Last modified: 8/25/2014, 2pm (Vic), 8/18/2015;

History of the UNC Department of Epidemiology

This document is an evolving set of notes and narrative about the history of the department. A companion document   
(G:\EPID-SPH-UNC\SPH-History\EPID-History\EPIDdeptChronologyAndNotes.docx)  
 serves as a repository for additional notes.

Example title: *Building the Scientific Basis for Public Health in North Carolina and Beyond*

Sections:

[Include in sidebars or elsewhere – student #’s, notable students/alumni, faculty and staff #’s and notables]

Timeline: 1940s, 1950s, 1960s, 1970s, 1980s, 1990s, 2000s, 2010s

## Epidemiology at the UNC School of Public Health before the Department of Epidemiology

Courses taught by Milton Rosenau and others (source: Dreaming of A Time)

SPH Annual Reports from 1950s, distributed by Carl Shy on 10/24/1994 (“Dept of Epidemiology, 1952-1953: The sharing of the Office of the Dean [Edward McGavran] and the Head of the Department of Epidemiology [Edward McGavran] by the Dean’s secretary and administrative assistant for budgetary and bookkeeping duties, destroys part of the availability of this office for conference purposes…. Since the Department of Epidemiology consists of one faculty member who has many additional administrative duties as Dean of the School, an effort was made to concentrate teaching load into one quarter---the winter quarter. Some lectures were given during the fall and spring quarters, but responsibility for actual courses was limited to the winter quarter when an exceedingly heavy teaching load of sixteen hours was carried in addition to administrative duties…. The primary need of the Department of Epidemiology, which is one of the basic disciplines of public health, is for a full-time person in this Department. The Dean as Professor Epidemiology can devote less than 1/10 of his time to departmental teaching and work.… The result is that this department, which should be the strongest in the School of Public Health [which then had 83 staff] , is actually the weakest…. Until additional full-time personnel can be obtained for this Department, the science of Epidemiology can continue to receive only lip service.”)

Who were the faculty and students (and staff?) then

## Creating the Department of Epidemiology

[From SPH Annual Reports distributed by Carl Shy]

McGavran recruits Dr. Sidney Kark as Professor and Head of Department of Epidemiology for one year, July 1, 1958 – June 30, 1959 “to help direct the growth and reorganization of the department”. Other full-time faculty are: John Cassel (Associate Professor, assumes Professorship and Head of the Department of Epidemiology as of July 1, 1959), Dr. Ralph Patrick (Associate Professor, appointed September 1, 1958; Dr. John Fulton (Professor of Public Health Dental Epidemiology, appointed July 1, 1958). Other staff were two full-time secretaries.

Funding in 1958-1959: NIH training grants from Heart Institute ($16,500) and Cancer Institute ($14,500), Epidemiology training grant from US PHS ($25,000), and state funds ($13,000).

Most urgent need: space under one roof.

## About John Cassel

Work in South Africa / Pholela / with Sidney Kark

John Hatch anecdote about visit to Mound Bayou

Sherman James interview anecdote

Quote from John Cassel’s lectures / early articles

Sources include memorial article by Michel, Bert, et al. (AJE)

## Expansion and distinctive directions

[From 1960-1961 SPH Annual Reports distributed by Carl Shy]

Full-time faculty: John Cassel, John Fulton, Ralph Patrick, C. David Jenkins (Assistant Professor), Herman A. Tyroler (Associate Professor), Hubert Campbell (Visiting). Two full-time secretaries (Nancy Noel, Betty Warren) and part-time: Dr. Jacob Koomen (Visiting Associate Professor), Dr. Burns Jones (Visiting Assistant Professor), Dr. John Hughes (Visiting Instructor), and two Dental Research Fellows: Mr. James Ziglar and Bert Warren (Dental Research .

Epid 160 course (“In view of the amount of time devoted to teaching basic epidemiology in the School of Public Health additional University support would seem to be justified.” – beyond Dean McGavran’s salary and part of John Cassel’s salary)

NC studies of mobility and CHD

Ralph Patrick / Ponape studies

Cecil Slome

Evans County Study

Bert Kaplan, David Jenkins, Steve Zyzanski, Jo Heiss

Barbara Hulka, Michel Ibrahim, Carl Shy, Abdel Omran

[get dates and sequence]

Debate about federal funding to grow – EPID, BIOS, ENVR vs. HEED, MHCH, ?

Studies: Fort Wayne?, …

Birth of CVD Training Program

John Cassel’s “valedictory” in AJE on “The social environment and host resistance”

Informants: Marilyn Knowles, Sue Wolf, Phyllis Johnson,

Gerardo Heiss, Sherman James, Ed Wagner

Michel becomes chair (acting since April 1975, permanent as of April 1976 following a Search by a 15-member committee and visits by the “six most outstanding candidates”; “These visits not only functioned in the choice of a new Chairman, but also brought the Department into contact with the thinking of outstanding epidemiologists from other parts of the country and the world.” [SPH Annual Report 1975-1976]

Departmental reorganization “involved the delegation of many responsibilities to committees which included staff and students as well as faculty members. This organization has functioned well in broadening the base of participation and decision making and in facilitating the teaching, research, and service of the department.” Committees formed: Graduate Studies and Curriculum Committee [also in charge of annual Departmental retreat], Admissions Committee, Field Training and Technical Assistance Committee.

1975-76: 44 registered student in Epidemiology (8 MPH, 7 MSPH, 29 PhD; 7 have doctoral degrees; 25 hold master’s degrees, 12 have only bachelor’s degree; 2 African American, 3 foreign; 19 male, 25 female; 23 NC residents; 10 masters and 4 PhD degrees awarded during Dec 1975 – May 1976. [SPH Annual Report 1975-1976]

Oak Ridge study, Institute of Environmental Studies, FPG trailers

LRC study, NCNB offices

Edgecombe County Study

Harvey Checkoway, Suzanne Haynes

1982-1983 report: Michel Ibrahim appointed “as Dean of the School of Public Health, effective September 15, 1983, and Dr. Barbara Hulka as Acting Chairperson of Epidemiology through June 30, 1982, and permanent Chairperson effective July 1, 1983” (sic)

1982-1983 report: 57 students in fall 1982 (31 PhD, 1 DrPH, 15 MPH, 10 MSPH; 4 black male, 4 blakc female, 22 white male, 20 white female, 3 foreign male, 3 foreign female, 1 Asian male, 1 American Indian Female; 28 in-state); Degrees awarded May 1982/August 1982/December 1982: 9 PhD, 4 MPH, 3 MSPH.

Themes:

**Department leadership** since John Cassel: Michel Ibrahim, Barbara Hulka, Carl Shy, David Savitz, Dana Loomis, Andy Olshan

**Faculty** - early, wave 2, etc.

**Major research projects**:  Evans County, LRC, ARIC, Oak Ridge, PIN, AdHealth?, AIDSCSG, STEP, LI Breast Cancer, Head & Neck Cancer, GHC/NCM?, MCCRP?, RAPP??, RHP (AND MORE)

**Methodology development and teaching**: KKM, Charlie Poole, Rachel Royce, Stephen Cole (and more!).

**Graduate Studies directors** - Sherman James?, Gerardo Heiss, Stephen Cole, Steve Meshnick

**Student services**:  Joyce Allen (any predecessor?), Nancy Colvin, Carmen Woody

**Department/Business managers**:  Carol Parrow, Violet Krall, Gail King, Vicki Moore

**HR managers**: Lesa McPherson (predecessor??), Sharon Sullivan

**IT enablers**:  Jim Fletcher (predecessor?), Terry Hudgins, Spencer Gee, Bob Goetz (and more!)

**Research staff**:  Sue Wolf, Marilyn Knowles, …

**Locations**:  the Trailers, the Bank building, Rosenau, McGavran-Greenberg, Hooker

**Major partners/collaborations**:  Sheps Center, LCCC, Division of Infectious Diseases, NUTR/MHCH,HB

**Celebrations and recreation** - the skits, music fests

**SOURCES to consult (besides those listed above):**

http://www.hsl.unc.edu/specialcollections/exhibits/gillings/resources.cfm

www.hsl.unc.edu/specialcollections/exhibits/gillings/

Korstad, Robert Rodgers *Dreaming Of A Time; The School of Public Health, The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 1939-1989*, UNC School of Public Health, 1990, https://archive.org/details/dreamingoftimesc00kors  
(Location on Vic's drive: K:\VicsStableFiles\HistoryOfUNCandSPHandRelated  - [**See Vic's notes/excerpts**](https://sakai.unc.edu/x/vVsSFQ)

SPH annual reports (some distributed by Carl Shy (G:\VJS\vjs.unc.edu\EPIDhistory\EPIDhx-CarlShyPhotopiesFromSPHannualReports)

Recorded interviews with Bert Kaplan, John Hatch, Gerardo Heiss, Sherman James, Michel Ibrahim, Michel Ibrahim, Barbara Hulka, Carl Shy, Bill Jenkins,

Steve Zyzanski, Joyce Allen, Phyllis Johnson, Carol Parrow, Terry Hudgins, Jim Fletcher, Robert Middour?, Allen Wilcox, Ray Greenberg, …

Vic’s VAXmail and paper files

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Vic Schoenbach, 8/25/2014, 8/18/2015

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