



ACE | AMERICAN
COLLEGE OF
EPIDEMIOLOGY

Message from the American College of Epidemiology President, Dr. Harold I. Feldman

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As we near the midpoint of my presidency, I am gratified by the many initiatives underway within the College, made possible by the extraordinary contributions of our members. First, we have acted on our commitment to the dual mission of epidemiology—not only to prevent disease, but also to enhance the health of those experiencing illness—by taking steps to recruit more clinicians into our membership ranks. Read more about that initiative in this issue’s piece by Christine Branche, chair of our Membership Committee. We owe special thanks not only to our committee and to Christine for her leadership, but to Edwin van Wijngaarden and Maurizio Macaluso, who have contributed extensively to this membership initiative.

Our journal, *Annals of Epidemiology*, is also undergoing great change. After 17 years, Editor-in-Chief Richard Rothenberg will turn over the helm to a successor at the end of this year. His reflections on the journal and his tenure are shared in his entry in this newsletter. A national search is underway to find our new editor. We thank Richard for his extraordinary leadership and his contributions to academic journalism and the College.

I know you all share in the Board members’ pride for having established The



American College of Epidemiology Research and Education Foundation, a new 501c3 organization that will play a pivotal role in helping us to raise funds for many components of our expanded mission. This achievement represents the culmination of several years of planning, deliberation and hard work. While many contributed to this success, I want to particularly recognize Larry Segars, our Treasurer, for his tireless work that made possible the successful incorporation of the Foundation.

Message from the President continued...

I am also very pleased to report that at the end of 2016 we successfully renewed our agreement with our management firm, First Point, ensuring that we will continue to receive outstanding administrative support across the College’s core mission areas.

Finally, I want to share my delight in anticipating our next annual meeting, “The Methods of Translating and Disseminating Epidemiology into Public Health,” which will be held in New Orleans. Ed Trapido and the other members of the Program Committee he chairs are rapidly developing a program that directly speaks to the impact the College can achieve. As we look toward to being together September 24-26, we’ll be hearing more from the Program Committee and from our meeting host, Terry Fontham, whose generous welcome to New Orleans can already be strongly felt. I look forward to seeing all of you there.

ACE Membership Current Count by Categories* (as of March 2, 2017)	
Current Membership (renewed)	
Fellows (FACE)	269
Members (MACE)	309
Associate Members	57
Emeritus	43
Honorary Fellows	38
TOTAL MEMBERSHIP	716

*Please don’t forget to submit your membership dues

ACE Member Highlight: Dr. Melissa L. Bondy, FACE



As Professor and Associate Director for the Dan L. Duncan Comprehensive Cancer Center at the Baylor College of Medicine, Dr. Melissa L. Bondy is internationally renowned for her epidemiological research on glioma and breast cancer. She is a McNair Scholar and Komen Scholar, and has been the principal investigator or co-investigator on multiple NIH-funded studies, including the National Cancer Institute’s Brain Tumor Epidemiology Consortium.

Dr. Bondy has been active in numerous leadership roles within the American College of Epidemiology and other professional organizations. To name a few, she is currently serving on the ACE Board of Directors and is a committee member for the Society for Neuro-Oncology and the American Society of Prevention Oncology. Dr. Bondy is the author of more than 250 scientific publications and 20 book chapters. She serves on study sections for the National Cancer Institute and National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences. Dr. Bondy is the Associate Editor for Cancer Research and Cancer Epidemiology, Biomarkers & Prevention, and currently serves on the Editorial Boards for Molecular and Translational Epidemiology, and Application of Clinical Genetics.

Interview with Dr. Melissa L. Bondy, FACE by Siu Kei (Jacky) Chow, Ph.D., D(ABMM)

Question: What experience(s) have helped shape your career?

Answer: I had an internship at the University of Pennsylvania on occupational safety and health, and I was looking into the relationship between environmental occupational exposure and glioma. Shortly after, I worked with Dr. Patricia Buffler at School of Public Health, the University of Texas, who was an environmental and occupational epidemiologist as well as a former President of the American College of Epidemiology. That experience has since shaped my research interest, and to date, glioma is still the main theme of my research.

Question: How have technological advancements impacted your research in epidemiology? What is the biggest challenge?

Answer: The technology indeed has driven our research, from the ability of detecting single nucleotide polymorphism (SNP), to the application of complex array system, whole genome sequencing and next generation sequencing. The development of statistical tools and better databases to manage massive amounts of epidemiological and clinical data has made large collaboration studies possible. The latest technology also advances diagnosis and treatment. For example, we can now distinguish different subtypes of glioma and breast cancer with specific molecular patterns, and optimize the treatment accordingly.

At the same time, it will take extra effort to analyze and fully understand all the data generated by these new technologies. The translation of clinical data into practice and treatment with the ultimate goal of improving patient outcome can be challenging. At the Baylor College of Medicine, we have a human genome center with cutting-edge technologies and experts in the field, and their supports have been invaluable to my research.

Question: How do you describe your international collaborations?

Answer: International collaboration, or Big Science, is becoming more important, especially for rare diseases. Having a large study population is critical in epidemiology, and this is why we have consortia to promote collaboration and to facilitate the exchange of ideas and findings. During the process, it may be challenging to coordinate with a large group of people with different personalities and backgrounds, but in the end, the quality of the work and outcomes make it all worthwhile. Currently, I am leading the Gliogene International Consortium with 14 centers from all over the world to better understand the role of gene and environment interactions in glioma etiology.

Question: What is your advice for young scientists?

Answer: Young scientists and students should try to find the best group to work in, as that is where

the opportunities are the most accessible. Times have changed, and nowadays it is almost a requirement to have a good postdoctoral experience in order to move up the academic ladder. They need the right experience and skill set to become an independent researcher and to excel in the field and get funding. While young scientists need to be proactive in research and professional organizations, have good ideas, and be hard-working, it is also important to have senior scientists or mentors to empower junior people and show them the way.

Epidemiology is the study of the distribution and determinants of health-related states or events in specified populations, and the application of this study to the control of health problems.

From: Principles of Epidemiology in Public Health Practice, Third Edition. U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (2006).

Membership Committee Update

by Christine M. Branche, Ph.D., FACE, Chair

Your Membership Committee (Joe Holbrook (co-chair), Kyle Bernstein, Macarius Donneyong, Sarah Geiger, Dan Lackland, Maurizio Macaluso, Charles Oke, Edwin van Wijngaarden) has been working diligently to increase our roster of members in the College. During most of 2015, and the first half of 2016, our attention was diverted, however, as we looked for creative ways to urge our valuable members at all levels (Fellows, Members and Associate Members) to pay their dues! This heavy task was marginally improved but it took until June 2016 for our spreadsheets to show that the majority of our current members were up to date on their payment. Please know how important it is to pay our dues in a timely manner so that the work of the College, including planning for annual meetings and paying our tiny staff, can be completed effectively and efficiently.

As I said, the ACE Membership Committee has been looking at new methods to increase membership. For example, if you attended the Epidemiology Congress in June, then you saw Membership Committee and BOD members wearing “Ask Me About ACE” wear buttons. Thanks to them, Congress participants could learn about the College from some of our most enthusiastic members!

As another example, do you recall receiving a letter asking for the

names and contact information of your colleagues and students so that we could invite them to apply to the College? That was an endeavor mapped out by your Membership Committee. In addition, we have looked for ways to inform fellow scientists and clinicians about ACE. The Membership Committee prepared a letter for the ACE president to sign describing ACE and inviting epidemiology department chairs to apply to the College, to encourage their students and post-docs to apply as well, and to send us the names of their colleagues so that we could invite them to apply.

We are in the midst of crafting a similar letter in an attempt to reach the untapped reservoir of the clinical epidemiology community—a great idea from ACE President Harv Feldman. Clinical and translational epidemiologists are our colleagues who are trained in epidemiology, biostatistics, and the principles of research and design, but generally they know little about ACE. Maurizio Macaluso, an ACE Board member at the University of Cincinnati and the Cincinnati Children’s Hospital Medical Center, and Edwin van Wijngaarden, an ACE Fellow at the University of Rochester, joined the Membership Committee in December. They have taken the lead in identifying ACE membership benefits that would be particularly attractive to this group, and in preparing a list

of program directors of clinical and translational science training programs (these are programs that receive a Clinical and Translational Science Award (CTSA) by the National Institutes of Health) across the United States. We will soon describe ACE to these leaders, and invite them to share the information with their students and others in their networks. As with other groups, we want to invite them to apply to ACE.

This new effort is an exciting opportunity, and we know that there are other groups we can contact. Please share your ideas!

We are indebted to Holly Currie at FirstPoint who helps us with all of our letters to all of these groups.

ACE Membership Benefit: Annals of Epidemiology TOC Alerts

Paid membership in ACE includes access to the Annals of Epidemiology, the professional journal of the College. Articles can be accessed online. You can have a Table of Contents (TOC) sent to your email account, but, first, you have to sign-up. It takes a few steps to sign-up.

Here are steps to help--

Basic steps:

- Go to the Annals webpage: <http://www.annalsofepidemiology.org/>
- Notice “New Content Alerts” on the left-side of the page. Click.
- On this page, “Create Account.”
- Under “My Account,” update your information under “Account Info.” Update Profile.
- Under “My Accounts,” notice “Alerts.” Click.
- Under “Journal Alerts,” you are in the “Table of Contents Alert” area. Select the journal and frequency of updates. Then, “Save Changes.”
- Logout.

Now, you should receive the TOC Alert (Step 6) to the email address of your choice (Step 4).

Happy Reading!

Annals of Epidemiology—A Note by Richard Rothenberg, MD, MPH

Many of us have gotten the email: Through-the-Looking-Glass Publishers announces the introduction of its new journal “Total Science.” Please be an editor, or edit a special issue, or submit an article, or submit a colleague’s article. Manuscripts will undergo terrific peer review and will be published in two weeks. Special discounts available.

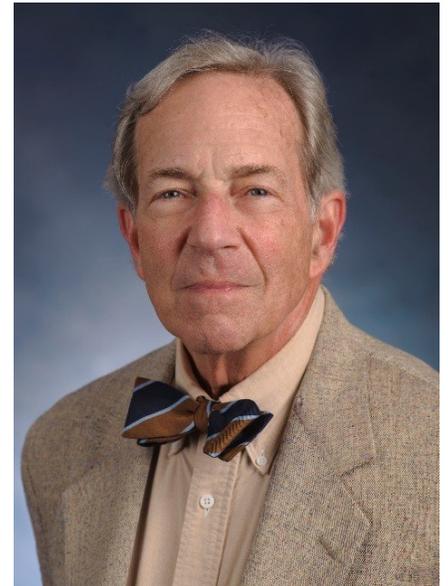
We don’t fall for it, of course, but a glimpse of the alternate reality on the other side of the looking glass is sobering. Medical publishing is caught up in the larger social slide toward a loss of factual moorings. The greatest challenges we face are not subscription base, impact factor, reviewer availability, or timeliness (though these are in themselves formidable). The great challenge is credibility. The old way is cumbersome, time-consuming, labor-intensive, not terribly reproducible, with fuzzy guidelines and susceptibility to whim. But, to paraphrase Churchill, it is the worst system there is except for all the others. The alternatives are a hot mess.

All of which introduces the current topic: The Annals of Epidemiology is seeking a new Editor-in-Chief. The

Annals was launched by the American College of Epidemiology in 1990 with Julie Buring and Charlie Hennekens as the first Editors. In 1995, Al Oberman took over, and in 2000 I became Editor. I will be stepping down in 2018, and the new person will have the opportunity to reinvent the Annals. It will be that person’s task to find a path that maintains the unhurried consideration of new and useful material in the context of

www.minefield.edu.com.gov.mil.

The Annals still pursues the “old way,” but has recently introduced some of the newer approaches: Epub before print; authors’ choice of open access with a fee; unlimited supplementary materials; better integration with the ACE website; shorter reviewer time. We have also pursued publication of “mini” symposia—collections of articles on a topic of interest, such as Vitamin D and cancer; Harms and Benefits of Modern Drinking; The Causes of Cancer; and The Microbiome and Epidemiology. The Annals is well integrated with other activities of the College. The “ACE pages” within the Annals are now used regularly to present reports to the membership, and the ACE Policy Committee publishes sets of



policy reports on issues of current interest.

Such changes are good, but not enough. If I may speak for the College, it is looking for someone on the spectrum between crusty traditionalist and avant-garde entrepreneur who can make the Annals competitive in the agora, and maintain an upward trajectory of excellence. All applications gratefully accepted.

(Note: Call for Annals of Epidemiology, Editor-in-Chief: <http://www.annalsofepidemiology.org/content/aep-call-for-editor-in-chief>)

Epidemiology training opportunities in the Division of Cancer Epidemiology & Genetics at the National Cancer Institute

By Emily Vogtmann, PhD, MPH



I have been working as a post-doctoral fellow in the National Cancer Institute's (NCI's) Division of Cancer Epidemiology and Genetics (DCEG) for almost four years. In DCEG, I have been able to conduct very exciting epidemiologic research and concurrently receive extensive career development training. The combination of the two provide a comprehensive training environment that sets fellows up for success in subsequent positions.

Prospective trainees at the post-baccalaureate, graduate and postdoctoral levels can apply directly to DCEG to work with investigators. In order to get more information about how to apply for these opportunities, I

spoke to Dr. Jackie Lavigne, the Director of DCEG's training office. "For someone interested in applying for a fellowship in DCEG, it is imperative that s/he not only submit an application, but also contact by email the DCEG investigator(s) with whom s/he is interested in working. In the email, applicants should: briefly tell a PI a bit about their training, why s/he is interested in working with that particular PI, and that an application has been submitted on the DCEG Website. Applications are reviewed continuously throughout the year as positions become available."

When I was in process of looking for postdoctoral fellowships, I only applied for advertised positions. I applied for the NCI's Cancer

Prevention Fellowship Program (CPFP), and while I was there for an interview, I was told that whether or not I was accepted to the program, as an epidemiologist, I should apply for a position in DCEG. I had no idea that it was possible to get a position in the division without an advertised posting.

Through the CPFP and DCEG, I've taken grant writing workshops, leadership training, scientific presentation courses, and various content specific training. According to Dr. Lavigne, "in DCEG, there are numerous career development opportunities, including workshops and symposia, as well as the ever-present opportunity to develop long term collaborations with other early career and senior scientists. Another major difference is that fellows are not required to write grants. This is both a positive and a negative. Fellows have more time to spend on research but will lack grant writing experience unless they take advantage of our excellent grant writing workshops and intramural NCI funding opportunities during their fellowship."

For me personally, my fellowship with CPFP and DCEG has been a very important step in my career. For more information about training opportunities in DCEG, go to <http://dceg.cancer.gov/>.

ACE Announcements

Call for Awards Nominations: Submission Deadline – May 1, 2017

[Abraham Lilienfeld Award](#)

[Special Award: Translation of Disaster Epidemiology Into Public Health](#)

[Outstanding Contributions to Epidemiology Award](#)

[Student Prize Paper Award](#)

2017 ACE Annual Meeting, New Orleans, September 24-26

[Call for Abstracts: Submission Deadline – May 1, 2017](#)

[Call for Abstracts PDF Poster](#)

Publication Details for Newsletter

The Purpose of the ACE Newsletter

The purpose of the newsletter is to 1) disseminate ACE information of the workings of the college; 2) identify epidemiological and public health issues of note; and 3) provide a calendar of ACE events.

Newsletter “production” schedule

[Publication Month (Collect; Organize)]:

Year 2017

- March (January; February)
- June (April; May)
- September (July; August)
- December (October; November)

We are looking for pertinent material to include in the newsletter. Please send potential content (between 300 to 500 words) to newsletter@acepidemiology.org. Be sure to include contact information for the submitter and an indication for which edition of the newsletter the material is intended.

Communications Committee Members who provide input to the newsletter:

Emily Vogtmann, Chair

Lynette S. Phillips, Vice-Chair

Eduardo Vivas, Admissions Committee Liaison

Gregory Bond

Siu Kei (Jacky) Chow

Edward Trapido

Samuel Huntley

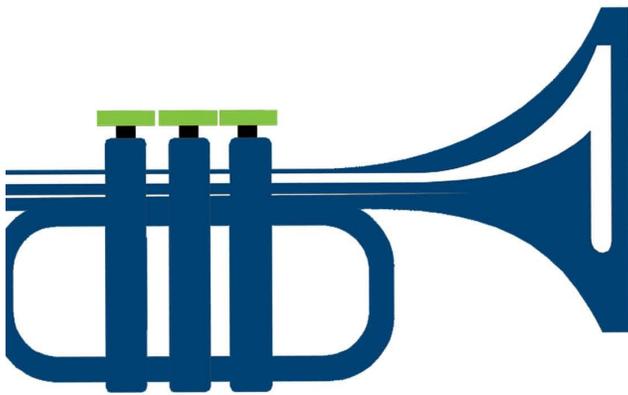
Gregory Fant, Online/Membership Newsletter Editor

Jan Eberth (ex-officio)

Alireza Yazdi, Policy Committee Liaison & BOD Liaison

Special thanks: We appreciate all those who submitted material for this newsletter and assisted in formatting and posting the content for ACE members. We couldn't do this without the participation of these individuals.

ACE invites the submission of abstracts for our Annual Meeting



Westin Hotel at the Canal,
New Orleans, Louisiana,
September 24–26, 2017

Submit abstracts online at
www.evis.com/evis/jrnl/AEP

For additional information contact:
info@acepidemiology.org

Information about ACE and the
2017 Annual Meeting may be
found at our web site:
www.acepidemiology.org

The **deadline** for
abstract submission is

May 1, 2017

Abstracts should be **300 words
or less** and structured into four
sections: Purpose, Methods,
Results, and Conclusions

Submit abstracts online at
www.evis.com/evis/jrnl/AEP



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American College of Epidemiology Research & Education Foundation

If you wish to make a donation to the foundation, you can click on the “Donate” link on the foundation’s website, go directly to <http://myaceref.org/donate-to-aceref>, or send a check to:

PO Box 33031
Raleigh, NC 27636

We look forward to the future activities and support of ACE’s new foundation!

American College of Epidemiology

American College of Epidemiology
1500 Sunday Drive, Suite 102
Raleigh, NC 27607

Phone: 919-861-5573
Fax: 919-787-4916
E-mail: info@acepidemiology.org



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.

**“...dedicated to continued education and advocacy
for epidemiologists in their efforts to promote good
science and the public health.”**

Excerpt from the college vision statement

Connect with us on social media!

