



# Novel Methods at the Intersection of Epidemiology and Policy-Making

**Saturday, September 12, 2009**

## Minority Affairs Committee Scientific Workshop - Achieving Diversity in the Field of Epidemiology: Progress Made, Challenges and Opportunities

*Lincoln Ballroom*

The mission of the Minority Affairs Committee of the American College of Epidemiology is to increase minority representation in the epidemiology profession and to recommend actions that increase the likelihood of significant epidemiologic research on health issues important to racial/ethnic minority populations. During this year's American College of Epidemiology Annual Conference, we dedicate our all-day pre-conference Scientific Workshop to issues related to achieving diversity in the field of epidemiology.

The goal of the workshop is primarily to aid workshop participants and secondarily to assist interested epidemiologists and policymakers to learn about the causes of the under-representation of racial and ethnic minorities in the epidemiologic profession, and to discuss ways to reduce this inequity, particularly in the field of health disparities research. Specifically we will explore themes related to:

- Obstacles and solutions to increasing diversity in the epidemiology profession.
- The social context that hinders the entrance of members of racial/ethnic minorities into higher education in science and health related professions.
- Barriers to advancement of racial/ethnic minority epidemiologists in the profession.
- Examples of practices and achievements that attract minorities into the epidemiology profession
- Recommending next steps within the Epidemiology profession and among policy makers

## Workshop Agenda

		<b>SPEAKER</b>	<b>MODERATOR</b>
8:00 am - 9:00 am	Registration – Coffee and Tea		ACE MAC Staff
9:00 am - 9:15 am	Introduction and Overview		Jorge Ibarra
9:15 am - 10:15 am	Recruitment, the pipeline, and placement of undergraduate students into epidemiology	Dick Riegelman	Jonathan N. Tobin
10:15 am - 10:30 am	Coffee Break		
10:30 am - 11:30 am	Overcoming the barriers minority students face in the paper chase	Camara Jones	Charles Oke
11:30 am - 12:30 pm	Recruiting, training and retaining minority epidemiologists in the CDC Epidemic Intelligence Service	Doug Hamilton	Judith Sarnoff
12:30 pm - 2:00 pm	LUNCHEON: Key Note Speaker Mentoring minority epidemiology students	Bill Jenkins	Victor Schoenbach
2:00 pm - 3:00 pm	Mentoring graduate minority students and trainees into epidemiology	Ana Diez-Roux	Chandra Ford
3:00 pm - 3:15 pm	Coffee break		

*continued on next page*

3:15 pm - 4:00 pm	Minority faculty recruitment and retention	Jessie Satia	Rhonda BeLeu
4:00 pm - 4:45 pm	All Speakers Panel Q & A	Speakers	Jorge Ibarra
4:45 pm - 5:00 pm	Adjourn and Acknowledgements	Jorge Ibarra	
5:00 pm - 6:00 pm	Minority Affairs Committee Annual Meeting	Open to All	Jorge Ibarra
6:00 pm - 9:00 pm	Job Fair and Exhibits Reception	Open to All	Charles Oke Jan Eberth Chinua Akukwe

## Sunday, September 13, 2009

**8:00 am - 3:00 pm**

### Board of Directors Meeting

*Silver*

**8:30 am - 12 noon**

### ACE Preconference Morning Workshops

*Grant I, Grant II*

**8:30 am - 12 noon**

#### 1. Topic: Epidemiology and Risk Assessment

Risk assessments bring to bear the existing scientific information - and the critical interpretation of that information - on questions of the existence, nature, and magnitude of risks that may be posed by exposure to an agent. They are used by regulatory agencies to set standards for chemicals in the environment and the workplace below which human health risks are likely to be negligible. They are also used to address whether exposure to an agent likely caused a health effect in specific individuals. In this workshop, we will discuss the fundamentals of risk assessment, including hazard identification, exposure assessment, dose-response assessment, and risk characterization. We will focus specifically on the use of epidemiology in the risk assessment process and how limitations and uncertainties are addressed. We will discuss differences between using risk assessment for setting regulations vs. addressing causation, and we will also discuss principles of assessing risks for cancer and non-cancer health effects. Students will have the opportunity to conduct a risk assessment of a chemical based on published epidemiology data and to calculate a mock regulatory standard.

*Presenter: Julie E. Goodman, PhD, DABT, Principal Scientist / Gradient Corporation*

**8:30 am - 12 noon**

#### 2. Topic: Introduction to Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis

This workshop introduces the basic concepts, methods and issues in systematic review and meta-analysis, including software selection and use. Concepts, methods and issues are illustrated with published examples on a wide range of topics in observational and experimental epidemiology. Each participant should bring a calculator.

Participants will:

1. Develop an appreciation for defining and delimiting the purpose of a systematic review.
2. Understand the options in defining, searching and retrieving "the literature" on a topic.
3. Learn when meta-analytic methods are indicated and contraindicated in a systematic review.
4. Gain experience in extracting information from reports and creating a meta-analytic data set.
5. Understand the steps in systematically contacting investigators for missing information.
6. Acquire an aptitude for conducting preparatory within-study analyses.
7. Learn to interpret the main graphical displays in meta-analysis.
8. Develop an understanding of the causes, detection and correction of publication bias.
9. Become familiar with tools for assessing and measuring heterogeneity.
10. Obtain a working knowledge of fixed-effect and random-effects models.
11. Gain skills in stratified and meta-regression analysis of study and participant characteristics.
12. Discuss warranted and unwarranted conclusions from systematic reviews and meta-analyses.

*Presenter: Charles Poole, MPH, ScD, University of North Carolina*

*continued on next page*

**1:00 pm - 4:30 pm**

## **ACE Preconference Afternoon Workshops**

*Potomac, Spring*

**1:00 pm - 4:30 pm**

### **3. Topic: Straight from the Horses' Mouths: Mentors, Mentees, and Recruiters Tell All About Careers for Epidemiologists in Government, Industry, Academia, and Consulting (*free workshop for students*)**

Career opportunities in epidemiology have never been more varied. At the same time, the economic downturn has cast a pall over what was a booming job market. This may predispose soon-to-be-graduates or early career epidemiologists to consider a wider range of career paths than they would have otherwise. This workshop will offer a unique opportunity to hear from leading epidemiologists (mentors) in the government, industry, academic, and consulting sectors as well as from early career epidemiologists (mentees) who have chosen those sectors. You will also hear from recruiters to gain their perspectives on what employers are looking for as well as how to present yourself well when seeking a job.

The workshop will be fast-moving with no long-winded speeches and lots of time for Q&As (both during and after the workshop). Further, the participating mentors, mentees, and recruiters were chosen based on their high likelihood of being brutally frank about the pros and cons of their employment sector. This workshop represents an evolution of previous workshops that were offered at various epidemiology society meetings to include the perspectives of mentees and recruiters. We hope you will join us for this unique workshop.

*Contact person(s): Mentoring Committee*

**3:00 pm - 5:00 pm**

### **4. Topic: National Institutes of Health (NIH) Grant Review Workshop**

The purpose of this workshop is to discuss the scientific review of investigator-initiated grant applications submitted to the National Institutes of Health (NIH). NIH extramural grants are awarded based on a system of peer review that has as its goal evaluating the scientific and technical merit of an application through a process that is fair, competent and thorough. Rather recent changes to peer review include special opportunities for principal investigators who have never had an NIH R01 grant application and/or who are in the early stages of their scientific careers, the opportunity to have multiple principal investigators on an application, more rapid receipt of scores and summary statements and incentives for reviewers. Very new changes include reducing the number of times an application can be resubmitted from twice to

once, scoring on an integer scale of one to nine, restructuring the criteria by which the scientific and technical merit of an application is assessed, adoption of structured critique templates and provision of criterion scores for all applications, including those not discussed at the meeting. Shortening and streamlining applications will be phased in next year. This workshop will focus on these changes and other special issues. Information on the six chartered epidemiology study sections will be provided.

*Presenters:*

*Dana Jeffrey Plude, PhD, Acting Chief, Division of AIDS, Behavioral, and Population Sciences (DABPS), Center for Scientific Review (CSR), NIH*

*Robert Weller, PhD, Chief, Population Sciences and Epidemiology Integrated Review Group, DABPS, CSR, NIH*

*Sandra Melnick Seitz, DrPH, FACE, Scientific Review Officer, Population Sciences and Epidemiology, DABPS, CSR, NIH*

**3:00 pm - 5:00 pm**

### **Epidemiology Chairs & Directors Meeting**

*Silver*

Business meeting to formalize the group's structure and governance; nominations and voting for leadership positions.

*Chaired by: Nasar U. Ahmed, Chairperson, Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics, Stempel College of Public Health and Social Work, Florida International University*

**5:00 pm - 7:00 pm**

### **Host Reception**

*Lincoln Ballroom, Crowne Plaza*

*Greeting by Alan Greenberg, Chair, Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics, George Washington University School of Public Health and Health Services*

All are welcome!

**7:00 pm**

### **Associate Member Gathering**

Join friends and colleagues for dinner and drinks at Red Rock Canyon Grill, just a short walk from the hotel! Meet in the Lincoln Pre-Function area of the hotel at 7:00 pm.

All Associate Members are welcome!

*continued on next page*

# Monday, September 14, 2009

**8:00 am - 12:00 pm**

## General Session

*Kennedy Grand Ballroom*

**8:00 am**

### GWU Host Greeting

*Dean Josef Reum, Interim Dean, Associate Dean for Administration and Finance and an Associate Professor in both the Department of Health Policy and the Department of Health Services Management and Leadership*

### Program Chair Greeting

*Diana Bensyl*

**8:15 am - 10:30 am**

### Keynote Session

*Moderator: Roberta Ness*

### Epidemiology, Public Health, and Public Policy

*James Marks, Senior Vice President, Director Health Group, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation*

Public health is inherently political. Policymakers and epidemiologists must work together to ensure the right research is done and that it leads to action. In this way, social justice can be more readily achieved.

### Doubt is Their Product: How Industry's Assault on Science Threatens Your Health

**CANCELED.** *David Michaels, Research Professor and Interim Chair of the Department of Environmental and Occupational Health, of the George Washington University School of Public Health and Health Services*

Dr. Michaels regrets that due to his nomination by President Barack Obama for Assistant Secretary of Labor, Occupational Safety and Health Administration, he is unable to present.

**9:45 am**

### Break

### Environmental Epidemiology: Leading the Way to Public Health

*Joel Schwartz, Professor of Environmental Epidemiology, Department of Environmental Health, Department of Epidemiology, Harvard University*

### Battles With Bugs: Embedded in the Front Lines

*Lawrence K. Altman, Clinical Professor of Medicine at New York University and writer for The New York Times*

Dr. Altman recently switched from full-time staff to writing on contract for the The New York Times. He has covered infectious disease epidemics for over 40 years. In this session, Dr. Altman will describe some of the epidemics he has covered and the lessons learned from them.

**12:15 pm - 1:15 pm**

## Luncheon Roundtables

*Grant I, II, Silver, Spring, Blair*

### 1. Theory Meets Practice - Practice-Based Research Networks (PBMS) and Opportunities for Epidemiologists

*Jonathan Tobin, President, CEO, Clinical Directors Network, Inc. (CDN), Professor, Department of Epidemiology & Population Health Albert Einstein College of Medicine of Yeshiva University*

According to AHRQ, "...practice-based research networks (PBRNs) involve practicing clinicians in asking and answering clinical and organizational questions about ... health care." Epidemiologists can play a critical role in generating rigorous study designs for PBRNs, and are vital partners for PBRNs. PBRNs also represent important venues for conducting translational research, as they are often more representative of the settings in which research results will be implemented. This roundtable discussion will examine the role of epidemiologists in PBRNs, and may consider selected theoretical issues, such as cluster design, randomization alternatives, and selection bias in observational studies, as well as practical issues, including recruitment, retention, and community engagement. Please join us for a lively discussion.

### 2. The Role of Epidemiology in Legislative Activity

*Aarti Shah, Counsel for the Republican U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Energy and Commerce*

*Sudip S. Parikh, Vice President, Health Policy, Health and Life Science Global Business Battelle (former Science Advisor & Professional Staff, United States Senate)*

### 3. International Chronic Disease Policy: Pan American Health Organization Experience in Providing Evidence for Policy Changes

*Alberto Barceló*

- Diabetes epidemiology changes health policies in Central America.
- How new evidence influenced cancer control policies in Latin America and the Caribbean.
- Sub regional political organizations adopt chronic disease as priority public health issue.

*Enrique Pérez Flores, Silvana Luciani, James Hospedales*

*continued on next page*

#### **4. Epidemiology Chairs Luncheon**

Epidemiology Chairs & Directors Luncheon, including a talk and panel discussion on “Navigating Administrative Troubled Waters - Strategies for managing departments in difficult financial times.”

*Keynote Address: Roberta Ness, President, the ACE and Dean, The University of Texas School of Public Health*

*Moderator: Nasar U. Ahmed, Chairperson, Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics, Stempel College of Public Health and Social Work, Florida International University*

ACE committees desiring an informal business may gather in the Kennedy Ballroom with their lunches and use the lunch hour to have their meeting.

#### **1:30 pm - 3:00 pm Epidemiology and Decisions Regarding Public Health Risks of Environmental Origin – Where Are We Headed and What Are the Impediments?**

*Kennedy Grand Ballroom*

*Moderator: Deborah Winn*

*Joseph Rodricks, Principal, Environ Corporation*

*Thomas Burke, Professor and Associate Dean for Public Health Practice and Training, Johns Hopkins School of Public Health*

#### **3:00 pm Break**

#### **3:15 pm - 4:30 pm Human Papillomavirus and Cervical Cancer: Epidemiology Research Needs to Inform Screening Guidelines and Health Care Policies**

*Moderators:*

*Mark Schiffman*

*Deborah Winn*

#### **3:15 pm - 3:30 pm Overview of HPV Natural History and Multi-Stage Cervical Cancer from the Molecular Epidemiologic Viewpoint**

*Mark Schiffman, Senior Investigator, Division of Cancer Epidemiology and Genetics, National Cancer Institute*

#### **3:30 pm - 3:45 pm HPV Vaccines: Efficacy vs. Effectiveness, Controversies, and Next Generation Vaccines**

*Laura Koutsky, Professor, University of Washington*

#### **3:45 pm - 4:00 pm Role of HPV Testing in Cervical Cancer Screening**

*Debbie Saslow, Director of Breast and Gynecologic Center, American Cancer Society*

#### **4:00 pm - 4:15 pm Risk Estimation for the Next Generation of Cervical Cancer Prevention Strategies**

*Hormuzd Katki, Principal Investigator, National Cancer Institute*

#### **4:15 pm - 4:30 pm Questions**

#### **4:30 pm ACE Business Meeting**

*Kennedy Grand Ballroom*

All ACE members welcome to attend

#### **5:00 pm - 6:30 pm 2011 Congress of Epidemiology Planning Meeting**

*Jefferson Boardroom*

#### **5:00 pm - 7:00 pm Poster Session and ACE Fellows and Epidemiology Chairs Reception**

*Lincoln Ballroom, Crowne Plaza*

All are Welcome!

# Tuesday, September 15, 2009

7:15 am

## Breakfast Roundtables

*Grant I, II*

### 1. Novel Sampling Methods

*Jan Risser, Associate Professor, University of Texas School of Public Health, Division of Epidemiology*

Some questions require sampling of hidden populations. There are two methods available to get relatively representative samples of such populations: venue-time-day sampling and respondent driven sampling. In order to recruit a representative sample, rather than a sample of convenience, both require strict adherence to specific methodologies. We will discuss those methodologies, spending most of the time on respondent driven sampling. I will provide an annotated bibliography and web-links for more information, and discuss our experiences using both methods.

### 2. Defining “Minority” in Health Disparities Research

*Yvette Cozier, Assistant Professor of Epidemiology, Slone Epidemiology Center, Boston University*

*Rhonda BeLue, Assistant Professor, University Department of Health Policy & Administration, Pennsylvania State University*

The elimination or reduction of racial and ethnic health disparities has been the focus of many public health initiatives over the last decade, and is expected to continue into the foreseeable future. The goal of this round table is to discuss several unresolved issues related to current trends and future directions of health disparities research and minority health. Some of these issues include the following:

- 1) The definition of ‘minority’ in epidemiologic research. Are different definitions employed for different research purposes?
- 2) Current methods for measuring race/ethnicity.
- 3) What exactly is a health disparity, and how can epidemiology and minority health move beyond simply documenting differences?

We will also provide a reading list and sample papers on topics discussed at the round table.

### 3. Collaborating with HMO-based Researchers

*Dan Strickland, Epidemiologist, Research & Evaluation, Kaiser Permanente, Southern California*

HMOs are a rich resource, with large and readily-definable populations, and accessible electronic medical records that contain a plethora of exposure, outcome and other information that can be leveraged for studies of virtually every epidemiologic design. Many questions that would pose

difficulties in other settings can be addressed within HMO populations. While the HMO setting thus has great potential for epidemiologic and health services research, the scientific and intellectual capital of the HMO research divisions is often underappreciated. HMO researchers welcome collaborative research, but there are expectations that such collaborations will be true partnerships. Examples of how successful partnerships were developed and potential pitfalls will be presented from both the HMO and the academic perspective.

### 4. Preparing for Interviews and Job Talks

*Roberta Ness, Dean, M. David Low Chair in Public Health, The University of Texas School of Public Health-Houston*

*Diana Bensyl, Epidemic Intelligence Service (EIS) Field Supervisor, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention*

Job interview and presentations can make or break you for that dream job. Learn tips about what interviewers and decision-makers want to see in job candidates and what helps you demonstrate why you are the best person for the job. Dr. Ness and Dr. Bensyl represent academia and government, but the tips should help job seekers in any sector.

### 5. The Clinical and Translational Science Award Program and Opportunities for Epidemiologists

*Iris O Abrams, Deputy Director, Division for Clinical Research Resources, National Center for Research Resources, National Institutes of Health*

*Deborah del Junco, Senior Epidemiologist and Associate Professor, Biostatistics, Epidemiology and Research Design, (BERD) Core Center for Clinical and Translational Sciences, University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston*

*Erin Fox, Project Coordinator, PRospective Observational Multicenter Massive Transfusion Study (PROMMTT), Biostatistics, Epidemiology and Research Design (BERD) Core Center for Clinical and Translational Sciences, University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston*

A national consortium, funded through Clinical and Translational Science Awards (CTSAs), is transforming how research is conducted at academic health centers across the country. Ultimately, this consortium will enable researchers to provide new treatment and prevention strategies more efficiently and quickly to patients and the general population by drawing on collaborative synergies and efficiencies within and beyond the consortium. A key function of CTSAs is to facilitate advances in research design and methods in epidemiology and biostatistics. The CTSA consortium, led by the National Center for Research Resources, currently comprises 46 academic health centers with plans to link about 60 institutions by 2012. The consortium is designed to develop educational resources for the next generation of translational researchers, new clinical research informatics tools, outreach to underserved communities, interdisciplinary research teams, and new partnerships with private and public health care organizations. Opportunities for epidemiologists and other research methodologists in the consortium will be

*continued on next page*

discussed. Applications from epidemiologists are encouraged to develop innovative research programs on topics including limiting risk to participants, preventing bias, improving enrollment, capturing data, developing design and analysis plans and issues related to diseases with limited treatment options.

## **6. Publishing and Policy: The Implications of Discussion Sections and Commentaries in the Epidemiologic Literature**

*Melissa Adams, RTI International*

*Charles DiMaggio, Columbia University*

The Discussion Sections of many epidemiologic reports focus on methodologic factors influencing the validity of the reported results as well as their implications for public health practice and/or future research. But what if the findings point to the need for controversial changes in specific government policies? This roundtable focuses on the advantages and disadvantages for authors when their manuscripts describe and advocate for controversial changes in public policies.

**8:30 am - 9:15 am**

**General Session –**

**Presidential Address and Student Prize Paper**

*Kennedy Grand Ballroom*

*Moderator: Lorann Stallones*

**8:30 am**

**Presidential Address**

*Roberta Ness, ACE President*

**9:00 am**

**Student Prize Paper presentation**

**9:15 am - 10:45 am**

**Epidemiology and Causation at the Veterans Health Administration**

Epidemiologists are always thinking about causation and policy applications in society. This session will focus on the applications of epidemiology research and causation evidence to questions of compensation for hazardous exposures among the nations' Veterans. We will examine closely service during the Gulf War, and the roles of the Institute of Medicine and Veterans Health Administration in assessing the evidence and the policy implications.

*Moderator: David Goldsmith*

**The “Common” Use of Epidemiology Evidence in Causation Assessment**

*David Goldsmith, Associate Research Professor, Department of Environmental & Occupational Health George Washington University*

**Did Military Service Cause My Illness? New Approaches to Assessing Causality for Veterans Compensation Policy**

*Michael Stoto, Professor of Health Services Administration and Population Health, Georgetown University*

**Determinants of Disability for Gulf War Veterans**

*Lynn Goldman, Professor, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health*

**Evaluating Long-Term Health Consequences of Military Deployments: Epidemiology and the Law at the VA**

*Mark Brown, Department of Veterans Affairs/Retired*

**10:45 am**

**Break**

**11:00 am - 12:30 pm**

**Translating Epidemiology into Action: Towards a Research-to-Policy Framework**

This session presents finding of an ACE workshop on epidemiology and policy. Through a case-study approach, workshop participants assessed the uses of epidemiological evidence in policy formulation, identifying “lessons learned.” The case studies include: obesity, secondhand smoke, compensation for veterans, and drinking age.

*Moderator: Patricia Hartge, Division of Cancer Epidemiology and Genetics, National Cancer Institute, NIH*

**Alcohol Case Study: On .08% Blood Alcohol Content Laws**

*Shawna L. Mercer, Director, The Community Guide, National Center for Health Marketing, CDC*

**Smoke-Free Environments**

*Rachel Widome, Core Investigator, Center for Chronic Disease Outcomes Research (CCDOR) Assistant Professor, Department of Medicine, University of Minnesota*

**Veterans Compensation**

*Allen J. Wilcox, National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences*

**12:30 pm - 2:30 pm**

**Awards Luncheon and Closing**

*Lincoln Ballroom*

All are welcome!