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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, CAPT Diana Bensyl, MA, PhD, FACE



I am nervous and happy to be writing my first letter as ACE President. I am nervous because I take this role very seriously. I want to make good decisions and provide leadership, not just for ACE, but also for those doing epidemiologic work. I am happy that I can help lead a group that has been important for my career growth, has helped me make connections in all sectors, and regularly teaches me new things. I attended my first ACE meeting in 1998 in San Francisco. It was a great experience and when I finished my doctorate, I joined ACE in 1999. Not long thereafter, I joined the Education committee and then moved into the subcommittee lead role. A few years later, on my second try, I was elected as a board member.

My priorities as ACE President include strengthening our subcommittees, encouraging volunteerism, and growing a membership that is representative of epidemiologists regarding topic areas, places of employment, and in demographic representation. I believe that ACE can do for us what we do for it. To expect ACE to do something for our careers or personal growth, without doing anything in return, is unrealistic. If we want our college to work best for us and others in the field, we should attend annual meetings, volunteer for committee work, and submit to our journal (*Annals of Epidemiology*) so that our voice can be heard, and we can help maintain the standards of our profession.

We have a great team leading the college for 2019-20 with Steven Jacobsen as President-Elect, Larry Segars as Treasurer, Cathy Critchlow as Secretary, and Russel Kirby as Past President. We also have a strong group of board members and you can see that group listed on our website: <https://www.acepidemiology.org/leadership>

I encourage anyone interested in running for the board in the future to be in touch with the nominating committee which will be chaired this year by Pauline Mendola (via [office@acepidemiology.org](mailto:office@acepidemiology.org)). This year was the first time in a long time that we considered self-nominations and we were able to get a nicely qualified group of ACE members and fellows to run for the board and to help with committees. Also, if you have run for an ACE board position and were not elected, please stay involved and when you are re-nominated, agree to run!

I want to sincerely thank all those who served on the board or in committee roles now or in the past for their leadership and commitment to ACE. We cannot be an effective, functioning society with the work of board members and committee members. I also want to thank Russell Kirby for completing his successful term as President. It has been great working with him for the last year to prepare for my term. I'm glad that he continues to lend his expertise for the next year in the Past President role. His commitment to the college is inspirational.

The last thing I want to mention is what a great annual meeting we had this past September in Pasadena, California. Thank you to the organizers and our management team, Capitol Hill Management Services, for all their work! The next ACE annual meeting will be held in College Park, Maryland, September 21-24, 2020. Our theme is Advancing Health Equity – Epidemiologic Research, Education, Policy and Practice. The Planning Committee is already hard at work and if you would like to get involved, we still have plenty of room for your participation. Please contact the chair, Edmond Shenassa (via [office@acepidemiology.org](mailto:office@acepidemiology.org)), for details.

Have a great fall and please message me any time to discuss issues or questions (via [office@acepidemiology.org](mailto:office@acepidemiology.org)).

## 40 YEAR EVOLUTION OF ACE

**Julie Smith-Gagen MPH, PhD, FACE**  
**Communications Committee Chair**

To commemorate ACE's 40th Anniversary, we looked back at the College's evolution. Preliminary steps for ACE's foundation may have begun in 1942 when the American Journal of Public Health published an editorial entitled "What and who is an epidemiologist?" The editorial asked: Are epidemiologists born or confessed? Are they medical doctors, or do they include statisticians or bacteriologists? Do they have infectious disease experience? Are epidemiologists conferred or announced? Just who could assert themselves an epidemiologist?

Although in 1968, Abe Lillienfeld, Brian MacMahon, and Milton Terris, epidemiology department chairs at Johns Hopkins, Harvard, and the New York Medical College, created the Society for Epidemiologic Research (SER), the question of who and what is an epidemiologist was not addressed. Rather, SER promoted conversation among epidemiological subspecialties and focused on research and methods. SER membership was open to all.

The question reared its ugly head again when, in 1976, a chemist preparing congressional testimony acting as her company's epidemiologist telephoned Dr. Lillienfeld asking what and who is an epidemiologist. Although the chemist belonged to SER, Lillienfeld realized epidemiology needed a professional society defining epidemiological knowledge and skills and advocating for the profession. Dr. Lillienfeld began planning an organization to confer credentialing and representing the profession for both non-physician and physician epidemiologists. Leonard Schuman, University of Minnesota epidemiology program director, suggested using a medical board-type exam for credentialing.

ACE officially incorporated in 1979. By design, the ACE Board of Directors were mostly academic leaders,

including half non-physician epidemiologists. They were a Who's Who of prominent epidemiologists.

The College formation was not without quarrel. At the 1979 New Haven, Connecticut SER meeting, Dr. Lillienfeld explained the College's goals and operations to an impromptu and overflowing crowd, including hecklers and skeptics. Skeptics suggested ACE conspired with physician-epidemiologists to keep non-physician epidemiologists out of the field and that the College sought to usurp academic epidemiology training programs. Others suggested ACE certification added additional barriers beyond educational achievements, while supporters suggested certification may increase salaries. The lively debate continued at the 1980 SER meeting in Minneapolis, MN.

Despite protests, ACE began accepting members. Initially, ACE admitted qualified epidemiologists based on training and experience, and membership flourished. After ACE implemented the certification exam, new membership waned. The Board reverted to peer recognition of training and experience in 1991, cultivating vitality with new membership while admitting younger epidemiology trainees as Associate members.

Ana Diez Roux stated in a May 2019 AJE editorial that epidemiology lies squarely at the intersection of the social and biological sciences, methodology, and translational science. Diez Roux asserted though intellectually fascinating and scientifically complex, epidemiology is a hybrid, prone to perpetual reflection on our true identity. As the college's mission includes addressing what and who is an epidemiologist, ACE will lead this rapidly advancing, controversial, and pivotal issue as we discuss the role of methodology and causality, vs. pragmatism and consequentiality, medicine vs. public health, biology vs. big data, and subdisciplinary fragmentation.

Thanks to Victor Schoenbach's archive of monthly emails entitled "ACE President's Notes" by former ACE President, Melissa J. Perry.



### ACE MEMBER HIGHLIGHT: MICHAEL B COOK, PHD, FACE

Dr. Michael B. Cook earned his B.Sc. in genetics at the University of Nottingham, England, and, subsequently, a Ph.D. in epidemiology at the University of Leeds, England. He joined the Division of Cancer Epidemiology and Genetics as a postdoctoral fellow in 2007, was promoted to research fellow in 2008, and was appointed as a tenure-track investigator in 2011. Dr. Cook's research program is focused on the epidemiology of esophageal adenocarcinoma and prostate cancer.

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## Interview with Dr. Michael B. Cook, FACE by Syed Ahsan Raza MD, MSc, PhD, Member ACE

**Question.** What sparked your curiosity to foray into 'Epidemiology'? When was the first time you heard the name 'Epidemiology' and when was it that you decided that you would become one?

**Answer:** The first time I heard the word "Epidemiology" was during my undergraduate degree in Genetics at the University of Nottingham, England. Although this Genetics course had a broad focus across the field, there were some modules on human populations that touched upon foundational concepts of epidemiology. In was the turn of the millennium and the first draft of the human genome had just been completed. A convergence between molecular science and epidemiology had begun and so, after graduating from Nottingham, I went on to study for a doctorate in Epidemiology at the University of Leeds, spending half of my time in the Cancer Epidemiology Group and half in the Molecular Epidemiology Unit, headed by Profs David Forman and Chris Wild, respectively. It was at the University of Leeds that I learned the core concepts and foundations of epidemiology and how it was becoming ever-more entwined with molecular science, particularly as the latter began to develop technologies that could more easily be applied to larger sample sizes. My subsequent career step of accepting an offer to go to the U.S. National Cancer Institute for a Postdoctoral Fellowship is when I truly set my course to Epidemiology.

**Question:** Who do you consider your greatest influence in Epidemiology?

**Answer:** I have been extremely fortunate to have had numerous great mentors from Leeds to the present day. I know not everyone is so lucky. Allow me to flip this question to the readership and say, if you are not in a good mentoring relationship, be proactive and try to fix it now. Consider building a mentoring committee, take advantage of the American College of Epidemiology mentoring program and other support, speak with the head of your program or office of education, or even change mentors or positions. Strong mentorship is a key ingredient for your success. Lasting relationships with people who will help guide you beyond your current position can become lifelong mentors.

**Question:** Please tell us about your own research. How have your own ideas evolved since your PhD?

**Answer:** I am an Investigator in the Division of Cancer Epidemiology and Genetics at the National Cancer Institute (<https://dceg.cancer.gov>); we are part of the NCI Intramural Research Program. My research combines classical and molecular epidemiologic approaches to answer critical questions of esophageal adenocarcinoma and prostate cancer, with a focus on adiposity, sex hormones, reproductive factors, racial differences, and molecular biomarkers. I am using a broad range of tools, such as age-period-cohort models, formal mediation analysis, cutting-edge proteomic assays, and computational pathology, to advance etiologic understanding and clinical management of these cancers, and to provide new insights for cancer prevention.

Our Division offers a highly interactive and collegial environment for epidemiologic research. The large size and broad expertise enhances our work and helps shape our individual research visions. My tenure-track experience in this Division has undoubtedly made me a stronger epidemiologist. During your doctoral research you are focused on a small number of projects and the methods you need to master, and this is the way it should be—it is your introduction to independence. When attaining an assistant professor/tenure track role you then have a blank canvas in front of you which can be scary as well as exciting. I urge early career epidemiologists to embrace this opportunity and fill the center of the canvas with big ideas that will form the foundation of their research program. There needs to be room in scientific budgets to ask big questions with the potential to really move the needle on knowledge and public health.

**Question:** How would you describe an ideal mentor-mentee relationship? How important do you think is ACE membership in forging such relationships?

**Answer:** A majority of people reading this are already ACE members and they will be aware of our smaller annual meetings that enable interactions with more senior epidemiologists, opportunities that larger forums don't allow. They will also be aware of the speed networking and internal mentoring activities arranged by the College. We need to spread the word about the excellent work of the College: get involved and expand your network and skills with service that goes beyond the research listed on your resume. Having formal and informal mentors provides a variety of perspectives, outlets and

Cont.

opportunities. Being an active member of the College will help enrich your network and, in turn, your career.

**Question:** What advice would you give to epidemiologists fresh out of their PhDs?

**Answer:** Twelve months prior to defending your doctoral research you should have a meeting with your mentoring committee to discuss the next step in your career. In advance of that meeting, send them an outline of your thoughts and preferences and ask them to critically review it as well as suggest opportunities and positions that may be suitable. Combined with your own research, you

will have the beginnings of a plan. Don't sit on the plan, but continue to move it forward through informational interviews and applications for specific positions that suit your skillset. If you are fresh out of your PhD, you can do this now, albeit on a faster timeline.

For those in their first position, perhaps now is the time to start thinking about the next one. Envisioning where you would like to be will help you target projects to work on and skills to build to make you a stronger candidate for that future role. Planning five-years out and strategizing about the best steps to make it there will place you in good stead.

## MENTORING COMMITTEE UPDATE

**Angela D. Liese, MPH, PhD, FACE, Chair**

Career Mentoring Program Making a Difference – One Mentor-Mentee Match at a Time

Less than six months after launching the American College of Epidemiology Career Mentoring Program, the feedback is in from our first set of matched mentee-mentor pairs. From career advice to surpassed expectations, mentees reveal the various merits of the program.

"[My mentor] has already made a major difference in guiding me to make decisions ... for my career." says a cancer research fellow at a research-intensive medical center. "What I have gained is so much more than what I could have asked for."

"[My mentor] has been passionate about helping me build my career as a junior faculty." says a junior faculty at a teaching-intensive institution. "[My mentor's] advice is clear, direct and realistic." "Having an honest senior faculty to talk to and you know they will listen and offer advice is golden for a junior faculty like me who doesn't have any mentoring at my current institution."

Similarly, mentors reported that working with another ACE member was intensely gratifying and opened unexpected connections.

"I am very excited about [my mentee's] career and future endeavors ... it has been truly a delight to meet and work with her and although she may not realize it, she inspires

and encourages me." remarked an Associate Professor at Research Institutions. A senior epidemiologist at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) commented "NIH is a very big place, and I doubt that [we] would have crossed paths absent ACE's Mentoring Committee's making it happen."

Mentee-mentor discussions cover a range of topics, including setting life goals and career goals, life-work balance, strategies for prioritizing, difficult conversations and situations in the work environment, and challenges faced by black women in academia. To date, eight mentees have been matched to mentors and we are working to match all requests as we receive them. We need many more mentors, so please let us know if you are interested.

Most mentee-mentor pairs have interacted via long-distance communication but some have taken advantage of their geographic proximity. As one mentor in a large metropolitan area on the East coast commented:

"[My mentee] and I had an excellent face to face meeting and have another one scheduled for next week. We have also communicated some on email when I have come across an opportunity or piece of information that [my mentee] may be interested in."

For more information, [read the article](#) about the ACE Mentoring Program that was published in the March 2019 issue of the Annals of Epidemiology. Sign up to be a mentor or request a mentor by completing the mentorship fields in your profile when logged into the ACE website or contact Committee Chair [Angela Liese](#).

## TESTIMONIALS AS TO THE VALUE OF ACE MEMBERSHIP FROM THE MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

**Maurizio Macaluso, MD, DrPH, FACE, Chair**

The Membership Committee recognizes the importance of highlighting the value that being a member of the College adds to a professional career, and intends to promote awareness by compiling testimonials by key individuals and sharing them among the members. In this issue of the Newsletter we feature Diana Bensyl, PhD, ACE Fellow and President, and Toby Levin, PhD, Associate Member. If you are interested in taking part in this initiative and share your story and your experience with the College, please contact Maurizio Macaluso ([Maurizio.macaluso@cchmc.org](mailto:Maurizio.macaluso@cchmc.org)) or Sarah Geiger ([geiger@niu.edu](mailto:geiger@niu.edu)).

CAPT Diana Bensyl, MA, PhD, FACE is a Senior Country Manager in the Division of Global Health Protection, Center for Global Health (CGH) at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in Atlanta, Georgia. In this role she currently supervises four CDC country office teams: Sierra Leone, Guinea, Liberia and India.



CAPT Bensyl received a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology and a Master of Arts in Sociology from Baylor University. She then studied Preventive Medicine and Community Health with a specialization in Sociomedical Sciences at the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston, Texas where she received her PhD in 1999. She joined CDC through the EIS Program after

graduation and was assigned to the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), Alaska Field Station in Anchorage, Alaska.

In her prior post at CDC, she was the Lead for the Global Emergency Alert and Response System (GEARS) in the Emergency Response and Recovery Branch. In this role she directed the Global Rapid Response Team and the Global Disease Detection Operations Center housed in GEARS. She also led training development for emergency and humanitarian responses for staff at CDC, with academic partners, and with both government and non-government partners, domestically and internationally.

Prior to working in Center for Global Health, she was the lead for Curriculum, Conference, and Student Programs in the Epidemiology Workforce Branch in the Center for Surveillance, Epidemiology, and Laboratory Services. She had a focus on public health and epidemiology training and worked with Epidemic Intelligence Service

(EIS) officers, Laboratory Leadership Service fellows, medical and veterinary students, and middle and high school teachers and students. She also served as a staff epidemiologist post-EIS at the NIOSH Alaska Field Station and in the Division of Reproductive Health, National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion.

Dr. Bensyl graciously agreed to ask a few questions about her involvement in the College.

**Q: Please describe how you joined ACE: what attracted you to the College?**

**A:** The professors in my doctoral program were members of ACE and were going to the annual meeting. They gave me travel support so that I could travel to the annual meeting with them. It was my first scientific conference. The members were so welcoming and accessible even though they were well-established in their careers and could have easily ignored a grad student. I always remembered the hospitality and when I finished my degree, ACE was the first society that I joined and I immediately offered to volunteer for a committee.

**Q: What has been the best experience you had as a Fellow/Member/Associate Member of the College?**

**A:** My best memories come from engaging with the committees and eventually going to board meetings to talk about goals and ideas for ACE. I also learned about things happening outside my area. I was in government, but I got to hear about epi in academia, pharmaceutical work, private corporations, other government agencies, and NGOs. Overall, we had the same goal but how we go there was different sometimes. It was fascinating.

**Q: What keeps you engaged in ACE?**

**A:** I keep coming back to ACE, though it is extra work from my regular job, because of the camaraderie and I keep learning new things in committee meetings and at annual meetings. I feel more engaged and connected to the overall epidemiology field and not stuck in my own operational world.

**Q: What career advantages do you see coming from continued membership in the College?**

**A:** I have heard about methods, concerns, and emerging topics at ACE meetings that have not come up in my day to day work. I am ahead of the game sometimes and can talk more meaningfully about a subject when it comes up, lead the way at work, or discuss pitfalls in a way that wouldn't happen if I weren't at ACE. I also get to know people from multiple fields and work sectors. For advancing at work or changing institutions, I have a group of people who can help navigate that process, give advice, and even give recommendations.

**Q: What are your expectations of what ACE can do for you?**

**A:** ACE can do for me what I do for it. To expect ACE to do something for my career or personal growth without me doing anything is unrealistic. No matter what the field, just joining a society is unlikely to do anything for you. If you want a society to work for you and others in your field, you should attend annual meetings, volunteer for committee work, and submit to its journal so that your voice can be heard and you can help maintain the standards of your profession.

**Q: Is there anything else you'd like to share with us about your ACE experience?**

**A:** I'm very thankful to have 'grown up' with ACE over the last 20+ years since getting my doctorate. They have been a valuable part of my career and I hope that I can continue to encourage engagement from new and current members.



Dr. Toby R. Levin received her PhD in public health epidemiology from Walden University, an MPH in community health education from CUNY-Hunter College and a BA in biology from CUNY-Brooklyn College. She has been employed as an epidemiologist for the last 19 years

at Westchester County Department of Health and New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. She is also an adjunct professor at Dominican College in the doctorate of nurse practice (DNP) for the last 6 years and was an adjunct professor at Monroe College in the MPH program.

Dr. Levin has extensive experience in supervising, mentoring and guiding entry-level epidemiologists, graduate and medical students. She has supervised both large and small groups of individuals with varying levels of education and titles. She has now been asked to be part of the Council for State and Territorial Epidemiologist (CSTE) mentorship program where she will be responsible for 2 mentees.

In 2002, when Dr. Levin collaborated with New York State Department of Health to provide the universal birth dose for Hepatitis B in half the hospitals in New York City, she worked with the CEO, vice presidents and other leaders to get accomplish this task. Most recently she has been the lead on many outbreak investigations, including the measles outbreak in New York State.

Dr. Levin was inducted into the National Society for Leadership and Success in 2018, which has given her tools to be an effective leader, was voted in as the Epidemiology Section Councilor, a leadership position, for the American

Public Health Association in November 2018 where she has been assisting on different committees.

Her background is in infectious disease and social epidemiology which include interests in tobacco and vaping control, alcohol use and misuse, food safety, and emerging infections.

Dr. Levin graciously agreed to ask a few questions about her involvement in the College.

**Q: Please describe how you joined ACE: what attracted you to the College?**

**A:** I joined ACE in 2012 when I decided to take my career to another level. I think that ACE is the best place to find other epidemiologists such as myself and I want to use the tools provided to hone my skills and further my career.

**Q: What has been the best experience you had as a Fellow/Member/Associate Member of the College?**

**A:** The best experience that I had as an Associate Member of the College has been making connections and reading the journal.

**Q: What keeps you engaged in ACE?**

**A:** The need to advance my career. I feel that the College will be my stepping-stone into getting recognition and being able to stay focused in public health.

**Q: What career advantages do you see coming from continued membership in the College?**

**A:** I feel that by staying up-to-date and engaging with my colleagues I will be able to further my career. I have been in public health for over 20 years and this is a one-stop shop for all information relating to epidemiology.

**Q: What are your expectations of what ACE can do for you?**

**A:** My expectations from ACE are simple: I want to be able to join a few committees so as to get the most of the College. I also want the journal to focus on topics that are relevant to public health. In addition, networking and mentoring are the main focus of my career at this time and hope that ACE can continue providing the necessary tools for this.

**Q: Is there anything else you'd like to share with us about your ACE experience?**

**A:** First, understand your own goals and focus on what ACE can do for you. Second, surf the website to know what there is for ACE to offer. Last but definitely not least join committees where you feel you will be of the most value.

## POLICY COMMITTEE UPDATE

**Rachel Widome, PhD, MHS, FACE, Chair**

At the 2019 ACE annual meeting in Pasadena, the Policy Committee sponsored the "Epidemiology, Policy, and Trust," session. Its focus was on the health implications of increasing public skepticism toward science. The popular session was moderated by Rachel Widome (University of Minnesota) ACE policy committee chair.

Four short presentations highlighted several cases of lost trust in epidemiology, how these trust issues influenced policy, and how questioning the credibility of epidemiology delayed population-wide health goals. Michele Forman (Perdue University) kicked off the session discussing the increasingly popular ketogenic diet, despite its lack of evidence, and the minimal public awareness of its adverse effects. She went on to discuss the public's general confusion about where to look for fact based diet guidance. Wael Al-Delaimy (University of California - San Diego) depicted one of the most pressing issues facing global health, climate change, and discussed how epidemiologists engage on this issue in their response to climate change deniers. Kenneth Goodman (University of Miami) reviewed risk communication ethics and science communication in the face of legitimate uncertainty. James Gaudino introduced the International Network for Epidemiology in Policy (INEP), a group with representation from ACE as well as epidemiology associations from around the world, who work collaboratively to publish easily accessible policy statements on hot-button issues. The session concluded with audience questions as the panel discussed overarching lessons learned, examined how new media communication is influencing the scientific communication in unexpected ways, and suggested strategies for addressing epidemiologic credibility with the public.

The policy committee is looking forward to the 2020 ACE annual meeting in College Park. We are currently considering topics for either a session or a workshop, picking up on some of the most engaging themes from this 2019. We welcome suggestions from the membership on policy-relevant session or workshop concepts.



**Epidemiology, Policy, and Trust, ACE 2019, Pasadena, CA**

From left to right: Kenneth Goodman, Wael Al-Delaimy, Michele Forman, Jim Gaudino, Rachel Widome  
Photo by Melinda Aldrich

## ACE ASSOCIATE MEMBERS COMMITTEE UPDATE

**Sazid Khan and Tamala Gondwe, Incoming and Outgoing Chairs**

We are presenting this update as the Outgoing (Tamala) and Incoming (Sazid) Directors of the ACE Associate Members committee. Other active committee members are Symielle Gaston, Jewel Wright, and Toby Levin, who also serve as liaisons to other ACE committees. Altogether, our primary goals are to continue to develop ongoing Associate Member activities, improve Associate Member engagement in the college, and provide opportunities for professional development.

We are pleased to report that we had a successful set of programs for Associate Members at the ACE 2019 meeting in Pasadena! We collaborated with Dr. Angela Liese and the Career Mentoring Committee on the 'Speed Networking' activity, had an interesting discussion over breakfast with members of the Board of Directors and the ACE president, Dr. Russ Kirby, and partook in the sessions offered by the College at the annual meeting. The Associate Member committee also chaired a well-attended Career Panel concurrent session with panelists from a diverse range of careers in epidemiology, who provided advice and insight on their career trajectories. Throughout the meeting we also had opportunities for informal networking and socializing, such as during the poster session and at the Cal Tech Athenaeum for the Awards reception. We hope that the student non-members in attendance were convinced to join the college at the associate member level!

We continue to encourage Associate Members to become active with the committee - one way is to participate in our general conference calls! We plan to send a survey at the beginning of 2020 in order to gauge the needs and interests of Associate Members, and also identify any issues to bring before the ACE board of directors. We will also be notifying our associate members over the next month regarding any open liaison positions within the other committees for an associate member to fill as well as other exciting opportunities to get more involved in the College. In the meantime, please email us at [aceassocmember@gmail.com](mailto:aceassocmember@gmail.com) with any questions, feedback, or ideas for improving the Associate Member experience!

Outgoing and Incoming Associate Directors Associate Member Career Panel Concurrent Session, Monday September 9th.



## PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE UPDATE

### Maria-Graciela Hollm-Delgado, MSc PhD, Chair



This has been a productive year for the Publications Committee, highlighted by continued development of "From the ACE" corners in the Annals of Epidemiology (in conjunction with the Ethics, Mentoring, Policy and Education committees), peer-review of abstracts and posters for the ACE Annual meeting, and selection of best papers published in the Annals of Epidemiology.

Notable articles published in "**From the ACE**" pages during 2019 include:

- Liese AD for the Career Mentoring Committee. "[American College of Epidemiology mentoring guidelines](#)". Annals of Epidemiology. 31: 1-2. March 2019. (General)
- Salerno J et al. "[Untangling the ethical intersections of epidemiology, human subjects research, and public health](#)". Annals of Epidemiology. 34: 1-5. June 2019 (Ethics corner)
- Aldrich M et al. "[Gender equity in epidemiology: a policy brief](#)". Annals of Epidemiology 35: 1-3. July 2019 (Policy corner)
- Hlaing W. "[Competencies acquired in epidemiology doctoral programs](#)". Annals of Epidemiology 36: 1-4. August 2019. (Education corner)

For this year's **ACE Annual Meeting (Pasadena, CA)**, we received 127 abstract submissions from which 81 (64%)

abstracts were accepted for oral or poster presentation. Other noteworthy events included migration of abstract submission to a new editorial system (Editorial Manager®), and publication of late-breaker abstracts for the first time in over 20 years. Poster prizes were given at the ACE Annual Meeting to Olushola Ogunleye (First place) and Sadaf Milani (Second place).

We are also delighted to announce this year's **recipients of the Annals of Epidemiology Awards**.

- Best Overall Paper

**Eric J. Jacobs, PhD**, American Cancer Society for the manuscript

"[Ghost-time bias from imperfect mortality ascertainment in aging cohorts](#)". Annals of Epidemiology 28(10): 691-96. October 2018.

- Best Junior Paper

**Carla P. Bezold, ScD**, Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health for the manuscript

"[The relationship between surrounding greenness in childhood and adolescence and depressive symptoms in adolescence and early adulthood](#)". Annals of Epidemiology 28(4): 213-19. April 2018.

Congratulations to all the winners!

Finally, **special appreciation is extended to all the volunteers** who kindly gave their time and effort to review abstracts and judge posters this past year. Their contribution helps us to maintain the high quality of content presented at the meeting and abstracts published in the Annals of Epidemiology. A list of volunteers is included in this newsletter.

## THANK YOU TO THE 2019 ACE ANNUAL MEETING VOLUNTEERS

### ABSTRACT REVIEWERS

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## EPIDEMIOLOGY FOUNDATION NEWS

**Edward J. Trapido, ScD, FACE, ACE Foundation  
President**

The Epidemiology Foundation (aka The ACE Research and Education Foundation) sponsored the ACE Minority Affairs Committee workshop and lunch at the ACE Annual Meeting in Pasadena. The workshop was well attended, and attracted several individuals who potentially will become ACE Members. The Epidemiology Foundation also sponsored the ACE Annual Meeting Reception and Awards Ceremony, which was held at the striking CALTech Athenaeum. This venue also provided an opportunity for re-introducing the Foundation to meeting attendees, including those for whom the Pasadena meeting was their first contact with the American College of Epidemiology.

Each year, the Foundation supports an Endowed Lecture- by one whose work has opened a field or made in substantial change to Epidemiology. The first awardee was Dr. Ross Brownson, who delivered a talk on "Linking epidemiology and implementation science: How to increase the impact of your research," during the 2018 meeting in Cincinnati. This year, Dr. Sara Jahnke presented her work on the epidemiology of health issues among firefighters, whose disease experience reflects a combination of work and lifestyle factors. Dr. Jahnke is the director of the Center for Fire, Rescue and EMS Health Research at the National Development and Research Institutes. Even for epidemiologists working in totally

different areas, Dr. Jahnke's presentation was enlightening and informative.

The Epidemiology Foundation is now working on goals for 2020. The Foundation would like to be able to increase its support for educational and research opportunities in Epidemiology that go beyond the ACE Annual Meeting. For example, best practices in teaching epidemiology- at multiple levels, may be of interest. Another example would be a workshop on the implications of Population Health versus Public Health and what it means for our field. Finally, several ACE committees would benefit from a semi-annual face-to-face meeting, which the Foundation could support.

However, the work of the Foundation will be continued only with further financial support. The Foundation has launched its annual appeal for support from epidemiologists who are truly committed to increasing the knowledge and reach of epidemiologists in their quest to promote health, prevent disease, and decrease suffering among the greater community. The Foundation is also seeking financial support from large donors while developing ethical guidelines for the acceptability of funds. Anyone reading this who is aware of potential donors is encouraged to contact the me at ([etrapi@lsuhsc.edu](mailto:etrapi@lsuhsc.edu))!



SAVE THE DATE

# ACE 2020 Annual Meeting

21 – 24 SEPTEMBER

The Hotel at the University of Maryland  
College Park, MD

 **ACE** | AMERICAN  
COLLEGE OF  
EPIDEMIOLOGY

Advancing Health Equity - Epidemiologic Research, Education  
Policy And Practice