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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.



# Happy Holidays

## Message from the American College of Epidemiology President, Bertha A. Hidalgo, PhD, MPH, FACE



### Dear ACE Members,

As we settle into the fall season and look ahead toward winter, I want to take a moment to reflect on the energy, progress, and connection that have shaped the last several months for our College. Through our weekly Friday messages, I've had the privilege of sharing updates, celebrating accomplishments, and keeping you informed about the ongoing work of ACE. Taken together, these notes tell a larger story—one of momentum, collaboration, and a clear commitment to strengthening the future of epidemiology.

This fall has been marked by meaningful engagement across our membership. From launching the Fellows Engagement Survey to elevating opportunities for trainees and early-career members (eg ACE Scholars Program), I've been encouraged by how many of you continue to lend your voices, ideas, and time. Your input helps guide our priorities and ensures that ACE remains responsive to the needs of epidemiologists working across diverse settings and stages of their careers.

We have also continued to advance our role in public dialogue—spotlighting member achievements, encouraging transparent communication, and reinforcing the importance of trusted, evidence-based messages in a time when misinformation remains a persistent challenge. Epidemiologists know that our science matters most when it is clearly communicated, effectively applied, and accessible to the communities we serve. Many of you have contributed to that collective effort this year.

Behind the scenes, we've been preparing for the months ahead: strengthening engagement pathways, supporting professional development, planning our upcoming annual meeting (we hope see you in Buffalo!), and identifying new ways to bolster the work of our Fellows and members. Some weeks have brought major updates and others quieter reflections, but every step has been part of building a more connected and forward-thinking ACE.

As we move toward the close of the year, I want to express my sincere gratitude. Thank you for your continued participation, your thoughtful feedback, and your commitment to advancing our field. I encourage you to stay engaged—complete surveys, share your ideas, and reach out when something sparks your interest. Your involvement is what makes ACE stronger.

Wishing you a season of reflection, connection, and warmth.

I look forward to all we will accomplish together.

Warmly,

*Bertha*

# PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MENTORSHIP MATCHING SERVICE



*Tamara Chavez-Lindell, Professional Development Committee Chair*

**CLICK ON THE PDC  
COMMITTEE WEBPAGE**



**The Professional Development Committee (PDC)** supports the growth of ACE members at every career stage through the provision of educational and professional resources, including mentorship. Mentor-mentee pairing is a service available to all ACE members, fellows, associates, and affiliates – there is no cost to participate but the results can be invaluable.

**Requesting mentorship is simple: Use the button on the Committee webpage** to contact the PDC Chair via email and provide a brief description of what you are seeking in a mentor.

Are you looking to develop a specific skill or competency? Do you need support as you navigate a particular employment setting? Just want input from someone who has “been there” juggling multiple competing obligations? Do you need only a few meetings or are you seeking a longer-term pairing? Or just not sure where to begin? The PDC’s mentorship matching team can help you figure it out and provide personalized recommendations.

When initiating a request, mentees are welcome to provide demographic preferences in addition to details of the desired mentoring topic. These can include general descriptors such as employment setting or geographic location but may also comprise more personal traits of importance to the mentee regarding the match. Prior mentees have praised the sensitive matches, knowledgeable mentors, and subsequent positive mentorship experiences.

Mentor-mentee matching is a service not only for those seeking mentorship but also represents an opportunity for members to develop their mentoring skills. The PDC is pleased to count on many ACE members of diverse expertise who have already volunteered to serve as mentors. Additional ACE members who are willing to serve as mentors are invited to contact the PDC directly or sign up when they renew their membership. Of note, joining the volunteer list does not obligate members to take on any suggested matches, it simply indicates that they are open to considering the possibility. ACE members at any career stage and representing any area of specialization are encouraged to join the potential mentor list as each member’s unique experiences and skills may be just what someone else can benefit from!

## ACE AWARD COMMITTEE UPDATE



*Narges Khanjani, MD, PhD (Chair) and  
Babatunde Oloyede, PhD (Vice-Chair)*

The Award Committee of the American College of Epidemiology (ACE) acknowledged the winners of the 2025 ACE awards at the 2025 Conference at Pasadena, California. Judith Rijnhart (from the University of South Florida) and Todd Miano (from the University of Pennsylvania) won the Early Career Epidemiologist Award, in respectively the Methodology and Etiology tracks. Jason Salemi (from the University of South Florida) won the Outstanding Mentorship Award, and Sharonda Lovett (from Boston University) won the Student Paper Prize.

The ACE Award committee thanks all of the outstanding award applicants and warmly congratulates the award winners and wishes them continued prosperity and success in their careers.

**CHECK OUT ACE'S  
NEW ONLINE STORE!**



**GET YOUR ACE  
MERCH HERE!**

## ACE LEADERSHIP 2025 - 2026

### OFFICERS



**President**  
Bertha Hidalgo, PhD, MPH, FACE



**President Elect**  
Eyal Oren, PhD, MS



**Treasurer**  
Nicholas Ollberding, PhD



**Secretary**  
Yvonne L. Michael, ScD



**Immediate Past President**  
Annette L. Adams, PhD, MPH, FACE, FASBMR

### NEW MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS



**Endia Crabtree, PhD**  
Boston Scientific



**Tekeda Ferguson,  
PhD, MPH**  
Louisiana State University  
Health Sciences Center



**Regina Nechi, PhD  
student**  
Ohio State University



**Jason Salemi, PhD, MPH**  
University of South Florida

# A SUCCESSFUL CONFERENCE IN PASADENA!

Thank You to All Who Attended, Shared Their Expertise, and Supported Our Conference!



Networking Reception



Poster Sessions.



Annette Adams, PhD, MPH, FACE,  
FASBMR handing gavel to  
Bertha Hidalgo, PhD, MPH, FACE.



Kari Nadeau, MD, PhD presentation.



Alonzo Plough, PhD, MPH, MA  
gives Keynote Address.



Tom Frieden, MD, MPH  
Endowed Lecture Reception.

# ACE 2026 Annual Conference

SEPTEMBER 14-17, 2026  
— BUFFALO, NEW YORK —



# CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OUR AWARD RECIPIENTS

The Awards Committee, Publication Committee, and Board of Directors of the College congratulated this year's Award Recipients who were honored at the 2025 Annual Meeting.

HERE ARE SOME SCENES FROM THE AWARDS CEREMONY & LUNCHEON:



**The Abraham Lilienfeld Award**  
Michelle Williams, ScD



**Outstanding Mentorship Award**  
Jason Salemi, PhD, MPH



**Early Career Epidemiologist Methodology Award**  
Judith Rijnhart, MSc, PhD



**Outstanding Service Award Recipient**  
Larry Segars, PharmD, DrPH, FACE



**Student Paper Prize**  
Sharonda Lovett, PhD



## ACE SCHOLARS



**Delaney Ding**  
University of Florida



**Bricia Trejo, PhD, MPH**  
University of Washington

## Award recipient's w/o photos listed below:

**Outstanding Service Award**  
Cathy Critchlow, MS, PhD, FACE

**Early Career Epidemiologist Etiology Award**  
Todd Miano, PharmD, PhD

### Best Oral Presentation Winners:

Hanish Kodali

Luis Ascanio, MD

Giovanni Appolon, RRT, MPH

Maria Garcia, PhD

**Outstanding Service Award**

**First Place**  
Hoda Abdel Magid, PhD, MHS

**Second Place**  
Suky Zheng

**Third Place**  
Madeline Sayre, B.Sc

**Fourth Place**  
Emeen Al-Delaimy

## ASSOCIATE MEMBER HIGHLIGHTS



**Roxann Seepersad**  
Immediate Past  
Associate Member Director



**Latasha Allen, Current**  
Associate Member Director



**Regina Nechi, PhD, student**  
Incoming Associate Member Director

The associate members meet quarterly via ZOOM. Over the past two years, the members have made major contributions to designing and launching two ACE membership T-shirt designs, maintaining contact through Circles, and presenting abstracts at the ACE annual conferences. The immediate past associate member director, Roxann Seepersad, and the current associate member director, Latasha Allen, collaborated with the Professional Development Committee to re-establish a journal club.

In the upcoming months, associate members can expect to begin to participate in the journal club,

where members can bring forth ideas and discuss epidemiological processes. The intent is to network while building our skills and knowledge in epidemiology. All members are encouraged to continue to network and keep in touch on Circles.

**We thank Roxann Seepersad for her time as associate member director. We welcome our incoming associate member director, Regina Nechi. Associate members, we thank you for your continued participation in our quarterly meetings and look forward to a wonderful year.**

## EQUITY AND INCLUSION UPDATE



**Sophia I. Allen, Ph.D., M.B.A. (Chair)**

We were delighted to see so many colleagues at the ACE Annual Meeting in Pasadena, CA, for our Equity and Inclusion Committee Workshop. This year's session featured a powerful and thought-provoking presentation by Dr. Bita Amani, PhD—Co-Founder and Strategic Advisor of the Black Maternal

Health Center of Excellence (BMHCE), Chair of the Charles R. Drew University Department of Urban Public Health (CDU DUPH), and Associate Professor who also serves as Faculty Trustee on CDU's Board of Trustees.

A social epidemiologist with more than fifteen years of local and global experience, Dr. Amani brings critical insights to the intersections of community health, racism, politics, and disasters. Her research examines how social disinvestment—allocating fewer resources to vulnerable communities—and state-sanctioned violence, such as the criminalization of mental health, drive public health crises, increase morbidity, and widen inequities.

Dr. Amani's topic, "Critical Thinking, Carcerality, and Public Health: A Framework for Epidemiologic Solidarity," challenged us to consider how structural forces shape health outcomes and invited us to envision a more equitable role for epidemiologists in advancing justice. The discussion underscored the importance of critical

reflection, solidarity across disciplines and communities, and a commitment to dismantling the root causes of health inequities.

In addition to her remarks, Dr. Amani recommended several books for those interested in deepening their understanding of the historical, political, and global forces that shape health inequities:

- **How to Hide an Empire: A History of the Greater United States** (*Daniel Immerwahr*, 2020)
- **The Wretched of the Earth** (*Frantz Fanon*, 2004)
- **Red Internationalism** (*Salar Mohandes*, 2023)
- **Freedom is a Constant Struggle: Ferguson, Palestine, and the Foundations of a Movement** (*Angela Davis*, 2020)
- **The Darker Nations: A People's History of the Third World** (*Vijay Prashad*, 2007)
- **Border and Rule: Global Migration, Capitalism, and the Rise of Racist Nationalism** (*Harsha Walia*, 2021)
- **Turtle Island: The Story of North America's First People** (*Eldon Yellowhorn & Kathy Lowinger*, 2017)

We thank Dr. Amani for sharing her expertise, vision, and challenge to our field to expand the ways we think about health equity and solidarity. We look forward to seeing everyone at next year's meeting in Buffalo, NY.