

EPIDEMIOLOGY NEWS

Vol. 5

Department of Epidemiology, School of Public Health, UNC

Summer 1996

CHAIR'S CORNER

On March 29, 1996, the Department hosted a first ever meeting of alumni, in part to form an official Epidemiology Section of the UNC SPH Alumni Association. Approximately 25 alumni attended the meeting, and were joined by a number of full and adjunct faculty of the Department.

The alumni voiced strong support for organizing the Epidemiology Section and for meeting at least once yearly on the occasion of the annual SPH alumni meeting, and possibly on one or two other occasions during the academic year, given the sizable number of alumni who are now professionally based in the Research Triangle Park area. In addition to conducting some of the business of a typical alumni organization, participants suggested having seminars with a guest speaker and/or alumnus or faculty to address topics of current interest.

The alumni of the Department are an untapped resource for meeting with prospective students, for employment opportunities for graduating students, and for feedback on the academic program of the Department -- thus the need for an organization to make use of these resources. During the coming year, the Department will seek persons to serve as officers of the Epidemiology Section until such time as a nominating committee can be formed, elections held, and bylaws drafted and approved. To date, the Department has received contributions from alumni that

enabled the Department to purchase hardware and software for a computer network located in the student room.

FACULTY NEWS

Faculty Promotions

The following faculty members have recently been promoted to the rank of Associate Professor: Drs. **Andrew Olshan, James Thomas and Dana Loomis.**

Congratulations!

Faculty Members Receive Honors

Dr. **Carl Shy** received an award for "outstanding contributions to the practice of epidemiology in North Carolina." This award was given by the Epidemiology and Statistics Section of the North Carolina Public Health Association. He was nominated by the Mecklenburg County Health Department for his distinguished career in epidemiologic research of occupational and environmental cancer risks. His particular experience with the Mecklenburg County Health Department relates to a study of upper respiratory effects associated with emissions from industrial, hazardous waste incinerators.

Dr. **Christine Moe** was inducted into the Theta Chapter of the Delta Omega.

Nationwide Journal Club

Dr. **Robert Millikan** was invited by the National Breast

Cancer Coalition to help organize Project LEAD, an innovative program for breast cancer activists teaching the latest developments in molecular biology, cell biology, epidemiology and biostatistics. In North Carolina, graduates of Project LEAD work with the UNC School of Public Health, Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center SPORE in Breast Cancer Project, as well as the Duke Breast Cancer SPORE.

Dr. **Millikan** organized a journal club for breast cancer community activists in cooperation with local Project LEAD graduates and the North Carolina Breast Cancer Coalition as a follow-up to Project LEAD.

Faculty Selected for the Carolina Speakers Bureau

Dr. **Berton H. Kaplan** was selected to participate this year in the *Carolina Speakers Bureau*. He gave a lecture on "The Forging Heart: How Chronic Anger Kills".

STAFF NEWS

Employee Appreciation Award

This year marks the First Annual Employee Appreciation Award with Ms. **Betsy Seagroves** as this year's recipient. This award is based on at least one of the following performance criteria: Leadership, Productivity, Teamwork, Creativity/Innovation.

Betsy was nominated for her willingness to help others wherever needed; by doing the small

unrewarding tasks that make life easier for others. She was also commended for going that extra mile.

Betsy was our department's nominee for the School of Public Health Employee Appreciation Award and also nominated from our department for the University's Chancellor's Award. The departmental Award will be presented in the Fall during the State Employees Appreciation Week.

Congratulations!

Epidemiology Employee Forum

The Epidemiology Employee Forum was formed in 1994 to foster open communication between the administrative, programming, research and secretarial staff. It is made up of delegates from each group; the delegates serve for one year. Members of the 1996 Forum are:

Administrative: Susan King, Carmen Woody

Programming: Eileen Gregory, Joanna Smith

Research: Phyllis Johnson, Susanne Wolf

Secretarial: Jinny Reid

Ex officio: Gail King

Susan King and Joanna Smith are this year's co-chairs. The monthly meetings, held alternately at McGavran-Greenberg and Nations Bank, are open to all staff members. In addition to facilitating communication among staff members, the Forum would like to effect better working relations within the Department. Later this year, the Forum will establish a planning committee for the staff-hosted December holiday party.



Staff Newcomers

Since January, we have three new faces to our support staff.

Philip Bors, Social Research Assistant working with Dr. Eugene Lengerich in Raleigh; **Sharon Williams Pope**, Office Assistant with the CVD group at NBB; and **Patrice Robbins**, Accounting Clerk in the Fiscal Office.

Welcome to EPJD!

STUDENT NEWS

Honors and Awards

School of Public Health Alumni Conference Student Award

Congratulations to students

Pam Marcus and **Amy Sayle!**

Pam was the recipient of the Annual School of Public Health Alumni Conference Student Award, for her outstanding scholarship and service in the department. **Amy** received the Student Book Award from the Delta Omega Theta Chapter, in recognition of her involvement in ESO and contributions as a teaching assistant.

Delta Omega Honor Society Inductees

Epidemiology students **Antonio Cunha**, **Angela Liese**, **Kate Curtis**, and **Dan Caplan** were inducted into the Delta Omega Honor Society.

Caroline H. and Thomas S. Roister Jr. Award Received

Beverly Rockhill has been awarded the Caroline H. and Thomas S. Roister, Jr. Dissertation Fellowship for 1996-1997. This award conveys membership in the Carolina Society of Fellows, the highest honor awarded to graduate students at UNC-CHI.

Kellog Foundation Award Received

Catherine Hoyo received a Kellog Foundation award to complete her dissertation.

Minority Health Research and Education Center

Amy Sayle has been awarded a Minority Health Research and Education Center for a project entitled "Sexual Activity in Late Pregnancy and Risk of Preterm Delivery Among African-American and White Women."

United Carolina Bank Fellowship

Monica Gaines received the 1995-96 United Carolina Bank Fellowship.

ESO Computer Lab



The ESO computer lab is up and running! The lab allows us to have 24-hour access to computing facilities. This summer, we're removing viruses, installing new software, and working on the aesthetics of the room. Special thanks to **Jeff Johnston**, who has been instrumental in setting up the lab.

Graduate Studies & Curriculum Committees Seminar

The Graduate Studies and Curriculum Committees held a seminar on student/advisor relations and curriculum. Thanks to representatives **Julie Daniel's** and **Steve Marshall**, students are becoming involved in improving their academic experience. The Peer Resources Committee has been established to help new students with their transition to graduate school and UNC. In the fall, Peer Resources will be holding separate information sessions in substantive areas (cancer, envr, repro, CHD, infectious) to support new students.

Student Affairs Committee Panel Discussion

The Student Affairs Committee (SAC) held a panel discussion during the Spring semester on Ethics in Publication and Authorship. The session was a huge success. Speaker Ned Brooks gave an insightful and entertaining talk on his experiences in publication. Followed by a lively panel discussion chaired by Dr. Gerardo Heiss. Other members of the panel were Drs. Bob Millikan, Christine Moe (Faculty), Steve Marshall, Ruth Shults (Students), and Joanna Smith (Staff). Closing remarks from Dr. Bert Kaplan provided some inspirational food for thought.

Community Service Extended

Anneclaire De Roos and Michelle Mendez are coordinating cooking at the Community House (at the corner of Rosemary and Columbia) one Sunday a month. Epidemiology students as well as faculty, staff and post-docs are encouraged to help out! It's a lot of fun and provides an important source for the Chapel Hill/Carrboro community. Contact Anneclaire or Michelle to help out.



Dissertation Defenses

Ananth, Cande: "Epidemiology of Uteroplacental Bleeding Disorders in Pregnancy"

Cunha, Antonio: "Acute lower respiratory infections (ALRI) in children in the Northeast of Brazil: implications for prevention and control"

Curtis, Kathryn: "Determinants of time to pregnancy in the Ontario Farm Family Health Study"

Hickey, Anne: "Digoxin and cognitive impairment in the elderly"

Hu, Suh-Woan: "Does living in proximity to a waste incinerator have any effect on pulmonary function?"

Lieff, Susan: "Maternal cigarette smoking and risk of oral facial clefts in newborns"

Liese, Angela: "Development of the multiple metabolic syndrome: the role of insulin, anthropometric indices, and parental history"

Lipscomb, Hester: "The use of combined administrative data for surveillance of occupational back pain"

Martinson, Francis: "Seroprevalence of hepatitis B and C viruses and risk factors for horizontal transmission of hepatitis B virus in Ghana"

Roberts, Susan: "A study of peak expiratory flow rate in six southwestern North Carolina Communities"

Su, Ling: "Depression, antidepressant prescribing, and quality of life in an urban HIV-infected population"



Student Authored Papers and Abstracts Presented at Scientific Meetings

1996 ISEE Meeting

Sonnenfeld N. Environmental exposure to volatile organic compounds and birthweight in a US military population.

1996 SER Meeting

Hertz-Picciotto I, Pastore L, Beaumont J. Exposure opportunity in studies of adverse pregnancy outcomes.

Rockhill B. Use and abuse of population attributable fraction.

Rose K, Newman B, Tyroler HA, Arnett D, Srivastava N, Szklo M. A comparison of employment status hypertension associations in women based on prevalence and incidence data.

Tseng M. Dietary Antioxidants and iron, and risk of large bowel adenomas.

1996 Society for Pediatric Epidemiology Research Conference

Ananth CV, Savitz DA, Luther ER. Maternal cigarette smoking as a risk factor for placental abruption, placenta previa, and uterine bleeding of unknown etiology.

Ananth CV, Bowes WA Jr, Savitz DA, Luther ER. Influence of hypertensive disorders and cigarette smoking on placental abruption and uterine bleeding in pregnancy.

Curtis KM, Savitz DA, Arbuckle TE. Pesticide exposure and time to pregnancy.

Curtis KM, Savitz DA, Arbuckle TE. The effects of cigarette smoking, caffeine consumption, and alcohol intake on fecundability.

Pastore L, Hertz-Picciotto I, Beaumont J. Risk of still birth from medical and lifestyle exposures.

American Society for Microbiology Annual General Meeting

Tseng F, Moe C, Baric R. Comparison of three RNA extraction/RT-PCR methods to detect norwalk and norwalk-related viruses in fecal specimens.

American Society of Preventive
Oncology Annual Meeting

Marcus P. Female infertility and the risk of breast cancer.

Pediatric Academic Societies
1996 Annual Meeting

Schechter MS, Retsch-Bogart GZ, Margolis PA. Relationship between insurance coverage and disease severity in cystic fibrosis patients under 21 years of age.

**POSTDOCTORAL
FELLOW NEWS**

Dr. Shermalyn Greene, post-doc fellow with Dr. Lola Stamm, received a Carolina Minority Post-doctoral Scholars Program Fellowship effective July 1.



PUBLICATIONS
(Faculty, Staff, and Students)

Ananth CV, Peedicayil A, Savitz DA. Effect of hypertensive diseases in pregnancy on birth weight, gestational duration and small-for-gestational-age births. Epidemiology 1995; 6:391-5.

Ananth CV, Savitz DA, Bowes WA. Hypertensive disorders of pregnancy and stillbirth in North Carolina, 1988 to 1991. Acta Obstet Gynecol Scand 1995; 74:788-93.

Armstrong DL, Wing SB, Tyröler HA. United States mortality from ill-defined causes, 1968-1988: Potential effects on heart disease mortality trends. Int J Epidemiol 1995; 24:522-527.

Arrighi HM, Hertz-Picciotto I. Controlling for time-since-hire in occupational studies using internal comparisons and cumulative

exposure. Epidemiol 1995; 6:415-418.

Brown LJ, Kaste LM, Selwitz RH, Furman LJ. Dental caries and sealant usage in US children, 1988-1991. J Am Dent Assoc 1996; 127:335-343.

Burke GL, Evans GW, Riley WA, Sharrett AR, Howard G, Barnes RW, Rosamond W, Crow RS, Rautaharju PM, Heiss G. Arterial wall thickness is associated with prevalent cardiovascular disease in middle-aged adults. The Atherosclerosis Risk in Communities (ARIC) Study. Stroke 1995; 26:386-391.

Bush AO, Cairn JN, Minchella D, Nadler SA, Seed JR. Parasitology year 2000. J Parasitol 1995; 81:835-842.

Butler L, Newman B, Friedman L, Ostermeyer F, Morrow J, Dowd P, Moorman P, Millikan R, King M-C. Frequency and spectrum of inherited mutations in BRCA1 from a population-based study [abstract]. Am J Hum Genet 1995; 57: 319.

Chen W, Baric RS. Function of a 5' end mutation that evolves during persistent MHV infection in vitro. J Virol 1995; 69:7529-7540.

Clements DA, Weigle KA, Guise I, Gilbert GL. A case control study examining risk factors for Haemophilus influenzae type B disease in Victoria, Australia. 1988-90. J Paediatr Child Health 1995; 31:513-518.

Greenberg RS, Buffler PA, Hinman AR, Swanson GM, Matanoski GM, Nasca PC, Bracken MB, Schoenbach VJ. Commentary - American College of Epidemiology Statement of Principles. Ann Epidemiol 1995; 5:503-504 and Statement of Principles: Epidemiology and Minority Popula-

tions. Ann Epidemiol 1995; 5:505-508.

Hardham JM, Frye JG, Stamm LV. Identification and sequences of the *Treponema pallidum* *fliM*, *fliY*, *fliP*, *fliQ*, *fliR*, and *flhB* genes. Gene 1995; 166:57-64.

Herrinton LJ, Weiss NS, Olshan AF. The epidemiology of multiple myeloma: In: Myeloma, Editors: Bergsagel D, Kyle RA, Malpas JS, Oxford University Press, 1995.

Hertz-Picciotto I. Environmental risk assessment. Chapter 2 in: Introduction to Environmental Epidemiology, B Lewis, E Talbot & G Craun, eds., Lewis Publishers, Chelsea, MI, 1995, pp. 23-38.

Hertz-Picciotto I. Epidemiology and quantitative risk assessment: A bridge from science to policy. Am J Public Health 1995; 85:484-491.

Hertz-Picciotto I. Surveillance in environmental health (commentary). Am J Public Health 1986; 86:638-641.

Hertz-Picciotto I, Hatch M. Glass ceiling: bump, bump (letter). Science 1995; 269:1328.

Hulka BS. Author's reply to: Breast cancer and very-low-dose x-rays. Lancet 1995; 346:1702.

Hulka BS, Stark A. Breast cancer: cause and prevention. Lancet 1995; 346:883-887.

Hulka BS, Brinton LA. Hormones and breast and endometrial cancers: preventive strategies and future research. Environ Health Perspect 1995; 103(8):185-189.

Kardinaal AA, Salminen I, Kark JD, Riemersma RA, Delgado-Rodriguez M., Gomez-Aracena J, Huttunen JK, Kohlmeier L, Marrin BC, Martin-Moreno JM, Mazaev VP, Ringstad J, Thamm M, van't Veer P, Kok FJ. Adipose

tissue isomeric trans fatty acids and the risk of myocardial infarction in different countries: the EURAMIC Study. Lancet 1995; 345:273-78.

Kaste LM, Gift HC, Bhat M, Swango PA. Prevalence of incisor trauma in person 6 to 50 years of age: United States, 1988-1991. J Dent Res 1996; 75:696-705.

Kaste LM, Selwitz RH, Oldakowski RJ, Brunelle JA, Winn DM, Brown LJ. Coronal caries in the primary and permanent dentition of children and adolescents 1-17 years of age: United States, 1988-1991. J Dent Res 1996; 75:631-641.

Kightlinger L, Seed JR, Kightlinger MB. The epidemiology of Ascaris lumbricoides, Trichuris trichiura and Hookworm in children in the Ranomafana Rainforest, Madagascar. J Parasitol 1995; 81:59-169.

Kohlmeier L, Simonsen N, Mottus D. Dietary modifiers of carcinogenesis. Environ Health Perspect 1995; 103(8):177-184

Kohlmeier L, Hastings SB. Epidemiologic evidence of a role of carotenoids in cardiovascular disease prevention. Am J Clin Nutr 1995; 62S:1370S-6S.

Kromhout H, Loomis DP, Mihlan GJ, Peipins LA, Kleckner RC, Iriye R, Savitz DA. Assessment and grouping of occupational magnetic field exposure in five electric utility companies. Scand J Work Environ Health 1995; 21:43-50.

Liao D, Barnes RW, Chambless LE, Simpson RJ Jr, Sorlie P, Heiss G, for the ARIC Investigators. Age, race, and sex differences in autonomic cardiac function measured by spectral analysis of heart rate variability--The ARIC Study. Am J Cardiol 1995; 76:906-912.

Millikan R, Hulka BS, Thor A, Zhang Y, Edgerton S, Zhang X, Pei H, He M, Wold L, Melton LJ, Ballard D, Conway K, Liu ET. p53 mutations in benign breast tissue. J Clin Oncol 1995; 13(9):2293-2300.

Millikan R, DeVoto E, Newman B, Savitz D. Studying environmental influences on breast cancer risk: suggestions for an integrated population-based approach. Breast Cancer Res Treat 1995; 34:79-89.

Millikan R, Dressler L, Geradts J, Graham M. The importance of epidemiologic studies of in situ carcinoma of the breast. Breast Cancer Res Treat 1995; 34:65-77.

Murray S, Sandler R, Keku T, Lyles C, Millikan R, Bangdiwala S, Kupper L, Jiang W, Ulshen M. Comparison of rectal mucosal proliferation measured by PCNA immunohistochemistry and whole crypt dissection. Cancer Epidemiol Biomarkers Prev 1995; 4:715-720.

Nabulsi AA, Folsom AR, Heiss G, Weir SS, Chambless LE, Watson RL, Eckfeldt JH. Fasting hyperinsulinemia and cardiovascular disease risk factors in nondiabetic adults: stronger associations in lean versus obese subjects. Metabolism 1995; 44:914-922.

Olshan AF, Ananth CV, Savitz DA. Intrauterine growth retardation as an endpoint in mutation epidemiology: an evaluation based on paternal age. Mutat Res 1995; 344:89-94.

Ortiz JC, Seed JR. The removal of trypanolytic activity from human serum by Trypanosoma brucei gambiense and its subsequent recovery in trypanosome lysates. J Parasitol 1995; 81:555-558.

Sayle AE, Cooper GS, Savitz DA. Menstrual and reproductive history

of mothers of galactosemic children. Fertil Steril 1996; 65:534-8.

Savitz DA, Loomis DP. Magnetic field exposure in relation to leukemia and brain cancer mortality among electric utility workers. Am J Epidemiol 1995; 141:123-134.

Sawalhy AE, Seed JR, Attar HE, Hall JE. Catabolism of tryptophan by Trypanosoma evansi. J Eucaryotic Microbiology 1995; 42:98-102.

Schnitzer PG, Teschke K, Olshan AF. A classification scheme for aggregating US census occupation and industry codes. Am J Ind Med 1995; 28:185-191.

Schnitzer PG, Olshan AF, Savitz DA, Erickson JD. Paternal occupation and risk of birth defects in offspring. Epidemiology 1995; 6:577-583.

Seed JR, Sechelski J. The inheritance of factors controlling resistance in mice infected with Trypanosoma brucei rhodesiense. J Parasitol 1995; 81:653-657.

Stamm LV, Frye JG, Hardham JM. Nucleotide sequence of the Leptospira biflexa recA gene. Gene 1995; 167:339-340.

Symanski E, Hertz-Picciotto I. Blood lead levels in relation to menopause, smoking, and parity. Am J Epidemiol 1995; 141:1047-1058.

Thomas JC, Kulik A, Schoenbach VS, Weiner D. Syphilis in the South: rural rates surpass urban rates in North Carolina. Am J Public Health 1995; 85:1119-22.

Thomas JC, Schoenbach VJ, Weiner DH, Parker EA, Earp JA. Rural gonorrhea in the southeastern United States: a neglected epidemic? Amer J Epidemiol 1996; 143:269-77.

Vine MF, Moe C, Hulka B, Baric R, Millikan R. More on teaching molecular epidemiology. Epidemiology Monitor 1995; 16(8&9):6-7.

Wing S. Whose epidemiology, whose health? Childhood Cancer Research Institute, August:1-10, 1995.

Winn DM, Brunelle JA, Selwitz RH, Kaste LM, Oldakowski RJ, Kingman A, Brown LJ. Coronal and root caries in the dentition of adults in the United States, 1988-1991. J Dent Res 1996; 75:642-651.

REMAINING 1996 UNIVERSITY HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

The University will be closed the following days:

September 2 - Labor Day
November 28, 29 - Thanksgiving
December 24 - 27 - Christmas

EPIDEMIOLOGY NEWS

Publications Committee

Lesa McPherson

Darrah Degnan

Andy Olshan

Anneclaire De Roos

Department of Epidemiology

School of Public Health

McGavran-Greenberg Bldg.

CB #7400

University of North Carolina

Chapel Hill, NC 27599-7400

SUE WOLF
SUITE 32
NBB