



## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Message from the President .....	1
Annual Meeting Recap .....	2
Job Postings .....	2,4
ACE Announces 2020 Distinguished Awardees.....	3
Train for the jobs students actually get: Insights from the 2020 ACE Roundtable Discussion.....	5
Update from the Membership Committee.....	7

Visit the ACE Website at [www.acepidemiology.org](http://www.acepidemiology.org) for COVID-19 updates & resources

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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.



## Message from the American College of Epidemiology President, Steven Jacobsen, MD, PhD

As I write my first letter as ACE president, we face extraordinarily challenging times. The strains of the COVID-19 pandemic are felt in every sector and in every part of life. We have all had to adapt quickly. Our health systems and professionals are under tremendous pressure. The country is politically divided, with divergent opinions on how to best to confront this public health crisis.

COVID-19 is just one of the challenges we face. I believe that the College has an opportunity and obligation to be part of the positive change that is being demanded in response to systemic racism. We have opportunities to increase diversity within the College, particularly within the senior ranks. We can use our scientific expertise to shed light on issues around health equity. And as we work through this, we'll miss the counsel of our colleague Dr. Charles Oke, who was a pillar of our Minority Affairs Committee before his death in October.

But there are also bright spots. The general public is using epidemiologic terms like epidemic curve, incidence, prevalence, and herd immunity every day—and actually using them correctly. Even more surprising: People are finally recognizing that epidemiologists are not skin doctors!

Our ACE annual meeting was a big success, especially impressive given the pivot to virtual. Thank you to Dr. Edmond Shenassa and University of Maryland for being such excellent hosts. I especially appreciated the powerful welcome speech by Dean Boris Lushniak. Kudos also to the planning and program committee and the team at Cap Hill for putting together a great line up of speakers. I missed the opportunity to see and network with others, but the conference itself was outstanding. I'd especially like to thank Dr. Mike Osterholm, who made time to join us at the last minute. It's great to see that a Fellow of the College will bring epidemiologic expertise to the President-elect's COVID task force.

Finally, the latest news on the vaccine front looks very promising indeed. I expect epidemiologists will play a key role in helping us understand the effectiveness of the vaccine as well as its medium- and long-term safety profile.

All signs point to an exciting year ahead with the great team leading the College. I want to recognize Dr. Diana Bensyl, our past president, and Dr. Russ Kirby, who preceded her, as well as the current slate of officers. Thanks also to those who are participating in our committees. You are the lifeblood for our volunteer organization. And of course, a big thank you to Meagan Bowker and her team at CapHill for their support of the College.

As we head into 2021, I'd like to hear ideas from all of you: How can we attract more members to the College and get people more engaged? What can we do to provide value for the dues and time our members contribute? How can we retain and repatriate members?

Lastly, and most importantly, please do all you can to keep yourselves and your family, friends, and colleagues safe.

Be well.

Steve



## The annual meeting of the American College of Epidemiology (ACE) was held virtually on September 21-23, 2020.

Although we had originally planned to meet in College Park, MD, we transitioned to a virtual setting and had one of our most successful meetings ever!

The theme of this year's conference was "Advancing Health Equity: Epidemiologic Research, Education, Policy, and Practice. Dean Boris L. Lushniak, MD opened the meeting and Dr. Eliseo J. Pérez-Stable, Director of the National Institute of Minority Health and Health Disparities (NIMHD) at the National Institutes of Health (NIH), delivered a keynote speech on the state of science on health disparities.

Plenary and concurrent sessions featured timely topics ranging from social media and misinformation in the COVID-19 pandemic, environmental justice, urban-rural health disparities, epidemiologic tools for examining Ebola and other major epidemics, novel population-based methods for examining health disparities, development of vaccine and the intersection of social, and environmental epidemiology among others.

Among the most popular features of this year's conference were hands-on virtual workshops on mixed models in epidemiologic research, qualitative mixed methods for quantitative researchers, methods for spatial epidemiology, and a webinar on best practices of mentoring.

The meeting was recorded so members can access the presentations online. **See you next year in Arizona!**

## JOB POSTING

The School of Public Health and Health Professions at the University at Buffalo seeks two faculty members for its rapidly growing undergraduate public health program. We seek candidates for 2 open rank faculty positions. Faculty will be assigned to a "home department" in SPHHP, based on area of expertise. These departments include Biostatistics, Community Health and Health Behavior, and Epidemiology and Environmental Health, which contains a division of Health Services Policy and Practice. We are open to candidates with expertise in all areas of public health. Applications from individuals with expertise in health equity and health services are particularly encouraged. We have a diverse student body and are committed to growing the diversity of our faculty.

**To view the posting:** <http://www.ubjobs.buffalo.edu/postings/26762>

**Posting #F2000098**

**For best consideration applications should be submitted by January 15, 2021.**

### Description of the Positions

#### **Non-tenure track position: Clinical Assistant/ Associate Professor 10**

The person hired for this position will have a primary focus on teaching, but should also make contributions to the scholarship and service missions of the School of Public Health and Health Professions (SPHHP). This is a non-tenure track, academic year (10-month) position, funded by New York State. The faculty member will:

- Teach up to 12 credit hours per semester (equivalent of three 3-4 credit courses), depending on your amount of scholarship and service. Be assigned to a "home department" in the SPHHP, based on area of expertise
- Receive renewable, multi-year contracts after year 1

#### **Tenure Track position: Assistant/Associate Professor HS**

The person hired for this position will have a primary focus on research, but should also make contributions to the teaching and service missions of SPHHP. Faculty will also mentor PhD and other graduate students. This is a 12-month position fully funded by New York State. The faculty member will:

- Be research productive by applying for and winning grants and producing peer-reviewed publications.
- Teach one course (3-4 credit hours) per semester

For more information about the positions please contact: Heather Orom, PhD ([horom@buffalo.edu](mailto:horom@buffalo.edu))

## ACE ANNOUNCES 2020 DISTINGUISHED AWARDEES

**XINZHI ZHANG, MD, PHD**  
**AWARDS COMMITTEE CHAIR**

**Congratulations to Graham A. Colditz, MD, DrPH** on being selected as the 2020 recipient of the American College of Epidemiology's Abraham Lilienfeld Award. The College's most prestigious award is given in honor of Abraham Lilienfeld, an outstanding teacher, scholar, and a founder of the American College of Epidemiology. Dr. Colditz is an internationally recognized leader in cancer prevention. In addition to serving as the deputy director of the Institute for Public Health at Washington University in St. Louis, Dr. Colditz is the Neiss-Gain Professor in the School of Medicine, chief of the Division of Public Health Sciences in the Department of Surgery, program director of the Master of Population Health Sciences degree program, and the associate director of prevention & control at the Siteman Cancer Center. As the recipient of the ACE Abraham Lilienfeld Award, Dr. Colditz will receive the lifetime status as an Honorary Fellow of ACE.

**Congratulations to Nancy Krieger, PhD** on being selected as the 2020 recipient of the American College of Epidemiology's Outstanding Contributions to Epidemiology Award. This award recognizes an active epidemiologist for outstanding contributions to the field. Dr. Krieger is Professor of Social Epidemiology,



Department of Social and Behavioral Sciences, at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health and Director of the HSPH Interdisciplinary Concentration on Women, Gender, and Health. She is an internationally recognized social epidemiologist, with a background in biochemistry, philosophy of science, and history of public health, plus 30+ years of activism involving social justice, science, and health.

**Congratulations to Priyanka Vakkalanka, ScM** on being selected as the 2020 recipient of the American College of Epidemiology's Annual Student Paper Prize for her paper entitled, "Buprenorphine Treatment for Opioid Use Dependence is Associated with Decreased Risk of Suicide, Overdose, and All-Cause Mortality". Ms. Vakkalanka is currently a fifth-year doctoral student in the Department of Epidemiology at the University of Iowa College of Public Health.

We applaud their achievements!

## LEADERSHIP AND GENERAL UPDATES FROM THE MINORITY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE (MAC)

**ENDIA J. SANTEE, PHD, MLA, MS**

On November 13, 2020, Dr. Endia J. Santee transitioned from Vice Chair to Chair of the Minority Affairs Committee. Dr. Santee is currently a Medical Writer at Medical Device and Pharmaceutical Scientists and Engineers (MDP) Solutions. She writes regulatory reports on the effectiveness and safety of medical devices. She is also an Adjunct Epidemiology Faculty member at Xavier University (Ohio) College of Nursing. Additionally, she serves as a member of the Public Policy Committee at the International Society for Pharmacoepidemiology. Prior to her current work, she completed a postdoctoral research fellowship in pediatric and young adult cancer survivorship at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center. She also completed a postdoctoral administrative fellowship in adult cancer survivorship at the University of Cincinnati Cancer Institute. Dr. Santee received her doctoral training from the University of Cincinnati in Public Health Education and Epidemiology.

The Minority Affairs Committee is committed to promoting racial minority and gender diversity in the field of epidemiology. It is imperative that we build strong representation of epidemiologists who reflect the human populations that we serve, to adequately address the needs of hardest hit populations, such as communities of color and other disproportionately affected groups. Strategic goals for this term are: 1) to increase committee membership engagement, 2) enact on internal and external partnering opportunities for gender equity and racial diversity in epidemiology, 3) foster an atmosphere of meaningful collaboration, and 4) to use MAC as a platform for open and honest discussions. Additionally, MAC membership will work collaboratively with the ACE National Office/Executive Leadership to implement their ideas into action. MAC will also continue to work strategically with other internal collaborators, such as the Career Mentoring, Policy, and Communications Committees. If you are interested in becoming an active member or participate in an available leadership role in the Minority Affairs Committee, please contact Dr. Endia Santee at [endia.santee@gmail.com](mailto:endia.santee@gmail.com).

## LISTEN MORE; TALK LESS. INSIGHTS FROM THE 2020 ACE CAREER MENTORING WEBINAR

### ANGELA D. LIESE, PHD, MPH, FACE, FAHA

Three panelists joined moderator and Career Mentoring Committee Chair Angela Liese to share mentoring experiences during a September webinar (Dynamic Career Mentoring Across the Life Course Through the Diverse Lens of ACE Mentors) hosted by the committee. Despite very different career experiences, the webinar revealed overlapping insights among the panelists\*: Dr. Michele Forman, Dr. Jewel Wright, and Dr. Steve Waring. All panelists agreed that mentoring focuses on listening more and talking less. As a general guide, neither the mentee nor the mentor should be afraid to leave a mentor/mentee relationship if issues or personality differences arise, expectations are not met, or both agree that it is time to move on to another mentor. All agreed that the needs of the mentee should be the primary driver of the mentoring relationship and that mentoring is essential across the career life course. The discussion also revealed key elements that often result in outstanding mentoring experiences: trust, time, commitment, communication, accessibility, active listening, energy and awareness of expectations in the mentoring relationship. The life cycle of the mentor-mentee relationship emerged as an important theme as well. Mentees' needs change across the life course, and therefore the panelists

concurred that her or his mentoring network should be flexible so that mentors can fill different needs at different points in time. Exiting a mentorship may be a sensitive process and open/transparent communication may help this stage to be seen as a natural evolution of the mentee's career.

The ACE annual meeting was held virtually because of the COVID-19 pandemic and more than 30 participants attended the webinar. Naturally, the discussion turned to how the pandemic has impacted mentoring relationships. Communication with mentees has become more intense, more personal and therefore more impactful, according to the panelists. They've also seen a shift in mentees' concerns. Coping with work-life balance challenges and the emotional ups and downs of living in a pandemic top the list, but they've also seen positive aspects to the present situation (e.g., opportunities for self-reflection, consideration of potential career changes).

If you are interested in being a mentor or would like to request a mentor, complete the mentorship fields in your profile when logged into the ACE website or contact Committee Chair Angela Liese ([liese@sc.edu](mailto:liese@sc.edu)).

\* Michele Forman is a distinguished professor, with experience working at diverse managerial levels in the Intramural program of NIH, CDC and in academia. Dr. Jewel Wright, an interdisciplinary scientist, has experience working in academia, the private sector, and multiple agencies within the federal government. Dr. Steve Waring is an epidemiologist and public health scientist with a breadth of experience from working in government, academic, and health care settings. Dr. Angela Liese is a professor of epidemiology and has worked in academia her entire career.

## JOB POSTING

Dear Colleagues,

We are seeking a teaching faculty (non-tenure track) in the Graduate Public Health Program (MPH). The successful candidate will join a University-wide multidisciplinary team of public health faculty and be part of the Division of Health Services Policy and Practice (HSPP) in the Department of Epidemiology and Environmental Health. We are open to candidates with expertise in all areas of public health, especially health policy, health economics, health services, and health outcomes research. Go to <https://www.ubjobs.buffalo.edu/postings/26852> for more information and to apply.

We are particularly looking for candidates who can operate effectively in a diverse community of students and faculty, and share our vision of helping all constituents reach their full potential. We are committed to developing an excellent and diverse community of scholars and students engaged in education, research,

and service. We encourage applications from women, members of minority groups, veterans, and individuals with disabilities.

**Position Title: Clinical Assistant/Associate Professor 12**

**Division: Health Services Policy and Practice**

**Department: Epidemiology and Environmental Health**

**Posting #: F2000102**

**Posting Link: <https://www.ubjobs.buffalo.edu/postings/26852>**

Please share this opportunity with your personal and professional networks, as well as others that may be interested. Questions about this position can be directed to Rebecca Kranz ([rlkranz@buffalo.edu](mailto:rlkranz@buffalo.edu)). Please note that all applications must be submitted through UB Jobs.

University at Buffalo is an affirmative action/equal opportunity employer and, in keeping with our commitment, welcomes all to apply including veterans and individuals with disabilities.

## TRAIN FOR THE JOBS STUDENTS ACTUALLY GET: INSIGHTS FROM THE 2020 ACE ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

**ALISON G ABRAHAM, PHD MS MHS**  
**WAYWAY M. HLAING, MBBS, MS, PHD, FACE**

WayWay Hlaing and Alison Abraham moderated a discussion session focused on the gaps in our epidemiologic training and how we can better position budding epidemiologists for the future of the field through curriculum and novel training strategies. Among the attendees, there were a range of backgrounds and experience, from current students to PhD program directors. Diana Bensyl, the ACE past president and former Acting Chief joined the discussion, lending perspective from her time in the Epidemic Intelligence Service.

One of the main themes from the discussion was that we may be failing to train epidemiology students for the jobs they actually get. These include jobs in government (public health departments) and industry. From surveys, only about 43% of epidemiology graduates end up in academic positions. Yet the bulk of the skills currently taught in most Epidemiology Doctoral programs revolve around academic research skills. Practice skills including surveillance and primary data collection are generally neglected and/or relegated to specialized tracks. When attendees were asked what advice they would give curriculum developers, several responded with themes echoing this gap in general epidemiology curriculum.

Programs need to balance methods with practice, include community outreach skills and be flexible to accommodate diverse career goals.

A second theme of discussion revolved around our need for better training in risk communication. The Covid-19 pandemic has brought to light the epidemiology community's mediocre skills in effectively conveying the current science, communicating the uncertainty around the evidence, and providing an authoritative voice that eases public anxiety. Now that epidemiologists have been thrust into the limelight, there is a growing need for us to be able to communicate to the lay public. Yet currently we are only trained in how to communicate to other scientists. A few participants mentioned the incorporation of media training in their programs, but such a component was rare. Program directors should consider making media and risk communication training a requisite part of epidemiology curriculum.

A final theme was how ineffective our programs are at teaching soft skills. Students come out knowing how to program in SAS, but not how to run a research study or engage stakeholders. Soft skills are incredibly hard to teach in a formal classroom setting, yet may be the most useful skills when a student gets out in the workforce. This highlights the need for innovative teaching strategies for training students to ask pertinent questions, build research teams and engage stakeholders, find novel resources, adapt to new technology and methods, and other critical soft skills that are the bread and butter of an epidemiologist's day in most contexts.

## ACE FINANCE COMMITTEE WRITE UP

**JAREEN MEINZEN-DERR, PHD MPH FACE**

The Finance Committee is responsible for long range budgeting and investment of ACE funds, and serves in an advisory capacity to the Treasurer and the Board of Directors. The committee consists of a minimum of five Fellows or Members who serve three-year terms. At least one of these is a member of the Board of Directors, and the Treasurer is an ex-officio member.

See <https://www.acepidemiology.org/finance> for information regarding the goals of the Committee

We are seeking two additional members to serve as Finance Committee members as well as one Chair-Elect. This call is for members at any point in their career and provides a great opportunity to meet leaders within ACE.



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## AN INTERVIEW WITH RON WASSERSTEIN

Given the key role of statistics in the practice of epidemiology, especially in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, the ACE Communications Committee decided to reach out to the American Statistical Association. This interview with Ronald L. Wasserstein, PhD, Executive Director of the American Statistical Association (ASA) was conducted (via email) by Rossi A. Hassad, PhD, MPH, Member of the Communications Committee, American College of Epidemiology.

**Question:** Tell us about the ASA and your role in the organization.

**Answer:** ASA is the world's largest statistical society and the second oldest continually operating professional association in the United States. For over 180 years, the ASA has promoted the practice and profession of statistics through publications, meetings, networking, professional development, education, advocacy, and more. It accomplishes its mission because of a dedicated professional staff and thousands of members who volunteer their time. I have the unique honor of being the CEO of this wonderful organization.

**Question:** Is the ASA engaged in any COVID-19 initiatives?

**Answer:** The ASA, through its membership and leadership, has engaged in the fight against COVID-19 in many ways, but they fall into two categories: (1) engaging with other scientists to ensure proper application of statistics to research and (2) engaging with the media to help with effective communication regarding statistics and science.

**Question:** How does statistics contribute to decision-making in terms of the efficacy and effectiveness of therapeutics and vaccines?

**Answer:** Statisticians are deeply involved in all levels of the process for assuring therapeutics and vaccines are safe and effective, both on the commercial and regulatory side. Complex statistical methods are needed at all stages of the clinical trials process, for example. And regulators need good data and good data analysis and interpretation to assist in the decision-making process.



**Question:** What would you say to skeptics of statistics and data?

**Answer:** When professional statisticians are engaged in the process, there is no better way to provide the information needed to make decisions. Anecdotes, guesses, and gut feelings are not enough. I would also remind people that statisticians have a code of ethics, just like doctors do.

**Question:** What advice would you give to the scientific community regarding improving the quality of research evidence?

**Answer:** To paraphrase a famous old quote, I advise people to use statistics for illumination rather than support. It's important to use good statistical methodologies, but equally important not to treat them as the sole arbiters of truth. And by all means, engage with statisticians at every stage of your research.

**Question:** And finally, I know that in 2016 you co-authored "The ASA Statement on p-values." Tell us about that statement and its relevance to COVID-19 vaccine trials.

**Answer:** P-values are a valuable statistical tool when they are understood and interpreted properly. When they are misused, they can mislead. When thousands upon thousands of research efforts into COVID-19 therapeutics and vaccines are going on, it is more important than ever to make sure the principles in that statement are grasped and followed.

**Question:** Anything else that you would like to say?

**Answer:** I don't think so. Thanks for asking for my comments.

## UPDATE FROM THE MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

**SARAH GEIGER, PHD, FAHA (CHAIR) AND EDWIN VAN WIJNGAARDEN, PHD, FACE (VICE CHAIR), AND JOEL BEGAY, MPH (MANAGER)**

Hello ACE Members! We hope you and your family and friends are staying safe and healthy in these stressful times. In the summer newsletter, we provided you with updates on our changes in Membership Committee leadership, and our new Win-back campaign. Our new leadership now has established a great routine, meeting monthly with the entire membership committee and also having a monthly leadership call including ACE Executive Director, Meagan Bowker.

We have a few updates to report since the last newsletter. With Meagan's help, we hosted a space on the ACE annual meeting website for job postings and a way for job seekers to interact with potential employers. Furthermore, we plan to follow up on the annual meeting by identifying those who attended but are not (yet) ACE members, and reaching out to them to explain the benefits of ACE membership (see also our member profiles!) and inquire about their interest to join. We also plan continue our successful Win-Back campaign after the membership renewal period has passed, and reach out to those whose membership has lapsed. Before we do so, we will do a deeper analysis of last year's campaign data to gain more insight into what may make this campaign even more effective. Finally, we are collaborating with Meagan on email and social media communications to remind membership about our multi-year membership options. The multi-year dues are as follows:

- Fellows: annual \$195, three-year \$575 (\$10 savings)
- Members: annual \$150, three-year \$400 (\$50 savings)

In the near future we hope to work with the MAC to increase the diversity of ACE membership. We are also excited to continue our member profiles series, which for this newsletter includes membership committee member Dr. Michael Scheurer, and Mentorship Committee Chair Dr. Angela Liese. Thank you Michael and Angela!

**Michael Scheurer, PhD, MPH, MACE**

<https://www.bcm.edu/people-search/michael-scheurer-30268>

Dr. Scheurer is originally from Mobile, Alabama. He received a BS in Biological Sciences and Anthropology from the University of Alabama, an MPH in Epidemiology from the University of Alabama at Birmingham, and a PhD in Epidemiology from the University of Texas Health Sciences Center in Houston. He completed a postdoctoral fellowship in molecular cancer epidemiology at MD Anderson Cancer Center. He is a



**Michael Scheurer, PhD, MPH, MACE**

Member of the American College of Epidemiology. He is a tenured Professor in the Department of Pediatrics at Baylor College of Medicine, where he serves as Director of the Center for Epidemiology and Population Health. He is also the Co-Leader for the Cancer Prevention and Population Sciences Program in the Dan L. Duncan Comprehensive Cancer Center. He has published over 200 peer-reviewed manuscripts primarily in the areas of pediatric and adult cancer risk and outcomes. Dr. Scheurer's primary research efforts have focused on identifying the influence of genetic and environmental exposures (especially infectious agents and pollutants) on the development of pediatric and adult cancers and on the roles that these factors play in adverse treatment outcomes and late effects in cancer survivors. Most recently, his research is focused on identifying factors related to cancer health disparities, especially among Latino/a children. Dr. Scheurer also has contributed significantly to the development of biobanking at Baylor College of Medicine and Texas Children's Hospital. He serves as Director for the Population Sciences Biorepository at the College and of the Research Tissue Support Service at Texas Children's. Dr. Scheurer has also contributed to the development of education experiences in epidemiology at Baylor College of Medicine, which did not previously offer any formal coursework in the field. During his tenure at the College, he has also mentored more than 50 graduate students, post-doctoral research and clinical fellows, and junior faculty members.

**1. Please describe how you joined ACE: what attracted you to the College?**

*Prior to joining ACE, most of my experience with professional societies had focused on those that were more closely tied to the outcome that I study, i.e., cancer. However, I was looking for a way to connect with fellow epidemiologists regardless of research topic. I find that ACE provides that forum for exchange of experiences and ideas surrounding the practice of epidemiology, regardless of the topic.*

## UPDATE FROM THE MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE CONT.

### 2. What has been the best experience you had as a Fellow/Member/Associate Member of the College?

*I'm still a relatively new member to ACE; however, my time working with the Membership Committee has been a very rewarding experience. Through this committee, I am able to reach out to potential members, tell them about the benefits of being involved, and answer their questions about what it means to be a Member.*

### 3. What keeps you engaged in ACE?

*The biggest draw for my continued involvement with ACE is the ability to contribute back to the field.*

### 4. What career advantages do you see coming from continued membership in the College?

*One of the greatest advantages of being a member is having access to the diverse membership of the College. The mentoring opportunities and professional (and personal) camaraderie are truly amazing.*

### 5. What are your expectations of what ACE can do for you?

*My primary expectation is that I am able to advance the field of epidemiology through my contributions to the College and receive advice and friendship from the members with whom I interact.*

### 6. Is there anything else you'd like to share with us about your ACE experience?

*Get involved! The best way to integrate and really become a part of ACE is to get involved in one of the Committees.*

### Angela Liese, PhD, MPH, FAHA, FACE

Angela D. Liese, PhD, MPH, FAHA, FACE is a Professor in the Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics at the Arnold School of Public Health, University of South Carolina. Dr. Liese studied nutrition at the University of Bonn, Germany, received a MPH in epidemiology from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, and a PhD in epidemiology from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. Dr. Liese teaches cardiovascular disease epidemiology in addition to epidemiologic methods courses at the masters and doctoral level. Dr. Liese is a fellow of the American Heart Association (AHA) and the American College of Epidemiology where she chairs the Career Mentoring Committee. As a nutritional epidemiologist her interests range from health-impacts of foods, food groups and dietary patterns to diabetes epidemiology, public health nutrition and health equity issues. Dr. Liese's work has been supported by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the National Institutes of Health, AHA, and the American



Angela Liese, PhD, MPH, FAHA, FACE

Diabetes Association. She has been instrumental in the initiation of the Dietary Patterns Methods project and the dissemination of findings. Since 2000 Dr. Liese has been involved in the multi-center SEARCH for Diabetes in Youth study. In 2020 she was funded for a new diabetes surveillance effort in youth as part of the CDC-funded DiCAYA study. Additionally, Dr. Liese has led several NIH-funded ancillary studies to SEARCH, including Spatial Epidemiology of Diabetes, the SEARCH Nutrition Ancillary Study, and the currently ongoing SEARCH Food Security study. Dr. Liese has published more than 190 peer-reviewed manuscripts and mentored 27 graduate students, including 13 doctoral students in epidemiology.

### 1. Please describe how you joined ACE: what attracted you to the College?

*A former colleague (and former ACE president) Dr. Robert McKeown used to talk about the College's activities during our faculty meetings and that is what got me interested. The College's focus on the profession of epidemiology is unique, in my opinion.*

### 2. What has been the best experience you had as a Fellow/Member/Associate Member of the College?

*I think the opportunity to mention an idea – a more formal mentoring program with guidelines and a clear process etc. - and then having the opportunity to develop it fully and see it come to fruition has been really rewarding. I've also really enjoyed playing matchmaker with the help of our committee to mentee-mentor pairs. Some of the feedback we've gotten is just so wonderful.*

### 3. What keeps you engaged in ACE?

*I've gotten to know epidemiologists from across the country that I would never have met otherwise and I really enjoy meeting with the Career Mentoring committee colleagues on a regular basis.*

### 4. What career advantages do you see coming from continued membership in the College?

*The networking aspect of being engaged in a professional society is invaluable at every career stage. I've particularly enjoyed learning from other senior epidemiologists at different institutions.*