

# News



## President's Letter

By Carol J. Rowland Hogue



### Fixing HIPAA

With HIPAA upon us, it's clear that our epidemiologic work has become more difficult... and, at times, impossible. The ACE Policy Committee would like to collect brief anecdotes of

major problems that HIPAA has created for epidemiologists. We will pass these anecdotes to the AAMC, which is serving as a clearinghouse for anecdotes from researchers in all specialties.

Please find below a copy of the AAMC letter and an epidemiology example from one of our committee members. Feel free to provide more (or less) detail—or a similar example from your part of the country. Either way, please do send us an anecdote if you've had or anticipate having a major problem with HIPAA. While inconvenience is annoying, outright stoppage of a project is much more persuasive! With

a sufficient number of anecdotes, we could better frame the issues for epidemiologists... as we begin to "fix" HIPAA. Five minutes of your time will make us *much* more effective advocates for you and for the specialty. So, again, please send us your paragraph (email: [info@acepidemiology.org](mailto:info@acepidemiology.org)).

If you have a particularly strong interest in this topic, and a few hours each month to dedicate to this initiative, we are forming a subcommittee to work specifically on the impact of HIPAA on epidemiology. Please contact Robert Hiatt at [rhiatt@cc.ucsf.edu](mailto:rhiatt@cc.ucsf.edu) with your contact information. And don't forget to send your anecdote!

Finally, Faith Davis will spend some time at the annual ACE meeting in Chicago this year discussing epidemiologic challenges associated with HIPAA. Through shared experiences, we may be better able to "live with" HIPAA while going about the business of fixing it!

Thank you for working with us on this important issue.

## HIPAA Anecdote: Example for AAMC

By Roberta Ness (Pittsburgh)

**Vignette:** For the past six years, we have been conducting a prospective study looking at risk factors and predictors for preeclampsia among women in their first pregnancy. The approach to recruitment has been to identify women at their first prenatal care visit. We then follow this cohort through labor and delivery to capture all women who develop the disease. Until now, our research staff has worked closely with clinic staff to scan incoming charts for eligible women, who we then approach for enrollment. All of this has stopped with the implementation of HIPAA. We can no longer scan charts, even if we are not recording any information on those not selected for possible ascertainment. We must now develop a registry system whereby women elect (or do not elect) to

allow their medical records to be accessed for research. The most concerning implication of this new system is that many women may not participate in the registry, thereby reducing our ability to enroll enough women to achieve a meaningful result. Moreover, women who participate may be systematically different from those who do not, thereby skewing our data toward a false result. Either way, it is likely that the barrier between researcher and patient mandated by HIPAA will reduce the likelihood of success in this research. Today, women enter pregnancy not knowing whether they may be at risk for an unpredictable, sometimes fatal disease. Only through research can we help them know and avoid the terrible possibility of developing preeclampsia.

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# ACE Web Info at a Glance

## Number of user sessions

5,618 (average 181/day)

## Busiest day of week

Monday

## Busiest hours

3:00 - 5:00pm

## % International

12% (excludes 24% unknown)

## Top two countries outside US

- Canada (137 visits)
- UK (91)

## Most requested pages

- Home page (2,591 visits)
- 2003 Annual Scientific Sessions (481)
- Epi Job listing services (446)
- What is epidemiology? (367)
- Directory of Epidemiology Societies (383)

## Top two downloaded files

- Atlanta workshop materials
- Newsletter

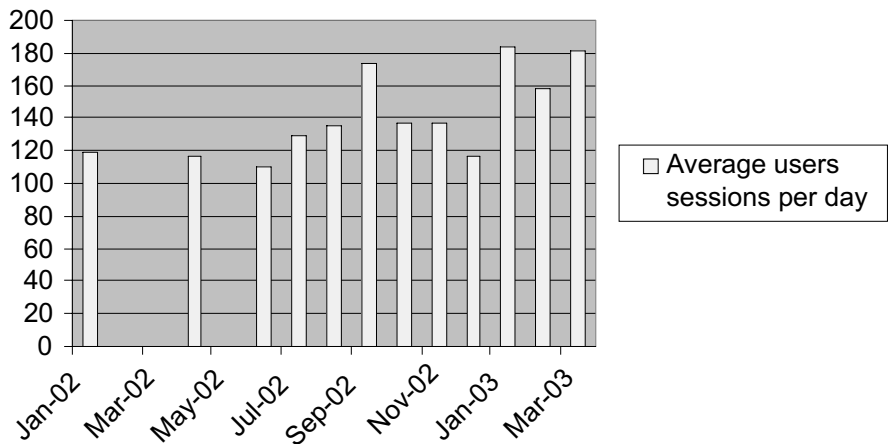
## Top referring sites

Google (417 visits), SER (143)

## Data for March 2003

The ACE website is showing strong usage with about 180 daily users, up from a mean of 103 daily users in January 2001. Versatility and practicality of the site is evidenced by the large number of brochures and registration materials downloaded during the months preceding the recent ACE meeting held in Albuquerque, as well as other material downloaded for board elections, upcoming workshops and the newsletter. The popularity of the various website directories changes from month to month, reflecting the ebb and flow of annual meetings and major policy issues. The Communications Committee is actively exploring inaugurating online dues payments and meeting registrations, as a new service to members. There is a wealth of information and convenient links on the site today. Check it out! Give us your ideas to keep improving our website: [info@acepidemiology.org](mailto:info@acepidemiology.org).

## Average users sessions per day



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[www.acepidemiology.org](http://www.acepidemiology.org)

### Newsletter Editor:

Paul H. Levine

### Managing Editor:

Peter Kralka

## ACE Member Update

ACE News will be printing notes on important awards and position changes involving ACE members. The position changes can be useful to members who may want to contact colleagues about opportunities in their new areas of activity. Suggested contributions should be sent to the ACE office at [pkralka@olsonmgmt.com](mailto:pkralka@olsonmgmt.com).

**Robert A Hiatt**, a former ACE President, has recently moved from the National Cancer Institute (NCI) to the University of California in San Francisco (UCSF). As Director of Population Science and Deputy Director of the Comprehensive Cancer Center, he will be working to reproduce the program he helped to develop at NCI in cancer epidemiology, behavioral science, health services research

and surveillance. He has appointments as Professor of Epidemiology and Biostatistics at UCSF and as Senior Scientist for the national Kaiser Permanente Medical Care Program in Oakland.

**John M. Last**, who received the ACE's Abraham Lilienfeld Award in 1997, was invited by the Senatus Academicus of the University of Edinburgh to receive an honorary degree of Doctor of Medicine on July 12, 2003. Dr. Last's contributions to public health and epidemiology for more than 40 years include his being author or editor of 14 books, chapters in more than 40 books, and over 280 other articles and editorials. He is emeritus professor of epidemiology at the University of Ottawa and an honorary life member in ACE.

# **EPIDEMIOLOGY ON THE FRONT LINE AND UNDER FIRE:**

**Focusing Attention on the  
Practical and Methodological Issues  
of Conducting Epidemiologic  
Research Today**



**AMERICAN COLLEGE OF EPIDEMIOLOGY  
ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC SESSIONS**

**September 6-9, 2003**

**Hotel InterContinental · Chicago, Illinois**

# ACE ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC SESSIONS

September 6 - 9, 2003

Hotel InterContinental • Chicago, Illinois

## PRELIMINARY PROGRAM

### Saturday, September 6

#### Preconference Workshops

May choose one of two:

1:00 - 5:00pm

**Workshop 6 (half-day) – Ethical Issues Arising from Differing Study Designs – Cohort Studies vs. Randomized Clinical Trials**  
*Robert McKeown, Organizer*  
(free to participants)

9:00am - 4:00pm

**Workshop 7 (full-day) – What's an Epidemiologist to Do? Implications of the Classification of Race and Ethnicity for Research on Health Disparities in Blacks, Asians, Native Hawaiians, and other Pacific Islanders**  
*Vickie Mays, Organizer*  
(free to all)

5:00 - 7:00pm

**Board of Directors Meeting**

### Sunday, September 7

7:30am - 8:00pm

**Conference registration**

8:00am - 3:00pm

**Board of Directors Meeting**

#### Preconference Workshops

*John Acquavella, Organizer*

May choose one of three full-day workshops, or up to two half-day workshops (registration fee charged):

9:00am - 5:00pm

**Workshop 1 – Multilevel Analysis in Public Health**  
*Ron Harrist, University of Texas School of Public Health*

9:00am - 5:00pm

**Workshop 2 – Applying Quantitative Sensitivity Analysis to Epidemiologic Data**  
*Timothy L. Lash, Boston University School of Public Health*

9:00am - 5:00pm

**Workshop 3 – Cognitive Issues Related to the Design of Valid Survey Questions**  
*Dick Warnecke, University of Illinois at Chicago*

8:45am - 12:45pm

**Workshop 4 – New Approaches in Molecular Epidemiology**  
*Timothy Rebbeck, University of Pennsylvania*

1:00 - 5:00 pm

**Workshop 5 – Teaching the Teacher: Essential Tools for Analyzing Large Public Health Data Sets**  
*Selected analysts at the National Center for Health Statistics, selected faculty from Schools of Public Health*

7:00 - 9:00pm

**Host Reception (Chicago: Faith Davis) and Inaugural, Late-Breaking Poster Session**

**Submit your abstract by July 31 to [info@acepidemiology.org](mailto:info@acepidemiology.org).**

### Monday, September 8

7:00am - 5:00pm

**Registration**

8:30 - 9:00am

**Welcome to ACE Annual Meeting**  
*Carol Hogue, Emory University*

*continued on page 5*

# ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC SESSIONS PRELIMINARY PROGRAM

*continued from page 4*

## Welcome to Chicago

*Susan Scrimshaw, Dean, UIC SPH*

**9:00 - 9:45am**

**Keynote Address – How Much and for How Long Did the WTC Impact on Residents throughout the City? The Epidemiology of Mental Health Among New York City Residents Following September 11th**

*David Vlahov, Director, Center for Urban Epidemiologic Studies at the New York Academy of Medicine*

**9:45 - 10:00am**

**Beverage Break**

**10:00am - 12:00**

**Symposium I – When Observational Studies and Randomized Trials Conflict: Lessons from Recent Studies**

*Marlene Goldman, Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, Harvard Medical School, Moderator*

*Steven N. Goodman, John Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health – From a Trialist's Perspective*

*Julie E. Buring, Brigham & Women's Hospital, Harvard Medical School – Lessons from the Women's Health Initiative, Nurses, and Physicians Studies*

*Robert N. Hoover, National Cancer Institute – Conflicts and Concordance in Trials and Observations*

*Elizabeth Barrett-Connor, University of California at San Diego – What Have We Learned?*

**12:00 - 12:10pm**

**Break**

**12:10 - 2:20pm**

**Buffet Lunch**  
**By reservation only – must pre-register for lunch**  
**Roundtables – Competencies for Doctoral Trained Epidemiologists**

*Jonathan Samet, Moderator*

**Report of the Competencies Workshop**

*Jonathon Samet and Mike Stoto*

**2:20 - 2:30pm**

**Followed by: Facilitated**

**roundtable discussions about what the role of ACE should be in fostering PhD Competencies**

**Break**

**2:30 - 4:00pm**

**Policy Forum – HIPAA and Beyond**  
*Faith Davis, Moderator*

**Overview of HIPAA Rules for Epidemiologic Studies**

*Dennis Deepen*

**HIPAA Subcommittee of ACE Policy Committee Response**

*Robert Hiatt*

**Corporate Perspective**

*Robin C. Leonard, Dupont*

**General discussion, including case studies**

**4:00 - 4:30pm**

**Presentation by the American Chemistry Council Award Winner, Robert Lyles**

*Introduction by John Acquavella, Monsanto*

*continued on page 6*



*Chicago's Michigan Avenue, photo by Ron Schramm*

# ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC SESSIONS PRELIMINARY PROGRAM

*continued from page 5*

**4:30 - 5:15pm**      **ACE Business Meeting**  
(members only)

**5:15 - 7:15pm**      **Poster Session/Reception**  
*Irene Hall, Poster Committee Chair*

**7:15 - 10:00pm**      **Evening Out**  
(See page 3 for details.)

**2:15 - 2:30pm**

**Break**

**2:30 - 4:30pm**

**Symposium III – Challenges to Surveillance**

*Moderator, Toni Alterman, NIOSH*

**Speakers, representing varied perspectives, will discuss the general issues using specific examples:**

**Academic Perspective**

*Betsy Marshall, UMDNJ – Reproductive Surveillance*

**Federal Government Perspective**

*Penn Jacobs, NCEH – Childhood Blood Lead*

**Insurance Perspective**

*Gordon Smith, Liberty Mutual – Obtaining Occupational Data from Population-Based Surveys: Methods, Biases and Suggestions*

**Industry Perspective**

*William B. Bunn III, International Truck and Engine Corporation – Monitoring and Managing Injuries with Epidemiology*

**Labor Perspective**

*Janie Gittleman (Associate Director, Safety and Health Research, Center to Protect Workers' Rights) – Discussant*

## Tuesday, September 9

**7:00 - 11:00am**      **Registration**

**7:30 - 8:45am**      **Breakfast Roundtables** (various topics, including these listed)

**Conversation with JAMA editor**

**Conversation with Annals of Epidemiology editor**

**Conversation with ESOP Committee regarding upstream causes of war**

**8:45 - 8:50am**      **Break**

**8:50 - 9:20am**      **Presidential Address – “Just the FAQs, Ma’am”**  
*Carol Hogue*

**9:20 - 9:50am**      **Student Prize Paper**

**9:50 - 10:00am**      **Break**

**10:00am - 12:00**      **Symposium II – Challenges and Solutions to Conducting Epidemiologic Studies in the Current Era**  
*Moderator, Ed Trapido, NCI*

**Gene-Environment Analyses**  
*Sandra Melnick, NCI, invited*

**Telephone, Internet or Other Survey Approaches?**  
*David Sly, invited*

**Probabilistic Record Linkage**  
*Jack Leiss, invited*

**12:00 - 2:15pm**      **Lillienfeld Awards Banquet, honoring Dr. Elizabeth Barrett-Connor**

**4:45pm**

**Adjourn**

## Save the Date!

### September 15-18, 2003

Visit [www.cancerconference.net/sig](http://www.cancerconference.net/sig) for additional details about CDC's 2003 Cancer Conference, *Comprehensive Approaches to Cancer Control—The Public Health Role.*

# REGISTRATION FORM

## ACE Annual Scientific Sessions

September 6 - 9, 2003 • Hotel InterContinental • Chicago, Illinois

Pre-registration closes on August 15, 2003. Registrations received after August 15 will be processed at on-site rates. Refunds will be issued for cancellations received in writing by August 22, 2003.

Please print or type the following information. It will be used to print your name badge and mail your confirmation.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
FIRST MIDDLE LAST DEGREE  
Institution \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Daytime Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

### Workshop Registration

#### Preconference Workshops – September 7

Five workshops will be held on Sunday, September 7. Enrollment is limited. Please indicate your 1st, 2nd, and 3rd choices. You will be assigned your highest priority available.

- \_\_\_\_\_ **Workshop 1** – (Full Day) Multilevel Analysis in Public Health, Ron Harrist, University of Texas School of Public Health
- \_\_\_\_\_ **Workshop 2** – (Full Day) Applying Quantitative Sensitivity Analysis to Epidemiologic Data, Timothy L. Lash, Boston University School of Public Health
- \_\_\_\_\_ **Workshop 3** – (Full Day) Cognitive Issues Related to the Design of Valid Survey Questions, Dick Warnecke, University of Illinois at Chicago
- \_\_\_\_\_ **Workshop 4** – (Half Day) New Approaches in Molecular Epidemiology, Tim Rebbeck, University of Pennsylvania
- \_\_\_\_\_ **Workshop 5** – (Half Day) Teaching the Teacher: Essential Tools for Analyzing Large Public Health Data Sets

#### Fee for Full-Day Workshops (1, 2, 3)

Member ..... \$165 ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Non-Member ..... \$210 ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Student\* ..... \$110 ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

#### Fee for Half-Day Workshop (4, 5)

Member ..... \$105 ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Non-Member ..... \$165 ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Student\* ..... \$ 85 ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

(A \$50 surcharge will be assessed for on-site preconference workshop registration.)

#### Workshops Free of Charge – September 6

Two workshops will be held on Saturday, September 6, free of charge. Please indicate which one you would like to attend:

- \_\_\_\_\_ **Workshop 6 (1 - 5pm)** – Ethical Issues Arising from Differing Study Designs – Cohort Studies vs. Randomized Clinical Trials, Robert McKeown, ESOP Committee Chair
- \_\_\_\_\_ **Workshop 7 (9am - 4pm)** – What's an Epidemiologist to Do? Implications of the Classification of Race and Ethnicity for Research on Health Disparities in Blacks, Asians, Native Hawaiians, and other Pacific Islanders, Vickie Mays, ACE Minority Affairs Committee Chair

#### Monday Lunch/Roundtables – September 8

(must pre-register – includes lunch)

\_\_\_\_\_ Competencies for Doctoral Trained Epidemiologists  
..... \$19 ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### General Registration

Registration includes all sessions (except preconference workshops and lunch roundtable workshops), breaks, roundtable breakfast, banquet, and poster reception.

	Before 8/15	After 8/15 and On-site	
Member .....	\$250 .....	\$300 .....	\$ _____
Non-Member .....	\$340 .....	\$380 .....	\$ _____
Student* .....	\$120 .....	\$150 .....	\$ _____

\*Proof of student status is required.

Registrations received after 8/22 will be processed on-site.

### Banquet

Do you plan to attend the Tuesday lunch banquet on September 9?  
 Yes  No

### Special Services

Please check here if you require special accommodations to fully participate. Attach a written description.

### Payment Information

**TOTAL ENCLOSED** ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Check or credit card information must be received with registration form. Please either fax **OR** mail registration form. Do not fax **AND** mail registration form! Thank you.

- Check (US currency, payable to American College of Epidemiology)  
 MasterCard  Visa  American Express

Authorized Cardholder (Please print): \_\_\_\_\_

Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Please Mail or Fax This Form with Payment to:

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

Phone: (919) 861-5573 • Fax: (919) 787-4916

**Questions?** Please call us at (919) 861-5573 or e-mail us at [info@acepidemiology.org](mailto:info@acepidemiology.org).

**For Membership Information** – Please visit the ACE website at [www.acepidemiology.org](http://www.acepidemiology.org).

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