

EPIDEMIOLOGY NEWS

Volume 2, Number 3

Department of Epidemiology, School of Public Health, UNC

Fall 1993

FROM THE CHAIR'S DESK

If, three years from now, someone were to ask me "What did you do for the Department of Epidemiology during your term as Chair?" I would like to be able to respond, "I worked with the faculty, staff and students to develop the strong ties we now have with the public health community in this State." At the present time, we do not have a systematic program to assure that our students understand and experience the contributions epidemiology can make to the public health practicing community. Can we really ascribe to the principle that epidemiology is basic science of public health if we, the academic community of faculty, staff and students, have little direct contact with public health practitioners?

We discussed this issue at the recent faculty-student retreat held on October 13th. The gist of the discussion was that students want more opportunities to have field experiences with public health agencies, but that we need to develop some structure for assuring that these experiences are instructive and meaningful. Many potential avenues for providing these experiences were identified at the retreat, and we will form task groups to follow up some of them.

In the interim since Barbara Hulka retired from her position as Chair, the Department has continued with the successful research endeavors that were initiated under her chairship. The molecular epidemiology laboratory has been established and is functioning under the direction of Edison Liu, Barbara Hulka and Beth Newman. New research grants were recently awarded to Andy Olshan (a study of head and neck tumors), Marilyn Vine (immune effects of exposure to toxic waste) and Steve Wing (hematologic cancers in radiation-exposed workers).

We welcomed 42 new students to the Department in August, of whom 13 are from other countries. Our teaching program continues to attract a substantial number of students from affiliated programs in Preventive Medicine, Clinical Scholars, Primary Care Research, Oral Epidemiology, and the MD/MPH Combined Degree Program. Two new faculty also joined the Department: Robert Millikan (Cancer) and June Stevens (Nutrition).

In the coming year we plan to survey our alumni to obtain insights and evaluations on the quality of our

teaching program. A faculty task group is also discussing a major revision and enrichment of the core curriculum for our master's students. We will also explore with our adjunct faculty possibilities for their greater involvement in our teaching program, especially by functioning as consultants to small learning groups.

Carl M. Shy, M.D., Dr.P.H.

NEW FACULTY

The Department of Epidemiology welcomes Dr. Robert Millikan. He received the DVM in 1984 from the School of Veterinary Medicine at the University of California at Davis, the MPH in 1991 and PhD in 1993 at the Department of Epidemiology, School of Public Health at the University of California at Los Angeles. He is located in room 2105C McGavran-Greenberg.

We also welcome Dr. June Stevens who is jointly appointed with the Department of Nutrition. Dr. Steven received her MS in Human Nutrition in 1980 from Pennsylvania State University and a PhD in Human Nutrition with a minor in Statistics in 1986 from Cornell University. She is located in room 2103D McGavran-Greenberg.

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 each month. Listed in this section are highlights of news clippings. If you are interested in viewing any of these articles, see Lesa McPherson (2107D) and please feel free to send news directly to her.

Alexander, L., Staff. \$30,000 to boost heart research. Herald-Sun. Durham, NC

Alexander, L., Staff. Researcher receives \$30,000. Chapel Hill News. Chapel Hill, NC

Alexander, L., Staff. UNC scholar earns grant. Herald-Sun. Durham, NC

Kohlmeier, L., Faculty. Pet peeve. Good House-keeping; March 1993.

Runyan, D., Adjunct Faculty. Duke, UNC plan joint abuse center. Herald-Sun. Durham, NC
Runyan, D., Adjunct Faculty. UNC-Duke retreat to focus on child-abuse center's plans. Herald-Sun. Durham, NC
Savitz, D., Faculty. Electrical emissions: Dangerous or not? New York Times. New York, NY
Shy, C., Faculty. Trustees name 4 to posts. Chapel Hill News. Chapel Hill, NC
Tyroler, H. A., Faculty. Heart disease linked to gender, not race. Chapel Hill News. Chapel Hill, NC.
Tyroler, H. A., Faculty. Study shows sexual (not racial) differences with fatal heart disease. Herald-Sun. Durham, NC

GRANT NEWS

Grant Submissions

The following is a listing of the grants which have been submitted by our faculty members. If you would like your grants published in this listing, please make sure Lesa McPherson receives a copy of the Internal Processing Form and a copy of the abstract. From that information this listing is compiled and a departmental database is updated.

It is planned to have a supplemental publication of the submitted grants with the abstracts twice a year.

Hertz-Picciotto, Irva, March of Dimes Birth Defects Foundation "Aspirin Consumption in Pregnancy and Cardiac Defects", 04/01-94 - 03/31/96

Royce, Rachel, UNC Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center Clinical Research Award, "Prevention of Cervical Cancer in HIV-Infected Women - Determining Appropriate Screening Guidelines"

Schoenbach, Victor, UNC Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center, "UNC Minority Cancer Control Research Program", 06/01/94 - 05/31/97

Weigle, Kristen, National Institutes of Health, "Diarrheal Illness Surveillance in Child Day Care", 02/01/94 - 01/31/97

Yankaskas, Bonnie, National Institutes of Health, "Population-based mammography study", 04/01/94 - 03/31/99

Grants Awarded

Olshan, Andrew, "Carcinogen Metabolizing Enzymes and Head and Neck Cancer", 09/24/93 - 07/31/96

Vine, Marilyn, Toxic Substances & Disease, "Health Programs for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry", 10/01/93 - 09/30/96

Wing, Steven, Centers for Disease Control, "Study of Multiple Myeloma Among Workers Exposed to Ionizing Radiation and Other Physical and Chemical Agents" 10/01/93 - 09/30/96

What our Faculty Have Been Up To

During the last year Andy Olshan served on the Institute of Medicine, National Academy of Sciences committee to review the evidence regarding the health effects of Agent Orange and other herbicides used in the Vietnam War. The committee evaluated whether an association exists between herbicide exposure and a variety of health outcomes, and if there is an increased risk for these conditions among Vietnam Veterans exposed during the War. Andy prepared the chapter on the reproductive outcomes. The Committee's report was presented to the Secretary for Veterans Affairs and to Congress in July. The final report will be published this month.

Dr. Irva Hertz-Picciotto is serving as Conference Chairperson for the Sixth Conference of the International Society for Environmental Epidemiology and the Fourth Conference of the International Society for Exposure Analysis. The meeting is scheduled for September 18-21, 1994 at the Sheraton Imperial Hotel, Research Triangle Park. In November a preliminary program and a call for papers will be distributed. For more information regarding this conference, contact Dr. Hertz-Picciotto.

STUDENT NEWS

Editorial Prize Awarded

Congratulations are extended to Patricia Moorman for being the winner of this year's *Endocrinologist* annual editorial prize. This is given to the fellow who has written the best manuscript published in Volume 2 of the journal. The title of the paper which won this award is "Menopausal Hormones and the Risk of Breast Cancer".

Grant Awarded

Adam Goldstein received a \$325,000 grant (10/01/93 - 01/31/95) from the RWJ Foundation. This project is studying the state legislators' attitudes and behaviors about tobacco control legislation.

Publication Accepted

Weir, S., "Evaluation of an AIDS Prevention Program in Ghana". AIDS, Accepted.

Defense of Dissertation

Congratulations are extended to Glinda Cooper and Mary C. Schaad for defending their doctoral dissertations.

Glinda defended her dissertation entitled "Genetic Susceptibility and Dietary Factors in Ovarian Dysfunction: Lactose Consumption, Metabolism, and Gonadotropin Levels in Women of Late Reproductive Age". Mary defended her dissertation entitled "Genetics of Mouse Hepatitis Virus Transcription: Characterization of Temperature Sensitive Mutants". Mary is now at the Texas A & M University in the Department of Biology.

ESO News

The Epidemiology Student Organization would like to thank all the faculty, staff, and students who attended the department retreat on October 13th. During the retreat we had successful and positive brainstorming sessions on teaching and mentoring in our department, and also on how students can get experience applying their epidemiology skills in the public health sector. Also memorable was the icebreaker game, "Frustration" — it gave a whole new meaning to a Type "A" or "B" personality!

WANTED: Epidemiology students/comedians/creative minds to help plan the student holiday skit. No previous experience necessary. Meet in the Epidemiology Student Room at 5:00, Thursday, November 11. Other important ESO information will also be discussed.

STAFF NEWS

New Staff Member

The Department of Epidemiology welcomes Jonathan Frye to our staff. He is a Research Technician for Dr. Lola Stamm.

DEPARTMENTAL MEETINGS

This is just a reminder that November 10, 1993 is our monthly departmental meeting. It is scheduled from 3:00 - 4:30 pm in Room 2301 McGavran-Greenberg Bldg.

HOLIDAYS ARE AROUND THE CORNER

The following list is the schedule of holidays for the remainder of 1993 and the 1994 Spring Semester.

Thanksgiving	November 25 & 26, 1993
Christmas	December 24, 27 & 28, 1993
New Year's Day	December 31, 1993
Martin Luther King Jr.'s Birthday	January 17, 1994
Good Friday	April 1, 1994

UPCOMING EVENTS

Faculty Retreat

The Department of Epidemiology's Faculty Retreat is scheduled for December 14 & 15 at the Friday Center. The meeting will begin at 12:00 noon on the 14th and conclude at 1:00 pm on the 15.

Holiday Party

The annual Department of Epidemiology Holiday Party is scheduled for Friday, December 17, 1993. We will be holding the party again this year at the Community Church on Purefoy Road. This is a potluck dinner and we will begin gathering around 5:00 and eat between 5:30 and 6:00. Following the meal there will be entertainment and socialization until 8:00 pm. This is a great time to just sit back and get into the holiday spirit.

University Offers a Variety of Assistance

The University offers assistance in several different areas which might be helpful to the members of the department at different times in their work.

Are you in need of new and innovative ideas for your next presentation? If so, the following offices on campus can be of assistance.

Design Services	962-7123
Printing & Duplicating	962-5566
Medical Illustrations & Photography	966-4232
Center for Teaching & Learning	966-1289
Video Services	966-5078
Classroom Support Services	962-6702

Are you just beginning to write grants and manuscripts? If so, contact the following offices.

Writing Center	962-7710
Grammar Hotline	962-4060

CHANGES IN EPIDEMIOLOGY NEWS

There will be some changes to the departmental newsletter. In trying to keep this publication to 3-4 pages, there has been some restructuring of the information which you are accustomed to seeing. There will be 2 special issues (summer and winter) that will contain the faculty publications. Faculty publications will be obtained from CVs. The summer issue will also be semi-dedicated to the Alumni of the department. Also in future issues, there will be a Faculty Spotlight. This will feature 2 or 3 faculty members and this will give you a chance to tell the department about your research, teaching, or service.

Since this task has become so involved, I have expressed interest in having others assist me in preparing this publication. Dr. Andy Olshan (Faculty) and Janet Alexander (Student) have agreed to assist in the publication of this newsletter. I would also like to have a representative from the Post-Doctoral Fellows. If you are interested, please let me know and I will be glad to discuss this with you.

As I have always indicated, any information you wish to submit to this publication, please feel free to do so.

*HAVE A SAFE
&
HAPPY THANKSGIVING*

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