

#### Message from the American College of Epidemiology President, Pauline Mendola, PhD, MS

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Welcome new ACE Fellows:

Violanda Grigorescu, MD, MSPH

Robert P Hirsch, PhD, MS, PStat

Prof. Thomas M. Kollars, Jr. Nancy E. Lightfoot, PhD Zuber D. Mulla, PhD, MSPH As I start my term as ACE president, the trust you all place in me, the Executive Committee and our Board of Directors is forefront in my mind. I am committed to serve the College and our members; promoting the science and practice of epidemiology to the best of my ability and I'm looking forward to a fruitful year.

It has truly been a pleasure to work closely with our Past-President Harv Feldman and we welcome the incoming President-Elect Russ Kirby to the Executive Committee. We also welcome our newest board members: Drs. Daniel A. Hoffman (George Washington University); James C. Torner (University of Iowa); Jennifer St. Sauver (Mayo Clinic); and Rachel Widome (University of Minnesota).

Our new arrivals have some big shoes to fill and I extend special thanks for the service of Drs. Jonine Bernstein (Past-President), Melissa Bondy, Claudia Kozinetz, Jim Gurney and Alireza Assari Yazdi who rotated off the board in September. Many of our Executive Committee and Board members started out as members of ACE Standing Committees. As you renew your membership, I encourage you to consider volunteering to serve on a committee. ACE committees are where the action is! It's easy to begin and your service can influence the future of the College.



I am happy to report that our annual meeting in New Orleans was a great success! Thanks to Drs. Ed Trapido (program chair) and Terry Fontham (host) for putting together such an engaging program. The sessions were very informative (I always learn something new!) and the poster session was lively – full of opportunities to network and meet friends and colleagues. A personal highlight for me was having dinner with colleagues including Dr. Marie Swanson. Dr. Swanson was the ACE President in 1994 when I won the Student Prize Paper award. I had never been to an ACE

#### Message from the President continued...

meeting before and her leadership inspired me! How wonderful for me to get a chance to thank her in person for that special memory. The annual meeting always reminds me that ACE plays a unique role in our professional practice and I value the opportunity to share in that effort with you.

We've also experienced some challenging situations this past year, including unfortunate delays in processing memberships and promotions to Fellow. I apologize to those who have been affected by these and other administrative challenges. ACE is here to serve the needs of our members and all of us in ACE leadership positions take that seriously. We're working hard to resolve those issues and, as part of that process, the College has begun a search for an alternative management support contract. Proposals are due mid-November and we'll make sure that the review and selection is timely. Our hope is to make a smooth transition and improve communication and service at all levels.

As we approach the holiday season, all the best to you and your families for a happy and safe year to come. And finally, please remember the ACE Research and Education Foundation in your end-of-year giving!

ACE Membership Current Count by Categories* (as of December 12, 2017)	
Current Membership (in good standing)	
Fellows (FACE)	245
Members (MACE)	278
Associate Members	107
Emeritus	44
Honorary Fellows	24
TOTAL MEMBERSHIP	698

<sup>\*</sup>Please don't forget to submit your membership dues\*

## ACE Member Highlight: Dr. Cathy Critchlow by Edward J. Trapido, Sc.D.



Dr. Cathy Critchlow is a Fellow of the American College of Epidemiology and is a Vice President at Amgen. Cathy has worked in both academic and corporate environments, and has a longstanding involvement with ACE.

Cathy agreed to be interviewed for this edition of the ACE Newsletter,

Dr. Cathy Critchlow and quickly responded that she would be a speaker at September's 35th Annual ACE Meeting. She ended up covering more than she had planned to at the meeting, due to the last minute absence of a scheduled speaker.

ACE: How did you become interested in epidemiology?

Dr. Critchlow: As an undergraduate in college I was first a pre-med major, then a math major, and then finally graduated with a BA in psychology. Somewhere along the way I took a statistics course that opened my eyes to the power of data analysis in informing healthcare decision-making. After earning my MS in Biostatistics, I was working at the University of Washington with a large interdisciplinary group conducting infectious disease research. In working with the epidemiologists in that group, I started to think, "I can do that." For me, epidemiology combined all of my interests in medicine, analytical methods and people-oriented research.

#### ACE: Who was your greatest professional influence (and why)?

Dr. Critchlow: So many people helped and guided me along the way, but two stand out in terms of influencing my career

### ACE Member Highlight (continued...)

direction. The first is Noel Weiss. First, he told me that having a biostatistics background would be good for me as a

non-MD epidemiologist (in those days, by far most epidemiologists were MDs).

Second, he hired me on to the Epidemiology faculty at the University of Washington when I finished my

PhD. Throughout my many years at UW, Noel was an outstanding role model in demonstrating methodologic excellence, interdisciplinary collaboration and scientific productivity.

The second person is John Acquavella - when I moved to Amgen from UW, he was my mentor who showed me how to be an impactful epidemiologist in industry. His passion and commitment to high quality science and ethical conduct paved the road not only for my successful career in industry, but also for our department's success at Amgen.

#### ACE: What do you do at Amgen?

Dr. Critchlow: I am the Head of Epidemiology which we call the Center for Observational Research. In this role, I provide operational and strategic leadership for the design and conduct of epidemiological research to generate evidence characterizing the benefits, risks and clinical value of Amgen products. We use data from a number of sources for our studies, including administrative/claims data, electronic health records, prospective cohort studies and disease registries. We collaborate extensively with external academic investigators to bring additional expertise and specialized data sources to our program. Our studies comprise a key component of the evidence needed to successfully bring a new medicine to market and to characterize the benefits and risks of a medicine when

used by patients in post-marketing clinical practice settings.

# ACE: What are the advantages and disadvantages of working for industry (since most new epidemiologists are not familiar with the industry environment)?

Dr. Critchlow: Having worked in both academia and industry, I can appreciate both the advantages and disadvantages of the industry environment. For me, advantages include the emphasis on teamwork (we are all working to bring medicines to patients with serious illnesses); the fast pace resulting in bringing medicines to patients as quickly as possible; and the rapidly growing need for, and appreciation of the value of, the role of epidemiology across a medicine's lifecycle not only within industry but also by regulators and payers. I also find pharmacoepidemiology to be intensely interesting from a methodology perspective, with results of our studies having immediate impact on patient medical care. Of course, being able to spend much more of my time conducting research and mentoring new industry epidemiologists rather than seeking research funding is a major advantage. A major challenge associated with being an epidemiologist in industry is the need to continually manage perceptions among those outside of industry surrounding conflicts of interest and the quality of research conducted.

#### ACE: What has been the most exciting project you have worked on?

Dr. Critchlow: For me, two projects stand out for different reasons. The first involved extensive analyses assessing whether one of our drugs that had been on the market for almost 20 years was associated with higher mortality risk. In collaboration with a number of academic investigators, we designed and conducted numerous studies, which elegantly described the

substantial impact of confounding by indication in generating spurious findings regarding higher mortality risk. These analyses did however identify a small patient subgroup for whom higher doses of our product were contraindicated. Our ability to provide data to better inform patients and providers was extremely gratifying. The second project involved the design and execution of a large postmarket safety surveillance study for a newly launched product. This involved extensive work with regulatory agencies to demonstrate that an epidemiology study using administrative claims data as opposed to the registry or other clinical study initially preferred by regulators would generate a more valid assessment of benefits and risks associated with product use in the post-market setting due to the rarity of adverse events of interest and the likely channeling of higher risk patients to our product. Our ability to successfully conduct this study led to a much greater appreciation of the value of epidemiology at Amgen.

#### ACE: Is there anything else you would like to add?

Dr. Critchlow: These are exciting times for an epidemiologist in Pharma. The 21st Century Cures Act has set the stage for exciting developments in our field. There are other opportunities globally. So, newer epidemiologists should consider whether working in Pharma or other corporations. I hesitate to add that the compensation isn't bad, either!

### Highlights from the 35th American College of Epidemiology Annual Meeting

by Edward Trapido, ScD, FACE

The 35th Annual Meeting of the American College of Epidemiology was held in New Orleans on September 24-26th with more than 250 persons in attendance. This meeting's theme was "The Methods of Translating and Disseminating Epidemiology into Public Health." Dr. Terry Fontham, Dean Emeritus of LSU School of Public Health-New Orleans, served as local host and Dr. Edward Trapido was the Program Chair.

Dr. Anthony Fauci, Director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases provided the keynote address. He spoke of his time at the helm of NIAID, serving under six presidents (Reagan through Trump). Dr. Fauci addressed the emergence of infectious disease challenges during each of the presidencies, ranging from AIDS to Zika. The challenges did not become fewer, and every administration had new outbreak concerns, particularly close to the beginning of their terms. Not all of the diseases were pandemic from the start, however.

In selecting Dr. Fauci for the keynote address, Dr. Edward Trapido said, "given the theme of the meeting, Dr. Fauci was my first choice, knowing that he has a lifetime of translating epidemiologic and other data into public health." Dr. Fauci also stated that he had never talked to as large a body of epidemiologists as the ACE meeting brought together.

Following the keynote address, the annual Annals of Epidemiology Best Paper was presented by Dr. Anne Jurek, entitled "Quantitative Bias Analysis in an Asthma Study of Rescue-Recovery Workers and Volunteers from the 9/11 World Trade Center Attacks."

Dr. Heidi Erickson chaired the first plenary session focused on "How Epidemiologists can Play a Greater Role in Environmental Decision-making: Comparing Apples to Apples" which brought together four speakers: Dr. Carol Burns who spoke on "How Regulators use Environmental Epidemiological data for Public Health Protection"; Dr. Judy Lakind on "Evaluating Strengths and Limitation of the Exposure data using the Biomonitoring, Environmental Epidemiology, and Short-Lived Chemicals (BEES-C) Instrument: Implications for Science and Policy"; Dr. Karla Taylor on "Advances in Methodologies for Conducting Systematic Reviews within the Federal Government"; and Dr. Hubert Vesper on "Ensuring Harmonized and Comparable Laboratory Measurements to Improve Public Health Programs: Implications of the Lack of

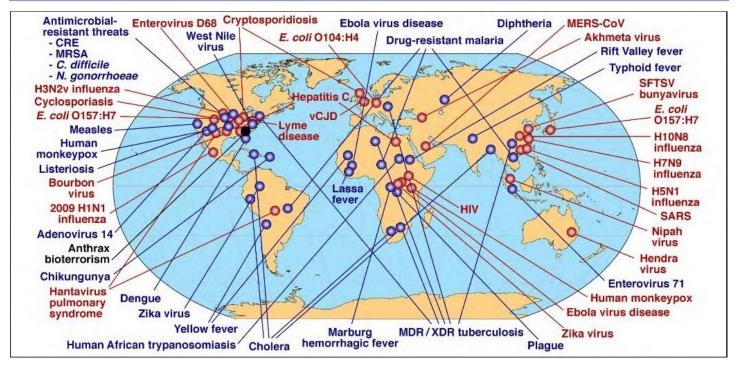
Comparability of Biomarker Measurements for Preventing the Effective Assessment, Implementation and Monitoring of Potential Health Risks and Public Health Activities."

In the afternoon, Drs. WayWay Hlaing and Jennifer Salerno chaired a session on "Untangling the Ethical Intersection of Epidemiology, Human Subjects Research and Public Health." Dr. Ken Goodman moderated the session, which included presentations by Dr. Edward Peters, providing an overview of ethics and epidemiology; Susan Pinney, who spoke on very high biomarker levels in environmental epidemiology research and the void in guidance for investigators; and Stephanie Morain, whose presentation was on the interface of epidemiology, human subjects' research, and public health interventions. Dr. Goodman stated, "ACE has been making good and practical use of the tools of applied ethics for a quarter century. The New Orleans session, "Untangling the Ethical Intersection of Epidemiology, Human Subjects Research and Public Health," is a good example. We explored and, I think, provided useful guidance on, questions ranging from the scope of consent to issues in the use of large data sets. Indeed, balancing consent and data use will continue to challenge us for a very long time."

"Where else can you hear from expert epidemiologists on such a wide-range of cutting-edge issues like emerging infectious diseases, ethics in human subjects research, refugee health, risk stratification and advancing policy-relevant research? I always learn something at the ACE meeting!" ACE President, Dr. Pauline Mendola

A concurrent session was led by Dr. Lorna Thorpe on "Refugee Health: Global and Domestic Perspectives." Dr. Olivia Carter-Pokras moderated the session, which included three speakers: Drs. Heike Thiel de Bocanegra; J. David Ingleby; and Sonita Singh. According to Dr. Thorpe, "the session gave us a broad perspective on the many health issues affecting refugees and of the challenges we've experienced to date in informing policies or health care services through epidemiologic study findings. Dr. Ingleby introduced us to some of the tremendous work being done in Sweden to understand the health impacts of policies affecting refugees in Europe. Dr. Singh reminded us that in monitoring and addressing the health of refugees, it is important to contextualize how they go about re-building a livelihood. Finally, Dr. Heike emphasized the dearth of work addressing women's maternal and child health issues.

The afternoon plenary session focused on "Advancing Risk Stratification for Precision Prevention: Methodo-



The graphic above shows some of the major infectious agents/diseases that have occurred during Dr. Fauci's tenure, including Anthrax, Dengue, Chikungunya, Ebola, H5N1, MERS, MRSA, West Nile, and Zika.

logic, Clinical, and Ethical Considerations for Rare Diseases." Drs. Jessica L. Petrick and Ronald C. Eldridge chaired the session. Speakers included Dr. Nancy Cook who talked about "Current Methodological Concepts in Risk Reclassification"; Steven Coughlin who spoke on "The Relevance of Public Health Ethics to Rare Diseases"; Teri Manolio who addressed "Risk Prediction in the Genomic Era"; and Ashley I. Naimi who covered "Machine Learning for Risk Stratification of Rare Out-



Dr. Harold Feldman, 2017 ACE President

comes: Examples from Reproductive/ Perinatal Epidemiology."

On the second day, Dr. Harold Feldman gave his ACE Presidential Address. He presented ACE accomplishments during his term, admitting that while each president has just a short time to have an impact on the organization, each provides both continuity and initiative for the College's mission. Dr. Feldman noted that extensive shifts in health status of the population over the past several decades call for action by the College and the larger epidemiology community to engage in the full breadth of population science research spanning from the maintenance of health to the management of chronic illness. These new approaches will require increased alliances with other research communities to identify the most vulnerable subpopulations, to discover promising novel opportunities for interventions, and to participate in developing strategies to reduce the burden of both acute and chronic illness.

Three distinct but related scientific movements have developed and ma-

tured in response to the shifts in population health; 1) the sub-discipline of clinical epidemiology, 2) translational medical science, and most recently, 3) personalized medicine. Each of these represents strong opportunities for the field of epidemiology and the College. Identifying opportunities to operate at the intersections between epidemiology and these scientific movements will be critical to our success in optimizing the health of the public.

Following the Presidential Address, Dr. Rebekah E. Gee, Secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health, gave an outstanding presentation on "Politics and Policy: Implications of Federal Actions on the State Level." Dr. Gee has been the leader in expanding Medicaid services in Louisiana, the only state in the Gulf South to have done so.

Two concurrent sessions followed. The first, chaired by Dr. Daniel Kim, was on "Advancing Policy-Relevant Epidemiologic Research on the Social Determinants of Health." Besides Dr. Kim, Dr. Kelli Komro presented on the effects of state level minimum wage and the

EITC policies on infant health outcomes, followed by a presentation on social determinants of health and health equity related to closing the gap on maternal and child health disparities, given my Dr. Katherine Theall.

Dr. Trapido chaired the second concurrent session on what the current political climate means for epidemiology and its use in policy, rules and enforcement. It featured Dr. Cathy Critchlow, who presented her viewpoint as an epidemiologist in the pharmaceutical industry. She was optimistic about the opportunities for development in and employment by the pharmaceutical industry in the present environment. Dr. Pauline

Mendola "pinch hit" for one of the speakers, and gave her views as an epidemiologist in the federal government.

The final plenary session focused on antimicrobial resistance and shaping policy solutions through epidemiology. Drs. Ebbing Luatenbach, Jeffrey Gerber, Susan Huang and Mike Lin made presentations.

The final highlight of the meeting was the awards luncheon, and the annual presentation of the Abraham Lilienfeld Award, the highest award given by ACE. This year Dr. Steve Jacobsen presented the award to past ACE President Roberta B. Ness.



Dr. Steve Jacobsen and Dr. Roberta Ness

#### Admissions Committee Update

William S. Pearson, PhD, FACE, Chair

The American College of Epidemiology was founded in 1979 as an organization dedicated to the promotion of epidemiology as a profession. In so doing, the Admissions Committee serves to support one aspect of the mission statement of the College by helping to maintain and promote the credential-based admission and promotion process in the College. During the first nine months of 2017, the Admissions Committee has reviewed and made recommendations on over 100 applications to the College.

As stated in the by-laws of the College, the Admissions Committee is required to meet at least three times per year to review applications. During these reviews, applications are discussed among committee members and are evaluated on whether or not they meet criteria for the different levels of membership including Associate Member, Member, Fellow and Emeritus. Each application for Fellow receives extra attention and is critically reviewed by all committee

members prior to the meetings and then discussion and votes are taken during the meetings regarding the committee's recommendation on admission or promotion. These recommendations are then presented to the Board of Directors for approval. Due to the level of attention given to each application, reviews, especially those for Fellow, can take up to two months before a vote is taken and recommendations are sent to the Board.

By keeping admissions and promotions in the College credential-based and committee-reviewed, we are helping to elevate the professional status of epidemiology. Attaining membership and promotion in the College should be a sign of professional achievement that can be used to help with career advancement. Additionally, this process should help recruit future talent to the field by demonstrating to students a career progression that is valued.

Further information and guidance on each of the different levels of membership are provided on the Admissions Committee web-page. I encourage each of you as members and fellows of the College to reach out to your colleagues and students regarding membership. Let them know what the College means to you and how they can join in the effort to promote the profession of epidemiology and achieve better health for all.

#### Membership Committee Update

Sarah Geiger, MS, PhD, Vice Chair

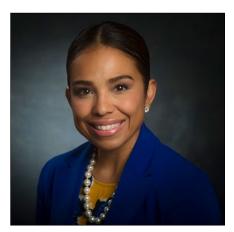
Greetings from the Membership Committee, which includes Christine Branche (Chair), Kate Applebaum, Macarius Donnayong (Associate Member liaison), Joe Holbrook, Dan Lackland, Maurizio Macaluso, Charles Oke (Minority Affairs Committee liaison, exofficio), Edwin van Wijngaarden (Mentoring Committee liaison), and myself (Vice Chair)! Kate is new to the committee since our last newsletter update and we couldn't be happier to have her. The only other update in terms of composition and roles of the committee is that I replaced Joe Holbrook as Vice Chair, due to Joe's many other responsibilities. Joe will remain on the committee as a regular member and I know I speak for the committee as a whole in thanking Joe for his service in the capacity of Vice Chair!

In the last newsletter report, Christine talked about our efforts around creating a culture of keeping dues paid in full. Having made a few changes in language and messaging, we hope that this issue will require only minimal maintenance going forward, and we have moved on to several initiatives aimed at increasing membership numbers. One initiative was adding the option for members and fellows to pay for multiple years at a net discount. For example, rather than paying \$150 per year (regular cost), a member could choose to pay \$400 for three years (\$50 savings). A similar plan is available for fellows. ACE membership voted to adopt the discounted, multiyear dues options, and I took advantage of these savings myself in the recent billing cycle. Our hope is that these savings will encourage current members to renew, and thereby commit to longerterm membership as well.

Another initiative I'd like to highlight is continued outreach efforts to groups with untapped membership potential. Working with Holly Currie and Peter Kralka from FirstPoint, committee members crafted letters outlining the value of ACE, and specific benefits targeted toward each group we approached. These include academic departments of epidemiology, clinical and translational epidemiology programs, and state public health associations. We look forward to evaluating these efforts in the coming months and, pending their effectiveness, continue outreach to other groups such as the Council for State and Territorial Epidemiologists (CSTE), and other CEPH-accredited schools and programs.

Other fledgling projects include codifying the language we use for credentialing, specifically maintenance of credentials; implementing a job fair at the Annual Meeting; and ... drumroll, please! ... opening an online store with at least a few ACE items for sale like T-shirts, bags, mugs, etc. This last one is my personal favorite and I look forward to showering friends and family with ACE swag at birthdays and holidays! Thanks for taking an interest in the Membership Committee, and please always feel free to reach out to me (Geiger@niu.edu) or other committee members with your ideas or thoughts

## Minority Affairs Committee Update



Bertha Hidalgo, Chair

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 this past September .

We had stimulating discussion led by Dr. Victor Schoenbach about reasons why convincing epidemiologic data have not successfully helped to eliminate health disparities. The response from the workshops was overwhelming. We will have videos from the workshop available on the ACE MAC website soon, so stay tuned for that. In the meantime, be sure to visit Dr. Schoen-

bach's website for resources and materials related to this topic, <a href="http://www.unc.edu/~vschoenb/">http://www.unc.edu/~vschoenb/</a>.



Dr. Victor Schoenbach

We also plan to highlight members on the ACE social media sites this upcoming year, so if you have any updates, please do let us know. This month, are sharing with you exciting news from one of our long-standing MAC members, Chandra L. Ford, PhD. Dr. Ford and colleagues have officially launched the new Center for the Study of Racism, Social Justice, and Health, with Dr. Ford serving as the founding director. For more information, visit <a href="https://www.racialhealthequity.org">https://www.racialhealthequity.org</a>.



Dr. Chandra Ford

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.

# ACE Research Foundation Committee Update



Edward J. Trapido. Sc.D

The ACE Research and Education Foundation (ACEREF) is excited to announce that it has started its organizational efforts, following the actions of multiple ACE Boards of Directors. ACEREF, which serves as the development arm of ACE, has the following goals:

To promote the health and welfare
 of the general public by engaging in
 educational, charitable and scientific
 activities to further the knowledge
 of the general public with respect to

the importance of the discipline of epidemiology and to promote public cooperation among members of the epidemiology profession, industry, government, academia and other nonprofit organizations for the purpose of promoting the health of the general public;

- To focus public attention upon the need for and importance of the profession of epidemiology to the health and welfare of the general public, to encourage public interest in the profession of epidemiology, and to promote the development of persons interested in the profession of epidemiology, all for the purpose of promoting the health and welfare of the general public;
- To encourage the further development of the public health sector for the purpose of educating the general public of the importance of the profession of epidemiology with respect to the health and welfare of the general public; and
- To sponsor meetings and gatherings of persons interested in the profession of epidemiology.

Most importantly, ACEREF fundamentally wants to build ACE's reach and role in serving the interests of the profession and its members. When successful, ACEREF will allow ACE to do more, through increased financial support and visibility.

An ACREF Organizational Committee was established at the ACE Annual Board of Directors meeting in September 2017. At that time, Edward Trapido, ScD, FACE, was selected to be the first Chair of this Committee. Committee members include Drs. Jonine Bernstein, Sunday Clark, Martin Fekete, Jennifer Gander, Steve Jacobsen, Reza Jafarzadeh, Russ Kirby, Todd Neuharth, Syed

Ahan Raza, Sandra Melnick Seitz, and Steve Waring.

The Committee will work to (1) establish a Foundation-specific leadership framework to lead initiatives, activities and processes, (2) establish named/titled Funds and initiatives to which donors can select for donations, (3) develop a process to seek and acquire donations, (4) establish methods to recognize donors, (5) initiate processes to award and develop funds, and (6) established processes to assure compliance with 501 (c) 3 requirements.

To jump-start the Foundation's efforts, Dr. Jonine Bernstein and Sandra Melnick Seitz developed a plan to establish an Endowed Lecture for the 2018 ACE Annual Meeting, to be sponsored by the ACE Fellow and Emeritus Members. A letter requesting input and support was sent to ACE Fellows and Emeritus Members on November 8th, 2017, by ACE President, Dr. Pauline Mendola.



2018 American College of Epidemiology Annual Meeting

Applying Epidemiology Across the Lifespan to Improve Health Care, Inform Health Policy and Enhance Population Health

September 24-25, 2018 · Cincinnati, OH



#### American College of Epidemiology Research & Education Foundation

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 <a href="http://myaceref.org/donate-to-aceref">http://myaceref.org/donate-to-aceref</a>, 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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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.

"...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

Connect with us on social media!

