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Message from the President

Jonine Bernstein

With the reinstatement of the ACE newsletter, I wanted to take this opportunity to bring all of you up to date on the happenings within the College and to thank each of you for helping to make the College the incredible energized organization that it is. First, Annual Meeting held in Atlanta, "Addressing Systemic Determinants of Health" was one of the most exciting and interesting meetings held within the recent past. The array of sessions focused on developing and implementing novel epidemiologic methods to identify, assess, and influence the complex interactions of determinants of the public's health were provocative and persuasive. The sessions were outstanding, the workshops informative, the Associate members were involved in every aspect of the meeting planning, and the Award winners and session speakers gave fascinating talks. On behalf of all of us who attended, I am sure you will all join me in thanking Kris Fennie and Diana Bensyl for co-chairing the organizing committee along with the vast number of member volunteers involved in the planning and meeting execution from the Program to Awards to Poster/Abstract to Associate Member Committees. Without each of member of every committee doing their parts, the meeting would not have been as hugely successful as it was. Thank you.



The College has been active on multiple fronts. Other highlights and updates of our on-going activities include:

- Status of our 501c3 Status. As most of you are aware, over the past several years we have been trying to achieve 501c3 status which will designate us as a tax-exempt nonprofit organization. In turn, having this classification will allow tax deductible donations from individuals, corporations, academic institutions etc. It has been the hope of the College that having this designation will encourage more charitable giving. A huge thank you to Larry Segars who has been leading this charge with patience and perseverance, it appears

all of the paperwork and forms have been submitted. Fingers crossed that within a few months we will be successful with achieving non-profit tax-free status.

- ACE Comment on the HHS proposed changes to the Common Rule protecting human subjects. Initiated by Michael Cook and with follow-up by Lorna Thorpe and Jennifer Salerno in conjunction with their respective committees- Policy and Publications/Ethics, members [reviewed and commented](#) on the massive document circulated that included defining human subject research with biospecimens, HIPPA privacy rule standards, and research focused on children and prisoners. Turn-around time was short and the document was dense, so the work and end commentary were particularly impressive. For me, this joint efficient effort underscored the impact and importance of the College on every level-- our ability to respond to such critical policies that impact our work, the diversity of fields and focus of our members, and most importantly the eagerness and energy of our committees. (Holly Can we have link to document on website?)
- Membership Drive. College membership is down. Members from every membership category, have lapsed in paying their dues. Under the keen leadership of Christine Branche, the membership committee is sending out a membership survey to assess both the needs and wants of the current membership as well as to try to re-capture some of these lapsed members. The loss of these members impacts us on multiple levels, including financially. Through BOD vote, we have been able to modify some of the admission and dues requirements for lapsed members in the hopes that we will be able to lure some back to active status. Last week we had an ACE Executive Committee (Past President Melissa Perry, President Elect Harv Feldman, and me, current President) membership focused mini retreat with Christine and Carol Burns (Mentoring/Networking Committee). However, we also need your help to build the college and hope you are willing to lend a hand. If each of you would speak to one colleague a former ACE member, a never ACE member, or an early stage epidemiologist and tell them about ACE, what ACE means to you and why you are an ACE member, our membership would rapidly grow stronger.
- Members Involvement in the College: We are seeking to involve more ACE members in a variety of activities. Most of the vital work of ACE is conducted via our committees and a number of committees are seeking new members. Here are some examples, please consider becoming more involved in one or more of the following by: 1) reviewing for the Annals of Epidemiology; 2) supporting the professional

development of our more junior members by participating in the Career Mentoring Committee; 3) building the College leadership through work on the Nominating Committee; 4) helping secure the College financial future through the Finance Committee.

- 2016 Epidemiology Congress of the Americas. The fourth Epidemiology Congress, "Making a Difference Across Populations", will be held in Miami on June 21-24. These incredibly special meetings are held only once every 5 years and they are comprised of multiple epidemiology societies coming together to showcase and promote the field, practice and study of epidemiology. We are proud that ACE has been heavily involved in every aspect of the Congress planning and activities. As a co-Chair of the 2011 Congress, I know first-hand how much time and effort goes into planning every aspect of the 3 day event. A huge thank you to Ed Trapido, Harv Feldman, Russ Kirby and the countless other ACE members for all that you are doing to make this a wonderful, and "best ever", meeting. If you haven't already registered, you can do so today at [\(link\)](#). Please plan on joining us at the ACE Business Meeting on June 23, from 1-2pm (EST). See you all there in Jun.
- FirstPoint Inc. As many of you know last year, Peter Kralka the ACE Executive Director, was in a horrendous automobile accident. After an arduous recovery, he has finally returned to work full-time. Earlier this year, Holly Currie joined ACE as the Deputy Executive Director, under Peter's guidance. Please join me in both welcoming Peter back and in welcoming Holly into the fold. We look forward to continuing our work together.
- In closing, after this first period as ACE President and after pouring over the financials reports, membership lists, and listening to the Committee reports, I have learned a great deal about the running of the College and our membership. And the more I learn, the more impressed I am by the commitment, energy and devotion of our ACE members. I wish to THANK YOU each of you for your service to ACE and for being a vital member of the larger community. If you have suggestions or ideas on how we can improve the work of ACE, increase or enhance membership, or expand our reach, please contact me.

Warmly,
Jonine

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Member and Attending Epidemiologist
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Top Story

2016 Epidemiology Congress of the Americas

Make your plans now to attend the 2016 Epidemiology Congress of the Americas, June 21-24, 2016 - Hyatt Regency Miami, Miami, Florida. Discount rates are available when registering by May 15, 2016. The ACE Business Meeting will take place on Thursday, June 23, 1-2 PM. For more information about the Congress click [here](#).

Development of an ACE-501(c)3 Research & Education Foundation

Donations to the College will soon be tax exempt



Larry Segars, Treasurer

The ACE Board of Directors continues moving forward with the long-held desire to develop a tax-exempt mechanism for its supporters, inside and outside of the College, to provide financial donations that would benefit the professional endeavors of the College. After several years of discussions and evaluations of various means to accomplish this goal, the Board of Directors is currently working with a specialist legal consultant experienced in 501(c)3 organizational development and Internal Revenue Service (IRS) application to create the ACE Research and Educational Foundation. The Foundation will function as a parallel organization to ACE's current 501(c)6 structure and will be led by ACE's Board of Directors. The Articles of Incorporation & Bylaws for this new entity are currently being developed with the direct guidance and assistance of the legal consultant. The Boards' goal is to submit the (c)3 application to the IRS in 2016 with an anticipated approval in late 2016 or early 2017. Once approved by the IRS, the Foundation will be able to accept charitable donations on a tax-exempt basis in support of ACE's professional activities. Most recently, the Board of Directors had considered acquiring a tax-exempt mechanism by changing the College from its current status as a (c)6 entity to a (c)3 entity. However, after significant evaluation and deliberation the Board determined that particular path would not be in the best interest of the College due to the IRS requirement of needing to change our charter, bylaws and original organizational purpose to comply with that designation. Creation of a parallel (c)3 Foundation will allow ACE to retain its original focus and purpose to its membership and the field of epidemiology and also provide for a tax-exempt means for

donations. The ACE Board is thankful for the ongoing interest and support of its membership in the creation of a tax-exempt pathway for donations and financial support and we look forward to announcing the Foundation's official acceptance by the IRS once approved

Committee Report

Please complete the survey. Coming soon to your inbox!

*Career Mentoring, Chairperson
Carol Burns*

The Career Mentoring Committee is looking for your input as to how the College can help you network with other epidemiologists and develop professionally. Since many of you may have mentoring activities at your own institution or organization we want to know how the College add to your mentoring needs and expectations. Would you like to be matched with another ACE member? Are you looking for networking activities at the Annual Meeting? We have put together a brief questionnaire in collaboration with the membership committee. It will come to your email, along with the information to vote on the bylaw revision. Please vote on the bylaw revision AND complete our survey. Thank you!



New on the Web


ACE Member Highlight:

- [Alberto J. Caban Martinez](#)
- [Comments on receiving the 2015 Abraham Lilienfeld Award, Jonathan M. Samet, MD, MS, University of Southern California](#)
- [2015 Annual Meeting Presentation Slides](#)



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Editor's Comments:

Welcome back Peter! Please look for information from the membership committee to help the College grow. I look forward to seeing you in Miami at the Congress. Interim Newsletter Editor, Carol Burns (cjburns.bec@gmail.com)

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