



## President's Letter



It is a great privilege to take over as ACE President from Betsy Foxman. Betsy not only was ACE President during the past year, but she was also program chair for the 2nd Epidemiology Congress (see related article). We owe her a debt of thanks for her unprecedented simultaneous efforts in both regards. I'd also like to acknowledge Betsy's predecessor, Martha

Linet. Martha was president at the time our annual meeting had to be postponed because of hurricane Katrina. Martha showed great leadership during that difficult time and throughout her tenure.

A guiding principle for ACE is that the College should support epidemiologists in all career paths. Membership in the College has grown significantly among epidemiologists in private industries, consulting practices, and careers outside of academia and the federal government. That trend looks to continue. ACE is perhaps the only organization where this diversity is reflected among those elected to serve as president and on the Board and among those appointed to committees.

Speaking of committees, as terms expire with the New Year, there are many committee spots available to interested members and fellows. I hope you will take advantage of this opportunity and volunteer to work on a committee. It is a great chance to give back to the profession, to meet new friends and colleagues, and to experience a leadership opportunity.

The last two years were unique in the College's history because ACE did not have an annual meeting in either year. Annual meetings ground organizations by providing a forum when the membership can get together to discuss scientific and policy issues that govern the activities of the College. These meetings also provide year to year continuity that is necessary for organizations. Thus, our 2007 annual meeting assumes unusual importance as the first time in three years that the College will meet. It also happens to be a milestone meeting - the 25th annual meeting of the College. Ed Trapido and his program committee are hard at work developing a topical scientific program and activities that will honor those who have contributed significantly to epidemiology and the College over the last quarter century. I hope you will make the effort to join us in Miami Beach next September.

In the next newsletter, we will focus on changes that have occurred in the College's strategic plan. Until then, on behalf of the Board, we wish you a happy holiday season and a prosperous new year.

## Calendar of Events

**2007-2008 Dues Renewals**  
Renew Online Now.

**July 1, 2007**  
Proposals due  
ACE New Initiative

**September 15-18, 2007**  
ACE Annual Meeting  
Miami Beach, Florida

## Top Stories – 2006 Congress Highlights

### 2006 Congress of Epidemiology Wrap-up

**Betsy Foxman, Program Chair**

With over 18 epidemiology societies and epidemiology sections extant in North America, it is rare that there is an opportunity to meet with epidemiologists representing the range of the field. In what is becoming an every 5-year event, we had that opportunity last June at the 2006 Congress of Epidemiology. At the Congress, all 18 sponsoring and co-sponsoring societies were afforded the opportunity to sponsor a symposium, and there was a competition for the remaining symposia slots. The competition was fierce, and we ended up with a uniformly excellent program covering the breadth of epidemiology. ACE successfully competed for several sessions and thus was able to present as symposia all sessions that were to be presented at the ACE meeting cancelled by hurricane Katrina. The three, unopposed plenary sessions were organized by the sponsoring societies, ACE, APHA-EPI and SER and provided insight into the triumphs and challenges of epidemiology.



The Congress was the culmination of several years of planning by the Epidemiology Leadership Group, whose membership consists of the current president, president-elect and past-president or their representative of societies whose primary purview is epidemiology. The Group first convened at the 2001 Congress and has met intermittently thereafter. As an organizational structure for the Congress each society agreed to a level of participation: 1) sponsorship - representation on the program steering committee and a monetary contribution and assumption of liability (should there be insufficient attendees) and sharing in meeting profits; 2) co-sponsorship - responsibility for planning specific sessions, participating in advertising efforts, identification of potential reviewers for abstracts; 3) passive - making available membership lists for advertisement. ACE acted as a sponsor. In addition to arranging for the 2006 Congress, the Group developed a directory of Epidemiology Societies, which you can access from the APHA-EPI section website [www.aceepidemiology.org/societies/](http://www.aceepidemiology.org/societies/). The Group has already begun meeting to plan the next event: the 2011 Congress!

## In the News

**Allison Aiello**, ACE Minority Affairs Committee member, chaired a professional development session at the Society of Advancement of Chicanos and Native Americans in Science annual meeting. The session speakers outlined the many opportunities available for support during graduate and post-graduate studies in epidemiology and environmental health.

## From the Board of Directors

### For Associate Members Only!

**Melinda Aldrich, Associate Member Representative**



As the second Associate Director, I would like to recognize Jennifer Fergenbaum for her successful efforts during her term. She not only contributed to the planning of the 2006 Congress of Epidemiology, for which ACE was one of three sponsoring societies, but she also defined the role of the Associate Board Member and established an electronic communication venue for Associate Members. Thanks Jennifer!

My introduction as the Associate Member Representative on the ACE Board was the Board meeting held in Ann Arbor, Michigan. Wow, what an action packed two days it was! A noteworthy decision made by the Board was to modify the bylaws to allow all paying members to vote. Associate Members are now voting members of the College, so be sure to exercise your right to vote in ACE's next election!

I encourage you to become an active participant with the College, serving on one of the twelve standing Committees. The Board has several Committees in need of volunteers and is enthusiastic about having students actively participate in the College. This is an excellent way to gain leadership skills as well as to network and interact directly with senior epidemiologists, an opportunity unique to ACE! To sign up for a committee, complete the Committee Participation Form located on the ACE website: <http://www.acepidemiology2.org/cttes/comform06.asp> .

Stay tuned for more opportunities to get involved with the upcoming 2007 Annual Meeting. Look for our forthcoming survey, soliciting your input and ideas for how ACE can better assist its Associate Members. We need your feedback to better serve your needs and expectations! Please contact me with your questions, concerns, or comments: [maldrich@berkeley.edu](mailto:maldrich@berkeley.edu).

## Committees

### Finance Committee

**Denise Oleske, Chair**

#### *Funding For New ACE-Related Initiatives*

In an effort to help keep the American College of Epidemiology (ACE) connected with the interests of its members and important trends in the field, effective 2007, ACE will solicit proposals for new initiatives aimed at addressing the growth and strategic priorities of the organization (<http://www.acepidemiology2.org/about/strategicplan.pdf> ). Any member of ACE may submit a proposal for funding, but should have the endorsement of the ACE committee most relevant to project. The goal is to fund proposals for up to \$10,000 total. New projects will be reviewed yearly with July 1 as the submission deadline. No indirect costs would be awarded. For funded proposals, the earliest start date will be October 1. Watch the ACE website for additional information and guidelines for submitting new projects.

### Membership Committee

**Jonine Bernstein, Chair**

#### *Member-get-a-member Campaign*

The Membership Committee is seeking epidemiologists world-wide! Their expertise will expand the College and improve our ability to achieve the ACE vision of advocacy for epidemiologists in meeting public health needs. We charted maps of current ACE members by State, and throughout the world. One glance at the US map and you will see that there are several states that have fewer than 5 members, and 5 that have no members whatsoever. ACE is also under-represented outside the US <http://www.acepidemiology2.org/about/maps/ACEmap2005.asp> .

The Membership Committee requests your assistance in expanding our membership base. If you know epidemiologists in these sites who might be interested in joining ACE, please help us in our "member-get-a-member" campaign. To recommend your colleague(s), please contact Janet Arrowsmith-Lowe, Vice Chair of the Membership Committee at [arrowsmith@valornet.com](mailto:arrowsmith@valornet.com), and together we can send an email or letter outlining the mission of ACE, the membership requirements, the application process, and a copy of Annals of Epidemiology.

You may review the membership criteria at [www.acepidemiology2.org](http://www.acepidemiology2.org) to help determine who among your colleagues might benefit from ACE membership. We appreciate your help to extend the vision of ACE.

### Fellows Corner Newly Appointed Fellows for 2006

Kevin Abbott  
Jonine Bernstein  
Susan Bondy  
Christine Branche  
Victor Cardenas  
Olivia Carter-Pokras  
Angela Colantonio  
Graham Colditz  
Cathy Critchlow  
Ananda Dasanayake  
Harold Feldman  
Betsy Foxman  
James Gurney  
Irene Hall  
Tomoko Hooper  
Janice Husted  
Leslie Hyman  
Stephen Kimmell  
Shira Kramer  
Diane Lauderdale  
Kung-Jong Lui  
Grace Lu-Yao  
Katherine McGlynn  
Roasanne B. McTyre  
Ray M Merrill  
Stephen Morse  
Roberta Ness  
Michael J Sheridan  
Janet Stanford  
Heather Stockwell  
Moses Szklo  
Mary Ward  
Stanley Weiss  
Christopher Whalen

## Minority Affairs Committee

Jorge Ibarra, *Chair*

### *Results of the Epidemiology Pilot Survey 2006*



Projects carried out by the Minority Affairs Committee (MAC) in early 2000 opened discussions among interested ACE members to identify and document the racial and ethnic background of epidemiologists and epidemiology students along with information about their income, educational level and place of employment. A pilot survey was prepared and administered by the MAC during the 2006 Congress with prior approval by the University of Maryland Institutional Review Board. This pilot was intended to characterize the epidemiologist workforce attending the June meeting in Seattle. Below are a few highlights of selected variables from that pilot addressing basic

characteristics of the attendees. A comprehensive article describing findings in detail is planned for next year.

A convenience sample of 397 respondents was captured among 1,120 total Congress participants. Some initial findings are:

- Epidemiologists attended the Congress from 36 states and 18 countries
- 54.6% were trained at the Doctoral level
- 19.1% made \$120,001 or more a year
- 19.4% were Asian/Pacific Islanders, 7.4% African American, 7% Latino, and 1.3% American Indian

## Commentary

The holiday season is upon us. As public health professionals, let us set an example for safe driving, moderate consumption at the buffet tables and getting some exercise each day. I look forward to your ideas and submissions for 2007. *Carol Burns, Editor* (cburns@dow.com).

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Editor: Carol Burns, cburns@dow.com

For e-mail or other address changes, contact Angela Kite, [astockburger@firstpointresources.com](mailto:astockburger@firstpointresources.com)

Visit the ACE website at [www.acepidemiology.org](http://www.acepidemiology.org)

ACE

1500 Sunday Drive, Suite 102, Raleigh, NC 27607

Phone (919) 861-5573, Fax (919) 787-4916