

**ACE 2026 Annual Meeting
ALOFT Hotel
Buffalo, NY**

September 14-17, 2026

MEETING AGENDA

Monday, September 14, 2026

Workshops

7:15 am – 5:00 pm	Registration
8am – 12pm	Implementation Science 101 Target Audience: Any researchers, students, practitioners, and professionals who are new to implementation science and want to understand how to apply its principles to research, program implementation, or practice improvement. Description: This introductory workshop provides a practical overview of implementation science and its role in bridging the gap between evidence and practice. Participants will be introduced to key implementation science concepts, common frameworks, implementation outcomes, study designs, and strategies for integrating implementation science into research and practice. Through real-world examples and interactive discussion, attendees will gain foundational knowledge and practical tools to begin applying implementation science principles in their own work. Co-conveners: Gloria Aidoo-Frimpong, PhD (University at Buffalo) and Katia Noyes, PhD (University at Buffalo) <i>Room: 1914</i>
8am-12pm	Beyond the Lecture: A Hands-On Workshop on Teaching Epidemiologic Reasoning Co-conveners: Yvonne Michael, ScD (Drexel Dornsife) and Melissa Kaufman, EdD, Associate Dean for Education (Drexel Dornsife). Target Audience: Anyone who teaches epidemiologic methods — undergraduate and graduate faculty, doctoral seminar leaders, preceptors, and practitioners who train staff in health departments, agencies, or consulting settings. No pedagogy background required. Description: Epidemiology training is built around methods, but the capacities graduates most need – reasoning under uncertainty, arguing and revising in public, translating across disciplines – are rarely taught deliberately. They can be, without adding curricular time, by changing the form of methods instruction rather than its content. Participants spend the first hour as learners, working through three activities on selection bias. We then take them apart to identify the design principles, strategies, and outcomes. In the second half, participants design their own activity and exchange structured feedback. Everyone leaves with a drafted activity and a plan to use it. <i>Room: Fuhrmann Room</i>
12:30 – 4:00 pm	Equity & Inclusion Committee Workshop Title: "Advancing Black Men's Health Research: From Racial Differences to Equity-Focused Action" Speaker: Roland Thorpe, PhD (Johns Hopkins University)

	Target Audience: Epidemiologists, public health researchers and practitioners, clinicians, community-engaged scholars, and students interested in structural drivers of health, Black men's health, health equity, and translating evidence into action. Description: This workshop will examine how to move beyond documenting racial differences to identify and address the social and structural drivers of health inequities. The workshop will feature lessons from the Black Men's Health Project, methodological considerations, the presentation of a systematic literature review on social injustice and health inequities, and strategies for making epidemiology resilient and action oriented. <i>Room: Furhmann Room</i>
12:30 - 4:00 pm	Leadership Workshop Title: Leading Epidemiology in a Changing Academic Landscape: A Workshop for Chairs, Vice Chairs, Emerging and Established Leaders in Epidemiology Target Audience: Chairs, Deans, and Leaders of Programs of Epidemiology (CDLPE) in Academic, Government, and Private Institutions Description: Academic epidemiology leaders are navigating an increasingly complex environment characterized by constrained resources, changing workforce expectations, enrollment pressures, rapid technological change, and an evolving political and funding landscape. Yet most epidemiologists receive little formal preparation for the people, financial, and strategic leadership responsibilities that accompany roles as chairs, vice chairs, division directors, program directors, and other unit leaders. This highly interactive workshop will move beyond traditional leadership theory to focus on the real-world decisions epidemiology leaders face every day. Through facilitated discussion, case-based exercises, and peer problem-solving, participants will examine challenging leadership scenarios involving faculty performance and conflict, workload and retention, recruitment and promotion, resource allocation, academic programs, research portfolios, organizational change, and external pressures affecting epidemiology units. Participants will leave with practical strategies, insights from experienced epidemiology leaders, and a focused action plan they can apply within their own institutions. Moderator: Speaker: Peter Shields, MD (Ohio State University) <i>Room: 1914</i>
4:15 - 5:45 pm	Welcome Reception & Networking Professional Development Committee Mentoring <i>Location: Forbes Theater</i>
Tuesday, September 15, 2026	
7:15 am - 6:00 pm	Registration <i>Location: Upper Lobby / Tactic</i>
7:00 – 11:00 am	Poster Set-Up <i>Location: Forbes Theater</i>

7:00 - 8:15 am	Breakfast Open to all Attendees Associate Member & ACE Scholars Breakfast with the ACE Board of Directors <i>Please Look for Specific Table Signs</i> <i>Location: Grand Aeries</i>
8:30 – 9:15 am	ACE Annual Meeting Opening Call to Order President Bertha Hidalgo, PhD, MPH, FACE (University of Alabama Birmingham) (5 min) Welcome by Annual Meeting Committee Co-chairs (10 min) Pauline Mendola, PhD, MS, FACE & Matthew Bonner, PhD, MPH, FACE Presidential Address Bertha Hidalgo, PhD, MPH, FACE (University of Alabama Birmingham) Announcement of Future Annual Meeting Dates & Venues <i>Location: Grand Aeries</i>
9:15 – 10:15 am	Opening Keynote Michelle Williams, PhD (Stanford University) Title: TBD Moderator: Melissa Bondy, PhD (Stanford University) <i>Location: Grand Aeries</i>
10:15 – 10:30 am	Break
10:30 – 11:30 am	Plenary Session #1 Title: AI in Publishing Panelists: Patrick Sullivan, DVM, PhD (Emory University, Editor in Chief for Annals of Epidemiology), Enrique Schisterman, PhD (University of Pennsylvania), Editor in Chief for AJE) & Hailey Banack, PhD (University of Toronto, Editorial Board of Epidemiology) <i>Location: Grand Aeries</i>
11:00 am – 6:00 pm	Poster Exhibition <i>Location: Forbes Theater</i>
11:30 am – 12:30 pm	Plenary Session #2 Title: Global measles outbreaks Dr. Mauricio Rodríguez Álvarez Professor, Department of Microbiology and Parasitology, Faculty of Medicine, National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM), Spokesperson for the University Research Program on Epidemiological and Emerging Risks, Coordinator of the Technical Advisory Group on Vaccination (TAG-V), Mexico – virtual Kaitlin Patterson, PhD (Public Health Agency of Canada) Moderator: Diana Bensyl, PhD (CDC) <i>Location: Grand Aeries</i>

12:30 – 1:00 pm	Lunch Boxed Lunch <i>Location: Grand Aeries</i>
1:00 – 2:00 pm	Keynote Dr. Peter Hotez, MD, PhD (Baylor College of Medicine) – Virtual Title: “Are we prepared for the next pandemic” Moderator: Melissa Bondy, PhD (Stanford University) <i>Location: Grand Aeries</i>
2:00 – 3:00 pm	Best Abstract Presentations Akeem Bakare, PhD, University of Cincinnati – “Neighborhood Deprivation is Associated with the Developing Gut Resistome” Jennifer Ku, PhD, MPH, Kaiser Permanente - “Residential exposure to animal farming operations and gentamicin-resistance” Junjie Lu, MPH, Stanford University – “Sexual orientation trajectory clusters and depression risk in emerging adulthood” Zai-Lin Sheu, University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston - Low Hemoglobin-to-Red Blood Cell Distribution Width Ratio is Associated with Worse Survival in Cancer Patients: A Retrospective Cohort Study of 20,115 Patients with Cancer from the Medical Information Mart for Intensive Care IV (MIMIC-IV) Datasets Moderators: Annette Regan, PhD, MPH (Kaiser Permanente Southern California) & Alberto Paniz-Mondolfi, MD, PhD (Mount Sinai) <i>Location: Grand Aeries</i>
3:00 – 3:15 pm	Break
3:30 – 4:45 pm	Business Meeting • President’s College Update - Bertha Hidalgo, PhD, MPH, FACE (University of Alabama Birmingham) • Committee Chairs reports • Election Results - Annette Adams, PhD, MPH, FACE, FASBMR (Kaiser Permanente Southern California) <i>Location: Grand Aeries</i>
4:45 – 6:00 pm	Meet the Poster Presenters & Poster Judging All Poster Presenters need to be present during this period. <i>Location: Forbes Theater</i>
6:00 - 9:00 pm	Dinner on your own Associate Members – social Fellows – social (ACE will have restaurants available for you to choose from, if desired)
Wednesday, September 16, 2026	
7:00 am - 5:30 pm	Registration Open

7:00 – 8:00 am	Breakfast Open to all Chairs of Epidemiology Breakfast (table reserved) <i>Location: Grand Aeries</i>
8:00 – 9:00 am	Plenary Session Title: “Communicating science in a fragmented society” Speaker: Janet Yang, PhD (University at Buffalo) <i>Location: Grand Aeries</i>
9:00 – 10:15 am	Keynote-Endowed Lecture Title: Speaker: Montrece Ransom, JD, MPH, PCC, BCC (National Network of Public Health Institutes) <i>Location: Grand Aeries</i>
10:15-10:30 am	Break
10:30 - 11:30 am	EpiVisionaries Keynote Speaker: James McDonald, MD, MPH (New York State Commissioner of Public Health) Title: Replacing Vicious Cycles with Virtuous Cycles Moderator: Pauline Mendola <i>Location: Grand Aeries</i>
11:30 – 12:30 pm	Working Lunch - Breakout from Dr. McDonald keynote – grp discussion Grab and go Moderator: David Huang, PhD (CDC) <i>Location: Grand Aeries</i>
12:30 - 1:30 pm	Keynote Nancy Krieger, PhD (Harvard University) Title: Defying erasure: embodied truths will endure – an ecosocial health equity perspective Moderator: Bertha Hidalgo, PhD, MPH, FACE (University of Alabama Birmingham) <i>Location: Grand Aeries</i>

1:30 – 1:45 pm	Break
1:45- 2:45 pm	Panel Session Title: Decentralized Justice, Centralized Evidence: Challenges in Applying Epidemiology in U.S. Courts 1. Amanda Hunt, JD, Partner (Complex Public Health Litigation), Keller Postman, Houston, TX 2. Vinh Le, JD, Associate (Complex Public Health Litigation), Keller Rohrback, Seattle, WA 3. Qin Rao, MD, MS, Expert Witness/Medical Doctor/Epidemiologist, Weill Cornell Medicine, New York, NY Moderator: William Lee, JD, MS (Kershaw Talley Barlow, P.C.) <i>Location: Grand Aeries</i>

2:45 – 3:45 pm	Ethics & Policy Committee Panel Session Title: The Intersection of Epidemiology, AI, and Learning Health Systems Research Ross Koppel, PhD, FACMI, FAIHSI (University of Pennsylvania) John Holmes, PhD, FACE, FACMI (University of Pennsylvania) Brian Dixon, PhD (Indiana University School of Medicine) Moderator: William Lee, JD, MS (Kershaw Talley Barlow, P.C.) <i>Location: Grand Aeries</i>
3:45 – 4:45 pm	Disappearing data Title: Where has all the data gone? Lara Akinbami, MD (CDC/NHANES) Kristen Rappazzo, PhD (Rappazzo Analytics & Consulting, LLC; UNC - Chapel Hill) Moderator: <i>Location: Grand Aeries</i>
5:00 – 6:30 pm	Epidemiology Foundation Reception Light fare <i>Location: Patrick's Rooftop</i>
Thursday, September 17, 2026	
7:00 – 11:00 am	Registration Open
7:00-8:00am	Breakfast <i>Location: Grand Aeries</i>
8:00 – 9:00 am	Keynote Lilienfeld Award Mahasin Mujahid, PhD, MS, FAHA (UC Berkeley) <i>Location: Grand Aeries</i>
9:00 - 10:15 am	ACE Scholars Presentations Giovanni Appolon, PhD, RRT Junjie Lu, MPH Heba Mohamed, PhD, MSc Rolando Trejos, PhD, MPH, CPH, MACE Moderator: Jan Eberth, PhD (Virginia Tech) <i>Location: Grand Aeries</i>
10:15 – 10:25 pm	Break
10:30 am– 12:00 pm	Awards Ceremony • Annals of Epidemiology Best Paper Award • Annals of Epidemiology Early Career Best Paper Award • Student Paper Prize-Reed Mszar, MPH, MS • Early Career Epidemiologist Award-Mathew Kiang, MPH • Outstanding mentorship award-WayWay Hlaing, PhD • Distinguished Service Award-Jennnifer Salerno, PhD Moderator: Narges Khanjani, MD, PhD, FACE (Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center) <i>Location: Grand Aeries</i>

12:00 pm	Conclusion of ACE Annual Meeting Passing of the gavel – Bertha Hidalgo, PhD, MPH, FACE (University of Alabama Birmingham) Closing - President Elect, Eyal Oren, PhD, FACE (San Diego State University) <i>Location: Grand Aeries</i>
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