Council members, and a big thank you to those who completed terms of office last November!

The ACME Executive Council continues to support our unique community through the organization of symposia, awards, mentoring and advocacy.

The 71<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting in Seattle provided an opportunity for ACME members to come together to share science and ideas. The meeting hosted over 4,750 members from 115 countries! After several years remote, it was exciting to reconnect with colleagues and to visit with those who stopped by the ACME booth.

At the Annual Meeting, ACME recognized Ed Cupp who received the Harry Hoogstraal Medal for Outstanding Achievement in Medical Entomology. Maria Luisa Simoes received the ACME Breakthrough in Medical Entomology award and Henry Mawejje, the Future Leaders in International Medical Entomology award. Mike Turell received the inaugural ACME Award of Distinction and we recognized recipients of the 2022 Young Investigator Awards. Attendees also heard from leading scientists about training future medical entomologists in the area of climate resilient systems.

We are accepting nominations for the 2023 ACME Breakthrough in Medical Entomology, Future Leaders in International Medical Entomology and the Hoogstraal Medal. Please consider nominating your ACME colleagues! The deadline for receipt of nominations is **May 22**. For more information, see the [ACME website](#).

ACME will be hosting two symposia at the 72<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting, Hyatt Regency Chicago, Chicago, Illinois, 18-22 October 2023, including our annual business meeting and awards



**Catherine Hill**  
*Chair, Councilor*

**Adriana Troyo**  
*Chair-elect*

**Douglas Norris**  
*Past (or Outgoing)-chair*

**Berlin Londono**  
*Secretary/Treasurer*

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**Eleanore Sternberg**  
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**Nsa Dada**  
**Pamela Pennington**  
**Zach Adelman**  
**Teresa Njoroge**  
**Jewelna Akorli**  
**Sarah Hamer**

*Trainee Representative*  
**Teresa Njoroge**

celebration (Symposium I) and a session dedicated to invasive arthropods (Symposium II). Please see below for additional information on ACME symposia.

If you are a student member, please check out the Trainee Corner below focused on trainee announcements and opportunities.

If you are interested to join us on the council to shape ACME initiatives and activities, please watch for the solicitation for nominations in June and be sure to cast your vote for 2024 elections by e-ballot.

I look forward to seeing you in Chicago later this year!

Cate Hill,

Chair

## ACME@ASTMH2023

There will be two ACME Symposia in Chicago this year. Be sure to check out:

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

*October 18-22, 2023*

**American Committee of Medical Entomology (ACME) Symposium II: invasive arthropods and the impact on health, including mosquitoes, ticks and kissing bugs. The symposium will also focus on citizen-science approaches**

*October 18-22, 2023*

## News from NIH - Study Section to Cover Vector-Borne Diseases

The newly formed Transmission of Vector-Borne and Zoonotic Diseases (TVZ) study section at the National Institutes of Health began for the October/November 2022 grant application deadlines, with first review dates in February/March 2023. It was created as part of the NIH Centre for Scientific Review's (CSR) Evaluating Panel Quality in Review (ENQUIRE) process, which functions to align NIH peer review study sections with advances in science.

CSR handles the first level of peer review, the assessment of scientific and technical merit, for approximately 76% of NIH grant applications. The Centre recognizes the importance of study section scope in peer review outcomes. CSR evaluates 20% of its study sections each year, and every study section at least once every five years, via the ENQUIRE process. ENQUIRE integrates data with input from stakeholders to

determine whether changes in study section scope are needed to facilitate the identification of high-impact science, with special consideration of emerging science.

As part of the ENQUIRE process, CSR forms an External Scientific Evaluation Panel. Members are senior scientists with expertise spanning multiple study sections under evaluation. The external panel is provided with sample abstracts and aims and data such as bibliometric data and application and success rates for early-stage investigators. The external panel is asked: How well does the scope of the study sections align with the current state of the science? An Internal Process Evaluation Panel is then formed of NIH extramural staff with a broad perspective. The internal panel is provided the recommendations of the external panel as well as information on the function of the study section, such as that from site visits. The internal panel is asked to consider whether the panels function in a way that supports the optimal identification of high-impact science. Recommendations are then presented to the CSR Advisory Council for their input and approval. Changes to study sections include sunsetting study sections, modifying guidelines of current study sections, and/or formation of new panels. Learn more about the ENQUIRE process here. The Vector Biology (VB) study section was recently evaluated as part of an ENQUIRE review of panels in the area of microbiology and infectious diseases. Topics that were included in VB will be reviewed in the newly formed Transmission of Vector-Borne and Zoonotic Diseases (TVZ) study section. The major focus of TVZ is complex life-cycle transmission of vector-borne and other zoonotic diseases and includes the larger issues of community disease control strategies and the One Health approach.

How will this affect the funding of science of interest to the American Committee of Medical Entomology? The changes affect peer review—which is the first of two levels of review at NIH. Funding decisions are made after a second level of review, performed by the advisory council of the assigned NIH funding institute or Centre. Funding recommendations

are made to the institute director based on the outcome of the first level of review, the funding institute's mission and priorities, and other factors such as early-stage investigator status. By establishing the TVZ study section, CSR has broadened the scope of VB to include additional topics of interest to ACME's members. It is expected that the broader scope of TVZ will allow for better peer review outcomes – more accurate identification of high-impact science. Questions related to ENQUIRE can be addressed to [communications@csr.nih.gov](mailto:communications@csr.nih.gov).

#### **Notice of Special Interest:**

[Immune responses to arthropod feeding on vertebrate hosts NOT-AI-21-059](#)

[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 Administrative Supplements](#)

[Climate Change and Health](#)

RFA:

[Exploratory Grants for Climate Change and Health Research Center Development \(P20 Clinical Trial Optional\)](#)

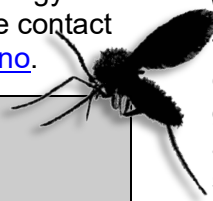
[NIH Climate Change and Health Initiative](#)

## Treasury Report

Net assets for all ACME funds totaled \$41,953 at the end of fiscal year 2023. Total revenue from membership dues last fiscal year was \$3,500, which is comparable to last year. We encourage you to remember to [renew your membership](#) and to recruit new members so that ACME can grow in the upcoming year! As always, we are very grateful to our donors and the parent Board for their continued support! For our \$7.5K annual distribution received from ASTMH for FY23 we had the following allocations: ACME supported travel awards to attend the 2022 Annual Meeting for total \$3,950. Also, ACME is supporting travel costs

for up to two students (\$450 per attendee) from LMIC to attend the VEuPathDB workshop in May. Registration for this course is free. If you are aware of potential donors, have fundraising ideas, have interest in assisting with fundraising, or have suggestions about ways that ACME can support medical entomology training or mentoring endeavors, please contact Secretary/Treasurer-elect [Berlin Londono](#).

*We thank all our ACME Donors!*  
Ellen M. Dotson, BS, MS, DSc  
Karen A. Goraleski, CEO, ASTMH  
Edward Walker, PhD  
Scott Gordon, PhD  
Ibrahim Sidick, PhD  
Daniel Boakye, PhD  
Jeanne M. Courval, MPH, PhD  
Abebebe Belete Yilak, PhD student  
Marine Jacqueline Petit, PhD  
Andrew Lover, PhD  
Catherine Hill, PhD  
Daniel E. Sonenshine, PhD



mission, ACME is establishing the **ACME Trainee Leadership Subcommittee** so trainees can be more involved in event planning, networking, and everything ACME. Interested in learning more? Please email your ACME trainee reps for more information.

**We want to feature you!** We want to highlight the success of our ACME trainees! Shoot us an email so that we can tweet about your graduations, field work, or any and all accomplishments. You can also tweet us your successes @ACME\_ASTMH

**For more information, please email your ACME trainee representative, [Teresia Njoroge](#).**

## Executive Council Departures and Elections

We welcome our Chair-Elect, Adriana Troyo and our new council members Zach Adelman, Jewelna Akorli, Sara Hamer and Trainee representative, Teresia Njoroge

We thank Doug Norris for his service as ACME Chair 2021-2022 and our outgoing members: Molly Duman Scheel (outgoing secretary treasurer), Gabriel Hamer (Past Chair), Audrey Lenhart (outgoing councilor).

Would **you** like to support ACME?

Visit ACME's [page](#) and click "Donate" to support activities like trainee awards and educational initiatives.

## Trainee Corner

The ACME trainee leadership subcommittee was established 2022!

We welcome to the new ACME trainee representative **Teresia Njoroge!** And farewell to the outgoing trainee representative **Renee Ali!**

Please check the ASTMH Annual Meeting website for more information.

**Trainees: want to get more involved in ACME?** ACME is committed to engaging the future leaders of our field and fostering supportive relationships across career stages and international boundaries. To further our

## ACME Announcements

During our spring meeting, the council discussed the ACME strategic planning for 2022-2023, the recruitment of new ACME Taskforce members to the 6 ACME committees and the planning for the ASTMH Annual Meeting October 18-22, Chicago, IL.

Details on the ACME Award of Distinction were also discussed. This nomination is made by the council on an *ad hoc* basis when a qualified

candidate is identified. Additional council members can be recruited to review applications on an as needed basis.



Nominations are welcome!

Now accepting nomination for the following awards. All nominations are due **May 22, 2023**.

**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 non-US citizens from an LMIC.

[Download the Guidelines.](#)  
[Submit your nomination online.](#)

**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.

[Download the Guidelines.](#)  
[Submit your nomination online.](#)

**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 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.

[Download the Guidelines.](#)  
[Submit your nomination online.](#)

#### **ACME Awards 2022:**

We congratulate our 2022 awardees:

*Young Investigator Travel Awards Awardees:*

**Ndey Bassin Jobe, Natalie Wickenkamp, Juan Lol, and Sachini Nimalrathna**

*ACME Breakthrough:*

**Maria Luisa Simoes**

*ACME Future Leaders:*

**Henry Maweje**

*ACME Award of Distinction:*

**Michael Turell**

*Hoogstraal Medal:*

**Ed Cupp**

## Events and Items of Interest

**VII Virtual Vector Biology (VBB) Seminar Series (Spring 2023)** - Virtual Vector Biology Seminar series was created to provide a sense of community and to promote ongoing research across a variety of arthropods of medical or veterinary importance. This series is designed to make recent scientific advances in the field of vector biology and vector-borne disease as open and accessible as possible. Sign up is free and open to anyone. For up-to-date information go follow us on Twitter at @VectorSeminar.

**VectorBiTE** is holding online interactive events every couple of months with information available through their **twitter account: @VectorBiTE\_RCN**

**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](#).

**The Arthropod Containment Guidelines**, a guidance document that outlines best practices for research laboratories to safely handle arthropods of public health importance, was recently updated by ACME with a special [addendum](#) focused on gene drive.

Please check these upcoming meetings:

Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School Ticks and Tickborne Diseases Symposium (May 3, 2023, 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. ET). This is a free annual symposium hosted by the Bloomberg School's Department of Molecular Microbiology and Immunology's Lyme and Tickborne Diseases Research and Education Institute. For more information, please visit their [website](#).

The 26<sup>th</sup> Vector encounter Vector Encounter is a two-day gathering to discuss the biology of arthropod disease vectors, hosted by the Johns Hopkins Malaria Research Institute in Baltimore, Maryland, USA. Investigators can present their lab's latest vector research in Chalk Talk and Short Talk format emphasizing ideas and latest discoveries. The encounter goes from June 15 and 16, 2023. More information, please visit their [website](#).

## Connect with ACME

To keep up on all current announcements, please be sure to follow us on Twitter at [ACME@ACME\\_ASTMH](#). We currently have 770 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 [Adriana Troyo](#)

Please remember that you can still also post and receive announcements by subscribing to [My Communities](#). You can also provide items for the newsletter. Please send us any announcements, events, or items for the Fall 2023 newsletter!



# ACME in Action

A 6-foot inflatable kissing bug has been used recently by Texas A&M University lab members with Sarah Hamer (Veterinary Medicine) and Gabriel Hamer (Entomology) at a couple public outreach events. The team set up an outreach booth with a Wild West Vector Round-up theme, with games for the public like pathogen plunko and arthropod-themed prizes like gushers candy (blood-engorged ticks). Uninfected mosquitoes and kissing bugs from the on-campus colony were also used while chatting with the public.



## Some pictures from the 71<sup>st</sup> ASTMH Meeting!



Gabriel Hamer introducing our ACME Award of distinction recipient, Michael Turell.



Doug Norris handing in the ACME Breakthrough in Medical Entomology Award to Maria Luisa Simoes



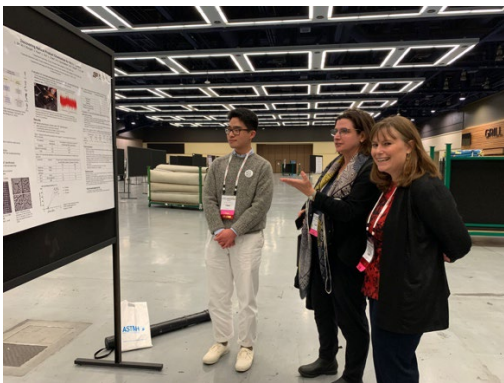
Scott Weaver introducing the Hoogstraal Medal recipient, Eddie W. Cupp.



Our 2022 ACME Future Leaders Fellowship in International Medical Entomology recipient Henry Maweje.



Cate Hill receiving the ACME gavel from Doug Norris officializing the start of her tenure as ACME president.



MS/PhD student Lide Bi showing his work on natural products for vector control to Kristin Michel and Molly Scheel at the 71st ASTMH Annual Meeting.



Molly Scheel, Adeline Williams, Adriana Troyo and Berlin Londono at the ACME symposium II, 2022.