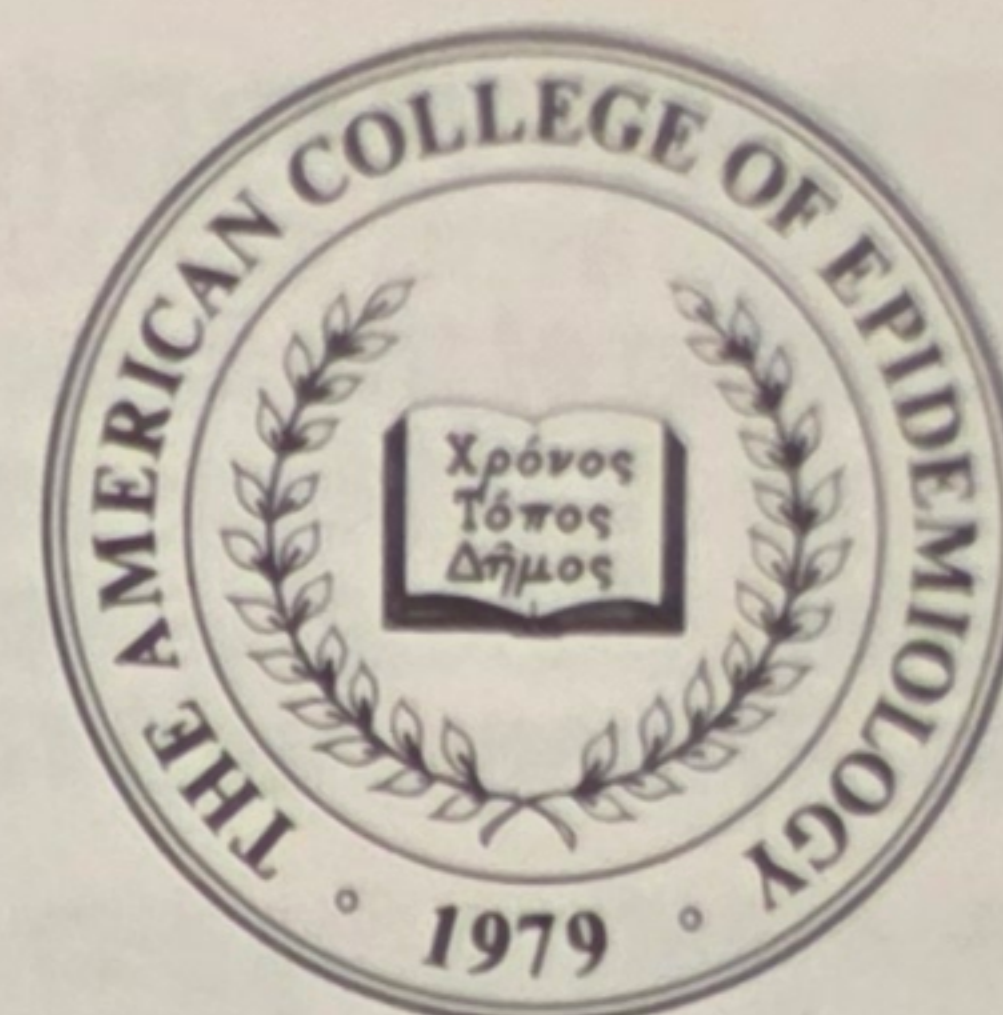
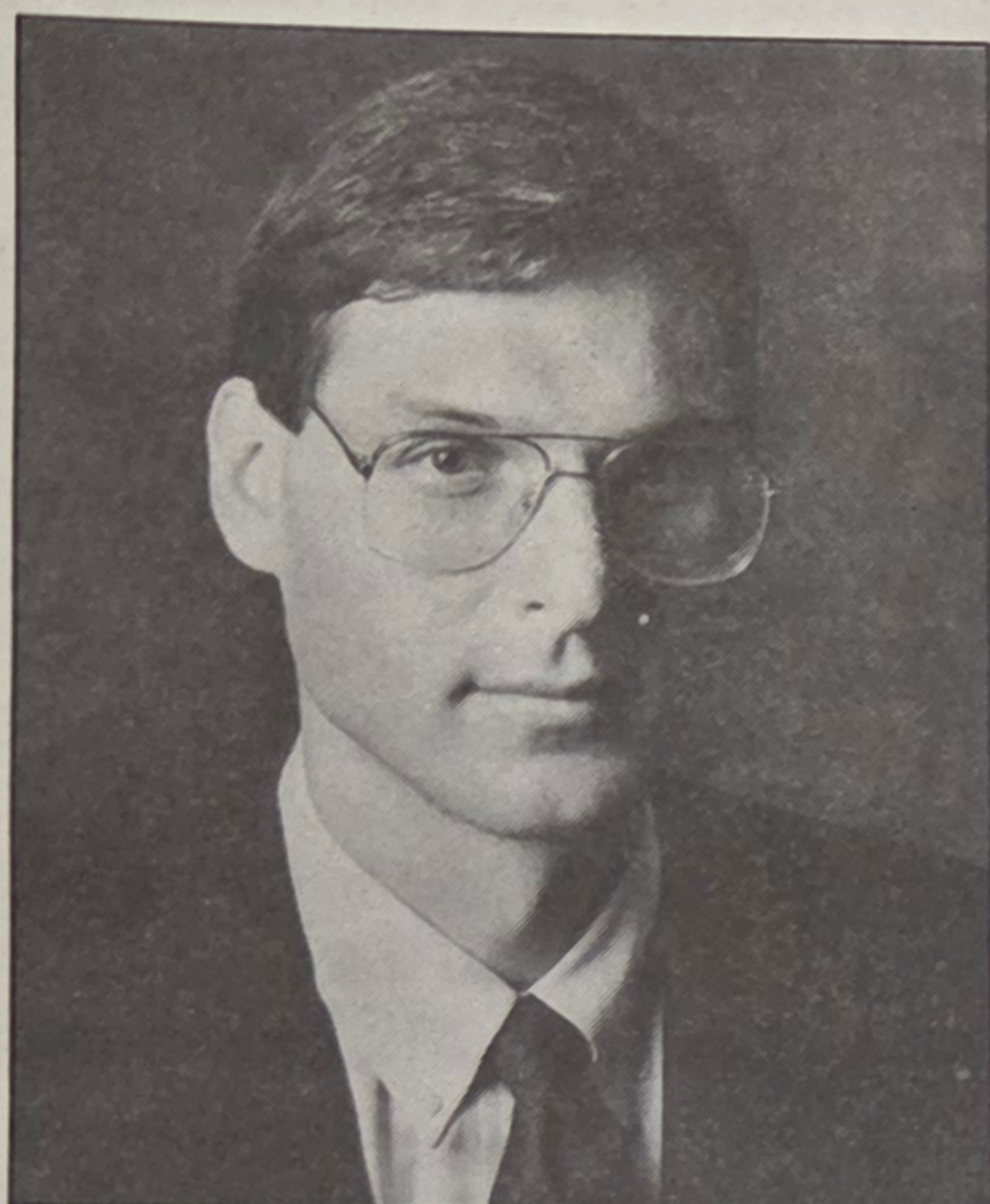




PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Raymond S. Greenberg, M.D., Ph.D.

We begin 1991 with a renewed sense of optimism about the vitality and future of the College. Interest in applications for membership has risen and the Admissions Committee, under the leadership of **Earl Pollack**, has done an excellent job in assuring that the traditionally high standards of entry into the College are maintained. At present, the College has a total of approximately 800 Members, Fellows, and Emeriti.

Two issues of the *Annals of Epidemiology* have appeared and a third will be circulated shortly. Co-Editors-in-Chief **Charlie Hennekens** and **Julie Buring** are to be congratulated on producing a journal of excellent quality that covers the full range of epidemiology. The second issue featured papers from the 1989 meeting of the College and was guest edited by Program Chair **Sylvan Green**. The proceedings of the 1990 annual meeting, guest edited by **Jess Kraus** will appear later this year. Unsolicited manuscripts are running ahead of expectation, and the quality of these submissions is impressive.

Plans are well underway for the 1991 Annual Meeting of the College, November 7 and 8, in Atlanta. **Gladys Reynolds**, Program Chair, along with co-Chair **Bill Jenkins**, and Committee members **Clark Heath**, **Gene Gangarosa**, **Manuel Torres-Angel**, **Sherman James**, **James Ferguson** and **Terry Fontham** have selected the theme: "Morbidity/Mortality Gap: Is it Race or Racism?" Disparities in health status between minority and non-minority populations will be addressed with respect to possible contributing factors, such as lifestyle, addiction and environment. As indicated elsewhere in this Newsletter, invited as well as contributed papers will be presented at this meeting, and members are encouraged to submit abstracts for consideration.

The annual Continuing Education session will be held on November 9 in Atlanta, following the College meeting and preceding the American Public Health Association (APHA) meeting. Under the direction of Education Chair **Len Schuman** and with local coordination by **Phil Brachman** and **Bill Jenkins**, the continuing education program will cover the topics of problem assessment, intervention and evaluation in underserved populations. We hope that these topics will be

of interest to members, as well as to attendees of the APHA meeting.

The College's first international continuing education activity (see enclosed announcement) will be held in Greece, August 18-23, 1991. The Organizing Committee, consisting of **Len Schuman**, **Athena Linos**, **Al Evans** and myself, has attempted to structure a series of course offerings that will be of interest to epidemiologists and medical researchers in Europe, the Near East, North Africa and the Americas. A faculty drawn almost exclusively from among the College membership will cover such topics as clinical epidemiology, pharmacoepidemiology, occupational/environmental epidemiology, medical statistics, advanced multivariate methods and microcomputers. We hope that the beautiful and relaxed setting, as well as the well-known faculty, will encourage heavy enrollment, thereby allowing this program to become a regular event.

Board member **Virginia Ernster** is organizing an effort to create the College's first student prize paper. This undertaking, approved by the Board at its February meeting, is announced elsewhere in this Newsletter. The award will consist of a certificate, assistance with travel expenses to the Annual Meeting, and presentation of the winning paper at the Annual Meeting. In addition, the winning manuscript will be considered for publication in the *Annals*. The Board hopes that this recognition will help to promote excellent scholarship among epidemiology students, as well as to introduce these students to the College and its activities.

At the February Board meeting, endorsement was given for the College to develop an *ad hoc* working group on ethics. President-elect **Pat Buffler** and Board member **Ron Prineas** will oversee this effort, with the assistance of Past President **Paul Stolley** and **Colin Soskolne**. Also included in this Newsletter is a summary prepared by Board member **John Last** of the ethics symposium co-sponsored by the College last August in Los Angeles. Members who are interested in working on the Ethics Committee should contact **Pat Buffler**.

As must be evident from the preceding, the College is maintaining its commitment to promoting the profession of epidemiology through a number of exciting new initiatives. The Board hopes that the College membership will support these efforts. More importantly, we hope that you will get involved personally and volunteer to serve on a Committee. Participation is especially needed in the areas of publications, minority affairs, educational programs, student awards, and ethics. Please write to me if you are interested in getting involved.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

A meeting of the Board of Directors was held on February 28 - March 1, 1991. In attendance were **Evans, Berkman, Buffler, Ernster, Fletcher, Greenberg, Janerich, Kraus, Last, Prineas, and Redmond.**

The meeting began at 8:20 p.m. Board Members were reminded that minutes of the July 31-August 1, 1990 meeting were distributed by mail. Corrections to those minutes were solicited by mail and then approved.

The first new topic discussed was a report from the Planning Committee for the 1991 Annual Meeting. The Program Committee is chaired by **Reynolds** and co-chaired by **Jenkins**. Other members of the Committee include **Heath, Gangarosa, Torres-Angel, James, Ferguson, and Fontham**. The scientific sessions of the Annual Meeting are scheduled for Thursday, November 7 and Friday, November 8 in Atlanta, Georgia. The Planning Committee has selected as a theme "Morbidity/Mortality Gap: Is it Race or Racism?" The meeting will focus on disparities in health status between minority and non-minority populations. The content areas of particular interest include lifestyle, addiction, and environmental influences.

A list of proposed speakers was presented to the Board. A balance between speakers emphasizing research findings and speakers emphasizing policy implication was envisioned. **Reynolds** indicated that the Program Planning Committee would make initial contacts as soon as possible.

The Planning Committee proposed a solicitation of abstracts for contributed paper sessions as well as poster presentations. The rationale for this solicitation was to increase attendance at the meeting, especially among individuals who could not attend unless they presented a paper. A solicitation of abstracts was prepared and will be distributed widely. **Janerich** raised the concern that the majority of papers should be presented by Members of the College. In response, it was emphasized that a number of College Members are included in the invited speakers list and consideration will be given to Members who submit abstracts. At the same time, the importance of adequate minority representation among the presenters was recognized, and the College currently has a relatively small number of minority Members.

Janerich also raised the concern that past precedent had emphasized invited talks, rather than contributed papers and posters. The rationale for expanding participation was emphasized and it was indicated that invited papers would be presented at no more than two of the four sessions of the scientific meeting.

Berkman encouraged striking a balance between research and policy-oriented papers. In particular, emphasis should be given to selecting the highest quality research presentors. **Berkman** also suggested that where possible, situations in which minority groups experience favorable health status should be indicated.

Evans recommended that the Epidemiology Section of the American Public Health Association should be notified about the meeting and encouraged to inform their members of the content and format.

Jenkins then described the proposed Continuing Education program to be held on Saturday, November 9, 1991. The morning session will focus on didactic presentations on community diagnosis, planning and implementing community interventions, and evaluating these interventions. In the afternoon, participants will participate in a number of concurrent workshops that focus on specific intervention projects in

minority communities. On the Sunday following the continuing Education conference, the Black Caucus of Health Workers of the American Public Health Association will convene a one day session at Spelman College on the Development of Public Health Professionals and Minority Health Programs.

The next agenda item was the development of an award for an outstanding student paper. This issue was discussed by **Ernster** who distributed a one page description of the award. Several specific issues were discussed. **Ernster** noted that discussions with the editors of the *Annals of Epidemiology* indicated that they would consider the winning paper for publication, but that it would require peer-review. The editors promised to expedite the review process and felt that it was highly likely that selected papers would in fact, be published by the *Annals*.

Discussion focused on the role of the student in the paper. It was agreed that the student should be the sole author of the work and it must represent original research findings. Eligibility should be limited to graduate and health professional students who are currently in training or who have completed their training within the preceding year. The papers would be solicited in a format suitable for publication, preferably in the style of the *Annals of Epidemiology*. The student would be invited to present the paper at the Annual Scientific Meeting of the College. In addition to the presentation of the paper, the student would receive an award certificate and assistance toward the cost of attending the meeting.

The deadline for receipt of submissions was discussed and it was decided that the deadline of August 31, would still permit sufficient time to select an award winner.

Several approaches to advertising the award were suggested: an announcement will be distributed to all Departments of Epidemiology in Schools of Public Health and submitted to the *Annals of Epidemiology*, as well as the College Newsletter.

The next agenda item was the selection of the 1991 recipient of the Lilienfeld Award for Excellence in Epidemiology. A list of previously nominated, but not selected candidates for the award was distributed to all members of the Board. Additional nominations were solicited. All Board Members voted for their first, second, and third choice by secret ballot. The leading recipient of votes was **D.A. Henderson**.

The final topic of the evening meeting was the evolving relationship between the *Annals of Epidemiology* and the College. Information about the status of the *Annals* was previously distributed by mail to all members of the Board. In addition **Greenberg** provided a summary of interactions with the editorial staff of the *Annals*. In anticipation of **Hennekens** attendance at the Board Meeting on March 1, the Members of the Board were encouraged to consider issues related to the utilization of space reserved for the College within the *Annals*, the preferred approach to interaction between the College and the *Annals*, the need to obtain information about non-College subscriptions to the *Annals*, as well as the long-term relationship that the College should develop with the *Annals*. Considerable discussion ensued about the importance of editorial independence of the *Annals* from the College. Careful review of previous contractual commitments of the *Annals* was recommended.

The meeting continued at 8:30 a.m. on March 1 with the presentation of the financial report by **Kraus**. This report included income and expenditures of the 12-month period beginning February 1, 1990. The largest category of income was members dues, which reflected the increase in member assessment from \$50 to \$120 during 1990. Also, there were two dues cycles during 1990 to adjust the collection period

from January-February to October-November. In addition, a \$60,000 unsolicited grant from DuPont to support activities in the College on an ethics program was received. The single largest expense (\$40,000) was for subscriptions to the **Annals of Epidemiology** for members in good standing. Details of the expenditures were discussed, including costs for the office of the Secretary/Treasurer, and the projected budget for 1991. The College bank balance as of February 1, 1991 was \$37,650.00, plus the DuPont grant of \$60,000. **Kraus** then reported on the membership status of the College, and distributed a list of those members now one year in arrears for dues (1990). The current Members, Fellows, and Emeriti directory was distributed. As of February 24, 1991, 66 current Members and Fellows of the College have failed to remit 1990 dues. These members were provided Volume I, issues 1 and 2 of the **Annals** gratis, but have not yet responded with College dues. It was agreed that the Board members present would contact those known to them personally, requesting their reconsideration to retain membership in the College. The list of current Emeriti in the College was distributed, showing the increasing number of College members who have elected emeritus status, in the last two years. Fifty-three past Members or Fellows are currently Emeriti, many of whom have elected to subscribe to the **Annals**. During 1990, 60 new Fellows or Members were elected to the College, resulting in a net loss to membership of approximately 10 individuals through resignation, failure to pay dues, or death.

The status of the next newsletter was discussed and **Kraus** asked for assistance in assembling information for the newsletter. **Greenberg** will contact members of the College to assist in this work.

The Council of Professional Associations on Federal Statistics has been receiving financial support from the American College of Epidemiology for several years. **Kraus** suggested that our representatives to COPAFS summarize information that would be of interest to members.

Status of the **Annals of Epidemiology** was presented by **Hennekens**, who reported on the papers received, turnaround time, and plans for the balance of Volume I, issues 4, 5 and 6. 735 of the total of 871 subscriptions are from College Members. Considerable discussion was given to the proposal that the publication of the **Annals** be increased to bi-monthly and ultimately monthly issues within the next 2-3 years. Discussion then centered on the role of the College in support of the **Annals** and how the interests of the College can be served by participation with the editors in the overall policy direction of the journal. Questions were raised concerning College input, especially to the papers which are the exclusive use of the College. In response to these questions, the publications committee of the College, composed of **Last**, **Fletcher**, and **Sacks** (**Kraus** and **Greenberg**, ex officio), will be charged to review the progress and operational details with representatives from the journal, and editor **Hennekens**.

Discussion then shifted to how to encourage more activity of College Members to ensure a greater participatory role in the College. Service on committees, participating in the Annual Meeting, and when invited, in special training programs, and representing the College at special functions, such as testimony or scientific meetings, were avenues discussed. It was emphasized that any Member, Fellow, or Emeritus wishing to participate in the committee structure or activities should contact President **Greenberg** directly.

Discussion then centered on the use of the DuPont contribution of \$60,000, and the request that the funds be used in support of developing ethical guidelines for epidemiologists. The donation was unrestricted, but asked that the American

College of Epidemiology play a leadership role in coordinating the democratic grass-roots process for the development of guidelines. President **Greenberg**, on recommendation of the Board, appointed a special *ad hoc* committee to explore this process, including Board member **Janerich** and member **Soskolne**.

The meeting ended with a discussion of the proposed changes in the By-laws as submitted by Board member **Hinman**. Since Board member **Hinman** was unable to be present at the meeting, consideration of the proposed changes in the By-laws will be attempted through the mail during the next several months. The theme underlying the changes in the By-laws will be to attract greater participation by Members in the decision.

INTERNATIONAL COURSE IN EPIDEMIOLOGY AND MEDICAL RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Vouliagmeni Beach, Greece

AUGUST 18-23, 1991

This course sponsored by the American College of Epidemiology is addressed to physicians, dentists and other health professionals interested in improving their ability to design and conduct research. The participants and their families will be offered a Greek trilogy: luxury vacation at a summer resort, family fun and high quality courses in medical research methodology.

COURSES

Epidemiology for Clinicians - Clinical Trials

C.H. HENNEKENS, M.D., Harvard Medical School
J.E. BURING, D.Sc., Harvard Medical School

Advanced Multivariate Methods

R.S. GREENBERG, M.D., PH.D., Emory University
M.H. KUTNER, Ph.D., Emory University

Pharmacoepidemiology

P.STOLLEY, M.D., M.P.H., University of Pennsylvania

Medical Statistics

T.COLTON, Ph.D., Boston University School of Public Health

Occupational & Environmental Epidemiology

R.SARACCI, M.D., International Agency for Research on Cancer

Microcomputers

A. DEAN, M.D., Centers for Disease Control
H. PASTIDES, PH.D., M.P.H., University of Massachusetts

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

Leonard M. Schuman, M.D., F.A.C.E., F.A.C.P.M., F.A.P.H.A.
Alfred S. Evans, M.D., M.P.H., F.A.C.A.
Raymond S. Greenberg, M.D., Ph.D., F.A.C.E.
Athena Linos, M.D., M.P.H., F.A.C.E.

For application and information contact:

Athena Linos, M.D., M.P.H.
University of Athens
Department of Epidemiology
110 Vassilissis Sophias Avenue
Athens, GREECE 11527

INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP ON ETHICS, HEALTH POLICY AND EPIDEMIOLOGY

An International Workshop on Ethics, Health Policy and Epidemiology at UCLA, August 3-5, 1990, attracted about 80 epidemiologists and others including experts on ethics, from more than 25 countries in the industrially developed and the developing nations.

The questions discussed at the workshop covered routine surveillance and research: How can we safeguard individual privacy and confidentiality while ensuring that data and information necessary to protect the health of the public are available for analysis and action? What are the obligations of epidemiologists to communicate the results of surveillance and research to the communities and persons who have been studied? Who owns the raw data and the analyzed information from epidemiological studies? How do epidemiologists deal with conflicts of interest? With cultural differences between themselves and the people they study? What are suitable procedures for ethical review in epidemiology? What are the components of guidelines on ethics for epidemiologists?

Bernard Dickens (Toronto, Canada) a lawyer/ethicist who is drafting Proposed Guidelines for Ethical Review Procedures for Epidemiological Research and Practice, on behalf of the Council for International Organizations of the Medical Sciences (CIOMS) gave a valuable perspective from outside epidemiology. He discussed the balance between rules and procedures, substance and process, research and practice, the tensions inherent when epidemiological research is conducted in countries at differing levels of development, the interactions of person-oriented micro-ethics and population-oriented macro-ethics; and the distinction between law (what one can do) and ethics (what one should do).

Issues related to surveillance occupied the rest of the first afternoon. **Paul Schulte** (NIOSH) described the obligations of employers and researchers with respect to workers' right to know of the risks that they may be exposed to. **Ralph Cook** (Dow Chemical Company) pointed out that a project is not complete until results have been communicated to all concerned parties - study subjects, workers, management, lawyers, the media, etc; managers need to be taught about epidemiology so that they can act on behalf of workers. **Claes-Goran Westrin** (Uppsala, Sweden) described legislative limits on access to clinical records in Sweden and other European nations. **Ben Osuntokun** (Ibadan, Nigeria) discussed cultural variations: respect for autonomy, as outlined in the Helsinki Declaration is universal; this makes explicit the need for informed consent even in cultural settings where individuals may not be perceived as fully autonomous.

Several discussants identified distinctions among surveillance situations requiring and not requiring informed consent; informed consent is not generally required for routine surveillance, though it is desirable to respect individual integrity by seeking informed consent when there is a legal requirement to communicate to third parties some aspects of personal health related information, e.g. about communicable diseases. **Allen Herman** (NICHD/NIH) advocated greater recognition by epidemiologists of the health needs of disenfranchised and disempowered peoples: there is a tendency now for research priorities to be dominated by the values of white, western,

professionally educated health scientists, to the detriment of many millions of deprived people in urban ghettos and developing nations. Other discussants emphasized the difficulties that arise in developing countries and when working with the disempowered - while emphasizing that respect for autonomy remains essential.

A session on ownership of data and conflicts of interest included a debate between **Neil Pearce** (Wellington, New Zealand) and **Charles Poole** (Epidemiology Resources Inc., Massachusetts) about the evidence on the antiasthmatic drug, fenoterol. This debate raised several questions. When has a subject been studied enough to draw meaningful conclusions, what are acceptable practices and procedures regarding publication, dealing with the media and with special interest groups such as industry and consumers? The issues of right to publish and obligation to publish arose in this context. In informal discussion later, some workshop participants wondered how often research findings are so effectively "censored" that no knowledge about them ever enters the public domain. **David Lilienfeld** (New York) discussed how a tobacco company won in a law court the right of access to data that they may use in ways not necessarily in the public interest.

The "moral obligations" (or values) of epidemiologists, were considered. **Rodolfo Saracci** (IARC, Lyon, France) addressed the role of ethics review committees, pointing out that they should not be made up of epidemiologists, but that their members need epidemiological insight. **John Bailar** (ODPHP, Washington DC, past president of the Council of Biology Editors) discussed scientific honesty: anything that interferes with scientific inference is unethical; guidelines should protect the process of scientific inference. **Carolina Guimaraes** (Sao Paulo, Brazil) described a code of community health rights that was developed explicitly to protest the disenfranchised Amazonian aboriginal and periurban slum-dwelling peoples of Brazil. **Jack Bryant** (Karachi, Pakistan) discussed the ethics of resource allocation in countries where scarcity is the rule.

The subsequent discussion broadened the scope of obligations and responsibilities of epidemiologists to include the needs of entire populations as well as to respect individual rights. At this stage it became clear that the workshop was dealing both with epidemiology as a profession and epidemiology as a discipline - a subtle but important distinction. Those to whom epidemiology is a profession are concerned to identify the core values of this profession; those to whom epidemiology is a discipline to be applied in solving problems upholding the values of their primary profession, be it medicine, nursing, nutrition science, health administration, etc. Nonetheless, the guidelines on ethics apply to all who use epidemiology, including health planners and policy-makers who use epidemiological findings.

In the final session, **Colin Soskolne** (Edmonton, Canada) offered a systematic analysis of what should be in guidelines, based on the experience of other professional groups. Guidelines on ethics for epidemiologists should include: a preamble; a statement on core values; scope of beneficence; obligations to communities; obligations to individuals (study subjects); obligations to the profession; professional competence; educational responsibilities; sensitivity to local norms and culture. Grass-root members of the profession have a role in formulating core values - this is not a task to delegate to ethicists; the existence of guidelines is a hallmark of professional maturity. **Raanan Gillon** (London, England) a physician-ethicist gave

Raanan Gillon (London, England) a physician-ethicist gave the arguments for and against codes of conduct. The engine of moral decision-making is kept going by guidelines that smooth out the ups and downs; the scope of epidemiological ethics is worth making explicit. But is there is to be explicitly concern for benefit to others, this must be an offer, not an imposition.

* * * * *

Throughout the workshop, the need for continuing discussion of ethics among epidemiologists everywhere was apparent. Development of guidelines on ethics is viewed by many as the logical outcome of such discussions. The workshop began with a preliminary draft of guidelines, and ended with a revision of these - but many who attended the workshop and the subsequent (IEA) International Scientific Meeting remained dissatisfied with the product. There was a consensus that more work is needed before acceptable guidelines are produced. Some of the dissatisfaction is related to the inadequacy of the existing draft document, some to the differing perspectives of those who regard epidemiology as a profession and those who regard it as a set of concepts, methods and procedures that are used by members of many health professions.

The Council for International Organizations of the Medical Sciences (CIOMS) is developing Proposed International Guidelines for Epidemiological Practice and Research, a companion volume to the CIOMS Proposed International Guidelines for Biomedical Research Involving Human Subjects. The workshop helped this initiative, but neither the CIOMS guidelines nor any others are a substitute for careful discussion of specific situations that arise constantly, presenting epidemiologists, ethical review committees, health policy makers and others with new and sometimes unique challenges. These discussions must go on always, in every country where epidemiology is practiced.

John Last
University of Ottawa
Ottawa, Canada

ANNOUNCEMENT

STUDENT PRIZE PAPER COMPETITION AMERICAN COLLEGE OF EPIDEMIOLOGY

The American College of Epidemiology announces the creation of an annual award to recognize an outstanding scientific contribution by a student of epidemiology. Eligibility is limited to graduate or health professional students who are in training or who have completed training within the year prior to submission. Each candidate must submit a single-author paper suitable for publication, preferably in the format of the *Annals of Epidemiology*, which is the result of original research conducted by the student. The award will consist of a certificate, financial assistance to attend the annual Meeting of the American College of Epidemiology, presentation of the paper at the meeting, and via expedited review of the paper for possible publication in the *Annals of Epidemiology*. Deadline for receipt of submissions is August 31, 1991.

Five copies of the submitted paper, as well as a cover letter indicating address and telephone number for correspondence, should be sent to:

Dr. Virginia Ernster
Professor and Chair
Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics
School of Medicine
University of California
San Francisco, CA 94143-0560

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STUDENT PRIZE PAPER DONATION

To kick off the competition for the Student Prize Paper and to establish its financial independence, a very generous gift has been donated by President-Elect **Pat Buffler**. In targeting this activity in the college, Buffler emphasized that the College's goal in this area was exceedingly important and could, with additional donations from other college members, ensure a continuing financial base for the prize each year. Details of the prize paper are found above. Fellows, Members, or Emeriti wishing to contribute to the Prize Paper fund should make their checks payable to the American College of Epidemiology. All such donations are tax-deductible.



1991 LILIENFELD AWARD ANNOUNCED

The Board of Directors of the American college of Epidemiology selected Dr. **D.A. Henderson** as this year's recipient of the Abraham Lilienfeld Award for excellence in epidemiology. Dr. **Henderson**, currently with the Executive Office of the President, Office of Science and Technology Policy, joins past winners, including such distinguished epidemiologists as **Milton Terris, Al Evans, George Comstock, Lew Kuller, Len Schuman, and Bill Foege**. The award will be presented at the annual meeting of the College on November 7-8, 1991.