



# Society for Epidemiologic Research

## NEWSLETTER

Spring 2009

## SER'S 42nd ANNUAL

### In this issue:

42nd Annual Meeting	1
SER President's Corner	2
SER-SC President's Corner	3
Meeting Lectures Information	
Annual Meeting Agenda Symposia	4
SER Election Candidates	5-8



**Hyatt Regency  
Orange County**  
11999 Harbor Blvd  
Garden Grove, CA  
92840

**SER Meeting Dates**  
**June 23—26, 2009**



**Important  
DATE!**

### SAVE THE DATES

- 2010—Seattle, WA  
(June 22-25)
- 2011—Montreal, QC  
(June 21-24)  
Congress Year
- 2012—Minneapolis, MN  
TBN
- 2013—Boston, MA  
TBN

The 42nd Annual SER Meeting will be held June 23rd (eve) - June 26, 2009. Meeting and accommodations will be at the Hyatt Regency Orange County. The conference hotel is less than one mile from Downtown Disney District, Disneyland Park and California Adventure with complimentary shuttle to the parks. Nearby attractions include: Anaheim Angels Stadium, Knott's Berry Farm, Crystal Cathedral and the Grove Theatre. Also close to shopping, dining, Southern California beaches and entertainment.

Room Rate: \$169 single/double occupancy  
For only \$30 more, you can upgrade to a two bedroom kids' suite. French doors separate a relaxing bedroom from the kids' own room, outfitted with twin bunk beds, activity table and a second TV. If you are not able to make a reservation on the dates that you need or get the room type you desire, please contact [Peggy.Christensen@utah.edu](mailto:Peggy.Christensen@utah.edu) for assistance.

Reservation deadline: June 1

[https://resweb.passkey.com/Resweb.do?mode=welcome\\_gi\\_new&groupID=155810](https://resweb.passkey.com/Resweb.do?mode=welcome_gi_new&groupID=155810)

Experience the magic of Disneyland® Park and Disney's California Adventure® Park —with **Complimentary** shuttle. Shuttle departs from hotel on top of & 30 minutes after each hour; with pick-up from Disneyland® Resort 20 and 50 minutes after each hour.

#### **PARKING**

SER has negotiated a reduced self parking fee at \$12 daily or overnight

#### **TRANSPORTATION**

##### **John Wayne (Orange County) Airport (SNA)**

The hotel is approximately 13 miles from OC Airport.

##### **Los Angeles International Airport (LAX)**

The hotel is approximately 36 miles from LAX airport.

#### **Taxi Cabs—Approximate Fares**

From (SNA) \$40 one way, From (LAX) \$100 one way.

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER by Malcolm Maclure, ScD



### SER and climate change: What if we cannot afford to meet in 2019?

(plus why you should stay at the conference hotel this year)

Come and enjoy this year's annual meeting, visit Disneyland and talk with your friends about the future of SER. The economy, or rising fuel prices, or carbon emissions caps or all three, will probably reduce long distance travel in the next 10 years. How will this affect SER?

**Interesting Fact:** One poorly attended annual meeting can push SER into a financial crisis! That happened about 15 years ago. After that, Dr. Lynn Lyon became our Treasurer. His dedicated stewardship, with the support of SER staff Peggy Christensen, Jackie Brakey, and Terry Sniff, has preserved SER finances in a healthy state by choosing popular destinations and attracting members with interesting programs.

In the past year, I've learned other interesting facts about SER. **Did you know?**

SER gets a discount rate for hotel rooms by **promising a minimum number of rooms will be occupied**. If we don't achieve that, SER pays for the empty rooms. So please stay at the Hyatt Regency Orange County this year.

The economics of publishing the *American Journal of Epidemiology* is odd. SER uses its bulk membership order to bargain for a lower price. The publisher, Oxford University Press, charges more to libraries and non-members. Result? The **electronic version**, with its small carbon footprint, **costs \$5 per year more than the printed version** mailed via airplanes! We are planning to discuss this with OU Press this year.

Many of us old-timers joined SER as students mainly to receive the *Journal*. Now that many get the *Journal* free through their universities, SER's main draw is its meeting. The total number of members rises and falls with the popularity of the annual meeting destination. We are becoming a **producer of a single product** – our annual meeting – which I fear will become unaffordable within 10 years.

The number of SER members has only slightly grown over the past decade, despite large growth in the denominator of epidemiologists. **Membership rates are declining**. Does this reflect the trend observed by sociologist Robert Putnam, author of *Bowling Alone: The Collapse and Revival of American Community* – the steady decline in participation in all forms of groups – political parties, unions, churches, PTAs, bridge clubs and bowling leagues – since the 1960s. Or is it because the number of choices of societies for us to join has greatly multiplied? In any case, we should be aware of the epidemic curve of SER membership.

### Where will SER be in 2019? Why will students join if our meeting is too expensive?

**Answer:** New privileges for members, especially students, accessible via the internet.

Let's start developing them now. The SER Student Caucus has formed a Task Force to help me develop a web meeting oriented to doctoral students. We will accumulate recordings and then promote the collection as a mid-year e-conference.

What next? Let's be creative. How about adding slide presentations by authors of papers in the *Journal* and maybe interviews with them? I predict many members will want to participate in these new forms of collaboration for two reasons: 1) they are interesting and social, and 2) they provide psychological relief from fear of climate catastrophe. Don't just worry; do something.

Nobel-prize winning physicist, Steven Chu, Obama's Secretary of Energy, says:

"The more I followed what we were learning, the more ominous it got. Just like during World War II, when a lot of the best physicists went to work on radar and the atomic bomb, **the world needs scientists to work on this issue**. We're in a war to save our planet." *Repowering the planet: energy for tomorrow*, National Geographic 2009:33. **Epidemiologists should work on this issue**. We are experts on populations, risk factors, social marketing, induction times, tipping points and many other relevant concepts. We should be leaders in changing the behaviors of scientific societies.

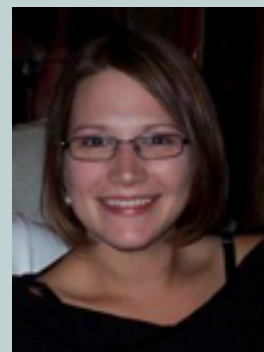
That is why I accepted the nomination to be SER president. The invitation to run came the day after I attended a public lecture by the Canada Research Chair on Climate. I had just finished reading the fairly optimistic book by George Monbiot, *Heat*, in which he explains how we can move to sustainable energy without much sacrifice, if we act soon. Unfortunately, says Monbiot, long-distance air travel is one of the few technologies for which there is no substitute.

I thought I was ecologically virtuous because I don't consume much and bike year round. I was shocked by my carbon footprint ([www.climatecrisis.net/takeaction/carboncalculator](http://www.climatecrisis.net/takeaction/carboncalculator)). A cross-country flight has as much climate impact as driving our family hybrid for a year (half a ton of carbon emissions each.)

**My conclusion:** We, epidemiologists, must be leaders in replacing our air travel for face-to-face meetings with web meetings.

## SER-SC PRESIDENT'S CORNER by Vanessa Stevens

Epidemiology is certainly a growing field and the SER Student Caucus (SER-SC) aims to foster that growth by facilitating the professional development of our student participants. With that goal in mind, the SER-SC Executive Board has prepared an exciting program for the upcoming Annual SER meeting. In particular, The SER-SC Programs Committee, led by Stella Aslibekyan and Derek Ng, has organized panels and workshops that emphasize the state of the science and the diverse career pathways pushing it forward.



Another objective of SER-SC is to ensure the continued participation of our student members. Consistent with this goal, the Abstracts Committee, chaired by Michael Lowe, has encouraged student submissions; some of these submissions will be highlighted at the meetings Poster and Spotlight sessions. Additionally, the Nominations and Membership Committees, led by Whitney Robinson and Karen Schleip, has solicited a talented pool of nominees for next year's SER-SC executive board and taken steps to encourage membership and keep students involved in SER as they graduate and transition into their professional careers.

We are also happy to announce the winners of the SER-SC travel scholarships. For the second year in a row, SER-SC awarded six \$500 travel scholarships. These scholarships are designed to assist students, post-docs, and fellows/trainees in the travel to the Annual SER Meeting. Selected by the SER Executive Board from a competitive pool of applications were Shauna Carlisle, EoRin Cho, Anjut Hajat, Samantha Hajna, Claire Margerison, and Oktawia Wojcik. Please join me in congratulating the 2009 winners!

If you are interested in learning more about SER-SC, please visit our website at <http://www.epiresearch.org/students/index.html> to learn more about our organization, mission, and ongoing activities. You will also be able to register for our panels and workshops.

We look forward to seeing you at the Annual Meeting.

Vanessa

### 2009 THEME

#### *"Epidemiologists as Vectors for Transmitting Health"*

#### John C. Cassel Memorial Lecture

##### **John C. Cassel Memorial Lecture**

A panel discussion presentation. The topic is **"The Future of Epidemiology"**. The panel will include

**Malcolm Maclure**- Web of Causes, **John Witte**- Epidemiomics: to infinity and beyond! , **Diana Petitti**- Health Care Epidemiology: Meas-o-mania, Modeling, and Money Make for Many Opportunities , **Sandro Galea**- Going Global: Populations, Transformations and Ecologic Realities.

#### Keynote Address

**The 2009 Keynote Address** will be presented by keynote speaker Jonathan Patz, MD, MPH. Climate Change & Health: Balancing Scientific Rigor with Policy Urgency. Dr. Jonathan Patz is a widely-recognized expert on the human health effects of global environmental change. A medical doctor and public health specialist, he currently directs a university-wide initiative on global environmental health at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

#### Abraham Lilienfeld Student Paper

##### **Abraham Lilienfeld Student Prize Winner Address:**

Winner Jaimie Gradus from Boston University, School of Public Health will present her winning paper, *"The Association between Posttraumatic Stress Disorder and Completed Suicide in the Adult Population of Denmark"*

## SER 42nd Annual Meeting Anaheim, CA June 23-26, 2009

### Agenda

#### Tuesday, June 23, 2009

8:00am - 5:00pm	SER PhD Student Dissertation Workshop
8:30am - 12:30pm	SER-SC Workshop: Review of Epidemiology Applications at the NIH, Developing an Early Career Research Project, and Pathways to Epidemiology
1:00pm - 5:00pm	SER-SC Workshop: Epidemiologic Abstracts - Writing, Reviewing and Transition into Manuscripts
7:00pm - 9:00pm	Welcome Reception
7:30pm - 8:30pm	<b>Poster Session 1</b>

#### Wednesday, June 24, 2009

7:00am - 8:00am	<b>Student Session:</b> Breakfast with the Experts -Pick up tickets at registration desk
7:30am - 5:30pm	Registration
7:30am - 8:30am	Continental Breakfast
8:30am - 10:00am	<b>Opening Session</b> <b>Keynote Address:</b> "Climate Change & Health: Balancing Scientific Rigor With Policy Urgency", Jonathan Patz <b>President's Address:</b> "A Vector for Evidence-Developing-Policy", Malcolm MacLure
10:00am - 10:30am	Coffee Break
10:30am - 12:00pm	Judging - Poster Session 1
12:00pm - 1:30pm	<b>Spotlight Sessions 1</b>
12:15pm - 1:15pm	Lunch (on your own)
12:15pm - 1:15pm	<b>Roundtable Sessions</b> (By ticket only - lunch not included)
12:30pm - 1:30pm	<b>Student Session</b> NIH Update on Electronic Submission and Peer Review: Scott Osborne
1:30pm - 3:00pm	<b>Symposia 1</b>
3:00pm - 3:30pm	Coffee Break
3:30pm - 5:00pm	<b>Spotlight Sessions 2</b>
5:00pm - 6:00pm	<b>Poster Session 2</b>
6:00pm	SER Social Event by the Pool

#### Thursday, June 25, 2009

7:30am - 8:30am	<b>Student Session:</b> Breakfast with the Experts -Pick up tickets at registration desk
7:30am - 5:30pm	Registration
7:30am - 8:30am	Continental Breakfast
8:30am - 10:00am	<b>John C. Cassel Memorial Lecture/Panel:</b> "The Future of Epidemiology" <b>Jaimie Gradus, Student Prize Winner:</b> "The Association between Posttraumatic Stress Disorder and Completed Suicide in the Adult Population of Denmark"
10:00am - 10:30am	Coffee Break
10:30am - 12:00pm	Judging - Poster Session 2
12:00pm - 1:30pm	<b>Spotlight Sessions 3</b>
12:15pm - 1:15pm	Lunch (on your own)
12:15pm - 1:15pm	<b>Roundtable Sessions</b> (By ticket only - lunch not included)
1:30pm - 3:00pm	<b>Student Session</b>
3:00pm - 3:30pm	<b>Symposia 2</b>
3:00pm - 3:30pm	Coffee Break
5:00pm - 6:00pm	<b>Spotlight Sessions 4</b>
6:00pm - 7:00pm	<b>Poster Session 3</b>
7:00pm onward	SER Member Business Meeting Alumni Reunions - Check message board for locations

#### Friday, June 26, 2009

7:15am - 8:30am	SER-Student Caucus Member Business Meeting
7:30am - 12:00pm	Registration
7:30am - 8:30am	Continental Breakfast
8:30am - 10:00am	<b>Symposia 3</b>
10:00am - 10:30am	Coffee Break
10:30am - 12:00pm	Judging - Poster Session 3
12:00pm	<b>Spotlight Sessions 5</b> Meeting Adjourned

### SYMPOSIA

- Aging Populations - New Challenges for Epidemiologic Research - *Christa Scheidt-Nave*
- Assumptions, Assumptions, Assumptions - *George Maldonado*
- Beyond Traditional Designs and Standard Analyses - *Mary Beth Terry and Diana Buist*
- Complex Systems Dynamic Modeling Approaches to Population Health: Promise for a Cells-to-Society Analytic Approach? - *George Kaplan and Sandro Galea*
- "Is Everything Really Relative?" An Argument for Absolute Risks - *Jay Kaufman*
- Matching in Cohort studies: Return of A Long Lost Family Member - *Til Stuermer and Charlie Poole*
- Past, Present and Future Approaches to The Healthy Worker Effect - *J. Morel Symons and David Richardson*
- Practical Bayesian Methods for Epidemiology, *Richard MacLehose*
- Qualitative Methods for Epidemiologic Research? - *Elizabeth Torrone and Irene Yen*
- Studying Causation in Highly Selected Samples: Live Births, Diagnosed Patients, and Trial Participants - *Maria Glymour and Katherine Hoggatt*
- Vitamin D: Is it as Good as it Seems? - *JoAnn Manson*



### Job Placement Notebook

If you have a position you are trying to fill or if you are interested in a new position, the SER meeting is the place to make a match. We are assembling a notebook of available positions, and people in search of new positions.

At SER, you can read the job ads or resumes and speak to the people themselves. Email your resumes or positions by June 12, 2009 to: [terry.sniff@utah.edu](mailto:terry.sniff@utah.edu)

### Alumni Reunions

Alumni reunions are scheduled for Thursday evening. If you would like to have a reunion at the conference hotel, the Hyatt Regency Orange County, please contact:

Molly Thorpe, Convention Services Manager, Phone: 714 740-6057 or Fax 714 971-1721.

## SER ELECTIONS

Ballots for 2009 elections are available online at SER website: <http://www.epiresearch.org>. Deadline for voting is May 28, 2009.

### Vote online now for your chance to win one of three free memberships

President-Elect nominees:

- Ezra Susser, M.D., Dr.P.H. - Professor of Epidemiology, Mailman School of Public Health, Columbia University
- Mary Haan, Dr. P.H., M.P.H., - Professor, Epidemiology, University of Michigan

Member-At-Large nominees:

- George Maldonado, PhD, MSPH - Associate Professor and Chair, SPH FCC, University of Minnesota, School of Public Health
- Andrew Olshan, PhD - Professor and Chair, Dept. of Epidemiology, University of North Carolina Chapel Hill

## SER CANDIDATE BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

Candidate for SER President:

Ezra Susser, M.D., Dr.P.H.

Professor of Epidemiology and Psychiatry

Mailman School of Public Health, Columbia University,  
and New York State Psychiatric Institute

As a psychiatrist and epidemiologist, I began my career with the development and testing of interventions to improve the condition of people with schizophrenia who were homeless. Shortly thereafter my work on schizophrenia branched out to explore developmental origins, sociocultural context, and the interplay of genes and environment. Later I took up these themes for other disorders. I also began to think and write about epidemiology as a discipline and directions it might take. Among the experiences which opened my eyes to the changing panorama of epidemiology as well as to its rich history were editorial roles (at the American Journal of Public Health and the International Journal of Epidemiology), a position as Chair of Epidemiology (1999-2008 Mailman School of Public Health, Columbia University), and creating a textbook for psychiatric epidemiology.

I believe that epidemiologists can take pride in the record of the past decade in particular. We have taken up global health challenges such as the HIV/AIDS pandemic, social inequalities in health, and the aging of populations. We have vastly extended our scope, incorporating genomics and epigenetics, life course epidemiology, and multiple levels of organization including the micro and macro social context. We have continued to improve tools for causal inference as we have confronted setbacks in some arenas where clinical trial results were discrepant with observational studies.

We now need to sustain this process of continual adaptation, and at the same time, to hold on to our core values and to counter centrifugal forces such as funding priorities. Now, more than ever, we need a forum for maintaining a common identity. The SER is the forum for this purpose. The organization plays a critical role in highlighting the emerging challenges that we face together; in influencing the direction of epidemiologic research and education; and integrating students and young faculty.

I would relish the chance to take part in making the SER a "must go" event for more epidemiologists. I recognize that this is a challenge. Epidemiologists have more than one home because we also identify and need to keep up with our particular fields of application. We faced this challenge when we sought to give psychiatric epidemiology a stronger presence in the SER. Over time, though, we persisted and succeeded, and many more psychiatric epidemiologists now feel an affiliation and attend the annual meeting. The SPER is an even better example of a long-run effort which created a strong constituency affiliated with SER. I am ready to put my energy here because epidemiology needs a home to thrive. Last but not least, the prospect of leading an annual meeting is an invigorating charge.



## Candidate for SER President:

Mary Haan, Dr. P.H., M.P.H.  
Professor of Epidemiology  
University of Michigan

I am running for President of SER because I believe SER is one of the most important professional organizations in epidemiology and I would be honored to serve its' members. SER performs important services to our profession, especially to new scientists. Uniquely, SER brings together many students and new graduates with established scientists in a way that orients them to the profession and builds new links for their future. Our new generations of epidemiologists are better trained than ever in methods and biostatistics. At the same time that we teach our new scientists to be good technicians, I think we must appeal to their passion for changing the world. To me, support of new scientists is one of the most important things that SER has fostered and should continue to develop and support. The SER Student Caucus is a unique and valuable part of SER. In my career, I have trained over 25 doctoral students, post-docs and junior faculty and have come to believe this is one of most important things I do.

If elected, I would work to increase the resources and visibility of the new scientist component of SER, I would also like to see more focus on integrative areas such as biomarkers in large scale studies, environmental epidemiology, social factors and applied methods. I would continue to reach out to other organizations such as American College of Epidemiology and to international public health organizations, especially in the Western Hemisphere, to invite their involvement in SER. I, have been a member of SER since 1986 and have attended most annual meetings. I served recently for 3 years on the SER Executive Board as a member at large and on various committees. Thus, I have had a long term commitment to the prosperity and growth of the organization.

Many years after 'discovering' epidemiology, I remain excited about it for 3 reasons: (1) it is practical and applied, because of this, (2) it can help to change the world, and (3) it is interdisciplinary and adaptive: it has a framework of methods and a world view that is flexible enough to meet the constant challenges of a changing environment. (*Witness the new integration of climate sciences with epidemiology in addressing the health consequences of global warming*). Historically, our science grew out of a passion to improve the public's health through intervention in the broader social and physical environment. As epidemiology increasingly gains respect and wider applications as a science, we should support and foster that historical commitment, passion for change and openness to the larger interdisciplinary environment, especially in our young scientists.

I have had a long term commitment to research that focuses primarily on risk factors and prevention of chronic diseases in aging populations, especially in women and racial and ethnic minorities. However, epidemiology has allowed me to go down many interesting paths. I have practiced 'shoe leather' epidemiology doing childhood lead screening programs and cancer cluster investigations in low income, minority populations/neighborhoods. I held a senior research position at Kaiser Permanente Division of Research for 6 years where I began my research into chronic diseases and aging. I was on faculty for 10 years at UC Davis as Director of the Center for Aging and Health in Epidemiology and Preventive Medicine where I began the Sacramento Area Latino Study on Aging (SALSA). SALSA began in 1997 and has been an ongoing cohort study of dementia and diabetes in older Mexican Americans in California's Sacramento Valley. I regard the SALSA as the culmination of my scientific career and the single study that has made the greatest contribution to the public health. It is the only population based study of clinically evaluated dementia in older Mexican Americans. It was one of the first to find a link between type 2 diabetes and dementia, an association that received international commentary and is now widely accepted.

In my current position as a Professor at University of Michigan, Department of Epidemiology (since 2000) I have continued research on aging and have developed a T32 training program in public health and aging, along with a unique curriculum in the epidemiology of aging for masters' and doctoral students. I have worked on the Women's Health Initiative, the Cardiovascular Health Study and a variety of other observational studies and randomized trials. I have been continuously funded by NIH for more than 25 years. I have served on NIH study sections as a permanent and ad hoc member for 10 years. I have held a number of leadership positions at the national, state and local level. (see url for more information)

(<http://www.sph.umich.edu/isrc/faculty/profile.cfm?username=mnhaan>)

## Candidate for Member-At-Large

George Maldonado, MSPH, PhD  
Associate Professor  
University of Minnesota School of Public Health

The Society for Epidemiologic Research is my favorite epidemiologic organization. I have been a member of SER since the early 1980's. I've presented 17 papers (and co-authored 10 others) at SER annual meetings. I've moderated two spotlight sessions and one symposium. I've reviewed abstracts for 13 of the last 14 years. I would be delighted to continue my service to SER in the capacity of an Executive Committee Member at Large.

I consider myself to be a methodologist. My obsession for methodology began in the Spring quarter of the first year of my graduate studies in public health at UCLA. After having taken a total of two introductory classes in biostatistics, and while enrolled in my first epidemiology class, I found myself enrolled in an environmental health class that required me to review the literature on a topic of my choosing in environmental epidemiology. In the process of completing this assignment it became painfully clear to me that I had no idea how to interpret health studies. Nevertheless, I somehow managed to complete the class project. The experience, however, left me with a keen desire to understand how to do what I had just been required to do. Luckily, UCLA was (and continues to be) one of the best places in the world to study epidemiologic methodology. I switched from environmental health to epidemiology, where I had the good fortune to learn epidemiology from Hal Morgenstern and Sander Greenland.

I graduated from UCLA with an MSPH in epidemiology in 1982, worked for a consulting company for a while, then returned to UCLA to complete a PhD in epidemiology (with a minor in biostatistics) in 1990. In 1990 I joined the faculty at the University of Minnesota School of Public Health, where ever since I have studied and taught epidemiologic methods. I helped launch the journal *Epidemiologic Perspectives & Innovations* (EP&I) in 2004, and became co-Editor-in-Chief in 2007.

During my time in public health, important advances have been made in our understanding of how to design, analyze and interpret epidemiologic studies. While I firmly believe in the value of epidemiology as currently practiced, I also firmly believe that there is still room for improvement in the methods that we use. My co-editors and I outlined in a 2004 editorial (<http://www.epi-perspectives.com/content/1/1/2>) what I still believe are some of the methodological needs of our field. In my capacities as a researcher, teacher and journal editor I will most likely spend the rest of my career working toward these methodological improvements—in a sense, trying to enable us all to better do what I was required to do my first Spring quarter in public health. I also believe that we need a different approach to communicating our findings to the lay public; this endeavor will likely take up a fair amount of my remaining time in epidemiology.

## Candidate for Member-At-Large

Andrew F. Olshan, Ph.D.

Dept. of Epidemiology

University of North Carolina—Chapel Hill

It's an honor to be considered as a Candidate for Executive Committee Member at Large. I have been a member of SER since 1984. SER has been my major professional society and meeting event during most of my professional career as an epidemiologist. It would be a sincere pleasure to have the chance to give back to the organization that has provided so much enrichment to my professional life.

Currently, I am Professor and Chair of the Department of Epidemiology, Gillings School of Global Public Health, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. I have been a faculty member at UNC since 1992 and prior to that on the faculty at the University of Pittsburgh. I received my PhD in epidemiology from the University of Washington and completed a postdoctoral fellowship in medical genetics from the University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada. My interests include cancer, pediatric, reproductive, and molecular epidemiology. My research has allowed me to intersect these areas with aspects of environmental, occupational, and genetic epidemiology.

Being chair of one of the largest epidemiology programs in the country has afforded me the opportunity to develop experience and perspective on a wide spectrum of issues related to nature and future of epidemiologic research, training, interdisciplinary collaboration, and policy. I also direct or co-direct two NIH training grants, act as Program Leader for Cancer Epidemiology at the UNC Lineberger Comprehensive Center, direct a cancer center core, and co-direct a laboratory core facility. I have also obtained funding and organized several multidisciplinary scientific meetings. Collectively, these roles have well positioned me to directly contribute to the organization and mission of SER.

It's critical that SER maintain its leadership as the primary professional society for the discipline of epidemiology. It's the organization that brings together the full range of epidemiologic interests including cutting edge methods, substantive area research, applied epidemiology, and training. There are ongoing challenges to the field of epidemiology and to SER. These range from keeping SER as the one meeting that epidemiologists want to regularly attend to ensuring that our training programs remain current with the rapid developments in statistical methods, biology, and knowledge on social and behavioral factors. The development of innovative interdisciplinary research and training systems is required to effectively use knowledge that is emerging at an unprecedented pace. SER plays an important role in exchanging new knowledge and best practices in all of these areas.

As a Member at Large I would relish the opportunity to work with the committee and membership to keep SER vibrant, current, and a critical hub for the breadth of epidemiology.





PO Box 990  
Clearfield, UT 84089



**“SER IS COMMITTED TO KEEPING EPIDEMIOLOGISTS AT THE VANGUARD OF SCIENTIFIC DEVELOPMENTS”**