



President's Letter

John Acquavella, *ACE President*

Looking Back and Ahead at 25



Ed Trapido and Irene Hall have done a sensational job organizing this year's annual ACE meeting ([see accompanying article](#)), which marks 25 years since the inaugural meeting of the College. The attendance of so many past presidents, Lilienfeld and other distinguished award winners, and other leaders in the field provides an opportunity to consider how the College has evolved since its inception and to look ahead to the next quarter century.

The welcome by former HHS Secretary ,

Donna Shalala, and the address by this year's Lilienfeld Award winner, Noel Weiss, promises to add excitement and extra interest for meeting participants. Looking back, the College was founded "to provide a means for certifying epidemiologists who are trained and/or accomplished in the practice of their discipline." The founders also saw a role for the College in continuing education and to be a forum for issues that affect the practice of epidemiology. These precepts shaped the first impressions of the College and continue to influence how ACE is viewed today.

First impressions aside, ACE is much different today than it was at its inception. Gone are the certification exams. The membership categories have expanded to include a broader spectrum of practicing epidemiologists, including productive masters' level epidemiologists and a new associate member category. Associate members, Jennifer Fergenbaum and Melinda Aldrich, have served on the Board of Directors (in 2006 and 2007, respectively) and contributed significantly to College development.

Mirroring changes in the field and society, the College has become much more diverse demographically and now has a significant proportion of members who work in the private sector. Fellows were once an overwhelming proportion of the total College membership, but current membership is substantially younger and Fellows are a distinct minority. The cumulative effect is that ACE resembles the field to a much greater extent than it did at its founding.

The College has evolved to fill a unique niche for the profession. ACE is well known for a focus on policy issues and recently catalyzed the formation of a joint policy committee involving all the major North American epidemiology societies. ACE is well known for a focus on policy issues. ACE is widely known for its attention to ethical matters, its role in continuing education workshops at epidemiology society meetings, as a leader in minority affairs, and for outreach to involve more minorities in epidemiology. Perhaps most importantly, ACE is unique for its active committee structure, including, most recently, a committee on mentorship, and for balance among elected officers and appointed committee members in terms of demographics and employment sector. In this way, ACE is likely the most democratic of the epidemiology societies, which bodes well for being able to address the needs of the membership in future years.

Calendar of Events

July 16-August 16
[Online Elections](#)

September 15-18, 2007
[ACE Annual Meeting](#)
Ft Lauderdale, Florida

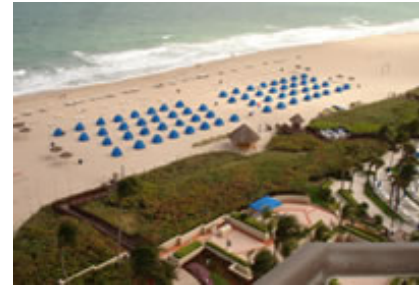
We owe a debt of gratitude to the founders of the College. Their vision was for ACE to serve the needs of practicing epidemiologists. An intriguing aspect of this year's Annual Meeting is the chance to hear perspectives about the past, present, and future from many who were involved in the early days of the College. As we approach this milestone meeting, I hope the evolution of the College is seen as true to the founding vision and that this year's meeting marks the passage of that vision to those who will lead the College during the next 25 years.

Top Stories – ACE 2007

Update on the 25th Anniversary Annual ACE Meeting

Ed Trapido, *ACE 2007 Annual Meeting Program Chair*

An extension of summer awaits those who attend this year's celebratory 25th ACE meeting, at the Marriott Harbor Beach Hotel, in Fort Lauderdale (Sept 15-18). The meeting theme, "Positioning Epidemiology for a Changing Environment: The Next 25 Years," will focus on the rapid changes in the field over the last 25 years, and where the field and ACE need to go in the next 25 years.



As epidemiologists deal with changes in science, globalization, and public health priorities, and address present and future challenges, we hope this meeting will provide valuable insights as ACE faces its second quarter century. So, rather than a program with a disease or exposure theme, we chose this "silver" anniversary meeting to inform where ACE has been and to consider where ACE should go to remain a leading organization for epidemiologists.

The prelude to the meeting begins with the Minority Affairs Committee workshop on Saturday, Sept 15, and with the continuing educational workshops on Sunday, Sept 16. Included among these are sessions on Pharmacoepidemiology, Social and Infectious Disease Epidemiology, and Instrumental Variable Analysis.

The capstone of Sunday evening is the Host Reception, sponsored by the University of Miami, Department of Epidemiology and Public Health. This reception will take place outside (weather permitting), a stone's throw (or a seashell toss) from the Atlantic. It will be a chance to greet/meet other ACE Members and Associate Members, including many of the past Presidents and Lilienfeld Award Winners that we will honor and hear on Tuesday, Sept 18.

For those making it to the breakfast roundtables on Monday, ACE will set up tables for informal discussions with those honored, including some of the individuals who have most influenced the field and the College. This will be followed by the official Opening and Welcome, led by Donna Shalala, President of the University of Miami, and Edward Trapido, the ACE 2007 Program Chair.



The Opening Forum, which follows next, will address the National and Global Burden of Disease in the Future, with a speaker from the CDC, Matthew McKenna (Director, Office of Smoking and Health), and from the NIH, Roger Glass (Director, Fogarty International Center). Plenary I is on "Ethics and Pandemology," moderated by Ken Goodman, Director of the Bioethics Program at the University of Miami.

At the ACE luncheon, a spotlight will be the workshop on "Impact of Mandatory and/or Universal Immunization for HPV on the Epidemiology of Cervical Cancer", by Patricia Buffler, Eduardo

Franco, and Melinda Aldrich. Alternatively, attendees may choose to participate in the lunchtime "Meet the Editor Session: The Future of Peer-Reviewed Scientific Journal Publishing," moderated by Jim Gurney.

There could not be a more relevant session when considering the past and future of epidemiology than the epidemiologic response to natural and human-made disasters, featuring presentations on the Iraq War,

Ground Zero, and Hurricane Katrina.

Monday evening will conclude with the ACE Poster Session, Career Development Grants Workshop, and the Student/Post Doc/Associate Member Reception.

Moving to Tuesday, Sept 18, breakfast roundtables include topics on influenza, breast cancer, use of secondary data, and "Epidemiology and the Current State of Corporate-sponsored Science." This will be followed by the Presidential Address: That was "Then, This is Now," presented by ACE President John Acquavella, Executive Director, Global Epidemiology, Amgen, Inc.

Plenary III, on Tuesday morning, covers "Planning for 2030", and David Lilienfeld will start the session with the "History of ACE". This will be followed by recognition of the contributions of past ACE Presidents, Lilienfeld Awardees, and past ACE Service Award winners. Several honorees will present their views on where epidemiology is going, focused on issues of infancy, adolescence, or adulthood. Those participating are a veritable "Who's Who" in Epidemiology, and include George Comstock, Manning Feinleib, Pat Buffler, Dale Sandler, Bob Hiatt, John Last, and Carol Hogue. This session will be chaired by David Schottenfeld.

The final educational session will be on "Systems Approaches in Epidemiology", and features several outstanding presentations.

The meeting will end Tuesday afternoon, with the Awards Banquet, award of major prizes including the 2007 Lilienfeld Award, the ACE Sir Richard Doll Award, the Epidemiology Student Prize, and the Annals of Epidemiology Prize Paper. The 2007 Lilienfeld Award will be awarded to Noel Weiss, followed by a brief presentation.

We hope to see you at this milestone Annual Meeting where we will celebrate the past 25 years and look forward to greater accomplishments during the next quarter century.

(Photographs taken by ACE Member at Marriott Harbor Beach)

2007 ACE Prize Paper

Jim Gurney, Chair of the Publications Committee



Bruna Galobardes

This year marks the inaugural presentation of the ACE Prize Paper. Coordinated by the ACE Publications Committee and chosen by the Editor-in-Chief and the Associate Editors from articles published in the *Annals of Epidemiology* during 2006, this year's prize paper award goes to **Bruna Galobardes** of the Department of Social Medicine at the University of Bristol in Bristol UK. She and co-authors George Davey Smith and John W. Lynch wrote an excellent paper titled: "Systematic review of the influence of childhood socioeconomic circumstances on risk for cardiovascular disease in adulthood" (*Ann Epidemiol* 2006; 16:91-104). The award carries a \$3000 honorarium and travel expenses to the 2007 ACE meeting in Fort Lauderdale. We are pleased that Dr. Galobardes will be present to accept her award during the Awards Luncheon on Tuesday, September 18.

ACE workshop: The Hispanic Community Health Study / Study of Latinos (HCHS/SOL)

Vickie Mays, Minority Affairs Committee Member

As part of its mission to increase minority representation in epidemiology and recommend actions to increase research on health concerns of minority populations, the Minority Affairs Committee (MAC) is sponsoring an all-day scientific workshop to introduce the Hispanic Community Health Study / Study of Latinos (HCHS/SOL).

Scheduled to be launched in Fall 2007, the HCHS/SOL is a multi-center epidemiologic cohort study of approximately 16,000 Latinos of Cuban, Puerto Rican, Mexican and Central/South American origin being conducted at 5 sites throughout the United States. The investigators from each of the sites will attend the workshop and share with us data from the preliminary efforts on the study.

Study goals include studying the prevalence and development of physical disease in Hispanics/Latinos, the role of acculturation, and the identification of risk factors that play protective or harmful roles in Hispanics/Latinos physical health using extensive clinic exams and interviews. Join us in learning about innovation and sharing of best practices in the design, conduct and analysis of epidemiologic studies of Latino subpopulations in the United States.

The study investigators attending the meeting are Paul Sorlie (NIH/NHLBI Project Officer, HCHS), Sylvia Wassertheil-Smoller (Albert Einstein College of Medicine of Yeshiva University); Martha Daviglus (Northwestern University); Neil Schneiderman, (University of Miami); Greg Talavera (San Diego State University); and Lloyd E. Chambless (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, PI, HCHS Data Coordinating Center).

From the Board of Directors

Proposed bylaw changes

Lorann Stallones, *ACE Secretary*

The ACE Board of Directors has proposed two changes to the current bylaws on which you will be asked to vote between July 17 and August 17. The first proposal is to allow Associate Members to vote. The second proposal is to create a separate committee for planning the annual meeting. Currently, the Annual Meeting subcommittee is under the auspices of the Education committee and the effort devoted to the annual meeting planning detracts from the other activities of the Education committee. These changes are described below.



Article I. Membership; Section 7.

Current: Members shall be entitled to all privileges of Fellows except those of serving as chairpersons of standing committees. Associate Members shall be entitled to all the privileges of membership except those of voting or serving as officers, directors, or chairpersons of committees; they may serve as the Associate Director or as a member of any standing committee of the College.

Proposed: Members shall be entitled to all privileges of Fellows except those of serving as chairpersons of standing committees. Associate Members shall be entitled to all the privileges of membership except serving as officers, directors, or chairpersons of committees; they may serve as the Associate Director or as a member of any standing committee of the College.

Article IX: Special Committees; Section 2

Current: The Program Committee for each annual meeting, consisting of three Fellows or Members, shall be appointed and its chairman designated by the President. The Committee shall serve as a Subcommittee of the Education Committee. At least one Member of the Education Committee will serve as an ex-officio Member of the Committee.

Proposed: The Program Committee for each annual meeting shall be appointed by the President. Members will include the current meeting chair, the past chair, the designated chair for the next annual meeting, and ad hoc members as deemed necessary. The committee shall report to the Board of Directors. Standing committees may appoint a member to serve as liaison to the program committee.

What's new for associate members!

Melinda Aldrich, *Associate Member Representative*



As the Associate Director, I invite you to take advantage of the many opportunities for students and Associate Members at the upcoming Annual Meeting. Registration fees for the Annual Meeting have been dramatically reduced for students. Register now online and take advantage of these incredible opportunities! A special Associate Member/ student/ post-doc reception on Monday, September 17, will give you the opportunity to meet and network with not only other students and Associate Members but also senior colleagues and the ACE Board of Directors, including our ACE President, John Acquavella. This is a great chance for you to chat with some extraordinary epidemiologists.

The Mentoring Committee has developed a special program on Career Development Grants facilitated by Faith Davis (University of Illinois at Chicago) featuring a discussion of the different types of NIH K awards. We anticipate having a Training Director of one of the NIH institutes that administers these awards provide an overview of each type of award and a review of the submission criteria. Current awardees will share their experiences and approaches in successfully obtaining a K-award and a reviewer will provide their viewpoint. This promises to be an informative session. We are also inviting this panel to stay for the reception that follows to allow for lots of one-on-one interaction.

A variety of workshops offer exceptional opportunities for learning. On Saturday, September 15, the Minority Affairs Committee Workshop will discuss ways to recruit and retain Hispanics, valuable skills for those researching disease outcomes in this growing U.S. population. Several full and half-day workshops offered on Sunday, September 16, will cover topics including social epidemiology, instrumental variable analysis, pharmacoepidemiology, advanced epidemiology and biorepositories, exposure measurement, and getting your epidemiology career started and navigating the NIH funding process. The luncheon policy roundtable, sponsored by the International Epidemiological Association, will be held on Monday, September 17. This roundtable will address the implications of the controversial policy recommending immunization for HPV in girls and women. Specifically, the roundtable will evaluate the impact of mandatory and/or universal immunization for HPV on the epidemiology of cervical cancer. Eduardo Franco (McGill University) and Patricia Buffler (University of California, Berkeley) will give a presentation to be followed by an open discussion. This roundtable promises to be an exciting event you won't want to miss! Attending one of the breakfast roundtables on Tuesday, September 18 is another chance for you to learn and ask questions of notable colleagues about topics relevant to the field of epidemiology in an informal and low-key setting. Come join us for breakfast, learn, and meet your colleagues.

As always, please feel free to contact me with your ideas, questions, or comments: maldrich@berkeley.edu. See you in Ft. Lauderdale!

Committees

Nominations Committee

Martha Linet, *Committee Chair*

The ACE Nominations Committee successfully concluded selection of an outstanding slate of nominees for four positions on the ACE Board of Directors (BOD) and for the position of President-Elect. [see [online statements](#)] The Committee conferred with members of the Executive Committee, the BOD, and Committee Chairs to identify a group of hard-working Committee Chairs or committee members who have demonstrated initiative, creativity, and leadership skills. From a stellar group of six ACE Fellows, the ACE membership will select persons to replace three ACE Fellows whose terms on the Board are concluding. The six fellows are Victor Cardenas, Olivia Carter-Pokras, Jim Gurney, De-kun

Fellows Corner Newly Appointed Fellows - Summer 2007

Marcella Devoto
Kimberly Forrest
Ellen Goode
De-Kun Li
Donald Miller
Gunta Obrams
Charles Okei
Cynthia O'Malley
William Osei
Donna Parker



Li, Ed Trapido, and Qingyi Wei. Two ACE Members (Ahmed Arif and Sunday Clark) whose long-standing contributions to ACE have agreed to run for the fourth position being vacated on the BOD. Candidates for the position of President-Elect are Jim Collins, long-time Treasurer of our organization and whose outstanding quantitative skills as an epidemiologist have also been employed in service of the financial health and growth of our reserves, and Roberta Ness, whose service as former Chair of the Policy Committee has led to breakthroughs in problems related to HIPAA confronting all of us. The Nominations Committee included Martha Linet (Chair), Betsy Foxman, Ann Hsing, Carol Hogue, and Dick Kaslowe.

Walker Poston
Rachel Stolzenberg-
Solomon

Commentary

Please vote for new ACE Board members and president *Carol Burns*, *Editor* (cburns@dow.com).

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