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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, **Annette Adams, PhD, MPH, FACE, FASBMR**



Dear ACE Members & Supporters:

This year, 2025, has already been eventful in ways we could not have imagined even 3 or 4 months ago. It has been eventful in ways that impact us all professionally and personally. We are all feeling the effects of these events in one way or another – and however you are individually experiencing these events and effects is OK. We all react to and manage things differently, and whatever your experience, please know that it is legitimate, valid, and is just fine however it is.

Despite these impactful events, spring is still springing, birds are still singing, flowers are still blooming (or starting to), and baseball season is still starting. Take time (or make time) to get outside to breathe fresh air, or to take refreshing walks, or to find pleasant things to look at like blossoms, or tree leaves returning, or children playing outside.

While some of this message may strike some as being kind of “woo-woo,” I want to encourage people to look for small moments each day that put a little energy back into your system or that remind you of the essential goodness of the vast majority of people around us. To keep myself centered and to allow myself (and my brain) to rest for just a bit, I challenge myself each day to “look for the lights.” I actively look for small moments of awe, small things of beauty that I usually fail to notice, small interactions with friends, colleagues, or strangers that remind me that we’re all much more alike than we are different. I look for anything that makes me laugh a bit or makes me think, “Oh, that’s so awesome,” or “Oh, that’s too cute.” [As an aside – one of my favorite YouTube channels is about daily adventures of two otters who are pets of a guy living in Japan. It definitely has “that’s too cute” vibes.]

Meanwhile, the day-to-day business of the College continues. The Board of Directors held its quarterly meeting in early March. As part of that meeting, Committee leaders presented the Board with updates on their committee’s activities and there was great conversations, questions, and connections made between committees to leverage overlapping interests and make use of each committee’s strengths.

Planning continues in earnest for the 2025 Annual Meeting to be held in Pasadena, California, in September. The Planning Committee is working hard and over the coming few months, look for the release of more and more detail about the meeting program, highlighted speakers, and session topics. The call for abstracts will also be coming later this spring.

I know that there is much uncertainty about the future. I also know that there are things, both large and small, that we can look forward to. I personally am very much looking forward to seeing you all in-person at the Annual Meeting.

As always, I can be reached directly via email at adams.annette24@gmail.com or the ACE Office can be reached at office@acepidemiology.org. Please feel free to reach out if you have any questions or ideas, or if we can be of assistance.

Please take good care of yourselves, keep being good and kind humans, and keep doing good work. I appreciate you all.

BEHIND THE SCENES: COMMITTEE HIGHLIGHTS

Two committees recently combined to form what is now the **Ethics and Policy Committee** (former *Ethics Committee plus the former Policy Committee*). This merger resulted in new and returning committee members! Chaired by Jennifer Salerno and Vice Chair John Holmes, the Committee now boasts a total of 14 members who actively engage in the committee's activities and attend bi-monthly meetings. The newest members of the committee include: Rohit Ojha, Julie Goodman, Kristi Reynolds, Stephen Waring, and William Lee. The committee is also supporting two ACE Scholars: Kinsie Osman and Delaney Ding. The current activities of the Committee involve planning for the ACE Annual Meeting, developing guidance for policy statement creation and endorsement, and developing guidelines and toolkit on ethical research practices in epidemiology. Please stay tuned for more achievements by this Committee and its newest members!

ACE MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE UPDATE

Angela Malek, PhD (Chair) & Joel Begay, MPH (Vice-Chair)

The Membership Committee formed the below 4 working groups (WGs) to accomplish the Action Plan in response to the President's charges.

◆ **WG #1: Data Analysis & Infographic Design** |

Analyze current data

◆ **WG #2: Survey Development & Data Collection** |

Identify gaps in data

◆ **WG #3: Recruitment** | Develop strategies to

grow membership

◆ **WG #4: Engagement & Retention** | Build upon

ACE membership benefits

The Committee will also connect and coordinate surveying efforts with the other ACE Committee Chairs. Please feel free to reach out to Angela (malek@musc.edu) and Joel (joebeg@umich.edu) with any survey ideas or questions.

ACE EQUITY AND INCLUSION COMMITTEE UPDATE



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

The Equity and Inclusion Committee (EIC) of the American College of Epidemiology (ACE) assesses diversity and inclusion in epidemiology, promotes increased diversity and inclusion in ACE, and recommends actions to increase research addressing health equity/disparities and related fields. In doing so, the EIC advances the work of ACE and the field of epidemiology to ensure a more balanced, engaged, and innovative profession by working to remove barriers to full equity and inclusion.

The ACE EIC recently had a leadership transition as David Huang, Ph.D. resigned the role as Chair. Sophia Allen, Ph.D. (Vice Chair) has agreed to resume the role as Chair of the EIC. We are grateful for David Huang's leadership over the past several years and wish him the best. In this season of transition, I am seeking a volunteer for the Vice Chair of the EIC. Please feel free to reach out to me if you are interested.

One goal of the EIC is to collaborate with all other committees to ensure equity and inclusion are woven throughout the thread of ACE initiatives and activities. We plan to reach out to other committees to meet this goal and open to meaningful dialogue on how best to work with everyone.

We are currently planning the EIC workshop for the ACE Annual Meeting and welcome you to join the monthly meetings that are scheduled virtually for the second Friday of every month from 3-4pm (Eastern). I can also add you to our email listserv to remind you of our meetings and to receive the meeting minutes. Feel free to reach out to me with any questions/suggestions/encouragement at lexaccrd@gmail.com. Wishing you all the best!

ACE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE OVERVIEW OF THE ACE MENTORING PROGRAM

The ACE Professional Development Committee (PDC) was formed in 2024 by merging the Career Mentoring and Education committees. The committee supports the professional growth of epidemiologists at all career stages and is responsible for identifying, creating, and providing educational resources for ACE members, including the ACE mentoring program. Administration of the mentoring program also includes an annual survey of mentor/protégé pairs to evaluate the processes and outcomes of the program.

Because we were busy merging the two legacy committees and documenting some new procedures, the ACE mentoring program went on “auto pilot” during 2024. Despite the lack of publicity regarding the program, five mentor/protégé pairs were formed. Four of the ten ACE members who participated in the program responded to the survey. The limited response rate did not provide a representative sample of program participants, but the responses provide some insight into the variability of factors influencing the mentorship experience:

- ✦ One protégé rated the total time and quality spent with the mentor as excellent and the mentoring experience as fully meeting expectations.
- ✦ Another protégé met with the mentor only once, rated their experience as fair, and the mentoring experience as not fully meeting expectations.
- ✦ Both protégés stated that they would recommend the ACE mentoring program to their colleagues.
- ✦ One mentor was unable to connect with their protégé.
- ✦ The additional responding mentor reported meeting with the protégé almost every other week and rated their experience as excellent and fully meeting expectations.

In order to continue improving the mentorship program as a resource for all ACE members, the PDC is working to revitalize and more broadly publicize the program in 2025. We are also working on a self-matching tool to be hosted on the ACE website. In the March 19th *ACE in Action* session, Robert McKeown and Sandy Sulsky discussed factors that enhance the chances of a successful mentor-mentee relationship.

ACE PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE UPDATE



Syed Ahsan Raza, MD, PhD, FACE (Chair) & Akshaya Bhagavathula, PhD (Vice Chair)

It has been a productive and invigorating year for the Publications Committee. As Chair and Vice Chair for 2024, we focused on strengthening the Committee’s contributions to the College’s scholarly mission and enhancing visibility of epidemiologic research.

Early in the year, we restructured and expanded the Committee, bringing together 12 dedicated members who met regularly throughout the spring and summer. These meetings provided a forum for dynamic discussions, goal-setting, and collaborative planning. We placed special emphasis on transparency, inclusion, and streamlining operations.

One of the major highlights of the year was our collaboration with the *Annals of Epidemiology* to recognize excellence in published research. After careful review, the Committee selected Dr. Hilary Robbins from the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) as the recipient of the Best Paper Overall Award, and Dr. Paul Wesson of UCSF as the winner of the Best Junior Investigator Paper. These recognitions are important not only for honoring individual contributions but also for raising the visibility of high-impact work within our field.

The Committee also played an active role in organizing the Annual Meeting’s scientific programming, specifically the poster sessions and poster tours. We accepted a total of 93 abstracts and selected 26 for oral presentations, 57 for posters, and 4 for symposia. While we always strive to be inclusive, a small number of abstracts did not meet a minimum threshold for methodological rigor. We applied a structured scoring system and engaged in thoughtful discussions around each submission to ensure fairness and academic integrity. Several abstracts originally submitted for posters were upgraded to oral presentations based on their quality.

UPDATES FROM THE ACE FINANCE COMMITTEE



Nicholas Ollberding, PhD (Chair) & Alonzo (Ted) Folger, PhD, MS (Vice Chair)

As the season of spring cleaning is upon us, the Finance Committee has been hard at work tidying up financial strategies and investment plans to help ensure the college's long-term financial health and sustainability in these times of uncertainty. Over the past year, our most significant accomplishment has been a comprehensive overhaul of the ACE Investment Strategy. This updated framework, incorporating insights from our Treasurer, Stephen Waring, DVM, PhD, FACE, has provided us with a clearer path to aligning our investment strategy with ACE's mission and objectives and communicating those recommendations to the Board of Directors.

Looking ahead, the committee has identified several key objectives for 2025. First, we plan to continue to refine our investment strategy to ensure it remains responsive to the evolving financial landscape. Additionally, we plan to work on developing a process to better monitor and mitigate potential vulnerabilities in our portfolio. Other initiatives include providing clear guidance on environmental, social, and governance (ESG) considerations informing socially responsible investing principles and evaluating Vanguard's ETF offerings to explore new potential high-quality investment options. We also reached a major leadership milestone this year and have begun to initiate the associated governance transition. Ted Folger, PhD, MS, who is currently serving as Vice Chair, will begin his term as Chair of the Finance Committee at the conclusion of the 2025 annual meeting in Pasadena this summer. We are incredibly excited and appreciative that Dr. Folger has agreed to step into this role and are confident that his experience and energy will greatly benefit the committee and ACE.

As we continue this important work on behalf of the college, I want to remind you that we are actively seeking new members to join our committee. This is an excellent opportunity for members with an interest in finance, investments, or organizational strategy, or for those who would just like to learn more and get involved, to contribute to ACE and have an impact. If you are interested in possibly joining, please reach out—we would be delighted to discuss how you can get involved!

BECOME A VOLUNTEER LEADER: BOARD APPLICATIONS NOW OPEN!

Are you seeking a way to contribute to the epidemiology community?

Look no further than the American College of Epidemiology (ACE) volunteer leadership! By applying for a position on the Board of Directors, you can shape key ACE programs, expand your professional network, and collaborate with peers.

We are seeking positions for

- ◆ President-elect (1 vacancy)
- ◆ Fellows (3 vacancies)
- ◆ Associate Director (1 vacancy)

The President-elect will serve a one-year term as President-elect (2025-2026), a one-year term as President (2026-2027), and a one-year term as Past President (2027-2028).

Fellows will serve a three-year term from (2025-2028).

The President-elect will serve a one-year term as President-elect (2025-2026), a one-year term as President (2026-2027), and a one-year term as Past President (2027-2028).



**NOMINATE
HERE!**

Any questions please feel
free to contact
Karen Wendling at
office@acepidemiology.org

ACE AWARDS & HONORS - 2024



ACE 2024 Student Paper Prize Award

Adoma Manful, MPH

I am a fourth-year Epidemiology PhD candidate at Vanderbilt University. My research focuses on mitigating health disparities and improving health outcomes by addressing socio-contextual determinants of health.

Shaped by my background in clinical data analysis and health services research, I am committed to applying epidemiologic methods to inform policies that promote high-quality, equitable healthcare for all. My current research explores statistical methods for lung cancer risk prediction to improve equity in screening eligibility and seeks to provide critical evidence to support national policy efforts to refine the accuracy and fairness of lung cancer screening.



ACE 2024 Annals of Epidemiology Best Paper Award

Dr. Hilary Robbins, PhD

Dr. Robbins' article entitled, "Design and methodological considerations for biomarker discovery and validation in the Integrative Analysis of Lung Cancer Etiology and Risk (INTEGRAL)

Program"¹ was published in the January 2023 issue of the *Annals of Epidemiology*. Co-authors of the paper include Karine Alcala, Elham Khodayari Moez, Florence Guida, Sera Thomas, Hana Zahed, Matthew T. Warkentin, Karl Smith-Byrne, Yonathan Brhane, David Muller, Xiaoshuang Feng, Mattias Johansson, and Rayjean J. Hung. Dr. Hilary A. Robbins is an American epidemiologist working at the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC/WHO) in Lyon, France. Dr. Robbins co-leads the IARC Risk Assessment and Early Detection (RED) team, and her work focuses on using tools such as risk prediction and biomarkers to optimize cancer screening. Dr. Robbins accepts the Best Overall Paper award on behalf of the team leading protein biomarker studies within the Integrative Analysis of Lung Cancer Etiology and Risk (INTEGRAL) project, which is co-led by Dr. Mattias Johansson (IARC/WHO) and Dr. Rayjean Hung (Lunenfeld-Tanenbaum Research Institute, Sinai Health, Toronto). INTEGRAL is a U19 collaboration funded by the National Cancer Institute (2018–2028). In the paper published in *Annals of Epidemiology*, the INTEGRAL team described

the rationale, design, and study resources for their work to develop and validate protein biomarkers for use alongside low-dose CT lung cancer screening.

1. Robbins HA, Alcala K, Moez EK, Guida F, Thomas S, Zahed H, et al. Design and methodological considerations for biomarker discovery and validation in the Integrative Analysis of Lung Cancer Etiology and Risk (INTEGRAL) Program. *Ann Epidemiol* 2023;77(January):1–12.



ACE 2024 Annals of Epidemiology Early Career Best Paper Award

Dr. Paul Wesson, PhD

Dr. Wesson's article entitled, "Evaluating tools for capture-recapture model selection to estimate the size of hidden populations: it works in practice, but does it work in theory?"¹

was published in the January 2023 issue of *Annals of Epidemiology*. Dr. Wesson's co-authors were Nicholas P. Jewell, Willi McFarland, and M. Maria Glymour. Dr. Wesson is an Assistant Professor of Epidemiology and Biostatistics at the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF) where he is also the Associate Director for Science at the UCSF Institute for Global Health Sciences. He primarily conducts research on HIV surveillance, prevention, and treatment. His research focuses on quantifying and understanding health disparities for socially marginalized populations. He has developed expertise in methods for sampling "hard-to-reach" populations and estimating the size of these populations, providing a denominator for the population at risk.

1. Wesson P, Jewell NP, McFarland W, Glymour MM. Evaluating tools for capture recapture model selection to estimate the size of hidden populations: it works in practice, but does it work in theory?". *Ann Epidemiol* 2023;77(January):24–30.



ACE 2024 Distinguished Service Award

Dr. Pauline Mendola, PhD

Pauline Mendola is a tenured Professor and Chair of the Department of Epidemiology and Environmental Health in the School of Public Health and Health Professions at University at Buffalo. She's been a part of ACE for

more than 30 years! An ACE student prize paper winner in 1994, she went on to win a special mentoring award in 2006 after her doctoral students were honored with the ACE prize paper award two years in a row. Before serving as ACE president in 2017-18, she was on the

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ACE AWARDS & HONORS - 2024

board of directors representing Fellows from 2010-2013 and served on several committees: Communications and Public Relations, Membership, Mentoring, Awards, and as the Annual Meeting Program co-chair. After hearing about the Distinguished Service Award, a friend and colleague really touched her heart by saying "when I think of ACE, I think of you". Proud to support the ACE mission and our accomplishments!



ACE 2024 Distinguished Service Award Winner

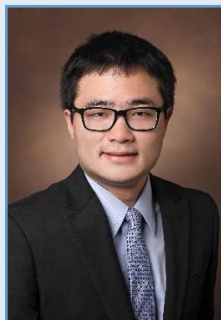
Dr. Edward Trapido, MPH, ScM, ScD, FACE

Dr. Edward Trapido is the Dean of the LSU School of Public Health and the Wendell Gauthier Professor of Cancer Epidemiology. He also serves as the Deputy Director for

Population Science at the Stanley S. Scott Cancer Center. Prior to joining LSU, Dr. Trapido was a Professor in the Department of Epidemiology and Public Health and Vice-Chair for Education at the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine. From 2003 to 2008, he worked at the US National Cancer Institute, where he held positions as Associate Director of the Epidemiology and Genetics Research Program and later as Deputy Director for International Cancer Control in the Office of International Affairs.

Dr. Trapido led the evaluation of the United Nations' International Atomic Energy Agency's "Program of Action in Cancer Therapy." He earned his Sc.D. and Sc.M. degrees in Epidemiology from the Harvard University School of Public Health and an MSPH in Parasitology from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

In 2003, he became an ACE Fellow. Dr. Trapido has been actively involved in various leadership roles, including serving as a member and then Chair of the Education Committee, a member of the Standing Committee on Annual Meetings, ACE President, Chair of the Nominating Committee, and Founding President and Board Member of the American College of Epidemiology Research and Education Foundation.



ACE 2024 Early Career Epidemiologist Award

Dr. Lang Wu

Dr. Lang Wu is the Director of the Pacific Center for Genome Research at University of Hawai'i, and a tenured Associate Professor. He received his PhD from Mayo Clinic College of Medicine, and conducted postdoctoral

training at Vanderbilt University. His main research area is genetic and molecular epidemiology of chronic diseases, particularly cancer. As PI, he has secured approximately \$19 million in NIH and V Foundation grants. He has published over 130 peer-reviewed papers in high-impact journals such as *Nature Genetics* and *Cancer Research*. Dr. Wu chairs the Centers for Genome Research Consortium steering committee and serves on multiple NIH and V Foundation review panels. He is an Associate Editor of *Molecular Carcinogenesis* and on the editorial board of *Cancer Epidemiology, Biomarkers & Prevention*. His honors include the Mayo Clinic Early-Career Alumni Award, V Foundation V Scholar Award, and the University of Hawai'i's nominee for the 2024 Governor's Awards etc.



ACE 2024 Honorary Fellow of the College

Dr. William J. Blot, PhD

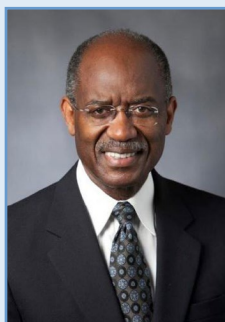
William J Blot, PhD, is Emeritus Research Professor in the Department of Medicine, Vanderbilt University and Chief Executive Officer of the International Epidemiology Institute (IEI). Prior to co-founding IEI in 1994,

Dr Blot directed research into the causes of cancer for 20 years at the National Cancer Institute (NCI).

Dr Blot has conducted research towards identifying and quantifying determinants of chronic diseases. He has led case-control and cohort studies and clinical trials in both the United States and abroad to help clarify the contributions of demographic, occupational, dietary, lifestyle (including tobacco and alcohol consumption), genomic, medical and other factors as causes of cancer and other illnesses. He was the founding principal investigator of the Southern Community Cohort Study, one of the largest epidemiologic investigations undertaken to assess reasons for racial disparities in cancer incidence and mortality. Dr Blot has authored or co-authored over 800 articles published in the scientific literature.

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ACE AWARDS & HONORS - 2024



ACE 2024 Honorary Fellow of the College

Dr. Sherman A. James, PhD

A social epidemiologist, Dr. Sherman A. James is the Susan B. King Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Public Policy at Duke University. Previously, he was a professor of epidemiology in the Schools of Public Health at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill and at the University of Michigan. Dr. James is the originator of the John Henryism Hypothesis which posits that repeated, high-effort coping with systemic stressors such as poverty and racial discrimination contributes to the well-known, early-onset of hypertension and related cardiometabolic diseases in African Americans, especially the poor and working class. Dr. James has received numerous honors for his teaching, research, and service contributions to the field of epidemiology. These include election to the National Academy of Medicine in 2000 and to the presidency of the Society for Epidemiologic Research (SER) in 2007-08.



ACE 2024 Honorary Fellow of the College

Dr. Electra D. Paskett, PhD

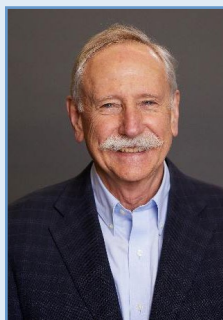
Electra D. Paskett, Ph.D., became the Marion N. Rowley Professor of Cancer Research at The Ohio State University in 2002. She is the Director of the Division of Cancer Prevention and Control in the College of Medicine, a professor in the Division of Epidemiology in the College of Public Health, Deputy Director for Population Sciences and Community Outreach and Founding Director of the Center for Community Outreach and Engagement at the James Cancer Hospital.



ACE 2024 Honorary Fellow of the College

Dr. Margaret Spitz, MD, MPH

Dr. Margaret Spitz is a professor in the Department of Medicine and the Dan L Duncan Comprehensive Cancer Center at Baylor College of Medicine where she provides strategic direction for its population sciences program. Prior to her appointment at Baylor, she had a 27-year history on the faculty at MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, Texas, serving as founding chair of the Department of Epidemiology. Dr. Spitz has a long-standing interest in genetic susceptibility to lung cancer. She developed a lung cancer risk prediction model, participated in lung cancer GWAS and is a founding member of the International Lung Cancer Consortium. Dr. Spitz has been a recipient of numerous honors, most recently the Association of American Cancer Institutes' Distinguished Scientist Award. She has served as co-chair of the National Cancer Institute's Lung Cancer Progress Review Group and was a member of its Board of Scientific Advisors. She also participates in the external scientific advisory committees of several major cancer centers and SPORES.



ACE 2024 Honorary Fellow of the College

Dr. Walter Willett, MD, DrPH

Dr. Walter Willett is a physician and epidemiologist and Professor of Epidemiology and Nutrition at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health. He served as Chair of the Department of Nutrition at Harvard for 25 years. Much of his work has been on the development of methods, using both questionnaire and biochemical approaches, to study the effects of diet on the occurrence of major diseases. He has applied these methods starting in 1980 in the Nurses' Health Studies I and II and the Health Professionals Follow-up Study. Together, these cohorts that include nearly 300,000 men and women with repeated dietary assessments are providing the most detailed information on the long-term health consequences of food choices. Dr. Willett has published over 2,000 research papers, primarily on lifestyle risk factors for heart disease and cancer, and has written the textbook, *Nutritional Epidemiology*, published by Oxford University Press. He also has four books for the general public. Dr. Willett is the most cited nutritional scientist internationally. He is a member of the National Academy of Medicine and the recipient of many national and international awards for his research.

UNDERSTANDING THE IMPACT OF FUNDING CUTS ON KNOWLEDGE AND PUBLIC HEALTH SYSTEMS

ACE Communications Committee

It's only after something is gone that we truly appreciate its value, the role it serves in our daily lives—particularly for those systems supporting research, education, and public health. Recent and proposed cuts to agencies such as the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) and the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) threaten not only museums, archives, and libraries, but also the broader infrastructure that supports access to information and historical preservation.

Efforts to digitize materials and restore media have stalled. Programs like a summer institute in Ohio on pandemics and public health have been suspended, with capital projects funded by these programs jeopardized. The cascading impact of these federal cuts may impact state funding for local libraries—as seen in Mississippi, where the state removed access to academic research databases.

These consequences are far-reaching. Consider: if libraries can no longer afford subscriptions, will academic journals continue to publish at the same scale? American law states that indirect costs on federal grants cannot be cut. Yet concerns remain that administrative decisions might embargo or delay disbursement of funds. The delays in NIH grant reviews, for example, are an indirect tactic hindering scientific research, affecting not only thousands of investigators but also graduate students and the local economies.

Now, some state legislatures are considering steep tax increases on university endowment investment income, aimed at offsetting as much as \$4.5 trillion in tax cuts. Meanwhile, federal budget proposals include cuts to research on a host of disorders—like cancer, diabetes, HIV/AIDS, and Alzheimer's disease, potentially reversing decades of progress.

One of the more tragic outcomes of this funding disruption is the forced euthanasia of millions of laboratory animals, including non-human primates, dogs, cats, and genetically modified rodents. These animals are at risk due to the lack of funds to support the personnel who care for them.

Community mental health services, substance use prevention, and treatment programs are also affected by these cuts. In a particularly ironic twist, groups such as MAHA, which have lobbied against vaccines, are now facing sweeping cuts that also eliminate disability services and benefits, including those for individuals with autism.

Finally, even as the CDC and NIH fund yet another study which, before a single datum has been collected, will link vaccines to autism, the credibility of such work is further undermined by the appointment of investigators with revoked medical licenses—placing both scientific integrity and public trust at risk.

What emerges is a stark reminder that these funding cuts do not occur in isolation. They ripple across sectors, eroding the pillars of education, health, and scientific advancement that our society is built on. And by the time we feel the full effects, it will be too late to rebuild what was lost.