

EPIDEMIOLOGY NEWS

Volume 3, Number 2

Department of Epidemiology, School of Public Health, UNC

Summer 1994

FROM THE CHAIR'S DESK

We begin the academic year with 48 new students and a total student enrollment of 162, the largest number in the history of the Department. Needless to say, training in epidemiology is becoming increasingly popular, not only among students wishing to become career epidemiologists, but among health care practitioners that see in epidemiology a tool for evaluating the effectiveness of their disciplines. Our Department now takes students from a number of "liaison" programs including Clinical Scholars, Preventive Medicine, Oral Epidemiology, Primary Care Research Fellowship, and the Duke Occupational Medicine Residency. Other programs in the Schools of Medicine and Pharmacy are proposing to send trainees to our Department. Can we be responsive to these programs without limiting ourselves in the selection of applicants who want to become career epidemiologists? Clearly, this is a tradeoff we may have to face if we want to maintain an appropriate student to faculty ratio. At the same time, the opportunity to make epidemiology more relevant to the allocation of health care resources should not be overlooked, and the liaison programs provide us with that opportunity. We could be in a position to become a leading center for the training of community oriented primary care (COPC) providers, a concept that was developed by the first chair of this Department, Sidney Kark, and that combines the elements of primary health care with health care of the community in a single integrated practice. Epidemiological methods and knowledge provide an indispensable basis for the planning, development and evaluation of these community health programs. According to J.H. Abramson, "Epidemiology plays a central role in COPC" (Public Health Rev 1988: 16:35-98). Given the wealth of health care epidemiology resources available to us through our adjunct faculty, this is an area that could be developed in our School and should be a topic for considerably more discussion.

Carl M. Shy, Chair

FACULTY HONOR

Congratulations are extended to **Dr. Barbara Hulka** as the recipient of the Abraham Lillienfeld Award from the American College of Epidemiology for her "outstanding contributions to, and national leadership in, the discipline of epidemiology."

NEW FACULTY

New Research Track Faculty Appointments in Epidemiology

Dr. Patricia Moorman was appointed June 1 as a Research Assistant Professor. Her primary interests are in breast cancer epidemiology. She is currently the Project Manager for the Carolina Breast Cancer Study. Even though Trish is not a new face to our department, we do welcome her to our department as a faculty member.

Dr. Wendie Robbins has been appointed for a three year term in the Curriculum in Public Health Nursing, with a secondary appointment as Research Assistant Professor in the Department of Epidemiology effective August 20. Dr. Robbins received a Master of Science in Nursing from the University of Arizona, an M.S. in Epidemiology from the University of Washington, and a Ph.D. in Epidemiology from the University of California, Berkeley. She has done research on male mediated effects on offspring and on genetic biomarkers in studies of reproductive health. She will relate most closely with faculty in the reproductive epidemiology program area.

In addition, a search has been initiated for another research assistant or associate professor in epidemiology, with full funding from the Frank Porter Graham Child Development Center, to head up the epidemiology core on a CDC-funded program of research and surveillance of childhood disabilities. This person will have a primary appointment in the Department of Epidemiology, and will provide our Department with a strong link to the FPG Child Development Center.

CHANGING FACES

Changes in the SPA Support Staff

The SPA support staff has seen some changing faces during the summer months. We have three new members to our staff and one resignation.

Tammie Hooker, Social Research Assistant, joined the department in June. She is working on Jim Thomas' STEP project and is located at the Wilson County Health Department.

Jessica Tse, Applications Programmer, joined the department in July. She is working with David Savitz and Marilyn Vine and is located in Suite 303 at Nations Bank Plaza.

Minna Wiley, Social Research Assistant, joined our department in August. She is working on Marilyn Vine's Health and Environment project and is located in Suite 32 in Nations Bank Plaza.

Crystal Burnette, Accounting Technician, has decided not to return from her maternity leave.

Changes in the Post-Doctoral Fellows

Donna Arnett and **Pam Schreiner** has left UNC and will be joining the faculty at the University of Minnesota, School of Public Health, Division of Epidemiology.

Lorraine Backer and **Donna Armstrong** are both EIS (Epidem Intelligence Service) Fellows with Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Lorraine is located in Atlanta, GA and Donna is located in Olympia, WA.

Sandra Thomas has also left UNC and accepted an appointment with the White House Advisory Committee on Human Radiation Experiments.

Asadeh Stark who will be working with Drs. Barbara Hulka and David Savitz.

Ken Carley and **Neal Simonsen** are working with Lenore Kohlmeier.

Duang-Ping Liao is working with the Cardiovascular Disease group and **Mark Massingwill** be joining that group in the near future.

PUBLICATIONS

Andrews KW, Savitz DA, Hertz-Picciotto I. Prenatal lead exposure in relation to gestational age and birth weight: a review of epidemiologic studies. Am J Ind Med 26:13-32, 1994.

Kaplan BH. Commentary on anger kills: forgiveness as a scientific agenda. Advances 10(2):61-63, 1994.

Kohlmeier L. Gaps in dietary assessment methodology: Meal vs list based methods. Proceedings of the 1st International Meetings on Dietary Assessment. Amer J Clin Nutr 59:175S-179S, 1994.

Loomis DP, Savitz DA, Ananth CV. Breast cancer mortality among female electrical workers. J Natl Cancer Inst 86:921-925, 1994.

Loomis DP, Savitz DA, Ananth CV. Mortality from breast cancer among female electrical workers in the United States. J Natl Cancer Inst 86:921-925, 1994.

Loomis DP, Savitz DA. Effect of incomplete exposure assessment on epidemiologic dose-response analyses. Scand J Work Environ Health 20:208-213, 1994.

Millikan R. Epidemiologic evidence showing that human papilloma virus infection causes most cervical intraepithelial neoplasia. J Natl Cancer Inst 36:392, 1994.

Norman EH, Bordley WC, Hertz-Picciotto I. Rural-urban differences in blood lead levels: North Carolina's childhood screening program. Pediatrics 94:1-6, 1994.

Sarasua S, Savitz DA. Cured and broiled meat consumption in relation to childhood cancer. Cancer Causes Control 5:141-148, 1994.

Savitz DA, Brett KM, Evans LE, Bowes W. Medically treated miscarriage among Black and White women in Alamance County, North Carolina, 1988-1991. Amer J Epid 139:1100-1106, 1994.

Savitz DA, Tolo K-A, Poole C. Statistical significance testing in the American Journal of Epidemiology, 1970 to 1990. Amer J Epid 139:1047-1052, 1994.

Schober EA, Kusy RP, Whitley JQ, Savitz DA. Effect of thickness on the fracture characteristics of fetal membranes. J Materials Science: Materials in Medicine 5:130-137, 1994.

Shy CM, Greenberg R, Winn D. Sentinel health events of environmental contamination: A consensus statement. Environ Health Perspect 102:316-317, 1994.

Steadman JS, Lee LW, Smith GJ, Grisham JW. DNA contents and chromosomes of transformed rat liver epithelial cells and of cells from their derived tumors. Carcinogenesis 15:963-969, 1994.

Stevens J, Keil JE, Rust PF, Plankey, MW, Tyroler HA, Davis CE. Black women have less abdominal fat than white women of the same relative weight. J Clin Epid 47:495-499, 1994.

IN THE NEWS

The School of Public Health Public Relations Office provides the department with reports of UNC Epidemiology faculty, staff, and students making the news. Listed in this section are some sample headlines.

Bacteria poses a threat. MOUNT AIRY NEWS, Mount Airy, NC. [Weber, D. Faculty]

Hot dogs don't cut mustard in studies. NEWS & OBSERVER, Raleigh, NC. [Savitz, D. Faculty]

Risks of miscarriage high among cosmetologists, UNC study shows. NEWS & OBSERVER, Raleigh, NC. [Savitz, D.; Shy, C. Faculty]

If you are interested in viewing these or the other articles from the other sources, please see Lesa McPherson.

ESO NEWS

ESO Welcomes new and returning students

ESO extends a warm welcome to all new and returning students! For the new students wondering what ESO stands for, we are the Epidemiology Student Organization. By way of funding from the Graduate and Professional Student Federation and DUES from our members we are able to pay for subscriptions to important scientific journals which are kept in the Epi Student Room as references. We also serve as a forum for student concerns, sponsor social events throughout the year, and organize the annual student/faculty retreat. Please pay \$10 in dues to Janet Alexander, our treasurer, whenever you can in the next few weeks. We will be sending an e-mail soon to announce our first meeting of the year. Hope to see you there.

Kourtney Johnston & Amy Sayle
Social Directors

First ESO Meeting

The Epidemiology Student Organization (ESO) held its first meeting of the Fall semester.

The following are the ESO officers:
Planning coordinator: **Kourtney Johnston**
Secretary: **Gayle Shimokura**
Treasurer: **Janet Alexander**
Social Director: **Amy Sayle**

Student representatives for GPSF (Graduate and Professional Students Federation): **Christine Gibson** and **Gayle Shimokura**.

Socializing with ESO

Please join us for the Wine Tasting at Weaver Street Market in Carrboro on Thursday, September 22 at 6 p.m. (this will be held every Thursday). This event is really popular with students and other residents--in addition to wine tasting, there's a band and food available either inside or outside the store, or you can bring your own chow. We'll meet to the right of the band (if you're facing them) near the sidewalk next to the street. This will be a great opportunity to meet other students!!!

ALUMNI NEWS

Alumni Death

Aris Apostolides, '76 alumni, passed away earlier this year. He was one of the Hypertension Detection Follow-up Program investigators.

Selected for Space Shuttle Mission

Cdr. Jerry M. Linenger, alumni, has been selected for the space shuttle mission on September 9, 1994. The primary mission objectives are to conduct atmospheric research, investigate solar phenomena, and evaluate new "space walk" hardware.

Getting Gifts

Bill Saunders, a recent graduate now located nearby at Glaxo, has made a generous donation of a computer, monitor and keyboard to the Epidemiology Student Organization (ESO). This will join six slightly-used computers obtained by the ESO Computer Committee from UNC's Office of Information Technology (OIT) during their computer upgrade this past spring. We hope that Dr. Saunder's gift will be joined shortly by two more computers to be purchased by the Department. Once the software crisis for the six OIT machines is resolved (by either cash or software contributions), these machines will enable students without computers in their homes to have 24-hour access to computers which is important throughout the year, when many students take the doctoral qualifying exam or have term course assignments. These computers will also help students during those hours when the SPH computer lab is too crowded! Thanks again, Bill!!!

Recipient of Teaching Award

Lon Kightlinger was the recipient of the Bernard G. Greenberg Award for Excellence in Doctoral Research. The criteria for the award includes excellence of research, quality of scholarship exhibited in the research, contribution to the welfare of mankind, and creativity and clarity of presentation.

Dissertation Publication

The following article was published from Holly Hill's doctoral dissertation:

Hill HA, Schoenbach VJ, Kleinbaum DG, Strecher VJ, Orleans CT, GebSKI VJ, Kaplan BH. A longitudinal analysis of predictors of quitting smoking among participants in a self-help intervention trial. Addictive Behaviors 1994; 19:159-173.

NationsBank Building News

THEFT - EXPLOSION - SPACE WAR - CARPENTERS

Currently the Department of Epidemiology houses a total of 50 faculty, staff, graduate research assistants, post-doctoral fellows, and visiting scholars at the NationsBank Building which is located in the center of downtown Chapel Hill - better known as Franklin Street. You will find Epidemiology personnel in suites 32, 302, 303, 305, 306 (3rd floor), and 400 (4th floor). For the security of personnel, and confidentiality of research data, we request that you identify yourself when visiting.

CARPENTER - During the past four months, we have been making an effort to use the space at NBB more efficiently. For example, we are in the process of building a

- (1) doorway and entranceway between Suite 32 and 33
- (2) doorway between Suite 305 and 306
- (3) cabinet to house the computer wiring in Suite 32

These changes will enable us to relocate the current kitchen/library room and the workstation room located in Suite 32 to Suite 33, which will give us the much needed office space, enhance the accessibility of personnel, files, and equipment, and create a sense of unity between the suites.

THIEF - Robber enters Suite 32 on July 20th, posing as the housekeeper's daughter - \$50 was stolen from an employee in suite 32. I am taking up a free-will collection for the employee to help her with her loss. If you would like to contribute a \$1.00 to the collection, please do so by September 21st. Thank you.

SPACE WAR - Not enough space to house the 50 employees at NBB - your patience is requested until the above changes are implemented, which will hopefully alleviate the current space problem.

EXPLOSION - On Friday, September 2, the NBB employees were evacuated due to a circuit box explosion. We have contacted the University's Health and Safety Office, and will be having a fire safety workshop in the near future.

GREAT EMPLOYEES - *I would like to thank the departmental employees located at NBB for their assistance in every situation. They have been very supportive of me in my new role, and I am very appreciative of their positive attitude and helpful suggestions.*

Phyllis H. Johnson

Medline Search Tips

Titles From Specific Journal(s) Each Month

UNCLE adds new journal citations monthly in batches coded by year and month (9408 for August 1994). To see the latest issue in UNCLE for a specific journal, go into UNCLE, enter the abbreviation for the journal followed by .so. for source.

1_: j-clin-epidemiol.so. 587 documents
(Other examples: cancer-res.so. j-natl-cancer-inst.so. ann-epidemiol.so. environ-health-perspect.so. If you do not know the abbreviation, call 2-0700 to request it.)

To limit the citations to the latest batch, enter l (limit); 1 (for search line); IM=9408 (for Index Medicus batch of 1994 August).

2_: l;1;im=9408 0 documents

If you get 0, then press enter twice and repeat for previous month July (some journals are not entered every month, for example, a quarterly journal).

3_: l;1;im=9407 0 documents

Again, press enter twice and repeat for previous month June:

4_: l;1;im=9406 23 documents

To display citation, enter d (display); 4 (for search line); b (for brief form); 1 (for first entry).

5_: d;4;b;1

If you want to see the abstract, at the bottom of the page, type .f (for full display). After reading the abstract, press enter; you will continue to the next citation in brief form. To exit, type:

6_: q;q;q;q

If you wish to check out more than one journal, use the word "or" in between titles, e.g.

1_: j-clin-epidemiol.so. or ann-epidemiol.so.

Free Word vs. Thesaurus Word in UNCLE

There are two ways to search for articles on chronic fatigue syndrome in UNCLE MEDLINE. The first is to use the three words CHRONIC FATIGUE SYNDROME, e.g. 1_: chronic fatigue syndrome

You will get:

1_: CHRONIC NEAR FATIGUE NEAR SYNDROME
429 documents

A second way is to look in the thesaurus. To do this, at the search prompt, type T for thesaurus and at the next screen type B for browse, then enter the main word FATIGUE, and you will see:

Entry 1 —>FATIGUE

Entry 2 —>FATIGUE; AUDITORY

Entry 3 —>FATIGUE-MENTAL

Entry 4 —>FATIGUE-SYNDROME-CHRONIC

Choose 4 which is the thesaurus term for chronic fatigue syndrome. Note the order of the words and the hyphens between words. You will see:

Ref 1 —> FATIGUE-SYNDROME-CHRONIC
573 documents

By using the thesaurus term, more journal articles on your topic are retrieved. Type s to return to search prompt. If you wish to limit the number of articles to those published in 1994, you can add the following line:

3_: l;2;yr=94

55 documents

(l) is for limit; 2 is for source search line.

To return to the search prompt at any time, type S and enter.

Darrah Degnan

UPCOMING UNIVERSITY HOLIDAYS

Please mark the upcoming University Holidays on your calendars. The University will be closed on the following days:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Holiday</u>
November 24 and 25	Thanksgiving
December 22, 23, and 26	Christmas

EPIDEMIOLOGY NEWS
Vol. 3, No. 2, Summer 1994
Publications Board
Lesa McPherson, Editor
Andrew Olshan
Darrah Degnan
Kourtney Johnston

Department of Epidemiology
McGavran-Greenberg Bldg.
University of North Carolina
Chapel Hill, NC 27599-7400
(919) 966-7460