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 Sharon Saydah
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Message from the President Ross Brownson



Greetings ACE members!! As I write this note in the summer, I am thinking about ACE: where we are and our future. I'm also thinking about baseball! As the baseball legend and philosopher Yogi Berra once said, "If you don't know where you are going, you might wind up somewhere else." With that caution in mind, I will update you on a few important ACE activities that point to where we are going.

As you will recall, an outstanding committee produced a draft Strategic Plan. The group was chaired by Marie

Swanson and included: Alberto Caban-Martinez, Elizabeth Fontham, Julie Goodman, Robert McKeown, and Victor Schoenbach. The Plan, a blueprint for our next five years, articulates six core goals for the College. The Plan has been reviewed multiple times by the board and all ACE committees, and we also solicited input from the full ACE membership. Following this extensive input, the Plan was finalized and posted at <http://acepidemiology.org/content/strategic-plan>.

Next up, we will begin a focus on implementation of the Plan. The continued focus on our Plan and tracking progress in implementing the Plan will occur largely via our 13 committees. If we carry out the Plan as our leadership group has envisioned, ACE will be a stronger and more vibrant force for the practice of epidemiology.

As another guide to our future, I have been co-chairing a special workgroup with Jon Samet. Our charge is to 1) document major, macro-level changes that affect both epidemiologic research and practice and 2) develop and disseminate a set of competencies and recommendation for epidemiologic training that will address this changing landscape. In my address at the annual meeting, I will describe the major findings from this workgroup on the future of epidemiologic training.

In the near term, our annual meeting is shaping up to be an exciting event. Under the theme of "Making Epidemiology More Consequential," the workshops and

presentations will focus on how epidemiology is used to directly impact the public health of communities and societies, both locally and globally. I look forward to seeing you at our annual meeting in Silver Spring, Maryland, on September 6-9.

If you have other ideas on how we can chart the future of ACE, please contact me. Thanks for all you do!!

Top Story

ACE 2014 Annual Conference



2014 ACE Annual Meeting Silver Spring, Maryland | September 6 - 9, 2014

The American College of Epidemiology will host its Annual Scientific Meeting on **September 6th through September 9th, 2014** at the Sheraton Silver Spring Hotel in Silver Spring, Maryland, which is located just minutes from downtown Washington, D.C. Revolving around the theme of "*Making Epidemiology More Consequential*," this year's meeting will explore the various strategies, tools and innovative approaches that epidemiologic research can be utilized to directly impact public health practice and policies in local, national and global settings.

Sandro Galea, MD, MPH, DrPH will give this year's keynote address titled "*The Consequences of Consequentialism*." Dr. Galea, a Gelman Professor and Chair of Epidemiology at the Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health, will highlight the knowledge and skills which epidemiologists bring to the public health arena to achieve measurable improvements in population health and subsequently inform public health policies.

The year's Meeting will foster a unique gathering of epidemiologists from academia, government, health care and other industries. The more than 50 distinguished speakers and panelists on the program include experts from:

- Amgen,
- Cornerstone Government Affairs,
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention,
- Creighton University,
- Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development,
- Kaiser Permanente,
- New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene,
- National Institutes of Health,
- Southern Illinois University School of Medicine,
- University of Toronto,
- University of Alberta, and
- U.S. Food and Drug Administration's Office of Pharmacovigilance and Epidemiology.

The 4-day conference will consist of information-rich educational workshops, brown bag and plenary sessions that will emphasize the epidemiologists' role in advocating for national attention and support in conducting public health research. Workshop and Session Topics include:

- Dissemination and Implementation of Research in Health: Implications and Opportunities for Epidemiologists
- Understanding the Partnership Between Epidemiology, the Congress and Federal Agencies to Improve Public Health Policy
- The Future of Epidemiology: Toward a Science of Change and Real World Impact
- Informing the Bridge Between Primary Care and Population Health
- Past, Present and Future of Epidemiology

Attendees will have the opportunity to interact with government relations experts on how to articulate and communicate the importance of epidemiology to lawmakers and policy officials in "*Discussion with Capitol Hill Staffers about using Epidemiology Data to inform Policy.*" Spotlight sessions will hone in on specialty public health areas including reproductive health and pharmacoepidemiology. The ACE Minority Affairs Committee will organize a workshop focused on factors affecting policies that influence minority health.

Two new opportunities open to this year's attendees involve tours intended to enrich program attendees' overall experiences.

Curated Poster Tours: For the first time, program attendees can sign up to participate in curated poster tours led by three distinguished ACE officers: Dr. Debbie Winn, Vice Chair of the ACE Publication Committee; Dr. Sandy Sulsky, Chair of ACE Awards Committee; and Dr. Bertha Hidalgo, ACE Minority Affairs Committee Liaison. The 45-minute tours will respectively focus on the areas of cancer, health disparities and environmental and occupational health. The tour leaders will bridge professional and disciplinary perspectives by facilitating a mini discussion on current trends and pointing out effective approaches to communicating key messages.

Museum Tours in Washington, DC: Program attendees will be able to take advantage of the proximity of the event to our nation's capital by signing up for museum tours to (1) the National Gallery of Art to explore paintings with public health implications and (2) the National Air and Space Museum at the Smithsonian Institution to touch the "moon rock."

Registration information, preliminary program agenda and hotel arrangements can be found by visiting <http://www.acepidemiology.org/content/ace-2014-conference-registration>. Do not miss the opportunity to be part of what is going to be a rich and insightful gathering in our nation's capital.

Funding Available for Projects Related to Epidemiological Methods Through PCORI Comparative Effectiveness Research (CER) Methods Program

The [Patient Centered Outcomes Research Institute \(PCORI\)](#) is a non-profit research funding organization that aims to help patients, clinicians, purchasers, policy makers, and other stakeholders make better-informed healthcare-decisions and improve care delivery and outcomes. PCORI achieves this aim by advancing the quality and relevance of evidence for how to prevent, diagnose, treat, monitor, and manage diseases, disorders, and other health conditions through support of research projects in five priority research areas, one of which focuses on accelerating patient-centered comparative effectiveness research (CER) and methodological research.

PCORI recognizes that the ability of researchers to conduct robust patient-centered CER is limited at times due to inadequacies in current research methods and infrastructure. To address methodological limitations, PCORI is working closely with its [Methodology Committee](#) to identify areas where methodological innovations and advancements are necessary and to fund research that addresses these needs.

The PCORI CER Methods Program is pleased to announce its most [recent funding announcement](#), which is posted in the [PCORI Funding Center](#).

Members of the American College of Epidemiology may find several of the CER Methods Program's areas of interest of relevance.

PCORI recognizes that a variety of analytic methods may contribute valid new knowledge. PCORI is interested in supporting research that aims to improve the validity and/or efficiency of analytic methods for PCOR and CER. In particular, PCORI seeks to fund innovative proposals around involving patients and stakeholders in PCOR/CER. This could include research on methods for engaging patients, clinicians, and other stakeholders throughout the research process, such as the identification of meaningful research questions and outcomes to be measured, study governance, data collection, development of analysis plans, interpretation of findings, and dissemination of results.

Proposals should focus on an area of research interest described in the [funding announcement](#) and meet PCORI's five merit review criteria. A detailed description of the five criteria



is available in the [funding announcement](#). With regard to the fifth criterion, PCORI recognizes that patient engagement is often not feasible for highly technical methods projects. In these situations, PCORI encourages applicants to consider whether it is feasible to engage stakeholders and/or relevant end users. If investigators believe it is not appropriate to engage patients in a proposed research project, they should explain why.

Summaries of [PCORI-funded projects](#) are available on the PCORI website. Individuals with questions regarding PCORI funding announcements, can visit PCORI's [contact us](#) page to submit their queries.

The Age of Sharing: Free Epidemiology Teaching Materials

As epidemiologists, collaboration is a natural part of our daily lives. No matter our work environment - whether we work in a laboratory, office building, or out in the field; academia, government, or consulting - working effectively with others and learning from others' experiences is key to success. One way to learn from others is through shared teaching materials. Whether you are new to a topic yourself or you're hoping to improve your teaching materials, free resources continue to become more and more available.



Most free online epidemiology courses are OpenCourseWare (OCW) classes, which means they were offered on-campus but are now available online for free from some institutions. These courses contain lectures that can be viewed directly online or downloaded to a media player. Additional OCW materials frequently include assignments, exams, study materials, and links to relevant resources. Johns Hopkins School of Public Health (<http://ocw.jhsph.edu/>) offers materials on over 100 courses, including full course lecture materials on

the fundamentals of epidemiology as well as content areas including psychiatric epidemiology, infectious disease epidemiology, perinatal epidemiology, and using epidemiology to inform STI policies and programs. Tufts University (<http://ocw.tufts.edu/CourseList>) offers lecture materials for introductory epidemiology and biostatistics, and other public health topics such as an introduction to Geographic Information Systems (GIS), pathophysiology of infectious diseases, population health, and oral public health.

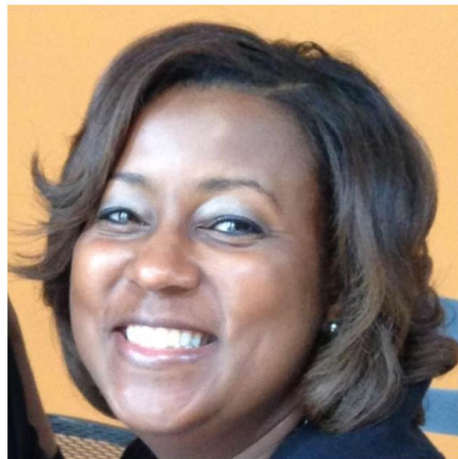
Be sure to review limitations of OCW material usage, which typically forbid the use of materials for commercial purposes and often require giving credit to the developer. Here is an example of terms of use: <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/3.0/>.

Another repository of epidemiology lecture materials is Supercourse (<http://www.pitt.edu/~super1/index.htm>), which was produced at the WHO Collaborating Center at the University of Pittsburgh, and whose tagline is 'Epidemiology, the Internet, and Global Health.' Supercourse has been developed by over 56,000 collaborators from 174 countries, and the result is over 5,800 lectures on global health and research methods. All Supercourse materials are open source and developed at the Library of Alexandria. Visit the Supercourse website to begin browsing! Navigation on the website's right side allows search by keyword, topic, author name, or year.

Want to share other free epidemiology and public health teaching materials? Let us know! Email Joe Holbrook at holbrookjoe@gmail.com

Associate Directors Report

Sophia Allen and Shervin Assari



Hi, Associate Members, Members and Fellows!

2014 was a successful year for the ACE Associate Member Committee, both from an organizational perspective and an individual one. Many thanks to those who participated in the bimonthly Skype calls and the Associate Member Annual Survey, which helped to shape many important decisions for our committee.

As a committee, we have met many of our goals. We have contributed to the ACE Strategic Plan. We have closely collaborated with other committees, as we have several active representatives on the Communication, Policy, Awards, Membership, Minority Affairs, and other ACE Committees. We have enhanced active engagement of the Associate Members with the leadership of the Associate Members. We maintained an increased response rate for the Annual Survey, and Associate Members have several abstracts that were accepted for poster presentation at the ACE 2014 Annual Meeting.

Also, at the beginning of 2014, in collaboration with the Career Mentoring Committee, the Associate Member Committee recruited six Associate Member Advisors who will be our mentors, advocates, and role models through 2015. The advisory group was led by Cathy Critchlow and also included

Christine Branche, James Gurney, Robert Morgan, Alfred Rimm, and Patrick Tarwater.

This year Sophia Allen was the Outgoing Associate Director and liaison to the Membership Committee, while Shervin Assari was the Incoming Associate Director. Jennifer Gander Baker served as the Secretary. Looking forward to the next month, Shervin will transition into the role of Outgoing Associate Director, and Jennifer Gander will work with him as the new Incoming Associate Director.

2014 was also the year of transition for many of our Associate Members who were actively engaged with leadership. Bertha Hidalgo will be an assistant professor in the Department of Epidemiology at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. Sreenivas Phani Veeranki is transitioning to the Division of Epidemiology, Department of Preventive Medicine and Community Health, at the University of Texas Medical Branch. Frank Bandiera has also accepted an offer from the Department of Epidemiology, University of Texas School of Public Health (Dallas campus). Shervin Assari is joining the University of Michigan Department of Psychiatry, as a research investigator.

We are always looking for members interested in leadership roles so please contact us! We encourage you to join our calls and increase your participation within our committee and the College. We need leaders who can help us with the advisory group, annual survey, journal club, and many other tasks. Please also email us at <mailto:aceassocmember@gmail.com>, with any feedback, suggestions, or updates.

We would love to hear from you! Please also visit ACE's social media pages on Facebook, LinkedIn, and Twitter.

Sophia Allen and Shervin Assari

Proposed Changes to By-laws, September 3, 2014

The Board of Directors has approved two sets of changes to the ACE Bylaws and the Board will be seeking approval from the full membership.

CHANGE 1

Rationale for proposed change: It appears inconsistent that we require the Secretary and Treasurer to be a Fellow, but do not require the President to be a Fellow. Increasing the window for eligibility since service on the Board from two years to four years will increase the pool of eligible nominees for President-elect.

Current Article IV, Section 3: Board of Directors

The President shall be elected by the members from among current Members of the Board or those who have served on the Board within the past two years. The Secretary and Treasurer shall be elected by the Board of Directors from the Fellows.

Proposed Article IV, Section 3: Board of Directors (Changes in bold)

The President shall be **a Fellow**, elected by the members from among current Members of the Board, or those who have served on the Board within the

past **four** years. The Secretary and Treasurer shall be elected by the Board of Directors from the Fellows.

CHANGE 2

Rationale for proposed change: It is necessary to update the composition of the Nominating Committee to clarify the following: 1) the Past President takes on the duties of chairing the committee; 2) enlarging the size of the committee will allow for more full participation in selecting leadership and 3) ensuring that the President elect has a role in discussing nominees with whom he/she will be working. The wording is also changed to reflect the use of electronic communications rather than postal service.

Current Article IX. Special Committees

Section 1. A Nominating Committee shall be appointed annually. The outgoing Past President shall serve as Chair of the Nominating Committee. This committee shall consist of three Fellows or Members, no one of whom is a member of the Board of Directors. It shall be the duty of this Committee to present the names of at least two candidates for each vacancy on the Board of Directors. The nominees shall be selected with due regard to geographic representation and other considerations including sex and race/ethnicity. Additional names for consideration may be submitted by mail by any Fellow or Member six months prior to the annual meeting. The names of those agreeing to serve and a brief curriculum vitae for these candidates shall be distributed by mail ballot at least six weeks prior to the annual meeting, and the results of the election shall be announced at the annual meeting.

Proposed Article IX. Special Committees (Changes in **bold**)

Section 1. A Nominating Committee shall be appointed annually. The **Past President upon completion of her/his term as Past President**, shall serve as Chair of the Nominating Committee. This committee shall consist of **between three and six (inclusive)** Fellows or Members, **and shall include the President-Elect. The remaining members**, no one of whom is a member of the Board of Directors, shall be appointed by the Chair and include a Membership Committee member. It shall be the duty of this Committee to present the names of at least two candidates for each vacancy on the Board of Directors. The nominees shall be selected with due regard to geographic representation and other considerations including **gender** and race/ethnicity. Additional names for consideration may be submitted by **electronic mail** by any Fellow or Member six months prior to the annual meeting; **this opportunity shall be publicized through the College's customary channels.** The names of those agreeing to serve and brief curriculum vitae for these candidates shall be distributed by electronic mail ballot at least six weeks prior to the annual meeting, and the results of the election shall be announced at the annual meeting.

Announcing Newly Elected BOD Members

President-Elect

Jonine L. Bernstein, PhD

BOD Members

Melissa Bondy, PhD

James G. Gurney, PhD

Claudia A. Kozinetz, PhD, MPH

Russell S. Kirby, PhD, MS

Anbesaw W. Selassie, DrPH

Associate BOD Member

Jennifer C. Gander, PhD

The newly elected members will assume their new positions at the conclusion of the 2014 ACE Annual Meeting.

Congratulations!

Opportunities to contribute to the College

There are 13 standing committees in ACE and many of them are involved in exciting projects and initiatives that would benefit from your participation. Email Joe Holbrook at holbrookjoe@gmail.com if you are interested in making new connections, forming new professional relationships, and becoming more active within the organization.

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