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THE EPIDEMIOLOGY MONITOR

A monthly update covering people, events, research and key developments

Langmuir Lecturer Calls For Epidemiologists To Embrace Their "Pump Handle" Responsibility And Opportunity

"Epidemiologists are the lineal descendants not just of shoe leather epidemiologists but also of the pump handle removing ones as well," said James Marks, former Director of CDC's Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion and currently Senior Vice President at the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. Marks gave the annual Alexander Langmuir lecture during the Epidemic Intelligence Service Conference in Atlanta in April 2009. He was describing what should be the roles for epidemiologists because of the tremendous power and influence which epidemiologic data can have in shaping

policy and bringing about social change.

Marks emphasized that the core of public health is creating social change for health, and that influencing public policy is often the principal vehicle for achieving these health changes. He reminded the audience of epidemiologists that their heroes such as John Snow have been tied to action and would not likely be held in such high regard if they had only studied but not changed the world.

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Respect And Gratitude For What Epidemiologists Do Compels Artist To Create True-To- Life Portrait Of Former CDC Epidemiologist

While searching for information about the 1918 influenza pandemic for a novel she was writing, Georgia-based portrait artist Deborah Kepes happened upon an article written as a fond remembrance of former epidemiologist and CDC MMWR editor Michael Gregg. The article was written by David Morens, former apprentice-epidemiologist under Gregg who is now at the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases. The article was published last year in Emerging Infectious Diseases. I was "mesmerized" by the article, said Kepes, "Until then, I didn't realize

specifically what an epidemiologists role was and how they affect the lives of so many".

However, upon reading about Mike Gregg and of the many investigations he was a part of over the years, Kepes says she felt a desire to paint a portrait of the man and considered donating it to the National Portrait Gallery.

Gratitude

Kepes told the Epi Monitor that the portrait is a way of conveying how

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"...infodemiologists will use methods and concepts from the epidemiological toolbox"

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Activist Stance

Marks is well aware that such an activist view of the role of epidemiologists is not without controversy because of fears that activism will compromise objectivity or the perception of objectivity. He quoted former CDC Director William Foege who tackled this concern head on, not by denying that public health is political, but by stating bluntly that public health is "inherently political" and that we should not pretend otherwise.

Nuanced View

Marks expressed in his subsequent remarks a more nuanced view of the connection between data and policy. While he acknowledged the activist responsibility for public health professionals, he stated that the central purpose of epidemiology is to "find, assess, and confirm truth" and that role differs from the activist role. Marks sees a space between the data of epidemiologists and the activism of public health professionals, and believes that translation challenge is where the "real excitement is" in epidemiology and public health. He stated that scientific discovery and widespread application of findings must never be separated, "as each bears little fruit without the other." He called this a defining tension for epidemiologists and for all of public health.

Social Determinants of Health

If there was ever any arena in which the need for activism is apparent, none could be more clear-cut than the topic area of social determinants of health. Social factors are keys in determining health, and this places public health professionals squarely in the middle of

the political arena if they are to affect the policies in both health and non-health sectors that contribute to health.

Facts Don't Speak For Themselves

Despite the importance of scientific findings, Marks was willing to admit what every epidemiologist hates to acknowledge, namely, that not enough weight is placed on scientific data in making policy choices. A hard to close gap exists between the importance of data and the utilization of such data. A key section of Marks' remaining talk focused on why data are not more influential and what epidemiologists could do about it.

Leading Without Forcing

First, Marks insisted that epidemiologists should not be overly authoritarian but should lead society to make greater use of data by providing careful guidance. This guidance can be effectuated by the questions epidemiologists choose to study, the health factors and indicators they chose to monitor, and the manner in which they frame and present the results. To capture all of this "hands-off" form of leadership, Marks quoted the often heard phrase by organization theorist Mason Haire who said "what gets measured gets done," Marks called this a rallying cry for the field, and a huge responsibility and equally large opportunity.

When What Gets Measured Does Not Get Done

Second, measurement is not always or immediately enough. Epidemiologists need to appreciate the importance of framing issues in a compelling way to make results persuasive and most likely

- Langmuir Lecture, continues on page 4

- Artist Creates Portrait, con't from page 1

thankful the majority of individuals are for the work that epidemiologists do. In some way, the portrait pays respect to that, she said, and I now have a better understanding of CDC, and am grateful for its creation.

Gratitude New Zealand Style

The reaction to the purpose and benefits of epidemiology experienced by Kepes is reminiscent of the reaction reported here a year ago (April 2008 Epi Monitor) by a New Zealand mother who commissioned artwork to

commemorate the epidemiologic research done by Neil Pearce and his colleagues on fenoterol. The mother believes her daughter's life was saved and she had the art created to call attention to the research and the importance of independent research that is not fettered by the profit motive or funded by vested interests.

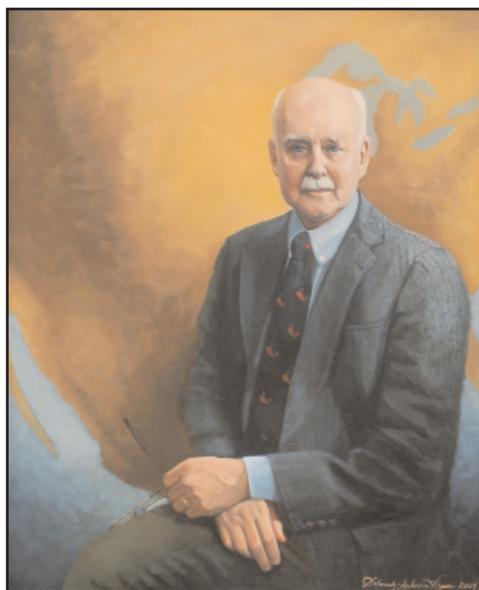
When Kepes contacted Morens to learn more about Gregg, he also referred her to CDC officials and she discovered that CDC wanted the portrait to hang in the offices of the MMWR where Gregg served as editor for 21 years.

Kepes gave a fascinating account of how the work for the portrait unfolded. "A lot of forethought goes into the portrait before you ever touch the canvas," she said. The first order of business is to find a high quality photo to use, and the higher the quality of the photo, the more details you can see, the better, said Kepes. Computers are very useful because they can be used to blow up a picture or features in the picture

several hundredfold to truly see what the color of the eyes may have been or some other detail.

Gregg's Story

In approaching her work, Kepes wanted the portrait to tell the story of who Mike Gregg was. An important feature she wanted to capture was the role of travel in his career to investigate illnesses and to teach. Also, Gregg was a much loved mentor to many young epidemiologists at CDC and would guide without controlling his students. I was looking to achieve the right balance between a



stern yet sincere image, she said. And contrary to what many say that the personality comes through in the eyes, those are not the only expression that reveals personality, according to Kepes. She was intent in the case of Mike Gregg to capture a characteristic turn of his lip and quirky smile which she considered

important to his personality. "There is no doubt that the better one understands the person being painted, the more one can use that information in making decisions during the course of the work. If you don't seek to understand the personality or character of the person your painting, then you'll lose something in the painting," she said.

Reactions

Reactions to the unveiling of the portrait were uniformly positive, said Kepes. The family members thought she

"...gun violence in Los Angeles County kills more young people under the age of 35 than anything else."

"I think the people I admire most are the people who work on the ground in the neighborhoods."

- Artist Creates Portrait, continues on page 6

- *Langmuir Lecture, con't from page 2*

to be acted on through policy formulation. Marks cited the example of obesity rates in the US plotted state by state and year by year to show changes over time. When published in this way in *JAMA*, these data got tremendous media attention, according to Marks. They illustrated the inherent power of data to move people to heightened concern and to allow epidemiologists to lead without forcing.

Honest Brokers

Third, Marks focused on the role of epidemiologists as the "honest brokers" of science in making social policy decisions when the science is still incomplete or uncertain. The goal is to use the data we have to the maximum extent possible and to be persuasive while still knowing that we do not have all the information we would like to have, and realizing that we may have to change course as more data are collected, said Marks.

Health Reform

Marks digressed in his Langmuir Lecture to share his views about the challenge of health reform and how to frame the contributions of public health in this debate. He drew on his experience in developing a new health marketing Center at CDC to emphasize the importance of discussing health with the public not as an end in itself, but rather as a means to an end. According to Marks, we need to show citizens how the health that we are promoting will not just create a state of being, but will help people do things and reach the activity and lifestyle goals they have set for themselves. Put another way, it is not so much health per se that people want, it is what they can do with their health, and public

health professionals have not succeeded well in making that connection for citizens when public health issues are presented.

Closing Comments

In closing Marks pointed to another failure of public health, and that is the failure to make the issue of health disparities compelling for Americans. This failure is particularly striking since social justice is widely acknowledged as the animating impulse of public health. However, according to Marks, our society is not getting there fast enough or completely enough. He urged epidemiologists to focus on the epidemiology of injustice and disparity in health, because if what gets measured gets done, then measuring justice is destined to bring an end to injustice.

The Arc of History

This is an optimistic assessment of the power of data and a lofty vision of the role of epidemiologists. However, Marks had the evidence to support his perspective in a quote from Martin Luther King. "The arc of history is long, but it bends toward justice." Marks told his epidemiology audience, "It is your purpose in public health, and your responsibility as epidemiologists to add your weight to that arc of history so the angle of curvature is sharper---and social justice is achieved more quickly and completely." ■

- *Pioneer in Infodemiology, continues on page 11*

"...we are interested in developing metrics to study the epidemiology of information."

"I do not think there is such a thing as the 'best' or 'worst' website."

Emory's Phil Brachman Remembers Former Colleague Michael Gregg At CDC Portrait Unveiling Ceremony

The following remarks were delivered by Emory University's Philip Brachman at the occasion of the unveiling during the annual Epidemic Intelligence Service Conference in Atlanta in April 2009 of a portrait of Michael B. Gregg who died last year. Brachman and Gregg were close working colleagues for many years at the helm of the epidemiology program at CDC.

Michael Gregg, a 24-year employee at CDC, who worked in Epidemiology, and was the Editor of the Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR) for 21 years, died on July 9, 2008, in his 78th year. Mike was born in Paris, France, educated at Stanford University, Case Western Reserve, and completed his medical training at Columbia Presbyterian Hospital. He worked at the U.S. Public Health Services NIH Rocky Mountain Laboratory from 1958 to 1962, at which he started three years of training in infectious diseases at the University of Maryland. He entered the Epidemic Intelligence Service Program at CDC in 1966, where he was the Chief of the Epidemic Intelligence Service for several years and Director of Viral Disease Division from 1967 to 1976. He became editor of the MMWR in 1967 and remained as such until 1988, a period of 21 years. He was Deputy Director of the Bureau of Epidemiology from 1970 to 1988 and Acting Director of the Epidemiology Program Office from 1988 to 1990, when he retired to a family home in Vermont.

Mike was the author or co-author of over 80 manuscripts and chapters. He was the editor of the widely acclaimed

textbook, "Field Epidemiology," which is now in its third edition and acclaimed as an excellent textbook, valuable for those who work on community public health problems.

Editor of MMWR

As editor of the MMWR, Mike set standards that are hard to emulate. He expanded the subject matter reported in the MMWR and made it a comprehensive reporting of preventive medicine and public health activities of importance including investigations conducted within the United States as well as throughout the world, the announcements of public health control and prevention actions, such as reports from appropriate committees. He demanded accuracy in facts, and excellence in writing. He also pushed for the immediacy of reporting important events and was a stickler for "Gregg grammar." One mark of the excellence of the MMWR is the fact that most every state in the United States now prepares a weekly report as do many countries throughout the world and the World Health Organization, emulating Mike's MMWR.

Teacher

Mike also was a superb teacher and enjoyed teaching in courses both at CDC, as well as in states, and in other countries. He could speak on various aspects of epidemiology and was a leader in discussing surveillance. Epidemiology training courses in Canada and France were blessed with his significant input over many years.

"OpenEpi has had over 2 million hits since its inception in 2003 with over 1 million hits in 2008."

- *Brachman Remembers, continues on page 6*

“...societies are highly vulnerable to even modest levels of climate change...”

- Artist Creates Portrait, con't from page 3
captured not just the personality but the smile and that she should not change a thing. Kepes' favorite comment came from an observer who said he got an eerie feeling from looking at the portrait that Mike Gregg could just come out of the canvas. Kepes said that creating a portrait is like becoming a friend and she felt that by the end she had spent so many hours with the portrait that Mike Gregg was like a friend to her.

Portraits At CDC

Kepes told the Epi Monitor that she has been surprised to learn that CDC is unusual in not having any other visual portraits of former epidemiologists who have played key roles in the accomplishments of the agency. She feels this is an injustice and that a project should be started to remedy the situation by creating a small number of posthumous portraits each year until all of CDC's heroes have been honored adequately. She told the Epi Monitor she believes this suggestion is all the more doable because the agency already has a museum at its headquarters location in Atlanta.

“There is no excuse for inaction.”

Artist Background

Kepes has been studying and creating portraits since 1993 when she began at the Pittsburgh Center for the Fine Arts and studied under James Douglas Adams at Carnegie Mellon. She always loved art as a child and showed a talent for drawing early on. For several years before becoming a portrait artist, she worked as a muralist doing work in several hospitals. Today she is a full time artist who divides her time between her painting in her home studio and teaching portraiture in workshops and other venues.

To view the Mike Gregg portrait, visit www.deborahkepes.com and to read the remembrance article by David Morens in complete unabridged form not published before in its entirety, visit [XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX](#). ■

- Brachman Remembers, con't from page 5

Mike had a sense of humor that embellished any conversations or lectures that he gave. He was CDC's unofficial poet laureate and was a jazz drummer. It was not uncommon to find, when walking into his office at CDC, that he would be drumming with two pencils on his desk or another surface. ■

*“Going open
source will also
help us grow a
wider user base...”*

- EpiInfo Goes Open Source, continues on page 8

*"In the future, Epi
Info™ may be the
Microsoft Office™
of epidemiology"*

*“...epidemiologists
in Utah were
working off 15
different silo-like
databases
statewide...”*

*“We learned in
retrospect that we
could have picked
up cases 2-3 weeks
earlier...”*

- Utah's New Weapon, continues on page 10

*"We can't arrest
our way out of
this."*

*"...cities should
keep as many
epidemiologists as
possible involved
in studying the
problem."*

Editor's Picks - Best Selections From www.epimonitor.net

*"The answer is
always 'it
depends'."*

Researchers Suggest Increase in California Autism Cases Is Real

A report in a recent issue of *Epidemiology* suggests that the increase in autism cases in California between 1990 and 2000 from 9 per 10,000 to 44 per 10,000 is not explicable by in-migration to the state or by other artifactual elements such as the inclusion of milder cases or an earlier age at diagnosis. The report is in contrast to others by epidemiologists which have not found the increase in autism to be real. The latest report comes out of the M.I.N.D. Institute in California which has been created to help conduct research on autism. The senior investigator is well known environmental epidemiologist [Irva Hertz-Piccolto](#) who was quoted in the

- *Editor's Picks, continues on page 12*

media calling for a shift in research priorities on autism from genetic to environmental causes. She stated that currently 10-20 times more research is being carried out on genetic causes compared to environmental ones.

"...currently 10-20 times more research is being carried out on genetic causes compared to environmental ones."

Decrease in Life Expectancy Tied To Political Changes In Former Soviet Countries

For several years now we have heard about the drop in life expectancy in the former Soviet Union following the political changes in that country in the late 1980's. The life expectancy dropped from 67 to 60 years over the 23 year period from 1985 to 2008. A study published in The Lancet compared the changes in life expectancy in the Soviet Union and other countries linked to the Soviet Union and found that the death rates varied in the different countries in association with the pace of the privatization changes introduced, how the different governments responded to the unemployment caused by privatization (did they seek to mitigate increased smoking and alcoholism associated with unemployment?), and the level of support available to people through social organizations (what percentage of the population was a member of a social organization?). For example, life expectancy in Russia dropped by 5 years between 1991 and 94 whereas life expectancy in Croatia and Poland increased during the same period despite a very rapid privatization strategy implemented in Poland. Russia reportedly did little to address smoking and alcoholism, and the percentage of the population in social organizations was only 10% in Russia compared to 48% in the Czech Republic.

"Estimates are that lowering sodium levels by 50% would save 150,000 lives per year across the USA."

New York City Seeking To Cut Salt Intake By 50% Over The Next Decade

As part of a proactive public health program in New York City which has already made inroads on tobacco control and elimination of trans fats in the diet, New York City Health Commissioner Thomas Frieden has launched a voluntary program to cut salt intake among New Yorkers by 25% in five years and by 50% over the next decade. The new initiative was described in an article in the NY Times. The program is targeting packaged food and mass-produced restaurant meals because these sources account for a full 80% of the salt citizens are consuming. Perhaps surprising to some, the amount of salt added at the table accounts for only 11% of the salt citizens consume.

Because of the sources, Frieden and the Health Department have asked food company executives to voluntarily identify which foods contain the most salt and to reduce these amounts gradually so that consumers will not notice and become accustomed to the new levels. Because other health departments and the AMA are involved, the campaign is being billed as a national campaign to lower the amount of salt that Americans eat. Estimates are that lowering sodium levels by 50% would save 150,000 lives per year across the USA. ■

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Please send curriculum vitae, a list of three references, and a cover letter describing research interests to: Dorr G. Dearborn, PhD, MD, Chm. Dept EHS, Case Western Reserve Univ School of Medicine, 10900 Euclid Avenue, WG19, Cleveland, Ohio 44106-4940 or via email to dxd9@case.edu.
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**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
National Health and Environmental Effects Research Laboratory**

**Supervisory Health Scientist
Or
Supervisory Medical Officer**

The U.S. EPA's National Health and Environmental Effects Research Laboratory (NHEERL) in Research Triangle Park, NC, is seeking qualified applicants for the position of Supervisory Health Scientist or Supervisory Medical Officer. This career opportunity serves as Chief of the Epidemiology and Biomarkers Branch (EBB) within the Human Studies Division (HSD), located on the medical campus of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. HSD maintains a Medical Station staffed and equipped to conduct physical examinations and medical procedures. The primary mission of EBB is to characterize exposure-dose-response relationships to environmental pollutants among the general population and special susceptible populations (e.g. children, elderly). Epidemiology is applied to a range of environmentally-related health effects, with an emphasis on using molecular and cellular events that occur in humans to study relationships between pollutant exposure and health effects. Research is conducted to describe, explain, evaluate and predict environmental health outcomes related to such exposures in both observational and experimental settings.

As Chief of the Epidemiology and Biomarkers Branch, the incumbent is responsible for leading and managing a broad-scale research program in environmental epidemiology and human biomarkers. In addition, the Medical Officer position would share, with other staff physicians, in the responsibility of conducting subject physicals and serving as duty doctor for the Medical Station. The Health Scientist position has a basic educational requirement. The Medical Officer position has a medical licensure and a basic educational requirement. Please visit www.epa.gov/nheerl for more information on the Laboratory in which this position is located.

HOW TO APPLY: This position is advertised through the Office of Personnel Management's USAJobs web site: <http://www.usajobs.gov>: vacancy announcement RTP-DE-2009-0073 for the Supervisory Health Scientist; and RTP-DE-2009-0076 for the Supervisory Medical Officer. Applicants must meet all qualification requirements as outlined in the vacancy announcement. Applicants must be U.S. citizens. Application deadline is May 12, 2009.

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Descriptive Procedures Course

| | |
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| April 20-22, 2009 | Washington, DC |
| July 20-22, 2009 | Research Triangle Park, NC |
| September 16-18, 2009 | Washington, DC |

Modeling Procedures Course

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Director of the Division of Biostatistics and Epidemiology Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center

The Division of Biostatistics and Epidemiology, a research division of Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center (CCHMC), seeks a scholarly, enthusiastic, and visionary director. CCHMC is one of the top-ranked children's hospitals in the world and its vision is to be the leader in improving child health. A few of the Research Foundation's recent accomplishments include:

- Ranked second of all pediatric centers in NIH funding (\$92 million in 2007; Over \$123 million in total grant revenues)
- Ranked third-best pediatric program at a medical school (*U.S. News & World Report*)
- New research tower opened in 2007, increasing research space to nearly 1 million square feet and making Cincinnati Children's one of the largest pediatric research programs in the country
- Investment in research by CCHMC of over \$60 million above total grant revenues, including a number of internal grant programs
- Research programs integrated across a full range: basic/discovery, translational, clinical trials, health services, quality improvement/clinical effectiveness, community research

The Division of Biostatistics and Epidemiology currently includes 43 faculty and staff, conducts independent research, and collaborates on more than 75 grants worth an estimated \$75 million. The division also provides collaborative support to 36 divisions of CCHMC and is allied with graduate teaching programs in biostatistics and epidemiology. The faculty and staff are located in the new, state-of-the-art research tower adjacent to the Division of Biomedical Informatics and the Clinical and Translational Research program. Faculty appointments are with the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine.

Qualified candidates must have a doctoral degree in Biostatistics, Epidemiology, or a related statistical field, and have progressed to the rank of Associate or Full Professor. The preferred candidate will have an outstanding

record of independent, collaborative, and well-funded research, publication in high-impact journals, and effective written and oral communication skills. The Director will develop a strategic vision for the division to advance the role of biostatistics and epidemiology and clinical and translational research in the academic health center while providing leadership and oversight of the divisional operations and collaborations with investigators at CCHMC from across the full range of research programs. The director will be expected to mentor junior faculty and trainees, increase the success of existing programs, and successfully develop new initiatives. **This position will be at the academic rank of Full Professor, with tenure in the Department of Pediatrics.**

For additional information regarding the position, contact the Chairperson of the Search Committee, Scott W. Powers, PhD, Professor of Pediatrics and Director of Clinical and Translational Research, Cincinnati Children's Research Foundation, 513-636-8106, Scott.Powers@cchmc.org

Interested candidates should send a letter describing their qualifications and interests, along with their curriculum vitae and contact information for three professional references, to: Scott W. Powers, PhD, c/o Teresa Nangle, Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center, 3333 Burnet Ave., MLC 9008, Cincinnati, OH 45229 or email: Scott.Powers@cchmc.org or Teresa.Nangle@cchmc.org

www.cincinnatichildrens.org/research/div/ceb



Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center and University of Cincinnati are Equal Opportunity Employers

PERINATAL/DEVELOPMENTAL EPIDEMIOLOGIST MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

The Department of Epidemiology of the College of Human Medicine (CHM) at Michigan State University (MSU) invites applicants for a tenured or tenure-track general fund-supported faculty position at the associate or full professor level in perinatal and/or developmental epidemiology.

The successful candidate will be joining a department with strengths in the field of perinatal and developmental epidemiology. The Department also hosts the only NIH-funded T-32 program devoted entirely to perinatal epidemiology.

Additionally, the Department is the lead site for the five Michigan counties participating in the National Children's Study (NCS), and a particular goal of this recruitment is to take advantage of the extraordinary research opportunities provided by the NCS.

MSU encourages multi-disciplinary approaches to research. Collaborations with the Department of Pediatrics and Human Development, the Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology and Reproductive Biology, and with other relevant research units both at MSU and across the state of Michigan are strongly encouraged. Candidates for this position should have a history of developing successful collaborations across disciplines. Participating in the teaching and mentoring of medical students, graduate students in epidemiology, and post-doctoral fellows is also expected.

Minimal qualifications for the position include an earned doctoral degree in epidemiology, medicine or related field, and research and teaching experience appropriate to the position level.

Interested individuals should send a letter by email to Nigel Paneth MD, MPH (paneth@msu.edu), Chair, Search Committee in Perinatal Epidemiology, describing your interest in the position, your relevant background and training, enclosing a C.V. and the names and contact information of three references. Deadline is March 1, 2009, but applications will continue to be accepted until a suitable candidate is found. For more details about the department and this opportunity, visit www.epi.msu.edu/jobpostings.htm.

MSU is an affirmative-action, equal-opportunity employer. MSU is committed to achieving excellence through cultural diversity. The university actively encourages applications and/or nominations of women, persons of color, veterans and persons with disabilities.

Imperial College London

International Course in Nutritional Epidemiology

London, 7-18 September 2009

This advanced and interactive course aims to give you a solid grounding in the knowledge and skills that are required to work as a nutritional epidemiologist. Professors Arthur Schatzkin and Elio Riboli head a world class course faculty, with members from several institutes in England, the USA and Israel.

The course will consist of lectures, computer tutorials, small-group paper-critique sessions and discussion with experts, with particular focus on current controversies in the field. We will place strong emphasis on assessment of exposure (to include diet, body size, and physical activity), strengths and limitations of different study designs, and pertinent statistical issues, including how best to address measurement error and adjust for total energy intake. You will learn to critically interpret results from nutritional epidemiological studies and evaluate the association between given nutritional factors and diseases. Current priorities in nutritional epidemiology, its future potential and challenges will be discussed. We will also address the translation of scientific findings into nutritional recommendations and policies.

Six scholarships for outstanding candidates will be made available by the World Cancer Research Fund (WCRF) International (www.wcrf.org).

For more information, including on how to apply for a fellowship, please refer to our website: www.imperial.ac.uk/medicine/nutritionalepidemiology or contact the course organiser, Dr Petra Wark (p.wark@imperial.ac.uk; +44 (0)20 7594 8477).



**Molecular Epidemiologist, Tenured or Tenure-Track Investigator
Position, National Cancer Institute (NCI),
National Institutes of Health (NIH), Department of Health and Human
Services (DHHS)**

The Hormonal and Reproductive Epidemiology Branch (HREB, <http://www.dceg.cancer.gov/hreb>, Chief, Dr. Louise Brinton), a component of NCI's intramural Division of Cancer Epidemiology and Genetics (DCEG), is recruiting a molecular epidemiologist to develop an independent research program focused on breast and/or other hormonally-related cancers of women. It is expected that the successful candidate will develop a distinctive interdisciplinary program that complements ongoing investigations and builds on the existing strengths of NCI's Intramural Research Program. Current research includes the identification of common susceptibility genetic loci, molecular profiling of tumors to evaluate etiologic heterogeneity and determinants of prognosis, identification of early markers of risk (e.g., mammographic density), measurement of circulating and local levels of endogenous hormones using novel assays, and assessment of other biomarkers. Candidates must have a doctorate in epidemiology, or a medical degree or doctorate in a biologically-relevant discipline (with additional training or post-doctoral experience in epidemiology). They must have at least three years of post-doctoral research experience and an established record of publications that demonstrates their ability to design, conduct, analyze and interpret data from molecular epidemiology studies. Candidates should have knowledge of and demonstrated capacity to apply state-of-the-art epidemiologic, statistical and laboratory methods in at least one of the following areas of research: mechanisms of carcinogenesis, natural history of cancer precursors, hormonal carcinogenesis, genetic susceptibility, or pathologic/molecular tumor characterization. Evidence of ability to collaborate with biostatisticians, laboratory investigators and physicians (pathologists, radiologists and clinicians) and direct multi-disciplinary research is required. Candidates must document the strong communication skills that will be required to write effective research papers, present work at scientific meetings, and convey information clearly to staff, collaborators, consultants and contractors. Candidates must also be sufficiently experienced to function independently, both in the development of their own research efforts, and in the mentoring and supervision of less experienced investigators. Appropriate office space and resources will be provided.

Salary is competitive and commensurate with research experience and accomplishments, and a full Civil Service package of benefits (including retirement, health insurance, life insurance, and a thrift savings plan) is available. Candidates may be eligible for the NIH Loan Repayment Program (<http://www.LRP.NIH.gov>). This position is not restricted to U.S. citizens. Interested individuals should send a cover letter, curriculum vitae, brief summary of research interests, experience and future plans, three copies of selected publications and three letters of reference to:

Ms. Judy Schwadron
Division of Cancer Epidemiology and Genetics
National Cancer Institute
6120 Executive Blvd., Room EPS 8073
Rockville, MD 20852-7242
Email: schwadrj@mail.nih.gov

The closing date of the advertisement is June 15, 2009; however, the search will continue until a qualified candidate is found. A completed package of your application is required in order to be considered for this position.

DHHS and NIH are Equal Opportunity Employers.

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**Division of Clinical Epidemiology
Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics
School of Medicine
University of California, San Francisco**

The UCSF Division of Clinical Epidemiology invites applications for the position of Associate Professor in Residence. Duties: This member of the faculty will have her/his own research program and lead one of the Department's teaching programs.

Qualifications: MD (clinically trained and board-certified) with MPH or other advanced training in Epidemiology, plus 5 years faculty experience or equivalent. The successful candidate must have demonstrated excellence in clinical epidemiology research, experience in leading a clinical research course, hands-on statistical analysis skills, a focus in the domain of non-infectious non-cancer epidemiology/public health, and the ability to provide the majority of her/his salary from funded research and a limited amount of clinical activity. Preference given to those candidates with experience in the epidemiology of cardiovascular disease.

To apply, please send cover letter, CV, and the names of three professional references by April 30, 2009 to Phillip Babcock, Department of Epidemiology & Biostatistics, UCSF, Box 0560, San Francisco, CA 94143-0560 or via email to pbabcock@psg-ucsf.org.

UCSF seeks candidates whose experience, teaching, research, or community service has prepared them to contribute to our commitment to diversity and excellence. UCSF is an affirmative action/equal opportunity employer. The University undertakes affirmative action to assure equal employment opportunity for underutilized minorities and women, for persons with disabilities, and for covered veterans. All qualified applicants are encouraged to apply, including minorities and women.

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**Assistant Professor of Biostatistics
Division of Biostatistics, Department of Preventive Medicine
Keck School of Medicine, University of Southern California**

The Division of Biostatistics at the Department of Preventive Medicine of the University of Southern California invites applications for a faculty position at the Assistant Professor level in environmental biostatistics. A suitable candidate is required to hold a PhD in biostatistics, or a related field; additional post-doctoral training would be an asset but is not essential. Candidates should have a demonstrated track record of methodological and applied interdisciplinary research, and interest in working on a wide array of methodological and substantive problems in environmental biostatistics and epidemiology.

A major focus of the Division's methodological and applied research in the environmental epidemiology arena has been the Southern California Children's Health Study (CHS), a cohort study of the health effects of air pollution on children's respiratory growth and disease. Over 12,000 children from 15 communities with a diverse pattern of exposure to different pollutants are being followed, some for up to 17 years, with extensive characterization of exposures at the individual and community level, outcomes, and modifying factors, including candidate genes and genome-wide SNPs. This is the most important long-term study of effects in childhood and has had significant impact on air pollution policy. The successful applicant will have the opportunity to work on these data along with a well established group of biostatisticians working on such methodological issues as multi-level models for multivariate longitudinal data, spatio-temporal exposure models, and methods for genetic effects and gene-environment interactions. The successful applicant will also have the opportunity to interact with a large network of environmental epidemiologists, cancer researchers, and exposure assessment experts on a variety of other challenges under the umbrella of the NIEHS-funded Southern California Environmental Health Sciences Center. Independent statistical research and teaching in the Department's graduate programs in Biostatistics and Epidemiology is also encouraged.

Potential candidates are encouraged to submit their applications (along with current CV, statement of research interests, and three or more letters of recommendation) to: Biostatistics Faculty Search Committee, Attn: Duncan Thomas, PhD, Division of Biostatistics, Department of Preventive Medicine, Keck School of Medicine, University of Southern California, 1540 Alcazar St., CHP-220, Los Angeles, CA, 90089-9011, or via e-mail to dthomas@usc.edu.

USC values diversity and is committed to equal opportunity in employment. Women and men, and members of all racial and ethnic groups are encouraged to apply.

Opportunities This Month

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The University of Kentucky, College of Public Health Department of Epidemiology

Tenure Track Position - Associate Professor/Full professor

The University of Kentucky, College of Public Health, Department of Epidemiology invites applications from qualified candidates for a tenure-track faculty position at the associate professor or full professor level to fulfill the University and College missions of research, teaching, and service. The position is a full-time (12-month), regular title series tenure-track appointment in the College of Public Health with the potential for a joint appointment in the College of Medicine. Qualified candidates should have a focused area of research and may include collaborations with faculty in other divisions. Teaching responsibilities will include courses in the College of Public Health, Department of Epidemiology. The successful candidate will be expected to develop and maintain an active research program. Responsibilities also include student advising, curriculum development, and serving on thesis and doctoral committees. The individual selected must have a PhD, DrPH, or ScD in epidemiology or an MD with an MPH from an accredited school of public health or equivalent training. Candidates should have a demonstrated ability in all three academic areas (research, teaching, and service). This position offers a competitive salary at a fully accredited College of Public Health and the opportunity to work with outstanding faculty in many departments including renowned clinicians at the University of Kentucky, College of Medicine. Lexington, Kentucky is ranked among the best places to live in the U.S. and provides a quiet, peaceful setting with an easy commute to work.

Applications, including curriculum vitae, one copy of at least three recent or representative publications, and contact information for three references should be sent to: Thomas C. Tucker, PhD, MPH, University of Kentucky, College of Public Health, Department of Epidemiology, 121 Washington Avenue, Lexington, KY 40536-0003. The review of applications will continue until the position is filled.

AA/EOE Employer.