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The Annual Meeting
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September 8th-11th,
2012

Chicago, IL 60611

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Fellows Corner

Newly Appointed
Fellows - Spring 2012
* *

Mayur M. Desai
Steven M. Teutsch
Lorna E. Thorpe

President's Letter

Robert McKeown



About a year and half ago I wrote that one of my goals for ACE is for us "to think deeply about what we value about our distinctive identity" and about how we can, as a volunteer organization, "best equip current and emerging epidemiologists for excellence in the practice of epidemiology."

I wanted us "to engage in critical reflection on who we have been, who we want to be, where we want to go as a professional society, and what we need to do to get there, while continuing to offer strong leadership in focused scientific meetings, policy development, and promotion of the profession." Since then we have done several things to move toward those goals.

At an orientation for committee chairs last September, we all talked about the things we value about ACE and what we can do so those valued characteristics are maintained.

At the Epi Congress in Montreal in June some of us spent a lunch-time session talking about how we might foster more creative thinking and innovation in epidemiologic research. At the Chicago meeting in September Peter Taylor will offer a workshop so we can learn more. Sandy Sulsky and Nancy Kreiger, my colleagues in leading that discussion at the Congress, are forming a task force to formulate recommendations about ACE's role in promoting innovation in epidemiologic research.

We will also have an opportunity at the Chicago meeting for those who value our history as a professional organization and the history of epidemiology generally to discuss the formation of an interest group to focus on the history of epidemiology, and perhaps engage in some creative exploration of that history to inform the work we do today. David Lilienfeld will lead that discussion.

Recently the Executive Committee reaffirmed our strong commitment to the work of the Minority Affairs Committee (MAC), another area where ACE has been a leader by providing a free workshop each year for the past decade devoted to health disparities and issues affecting minority groups. The MAC is actively engaged in planning their 2012 workshop in Chicago.

Finally, we have been engaged for a number of years on several fronts related to policy. Bob Hiatt, one of our policy leaders, reminded me recently that ACE has "been at the forefront of producing and disseminating policy statements since the early 90s." This activity is one of the distinctive things about ACE, so it is no accident that we were instrumental in the formation and the continued operation of the Joint Policy Committee of Epidemiology Societies (on which Bob serves us well). This last activity is not without controversy, but our commitment is to ground our statements in our best judgments about the state of the science and to be sure all our discussions are characterized by mutual respect and transparency.

All of this is to say that ACE is an extraordinary and unique organization, and it remains so because of the work of dedicated members. Continued relevance and value to our members is not an accident. It requires constant and focused attention to who we are, what we value, and where we want to go as a College. My hope is that you will all feel that you are a part of this journey. Let me know what you think.

Robert rmckeown@mailbox.sc.edu

Top Stories

ACE Annual Meeting Planning in High Gear

Denise Oleske: Chair, Program Planning Committee



From left to right, Chris Kabir, Iman Kalifa Martin, Charlotte Joslin and Abigail Silva

The Annual Meeting is shaping up to be a do-not-miss event. Among the confirmed speakers are Gerald Dal Pan, Director, Office of Epidemiology and Surveillance of the Food and Drug Administration and Naomi Aronson, Executive Director of the Blue Cross/Blue Shield Association. A plenary session on epidemiologic methods will feature Tyler VanderWeele (Harvard), Steve Cole (University of North Carolina Chapel Hill) and Miguel Hernan (Harvard) discussing mediation and moderation in causality modeling.

A number of interesting and informative workshops are in development. Some of the planned workshop topics include: Electronic Health Records for Epidemiologic Research; Update on Datasets Available through the National Center for Health Statistics; Bayesian Analysis; and Causal Inference: Evaluation of Mediation and Moderation. Thanks to Faye Davis and Charlotte Joslin for recruiting students from the University of Illinois Epidemiology Program to help with the Annual Meeting (See photo of our hosts). Start working on your abstracts for submission (remember accepted abstracts will be published in the *Annals of Epidemiology*) and join your colleagues in Chicago where early fall is a beautiful time of the year!

The History of Epidemiology. Interested?

David Lilienfeld

The history of epidemiology is an area of increasing interest to epidemiologists. An understanding of our field's development, including the factors influencing that development and the impact of epidemiology on the public health/medical community and in the formulation of health policy, informs both practicing epidemiology and students mastering the corpus of knowledge requisite to practice epidemiology. In the past, efforts at stimulating research and discourse in the history of epidemiology have been sporadic and unfortunately have not resulted in a sustained dialog in the epidemiology community regarding the development of our field. With this situation in mind, at the 2012 Annual Meeting, the ACE is considering hosting an organizational meeting (as either a luncheon roundtable or a breakfast meeting) of a history of epidemiology group within the College. Interested persons should contact me at dlilienfeld@san.rr.com or a member of the Program Committee regarding this proposed session."

Journal guidelines: A reader's perspective

Sreenivas P Veeranki

Email: drveeranki@gmail.com

With rapidly-growing technology and accessibility to internet, the gap between authors' contribution to scientific literature and readers' quest for knowledge has decreased. To sustain the readers' quest for knowledge, many new journals have been created with specific and innovative titles to include precise and exclusive articles explicit to themes of their respective journals. Since 2008, 492 new journal titles have been accepted by National Library of Medicine for inclusion in MEDLINE alone. This number will be higher if we include new journals indexed at SCOPUS, EMBASE and others. The addition of new journals to the scientific literature has increased sources for authors to get their original research and viewpoints published. Regardless of addition of new journals and their contribution to scientific literature, a reader faces some problems in understanding a research study in an article. Some of these problems include improper explanation of variables or measures, lack of details about technical or specific terms, consistency in defining technical terms across the literature and absence of explanation of measures in the results. This might not be the same with every reader or with every article. These readers' difficulties are *not* always due to authors' capacity to explain every detail of research study, but due to journal guidelines imposed on authors to restrict them to provide only the important details of research studies.



Journal limitations have led to inclusion of more data and analysis for a research study beyond one article, thereby ultimately leading to missing every detail of the research study. From authors' perspective, submitting to several journals is a boon to young investigators to stay in competition with their fellow researchers and contribute to science effectively. However, from a reader's perspective, this combination of authors' inclusion of research studies beyond one article with journal restrictions such as word count and references limitations have further increased readers' difficulties to understand every detail of a research study. Though many steps have been taken by both authors and journals to address this by replacing words with tables, graphs and figures, as a reader, I feel that we still face difficulty in understanding every detail of a research study in a journal. If you are a general reader, please let me know if you faced such difficulty with a quick scenario explaining your perspective.

(Note: This article is only from a reader's perspective and does not imply to any author or any journal.)

From the Board of Directors

Associate Directors Report

Joe Holbrook and Bertha Hidalgo



Outgoing and Incoming Associate Directors

We continue to be thankful for the overwhelming support from ACE leadership and the growing partnerships with ACE committees, allowing us to develop as an active group within the College. Committee liaisons have been contributing across the organization, and they continue to update the Associate Membership on committee efforts. We are pleased with the way the 2012 Annual Meeting is shaping up, as there are many programs designed with students and junior epidemiologists in mind. Associate Members look for a conference flyer highlighting

these programs! The Associate Member-led Position Announcement Listserv is off to a successful start as a way of connecting qualified job seekers with employers. Senior Members, keep your postdoctoral positions and other announcements coming! Associate Members are delighted to announce our first Journal Club meeting on March 8 (10 am -11 am EST), via webinar, with a presentation of Christine Branche's work on "NIOSH Perspectives on Sustainable Buildings: Green and Safe." If you would like to participate but did not receive the email invitation, contact Heather Limper at heatherlimper@gmail.com. Also, many thanks go to all who participated in the 2011 Associate Member Annual Survey. Results will be presented at the March Board of Directors meeting and will certainly play a role in the development of future programs. Please do contact Joe and Bertha with any questions, ideas, or input for Associate Members (aceassocmember@gmail.com), and remember to "Like" our Facebook page, www.facebook.com/joinACE, for updates and announcements. Our next bi-monthly Associate Member general meeting will be on April 9 (8:30 pm-9:30 EST). Wishing you a happy and productive spring!

Committees

Membership Committee

The Privileges of Membership

Sunday Clark, Chairperson


ACE membership offers an opportunity to give and to receive. Membership provides epidemiologists with professional networking opportunities that may not be available through other organizations. It also provides members with an opportunity to contribute to the field of epidemiology by providing guidance or mentorship to more junior epidemiologists and by contributing to the College's activities related to policies that affect the field of epidemiology. These many opportunities can be realized through participation in a variety of settings, including attending the ACE annual meeting, participating in ACE continuing education and policy workshops, and volunteering as a member of an ACE committee.

The Membership Committee remains committed to outreach efforts that will introduce ACE and the benefits of ACE membership to epidemiologists throughout the US and abroad. We are currently developing a new brochure describing the many benefits of ACE membership. This brochure will be made available to attendees of the ACE Annual Meeting and attendees of other scientific meetings that attract epidemiologists. Our committee also is responsible for developing initiatives to increase membership to the College and for tracking membership trends. We continue to work with staff at First Point Resources and the Admissions Committee to streamline the process for describing the characteristics of the ACE membership and tracking the increased diversity of our membership over time.

Please continue to encourage your colleagues to join ACE as Members or Fellows. Encourage your students and postdocs to join as Associate Members so that they also can benefit from everything that ACE offers. The Membership Committee is open to ideas from the ACE community about ways to promote ACE and the benefits of membership, and we would like to hear from you. Thank you for your commitment to ACE and your efforts to grow our organization as we continue to support the professional development of epidemiologists, advocate for epidemiologists, and promote the field of epidemiology.

Commentary

The ACE committees are working hard on our behalf. Be sure to give them the feedback they



need and volunteer to review some abstracts.

Carol Burns, Editor

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Visit the ACE website at www.acepidemiology.org