



## American College of Epidemiology 2010 Election *Biographical Sketches and Candidate Statements*

### ACE President-Elect

Vote for One (1) of Two

James J Collins, PhD | Robert E. McKeown, PhD

**James J. Collins, PhD** is the Epidemiology Director at Dow in Midland, Michigan and he teaches epidemiology courses at Saginaw Valley State University in Saginaw, Michigan. He worked previously for the University of Chicago at Argonne National Laboratory, Oakland University, Monsanto, and the Ford Motor Company.

**Background:** Dr. Collins completed his MS in Sociology at the University of Missouri and his doctoral training in epidemiology at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. He is an Adjunct Research Professor at the University of Pittsburgh. His research focus for the last 30 years is in occupational and environmental epidemiology.

He has been a Fellow since 1988 and currently serves as the Treasurer of the ACE. He is a member of the Executive Board, the Admissions Committee, and the Finance Committee. He was also on the Communications Committee, Chaired the Finance Committee for 4 years, and served on two Annual Meeting Planning Committees.

**Statement:** I have enjoyed the diverse backgrounds and perspectives in the College as an epidemiologist who has worked in government, academia, and industry. ACE has represented well the views of epidemiologists of all affiliations. I am proud to be a Fellow in the American College of Epidemiology.

I am especially honored to be nominated for President of ACE. The ACE is an important organization for all of us because it advocates policies and provides resources to promote the science of epidemiology. The promotion of the science by ACE in past has relied almost entirely on the hard work of our members. Recently, however, with increasing membership and an improving financial position, we have been able to provide additional resources such as an improved web site, additional awards for epidemiologic accomplishments, reducing the backlog of pending papers in the journal, and providing more support for meetings and workshops. As the Treasurer and a member of various ACE committees, I see the importance of combining the hard work of our membership with a strong financial position for growing the College.

As the field of epidemiology grows and becomes more diverse, the College must evolve to meet the needs of members. I would focus on growth in two areas. First, I would continue the College's efforts in expanding membership. We can further grow membership by providing more opportunities and support for our associate members, increase minorities active in the College, maintain the close collaboration with other epidemiology

organizations and academic institutions, continue improvements in the journal and the newsletter, and, most importantly, hold on to our current members. Second, I would continue to expand the financial reserves of the College to provide the resources for this growth in membership. We have been very successful in carefully committing the College's resources to serve our current members and attract new members. The future of the College rests entirely on the energy and innovation of our members.

**Robert E. McKeown, PhD** is professor and chair of the Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics, Arnold School of Public Health, University of South Carolina (USC). He directs USC's Health Sciences Research Core and is Interim Director of the Institute for Advancement of Health Care, collaborating with Greenville Hospital System.

**Background:** Robert holds a BS in chemistry (Furman University), Master of Divinity and PhD in philosophical theology (Duke), and PhD in epidemiology (USC). An ACE Fellow since 2002, he has been on the Board of Directors (2004-09) and Ethics Committee (1997-2005; chair, 2001-05) and is now on the Career Mentoring Committee. Robert is past-chair of the APHA Epidemiology Section, chaired that Section's Program, Awards, and Nominations Committees, and served on the APHA Governing Council. He was on the Program Committee for the Second North American Congress of Epidemiology in 2006. At USC Robert was a founding Co-Director of the USC Research Consortium on Children and Families. Over the next year he will relinquish several leadership roles, allowing more time for engaging in ACE activities. Robert's primary research interests are psychiatric epidemiology, focusing on children and adolescents, and public health ethics. His teaching focuses on epidemiologic methods, ethics, and psychiatric epidemiology. He is the recipient of the Arnold School's Distinguished Alumnus Award and is the only faculty member to have received all three faculty awards: for teaching, research, and service.

**Statement:** ACE candidate statements frequently mention the unique place and mission of ACE among epidemiology professional societies, and rightly so. Three characteristics commonly used to describe a profession seem especially apt: (1) commitment to expertise in a discipline and excellence in its practice, (2) commitment to a set of shared values, and (3) commitment to accountability and responsible conduct. ACE has long been a leader in promoting these very aspects of our professional life. Our meetings and workshops contribute to the first, our longstanding work in ethics in epidemiology and our leadership in developing policy recommendations are evidence of the second and third. The past decade has been one of unusual ferment in epidemiology. We have been, as one meeting theme expressed, "under fire", but we have also been at the center of numerous scientific, policy, and ethics debates and advances. Look at past meeting themes and you will see an organization intentionally addressing the changing context and its challenges, while seeking to apply the best scientific tools to improve public health. If elected I would like us to think deeply about what we value about our distinctive identity, and how we can best equip current and emerging epidemiologists for excellence in the practice of epidemiology. I would like for us to engage in critical reflection on who we have been, who we want to be, where we want to go as a professional society, and what we need to do to get there, while continuing to offer strong leadership in focused scientific meetings, policy development, and promotion of the profession.

## Board of Directors

### Fellow Nominees

#### Vote for Three (3) of Six

Richard N. Baumgartner, PhD | Cathy W. Critchlow, PhD | Gary D. Gackstetter, DVM, PhD

Suzanne C Ho, MSc, MPH, PhD | Pauline Mendola, PhD | Patrick M. Tarwater, PhD

**Richard N. Baumgartner, PhD** is a Fellow of the American College of Epidemiology and currently serves as a member of the Ethics Committee. He received his PhD from the University of Texas School of Public Health at Houston in 1982. He is currently Professor and Chair of the Department of Epidemiology and Population Health in the School of Public Health Information Sciences, University of Louisville. His prior faculty appointments were at

Wright State University School of Medicine (1986-1990) and the University of New Mexico (UNM) School of Medicine (1991-2005). At UNM he served as Director of the Aging and Genetic Epidemiology Program, Associate Director for Science in the Institute for Public Health, and Interim Chief of the Division of Epidemiology. Dr. Baumgartner is an internationally recognized expert in body composition methodology, and has over 200 peer-reviewed journal articles and book chapters on the epidemiology of body composition and chronic diseases, including breast cancer, falls and fractures, and disability. He was the Principal Investigator of two long-term cohort studies: the Aging Process Study and the New Mexico Health, Eating, Activity and Lifestyle (HEAL) Study.

**Statement:** In the 21st century we anticipate the confluence of two unprecedented epidemics, obesity and aging, that will contribute to trailing epidemics of chronic metabolic disease and disability, as well as the potential reemergence of infectious diseases. If elected to the Board of Directors, I will help ACE to build bridges with other societies to strengthen multidisciplinary research in these priority areas with a focus on translational research and policy outcomes. I will take a leading role for the College in advocating the inclusion of more epidemiology in the NIH Roadmap Initiative, with an understanding that "translational research" includes population-based studies and interventions. I will promote professional development through workshops and interdisciplinary symposia at the annual meetings, and provide venues for multidisciplinary discussions of how to more effectively meld epidemiology with advances in bioinformatics, genomics, proteomics, and metabolomics. I will support aggressive policies to develop and maintain the membership base and increase the impact of Annals through the publication of multidisciplinary research in high priority areas.

**Cathy W. Critchlow, PhD** is an Epidemiology Executive Director at Amgen Inc. in Thousand Oaks, California. She is a Fellow of ACE, has served on the ACE Education Committee, and coordinated educational workshops for the ACE and SER meetings. She is also an Affiliate Professor in Epidemiology at the University of Washington, Seattle

**Background:** Dr. Critchlow completed her MS in Biostatistics and her PhD in Epidemiology at the University of Washington. She joined the Epidemiology faculty at the University of Washington in 1993 where she conducted research on infectious disease and reproductive epidemiology. She taught courses in applications of epidemiology methods and was the principal investigator for NIH-funded projects based in West Africa. She was a permanent member on NIH Study Sections (EDC-2 and MIDRC) and the FDA Endocrinologic and Metabolic Advisory Committee, and served as an ad hoc member on numerous other NIH, CDC and DOD review committees. Dr. Critchlow joined Amgen in 2004, where she now focuses on pharmacoepidemiology and metabolic disease.

**Statement:** ACE is an outstanding advocate for policies that enhance the practice of epidemiology and meet the professional and development needs of epidemiologists at all career stages. I have both tremendously enjoyed and benefited from my previous roles within ACE and the opportunities afforded by ACE membership. I am honored to be nominated as a candidate for the ACE Board of Directors. As someone who has experienced the practice of epidemiology in academia, private industry and the government, as well as having been privileged enough to mentor, and to be mentored by persons in each of those sectors, I would embrace the opportunity to bring those perspectives to the ACE Board to help meet the professional needs of ACE members. The role of epidemiology in advancing our understanding of disease etiology and prevention, and in protecting the public health by assessing the safety and efficacy of medications, is growing in both importance and impact. The demand for well-trained epidemiologists is growing rapidly, increasing the need for organizations like ACE to advocate for our profession, and to create development and leadership opportunities for epidemiologists that translate to all sectors where epidemiology is practiced. The role and influence of epidemiology as a profession will grow in proportion to the extent that the perspectives of the practicing constituencies are recognized and supported. I look forward to working with the Board to help promote opportunities within ACE for education, mentoring, collaboration and development that will help prepare our membership for the greater roles and responsibilities that we will all face.

**Gary D. Gackstetter, DVM, PhD** is a Principal Scientist and Fellow with Analytic Services, Inc. (ANSER), and is assigned to the Defense Threat Reduction Agency, Basic and Supporting Sciences Division in the Chemical &

Biological Defense Directorate. He has been a member of A.C.E. since 1998, and a Fellow since 2008.

**Background:** Dr. Gackstetter is an infectious disease epidemiologist specializing in the prevention and control of zoonoses and bioterror agents. He is a board-certified, preventive medicine veterinarian, with a DVM (Iowa State University), a Master of Public Health (Boston University), and a PhD in Epidemiology (University of Minnesota). After 26 years of active military service as an Air Force Public Health Officer, he retired as a Colonel. His Air Force assignments included Chief, Veterinary Public Health; Chief, Environmental Health; Associate Professor, US Air Force Academy; Director, Epidemiology, Wilford Hall Medical Center; and Deputy Director, Public Health, Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Health Affairs), Pentagon. His final active duty assignment was at Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USUHS), as Associate Professor, Vice Chair for Graduate Education, and Director, Graduate Programs, Department of Preventive Medicine and Biometrics. While at USUHS, he managed 6 advanced public health degree programs and taught epidemiology to graduate students, as well as medical students. His research activities were related to military force health protection issues. Since retiring from the Air Force, ANSER assignments have included the Office of the Special Assistant to the Secretary of Defense, Chemical & Biological Defense, Pentagon, and the National Biosurveillance Integration Center, Department of Homeland Security. He remains Adjunct Associate Professor at USUHS and is currently an active co-investigator on the Millennium Cohort Study, a landmark prospective study launched in 2001, following more than 150,000 enrolled military Service members through 2022, to document any health outcomes from military service.

**Statement:** Epidemiology as a discipline has yet to reach its full potential. Over the last 30 years, I have had the opportunity to practice epidemiology as an Air Force Public Health Officer, to teach epidemiology to graduate and medical students, and to apply epidemiologic principles to drafting sound chemical & biological defense training and research policies. Epidemiology clearly has even greater potential in health outcomes research and policy development arenas. As a clinical science, epidemiology informs evidence-based medicine and public health practice, allowing a systematic approach to selecting from among alternative pathways when faced with uncertainty. My goal is to ensure that epidemiologic principles are included in the basic science and clinical curricula of medical and veterinary schools, as well as other allied health training programs. My vision is for our College to take a leadership role in maximizing the capabilities that epidemiology has to offer, especially as a tool to enhance clinical preventive medicine practice, across health disciplines, as well as inform policy development. I am honored to be nominated for a position on the Board of the American College of Epidemiology and look forward to contributing in a positive way to advancing the goals of the College.

**Suzanne C Ho, MSc, MPH, PhD** is Professor and Director of the Centre of Research and Promotion of Women's Health of the School of Public Health and Primary Care of the Chinese University of Hong Kong since 2001.

**Background:** She served as Chair Professor and Head of the Division of Epidemiology from 2006-2009, the Director of Postgraduate Programme in Epidemiology and Biostatistics from 1980 - 2009, and Founding member and President (2001-02, 2006-07) of the Hong Kong Epidemiological Association. Dr Ho has worked in academia since 1982 and has been affiliated with the ACE since 1987 and elected to Fellow in 2001. Dr Ho has obtained many grants in areas of research in women's health, and nutrition and diet related chronic diseases, particularly osteoporosis, cardiovascular and breast cancer risks in Chinese women. Dr Ho has established the first cohort studies in mid-life and older women in Hong Kong and has published over 180 papers in peer-reviewed journals.

**Statement:** ACE has given me a sense of belonging and identity as a recognized epidemiologist. Though working in Asia, the college has continued to provide me with professional input and standards an epidemiologist should strive for and maintain. I am thankful to the ACE board and committee members for their excellent work and devotion in continually bringing the field toward excellence. Having been affiliated with the college for the past 24 years, I am honored to be nominated as a candidate for the ACE Board. I have noted from Lorann Stallones' letter that only 12% of the ACE members are from outside of the United States. If elected to the Board, I pledge to strive to expand the membership to include epidemiologists working in other countries, particularly in Asia. With globalization, many health issues are cross-border and cross-national. To combat the globalization of diseases and

increasing burden of communicable and non-communicable diseases, particularly in developing countries, we would need close contact and dialogue among international members to advance the practice of epidemiology in diversified populations. A diversity of membership from different countries, with different perspectives and active engagement will benefit the college as well as promote the professional development and enhancement of the science and practice of epidemiologists world-wide.

**Pauline Mendola, PhD** is the Chief of the Infant, Child and Women's Health Statistics Branch of the National Center for Health Statistics, CDC and Adjunct Associate Professor in Department of Family Science, School of Public Health, University of Maryland..

**Background:** Dr. Mendola earned her PhD in Epidemiology and Community Health from the University at Buffalo School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences. Her dissertation research on environmental contaminant exposure through sport fish consumption and risk of fetal death was honored with the Student Prize Paper for both the ACE and the Society for Pediatric and Perinatal Epidemiologic Research (SPER) for 1994. Since joining the College, she has served on the Communication and Public Relations committee (1995 to 1998), the Membership Committee (2000-2004) including chairing that committee 2002-2003, and the Mentoring Committee (2006-2009). A focus on strong mentoring has been a notable feature of Dr. Mendola's service to the ACE. Two of Dr. Mendola's students have won the ACE Student Prize (2004 and 2005) and she was honored with an ACE Model Mentor Award in 2006 for excellence in student mentoring. Her students have also won the SPER (2002) and SER (2005) Student Prize Paper Awards. She was a Roundtable Leader in an ACE Education Forum (2002) discussing "Faculty position vs. post-doctoral fellowship: Pros and cons" and was a panel member for an ACE Career Mentoring Forum Roundtable (2008), speaking on "Government and public sector: Academia, government, industry - which is the best fit for me?" In addition to her service to ACE, Dr. Mendola is the Past-President of the SPER and currently serves as the Mentoring Subcommittee Chair for the 2001 Epidemiology Congress Planning Committee.

**Statement:** I have genuinely appreciated the opportunities I've had to serve the ACE, particularly in the area of mentoring. The College has shown real leadership in advocating for strong mentoring and career development for students and junior faculty. I would continue to work with the Board to coordinate mentoring activities across societies (using my work with the Epi Congress committee to leverage our College efforts) and would also support the implementation of a formal Mentoring Program in the College (something that has been in the works since my early days in ACE).

In addition, as a federal government scientist and branch chief of epidemiologic research units, I am very aware of the need to connect research and policy. The translation of research into practice and policy is of great importance to public health, particularly now as we struggle as a nation to improve health and health care for all. ACE has a long-standing role in policy development which is exemplary among the epidemiologic societies. I think my perspective on policy relevance would be an asset to the Board. Having served as a scientist and manager in both a regulatory (EPA) and a federal statistical agency (NCHS), I have seen firsthand the impact we can have as a profession on the public health. I am honored to be nominated for the ACE Board and would enthusiastically serve if elected.

**Patrick M. Tarwater, PhD** is a Professor and Chief of the Division of Biostatistics and Epidemiology at the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Paul L. Foster School of Medicine.

**Background:** Dr. Tarwater joined the Paul L. Foster School of Medicine in April 2008 as part of the research and education faculty for the first new school of medicine in the US in over 25 years and the first school of medicine ever to be built on the US-Mexico border. The curriculum has a strong epidemiology and public health emphasis. Dr. Tarwater had been at the University of Texas School of Public Health for the previous six years and in the Department of Epidemiology at Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health for the three years prior. Dr. Tarwater practices in the interface between epidemiology and biostatistics. His experience in conducting research in large cohort studies of HIV and in designing studies within the basic sciences has not only aided in improving

research applications but also, and more importantly, has aided in helping researchers in other fields understand the importance of epidemiologic and biostatistical considerations in their investigations.

**Statement:** I believe ACE has a strong mission and proud history to stand upon. I am honored to be considered for the opportunity to serve ACE and its vision - with a memory for the work and ideas which have come before (e.g., strategic plan 2001). I am interested in aiding the organization towards the pursuit of excellence in "advocating for policies and actions that enhance the science and practice of epidemiology". I believe a strong emphasis on cultivating student involvement and membership growth are paramount to obtaining the goals set by ACE, the board of directors, and the standing committees. I am foremost a collaborator in my scientific pursuits and believe diversity of people and ideas, when working together, will yield superior results.

## Member Nominees

### Vote for One (1) of Three

Wael Al-Delaimy MD, PhD | Julie Goodman, Ph.D., DABT | Joshua P. Metlay, M.D., PH.D.

**Wael Al-Delaimy MD, PhD** is Associate Professor and Chief of the Division of Global Health at the University of California, San Diego.

**Background:** I am a multidisciplinary epidemiologist and have special interest in tobacco, nutrition and biomarkers in relation to chronic diseases. I had the privilege of working with, and learning from, distinguished research teams in epidemiology across four different continents in the United States, Europe, New Zealand and the Middle East. I am dedicated to, and driven by, epidemiology which has in the past lead to my acceleration as a graduate student from the Masters degree to a PhD degree, and as faculty, I was granted the accelerated promotion from Assistant to Associate Professor.

Prior to being recruited by the University of California at San Diego, I was working at the International Agency for Research on Cancer and at Harvard School of Public Health. I have been invited as a panelist by the WHO and UNDEP and currently lead the science initiative by the World Economic forum on the Middle East.

In addition to being a member of the American College of Epidemiology (ACE) and its ethics committee, I am an active member of the American Association for Cancer Research (AACR), and the International Society for Environmental Epidemiology (ISEE). I am also currently Chair of the Ethics and Philosophy committee of ISEE where I have been leading fellow epidemiologists in developing guidelines and policies for the society and supporting new initiatives by committee members to advance the field.

**Statement:** To be asked to be a member of the ACE board of Directors is a major responsibility and I am honored to be able to serve my fellow epidemiologists. I look forward to be able to contribute to the advancement of our college by increasing membership, raising the college profile, and having a significant role in development of policies that address topics relevant to our field and profession. As part of my tenure within ACE board I will aim to appeal to the younger as well as the diverse and minority generation of epidemiologists and seek their participation as well as support for ACE. This will enable our college to expand and meet today's challenges and needs of epidemiology. I will dedicate an effort to raise the profile of our college at both the national and global levels and reach out to other epidemiology organizations and epidemiologists in other countries. The world is becoming a global village and health-related policies and population burden of disease can no longer be contained within the borders of one country or region. Our college's journal will also need support to compete with other epidemiology journals and increase its standing and the scientific quality of its publications. I feel my background and training is unique to fulfill the above and complement the effort and work of my fellow board members and the general membership of ACE.

**Julie Goodman, Ph.D., DABT** is the Director of Epidemiology at Gradient, an environmental and risk science consulting firm, and is an adjunct faculty member in the Department of Epidemiology at the Harvard School of Public Health. She earned a Sc.M. in epidemiology and a Ph.D. in toxicology from the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health and is a Diplomate of the American Board of Toxicology. Before joining Gradient, Dr. Goodman was a Cancer Prevention Fellow at the National Cancer Institute, where she conducted molecular epidemiology studies on colon cancer risk. She was also instrumental in the development of Polymorphism Interaction Analysis, a powerful statistical tool for cancer risk assessment.

**Background:** In her dual role as an epidemiologist and toxicologist, Dr. Goodman's primary focus at Gradient includes the design, oversight, analysis, and interpretation of epidemiology studies, and the evaluation of chemical toxicology data, apparent disease clusters, and chemical exposures. Dr. Goodman has published the results of her analyses in several peer-reviewed epidemiology and toxicology journals, and has presented them to community groups and regulatory and legislative bodies. Her epidemiology-related work at Gradient has included assessing the weight-of-evidence regarding causation for substances in consumer products and the environment, such as asbestos, nickel, and criteria air pollutants. At Harvard, she co-instructs a course entitled, "Research Synthesis & Meta-Analysis."

**Statement:** The strength of the American College of Epidemiology lies in its membership, and the future of the organization depends on providing leadership for all epidemiologists, particularly those just starting their careers. As a member of the Board of Directors, I would encourage epidemiologists to consider their work as part of a larger context that includes assessing human health risks, particularly in the regulatory arena. Every epidemiology study needs to be considered in light of other epidemiology studies addressing the same topic, as well as other types of scientific research (e.g., toxicology, behavioral sciences, nutrition). Only when one considers all of these types of data together can one truly assess the state of the science. Regulators have traditionally relied primarily on toxicology studies in the past for determining human health risks from chemicals, but are increasingly relying on epidemiology data. Many organizations, including the United States Environmental Protection Agency and the European Centre for Ecotoxicology and Toxicology of Chemicals, for example, are developing frameworks for incorporating epidemiology data into risk assessment. As a board member, I would encourage ACE to play a large role in these discussions, to ensure that epidemiology data are used appropriately and to the fullest extent possible in the areas of risk assessment and regulation.

**Joshua P. Metlay, M.D., PH.D.** is Professor of Medicine and Epidemiology at the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine. He is the Chief of the Section of Hospital Medicine and Director of the Center for Healthcare Improvement and Patient Safety, a new research center supporting comparative effectiveness research and implementation science within the health system. He is the Program Leader for the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation's Clinical Research Fellowship for medical students and the Co-Director of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Clinical Scholars Program at the University of Pennsylvania.

**Background:** Dr. Metlay received his MD from Cornell University Medical College and his PhD in Immunology from the Rockefeller University. After completing his residency training in Medicine at the University of Pittsburgh, Dr. Metlay completed a Masters of Science in Health Policy and Management at the Harvard School of Public Health. In 1997, he joined the Department of Medicine and the Center for Clinical Epidemiology and Biostatistics at the University of Pennsylvania where he has helped establish a leading research program in the epidemiology of acute respiratory infections and emerging bacterial drug resistance. Current projects include NIH funded studies on risk factors for pneumococcal drug resistance and emerging pneumococcal serotypes and a CDC funded multi-site clinical trial evaluating an algorithm to improve the management of patients with acute bronchitis. Dr. Metlay is a co-Principal Investigator of the Penn Center for Education and Research on Therapeutics (CERTs), which is funded by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality and focuses on improving utilization of antibiotics in community and hospital settings. Dr. Metlay has been a member of ACE since 2000 and a Fellow since 2008.

**Statement:** The American College of Epidemiology has played a critical role in promoting the expansion of epidemiology training among scientists and public health officials. Yet, I believe there are important opportunities to further that expansion, particularly in terms of promoting a sense of common professional identity among this diverse and growing community. Increasingly, teams of individuals are working across organizational divides to promote multidisciplinary studies and community-based research, often bound by a common epidemiological language. Through ACE, we can work to expand these multidisciplinary collaborations by expanding opportunities for participation and interaction at meetings, highlighting research opportunities through publications, and providing a strong voice to funding agencies. Many professional clinical societies and public health organizations are rapidly expanding members with epidemiological training and ongoing interests that are synergistic with ACE. Assuring strong ties to this expanding population of epidemiologists would be a major priority for my work as a Board member. In addition, even as we work to expand opportunities for current epidemiologists, we must recognize that the future of the discipline is dependent on a continuous stream of talented and committed trainees. As a Board member, I would work to create, sustain and publicize opportunities for undergraduate and graduate students to pursue epidemiological training and participate in epidemiological research.