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The American College of Epidemiology was incorporated in 1979 to develop criteria for professional recognition of epidemiologists and to address their professional concerns.

ACE serves the interests of its members through sponsorship of scientific meetings, publications, and educational activities, recognizing outstanding contributions to the field and advocating for issues pertinent to epidemiology.



## Message from the American College of Epidemiology President, Melinda C. Aldrich, MPH, PhD

Melinda C. Aldrich, MPH, PhD  
President, American College of Epidemiology



As I begin my term as President of the American College of Epidemiology (ACE), I am reflecting on my journey here. I began my involvement with ACE as an Associate Member nearly 20 years ago while I was a graduate student at University of California Berkeley. I became the second Associate Director for ACE and remember vividly one of my first activities was to help plan the Annual Meeting. I worked alongside Dr. Betsy Foxman and others to plan the meeting. It was thrilling to be a part of an esteemed group of epidemiologists planning the annual meeting for our professional society. This experience was my first insight into how scientific meetings are programmed. With this experience I was hooked and spent several years engaged with both the Membership and Policy Committees. Then 10 years after I became Associate Director, I joined the Board of Directors and served two three-year terms. Through my engagement with ACE, I have been introduced to an incredible professional network of colleagues that I still consider colleagues and friends today. My experiences early on in my career set the stage for my dedication and long-standing commitment to ACE. It is a great honor to now serve this organization as President.

I am excited to work with our incoming Board of Directors and Committees to carry out the mission, activities, and strategic plan of our organization. Please consider joining a committee to get involved. Our committees are a great way to give back to your community. These are also great opportunities for trainees to learn the inner workings of a professional society, while also building a professional network that will be valuable throughout your career. I know this to be true from my own personal experience.

As we shift focus from our recent ACE Annual Meeting, I am looking ahead to help ACE continue to realize our vision of “the professional organization dedicated to continued education and advocacy for epidemiologists in their efforts to promote good science and public health.” Our dedicated volunteers work collaboratively to make our vision a reality and impactful. As we look forward, questions facing our Board are how do we ensure our community is committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion? The pandemic has shaped our world, but we face potentially even greater influence with artificial intelligence. What are the opportunities and challenges when including artificial intelligence in our epidemiology research agendas? These and other considerations will be discussed by the Board. We will build a bright future together.

## ADMISSIONS COMMITTEE UPDATE

DR. FAITH DAVIS, PHD, FACE



**I am pleased to announce that the Admissions Committee is transitioning to a new Chair (Dr. Matthew Bonner) and Vice Chair (Dr. Duke Appiah).** In May 2022, I assumed the role of Interim Chair and have greatly appreciated their support over the last year and look forward to their leadership going forward.

Reviewing applications has been an engaging experience. By the number and quality of the applications, it's clear the organization is growing in stature. We also have more international applications than I remember from a decade ago and they come with their own set of review challenges. I have enjoyed the collegiality of the Committee members and the wide diversity of perspectives members bring to these discussions.

During this interim period, the Committee has recommended admission of 52 members to the Board: 7 associate, 10 affiliate, 27 full, 6 fellows and 2 emeritus. Meagan Bowker has provided essential oversight of these applications. I would like to thank ACE members who are continuing on the Committee going forward: Annette Adams, Jim Torner, Matthew Bonner, Duke Appiah, and Denise Oleske. Special thanks to our two newest members Sazid Khan and Reza Alaghebandan for providing their new perspectives. I would also like to acknowledge Penelope Allison and Sebastian Schneeweiss for their previous Committee support and Dr. Critchlow for functioning as our Board liaison.

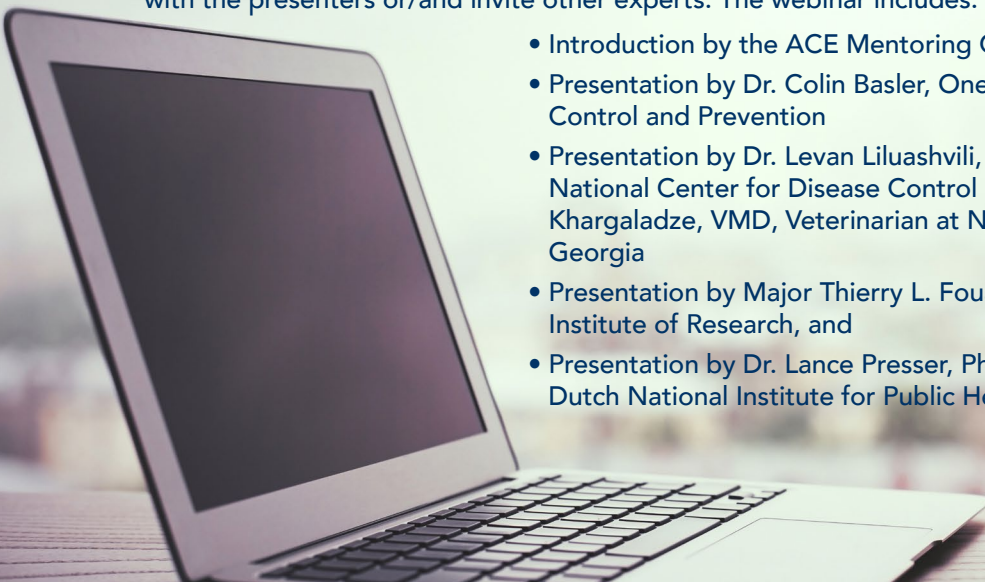
It's important for practicing members of the profession to be guiding ACE and I would like to encourage all members to get involved. ACE membership provided many rich experiences for me over the years and I have enjoyed this brief period of reconnection. Keep up the good work!

## COMING IN EARLY 2024...WATCH FOR DETAILS...

### INTRODUCTION TO ONE HEALTH EPIDEMIOLOGY: CONNECTING THE HEALTH OF PEOPLE, ANIMALS, PLANTS, AND THE SHARED ENVIRONMENT

**THE ACE MENTORING COMMITTEE FACILITATED A SET OF VIDEOS ON THE CONCEPT OF A "ONE HEALTH" APPROACH IN EPIDEMIOLOGY.** In the videos, One Health experts from the United States and abroad describe their career paths to profession and examples of the projects they were working on. The webinar starts with an introduction by the ACE Mentoring Committee Chair Sandra Sulsky and ends with a short inquiry to assess the interest in the topic. Based on the viewers feedback, we will plan a follow up conversation with the presenters or/and invite other experts. The webinar includes:

- Introduction by the ACE Mentoring Committee Chair Dr. Sandra Sulsky
- Presentation by Dr. Colin Basler, One Health Office, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- Presentation by Dr. Levan Liluashvili, MD, MPH, Epidemiologist, Georgian National Center for Disease Control and Public Health and Tornike Khargaladze, VMD, Veterinarian at National Food Agency of Country of Georgia
- Presentation by Major Thierry L. Fouapon, MD, MPH, MBA, Walter Reed Army Institute of Research, and
- Presentation by Dr. Lance Presser, PhD, Centre for Infectious Disease Control, Dutch National Institute for Public Health and the Environment



## ACE HIGHLIGHTS, 2023 ANNUAL MEETING

The 2023 Annual Meeting of the American College of Epidemiology (ACE) took place virtually from September 11-13, 2023. Over the three days, speakers shared their insights on several topics related to this year's theme: "Climate Change and Health." The Planning Committee organized several interactive workshops on the first day of the meeting, including a career mentoring panel and spatial and spatiotemporal analysis of health data. The day concluded with the presidential address by the outgoing President of ACE, Dr. Melissa Bondy.

This year's keynote address was delivered by Dr. Francesca Dominici. Dr. Dominici is Professor of Biostatistics at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health (HSPS) and Co-Director of the Data Science Initiative at Harvard University. Her presentation on air pollution and climate change highlighted the contribution data science and causal inference can make to formulate policies.

Dr. Emerald Nguyen, Program Official at the National Institute on Aging (NIA), moderated the NIH Climate Change and Health session. The session included a presentation by Dr. Gwen Collman, Director of the Office of Scientific Coordination, Planning, and Evaluation in the Office of the Director at the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS). Dr. Collman presented on the NIH-wide climate change and health initiative framework. Dr. Gregory Wellenius, Professor of Environmental Health at Boston University School of Public Health (BUSPH), presented an overview of BUSPH-HSPH Climate Change and Health Research Coordinating Center, established with funding from NIH through a cooperative agreement. Dr. Stacy Rasmus, Research Associate Professor and Director of the Center for Alaska Native Health Research (CANHR) in the Institute of Arctic Biology at the University of Alaska Fairbanks, highlighted the Alaska Alliance for Community Engagement- Climate and Health (AK ACE-CH), created as part of the NIH Climate and Health Initiative to promote health equity and climate justice. Lastly, Dr. Shyamal Peddada, Senior Investigator of the Biostatistics and Computational Biology Branch at the NIEHS, and Dr. Carina Gronlund from the University of

Michigan, Ann Arbor, presented research on the effect of climate change on human fertility, pregnancy, and childbirth.

The second day of the conference ended with a presentation entitled, "When unprecedented becomes normal: How epidemiologists can protect health in a climate changed world" by Dr. Aaron Bernstein. Dr. Bernstein is the Director of the National Center for Environmental Health and the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (NCEH/ATSDR).

On the third day of the conference, speakers participating in the Climate-Related Disasters and Health Disparities session discussed methodological gaps for studying climate-related disasters and their effect on communities. Later, speakers participating in the International Network for Epidemiology in Policy panel discussed what epidemiologists can contribute to efforts to adapt to climate change to protect health.

Dr. Michael Osterholm, Regents Professor, McKnight Presidential Endowed Chair in Public Health, and the Center for Infectious Disease Research and Policy Director at the University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, delivered an Endowed Lecture sponsored by the Epidemiology Foundation. Dr. Osterholm, the author of two New York Times best-selling books, candidly spoke about lessons learned from the COVID pandemic. He was critical of the administration's response to the pandemic and the current state of preparedness for another influenza pandemic.

Dr. Kari Nadeau, Chair of the Department of Environmental Health at Harvard School of Public Health and John Rock Professor of Climate and Population Studies, delivered the closing keynote address on finding sustainable solutions to climate change. She recommended transitioning to healthy, sustainable practices, investing in prevention, strengthening the public health system, providing access to healthy transport options, and advocating steps to slow down the rate of greenhouse gas emissions.

**Ahmed A. Arif, PhD, MBBS, CPH, FACE**  
 2023 ACE Annual Meeting Chair

**Member Recognition  
Board Members Rotating Off**

  
 Past President  
**Jan Eberth, PhD**

  
**Larry Segam, PharmD, DrPH, FACE**

  
**Stephen Waring, DVM, PhD**

  
**Kelli Christine Gribben, PhD**

  
**Lisa Kiesges, PhD**




Q&A Polls Chat Community  
 Questions Filter by Sort by  
 9/13/2023 9:28 AM • Tamara Litwin  
 What data would be most useful for studying health effects of climate change?  
 0 Votes  
 Pin question to top  
 Hide question from audience  
 Mark as answered  
 View as Attendee  
 Ask a question

Zoom meeting into Whoa!, a very small set of users may  
 Join in Zoom



## ACE AWARD WINNERS



### ACE 2023 Outstanding Contributions Award **Joel M. Gelfand MD, MSCE**

Joel M. Gelfand MD MSCE is the James J. Leyden Professor (with tenure) of Dermatology and Epidemiology, Director (founding) of the Center for Clinical Sciences in Dermatology, and Director of the Psoriasis and Phototherapy Treatment Center at the University of Pennsylvania Perelman School of Medicine. He is a nationally and internationally recognized expert in psoriasis, clinical epidemiology, drug safety, and clinical trials. Dr. Gelfand is the author of over 330 scientific publications cited over 35,000 times. He is Deputy Editor for Clinical Research of the Journal Investigative Dermatology. He is the recipient of the American Skin Association's Psoriasis Achievement Award, the Lady Barbara Colyton's Award for Autoimmune research, the National Psoriasis Foundation's scientific achievement award, the American Dermatoepidemiology Network's Founders award, and is an elected member of the American Society for Clinical Investigation. He is a member of the Board of Directors for the International Psoriasis Council and the Medical Dermatology Society. He has given over 10 named lectureships and keynote addresses including the Society for Investigative Dermatology's Eugene M. Farber lecture and the American Academy of Dermatology's Marion B. Sulzberger lecture. He has received grants from NIH, FDA, PCORI, and the National Psoriasis Foundation to support his independent research program. Dr. Gelfand is a dedicated mentor with over 20 MD and PhDs having spent at least one full year under his mentorship, 12 of whom have received a Master's degree in clinical epidemiology. Over 30% of dermatologists receiving K23 awards from NIAMS over the last decade have been trainees in the Gelfand lab. His research redefined psoriasis as a systemic inflammatory disease that enhances the risk of cardiovascular events and premature mortality resulting in changes in standard of care guidelines. The overarching goal of his research and clinical practice is to improve psoriasis patient outcomes in the skin and joints, while lowering the risk of diabetes, CV disease and mortality.

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### 2023 ACE Student Paper Prize **Allison Lind, MN, MPH, APRN-CNP**

Ms. Lind is a pediatric nurse practitioner and third-year doctoral student in Social Epidemiology at the University of Minnesota School of Public Health. Her research interests focus on finding interventions that improve social and health inequities amongst children and adolescents and bringing them to scale. She has a particular interest in youth violence, and her current paper examines the impact of the police killing of George Floyd on the spatiotemporal patterns of carjackings in Minneapolis in relation to neighborhood disadvantage.

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### ACE 2023 Early Career Epidemiologist Award **Michael Harhay, PhD, MPH**

Dr. Michael Harhay is an assistant professor of epidemiology and medicine at the University of Pennsylvania Perelman School of Medicine. The primary focus of his current research, which is funded by the NIH and PCORI, is the development and application of causal inference and Bayesian statistical methods to improve pragmatic and cluster-randomized trials, particularly those embedded in health systems and for patients with critical and severe illnesses.

## ACE LEADERSHIP

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Melinda C. Aldrich, PhD, MPH  
9/23-9/24



President Elect  
Annette Adams, PhD  
9/23-9/24



Treasurer  
Stephen Waring, DVM, PhD  
9/23-9/24



Secretary  
Cathy Critchlow, MS, PhD, FACE  
9/23-9/24



Immediate Past President  
Melissa Bondy, MS, PhD  
9/23-9/24

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Cincinnati Children's Hospital  
Medical Center  
9/22-9/25

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Augusta University  
9/21-9/24

**Macarius Donneyong, PhD**  
The Ohio State University,  
Division of Pharmacy  
Practice and Science  
9/21-9/24

**Cara Frankenfeld, PhD**  
MaineHealth Institute for Research  
9/23-9/26

**Bertha Hidalgo, PhD**  
University of Alabama at Birmingham  
9/22-9/25

**Yvonne Michael, PhD**  
Drexel University  
9/23-9/26

**Ike S. Okosun, MPH, PhD**  
Georgia State University School  
of Public Health  
9/22-9/25

**Eyal Oren, PhD**  
San Diego State University  
9/21-9/24

**Mia Papas, PhD**  
Christiana Care Health System  
9/23-9/26

**Ed Peters, DMD, SM, ScD**  
University of Nebraska  
Medical Center  
9/22-9/25

**Sara Tartof, PhD**  
Kaiser Permanente SCPMG Research  
and Evaluation  
9/23-9/26

**Tamara Chavez-Lindell**  
University of Tennessee  
9/23-9/24

**Roxann Seepersad**  
Monterey County Health Department  
9/23-9/25





## ACE ANNUAL MEETING 2023

The ACE Board of Directors met for its Annual Meeting in mid-October in Nashville. We were graciously hosted by Vanderbilt University Medical Center. During the two-day meeting, the Board reviewed all that was accomplished in 2023 and prepared plans for an exciting 2024. The Board reviewed the College's Strategic Plan and conducted a very productive review with ACE's Committees, Scholars Program and the Epidemiology Foundation. **The 2024 Annual Meeting Planning update also showed great progress as we look to meet at Ohio State University in Columbus, September 8-11, 2024.**

**At the Annual Meeting, several leaders were recognized. After ten years serving as the College's Treasurer, Larry Segars was presented a plaque in honor of his faithful service. Outgoing President Melissa Bondy presented Incoming President Melinda Aldrich with the President's Gavel, and then Melinda presented Melissa with a plaque thanking her for her dedicated service.**



*Congrats to our ACE Award Winners*

