



# Society for Epidemiologic Research

## SAVE THE DATES

- 2011 –Montreal, QC  
(June 21-24 )  
Congress Year
- 2012 - Minneapolis, MN  
(June 27-30)
- 2013 - Boston, MA  
(June 18-21)

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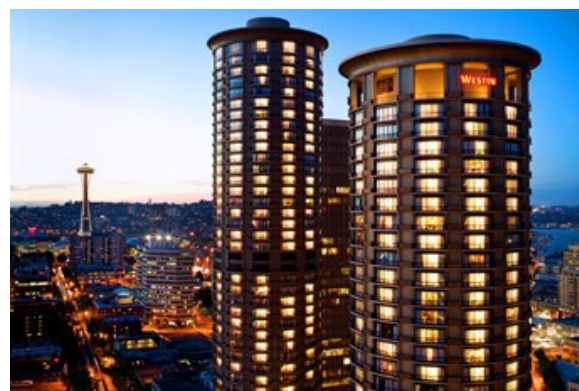
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Spring 2010

## SER's 43rd ANNUAL MEETING

JUNE 23—26, 2010

**The Westin Seattle**  
**1900 5th Avenue**  
**Seattle, Washington**



## MEETING INFORMATION

The 43rd Annual SER Meeting will be held June 23rd (eve) - June 26, 2010. Meeting and accommodations will be at The Westin Seattle. The conference hotel is the front door to downtown shopping, attractions, dining, and vibrant theater district. The hotel is just steps away from Pike Place Market and the Space Needle.

### Room Rate: \$195 single/double occupancy

A personalized website has been created for the Society for Epidemiologic Research Annual Meeting for the dates June 19-30, 2010. Guests can access the site at any time to learn more about the event and to book or modify a reservation.

[www.starwoodmeeting.com/Book/SER2010](http://www.starwoodmeeting.com/Book/SER2010)

**Reservation Deadline: May 27, 2010**

### Parking:

Both self parking and valet parking are available by the hour or as a hotel guest.

### Transportation:

#### Seattle-Tacoma International Airport

- **Taxi Cabs**—(30-40 minutes)  
\$40 one way (average)
- **Downtown Shuttle**—(45 minutes)  
\$11.00 one way or \$18.00 roundtrip
- **City Rail System**—(40 minutes)  
\$2.50 each way

Visit [www.epiresearch.org](http://www.epiresearch.org) for more details regarding parking rates and transportation methods.



**Arthur Reingold, MD**  
University of  
California, Berkeley  
School of Public Health  
Division of  
Epidemiology

***"I can  
comfortably  
report that this  
promises to be  
one of the best  
meetings of our  
Society in many  
years."***

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Now that the final details for our upcoming (June 23-26) meeting in Seattle have largely been decided, I can comfortably report that this promises to be one of the best meetings of our Society in many years. Through the combined efforts of our Executive Committee, outstanding full time staff, Student Caucus, and members (and with a little help from the Seattle weather gods), the venue and the content of this year's meeting are going to make for an intellectually stimulating and fun time for all. We will, of course, have many fine Symposia, Spotlight Sessions, Poster Sessions, Roundtables, and "Meet the Expert" Sessions, as we have all come to expect. Having read many of the over 650 abstracts that were submitted, I can attest to the high quality of what those in attendance will be hearing about in the Spotlight Sessions and reading about/discussing in the Poster Sessions.

In addition, this year's conference will feature 3 pre-conference workshops (Developing an Epidemiologic Research Project; SAS Institute Training; and Directed Acyclic Graphs: A Practical Tool for Reducing Bias and Increasing the Power of your Study) and the increasingly in demand Doctoral Student Workshop (for which we received a record-breaking 96 applications!).

The theme for this year's meeting is "Epidemiology in an Interconnected World," and coming to Seattle to participate in the meeting is guaranteed to help you stay connected. We have been fortunate enough to entice two outstanding speakers to give the highlighted lectures: Lisa Berkman of Harvard will be giving the Cassel Lecture, on the subject of "To Observe or to Intervene: How do We Know when the Time is Right to Intervene?" and Chris Murray of the University of Washington will be giving the Keynote Address, on the subject "The Global Burden of Disease Study-Methods and Empirical Challenges." And, in my Presidential Address, I hope to convince you that you can put your epidemiological skills to good use, even if, like me, you are a bit befuddled by marginal structural models.

SER owes much of its strength and vibrancy to the impact that its annual meeting has on faculty, students, and hard-working epidemiologists scattered across a range of occupational settings in public health agencies, research institutes, health care settings, and the private sector, among others. I urge you to make the time to come to this year's meeting, and promise you that you won't be disappointed-it's going to be terrific!! I look forward to seeing you there.



**Society for  
Epidemiologic  
Research**

**To register for SER's Annual Meeting or receive  
additional information please visit:**



<http://www.epiresearch.org>

**Information will continually be updated  
as it becomes available.**

## SER-SC PRESIDENT'S CORNER

### USING SCIENCE (SURVEYS) TO INFORM POLICY (PROGRAMS)

During our recent SER-Student Caucus (SER-SC) survey we asked our members to identify ways in which we can facilitate their professional development. The most frequent responses were for more didactic workshops focusing on epidemiologic methods, networking opportunities with faculty and other student members, and information regarding applying for post-doctoral fellowships and faculty positions. As we approach the annual meeting in Seattle, the student caucus is planning a series of workshops and seminars congruous with these suggestions. I would like to take this opportunity to tell you about some of these programs.

#### Pre-meeting workshops

The SER-SC has organized three instructional pre-meeting workshops, scheduled for the morning and afternoon of Wednesday, June 23<sup>rd</sup>. Dr. Scott Osborne, a Scientific Review officer at NIH, will present a workshop focused on developing epidemiologic research projects. In their presentation on "Directed Acyclic Graphs: A Practical Tool for Reducing Bias and Increasing the Power of Your Study", Drs. Charlie Poole and Ian Schrier will introduce participants to directed acyclic graphs (DAG) and show how they can be used to determine appropriate sets of variables for restriction, matching, stratification and adjustment in estimating total exposure and treatment effects. Finally, Dr. F. Michael Speed will be presenting an instructional workshop sponsored by the SAS Institute, which will focus on an advanced SAS programming topic, such as using Enterprise Guide with regression, logistic regression, and mixed models. Although we were initially planning on offering the SAS workshop free of charge, we are opting to charge a small registration fee for both this and the DAG workshop in order to raise money to fund eight \$400 travel scholarships. These scholarships are used to facilitate the travel of our student caucus members to the annual meeting, an important objective of the student caucus.

#### Morning sessions

The student caucus aims to promote the networking of student caucus members with faculty and other SC members by continuing to offer our popular Meet the Experts morning roundtables. These sessions give students an opportunity to meet informally with various

faculty members to discuss their interests, work, and to seek advice. These are small groups of ten students and one faculty member, so it is a great opportunity to meet and mingle.

#### Noontime sessions

The results of our survey suggest that students desire more information about careers trajectories and how to achieve them. Given the success of last year's Career Panel, we will again be sponsoring a noontime panel, featuring epidemiologists with experience working in academia, government, and industry, which will give student caucus members an opportunity to learn more about academic and non-academic careers in epidemiology. Understanding that many of our members are advanced doctoral students and post-doctoral fellows, we will also be introducing a panel focusing on applying for post-doctoral fellowships and junior faculty positions.

In the weeks ahead we will provide you with more information about how to register for the programs described above. In the meantime, we appreciate your continued input. Feel free to drop us an email at [ser.sc1@gmail.com](mailto:ser.sc1@gmail.com). Also, if you are interested in learning more about SER-SC, please visit our website at <http://www.epiresearch.org/students/> to read about our organization, mission, and ongoing activities.

On behalf of the SER-SC board, I look forward to seeing you at the Annual Meeting.

Regards,

Arijit Nandi



President,  
SER-Student Caucus  
Harvard University

***"The student caucus aims to promote the networking of student caucus members with faculty and other SC members..."***

## “EPIDEMIOLOGY IN AN INTERCONNECTED WORLD”



### KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Thursday, June 24, 2010

**The Global Burden of Disease Study—Methods and Empirical Challenges**

Christopher J.L. Murray, MD, DPhil

Dr. Christopher Murray received his MD from Harvard and his DPhil in International Health Economics from Oxford. He is the Director of the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation at the University of Washington, and a world-renowned expert on measuring and making projections about the global burden of disease.



### JOHN C. CASSEL MEMORIAL LECTURE

Friday, June 25, 2010

**To Observe or to Intervene: How do we know when the time is right to intervene?**

Lisa Berkman, PhD

Dr. Lisa Berkman is the Director of Harvard Center for Population and Development Studies. She is an internationally-recognized social epidemiologist whose work focuses extensively on social and policy influences on health outcomes.



### SER PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

Thursday, June 24, 2010

**Imperfect Studies in an Imperfect World: the View of an Autodidact**

SER President, Art Reingold, MD

Dr. Arthur Reingold is professor of epidemiology and Associate Dean for Research of the University of California, Berkeley School of Public Health. He holds concurrent appointments in the departments of medicine and epidemiology and biostatistics at the University of California, San Francisco. He has devoted the past 25-plus years to the study and prevention of infectious diseases in the United States, and in various countries in Africa, Asia, and Latin America, initially at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for eight years and then at UC Berkeley since 1987.

## SER ELECTIONS

Ballots for 2010 elections are available online at:  
[www.epiresearch.org](http://www.epiresearch.org).

**Deadline for voting is  
May 24, 2010**

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

### PRESIDENT-ELECT NOMINEES:

**Polly A. Marchbanks, PhD**

Team Leader, Fertility Epidemiology  
Studies, Division of Reproductive Health

Centers for Disease Control and  
Prevention (CDC), Atlanta, GA

**Hal Morgenstern, PhD**

Professor of Epidemiology and  
Environment Health Sciences

University of Michigan School of Public Health

### MEMBER AT LARGE NOMINEES

**Allison Aiello, PhD, MS**

John G. Searle Assistant Professor of Epidemiology  
University of Michigan School of Public Health

**Bernard L. Harlow, PhD**

Mayo Professor of Epidemiology  
Chair, Division of Epidemiology  
and Community Health

University of Minnesota Public Health

## SER PRESIDENT-ELECT CANDIDATE



**Polly A. Marchbanks, PhD**  
**Team Leader, Fertility Epidemiology Studies,**  
**Division of Reproductive Health**  
**Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC),**  
**Atlanta, GA**

SER changed my life. While completing a Ph.D. in epidemiology at the University of Texas School of Public Health, I was a student in SER's 1984 Dissertation Workshop. The critique of my research (a case-control study of risk factors for ectopic pregnancy) was inspiring and, at the ensuing annual meeting, I was recruited to CDC's

Epidemic Intelligence Service (EIS), a two-year post-doctoral program in applied epidemiology. I entered the EIS in 1985 and later became the first woman and first non-physician to serve as Chief of the EIS (1991-95).

While Chief, I led the training of EIS Officers and supervised the administration of over 300 epidemic aid investigations that helped control public health emergencies worldwide, including hantavirus in the southwestern United States; *E. coli* O157:H7 from undercooked hamburgers at a fast food restaurant chain; cryptosporidiosis in the Milwaukee water supply, sickening 400,000 persons; devastation from Hurricane Andrew; and a massive refugee crisis in Burundi.

The central focus of my career has been epidemiologic research in the fields of injuries, sexually transmitted infections, and women's health. I am a Principal Investigator of a multi-center, NIH sponsored, case-control study on oral contraceptives and breast cancer (the NICHD Women's CARE Study). I am a Co-Investigator of a prospective intervention study on contraceptive safety among women with HIV (the PROCESS Study). I conducted multiple analyses from a case-control study examining steroid hormones and risk of breast, ovarian, and endometrial cancers (the CASH Study), and I led linkage of cases to vital statistics for survival analyses. I collaborated on a prospective cohort study which followed women with tubal sterilization for outcomes such as menstrual function, hysterectomy, and regret about the procedure (the CREST Study). My work includes translation of evidence into policy and practice. CDC's Fertility Epidemiology Studies Team, which I have led since 1995, is adapting WHO's evidence-based family planning guidelines for use in the United States. This will constitute the first federally endorsed guidance for family planning in this country. I have taught epidemiology in Zimbabwe, South Africa, Romania, Moldova, the Republic of Georgia, and China, giving me an appreciation of global challenges. I am a Fellow of CDC's WHO Collaborating Center in Reproductive Health; a member of the Oxford Collaborative Groups on breast, ovarian, and endometrial cancers; and an Editor of the *American Journal of Epidemiology*.

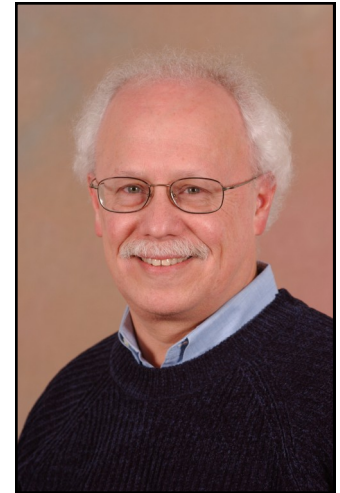
These diverse activities have given me a richly satisfying career, and I am grateful to SER for influencing my life in such a positive way. If elected President, I would continue and strengthen SER's emphasis on early-career professionals, and on high quality annual meetings that provide a forum for sharing the latest in epidemiologic methods and research. Also, I would explore strategies to draw individuals to our membership and annual meetings from the many specialty-foci within our discipline and from all points on the professional maturation spectrum (from the student to the professor emeritus). I would encourage collaborations with other domestic and international epidemiologic organizations, and I would always look for ways to better translate our research into practices that have the power to change people's lives. I have been a member of the SER Executive Committee (1996-99), a Local Host for the SER Annual Meeting (2003), and Coordinator and Chair of the SER Late-Breaker Session for the past 17 years. I would be honored to serve as SER President.



## SER PRESIDENT-ELECT CANDIDATE

**Hal Morgenstern, PhD**

**Professor of Epidemiology and Environmental Health Sciences  
University of Michigan School of Public Health**



I first became a member of SER in 1976 while I was an epidemiology doctoral student at UNC in Chapel Hill. Many have commented how our discipline has changed since the 70s—expanding technologies for processing data and exploring the human genome; new approaches for conducting studies, analyzing data, and modeling disease occurrence; a more sophisticated understanding of causal inference and bias assessment; stricter regulations to protect the rights of human subjects and health information; the emergence of many new research specialties from molecular epidemiology to health disparities to global health; the emergence of new diseases and the reemergence of others; growing basic-science knowledge for understanding disease processes and aging; and more advanced and diverse didactic training for epidemiology students—to highlight a few such changes.

These developments evolved along with the growing influence of researchers and scholars trained in other disciplines, which has made the theory and practice of epidemiology much more multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary over the past few decades. Of course, these changes have kept epidemiology vibrant and exciting, but they also pose challenges for maintaining our disciplinary identity and professional community. I believe that SER has played, and will continue to play, a vital role in this important effort.

My academic and professional background is, to say the least, not typical of contemporary epidemiologists. I received my first professional degree in architecture at MIT in 1969. For the next three years, I worked in the Boston area as an architect during the day and as a community organizer/social worker at night and on weekends. In 1972, I returned to school at UNC and received a master's degree in regional planning, concentrating in mental-health policy and the planning of community mental-health services. Realizing that I was more interested in research than planning, I switched to Epidemiology at UNC where I concentrated on the social epidemiology of cardiovascular disease and received my PhD degree in 1978. A week after defending my dissertation, I started as an assistant professor at Yale where I remained for 7 years. Then I took a tenured position at UCLA and remained there until 2003 when I accepted the position as chair of Epidemiology at the University of Michigan. I stepped down as chair in 2008 and continue to direct the Graduate Summer Session in Epidemiology at UM.

With 32 years in academia, I have extensive research experience in a wide range of diseases and public-health areas, including cardiovascular disease, neuropsychiatric disorders, cancers, musculoskeletal conditions, nonintentional injuries, kidney disease, plus epidemiologic methods, clinical and outcomes research, occupational and environmental health, psychosocial aspects of disease, and use of health care. My current research includes studies of outcomes and practice patterns among hemodialysis patients in 12 countries, the effectiveness of interventions for preventing anterior cruciate ligament (ACL) injuries, and the quality care for patients undergoing arthroscopic surgery. I have co-authored more than 170 articles and an influential 1982 textbook on *Epidemiologic Research: Principles and Quantitative Methods*; and I have received four teaching awards in schools of public health at Yale and UCLA.

My goals as SER president would be to have the organization continue its leadership role in the changing landscape of epidemiology and epidemiologic methods, maintain its strong commitment to the education and training of our students and junior colleagues, and extend its influence to society beyond the activities of scientists and public-health professionals. Regarding the latter goal, I believe we can do more to inform and guide other practitioners and the public about the uses, misuses, and abuses of epidemiologic and statistical methods in the media, the courts, legislative bodies, and other constituencies.

## SER MEMBER AT LARGE CANDIDATE



**Allison Aiello, PhD, MS**  
**John G. Searle Assistant Professor of Public Health**  
**Assistant Professor of Epidemiology**  
**University of Michigan School of Public Health**

Each year, the SER annual meeting sets the bar high by calling for new achievements that address the most pressing challenges in epidemiology. Our most pressing challenges are highly complex; they cross many disciplines and cultures and require innovations in methodology for bridging disciplinary boundaries, human interactions that foster crosscultural exchange, and ultimately, the conceptualization of broad frameworks that can inform health policy decisions and impact health. More than ever, there is a need for communication and cross-dialogue, the mixing of ideas and the minds, and most importantly, the mixing of people with diverse backgrounds but a common interest in epidemiology. SER can serve as a confluence point for meeting this growing demand

for exchange, but to do so effectively, it has to continue to institute specific policies and practices. First, it should continue to champion interdisciplinary sessions that focus on the development of methods that cross boundaries and integrate multi-level information from the many branches of epidemiology. Second, SER must continue to support diversity in epidemiology and work towards increasing participation among underrepresented minorities as SER members and annual conference attendees. Last, SER should bolster its educational efforts for describing the process by which epidemiological research findings inform policy and ultimately improve population health.

I received a MS in Environmental Health Sciences and Engineering from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill-School of Public Health in 1998. From 1998-99 I was an Emerging Infectious Diseases Fellow at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. After graduating with my PhD in Epidemiology from Columbia University in 2003, I was a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Health and Society Scholar at the University of Michigan-School of Public Health for two years where I studied social determinants of health with a focus on infectious diseases. I am currently John G. Searle Assistant Professor of Public Health and Assistant Professor of Epidemiology at the University of Michigan-School of Public Health. My research focuses on socioeconomic and race/ethnic disparities in infectious diseases and the relationship between infection and chronic diseases. In addition, I conduct studies testing the efficacy of infection prevention measures in the community setting. I am devoted to issues of minority recruitment to the sciences as well as promoting diversity as a member of the American College of Epidemiology Minority Affairs Committee and the Society for the Advancement of Chicanos and Native Americans in Science.

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## 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 people themselves. Email your resumes or positions by June 11, 2010 to Sue Bevan ([sbevan@epiresearch.org](mailto:sbevan@epiresearch.org)).

## SER MEMBER AT LARGE CANDIDATE



**Bernard L. Harlow, PhD**  
**Mayo Professor of Epidemiology**  
**Chair, Division of Epidemiology and Community Health**  
**University of Minnesota School of Public Health**

It is a pleasure and honor to be nominated as a candidate for the SER Executive Committee as a Member at Large. I have been a member of SER since my days as a doctoral student when I had the opportunity to participate in the student workshop. That session holds special memories for me. The opportunity to sit around the table with professors whose articles we had been reading and critiquing as the gold standard for epidemiologic research was, to my surprise, not intimidating at all! In fact, it was a seamless give-and-take of ideas, approaches, and pathways regarding analytical methods pertaining to each of our dissertation projects. Not only did I receive valuable advice on how to approach my ongoing analyses, but more importantly, there was a sense of camaraderie that was devoid of the traditional separation that often exists between professors and students.

To me, this is what makes SER such a special organization. Our students and young investigators are not only welcome, but are an integral part of the annual meeting. We, as senior investigators (a nice way of referring to the aging constituency), take great pride in watching our current and former students make the transition to becoming independent investigators. In my view, this is a continuing mission of SER—not only to disseminate new and innovative research and methods, but also to serve as a platform by which we can provide guidance and training to the next generation of public health scientists who will move the field forward.

To that end, I would like to see SER sessions devoted to building bridges between epidemiologists and our colleagues in the other public health, clinical, biological and social sciences. There is a clear mandate to embrace and bring in as collaborators experts in a wide area of disciplines to assist us in understanding the pathogenic mechanism that precedes and charts the course of disease progression. So many of our biological systems are integrated and our external environment plays a role in both mediating and modifying how these systems relate to each other. Because of our methodological expertise, we have the ability to orchestrate interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary collaborative ventures.

### Biographical – Personal Data

I received my epidemiology MPH under the tutelage of Drs. Leonard Schuman and Jack Mandel at the University of Minnesota, and Ph.D. with mentorship and guidance from Drs. Noel Weiss and Janet Daling at the University of Washington. The next 18 years were spent at Brigham and Women's Hospital/Harvard Medical School where I co-founded with my mentor, Dr. Daniel Cramer, the Obstetrics and Gynecology Epidemiology Center. During that period my research focused on a wide spectrum of women's health issues including ovarian cancer, early menopause, and unexplained vulvar pain disorders. In particular, I have had a long standing interest in how psychiatric morbidity influences and occurs as a consequence of women's reproductive and gynecologic conditions across the reproductive lifespan. In 2005, I was invited to Chair the Division of Epidemiology and Community Health at the University of Minnesota where Dr. Leonard Schuman first inspired in me the understanding, magnitude, and power of epidemiologic research. I am proud and humbled to hold that position today.



## SYMPOSIA

- Jay Kaufman, McGill University and Marshall Joffe, University of Pennsylvania - *Causal Methods in Health Disparities Epidemiology*
- Jay Kaufman, McGill University and Miguel Hernán, Harvard University (sponsored by Epidemiology Journal) - *The New World of Data Linkages in Clinical Epidemiology: Are We Being Brave or Foolhardy*
- Margaret (Peggy) Honein, CDC and Justin Lessler - *2009 Pandemic Influenza A (H1N1) Virus Infection or N=6 billion. H1N1: The Largest Natural Experiment of our Lifetime?*
- Enrique Schisterman, NICHD - NIH - *Unnatural Selection: The Survival of the Fittest*
- Tyler VanderWeele, Harvard University - *Causal Diagrams for Measurement Error*
- Nancy Hessel, UN San Francisco - *Rethinking the Role of Randomized Control Trials in HIV Research*
- Roland J Thorpe, Hopkins Center - *Health Disparities Solutions Race, Socioeconomic Position, and Health: Pathways to Understanding Disparities*
- Sheryl Magzamen, University of Washington - *Methodological Challenges in Air Pollution Epidemiology*
- Whitney Robinson, University of Michigan - *Neighborhood Effects on Obesity and Physical Activity: Novel Study Designs for Hard-to-Study Questions*
- Danica Marinac-Dabic, CDRH / FDA - *Application of Methodological Advancements and Challenges in Medical Device Research: What Can We Do, and What Can We Do better?*
- Jacky Jennings, Johns Hopkins School of Medicine - *Complex and Multilevel Approaches to Understanding Risks for Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs)*
- Daniel Westreich, UNC - *Models and Inference for Infectious Diseases*
- Polly Newcomb, Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center - *Why Cancer Screening is Making the Epidemiologist's Job Even Harder*
- David Shoham, Loyola University - *Social Networks and Health*

**Visit [www.epiresearch.org](http://www.epiresearch.org) for more details  
and updated information!  
We look forward to seeing you in Seattle!**



*Society for  
Epidemiologic  
Research*

P.O. Box 990  
Clearfield, Utah 84089

(p) 801.525.0231  
(f) 801.525.6549

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