



ACE | AMERICAN COLLEGE OF EPIDEMIOLOGY

Message from the American College of Epidemiology President, Dr. Harold I. Feldman

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Welcome new ACE Fellows:

John Sampalis, PhD
 Alfonso Rodriguez-Morales, PhD
 Sanjay Shete, PhD
 Michael Cook, PhD
 Lisa Klesges, PhD
 Edward Bittner, MS, PhD
 Dimitri Bennett, MD, MS, PhD
 Maureen Durkin, MPH, PhD
 Marian Pavuk, MD, MS, PhD
 Laurens Holmes, DrPH
 Janice Zgibor, PhD
 Benjamin Acosta-Cazares, PhD

As I begin my term as your president, I would like to introduce myself and invite you to join me in further cultivating ACE strengths that I believe can answer some of the public's most compelling health needs today. Since 1979, ACE has helped to shape the discipline of epidemiology not just internally, by expanding career opportunities, but also externally—by showing how population science is essential to improving the health of the public. I strongly believe that epidemiology can and should shape our policy and practice both in its traditional arena, disease prevention, and, just as important, in healthcare itself.

To see the urgency of such an expanded focus, we need only acknowledge the extraordinary demand. By 2012 nearly 35 percent of American adults were

obese, accounting for a quarter of our burden of ischemic heart disease and nearly half our burden of diabetes. The global prevalence of diabetes among adults has also risen remarkably; in 2014 it was estimated at 8.5 percent. According to the WHO, non-communicable diseases alone will account for 57 percent of the world's disease burden by 2020. Yet the burgeoning population of individuals who *live* with chronic illness is also an encouraging testimony—both to the reduction in mortality from acute illness such as infectious disease and to the huge strides in clinical therapeutics for conditions such as heart, kidney, lung and infectious diseases.

Greatly influenced by these trends, I have devoted my career to integrating epidemiology and clinical medicine for more



than two decades. Currently I lead two related entities at the University of Pennsylvania's Perelman School of Medicine: the Center for Clinical Epidemiology and Biostatistics and the Department of Biostatistics and Epidemiology, both of which have promoted the careers of hundreds of scientists committed to improving health via the tools of population science.

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Message from the President continued...

Many of you who work at academic institutions, within industry, at foundations, or within government organizations similarly pursue the profession of public health and often implement population research. Regardless of where we conduct our professional activities, we are all deeply affected by our profession's dual mandate. We must help prevent disease *and* we must aid the hundreds of millions whose chronic health conditions demand active management; we must help them to live better, more productive and longer lives. To rise to the world's current health challenges, we can and we must reach out to the clinical epidemiology community to broaden ACE's membership base and ensure it is engaged in the full spectrum

of activities uniquely suited to trained epidemiologists.

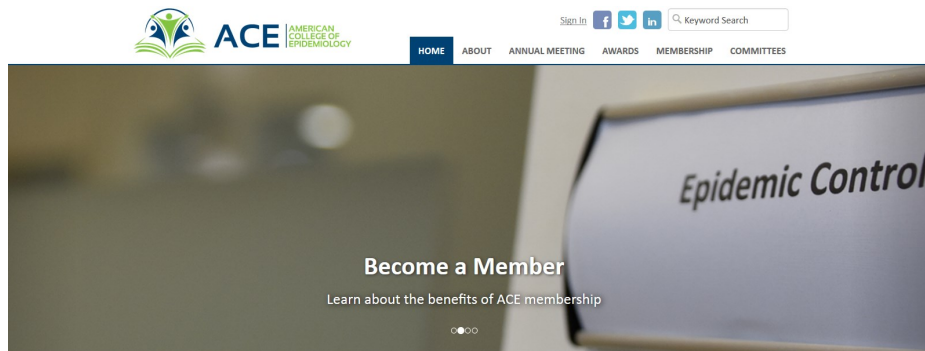
We have ample opportunity for such outreach, given that many high-profile entities now concentrate on identifying and understanding public health needs through grassroots collaboration. Take, for instance, the National Center for Advancing Translational Science at the NIH; its Clinical and Translational Science Awards (CTSA) program hubs aim to "get more treatments to more patients more quickly." CTSA works with public health professionals, healthcare providers, researchers and community-based groups; a professional organization such as ACE would be a natural collaborator. Will you join me in building this bridge and others like it?

There has never been a time in our history when epidemiology and population sciences, more broadly, have played a greater role in advancing the health of all people. I am extraordinarily honored that you have invited me to lead ACE for the coming year, to work with all of you on this critical mission. I plan to call upon all ACE members to step up, to lean in, and to offer critical insights about how we can move the College to the next level: advocating for our profession, supporting professional development, expanding our membership and its diversity, and ensuring that the discipline of epidemiology continues to advance the health of all people.

Please share your ideas with me at [Harv Feldman](mailto:hfeldman@acepidemiology.org) (hfeldman@acepidemiology.org). I very much look forward to hearing from you.

New American College of Epidemiology Website and Logo

ACE has officially launched our new logo and website (acepidemiology.org), which is **mobile-device friendly** and full of content about the college and its history, mission, and current activities. We welcome you to visit the website and browse around! Please send any inquiries or edits for the website to Peter Kralka at pkral-ka@FirstPointesources.com.



Who We Are

The American College of Epidemiology is an organization of epidemiologists that serves the interests of the profession and its members through advocating for issues pertinent to epidemiology, a credential-based admission and promotion process, sponsorship of scientific meetings, publications and educational activities, and recognizing outstanding contributions to the field.

Board of Directors Election News

The ACE Nominating Committee prepared an outstanding slate of candidates for consideration by the members of the college. After this summer's voting, the final results are in! The new members of the ACE Board of Directors are as follows:

President-Elect:
Pauline Mendola

BOD—Fellows:
Michael Cook
Michele Forman
Maurizio Macaluso

BOD—Members:
Melinda Aldrich



New Board of Directors Fellow, Dr. Michael Cook

Minority Affairs Committee Update

It gives me great pleasure to update you on the activities of the Minority Affairs committee (MAC). We have been very busy this past year, mostly with work which led to the successful Minority Affairs Workshops hosted by our committee at the annual ACE meeting in September 2015 as well as at the Epidemiology Congress of the Americas in June of this year. We had speakers and guests attend our workshop in Miami from all over the world! Our speakers this past year have included Ana Diez Roux (Drexel), Chandra Ford (UCLA), Robert E. Fullilove (Columbia), Bill Jenkins (UNC), Melody Goodman (Wash U), Ana Penman Aguilar (CDC), Michael Kramer (Emory), and Reggie Tucker-Seeley (Harvard). The response from the workshops was overwhelming! We hope that you will be able to join us for the workshop in September of 2017.



Our committee continues to grow overtime, and we eagerly welcome new members. Please contact me if you are interested in joining the committee, helping with the planning, or if you would like to join our monthly calls, which take place the second Friday of every month from 2-3pm CST. I am very excited to work with existing and potential members of the MAC and look forward to all that we will contribute to the College and the field of epidemiology this coming year.

Sincerely,

Bertha Hidalgo, Minority Affairs Committee Chair

ACE Member Highlight



Dr. Elizabeth T. H. “Terry” Fontham, is the Founding Dean and Emeritus Professor of Epidemiology at Louisiana State University School of Public Health-New Orleans, having served on faculty since 1980. Despite being officially “retired”, her colleagues notice little difference in her schedule! Terry can be found in her office working on issues she enjoys nearly 40 hours per week! Terry is an internationally respected cancer epidemiologist

with a research focus on the etiology of tobacco and nutrition-related cancers. She has done pioneering work with her mentor, Dr. Pelayo Correa, on *Helicobacter pylori* and stomach cancer. She also has spent a substantial part of her career on the health effects of second hand smoke.

Terry is a member of the National Cancer Institute Board of Scientific Counselors and has served on numerous NCI advisory and ad hoc committees. She served ten years on the national Board of Directors of the American Cancer Society, was national President in 2009, and remains involved on critical issues, such as the guidelines for cancer screening. Terry is the author of more than 200 scientific publications and the recipient of many noteworthy professional awards. She is actively involved with several non-profit organizations including the Louisiana Public Health Insti-

tute and the International Women’s Forum.

Dr. Fontham was involved in some of the formative years of ACE, worked on the Committee to update the Strategic Plan of the College, and was recently elected to the ACE Board of Director.

Terry is a native Cajun from Louisiana, growing up in the “rice capitol of the world”, in Crowley, Louisiana. For many years, Terry rode with the “Muses” Krewe for Mardi Gras. Muses was an early all-female Mardi Gras Krewe and one of the largest.

Interview with Dr. Elizabeth Fontham by ACE Fellow, Dr. Edward Trapido

Question. How did you get interested in Epidemiology?

Answer: In a roundabout fashion. I had health problems at a young age (7 years old), and was diagnosed with polio. At the same time, my grandfather was

dying of stomach cancer. These shaped my life. I had a great desire to keep people from getting sick, or to help them get well.

When I got married, I moved from Louisiana to Charlottesville, VA, and worked in the Cancer Research

Laboratory. The lab used large white rats for their animal model, and after 3 years, I decided that I did not want to spend my life working with rats.

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Interview continued...

I wanted to work with people, and so studying health in human populations seemed like perfect fit, and Epidemiology remains a perfect choice! I took some “time off” for raising my children, and then went on to pursue my career.

Question: Can you tell me about your mentor?

Answer: I had finished my coursework for my doctoral degree, but not yet started my prospectus. Dr. Pelayo Correa wanted to hire me for two jobs- one as the manager for a parish (county) tumor registry, and another job, as a study manager. Serendipity is a wonderful thing. The second job was for an NCI contracted study manager for study of cancers of the stomach, lung and pancreas. While the stomach cancer component was not used for my thesis, it gave me area of focus that became so important. Dr. Correa had a wonderful mentor himself, Dr. William Haenszel. Pelayo was generous with time, and provided many opportunities. He was not a micromanager. He trusted me to do the job that needed to be done and always provided support and contacts when needed. I believe it’s important to follow this path as a mentor. I want to also mention that peer mentors can be remarkable, and I was fortunate in that. My peer mentor was Dr. Vivien Chen, and we have been lifelong colleagues and

friends. My dissertation came from a study of gastric cancer. I carried out a case control study of diet, gastric nitrosamines and gastric cancer precursor lesions.

Question: What are your current research interests now?

Answer: There have been recent opportunities in my home state of Louisiana for epidemiologists. Unfortunately, they have arisen from the disasters- Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, and the 2010 Gulf Oil Spill. I have gotten the chance to work on these issues with colleagues, supported by NIEHS grants. There was not a lot known about the shorter and longer term effects of these disasters on human health, but we are already seeing findings. For example, the multiple stressors impacting SE Louisiana have been found to be associated with very poor mental health outcomes. While mental health is not my area of expertise, I have talented people to work with. I am also interested in turning scientific findings into interventions as well as policy development. I have been active recently in development of cancer screening guidelines for the American Cancer Society.

Question: What advice would you give to someone with a newly minted PhD in epidemiology?

Answer: New epidemiologists

should be open to opportunities beyond their comfort zone. It’s not always to step out and take a chance, but some of the best opportunities will be outside the box. Also, never forget that epidemiology is team sport. It is critically important to recognize how much colleagues contribute and to acknowledge those contributions. I cannot express how important it is to build a team of colleagues. You may not be PI on your first grant. Take every step one at a time. Seek out experts in your field when you have access to them. Listen and learn, and don’t be afraid to ask.

Question: If you had the opportunity to choose a field of work for your lifetime, would you again choose epidemiology?

Answer: In a heartbeat. I have never, even for a day, regretted that choice.

“... epidemiology is a team sport. It is critically important to recognize how much colleagues contribute and to acknowledge those contributions.”

American College of Epidemiology Research & Education Foundation

The American College of Epidemiology Research & Education Foundation was recently approved as a 501(c)(3) organization.

This foundation was organized to receive, administer, and expend funds for charitable, scientific, and educational purposes in relation to the promotion of the profession of epidemiology and general public health.

The Board of Directors is actively working on the foundation's new activities.

A new website has been created for the foundation and can be found at <http://myaceref.org>.

If you wish to make a donation to the foundation, you can click on the "Donate" link on the foundation's website, go directly to <http://myaceref.org/donate-to-aceref>, or send a check to:

PO Box 33031
Raleigh, NC 27636

We look forward to the future activities and support of ACE's new foundation!

American College of Epidemiology

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"...dedicated to continued education and advocacy for epidemiologists in their efforts to promote good science and the public health."

Excerpt from the college vision statement

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.

Connect with us on social media!

