



President's Letter

Nancy Kreiger, ACE President



In the last few months, the Board has taken up a variety of activities that we think will help the College to serve its members and the profession more effectively. Some of these activities are below.

1. Exploration of filing for "501(c)3" status for the College. This designation will allow, among other things, U.S.-based members (or members who are U.S. nationals living abroad) of the College to make tax-deductible contributions, and will make the College eligible to apply for U.S. government and foundation grants,
2. Electronic submission of abstracts for our annual meeting in Tucson, AZ, in mid-September.
3. Preliminary planning of the next Epidemiology Congress, June 2011, in Montreal, Quebec.
4. Revamping the College website, to bring it up to date and increase the scope of its content.

I also want to bring to your renewed attention the new initiative of the Board to provide funding for projects which address "the growth and strategic priorities" of the College. Any member of the College may submit a proposal, with endorsement by the Committee(s) of the College whose goals are most relevant to the project. The proposal might be as diverse as a request to develop a new workshop session to be offered at our annual meeting; or to pilot a mentoring project; or to create an outreach plan for including more members in the College's expanded Associate Member category. The College has allocated up to \$10,000 (U.S.) in any given calendar year to support these project proposals. The application form is available on the College website, and the review process (and turn-around time) should be straightforward and quick. If you have an idea for a project, please contact the relevant Committee chair to discuss an application and Committee endorsement.

Calendar of Events

SER Meeting

*Chicago, IL
June 24-27, 2008*

ACE Annual Meeting

*Tucson, AZ
September 14-16, 2008*

Epidemics¹

*Asilomar, CA
December 1 -3, 2008
Inaugural conference on
infectious disease
dynamics*

Top Stories

Bylaw Changes

Lorann Stallones, *ACE Secretary*

In 2007, ACE members were asked to vote on several changes to the by-laws. The membership voted to pass all of the changes. The first change established the Ethics Committee as a standing committee. The Board felt this change was long overdue given the importance of the work that the committee has undertaken on behalf of the profession for many years. Another change allowed Associate Members voting rights which had not been included in the role of these members upon establishment of this membership category. The final change was modifying the possible roles of Members to include serving as Chairs of Standing Committees. Although there were a number of ACE Members serving in that capacity, the by-laws had precluded this and the Board felt the need to have by-laws which reflected this situation.

ACE Annual Meeting

Betsy Foxman, *Program Committee Chair*

Next year (2009) we celebrate the 200th anniversary of Darwin's birth, and the 150th anniversary of the publication of "On the Origin of the Species." While evolutionary theory is the most fundamental of all biologic theories, it is not commonly applied in epidemiology. At this year's ACE meeting we will explore how an understanding of modern evolutionary theory can enhance our understanding of the distribution and determinants of health and disease. Thinking about organisms—humans included—as both products of, and active participants in, the ongoing evolutionary process can provide novel insights into epidemiological phenomena, and lead the epidemiological detective down new and exciting pathways to discovery and understanding. How better to understand the distribution and determinants of disease, than to begin with some idea of why the organism came to be the way it is? The evolutionary approach has yielded great advances in the understanding of virulence, host-pathogen interactions, toxins, chronic diseases, cancer, and many other diseases and biomedical processes. It is also leading to significant advances in an understanding of human behavior. The ACE Meeting Program will include an overview of some of these successes, and identify areas where evolutionary theory might be usefully applied.

The Program Committee is delighted to present a meeting which includes the most eminent scientists from epidemiology, genetics, and Darwinian medicine, who will discuss a range of applications of evolutionary theory in epidemiology, from genetic epidemiology, to health disparities, to infection, to mental health. The Program also includes a session by the policy committee regarding how genome wide association studies impact epidemiology.

For more information about the meeting go to www.aceepidemiology2.org and see related articles.

More on Evolutionary Epidemiology and the Annual Meeting Program

Betsy Foxman, *Program Committee Chair*

Haven't studied evolutionary theory since high school? Draw a blank at the term "Genome Wide Association Study"? Come to our pre-meeting workshops, which include an introduction to both topics, and more advanced explorations of how they are applied in epidemiology. There is also a workshop exploring the research ethics of studying genes in minorities. (See related articles on meeting workshops.) If you can't make the pre-meeting workshops, come to the opening reception, hosted by the University of Arizona School of Public Health, where there will be a tutorial on evolutionary theory and epidemiology given by Randolph Nesse, co-author with George Williams of "*Why we get sick: The New Science of Darwinian Medicine*," followed by a game of "Evolutionary Jeopardy" organized by our associate members. The Tuesday night reception will be honoring our ACE fellows, and Epidemiology Department Chairs attending the meeting. All are invited!

During the meeting there are also educational events: luncheon sessions on ethics, publications, and an opportunity to get career advice (see related article on lunchtime events). And, we will honor several epidemiologists at our Awards Luncheon.

A listing of program topics and speakers, including pre-meeting workshops is shown below. Don't miss it!

Abstracts are due on April 1, and must be submitted online at <http://www.acepidemiology2.org/> (see related article). For registration information see <http://www.acepidemiology2.org/>. Please join us for this unique and groundbreaking meeting.

2008 American College of Epidemiology Meeting Program

"Dawn of Evolutionary Epidemiology: Applying Evolutionary Theory in an Epidemiologic Context"

September 14-16, 2008

The meeting is at The Westin LaPaloma Resort & Spa
3800 East Sunrise Drive, Tucson, AZ 85718
www.westinlapalomaresort.com

Saturday September 13

Pre-meeting Workshops

Research Ethics in Studying Genes and the Environment in Diabetes among Ethnic Minorities"

Sunday September 14

Pre-meeting Workshops

8:30 -12:00 Introduction to Genome wide association studies (GWAS) (Michael Boehnke, Aravinda Chakravarti, Tasha Fingerlin)

8:30 -12:00 What is evolutionary epidemiology? Chris Reiber & John H. Holmes

1:00-4:30 Measuring our success: evaluating impact of epidemiologic findings in the age of genome wide association studies. (Debbie Winn, Moderator. Sponsored by the National Cancer Institute)

1:00-4:30 E volution and surveillance John H. Holmes & Chris Reiber

3:00-4:30 The NIH Grant Review Process Sandra Melnick Seitz (tentative)

Host Reception 5 to 9pm

5:30 Speaker – Randolph Nesse "Evolution, how it works and why epidemiologists should care"

6:15 Evolutionary Jeopardy - Join us for a fun interactive activity and test your knowledge of evolutionary theory

Poster session 6 to 9pm

Monday September 15

8:00-8:15 – Greetings from Dean of SPH, founding dean, Marie Swanson, & program overview by Betsy Foxman, Program Chair

8:15-8:45 - Speaker Joaquin Ruiz, Professor and Dean of the UA College of Science

8:45 - 10:30 Disease, Evolution and Epidemiology (Randolph Nesse (moderator), Mary Claire King, Neil Risch, Aravinda Chakravarti)

BREAK

10:45-12:15 What can evolutionary theory tell us about health disparities? (Marie Swanson (moderator), Kathryn Coe, Kathleen Barnes, Lucile Adams-Campbell)

12:15 Lunch

Lunchtime activities (must pre-register)

1. Career Mentoring Forum (Mentoring Committee)
2. Publication Committee writing & submitting a manuscript for publication (Publication Committee)
3. Ethics in Epidemiology: Focus on Research Integrity (Ethics Committee)

1:30-3:00 Co-evolution of Microbes and Man (Betsy Foxman, moderator; Martin Blaser, Carl Bergstrom; Andrew Read)

3:15 - 4:30 Policy developments shaping the practice of epidemiology in the age of GWAS. (Patricia Hartge (moderator), Jon Samet, Richard Rothenberg, Teri Manolio, Fernando Martinez)

4:30 Poster session

6:30 Reception: honoring ACE fellows and Epidemiology Chairs. All are welcome!

Tuesday September 16

7:30 Breakfast Round tables

8:30 Presidential Address

9:00 Student Prize paper

9:30 -11:00 Life History Traits and Epidemiology (Kathyn Coe (moderator), Ezra Susser, Peter Ellison, Chris Kuzawa)

11:00 BREAK

11:15 – 12:30 Point, counterpoint: Genes and infection, genes and environment (Chris Reiber (moderator), Paul Ewald and Nat Rothman)

12:30 Awards Luncheon

Presentation of and speech by this year's Abraham Lilienfeld Award winner, and presentation of other ACE awards

What's for lunch at the ACE meeting?

Betsy Foxman, *Program Committee Chair*

At this year's ACE meeting we are pleased to offer several lunchtime options. As is our tradition, the meeting will end with the Awards luncheon on Tuesday. On Monday you can choose among three different lunchtime events (by pre-registration only). These options include "Writing and submitting manuscripts," "Career mentoring forum," and "Ethics in epidemiology." The Abraham Lilienfeld Award winner will be presented (see <http://www.acepidemiology2.org/cttes/awards/callforLilienfeldnominations.asp> for the call for nominations), as will poster and travel award winners.

- The ACE Publications Committee invites you to attend a luncheon session on "Writing and Submitting Manuscripts" during the annual meeting of the American College of Epidemiology. You will hear tips from a panel of three eminent scholars who will present perspectives of an author, a journal editor, and a manuscript reviewer (see related story).
- The ACE Mentoring Committee invites you to a "Career Mentoring Forum." Here you will have an opportunity to meet with leaders in epidemiology working in different settings.
- And, the Ethics Committee invites you to attend a luncheon discussion on "Ethics in Epidemiology: Focus on Research Integrity."

Pre-meeting Workshops

Betsy Foxman, *Program Committee Chair*

This year, the Minority Affairs Committee has teamed up with the Ethics Committee to offer a full-day workshop on Saturday, September 13, to explore the research ethics in studying genes and the environment in diabetes among ethnic minorities.

On Sunday, September 14, you can learn why epidemiologists should use evolutionary theory in a morning workshop (this workshop will also be offered prior to the June SER meeting), or the specific application of evolutionary theory in epidemiologic surveillance in an afternoon workshop. Both these workshops are co-organized by Chris Rieber, of Binghamton University, and John H. Holmes, of the University of Pennsylvania.

Also on Sunday, you can learn more about the methods behind identifying genes for complex diseases, such as diabetes, at the workshop on genomewide association studies on Sunday morning. This workshop will include an introduction to the essentials of genomewide association studies for epidemiologists, by Tasha Fingerlin, of the University of Colorado, and presentations by two eminent researchers who recently reported results of genomewide association studies: Michael Boehnke, the Richard J. Cornell Professor of Biostatistics and Director of the Center for Statistical Genetics at the University of Michigan and Aravinda Chakravarti, Director, Center for Complex Disease Research, McKusick-Nathans Institute of Genetic Medicine, Johns Hopkins University.

A related workshop on Sunday afternoon will explore how we measure epidemiologic successes in the age of genome wide association studies. This workshop is developed and moderated by Debbie Winn, Chief of the Clinical and Genetic Epidemiology Research Branch at the National Cancer Institute, and supported by the National Cancer Institute.

We are also pleased to offer the perennial favorite on NIH Grant Review Process. Complete descriptions of all workshops are available on the meeting website. www.acepidemiology.org/ .

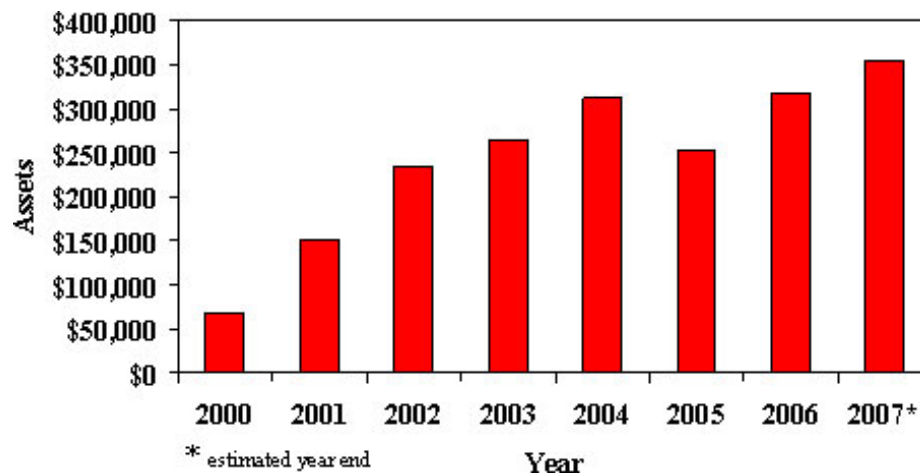
From the Board of Directors

Treasurer's Report,

Jim Collins, ACE Treasurer

This year will be a good year financially for the College. We have been able to increase the assets of the College each year since 2000 with the exception of 2005 (see figure) when our annual meeting had to be cancelled because of hurricane Katrina. In a typical year, the College brings in about \$300,000 and spends about \$250,000. Our major sources of revenue by percentage are membership dues (48%), annual meeting and workshops (37%), journal royalties (8%), and our investments (7%). Our major expenses are the annual meeting and the workshops (40%), supporting services (30%) and the journal (30%).

The Finance Committee has been deciding how best to invest our liquid assets and proposed guidelines that were approved by the Board. We keep about quarter of our assets in a money market used for paying bills; for long term investments, we have about half of our liquid assets in short term high rated bonds and a quarter in equities. The equities are large capital companies recommended to us by a financial planner. The sound financial position of the College has allowed us to keep dues low while offering more services to our members.



Committees

Membership Committee

Janet Arrowsmith-Lowe, Membership Committee Chair

The Membership Committee wishes to thank Jonine Bernstein for the wonderful job she did as chair of our committee over the last 3 years. Under her leadership, the Membership Committee has begun quantitative assessments of who we are as a College and how we can expand the base of ACE membership. Our activities target a number of areas aimed at retaining current members and fellows, encouraging members to take active roles in ACE, and developing ways to increase membership in all categories. With the help and support of the Committee as a whole, several members have taken responsibility for a number of important activities. Sunday Clark and Melissa Perry have analyzed our current and lapsed membership by demographics such as profession, age, geographical area and employment so that we better understand who we are as an organization. Using the membership demographic information, we plan to target under-represented groups and geographic areas to help increase diversity within ACE.

In association with the Admissions Committee, Kathleen McDavid developed a comprehensive outline of

membership benefits encompassing all categories of members from associate to fellow, which is now posted on the ACE website. Melinda Aldrich of our committee has developed an associate membership survey which we will use on an annual basis to query our associates about their interests in ACE and in the profession. This information will help ACE better serve future leaders in our field.

Our plans for the future include contacting chairs of epidemiology programs, medical school deans, and the state departments of health to introduce students, faculty and staff to ACE. We will explore ways to increase our federal employee and state health department membership. This summer, we plan to contact lapsed members and fellows to encourage them to rejoin us in ACE. Our associate membership flyer, which was distributed to schools of public health last September, has been translated into Spanish and French to extend our outreach into Mexico and Canada. We look forward to a busy and successful year, building on the Committee's accomplishments of the last several years.

Publications Committee

Ahmed Arif, *Publications Committee Chair*

Writing and submitting manuscripts for publication.

Nearly all of us in academia live by the adage, "Publish or Perish." All of us, especially those in early stage of their academic career, felt frustrated, at some point in time, with the process of getting a manuscript from an idea to a publication. Most of us learn by trial and error. The publications committee invites you to attend a luncheon session on "Writing and Submitting Manuscripts" during the annual meeting of the American College of Epidemiology. You will hear tips from a panel of three eminent scholars who will present perspectives of an author, a journal editor, and a manuscript reviewer.

This luncheon session will begin by presenting a system for organizing and writing a manuscript for submission to an epidemiology journal. The panel will then discuss the approach that many journal editors take when initially reviewing submissions, determining whether to send them for review, and selecting reviewers. Next, the panel will discuss what the reviewers' would like to see in a manuscript. Lastly, the panelist will provide an insight into how journal editors' decisions are influenced by the reviews and other considerations. Panelists' presentations will end by summarizing the subsequent steps that occur before the manuscript is published.

The session will be informal and you will have plenty of opportunity to ask questions. After attending this session, you will find that drafting your manuscripts will go more smoothly. You also will be able to anticipate and avoid some of pitfalls that authors commonly encounter along the road to publication. The session is limited to 25 participants and require pre-registration. The tickets are \$10 each and include lunch and beverage. On the site registration will be available depending on the seat availability. Come join us!

Minority Affairs Committee

Jorge Ibarra and Ken Goodman, *Minority Affairs Committee Chairs*

Last September the Minority Affairs Committee (MAC) held its Free Workshop in Fort Lauderdale, Florida by addressing the Hispanic Community Health Study, or Study of Latinos, a National Institutes of Health (NIH) effort to identify the health status of Hispanics in the US. At the workshop, the NIH grant recipients shared their plans, advances, and strategies regarding the study.

This was a successful Workshop! We had many attendees, a simulcast of the event, interactions with the principal investigators and round table discussions. Also, two scholarships were awarded to qualified minority epidemiologists. A webcast of the Workshop, speaker's presentations, and pictorial highlights, are available at www.acepidemiology2.org.

This year, the Minority Affairs and the Ethics Committees are joining forces to set up a Free Workshop on "Research Ethics in Studying Genes and Environment in Diabetes among Racial and Ethnic Minorities". We would like to attract young and seasoned epidemiologist who have a research interest in the health of racial and ethnic minorities as well as epidemiologists who are themselves members of minority groups that are underrepresented in the profession.

We count on you to make the MAC Free Workshop a success. We are looking forward to seeing you in Tucson!!

Commentary

Despite the cold weather, spring is right around the corner. Please consider submitting an abstract for the Annual Meeting by April 1. No fooling! *Carol Burns, Editor* (cburns@dow.com).

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