



President's Letter

Roberta Ness, ACE President

The College rocketed off to an ambitious new year with a mind-bending Annual Meeting entitled, "The Dawn of Evolutionary Epidemiology." Attendees were treated to insights into how evolutionary biology informs epidemiology and visa versa. Some of the greatest names in population genetics and evolutionary biology met a roomful of questioning epidemiologists. The intellectual exchange was memorable.

Another delight during the annual meeting was the first major gathering of Chairs of Epidemiology. A dozen chairpersons, representing most of the largest academic departments, discussed themes such as enhancing educational programs and mentoring faculty. Thus begins a new era complete with a commitment by the chairs to meet at least annually and confer even more frequently.

Foci for this year's College activities include (but are not limited to) its core missions of policy and education. The Policy Committee is working toward creating a roadmap for evidence translation into policy (e.g. when is enough evidence enough?). Charting these waters has the potential to standardize heretofore contradictory practices. The Education Committee is working to maximize the benefit from workshops; its related Program Committee is planning another remarkably informative meeting for September 12-15, 2009 in Washington, D.C. entitled, "Novel methods at the intersection of epidemiology and policy-making."

Other events to watch for include 1) release of the Institute of Medicine report on the impact of the HIPAA Privacy Rule on research; 2) a special issue of the Annals of Epidemiology entitled, "Triumphs in Epidemiology" documenting epidemiology success stories; 3) an article commissioned by Academic Medicine entitled, "Future of Epidemiology" - this product of the Joint Policy Committee, Societies of Epidemiology was presented in a well-attended symposium at APHA and will be repeated at the 2009 College Annual Meeting.

We look forward to engaging you in a great ride within the college this year. The work of the College is fueled by committees. Feel free to volunteer for a committee that interests you.



Calendar of Events

SER Meeting
June 23-26, 2009

ACE Annual Meeting
Silver Spring, MD
September 12-15, 2009

Top Stories

Annual Workshop, Tucson, Arizona
Jorge Ibarra, Minority Affairs Committee Chair

The 2008 Minority Affairs Committee annual, free of charge, workshop presented on Saturday, September 13 in

conjunction with the College's Annual Meeting, was a success. An enthusiastic group of volunteers from the Minority Affairs and the Ethics Committee put together a high quality academic workshop on "Research Ethics in Studying Genes and Environment in Diabetes among Racial and Ethnic Minorities." The workshop explored cutting edge theories, methods and practices related to the evolution of disease and best and ethical practices in studying diabetes in minority populations. The full-day workshop attracted an audience of 46 students from local and nearby universities, community college, and interested faculty and epidemiologist nationwide, many of whom also registered for the ACE annual conference.

We were very proud of having the following workshop speakers: **Dr. Paul Ewald**, an evolutionary biologist from the University of Louisville, specializing in the evolution of infectious diseases, and author of "Plague Time: The New Germ Theory of Disease," **Dr. Carlos Castillo-Chavez**, professor of mathematical biology from The Arizona State University, currently focusing on the role of epidemiological modeling approaches and methods in the study of the deliberate release of biological agents (smallpox) as well as on the dynamics of social organizations, **Dr. Charles Rotimi**, a genetic epidemiologist and a biochemist, Director of the Center for Research on Genomics and Global Health (CRGGH), whose work contributes to the global understanding of human genetic variation and its implication for differential diseases distribution, variable drug response and human migration history, **Dr. Thomas Weiser**, Medical Epidemiologist for the Portland Area Indian Health Service, based at the Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board (NPAIHB), who is interested in the ethical aspects of epidemiologic research and **Dr. Yvette Roubideaux**, a Native American scientist with expertise in Indian affairs, Assistant Professor, in Department of Family & Community Medicine, College of Medicine, at The University of Arizona, who is currently teaching, and working on research and program development in the areas of diabetes in American Indians, as well as Indian health policy.

During the luncheon, a brief movie, "Bad Sugar" from the well known series "Unnatural Causes," was featured and a directed discussion followed among audience and facilitators. We look forward for another high quality, rich, and informative 2009 MAC Workshop during the 27th ACE Annual Meeting in the Washington, DC area.

In The News

Two ACE members, Frances Vaughn Wilder, PhD, and American Epidemiology Society President Paul Leaverton, PhD, wrote the chapter on biostatistics in a major encyclopedia on public health. The encyclopedia is for student and library use. Go to <http://www.elsevierdirect.com/product.jsp?isbn=9780122272257> for product information.

From the Board of Directors

My ACE Experience

Jan M. Eberth, Associate Director

Just over a year later, I was elected to the Board of Directors as one of two Associate Directors. As the new Associate Director, I will serve a 2-year term on the Board. Annette Adams, who served as Associate Director over the previous year, will continue her responsibilities for another year. As Associate Directors, we are responsible for representing the interests and concerns of Associate Members. Would you like to get more involved, but aren't sure how? Would you like to offer a suggestion for next year's Annual Meeting? Let us know! We are here to help you get the most out of ACE.

My journey began two years ago when I was encouraged to join ACE by a well-respected faculty member at my school, Dr. Sally Vernon. Being a PhD student, I had been a part of other organizations, small and large, before. I had presented my research at regional, state and national conferences, as well. But to be honest, I had never heard of ACE. Would it be the right fit?

I had been looking for an organization that would take on students, not only allowing us to contribute our time and talents, but helping us to achieve our professional goals. Taking a chance, I joined the College and attended the 2007 ACE Annual Meeting in Fort

Fellows Corner Newly Appointed Fellows - Winter 2008

Janet Arrowsmith-Lowe
Donald Burke
Carol Burns
Myles Cockburn
R. William Field
Steve Goodman
Jiang He
Joshua Metlay
Anna Maria Siega-Riz
James Wilkinson

Lauderdale, FL.

At the Annual Meeting, Dr. Vernon showed me around, personally introducing me to other members and making sure I felt “at home.” ACE is the perfect place for students or young professionals who are looking for training, mentoring, and employment opportunities. The College is big enough to offer a variety of perspectives and research interests, but small enough to network and be involved in shaping its vision.

Contact me anytime at Jan.M.Eberth@uth.tmc.edu or at 713-500-9770.

Commentary

Speaker handouts from the Annual Meeting are now available on the ACE website. Happy Holidays. Carol
Carol Burns, Editor (cburns@dow.com).

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