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The American College of Epidemiology was incorporated in 1979 to develop criteria for professional recognition of epidemiologists and to address their professional concerns.

ACE serves the interests of its members through sponsorship of scientific meetings, publications, and educational activities, recognizing outstanding contributions to the field and advocating for issues pertinent to epidemiology.



ACE | AMERICAN
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EPIDEMIOLOGY

Message from the American College of Epidemiology President, Russell S. Kirby, PhD, FACE

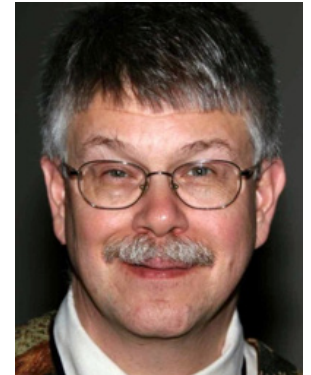
I am excited to serve as ACE president for 2018-19. We have a great executive committee and Board of Directors, and I sensed a great deal of energy at the annual meeting in September in Cincinnati, Ohio.

In the past year we transitioned to a new staffing model and have numerous plans in place to put our operations on a stronger footing for growth and to support our mission and services to our members and the profession of epidemiology in North America.

As always, the annual meeting and fall board meeting are times of transition. Drs. Christine Branche, Terry Fontham, Melissa Adams, Jennifer Salerno, Diana Bensyl (Secretary) and Harv Feldman (Past-President) rotated off the board. Diana Bensyl is not leaving however, as she is our new President-elect. Our other incoming board members are Drs. Cathy Critchlow (Secretary), Germaine Buck Louis, Jan Eberth, Steven Jacobsen, and Bertha Hidalgo. The board will meet frequently in the coming months, and we are planning a strategic planning process to help ACE determine our priorities and foci for the next several years.

ACE is a member-driven organization, and most of the work of ACE is done by our committees. If you are interested in joining a committee, take a look at the list of committees and their activities and let us know which you might contribute to. There are opportunities to participate on specific projects, and to develop into leadership roles. Most of the leadership of ACE began their service on a committee. On a parenthetical note, for those in academic roles, ACE is a national organization and serving ACE meets several criteria for promotion to higher levels in the academy.

I look forward to working with many of you in the coming year, and to working to position ACE to be an important, vibrant member-driven professional society for years to come. Please join us in this effort!



It's the season of giving...

Help us advance our profession and its future!
Support the 2018 Foundation Annual Appeal!

www.myacefoundation.org



REPORT ON ACE'S FINANCIAL STATUS

Larry Segars, DrPH, FACE, ACE Treasurer
Fiscal Year Ending December 31, 2017

In 2017, ACE generated revenue totaling \$271,711 derived from its three main sources of revenue; the Annual meeting, Membership and the Journal. This annual revenue reflected an increase of 5.75% above budget projection for the year and \$83,600 over total revenue from 2016. The Annual meeting revenue was the highest since 2011 (data available at time of this article), and Membership revenue was approximately \$6,500 lower in 2017 compared to 2016.

During fiscal year 2017, ACE incurred expenses totaling \$275,518 derived from its three main sources of expenditures; the Annual meeting, contracted national office support services and the Journal. This annual expense reflected an increase of 7.4% above budget projection for the year and was associated with increased expenses due to greater than anticipated attendance at the Annual meeting (food/beverage). Although there had been a small annual year-to-year increase in expenses for national office support services in the years prior, in 2017 there was a small (5.5%) decrease in this expense line item.

ACE ended 2017 with total assets equaling \$232,925, representing a 9.6% increase above 2016, and total net assets equaling \$108,581 for the unrestricted and \$36,543 for the restricted (Ethics Comm.) line items. ACE ended 2017 with investments totaling \$124,998 and cash

equaling \$63,387; both latter values representing an approximately 12% increase over 2016.

Yearly Budget & Current-standing ending September 30, 2018

The ACE Board approved the fiscal year 2018 budget projection that continued a conservative year-over-year expectation compared to 2017. The budget included a projected revenue amount totaling \$240,740 which incorporated a no-change revenue perspective from Membership revenues and a projected expenditures amount totaling \$240,850 that incorporated a lower expense perspective on Annual meeting expenditures; each compared to 2017.

At the end of September 2018 (currently-available data at time of publication), ACE is on track for another sound fiscal-year performance. As of September, ACE has received Membership revenue totaling over \$98,000 reflecting an increase of 7.7% above 2018 budget projection for this line item. Although final revenue amounts associated with the Annual meeting are not fully reflective in the September statement, as of that month ACE had received Annual meeting revenue totaling over \$89,000 reflecting 82.5% of the budget projection. As of October 31, 2018, ACE's bank account held cash equaling \$86,262.04.

I look forward continuing to serve our College, to development and approval of the 2019 fiscal-year budget and providing future newsletter updates on the financial status of the College.

Epidemiology Foundation Kickoff

Edward Trapido, ScD, FACE and President of the Epidemiology Foundation

The Epidemiology Foundation had its Inaugural Kickoff at the Annual Meeting in Cincinnati. The Epidemiology Foundation (formerly referred to as the ACE Research and Educational Foundation) is working to provide professional development and education to epidemiologists. The Epidemiology Foundation also has a focus on building translational opportunities for epidemiologists, hence the tagline - Where Epidemiology Meets Policy and Practice.

The inaugural event featured a presentation about the Foundation by its president, Dr. Ed Trapido, the unveiling of promotional materials, and a chance for attendees to talk with Foundation Board members about the purpose of the Epidemiology Foundation. Dr. Pauline Mendola, the President of ACE, was ceremonially given an Officially Logoed Epidemiology Foundation Baseball Cap, to mark the culmination of her presidency, and her continued

commitment to the Epidemiology Foundation.

Because of donations from members received earlier, the Epidemiology Foundation was able to provide financial support for key components of the Annual Meeting. These included the Minority Affairs Committee workshop, and the first Epidemiology Foundation Endowed Speaker Presentation, by Dr. Ross Brownson. Dr. Brownson, a former President of ACE, and Bernard Becker Professor of Public Health - Brown School and School of Medicine, Washington University in St. Louis, gave an outstanding presentation on "Linking Epidemiology and Implementation Science: How to Increase the Impact of Your Research". The presentation will be uploaded to the Epidemiology Foundation website, once it is completely edited.

The Epidemiology Foundation encourages all readers to look at its website, <https://www.myacefoundation.org/>. The link also makes it easy to support the Foundation. The Epidemiology Foundation is working to further your profession and your opportunities for education, research, and translation. The Foundation Board welcomes your comments and suggestions- send an email to info@myacefoundation.org, or contact Dr. Trapido, at etrapi@lsuhsc.edu.

2018 ACE ANNUAL MEETING – USE OF “OMICS” DATA

Zuber Mulla, PhD, FACE and Chair of the ACE Finance Committee

The September 24 plenary session focused on precision public health and precision medicine. One of the speakers was Donna K. Arnett, MSPH, PhD, Professor of Epidemiology and Dean, University of Kentucky College of Public Health. Dr. Arnett gave an excellent and stimulating presentation on “omic” data (think genomics and proteomics) and the three areas in which epidemiologists will play a key role in the development and implementation of precision public health: (1) elucidating and validating new markers of disease and health, (2) combining traditional public health surveillance with “omic” surveillance, and (3) disease prevention. Dr. Arnett is pictured below with three of her former mentees. **From left to right:** Gabriela Ramirez, PhD, MPH; Zuber D. Mulla, PhD, FACE (Chair of the ACE Finance Committee); Donna K. Arnett, PhD; and WayWay Hlaing, PhD, MS, MBBS, FACE (Vice Chair of the ACE Ethics Committee)..



ACE Associate Members Committee Update

Macarius Donneyong PhD, MPH (Outgoing Chair)
Tamala Gondwe PhD, MPH (Incoming Chair)

ACE's Associate Membership is comprised of a heterogeneous group of individuals training to become epidemiologists including persons with a Master's degree and field experience in epidemiology work, doctoral students, postdocs, and junior faculty members. All Associate Members in good standing are members of the Associate Member Committee. The Associate Member Committee is charged with leading the development, implementation, and progression of tasks and activities that promote the involvement of Associate Members within the College. This includes events at the annual meeting as well as ongoing activities throughout the year.

In addition to ourselves, other active committee members include Symbielle Gaston, Sazid Khan, Deven Patel, Ron Eldridge, and Yangbo Sun, who each also serve as liaisons to other ACE committees.

Altogether, our primary goals are to continue to develop ongoing Associate Member activities, improve Associate Member engagement in the college, and provide opportunities for professional development.

We are pleased to report that we had a successful set of programs for Associate Members at the ACE 2018 meeting in Cincinnati!

We collaborated with Dr. Carol Burns and the Mentoring Committee on the 'Speed Networking' activity, had an insightful discussion over breakfast with ACE president, Dr. Pauline Mendola, and received useful career advice from Dr. Michele Forman. Throughout the meeting we also had opportunities for informal networking and socializing, such as during the poster session and at the Cincinnati zoo reception. We hope that the student non-members in attendance were convinced to join the college at the associate member level!

We continue to encourage Associate Members to become active with the committee - one way is to participate in our monthly general conference calls! We plan to send a survey at the beginning of 2019 in order to gauge the needs and interests of Associate Members, and also identify any issues to bring before the ACE board of directors. In the meantime, please email us at aceassocmember@gmail.com with any questions, feedback, or ideas for improving the Associate Member experience!

CELEBRITIES AS EPIDEMIOLOGISTS

Gregory Bond, PhD, FACE and Editor, ACE Newsletter

Please don't misunderstand, I'm extremely proud of all three of my children and the independent, productive and responsible adults they've become. But, I remain somewhat wistful that, despite my best efforts at lobbying them, none chose to follow me into the exciting field of epidemiology. I tried appealing to their altruism, highlighted the intellectual stimulation that comes from trying to unravel complex puzzles, read to them the riveting [stories by Berton Roueche](#) at bedtime, emphasized the opportunity to work with fantastic colleagues, and to travel to exotic locales, and I enticed them with the lucrative paychecks (just kidding). But, alas, to no avail. For those of you who are old enough to have grown children, perhaps you were more successful than me, but the odds are this is unlikely. I'm sure most of you can commiserate with my frustration.

For those who are still young enough to influence your children's' (or someone else's kid's) career choices, I wish you every success. Although there's no guarantee it will help your chances, let me share one other tactic which I tried that was successful in at least attracting my kids' attention and humoring them – try dropping names of celebrities who in some way have been affiliated with epidemiology. Of course, the idea here was that my kids were more likely to be impressed by celebrities than by their dear old, boring Dad.

Even if you don't have the opportunity to use the following examples to recruit prospective epidemiologists, you nevertheless might find occasion to use them to impress family, friends and acquaintances. Contrary to an 2014 [article by Tania Browne](#), some of the biggest Hollywood stars have indeed played medical detective heroes, among them: Brad Pitt, Will Smith, Dustin Hoffman, Reno Russo, Kate Winslet, Christopher Plummer, and Charlton Heston. Impressed now? Then please read on.

When the actor William Hurt (Body Heat, The Big Chill, Kiss of the Spider Woman, etc.) was asked in 2006 by a Time Magazine interviewer* what he would have become if he hadn't pursued a career as a thespian he replied "I was looking up epidemiologist the other day. And I thought that might have been a great career. It involves so many different skills, and I love that." Upon sharing this unimpeachable endorsement with my kids, they squirmed

up their faces and collectively responded "Who's William Hurt?" Score 0 for 1.

As part of an all-star ensemble cast, the glamorous actress Marion Cotillard played Dr. Leonora Orantes, an epidemiologist with the WHO and Kate Winslet was Dr. Erin Mears, a CDC EIS Officer, in the 2011 film [Contagion](#). The movie documents the spread of a virus transmitted by fomites, attempts by medical researchers and public health officials to identify and contain the disease, the loss of social order in a pandemic, and finally the introduction of a vaccine to halt its spread. Irresistible!

A very scary plot and another all-star ensemble cast helped the 1995 film [Outbreak](#) achieve global commercial success. Dustin Hoffman starred as Colonel Sam Daniels, a U.S. Army virologist, and Rene Russo played Dr. Roberta "Robby" Keough, a CDC epidemiologist. Outbreak's plot speculates how far military and civilian agencies might go to contain the spread of a deadly, contagious disease. Legendary film critic [Roger Ebert gave it 3.5 stars](#) and called Outbreak's premise "one of the great scare stories of our time, the notion that deep in the uncharted rain forests, deadly diseases are lurking, and if they ever escape their jungle homes and enter the human bloodstream, there will be a new plague the likes of which we have never seen." Chilling!

Or how about Mathew Modine's portrayal of CDC epidemiologist Dr. Donald Francis in the docudrama [And the Band Played On](#), who began the in-depth investigation of possible causes of the growing number of deaths from unexplained sources among gay men in Los Angeles, New York City, and San Francisco? Working with few resources, he heroically overcomes politicians, numerous members of the medical community (many of whom resent his involvement because of their personal agendas), and gay activists.

Like me, some of you are old enough to remember when the then veteran actor Jack Klugman portrayed the highly principled, strong-willed medical detective Quincy on the hit NBC TV show [Quincy, M.E.](#) which aired from 1976 to 1983. Although, technically speaking Quincy was a forensic pathologist, the show's writers often took editorial license and some of the most popular episodes had him conducting what were essentially epidemiologic investigations. While Quincy could be abrasive and didn't suffer fools easily, he also displayed a softer, humane side which the show's loyal following ate up. A trademark of the show's episodes was that they not only solved a medical mystery, but in doing so tried to advance social causes. Sound familiar?

CELEBRITIES AS EPIDEMIOLOGISTS CONT.

**Gregory Bond, PhD, FACE and Editor,
ACE Newsletter**

Other relevant films, nearly all of which center on unleashed viral agents inducing pandemics, include: **World War Z (2013), Flu (2013), The Crazies (2010), Quarantine (2008), I am a Legend (2007), The Host (2006), Resident Evil (2002), 28 Days Later (2002), 12 Monkeys (1995), The Stand (1994), The Omega Man (1971), and The Andromeda Strain (1971)**. Undoubtedly, I've missed some, perhaps including your favorite. If so, I'd appreciate hearing from you.

Although the following contemporary examples came too late for me to apply to arguments with my own kids, you might find them useful to entice your own brood.

In the first season of **The Walking Dead**, an AMC TV series that debuted in 2010, an epidemiologist, the last surviving one at the CDC, explained how a virus spawned a worldwide zombie apocalypse " It invades the brain like meningitis. The brain goes into shutdown, then the major organs. Then death." Poetic isn't it?

In 2014, three new TV series debuted, **Helix, The Last Ship and The Strain**. Coincidentally, all three involved the portrayal of epidemiologists.

More recently, actress Abbie Cornish plays Dr. Cathy Mueller, a hospital-based, infectious disease epidemiologist and love interest of CIA analyst Jack Ryan, who is played by John Krasinko in **Tom Clancy's Jack Ryan**, now available for streaming from Amazon Prime. Their worlds collide when terrorists attempt to infect the U.S. President and others with a weaponized EVD-27 Ebola strain. Can our field get any better exposure than this?

My eldest son, an electrical engineer with Boeing in Seattle (*how boring is that?*), is a fan of the Netflix series **Ozark** which is about a financial adviser who drags his family from Chicago to the Missouri Ozarks, where he must launder \$500 million in five years to appease a drug boss. My son excitedly called me to inform me that Season 2, Episode 6 includes a reference to using epidemiologic analysis to evaluate a slew of opioid overdoses linked to product intentionally laced with fentanyl.

Finally, some heroes in our profession don't need to be portrayed on film or TV to achieve stardom. You might instead enjoy recommending the books by **Dr. Mary Guinan**, or **Drs. Alexandra Levitt and Donald Hopkins** if you're looking to inspire young people to join our profession. Best of luck!

**Time Magazine Archive Article, People, May 22, 2006.*

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Pasadena California

ACE ANNUAL MEETING
Hilton Pasadena, September 7-10, 2019

**REAL-WORLD EPIDEMIOLOGIC EVIDENCE
IN POLICY AND PRACTICE**



NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR APPOINTED

The Board of Directors has appointed a new Executive Director to serve the College and its members. Kristen A. Phillips, MPA, CAE, took up the post on November 26, 2018 and jumped right in to learning about ACE, its members, operations and needs.

Kristen is an experienced and talented association management professional at Capitol Hill Management Services, ACE's association management partner, where she is recognized for her strong leadership, outstanding communication skills, and ability to meet organizational goals and objectives.

She previously served as Vice President of Education for the Foundation for Long Term Care /LeadingAge New York where she oversaw the development and coordination of all educational programming, managing four personnel and a \$1.1 million budget. In this role, Kristen successfully developed six annual conferences and ten audio conferences aimed at keeping members informed and providing continuing education units.

In her previous role as Communications Manager & Editor, Kristen created and edited content for all communications, directed marketing efforts, supervised Multimedia Education Specialist, and developed and documented education workflow process to help ensure efficiency of operations. As Distance Education Manager, Kristen developed and managed audio conferences for executive and clinical staff. She wrote content, edited, published, and reviewed email statistics, and managed contacts and distribution lists.

Kristen received her Bachelors' Degree in Sociology, Cum Laude, from Siena College, Loudonville, New York and a Masters' Degree in Public Administration with a specialty in Health Policy & Management, Public Management from The Nelson A. Rockefeller College of Public Affairs & Policy, University at Albany.

In addition to her vast experience, Kristen is a Certified Association Executive, providing her with the knowledge to successfully manage an association or professional society. She also completed the Association Leadership Academy of the Empire State Society of Association Executives.

ACE welcomes Kristen!