

News



President's Letter

By Carol J. Rowland Hogue



Fixing HIPAA

With HIPAA upon us, it's clear that our epidemiologic work has become more difficult... and, at times, impossible. The ACE Policy Committee would like to collect brief anecdotes of

major problems that HIPAA has created for epidemiologists. We will pass these anecdotes to the AAMC, which is serving as a clearinghouse for anecdotes from researchers in all specialties.

Please find below a copy of the AAMC letter and an epidemiology example from one of our committee members. Feel free to provide more (or less) detail—or a similar example from your part of the country. Either way, please do send us an anecdote if you've had or anticipate having a major problem with HIPAA. While inconvenience is annoying, outright stoppage of a project is much more persuasive! With

a sufficient number of anecdotes, we could better frame the issues for epidemiologists... as we begin to "fix" HIPAA. Five minutes of your time will make us *much* more effective advocates for you and for the specialty. So, again, please send us your paragraph (email: info@acepidemiology.org).

If you have a particularly strong interest in this topic, and a few hours each month to dedicate to this initiative, we are forming a subcommittee to work specifically on the impact of HIPAA on epidemiology. Please contact Robert Hiatt at rhiatt@cc.ucsf.edu with your contact information. And don't forget to send your anecdote!

Finally, Faith Davis will spend some time at the annual ACE meeting in Chicago this year discussing epidemiologic challenges associated with HIPAA. Through shared experiences, we may be better able to "live with" HIPAA while going about the business of fixing it!

Thank you for working with us on this important issue.

HIPAA Anecdote: Example for AAMC

By Roberta Ness (Pittsburgh)

Vignette: For the past six years, we have been conducting a prospective study looking at risk factors and predictors for preeclampsia among women in their first pregnancy. The approach to recruitment has been to identify women at their first prenatal care visit. We then follow this cohort through labor and delivery to capture all women who develop the disease. Until now, our research staff has worked closely with clinic staff to scan incoming charts for eligible women, who we then approach for enrollment. All of this has stopped with the implementation of HIPAA. We can no longer scan charts, even if we are not recording any information on those not selected for possible ascertainment. We must now develop a registry system whereby women elect (or do not elect) to

allow their medical records to be accessed for research. The most concerning implication of this new system is that many women may not participate in the registry, thereby reducing our ability to enroll enough women to achieve a meaningful result. Moreover, women who participate may be systematically different from those who do not, thereby skewing our data toward a false result. Either way, it is likely that the barrier between researcher and patient mandated by HIPAA will reduce the likelihood of success in this research. Today, women enter pregnancy not knowing whether they may be at risk for an unpredictable, sometimes fatal disease. Only through research can we help them know and avoid the terrible possibility of developing preeclampsia.

In this Issue:

- 2
ACE Web Info
at a Glance
- 2
Member Update
- 3
ACE Annual
Scientific Sessions
in Chicago
- 4-6
ACE Annual
Scientific Sessions
Preliminary Program
- 7
ACE Annual
Scientific Sessions
Registration Form

ACE Web Info at a Glance

Number of user sessions

5,618 (average 181/day)

Busiest day of week

Monday

Busiest hours

3:00 - 5:00pm

% International

12% (excludes 24% unknown)

Top two countries outside US

- Canada (137 visits)
- UK (91)

Most requested pages

- Home page (2,591 visits)
- 2003 Annual Scientific Sessions (481)
- Epi Job listing services (446)
- What is epidemiology? (367)
- Directory of Epidemiology Societies (383)

Top two downloaded files

- Atlanta workshop materials
- Newsletter

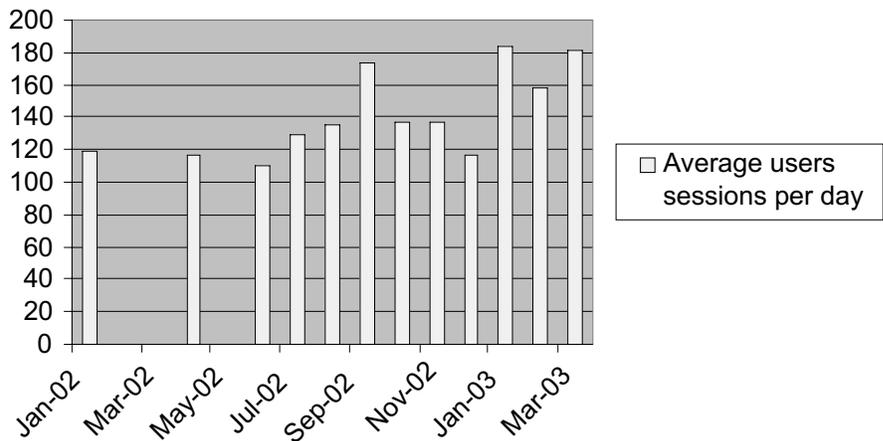
Top referring sites

Google (417 visits), SER (143)

Data for March 2003

The ACE website is showing strong usage with about 180 daily users, up from a mean of 103 daily users in January 2001. Versatility and practicality of the site is evidenced by the large number of brochures and registration materials downloaded during the months preceding the recent ACE meeting held in Albuquerque, as well as other material downloaded for board elections, upcoming workshops and the newsletter. The popularity of the various website directories changes from month to month, reflecting the ebb and flow of annual meetings and major policy issues. The Communications Committee is actively exploring inaugurating online dues payments and meeting registrations, as a new service to members. There is a wealth of information and convenient links on the site today. Check it out! Give us your ideas to keep improving our website: info@acepidemiology.org.

Average users sessions per day



ACE National Office

1500 Sunday Drive
Suite 102
Raleigh, NC 27607
Tel: (919) 861-5573
Fax: (919) 787-4916

ACE Web Site:

www.acepidemiology.org

Newsletter Editor:

Paul H. Levine

Managing Editor:

Peter Kralka

ACE Member Update

ACE News will be printing notes on important awards and position changes involving ACE members. The position changes can be useful to members who may want to contact colleagues about opportunities in their new areas of activity. Suggested contributions should be sent to the ACE office at pkralka@olsonmgmt.com.

Robert A Hiatt, a former ACE President, has recently moved from the National Cancer Institute (NCI) to the University of California in San Francisco (UCSF). As Director of Population Science and Deputy Director of the Comprehensive Cancer Center, he will be working to reproduce the program he helped to develop at NCI in cancer epidemiology, behavioral science, health services research

and surveillance. He has appointments as Professor of Epidemiology and Biostatistics at UCSF and as Senior Scientist for the national Kaiser Permanente Medical Care Program in Oakland.

John M. Last, who received the ACE's Abraham Lilienfeld Award in 1997, was invited by the Senatus Academicus of the University of Edinburgh to receive an honorary degree of Doctor of Medicine on July 12, 2003. Dr. Last's contributions to public health and epidemiology for more than 40 years include his being author or editor of 14 books, chapters in more than 40 books, and over 280 other articles and editorials. He is emeritus professor of epidemiology at the University of Ottawa and an honorary life member in ACE.

EPIDEMIOLOGY ON THE FRONT LINE AND UNDER FIRE:

**Focusing Attention on the
Practical and Methodological Issues
of Conducting Epidemiologic
Research Today**



**AMERICAN COLLEGE OF EPIDEMIOLOGY
ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC SESSIONS**

September 6-9, 2003

Hotel InterContinental · Chicago, Illinois

ACE ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC SESSIONS

September 6 - 9, 2003

Hotel InterContinental • Chicago, Illinois

PRELIMINARY PROGRAM

Saturday, September 6

Preconference Workshops

May choose one of two:

1:00 - 5:00pm

Workshop 6 (half-day) – Ethical Issues Arising from Differing Study Designs – Cohort Studies vs. Randomized Clinical Trials
Robert McKeown, Organizer
(free to participants)

9:00am - 4:00pm

Workshop 7 (full-day) – What's an Epidemiologist to Do? Implications of the Classification of Race and Ethnicity for Research on Health Disparities in Blacks, Asians, Native Hawaiians, and other Pacific Islanders
Vickie Mays, Organizer
(free to all)

5:00 - 7:00pm

Board of Directors Meeting

Sunday, September 7

7:30am - 8:00pm

Conference registration

8:00am - 3:00pm

Board of Directors Meeting

Preconference Workshops

John Acquavella, Organizer

May choose one of three full-day workshops, or up to two half-day workshops (registration fee charged):

9:00am - 5:00pm

Workshop 1 – Multilevel Analysis in Public Health
Ron Harrist, University of Texas School of Public Health

9:00am - 5:00pm

Workshop 2 – Applying Quantitative Sensitivity Analysis to Epidemiologic Data
Timothy L. Lash, Boston University School of Public Health

9:00am - 5:00pm

Workshop 3 – Cognitive Issues Related to the Design of Valid Survey Questions
Dick Warnecke, University of Illinois at Chicago

8:45am - 12:45pm

Workshop 4 – New Approaches in Molecular Epidemiology
Timothy Rebbeck, University of Pennsylvania

1:00 - 5:00 pm

Workshop 5 – Teaching the Teacher: Essential Tools for Analyzing Large Public Health Data Sets
Selected analysts at the National Center for Health Statistics, selected faculty from Schools of Public Health

7:00 - 9:00pm

Host Reception (Chicago: Faith Davis) and Inaugural, Late-Breaking Poster Session

Submit your abstract by July 31 to info@acepidemiology.org.

Monday, September 8

7:00am - 5:00pm

Registration

8:30 - 9:00am

Welcome to ACE Annual Meeting
Carol Hogue, Emory University

continued on page 5

ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC SESSIONS PRELIMINARY PROGRAM

continued from page 4

Welcome to Chicago

Susan Scrimshaw, Dean, UIC SPH

9:00 - 9:45am

Keynote Address – How Much and for How Long Did the WTC Impact on Residents throughout the City? The Epidemiology of Mental Health Among New York City Residents Following September 11th

David Vlahov, Director, Center for Urban Epidemiologic Studies at the New York Academy of Medicine

9:45 - 10:00am

Beverage Break

10:00am - 12:00

Symposium I – When Observational Studies and Randomized Trials Conflict: Lessons from Recent Studies

Marlene Goldman, Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, Harvard Medical School, Moderator

Steven N. Goodman, John Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health – From a Trialist's Perspective

Julie E. Buring, Brigham & Women's Hospital, Harvard Medical School – Lessons from the Women's Health Initiative, Nurses, and Physicians Studies

Robert N. Hoover, National Cancer Institute – Conflicts and Concordance in Trials and Observations

Elizabeth Barrett-Connor, University of California at San Diego – What Have We Learned?

12:00 - 12:10pm

Break

12:10 - 2:20pm

**Buffet Lunch
By reservation only – must pre-register for lunch
Roundtables – Competencies for Doctoral Trained Epidemiologists**

Jonathan Samet, Moderator

Report of the Competencies Workshop

Jonathon Samet and Mike Stoto

2:20 - 2:30pm

Followed by: Facilitated

roundtable discussions about what the role of ACE should be in fostering PhD Competencies

Break

2:30 - 4:00pm

Policy Forum – HIPAA and Beyond
Faith Davis, Moderator

Overview of HIPAA Rules for Epidemiologic Studies

Dennis Deepen

HIPAA Subcommittee of ACE Policy Committee Response

Robert Hiatt

Corporate Perspective

Robin C. Leonard, Dupont

General discussion, including case studies

4:00 - 4:30pm

Presentation by the American Chemistry Council Award Winner, Robert Lyles

Introduction by John Acquavella, Monsanto

continued on page 6



Chicago's Michigan Avenue, photo by Ron Schramm

ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC SESSIONS PRELIMINARY PROGRAM

continued from page 5

4:30 - 5:15pm **ACE Business Meeting**
(members only)

5:15 - 7:15pm **Poster Session/Reception**
Irene Hall, Poster Committee Chair

7:15 - 10:00pm **Evening Out**
(See page 3 for details.)

2:15 - 2:30pm

Break

2:30 - 4:30pm

Symposium III – Challenges to Surveillance

Moderator, Toni Alterman, NIOSH

Speakers, representing varied perspectives, will discuss the general issues using specific examples:

Academic Perspective

Betsy Marshall, UMDNJ – Reproductive Surveillance

Federal Government Perspective

Penn Jacobs, NCEH – Childhood Blood Lead

Insurance Perspective

Gordon Smith, Liberty Mutual – Obtaining Occupational Data from Population-Based Surveys: Methods, Biases and Suggestions

Industry Perspective

William B. Bunn III, International Truck and Engine Corporation – Monitoring and Managing Injuries with Epidemiology

Labor Perspective

Janie Gittleman (Associate Director, Safety and Health Research, Center to Protect Workers' Rights) – Discussant

Tuesday, September 9

7:00 - 11:00am **Registration**

7:30 - 8:45am **Breakfast Roundtables** (various topics, including these listed)

Conversation with JAMA editor

Conversation with Annals of Epidemiology editor

Conversation with ESOP Committee regarding upstream causes of war

8:45 - 8:50am **Break**

8:50 - 9:20am **Presidential Address – “Just the FAQs, Ma’am”**
Carol Hogue

9:20 - 9:50am **Student Prize Paper**

9:50 - 10:00am **Break**

10:00am - 12:00 **Symposium II – Challenges and Solutions to Conducting Epidemiologic Studies in the Current Era**
Moderator, Ed Trapido, NCI

Gene-Environment Analyses
Sandra Melnick, NCI, invited

Telephone, Internet or Other Survey Approaches?
David Sly, invited

Probabilistic Record Linkage
Jack Leiss, invited

12:00 - 2:15pm **Lillienfeld Awards Banquet, honoring Dr. Elizabeth Barrett-Connor**

4:45pm

Adjourn

Save the Date!

September 15-18, 2003

Visit www.cancerconference.net/sig for additional details about CDC's 2003 Cancer Conference, *Comprehensive Approaches to Cancer Control—The Public Health Role.*

REGISTRATION FORM

ACE Annual Scientific Sessions

September 6 - 9, 2003 • Hotel InterContinental • Chicago, Illinois

Pre-registration closes on August 15, 2003. Registrations received after August 15 will be processed at on-site rates. Refunds will be issued for cancellations received in writing by August 22, 2003.

Please print or type the following information. It will be used to print your name badge and mail your confirmation.

Name _____
FIRST MIDDLE LAST DEGREE
Institution _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Daytime Telephone _____ Fax _____
E-mail _____

Workshop Registration

Preconference Workshops – September 7

Five workshops will be held on Sunday, September 7. Enrollment is limited. Please indicate your 1st, 2nd, and 3rd choices. You will be assigned your highest priority available.

- _____ **Workshop 1** – (Full Day) Multilevel Analysis in Public Health, Ron Harrist, University of Texas School of Public Health
- _____ **Workshop 2** – (Full Day) Applying Quantitative Sensitivity Analysis to Epidemiologic Data, Timothy L. Lash, Boston University School of Public Health
- _____ **Workshop 3** – (Full Day) Cognitive Issues Related to the Design of Valid Survey Questions, Dick Warnecke, University of Illinois at Chicago
- _____ **Workshop 4** – (Half Day) New Approaches in Molecular Epidemiology, Tim Rebbeck, University of Pennsylvania
- _____ **Workshop 5** – (Half Day) Teaching the Teacher: Essential Tools for Analyzing Large Public Health Data Sets

Fee for Full-Day Workshops (1, 2, 3)

Member \$165 \$ _____
Non-Member \$210 \$ _____
Student* \$110 \$ _____

Fee for Half-Day Workshop (4, 5)

Member \$105 \$ _____
Non-Member \$165 \$ _____
Student* \$ 85 \$ _____

(A \$50 surcharge will be assessed for on-site preconference workshop registration.)

Workshops Free of Charge – September 6

Two workshops will be held on Saturday, September 6, free of charge. Please indicate which one you would like to attend:

- _____ **Workshop 6 (1 - 5pm)** – Ethical Issues Arising from Differing Study Designs – Cohort Studies vs. Randomized Clinical Trials, Robert McKeown, ESOP Committee Chair
- _____ **Workshop 7 (9am - 4pm)** – What's an Epidemiologist to Do? Implications of the Classification of Race and Ethnicity for Research on Health Disparities in Blacks, Asians, Native Hawaiians, and other Pacific Islanders, Vickie Mays, ACE Minority Affairs Committee Chair

Monday Lunch/Roundtables – September 8

(must pre-register – includes lunch)

_____ Competencies for Doctoral Trained Epidemiologists
..... \$19 \$ _____

General Registration

Registration includes all sessions (except preconference workshops and lunch roundtable workshops), breaks, roundtable breakfast, banquet, and poster reception.

	Before 8/15	After 8/15 and On-site	
Member	\$250	\$300	\$ _____
Non-Member	\$340	\$380	\$ _____
Student*	\$120	\$150	\$ _____

*Proof of student status is required.

Registrations received after 8/22 will be processed on-site.

Banquet

Do you plan to attend the Tuesday lunch banquet on September 9?
 Yes No

Special Services

Please check here if you require special accommodations to fully participate. Attach a written description.

Payment Information

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

Check or credit card information must be received with registration form. Please either fax **OR** mail registration form. Do not fax **AND** mail registration form! Thank you.

- Check (US currency, payable to American College of Epidemiology)
 MasterCard Visa American Express

Authorized Cardholder (Please print): _____

Card Number: _____ Exp. Date: _____

Please Mail or Fax This Form with Payment to:

American College of Epidemiology
1500 Sunday Drive, Suite 102
Raleigh, North Carolina 27607

Phone: (919) 861-5573 • Fax: (919) 787-4916

Questions? Please call us at (919) 861-5573 or e-mail us at info@acepidemiology.org.

For Membership Information – Please visit the ACE website at www.acepidemiology.org.

2002-2003 ACE Board of Directors

President

Carol J. Rowland Hogue, PhD, MPH
E-mail: hogue@sph.emory.edu

President-Elect

Carlos A. Camargo Jr., MD, DrPH
E-mail: ccamargo@partners.org

Immediate Past President

Richard A. Kaslow, MD
E-mail: rkaslow@uab.edu

Secretary

John Acquavella, PhD
E-mail: john.f.acquavella@stl.monsanto.com

Treasurer

James J. Collins, PhD
E-mail: jjcollins@dow.com

Board of Directors

Roger H. Bernier, PhD
E-mail: rhb2@cdc.gov

Aaron E. Blair, PhD
E-mail: Blaira@epndce.nih.gov

Melissa Bondy, PhD
mbondy@request.mdacc.tmc.edu

Betsy Foxman, PhD
E-mail: bfoxman@umich.edu

Marlene B. Goldman, ScD
E-mail: mgoldman@caregroup.harvard.edu

Camara Phyllis Jones, MD, MPH, PhD
E-mail: cdj9@cdc.gov

Nancy Kreiger, MPH, PhD
nancy.kreiger@cancercare.on.ca

Martha S. Linet, MD
E-mail: linetm@exchange.nih.gov

Rosanne B. McTyre, PhD
E-mail: romc@weinberggroup.com

Colin L. Soskolne, PhD
E-mail: soskolne@ualberta.ca

Zuo-Feng Zhang, MD, PhD
zfzhang@ucla.edu

AMERICAN COLLEGE OF EPIDEMIOLOGY



1500 Sunday Drive, Suite 102, Raleigh, NC 27607
Phone: (919) 861-5573; Fax: (919) 787-4916
www.acepidemiology.org