

EPIDEMIOLOGY NEWS

Volume 2, Number 2

Department of Epidemiology, School of Public Health, UNC

Summer 1993

FROM THE CHAIR'S DESK

After ten years of chairing the Department of Epidemiology, I will be stepping down from that position on July 1, 1993, to resume the usual professorial duties of teaching, research and service. It is with mixed emotions that I make this change. Without doubt, these have been exciting and demanding years. The Department has grown in numbers of students, faculty and staff. It has also changed in many of its substantive directions and emphasis areas. One recognizes the new programs in reproductive epidemiology, infectious diseases and molecular epidemiology. Cardiovascular diseases and cancer epidemiology have flourished while environmental epidemiology has grown, consistent with worldwide interests and concern over the environment. Only in the area of health care epidemiology has the Department lost ground, which is unfortunate given the current emphasis on health care reform and the need for epidemiology in the evaluation of those activities.

Much of the growth and increasing prominence of the Department has come about through changes within the University. Dean Ibrahim was successful in getting the new School of Public Health building, McGavran-Greenberg, completed. With the move to McGavran-Greenberg and the expansion of epidemiologic research projects at the Nations Bank building in downtown Chapel Hill, we have doubled our Departmental space. Adding laboratory faculty in both infectious diseases and molecular biology, and their laboratory facilities, also extend Departmental programmatic and research capabilities. These are thrusts that bring our Department into the current and future forefront of epidemiologic investigation. Thus, I am indebted to the administration of our School and University, which has facilitated opportunities for our Department's growth and expansion.

Most of all I want to express my appreciation to the many people I have worked with on a daily basis. The students, who are the reason for the Department's existence, have not surprised me. They were always excellent and have continued to be so, providing the vitality and intellectual vigor that makes teaching a reward, rather than an obligation.

The staff in the Epidemiology Department I have come to know well, and with that knowledge I have come to appreciate them deeply. Their commitment and loyalty

make it possible for the Department and faculty to function. They have developed a level of cooperation and flexibility in shifting work loads (to meet grant deadlines!) that few other Departments have achieved. Much credit for this high level of morale and commitment goes to the administrative staff who have managed successfully to keep the work flow moving on track.

Most gratifying to me has been working with our faculty, all of whom I have come to know better than previously. I am pleased to have been influential in recruiting many of the newer faculty to the Department. Whether "new" or "old," the faculty have been outstanding in helping to make the Department function effectively. Without exception, every faculty member has accepted and excelled in performing the teaching and administrative responsibilities of the Department. I view with amazement the consistency of this responsiveness. It is with pleasure that I return to working more directly with many faculty in our teaching and research activities.

In the future, it is our alumni who I hope to know better. As the Department has "aged" we have developed a large cadre of alumni, many of who have moved from our purview. Among my future goals is to reacquaint myself with our many former graduates.

IMPORTANT AND URGENT NOTICE TO ALL FACULTY MEMBERS

Faculty Meeting Schedule

The 1993-94 academic year faculty meeting is being scheduled from 3:30 - 5:00 pm in the Epidemiology Conference Room (2101G McGavran-Greenberg) with the exception of July and August. The July and August meeting will be held in Room 1305 McGavran-Greenberg. The meetings are being scheduled for the second Wednesday of each month, beginning in July, with the exception of March and September. The September Faculty Meeting is scheduled for September 15 and the March Faculty Meeting scheduled for March 15. The Full Professor's Meeting schedule will be forthcoming.

OFFICIAL UNIVERSITY HOLIDAY

Monday, July 5 is a University Holiday in observance of Independence Day.

FACULTY NEWS

The Department of Epidemiology extends a welcome to Dr. Jennifer Ratcliffe. Dr. Ratcliffe is an Associate Professor and will be active as a research investigator in the Environmental Protection Agency Cooperative Agreement on Environmental Epidemiology. At present, her office is 2101F McGavran-Greenberg.

STAFF NEWS

Congratulations to Lorraine Alexander, Research Associate, who received the North Carolina Affiliate American Heart Association Pat Mitchell Fellowship Award at the 44th Annual Meeting Delegate Assembly and Scientific Sessions in Greensboro, NC in May 1993. The presentation of this award was to the fellowship candidate whose application received the highest merit score from the Affiliate Research Committee.

Terry Hudgins received a Certificate Of Appreciation by the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in honor of an Information Technology Award Nomination. The purpose of these awards is to publicly acknowledge the effort and dedication of those individuals that are responsible for keeping the technical infrastructure throughout this campus up and running on a daily basis.

DEPARTMENTAL SPONSORED MEETING

The Department of Epidemiology co-sponsored and organized a very successful conference with the Health Effects Research Laboratory (HERL) of the U.S. EPA this past March 30th to April 1st at the Sheraton Imperial Convention Center in Research Triangle Park. The conference was supported by the UNC/EPA Cooperative Agreement for Environmental Epidemiology and was titled "National Human Tissue Monitoring and Specimen Banking: Opportunities for Exposure Assessment, Risk Assessment, and Epidemiologic Research." The Planning Committee included Barbara Hulka and Lester Lee from EPID, Jack Griffith and Rich Everson from HERL, George Lucier from NIEHS, and Vernon Houk from the CDC.

There were 117 registered participants from 18 states and five other countries. The first two days featured 21 invited speakers from the EPA, CDC, NIEHS, NHANES, various other government agencies and universities in the U.S., Canada, Germany, and Norway, including Lenore Kohlmeier (EPID and NUTR) and Stephen Rappaport (ENVR) from UNC.

The speakers provided a state-of-the-art overview of recent advances in exposure assessment and bio-

monitoring techniques, and their relevance to human tissue specimen banking. There were also presentations on program design, sample design, data and tissue collection, and ethical issues relevant to large scale specimen banking. The last six presentations concerned practical experiences of major specimen banking and human tissue monitoring programs in the U.S. and Europe. Panel discussions interspersed with the speakers' presentations addressed the utility and research opportunities afforded by specimen banking programs for future research needs in the areas of human exposure assessment, risk assessment, and environmental epidemiology.

The third day of the conference consisted of a small workshop of about 20 people discussing the relevance of the topics and issues presented over the previous two days to the process of human risk assessment. Its purpose was to develop recommendations to the EPA regarding applications and utility of large scale specimen banking, biological monitoring, and biological markers for exposure assessment and risk assessment activities.

The proceedings of the conference are being edited for publication as a supplemental volume of Environmental Health Perspectives due out in the Spring of 1994. If you would like any further information about the conference or the proceedings volume, please contact Lester Lee at 6-3594.

UPCOMING EVENTS

The First John C. Cassel Distinguished Lecture will be Wednesday, August 25, 1993, from 3:30 - 5:00 pm in Room 1301 McGavran-Greenberg Building. Dr. H. A. Tyroler, Alumni Distinguished Professor, will be the speaker.

IN THE NEWS

The School of Public Health's Public Relations Office provides the department with monthly reports of persons (faculty, staff, and students) in our department making the news (newspapers, magazines, etc.). Listed in this section are highlights of who has been in the news during the months of March, April, and May. A file copy of the news clipping is in Lesa McPherson's office (2103B).

Hall, J. E., Faculty. Scientists Create Promising New Compound to Combat Pneumonia in AIDS Patients. The Taylorsville Times.

Hulka, Barbara, Faculty. Stalking a killer. Board of Governors Quarterly. Chapel Hill, NC.

Janowsky, Esther, Post-Doctoral Fellow. Cancer Center Presents Prevention, Control Awards. Herald-Sun. Durham, NC.

Janowsky, Esther, Post-Doctoral Fellow. Cancer Center Presents Prevention, Control Awards. North Carolina Beacon.

Kaplan, Bert, Faculty. Professor Joins Organizing Panel. Herald-Sun. Durham, NC.

Morris, Dexter (Tony), Adjunct Faculty. Taking Veggies to Heart. Herald-Sun. Durham, NC.

Morris, Dexter (Tony), Adjunct Faculty. Vegetables' Role in Heart Attacks Studied. North Carolina Beacon.

Nabulsi, Azmi, Adjunct Faculty. Combination of Hormones Protects Heart, Study Says. News & Record. Greensboro, NC.

Nabulsi, Azmi, Adjunct Faculty. Estrogen, Progestin Help Protect Women's Hearts. News & Observer. Raleigh, NC.

Savitz, David, Faculty. New Study Reports no Link Between Cancer, Electricity. Columbian. Vancouver, WA.

Savitz, David, Faculty. Study Finds no Link Between Electromagnetic Fields, Cancer. Kirksville Express. Kirksville, MO.

Savitz, David, Faculty. Study: No Cancer, EMF Link Discovered. Examiner. Independence, MO.

Savitz, David, Faculty. Study: No Cancer, EMF Link Discovered. The Examiner. Blue Springs, MO.

Savitz, David, Faculty. Study: Electromagnetic Fields don't Cause Cancer. Sikeston Standard. Sikeston, MO.

Schoenbach, Victor, Faculty. 15th Annual Minority Health Meet set for UNC. Carolinian. Raleigh, NC.

Shy, Carl, Faculty. Reducing Radioactive Disposal Sites Would Make NC's bigger. Herald-Sun. Durham, NC.

Thomas, James, Faculty. Health Director Finds NC Ahead. Wilson Daily Times. Wilson, NC.

PUBLICATIONS

Adjunct Faculty

Chute CG, Panser LA, Girman CJ, Oesterling JE, Guess HA, Lieber MM. 1993. The prevalence of prostatism. A population-based survey of urinary symptoms. *Journal of Urology* (In press).

Girman CJ, Panser LA, Chute CG, Oesterling JE, Chen CC, Arrighi HM, Guess HA, Lieber MM. 1993. Natural history of benign prostatic hyperplasia: urinary flow rates in a population-based study. *Journal of Urology* (In press).

Grabenstein JD, Hartzema AG, Guess HA, Johnston WP. 1993. Community pharmacists as immunization advocates: A pharmacoepidemiology experiment. *International Journal of Pharmacy Practice* 2:5-10.

Guess HA, Chute CG, Garraway WM, Johnson CL, Panser LA, Lee RJ, McKelvie GB, Oesterling JE, Lieber MM. 1993. Similar level of urologic symptoms have similar impact in Scottish and American men - though Scots report less symptoms. *J of Urolo* (In press).

Guess HA, Heyse JF, Gormley GJ. 1993. The effect of finasteride on prostate-specific antigen in men with benign prostatic hyperplasia. *The Prostate*. 22:31-37.

Guess HA, Heyse JF, Gormley CJ, Stoner E, Oesterling JE. 1993. The effect of finasteride on serum PSA concentrations in men with benign prostatic hyperplasia - results from the North American Phase III clinical trial. *Urologic Clinics of North America* (In press).

Jacobsen SJ, Guess HA, Girman CJ, Panser LA, Chute CG, Oesterling JE, Lieber MM. 1993. A population-based study of factors associated with discordance between frequency and both of urinary symptoms. The Olmsted County Study of Urinary Symptoms and Health Status Among Men. *Urology* (In press).

Jacobsen SJ, Guess HA, Panser L, Girman CL, Chute CG, Oesterling JE, Lieber MM. 1993. A population-based study of health-care-seeking behavior for urinary symptoms: The Olmsted County study of urinary symptoms and health status among men. *Arch Fam Pract* (In press)

Panser LA, Chute CG, Guess HA, Jacobsen SJ, Oesterling JE, Lieber MM. 1993. Response rates in a prospective cohort study: Effect of several recruitment strategies. *Annals of Epidemiology* (In press).

Ransohoff DF, Gracie WA. 1993. Management of gallstones. *Ann Intern Med* (In press).

Ransohoff DF, Lang CA. 1993. Sigmoidoscopic screening in the 1990s. *JAMA* 269:1278-1281.

Roeback JR, Cook JR, Guess HA, Heyse JF. 1993. Time-dependent variability in repeated measurements of cholesterol levels. Clinical implications for risk misclassification and intervention monitoring. *Journal of Clinical Epidemiology* (In press).

Wright J, McGeer A, Chyatte D, Ransohoff DF. 1993. Rates of exposure to blood for operating room personnel. *Survey* (In press).

Faculty

Abrams B, Duncan D, Hertz-Picciotto I. 1993. A prospective study of dietary intake and acquired immune deficiency syndrome in HIV seropositive homosexual men. *J AIDS* (accepted).

Alderman BW, Baron AE, Savitz DA. 1993. Cautions in the use of antecedents as surrogates for confounders. *American Journal of Epidemiology* (In press).

Alexander, L., Keene, B., Small, D, and R.S. Baric. 1993. Electrocardiographic changes associated with rabbit coronavirus induced myocarditis and dilated cardiomyopathy. *Adv Exp Med Biol* (In press).

Arrighi HM, Hertz-Picciotto I. 1993. Controlling the healthy worker survivor effect: A comparison of methods (in preparation).

Arrighi HM, Hertz-Picciotto I. 1993. Controlling the healthy worker survivor effect: An example using arsenic exposure and respiratory cancer (in preparation).

Arrighi HM, Hertz-Picciotto I. 1993. Re: Definitions, sources, magnitude, effect modifiers and strategies of reduction of the healthy worker effect [Letter]. *J Occup Med* (accepted).

Arrighi HM, Hertz-Picciotto I. 1993. The evolving concept of the healthy worker survivor effect (submitted).

- Breslow NE, Olshan A, Beckwith JB, Green D. 1993. Epidemiology of Wilms' tumor. *Medical & Pediatric Oncology*, 21:172-181.
- Brenner H, Savitz DA, Gefeller O. 1993. The effects of joint misclassification of exposure and disease on epidemiologic measures of association. *Journal of Clinical Epidemiology* (In press).
- Criqui MH, Heiss G, Cohn R, Cowan LD, Suchindran CM, Bangdiwala S, Kritchevsky S, Jacobs DR, O'Grady HK, Davis CE. 1993. Plasma triglyceride level and mortality from coronary heart disease. *New England Journal of Medicine* 328:1220-1225.
- Evans JA, Savitz DA, Kanal E, Gillen J. 1993. Infertility and pregnancy outcome among MRI workers. *Journal of Occupational Medicine*, in press.
- Fletcher LD, Berger LC, Peel SA, Baric RS, Tidwell RR, Dykstra CC. 1993. Isolation and identification of three *Pneumocystis carinii* genes utilizing codon bias. *Gene* (In press).
- Gallagher J, Vine MF, Everson RB, Hulka BS, Margolin BH, Truong Y, Griffith JD, Schramm MM. 1993. DNA adduct levels as detected by 32P-postlabelling in sperm of heavy, light and nonsmoking men. *Cancer Epidemiology, Biomarkers and Prevention*, (In press).
- Garrett PA, Hulka BS, Kim YL, Farber RA. HRAS Protooncogene Polymorphism and Breast Cancer. *Cancer Epidemiology, Biomarkers & Prevention*, 2:131-138, 1993.
- Hertz-Picciotto I, Croft J. 1993. A review of the relationship between blood lead and blood pressure. *Epidemiologic Reviews* 15: (accepted).
- Hertz-Picciotto I, Smith AH, (1993). Observations on the dose-response curve for arsenic and lung cancer. *Scand J Work Environ Health* 19:217-226.
- Irwin DE, Savitz DA, Hertz-Picciotto I, St Andre KA. 1993. Black/white differences in pregnancy-induced hypertension risk in military population (submitted).
- Irwin DE, Savitz DA, St Andre KA, Hertz-Picciotto I. 1993. Occupational risk factors for pregnancy-induced hypertension among active duty enlisted navy personnel (submitted).
- Kanel E, Gillen J, Evans JA, Savitz DA, Shellock FG. 1993. Survey of reproductive health among female MR operators. *Radiology*, in press.
- Klonoff-Cohen H, Edelstein S, Savitz D. 1993. Cigarette smoking and preeclampsia. *American Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology* 81:541-4.
- Lewtas J, Mumford J, Everson RB, Hulka B, Wilcosky T, Kozumbo W, Thompson C, George M, Dobias L, Sram R, Li X, Gallagher J. Comparison of DNA Adducts from Exposure to Complex Mixtures in Various Human Tissues and Experimental Systems. *Environmental Health Perspectives*, 99:89-97, 1993.
- Loomis DP, Kromhout H, Peipins LA, Kleckner RC, Iriye R, Savitz DA. 1993. Sampling design and methods of a large, randomized, multi-site survey of occupational magnetic field exposure. *Appl Occup Environ Hyg* (in press).
- Luepker RV, Rosamond WD, Sprafka M, Folsom A, McGovern P, Blackburn H. 1993. Socioeconomic status and coronary heart disease risk factor trends: The Minnesota Heart Survey. *Circulation* (accepted).
- Morrison H, Savitz D, Semenciw R, Hulka B, Mao Y, Morison D, Wigle D. 1993. Farming and prostate cancer mortality. *American Journal of Epidemiology* 54:197-204, 1993.
- Morrison H, Savitz D, Semenciw R, Hulka B, Mao Y, Wigle D. 1993. Farming and Prostate Cancer Mortality. *Amer J of Epid*, 137:270-80.
- Nabulsi AA, Folsom AR, White A, Patsch W, Heiss G, Wu KK, Szklo M. 1993. Association of hormone-replacement therapy with various cardiovascular risk factors in postmenopausal women. The Atherosclerosis Risk in Communities Study Investigators. *New England Journal of Medicine* 328(15):115-117.
- Olshan AF, Breslow NE, Falletta J, Grufferman S, Pendergrass T, Robison L, Waskerwitz M, Woods W, Vietti T, Hammond D. 1993. Risk Factors for Wilms' tumor: Report from the National Wilms' Tumor Study. *Cancer*, (In Press).
- Olshan AF, Faustman E. 1993. Male-mediated developmental toxicity. *Annual Review of Public Health* 14:159-181.
- Peel, S.A., Bondric, J., Bright, P., and Baric, R.S. 1993. Amplification, overexpression and mutation in pfMDR1 is critical for mefloquine, halofantrine and artemisinin resistance in *P. falciparum* in vitro. *Cell* (Submitted).
- Peel SA, Bright P, Handy J, Baric RS. 1993. Amplification, overexpression and mutation in pfMDR1 gene of *Plasmodium falciparum* is critical for mefloquine and halofantrine resistance in vitro. *Cell* (Submitted).
- Peel SA, Merritt SC, Handy J, Baric RS. 1993. Derivation of highly mefloquine resistant lines from *plasmodium falciparum* in vitro. *Am J Trop Med Hyg* 48(3):385-397.
- Runyan CW, Loomis DP, Butts JD. 1993 Practices of county medical examiners in classifying deaths as on the job. *J Occup Med* (in press).
- Savitz DA. 1993. Overview of epidemiologic research on electric and magnetic fields and cancer. *American Industrial Hygiene Association Journal* 54:197-204.
- Savitz DA, Boyle CA, Holmgren P. 1993. Prevalence of depression among electrical workers. *American Journal of Industrial Medicine*. (In press).
- Savitz DA, Kaune WT. 1993. Childhood cancer in relation to a modified residential wire code. *Environmental Health Perspectives*, in press.
- Savitz DA, Sonnenfeld NL, Olshan AF. 1993. Review of epidemiologic studies of paternal occupational exposure and spontaneous abortion. *American Journal of Industrial Medicine*. (In press).

Savitz DA, Thang NM, Swenson IE, Stone EM. 1993. Infant and childhood mortality in relation to the Vietnam war. *American Journal of Public Health*, in press.

Schaad MC, Baric RS. 1993. Evidence for new transcriptional units encoded at the 3'end of the MHV genome. *Virology* (In press).

Schaad, MC, Chen, W, Peel S, and Baric RS. 1993. Studies into the mechanism of MHV transcription. *Adv Exp Med Biol* (In press).

Schoenbach VJ, Landis SE, Weber DJ, Mittal M, Koch GG, Levine PH. 1993. HIV seroprevalence in sexually transmitted disease clinic patients in central NC. *Annals of Epidemiology* 3:281-288.

Seed JR. 1993. Immunoeology: origins of an idea. *J parasitology* (In press).

Vine MF. 1993. Biological, Biochemical, and Molecular Markers in Environmental Epidemiology. Chapter In: *Environmental Epidemiology*. Washington, DC: ACS Books, (In press).

Atlanta, GA, May 3-6.

Vine MF. 1993. Biological markers: Their use in quantitative assessments. *J Dent Res* (In press).

Vine MF. 1993. Biological markers of exposure: Future research needs. *Proceedings of the International Conference on the Health Effects of Hazardous Waste*.

Vine MF, Hulka BS. 1993. Biological Markers of Exposure. Chapter In: *Case BW, Craun G, Talbott E. (eds): Introductory Textbook of Environmental Epidemiology*. Chelsea: Lewis Publications, (In press).

Vine MF, Hulka BS, Margolin BH, Truong YK, Hu PC, Schramm MM, Griffith JD, McCann M, Everson RB. 1993. Cotinine levels in semen, urine and blood of smokers and nonsmokers, *AJPH* (In press).

Wartenberg D, Savitz DA. 1993. Evaluating exposure cutpoint bias in epidemiologic studies of electric and magnetic fields. *Bioelectromagnetics* 14:(In press).

Zhang J, Savitz DA. 1993. Maternal age and placenta previa: a population-based case-control study. *American Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology* 168:641-5.

Zhang J, Savitz DA, Schwingl PJ. 1993. Case-control study of paternal smoking and birth defects. *International Journal of Epidemiology*, in press.

*HAPPY FOURTH
OF JULY*

Department of Epidemiology
McGavran-Greenberg Bldg.
CB #7400
University of North Carolina
Chapel Hill, NC 27599-7400

