



## President's Letter

Nancy Kreiger, *ACE President*



There is a lot of activity in the College now, as always! After the highly successful Annual Meeting in Florida, the standing committees are back at work, and would welcome help from the membership. Here are a few of the new or revised foci: We have a newly-constituted Ethics Committee (formerly Ethics and Standards of Practice). The Education Committee has split into two, given the workload engendered by planning the annual meeting. Thus, we've separated the meeting planning from education more

broadly, and are looking forward to great developments in both. Details of some of these accomplishments and changes appear in this issue of the newsletter.

Other activity highlights are the plan to overhaul the strategic plan of the College, led by John Acquavella; the development of a salary survey for the College, by a Task Force being developed by Bob Spirtas; the expansion of the awards which the College offers, spearheaded by the Awards Committee, and being done in collaboration with other organizations; the College's developing role in the multi-organization Joint Policy Committee, as a method to increase impact; and the expansion of the roles of our Associate Members. (See the [report](#) from the Associate Director, Annette Adams.)

In all, this is shaping up to be a busy year, with lots of new (and old) opportunities for members to get involved in areas of special interest to them: I look forward to your involvement. Also, if you have any suggestions for items you'd like to see covered in this periodic newsletter, please let me know.

## Calendar of Events

### SER Meeting

*Chicago, IL, June 24-27, 2008*

### ACE Annual Meeting

*Tucson, AZ, September 14-16, 2008*

## Top Stories – ACE 2007

### Reflections on the ACE 25th Anniversary Meeting

Ed Trapido, *ACE 2007 Annual Meeting Program Chair*

After more than a year of planning, the ACE 25 th Anniversary Meeting was held in Fort Lauderdale, Florida this past September. (Photos of the meeting appear as a slideshow at <http://www.acepidemiology2.org/meetings/2007Miami/07amslideshow.asp>. The Education Committee, which was largely responsible for developing and delivering the first stand-alone ACE meeting in three years, had worked closely with the President and Board of Directors, FirstPoint Resources, other ACE committee members, session organizers, associate members, and government, university, and corporate sponsors. Last minute arrangements, such as the production of the 25 th Anniversary Booklet, changes in time slots and speakers, and watching the "Tropical Update" on the Weather Channel, were finished.

Now all we had to do was have the speakers show up and give meaningful presentations, attendees participate, take photographs, maintain expected registrations, stay on a very tight schedule, make awards, turn over the ACE presidency, etc!

As an epidemiologist, I know I am far too biased to evaluate the meeting. I can only reflect on some things that went particularly well. The first was the participation of Former Dr. Donna Shalala (HHS Secretary and current President of the University of Miami), who met me in the hallway to the Plenary Session room, prior to her talk. As I recall, she asked me something like "*Do you mind if I change my topic, and talk about national health care plans? I was just on the phone with the Clinton campaign, talking about Hillary's health care plan, and have been talking to the Edwards' campaign staff, too.*" At that moment I sensed that we were off to an exciting meeting. Her presentation, followed by then ACE President John Acquavella making her an "Honorary ACE Fellow" was a highlight for me, and other attendees appeared to have the same reaction. Keynote and plenary speakers were similarly enlightening. Roundtables and workshops went largely as planned, with an exceptional session at the Minority Affairs Committee's Scientific Workshop.

Because this was the 25 th Anniversary Meeting, it was also an occasion to recognize and honor leaders in Epidemiology, and those who made important contributions to the College. Past ACE presidents and Lilienfeld Award winners spoke about the past and future of the field, with a particularly notable session chaired by Dr. David Schottenfeld. For newer and older ACE members, the involvement of these titans of Epidemiology provided a view of where epidemiology has been during ACE's first quarter century, and where it may go during the next. Other individuals were also publicly recognized for their scholarship and contributions, including Dr. Noel Weiss, who received the 2007 Abraham Lilienfeld Award. Discussions tended to be lively, with substantive interactions.

Despite my biases, there were tangible measures of the meeting. Attendance was better than expected, and the College ended up "in the black." Associate Members participated in the planning of all aspects of the meeting, and participated throughout. Participants stayed until the very end of the awards luncheon, on the last day of the meeting. Florida remained hurricane-free. (I can only imagine what the planners of the New Orleans meeting had been through.)

I wish again to thank the VERY large number of individuals who worked on and attended the meeting, and the opportunity to work on behalf of the College.

## In The News

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Brian MacMahon, the 2001 Lilienfeld Award recipient, recently passed away at the age of 84. Dr. MacMahon chaired the Epidemiology Department at the Harvard School of Public Health for 31 years.

## From the Board of Directors

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### Associate Member update

**Annette Adams, Associate Member Representative**

At the Annual Meeting in Ft. Lauderdale, I became the third Associate Director, taking the baton from Melinda Aldrich. Melinda deserves many kudos for her excellent and dedicated work on behalf of Associate Members and ACE over the last year. I had the pleasure of working with Melinda on planning Associate Member activities for the Annual Meeting, and very much appreciate her help and guidance. Thank you, Melinda!

Thus far I have found the ACE membership and Board to be universally welcoming of Associate Members, and very invested in making the organization helpful and appealing to Associate Members. I enthusiastically encourage other Associate Members to become active in the organization. The numerous opportunities offer you a great chance to be active in a national organization, develop leadership skills and gain experience, and also to network with senior epidemiologists from around North America.

Currently, there is an active interest in having increased Associate Member participation on all committees, including (but not limited to) the Membership, Communications, and Mentoring committees. Information about all the committees can be found at <http://www.acepidemiology2.org/cttes/index.asp>; this page also includes links to individual committee pages. To sign up for a committee, fill out the Committee Participation Form at <http://www.acepidemiology2.org/cttes/comform06.asp>. I can also help you get in touch with Committee chairs if you have any questions.

My goals for the next several months of my term as Associate Director are to: 1) increase outreach to potential new Associate members, including those in Canada and Mexico, 2) increase Associate Member membership, and 3) increase Associate Member participation in ACE committees. But I also want to hear about other issues that members would like me to look at or focus on. Please feel free to contact me with any ideas, suggestions, or concerns. I can be reached at [adams24@u.washington.edu](mailto:adams24@u.washington.edu) or [adamsan@ohsu.edu](mailto:adamsan@ohsu.edu).

Have a great winter, and let me know what's on your "wish list" for ACE for the coming year.

### 2007-2008 Board of Directors

The New President Elect is Roberta Ness.

The New BOD Members are:

- Olivia Carter-Pokras
- James Gurney
- Sunday Clark
- Annette Adams (associate)

## Committees

### Education Committee

Irene Hall, *Education Committee Chair*

Now that a new committee was established and the Education Committee is no longer responsible for planning the annual ACE meetings, the Education Committee is assessing the scope and activities of the Committee. We are working on revising the strategic plan to reflect the changes. One of the major activities is to plan for workshops at the 2008 SER and ACE meetings. Already, some exciting themes have emerged which include genome-wide associated studies, epi-genesis and post-translational studies, evolutionary theory and infectious agents.

### Ethics Committee

Ken Goodman, *Ethics Committee Chair*

The College has long recognized the importance of ethics in research, practice and public policy. For more than a decade, that importance was acknowledged by a committee on Ethics and Standards of Practice. ESOP made a number of vital contributions to the life of the College, including work to identify issues to be included in a code of ethics, as well as contributions to the writing of the code. The "Ethics Guidelines" were approved in 2000 and are available online <http://www.acepidemiology2.org/policystmts/EthicsGuide.asp>. ESOP and its members regularly contributed to ACE educational programs, as well as to the literature on ethics and epidemiology.

In 2007, ACE members voted to make the ad hoc entity a standing committee and, at the recommendation of an advisory council, simplified the name so it would parallel its counterparts— "The Ethics Committee." The renewed committee assembled a panel on ethics and pandemics for the Annual Meeting in Florida and has begun a number of special projects. In several cases, subcommittees have been established to move these efforts forward. The following projects were launched:

- Collect and share ethics and epidemiology syllabi
- Review the 2000 Ethics Guidelines
- Develop conflict of interest guidelines
- Collaborate with Canadian and Mexican counterparts
- Develop guidelines for industry-academic collaboration
- Develop peer review guidelines
- Foster student research

For more information about these efforts, please contact me at [kgoodman@miami.edu](mailto:kgoodman@miami.edu).

## Commentary

As we pray and hope for peace around the world, let us strive to be "peace makers" among our family, friends and co-workers. Happy New Year! *Carol Burns, Editor* ([cburns@dow.com](mailto:cburns@dow.com)).

### Fellows Corner Newly Appointed Fellows - Winter 2007

Nasar Ahmed  
Elena Andresen  
Ahmed Arif  
Tyrone F. Borders  
Richard L. Haberberger  
Michael F. Leitzmann  
Thomas Arrowsmith-Lowe  
Madhu Mazumdar  
Herbert B. Peterson  
Jean Wactawski-Wende

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