



# Numerator

Department of Epidemiology • University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill • June 1991

## 1990 AWARDS

### • Delta Omega:

Students - Todd Jerry Adams  
James P. Alexander, Jr.  
Joanne Mills Garrett  
Victoria Helen Mann  
Eric L. Matteson  
Kenneth A. Mundt  
Charital Brisson  
Ludger Plentka

Alumni - Suzanne Landis  
Dr. Betty Jane Phillips

Faculty - Dr. Ralph S. Baric  
David A. Savitz

### • Alumni Conference Awards:

Students - Donna K. Arnett  
Debra E. Irwin  
Con K. Kightlinger  
Mary C. Schaad

Alumni - Donna D. Baird  
Richard B. Everson  
Betty Jane Phillips

### • Greenberg Dissertation Award:

- Andrew S. Rowland

### • Abraham M. Lillienfeld Student Prize Paper (Society for Epidemiologic Research):

- Andrew S. Rowland

### • Byrd-Dunn Award

(for Best Student Presentation at Southeastern Society of Parasitologists Annual Meeting):

- Shella Peel

### • Elected President of the American Society of Parasitologists:

- J. Richard Seed

## Party Time!

The Annual Social Hour (Cash Bar) for UNC Alumni and current students and faculty will be held at the Society for Epidemiologic Research (SER) meeting in Buffalo.

Date: Thursday, June 13, 1991

Time: 5:30 - 7:00

Place: Hyatt Regency Hotel

**See you there!**

## Infectious Disease — It's Spreading!

The Department of Epidemiology is rapidly expanding its program in infectious diseases. We now have eight faculty focusing on infectious organisms and their transmission, composing the largest specialty area within the Department. Four of these faculty were members of the former Department of Parasitology and Laboratory Practice (PALP), which merged with Epidemiology last year. This growth in infectious disease epidemiology is reflected in student demand for this area of emphasis. Among all qualified applicants in the last several years, infectious disease was the most commonly mentioned interest.

Infectious disease faculty, listed here in alphabetical order, vary widely in their areas of expertise. Ralph Baric, PhD, researches basic mechanisms of viral transcription, and has directed his efforts to the role of viruses in heart disease, and to detection of viruses in assessing water quality. James Edward (J. Ed) Hall, PhD, studies the biochemistry and metabolism of protozoa and the development of antiparasitic drugs. Victor Schoenbach, PhD, has added to his ongoing research projects a study of risk factors for HIV in North Carolina. Richard Seed, PhD, focuses on immunoparasitology and medical protozoology. Lola Stamm, PhD, researches metabolism and physiology of the organism causing syphilis. James Thomas, MPH, PhD, addresses sexually transmitted diseases and the application of quantitative methods to the study of infectious diseases. David Weber, MD, MPH, focuses on nosocomial infections. Dr. Weber, who was the first of the infectious disease faculty in the pre-merger Department of Epidemiology, holds a joint appointment in the Department of Medicine. Kristen Weigle, MD, MSc, studies vaccination strategies and leishmaniasis.

The faculty thus represent epidemiological, clinical, molecular and immunological aspects of infectious diseases. Drs. Seed, Thomas and Weigle have research experience in developing countries.

Under the direction of Victor Schoenbach, the infectious disease group has forged a new and innovative curriculum to teach epidemiological approaches in the study of infectious diseases. In contrast to the traditional emphasis on clinical issues, the UNC program emphasizes the integration of population-oriented quantitative methods and laboratory-oriented techniques. This combination of skills will make graduates of the program uniquely suited to address the increasingly complex issues in the field of infectious disease. The group will also serve a growing interest among faculty and students of non-infectious diseases in the application of laboratory techniques taught by the former PALP faculty.

Current activities include a search for a ninth faculty member, and the editing of a book by Drs. Weber, Thomas and Weigle on epidemiological methods for infectious diseases.

# The New Building: We're Here!

McGavran-Greenberg Hall, which has been rising behind Rosenau for the past three years, is now our departmental home — wide halls, broad glass expanses, and all. We even have furniture that matches, and a big open student study suite, with carrels in one room; tables and bookshelves in another. As a result of expansion and development of the infectious disease area, there is additional space in Rosenau Hall as well. Cardiovascular and occupational projects are still housed at NCNB.

We're beginning to adjust to the changes. Computers are hooked up, the new desks are taking on a more normal look as they accumulate their heaps of paper, we no longer wander the halls trying to remember where our offices are, and the business of the department continues.

If you haven't come around for the grand tour, we hope you will do it soon.

## Remember

When you receive a telephone call or a mailing from the University asking you to consider making a contribution, you can designate on your check that you would like for your gift to go to the SPH Department of Epidemiology. Your support of the Department and its commitment to educational excellence is very much encouraged and appreciated.

Rosenau Hall  
Epidemiology  
McGavran-Greenberg  
Building - 2nd Floor

Pittsboro Street



# NOTES FROM THE CHAIR

## Planning for the Epidemiology Department at UNC

Dr. Michel Ibrahim, Dean of the School of Public Health, has charged all the Department Chairs in the School with the task of strategic planning for our respective Departments. He will use our Departments' plans to forge a school-wide plan which in turn will be sent to the higher levels of University administration. Needless to say, this planning charge has resulted in a flurry of activity, ably headed in our department by Drs. Victor Schoenbach and Berton Kaplan. Unlike many such plans, we do not expect that this one will result in new programs and resources for Epidemiology. The impetus behind the planning momentum appears to be the State of North Carolina's serious financial situation, which has resulted already in a reduction in funding for the University, including the Epidemiology Department. The consequences of an ineffective plan will be a loss of programs and reduction of funding for poorly planned activities. Despite this ominous portent, I continue to feel optimistic about the future of the Epidemiology Department at UNC. Our planning stresses those activities in which we have demonstrated strengths, and presses for newly emerging growth areas. Growth areas emerge from two distinctive trends; those that arise from within the field of epidemiology and those that result from the changing environment around us.

Within the department, we are advancing the biological grounding for our research and teaching. This is manifested by the addition of four new faculty, formerly in the Parasitology and Laboratory Practice Department, who have joined our infectious diseases program. They will add a strong laboratory-based track to the program and enhance our capability to provide training in specialized laboratory techniques for selected students.

Another example is the joint development of a molecular epidemiology laboratory between the UNC Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center and the Epidemiology Department. The laboratories will be provided by the Epidemiology Department on the third floor of Rosenau, equipped and staffed with technical support by the Cancer Center.

The environmental thrusts that impinge on epidemiology are several. One is the expansion of computer technology into every aspect of our lives. We know the expanding role of computers in the more complex aspects of literature searches, data collection, management and analysis. Computer analyses will also be moving into the areas of decisions about what studies to undertake and the designs that can be used most advantageously.

Another external factor is the relative strength of public versus private institutions, and the effect of this balance on employment opportunities for epidemiologists. I would expect that the 1990's would continue the trend of the 1980's, and that the shift of resources from the public to the private sector will continue. Epidemiologists may expect to find more employment in the pharmaceutical industry, high technology companies, and expanded health and safety units of traditional companies.

I am pleased to have this opportunity to relate to you, our alumni, about the planning effort in our department. Since this process will be continuing, your input is still timely and can be useful to us. As you are all working in different situations, mostly outside the UNC Department of Epidemiology, your perspective on relevance of different emphasis areas for the Department would add appreciably to our data base for planning.

Barbara Hulka

## Comings & Goings

New on the faculty list:

- Irva Hertz-Piccolotto
- Beth M. Newman

Transferred from PALP:

- Ralph Baric
- J. Ed Hall
- J. Richard Seed
- Lola Stamm

Moved on:

- Caroline Becker  
(retired and happy)
- Alice D. White  
(to Burroughs Wellcome)
- Timothy C. Wilcosky  
(to Research Triangle Institute)

Thanks to  
Dr. Bobbie B. Lubker ('82)  
for suggesting the title of  
this Newsletter!

## Caroline Becker Travels.

Dr. Caroline Becker retired in February, 1990, after 25 years with the Department of Epidemiology. Her research activities have dealt with a wide range of issues, including oral contraceptives and blood pressure, hypertension and stroke, quality control in the hospice movement, infectious disease and outbreak investigation, trauma, and even tuberculosis in swine. A caring and involved advisor, she has helped many students through their degree programs, and has proved herself a good friend in less academic contexts.

We miss Caroline, but she's making the most of her new leisure. The postcards arrive from all over the globe, and we look forward to the times when she drops by with the latest travel tales.

# The INCLLEN Program at UNC

The international focus in the department has expanded in recent years with the addition of the Rockefeller-sponsored International Clinical Epidemiology Network: the INCLLEN program. The INCLLEN program was established by Rockefeller in 1980 to provide epidemiological training for faculty from medical schools in the developing world. Training is carried out at 6 Clinical Epidemiology Resource and Training Centers (CERTCs), for physicians from 27 institutions in Africa, Asia, India and Latin America.

INCLLEN came to UNC in 1986, when a CERTC was established here. Originally under the co-direction of Drs. Robert and Suzanne Fletcher and now administered by Drs. Russell Harris and Laura Sadowski, the UNC Center brings seven Fellows a year to Chapel Hill for training in several of the Public Health Departments. The Department of Epidemiology has welcomed INCLLEN Fellows from Chile, China, Colombia, Ethiopia, India, Kenya, Mexico, Thailand, Uganda, Zimbabwe, Mexico, and our sister CERTC in France.

After completion of MPH work, the Fellows return to conduct epidemiology research and training in their home institutions. Contact with the program is maintained through site visits, international meetings, and electronic communication.

INCLLEN training has not been a one-way effort. We trust the Fellows have benefited by their time here; we know they have enriched the program for the rest of us, and have proved to be both helpful contacts and good friends.

## Send Us Your News!

THE NUMERATOR welcomes news from EPID and PALP alumni. Let us in on items you think would interest other alumni.

## Where We're From

The Department of Epidemiology has an increasingly international focus. Countries represented on the student list in Epidemiology and/or in Parasitology since 1985 include:

Austria	Japan
Brazil	Kuwait
Bahrain	Mexico
Bangladesh	Nigeria
Canada	Norway
Colombia	People's Republic of China
Egypt	Philippines
Ethiopia	Republic of China
France	Sierra Leone
Germany	Spain
Haiti	Sweden
Israel	Switzerland
India	Tanzania
Indonesia	Thailand
Iran	Yemen
Italy	Zimbabwe
Jamaica	

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