

**Biography of  
Kacey C. Ernst PhD, MPH  
Associate Professor, College of Public Health, College of Geography, and College  
of Animal, and Comparative Biomedical Sciences, the University of Arizona  
Before the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Science, Space, and  
Technology**

**Title: Science of Zika: The DNA of an Epidemic**

**May 25, 2016**

Dr. Kacey C. Ernst is an Associate Professor in the Department of Epidemiology and College of Public Health at the University of Arizona. She also holds positions in the Colleges of Geography and Animal and Comparative Biomedical Sciences, as well as in three interdisciplinary programs: Entomology and Insect Science; Global Change; and, Arid Lands. She joined the University of Arizona faculty in 2008 after receiving her Master's in Public Health (MPH) and doctorate (PhD) in epidemiology at the University of Michigan. Her area of specialization is the intersection of environment, humans, and mosquito vectors of disease.

As an epidemiologist, her role is to work with a highly interdisciplinary team of scientists to integrate information from climatology, entomology, medical anthropology, and ecology across multiple institutions to develop an understanding of the emergence of infectious diseases. She has received funding from the National Institute of Health, the National Science Foundation, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to pursue work related to *Aedes aegypti*-transmitted viruses including dengue, chikungunya, and Zika viruses. Much of her work has focused on the U.S.-Mexico border region where *Ae. aegypti* have been established for over a decade. She is working to understand the factors that facilitate emergence of these viruses across the region. Prior to joining the faculty at the University of Arizona, she held positions in applied public health as an epidemiologist focused on pandemic threat reduction and bioterrorism preparedness in Wisconsin and in Arizona. Dr. Ernst was born in Missouri and raised in Kansas.