



## President's Letter

**Nancy Kreiger, ACE President**

As the year draws to a close, I recognize that there are many people to thank. The work of the College is carried out by its Committees, ranging from Admissions to Publications. This year, all of the Committees of the College have developed important new projects to improve and enhance the working lives of epidemiologists. These projects, in various states of completion as we arrive at our annual meeting, include:

- membership outreach, engagement, and mentoring;
- the workforce survey;
- a review of competencies for both Master's and doctoral epidemiologists;
- enhanced educational opportunities (both workshops and the annual meetings);
- continued development of the collaboration with other epidemiology organizations on policies affecting our profession;
- continued improvements to the scientific standing of the Annals of Epidemiology; funding initiatives for special projects; and,
- consideration of guidelines relating to conflicts of interest.



We continue to be inclusive: of epidemiologists working around the globe, and of epidemiologists in - among other settings - academia, government, industry, and public health. We celebrate our successes through awards to distinguished colleagues for their lifetime achievements and for their specific notable papers. And we meet annually to learn from each other, and to expand our epidemiological horizons into areas in which we may be neophytes. This year's meeting, 'The Dawn of Evolutionary Epidemiology', comprises an excellent program; next year's theme - epidemiology at the crossroads: novel approaches and impact on policy - likewise promises to be very exciting.

I'd like to end by stating what may be the obvious: the work of the College is enabled to a high degree by the coordination and support of First Point Resources, the College's management company in North Carolina. Because of the excellent people at First Point, the members and fellows of the College are able to focus on our substantive work, knowing that organizational issues are well taken care of.

As we enter a new year for the College, I send my best regards to you all and look forward to seeing you in Tucson.

## Calendar of Events

*Early Bird Registration Ends*  
August 24, 2008

[ACE Annual Meeting](#)  
Tucson, AZ  
September 14-16, 2008

[Epidemics<sup>1</sup>](#)  
Asilomar, CA  
December 1 - 3, 2008

## Top Stories

**Dawn of Evolutionary Epidemiology: Applying Evolutionary Theory in an Epidemiologic**

## Context"

**Betsy Foxman, Annual Meeting Program Chair**

Presentations by eminent scientists will discuss a range of applications of evolutionary theory in epidemiology, from genetic epidemiology, to health disparities, to infection, to mental health. The pre-meeting program includes stimulating workshops, and the program itself includes special educational events. See details online [<http://www.acepidemiology2.org/meetings/2008Tuscon/08Tusconamprogram.html>]

The meeting will kick off with a talk by Randolph Nesse on "Evolution, how it works and why epidemiologists should care." Dr. Nesse is Professor of Psychiatry and Professor of Psychology at the University of Michigan, where he directs the Evolution and Human Adaptation Program. He collaborated with the George Williams to write several seminal works on Darwinian medicine, including *Why We Get Sick: The New Science of Darwinian Medicine*.



Are you interested in learning more about using evolutionary theory? Randolph Nesse will lead a planning meeting right after the Tuesday Award Banquet.



The 2008 **Lilienfeld Award** will be presented to **Roger Detels**, Professor of Epidemiology, the University of California, Los Angeles, School of Public Health, at the Award Banquet on Tuesday, September 16. The Lilienfeld Award is named in honor of the late Abraham Lilienfeld, a pioneer in epidemiology, renowned as a mentor and teacher. Dr. Detels is one of the pioneers in HIV/AIDS epidemiology research and one of the founders in the establishment of the Multicenter HIV/AIDS Cohort Study (MACS). The MACS study has published over 1,000 research articles which have provided important information relevant for HIV/AIDS epidemiology, public health, prevention and control, for clinical treatment regimes and for our understanding of the human immune system. Dr. Detels has trained over 100 Ph.D. graduates in epidemiology, serving as Chairs of their Ph.D. committees; has published more than 350 peer-reviewed articles in epidemiology; and has obtained over \$100 million in research and training grants during the past 40 years.

The 2008 **Student Prize Paper** winner is **Stella Koutros**, of the Division of Cancer Epidemiology and Genetics, National Cancer Institute. She will present her paper, "Use of Imazethapyr, an Aromatic Amine Pesticide, and Human Cancer Risk" on Tuesday, September 16.



The 2008 **American College of Epidemiology Annals of Epidemiology Award** winner is **Esben Budtz-Jørgensen, MSc, PhD**, Associate Professor of the Department of Biostatistics, Institute of Public Health, at the University of Copenhagen. The title of his paper is "Confounder Selection in Environmental Epidemiology: Assessment of Health Effects of Prenatal Mercury Exposure"

## Committees

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### Admissions Committee

**Sandy Sulsky, 2008 Admissions Committee Chair**

During 2007, members of the Admissions and Membership Committees worked together to clarify eligibility guidelines for all levels of membership in the College. The group especially focused on clarifying Associate and Member eligibility guidelines for professional epidemiologists with Master's level training. All guidelines, along with illustrative vignettes, are available on the College's website (<http://www.acepidemiology2.org/members/meminfo.asp>).

In the last calendar year, the Admissions Committee reviewed 111 applications, including those of 24 students who applied for Associate Membership. Five Associate Members were promoted to Member, and five Members were promoted to Fellow. Between January and March, when we began tracking applications from epidemiologists with Master's level training, one applicant has been accepted to the College as an Associate Member. Professional epidemiologists with Master's level training will be a target of outreach by the Membership Committee in the coming months. The Board of Directors received recommendations to admit or re-admit over 97% of applicants.

## Mentoring Committee

**Eric Shattuck**

At the annual meeting, the mentoring committee will be offering a luncheon entitled, "Academia, Government, or Industry: Which is the best fit for me?" Four panelists, Drs. Martha Linet, John Acquavella, Roberta Ness, and Pauline Mendola, will each give a brief overview of their particular sector of employment and afterwards be available for questions. Dr. Linet, from the National Institutes of Health, and Dr. Mendola of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention will represent the government/public sector of epidemiology. Dr. Acquavella, of Amgen, Inc. and the University of Massachusetts, will speak about private industry. Dr. Ness, of the University of Pittsburgh, will discuss epidemiology in an academic setting. This event is targeted to students or associate members who wish to know more about each particular environment as they embark on their careers.

## Fellows Corner Newly Appointed Fellows - Summer 2008

Gary Gackstetter  
Kathleen McDavid  
Eyal Shaha

## Communications Committee

**David Lilienfeld, 2008 Communications Committee Chair**

The Communications Committee has been busy on three fronts. First, the College needs both immediate and long-term plans for managing the ACE web site. The Communications Committee has established a subcommittee to develop the needed plans. A remodeling of the website is also in the works, though the timing remains to be settled. Another major focus of the Committee's activities has been the revision of the recruitment poster. The original poster was successfully used at the 2006 Congress. A subcommittee has been established to construct a revised poster, which should be usable at a variety of scientific meetings as the College reaches out to new members.

## Commentary

If you will be in Tucson for the Annual Meeting, please plan on attending the Award Banquet on September 16. Recognizing excellence is not limited to sports or the Olympics. Congratulations to the winners. *Carol Burns, Editor* ([cburns@dow.com](mailto:cburns@dow.com)).

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