

## American College of Epidemiology



Fall Newsletter November 2012

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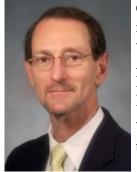
#### **Fellows Corner**

Newly Appointed Fellows - Fall 2012

Saeed Akhtar Gregory Kirk Stephen Waring Eduardo Simoes Muin Khoury

#### **President's Letter**

#### Edward J. Trapido



Greetings from New Orleans! As the new ACE President, I would like to welcome new and returning Associate Members, Members and Fellows to the American College of Epidemiology (ACE).

While writing this, I am struck by the extent to which the

"Χρόνος", (time) "Τόπος", (place) "Δῆμο

(population) which appear in our ACE logo have remained so relevant to our discipline. Recently, there was a "perfect storm" that landed on the East Coast of North America, resulting in morbidity and mortality, (and issues related to environmental and social epidemiology), the US election is now complete (with implications for, research funding, health care, environmental regulations, etc.); there is continued violence in Syria, Turkey, and countries in nearly all continents; chemical plants (China), earthquakes (Canada), and tsunamis (Hawaii) are making headlines; fish with higher cesium levels are being found (Japanese coast); and novel genes (related to aggressive endometrial cancer), seasonal flu, HIV, dengue, West Nile virus, and meningitis are in today's news. (Sources: NIH, NY Times, BBC, Reuters). In the background, the global economy has severely impacted the Millennium Development Goals, which has critical population health implications. Each of these events/conditions will affect the epidemiology of disease among specific populations, in specific places, at specific times.

So, epidemiology remains a dynamic field, and I believe that the commitment of ACE to advancing professional education remains of paramount importance. Having solid fundamental epidemiologic and biostatistical training is only a starting place; there is much yet to understand, and to translate existing knowledge to populations and to clinical practice.

Just as our profession cannot rely on past knowledge alone, our organization cannot rely on past efforts to move us into the future. ACE has always been an organization of active members. Whether persons have served as members of committees or worked on the annual meeting and its workshops, or have been Vice Chairs, Chairs, Board Members, or Presidents, each has made a contribution which has brought ACE to today. ACE needs each of you to work on a Committee, and/or help out on the Annual Meeting Program development (which will be in Louisville, KY, from Saturday, September 21, 2013 to Tuesday, September 24, 2013). *Presentation slides* from our most recent annual meeting (Chicago) are available on the ACE website.

In the realm of continuing professional development, I also want to encourage Associate Members, Members, and Fellows to submit your best research manuscripts to the *Annals of Epidemiology*. Being the official journal of the American College of Epidemiology, the Annals uniquely reaches a highly trained and informed readership. Reviews are always constructive, with a goal of making each published article as good as it can be. Since ACE members are often asked to be reviewers, do not be surprised if you are tapped for your own professional expertise!

Finally, several committees are looking for new members. In addition, all committees encourage participation from ACE membership. A description of each *committee* can be found on the ACE website. If you are not currently active on a committee, and wish to be, please feel free to contact me at *Etrapi@lsuhsc.edu*. I look forward to working with you as we move ACE into the future together.

## **Top Stories**

# Annual Meeting Accelerates New Epidemiologic Perspectives for Attendees



## Denise Oleske: Program Chairperson

Over 200 people gathered in Chicago to attend the ACE's Annual Meeting. The theme, Accelerating the Use of Epidemiologic

Findings for Population Benefits, proved

to be an engaging one. Speakers represented academia, government, and industry and provided diverse perspectives and expertise. Plenary sessions covered cutting-edge topics including the new role of epidemiology in the regulation of pharmaceuticals, translational genomic epidemiology, current applications of estimating the effects of time-varying exposures in epidemiology, and comparative effectiveness. Advanced concepts in the application of epidemiology in practice, education and policy were showcased. Chicago Department Public Health Commissioner Bechara Couchair illustrated the strategic planning application of epidemiology in shaping various city-wide health initiatives. ACE Policy Committee members, Ross Brownson, Vickie Mays, and Olivia Carter-Pokras presented work on the development of excellent casestudies which can be used in the classroom or by policymakers. The President of the Council of Chairs and Program Directors, John Vena, delivered an insightful report on the charges and challenges faced by these academic administrators. The new format of the Annual Meeting featured four well-attended break-out sessions to allow attendee's opportunities for hearing specialized content areas presented by various ACE experts. In addition, ACE offered 10 workshops on 7 topics, with over 150 people participating. The Minority Affairs Committee Workshop hosted by Charles Oke, and the Causal Inference Workshop led by David Mackinnon and Tyler VanderWeele were particularly popular. Highlights included a grand entrance for the first plenary session where the Chicago Blues All-Stars led the way into the room. This was a uniquely Chicago experience. Thanks to the Program Committee, Abigail Silva doctoral candidate at University of Illinois-SPH our volunteer project manager, and my co-Chair Kris Fennie for providing a most exciting program! We'll look forward to seeing you all in Louisville in 2013!

### **Associate Directors' Report**

### Sophia Allen and Bertha Hidalgo Incoming and Outgoing Associate Directors



Greetings Associate Members! We have gotten off to a great start this year and are looking forward to the many activities and endeavors we have planned for the upcoming year! Also, with our active Facebook page and soon a LinkedIn account, we encourage you to send us updates and news of exciting things you may have on the horizon. Email us at <a href="mailto:aceassocmember@gmail.com">aceassocmember@gmail.com</a>, with any personal academic/professional news (e.g. publication, new job, promotions, etc.), job announcements, or even personal news, say about new members in your families (e.g. babies!); we'd love to hear from you!

The Associate Member Committee remains active, meeting every other month! We encourage you to join our calls and increase your participation within our committee and the College! This year, we have Sophia Allen as our new Incoming Associate Director, Jennifer Baker as our new Secretary, and several others as part of our committee liaison team. Please also let us know if you are interested in a leadership position! Finally, please do contact us (Bertha and Sophia) with any questions, ideas, or input for Associate Members (aceassocmember@gmail.com), and remember to "Like" our Facebook page, www.facebok.com/joinACE, for updates and announcements. Our next Associate Member general meeting will be on Monday, December 3, 2012 (8:30 pm-9:30 EST).

#### **Committees**



#### **Finance Committee**

### Larry Segars, Chairperson

I would like to begin by graciously thanking all of the Committee members for their dedication and service this past year, and most importantly the attention to detail they've provided to the Committees' activities. Examples of the activities include providing an

oversight mechanism to the budgeting and investment processes, reviewing ongoing financial statements, and developing of a draft policy related to the financial support and donations to the College. It is vital to have an established mechanism to encourage financial donations to, and support of, the College's activities. We are hopeful that this type of policy will provide that direction. The Committee looks forward to working with the Board of Directors and other Committees (e.g., the Policy and the Annual Meeting Committees) to bring a policy to reality for the benefit of the College's financial stability.

I would also like to take this opportunity to announce that all of the terms of the members of the Finance Committee have expired. Therefore, as is mentioned by our new President in his column at the beginning of this newsletter, there is ample opportunity for you to get involved with the activities of the College (and more specifically, with the Finance Committee!). Join us as we work to provide financial oversight of the College's financial transactions, investments, and other monetaryrelated activities. If you have ever wanted to get involved with the College or serve on a Committee, now's your chance! We need you! If you would like to join the Finance Committee (or any other Committee) and be an active participant in our activities, please contact ACE's national office or one of the current members of the Board of Directors. Without your service and leadership, the College can't be as successful as we desire. Join us!

#### 2013 Call for Abstracts

The American College of Epidemiology invites the submission of abstracts for consideration for poster presentations at our Annual



Meeting, which will be held this time at the Galt House Hotel, Louisville, KY, September 21-24, 2013.

Poster presentations provide an opportunity for participants in the ACE annual meeting to share their work with interested colleagues in an informal, relaxed setting.

#### Submission, Judging, and Scoring Guidelines

Poster sessions are prominently scheduled during the ACE meeting and several posters are selected for merit awards. Several abstracts will also be selected for oral presentations during the meeting. This year's meeting theme is "Innovation in Epidemiology: Reframing Approaches to Research Questions". We will be exploring novel methodologic approaches in epidemiology with potential to inform public policy decisions, insightful ways epidemiologic research is influencing public policy nationally and internationally, and how innovative approaches to epidemiology may provide more powerful tools to impact policy. Abstracts

addressing the meeting theme are particularly encouraged; however, submissions from other areas of epidemiology are also welcome. Accepted abstracts will be published in the program and the Annals of Epidemiology. The deadline for abstract submission is May 1, 2013. For more information please visit <a href="https://www.acepidemiology.org">www.acepidemiology.org</a>

Abstracts should be prepared according to the instructions provided. Abstracts must be received online by **May 1**, **2013**. Please submit your abstracts online at <a href="http://ees.elsevier.com/ace">http://ees.elsevier.com/ace</a>

Notification regarding the status (accepted or rejected) of all abstracts will be sent to the presenting author by mid-July 2013.

For additional information about the meeting or abstract submission, contact the ACE at 919/861-5573 or email the college at <a href="mailto:info@acepidemiology.org">info@acepidemiology.org</a>. Information about the College and the 2013 Annual Meeting may be found at our web site: <a href="https://www.acepidemiology.org">www.acepidemiology.org</a>.

## 2013 Call for Award Nominations and Student Prize Papers

## **Innovation in Epidemiology: Reframing Approaches to Research Questions**

Galt House Hotel, Louisville, KY, September 21-24, 2013

The Awards Committee of the American College of Epidemiology would like to call to your attention three awards that will be conferred during 2013 to outstanding candidates in epidemiology. Please review the descriptions of, and nomination instructions for, these awards and submit nominations to ACE Awards Committee.

#### Awards Offered:

- Abraham Lilienfeld Award (*details*)
- Outstanding Contributions to Epidemiology Award (<u>details</u>)
- 2013 Student Prize Paper (*details*)

#### **Nomination Submissions:**

Chair, Awards Committee

American College of Epidemiology

E-mail Address: ACE Administrative Office

Nomination Submission Deadline - April 30, 2013

#### Sad News

Shon Bower reported that Dr. Palmer Beasley, an ACE Honorary Fellow, passed away in August. At the time of

his death, he was a professor and former dean of The University of Texas School of Public Health. Dr. Beasley was an epidemiologist and infectious disease expert. In establishing the causative link between hepatitis B and liver cancer, he was responsible for the first discovery of a virus that leads to a human cancer. Dr. Beasley's subsequent work determining the means of transmission for the virus and testing the vaccine has dramatically reduced worldwide suffering from hepatitis B related liver disease.

#### Don't Forget to Renew your ACE Membership Dues

We hope you already had the chance to renew your 2013 membership dues. If not, please don't delay. You can do it on-line by visiting our website at the following <u>link</u>. If you have any questions or need assistance please contact the ACE office via <u>e-mail</u> or call us at 919-861-5573.

#### **Commentary**



Welcome our new ACE president Ed Trapido. To echo his appeal, please consider joining an ACE committee. The College needs your ideas and energy.

Carol Burns, Newsletter Editor

ACE News is published by the American College of Epidemiology Editor: Carol Burns, cjburns@dow.com

For e-mail or other address changes, contact Verena Rojas, info@acepidemiology.org Visit the ACE website at www.acepidemiology.org