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Visit the ACE Website at
www.acepidemiology.org for
COVID-19 updates & resources

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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, Melissa Bondy, MS, PhD

Melissa Bondy, MS, PhD
President, American College of Epidemiology



Dear members,

I am thrilled to share some exciting developments and updates from ACE with you all. Over the past few months, our organization has been working hard behind the scenes, and I am pleased to announce that the ACE website is now live. I would like to express my gratitude and appreciation to Jan Eberth, Meagan Bowker, and the Website committee for their dedication and hard work in making our website more modern and user-friendly.

We are also currently busy planning our annual meeting on Climate Change and Health. In an effort to reduce our carbon footprint and invite more speakers to participate, we have decided to hold the meeting virtually. I am pleased to announce that Dr. Ahmed Arif from the University of North Carolina – Charlotte is the Chair of this year's meeting, and his committee is working diligently to bring together outstanding speakers for this event. We will be posting the agenda soon, and we hope to see strong attendance from our members and those interested in learning more about how climate change is affecting our health.

In addition, I am excited to announce that Michele Forman and the ACE Foundation board have selected this year's endowed lecture awardee, Dr. Michael Osterholm from the University of Minnesota, who will present his work at the Annual Meeting.

Looking ahead, I am pleased to announce that next year's annual meeting will be held in Columbus, Ohio and chaired by Macarius Donneyong. As we begin planning for this event, we will be seeking a planning committee to help ensure its success. Please tell us if you would like to participate in planning next years' meeting.

Furthermore, I wanted to let you all know that applications are now being accepted for the ACE Scholars Program. This program is designed to foster leadership development and provide mentorship to early career investigators, helping to support the next generation of ACE leaders in their careers. There is more information on the ACE website.

In other exciting news, Dr. Patrick S. Sullivan, Editor-in-Chief of our journal *Annals of Epidemiology*, reported that the impact factor rose to 6.996, and the journal is ranked number 31 in the category of Public, Environmental, and Occupational Health Journals (ranked by 2021 Impact Factor). Other metrics such as CiteScore have also shown an increase. I encourage you all to consider submitting your best work to the *Annals*.

Finally, we are always looking for members interested in getting more involved in ACE and serving on committees. It's a great way to network, and we need members for all of the committees. Check out our website for more information, and feel free to reach out to me at mbondy@stanford.edu with any ideas or suggestions on how ACE can better serve you. You can also contact Meagan Bowker at office@epidemiology.org if you have any questions.

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE UPDATE

MEMBER PROFILE

MACARIUS M. DONNEYONG, PHD, MPH

Professional website:

College directory:

<https://pharmacy.osu.edu/directory/macarius-donneyong>

LinkedIn:

www.linkedin.com/in/macarius-donneyong-mpH-phd-b3a79561



1. Please describe how you joined ACE: what attracted you to the College?

The constructive feedback that I received after presenting my first research abstract at ACE was the major catalyst for me to join. I stayed a member because of the professional networking opportunities that abound in ACE.

2. What has been the best experience you had as a Fellow/Member/Associate Member of the College?

During my time as an Associate Member, I had the rare opportunity to serve in several leadership roles in the College. For example, I served on the Best Paper Workstream for the Annals of Epidemiology as a member and later as the Lead. I also served as Chair of the Associate Members Committee. Further, I worked with and learned a lot from various individuals and committees to carry out activities for the betterment of the field of epidemiology. While I am proud of some of the successes that were achieved during these roles, I am most grateful for the mentorship that I had received, and continue to receive, from you and almost everyone with whom I interacted and served together with on the Board of this College.

3. What keeps you engaged in ACE?

The camaraderie, collegiality, and the networking opportunities are among some of the major drivers of my continued commitment to ACE.

4. What career advantages do you see coming from continued membership in the College?

Leadership. ACE has given me the opportunity to learn and develop the critical skills that I need at this stage of my career.

5. What are your expectations of what ACE can do for you?

I think not of what ACE can do for me now but what I can do for ACE. Thus, I will continue to serve ACE to the best of my abilities.

6. Is there anything else you'd like to share with us about your ACE experience?

I have had a fulfilling experience as an ACE member for the past fourteen years.

ASSOCIATE MEMBER COMMITTEE UPDATE

KELLI GRIBBEN, PHD, AND TAMARA CHAVEZ-LINDELL, MPH, ASSOCIATE DIRECTORS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS, CO-CHAIRS OF THE ASSOCIATE MEMBER COMMITTEE



The Associate Member (AM) Committee meets virtually each month. Tamara and I encourage all of our AM members to attend. Invitations are sent by email, so please let us know if you are not receiving those. During these meetings we highlight current and upcoming ACE events, confer news including any leadership opportunities, discuss ideas to grow early career memberships, and consider how to better support our existing members. Last but not least, we get to know each other and work to build a community of early-career epidemiologists.

A UNIQUE CENTRAL ASIA AND VIRGINIA BEACH CONNECTION IN PUBLIC HEALTH

Robert Campbell, Jr., PhD, MS is recent former HHS health scientist and Assistant Professor of Epidemiology at Eastern Virginia Medical School (EVMS), MPH Program. He's also a retired distinguished Air Force officer who completed tours in Afghanistan, Croatia, Germany Italy, Hungary, and Kryrgyzstan. He earned his PhD in Epidemiology and Biostatistics from Case Western Reserve University. His work focuses on health disparities to include racial and sexual minorities. He is a 2019 scholar of the NIH-NHLBI Programs to Increase Diversity Among Individuals Engaged in Health-Related Research (PRIDE) - Impact of Ancestry and Gender on Omics of Lung Diseases (AGOLD) program. His memberships in ACE include the Minority Affairs Committee (MAC) and Career Mentoring Committees. **Yelena (Lena) Gorina, MPH, MS**, is a statistician/ epidemiologist at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Her work includes methodological and epidemiological studies, such as disparities in cancer screening among older women and co-morbid conditions for deaths from COVID-19. She served on the Epi Team during her five deployments for the Ebola epidemic response in Sierra Leone as a government employee (civilian), was deployed to Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan on the World Health Organization (WHO) Stop Transmission of Polio (STOP) assignment, and served on the response teams during H1N1 and SARS outbreaks.

Unbeknownst to both, Rob and Lena discovered they were both deployed in Kyrgyzstan during the same time and currently reside near one another when Lena visits her summer home in Virginia Beach. To accomplish the goals of the ACE Career Mentoring Committee and educate minority undergraduates about the path to professional epidemiology, Rob and Lena have been collaborating with ACE MAC and external public health and career consultants on creating a series of webinars that highlight the careers of minority epidemiologists.

Public Health in Real Life -Career Path to Epidemiology, co-founder Ashwin Kadambi, MS, MPH collaborated with Rob and Lena to produce an hour-long session on the unique career of a Public Service Officer, Dr. Monique Foster, MD, MPH, an EVMS medical school alumnus. Ashwin is Rob's former student and advisee. Dr. Foster provided her public health experiences as a medical doctor and epidemiologist with the US Public Health Service, NIH and CDC. Fellow MAC member, Dr. Erik Rodriguez, was also interviewed in another episode of Public Health in Real Life to provide students the pros and cons of his public health career as a federal employee.

The other external collaboration was Ms. Valarie Austin, a West Point graduate, retired Army officer, author and President of Vaubois Publishing, LLC. Valarie developed a two-part Epidemiology career series with Rob designed to introduce high school students to the field of epidemiology.

The following links will direct you to the interviews:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y4yzZ-5eD3o>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K1stbq0yA5Q>

<https://www.youtube.com/c/PublicHealthinRealLife>

This partnership of two members of the ACE Mentoring Committee and crossing paths during turbulent times of the war resulted in a lasting friendship!

Rob and Lena hope to continue this unique and important project towards diversification of the epidemiology workforce and are looking forward to receiving suggestions of minority professionals that can serve as a role model for future generations.

KEY POINTS FROM THE 2022 ANNUAL MEETING



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KEY POINTS FROM THE 2022 ANNUAL MEETING



1. In our first in-person conference since 2019, we hosted over 100 attendees in person and many more online using our hybrid conference platform. Many of our online attendees were international scholars and students.



2. Long-time ACE member and founding Director of the Center for the Study of Racism, Social Justice & Health, Dr. Chandra Ford, kicked off the meeting with a talk about critical race theory, COVID-19, and conspiracies. She gave our members a call to action to study and name racism, not race, as a key contributor to poor health.



3. Famed author and bird photographer, Dr. Carl Bergstrom from the University of Washington, gave an illuminating presentation on the growth of misinformation and infoepidemics. Bergstrom is the author of "Calling Bullshit." We gave away 4 signed copies of his book and auctioned one off at the Epidemiology Foundation reception.



4. Dr. Yonaira Rivera, Assistant Professor of Communications at Rutgers University, spoke as part of a panel on building trust in diverse communities, a key to combatting misinformation and rebuilding trust where it's been broken. Leveraging the expertise of scholars from other disciplines was a key feature of this year's event.



ETHICS COMMITTEE UPDATE - COLLABORATIONS IN ACTION



WAYWAY M. HLAING, ETHICS COMMITTEE CHAIR

As epidemiologists, we collaborate with those in other disciplines (from computer and social scientists to stakeholders and partners in our communities). Our work is enriched when we share our expertise and lived experiences.

Since assuming the role of the Ethics Committee Chair two years ago, I have worked on synergizing cross-committee collaborations within ACE. The Communication, Membership, and Policy Committee leaders have attended the Ethics Committee's meetings and graciously shared their experiences, activities, and accomplishments. We will continue to pursue and expand this activity with other committees within ACE in the coming years.

I also want to highlight another endeavor we successfully implemented as part of the 2022 ACE Annual Meeting - inter-organizational collaborations. The Ethics Committee sponsored two panels jointly with the International Epidemiological Association (IEA) and the American Medical Informatics Association (AMIA) this year. Past President Eberth and the Capital Hills Management staff made both panel discussions accessible to in-person and virtual attendees.

For the ACE-IEA panel, we were privileged to hear from two fellows and former ACE leaders (Douglas Weed and John Acquavella) and the current IEA president (Chandra Pandey) on global matters of epidemiology and ethics. For the ACE-AMIA panel, two ACE and ACMI (American

College of Medical Informatic) fellows (John Holmes and Ken Goodman) were instrumental in recruiting two experts from Indiana University (Brian Dixon, ACMI fellow) and Washington University (Randi Foraker, AMIA member). This panel focused on the emerging field of computational epidemiology and its merits, pitfalls, and ethics.



ACE-AMIA Panel speakers at the ACE 2022 Annual Conference
Left to Right: Ken Goodman, John Holmes, Brian Dixon, Randi Foraker
Photo Courtesy of the American College of Medical Informatics (ACMI)

These efforts could not have been possible without the input and hard work of the Ethics Committee members, especially those who helped in organizing, moderating, and/or speaking at this year's (the first ever hybrid) Annual Meeting: Jennifer Salerno (Vice-chair), Victoria Crabb, John Holmes, Ken Goodman, and Ed Peters.

Did You Know?

Did you know that the median annual pay for epidemiologists is \$78,830? According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics 8,600 epidemiologists were employed in the United States in 2021, but the demand for epidemiologists is only growing. In fact, the job outlook for epidemiologists through 2031 is expected to grow at a rate of 26%, far outpacing the average growth rate for all occupations, which is only 5%.

But the impact of epidemiology extends far beyond just numbers and statistics. We want to hear from you about the contributions you believe epidemiology has made to health, public health, diseases, and treatments. How has epidemiology improved the quality of life for individuals and communities? Share your opinions or even upload a video of your take on these issues at <https://www.acepidemiology.org/>. Join the conversation and help us continue to build a healthier future for all!

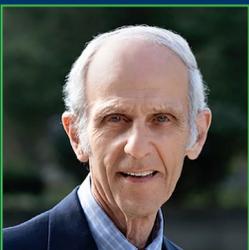
ACE ANNOUNCES 2022 DISTINGUISHED AWARDEES

XINZHI ZHANG, MD, PHD, FACE

AWARDS COMMITTEE CHAIR, AMERICAN COLLEGE OF EPIDEMIOLOGY



Congratulations to Dr. Jiang He, MD, PhD on being selected as the 2022 recipient of the American College of Epidemiology's (ACE) Abraham Lilienfeld Award. The College's most prestigious award is given in honor of Dr. Abraham Lilienfeld, MD, MPH an outstanding teacher, scholar, and a founder of the ACE. Dr. Jiang is a Professor and the Joseph S. Copes, M.D. Chair of Epidemiology at Tulane University School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine and the founding director of the Tulane University Translational Science Institute. For over three decades, he has committed himself to advancing science, clinical medicine, and public health through research, teaching, and academic service. Dr. Jiang's research has made an immense impact on the prevention and control of hypertension worldwide. He has trained more than 100 MPH/MS students and mentored more than 50 doctoral students and post-doctoral fellows.



Congratulations to Dr. John Violanti, PhD on being selected as the 2022 recipient of the American College of Epidemiology's Outstanding Contributions to Epidemiology Award. This award recognizes an active epidemiologist for outstanding contributions to the field. As a Research Professor in the Department of Epidemiology and Environmental Health at the University at Buffalo School of Public Health and Health Professions, Dr. Violanti has devoted his efforts to the management of stress and suicide prevention in police officers and other first responders. By calling attention to the stresses inherent in the job, he identifies strategies for management and prevention that saves lives.



Congratulations to Dr. Hailey Banack, PhD from Dalla Lana School of Public Health at the University of Toronto on being selected as the 2022 recipient of the American College of Epidemiology's Early Career Epidemiologist Award. This award recognizes an early career epidemiologist for contributions to the field in one of three areas: 1) methods development; 2) etiologic research; or 3) applied epidemiology. Dr. Banack is an exceptionally talented early-career epidemiologist who has made substantial contributions to the field with her work on bias analysis, epidemiologic methods, and obesity research. She is committed to broader educational initiatives and launched an innovative podcast specifically devoted to discussing epidemiologic methods and using the podcast as a unique educational forum to dig into challenging epidemiologic methods and design issues.



Congratulations to Ms. Kaitlyn Berry, MPH, PhD Candidate in Epidemiology from the University of Minnesota School of Public Health on being selected as the 2022 recipient of the American College of Epidemiology's Annual Student Paper Prize for her paper entitled, "Impact of Smoking Cessation on Household Food Security". Ms. Berry's present study found that households' risk of future food insecurity decreases after a household member quits tobacco. Given that food insecurity is a persistent public health issue in the US, this work suggests a novel approach for protecting vulnerable households from food insecurity – promoting greater access to tobacco cessation resources.

We applaud their achievements!

Xinzhi Zhang, MD, PhD, FACE

Awards Committee Chair, American College of Epidemiology

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