SER-CSEB MEETING KEYNOTE SPEAKER
The SER-CSEB Joint Meeting keynote address will be given by: George Davey-Smith, M.A., M.Sc, M.D. FFPHM, Professor of Clinical Epidemiology, Head of Epidemiology Division University of Bristol, Department of Social Medicine, Honorary Professor of Public Health, University of Glasgow. The keynote address is entitled: “Genes and Other Instruments: Strengthening Causal Inferences from Observational Studies”

2005 SER STUDENT WORKSHOP FACULTY

Irva Hertz-Picciotto (Chair)
Stephen Cole, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Medicine
Nancy Sonnenfeld, RTI International
Ezra Susser, Columbia University-Mailman School of Public Health
Shalom Wacholder, NIH/NCI

ABRAHAM LILIENFELD STUDENT PRIZE WINNER
Suzanne Gilboa, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, has been selected for the Abraham Lilienfeld Student Prize Paper. Her paper is entitled: "Relationship between Ambient Air Quality and Selected Birth Defects, Seven County Study, Texas, 1997-2000"

JOB PLACEMENT NOTEBOOKS
If you have a job opening you are trying to fill or if you are interested in a new position, the SER-CSEB joint meeting is the place to make a match. We are assembling notebooks of available positions, and people in search of new positions. At the meeting, you can read the job ads or resumes, and speak to the people themselves. Mail your resumes or positions to Sherilen Clark, Public Health, 375 Chipeta Way, Suite A, Salt Lake City, Utah 84108, or e-mail Sherilen Clark at sherilen.clark@hsc.utah.edu.

SER ELECTIONS
Ballots for this year’s elections are available online at SER's website: http://www.epiresearch.org. The two nominees for President-Elect are Graham A. Colditz and Michael B. Bracken. There are two Member-at-Large positions and the nominees are Irene H. Yen, Noel S. Weiss, Mary N. Haan and Harry A. Guess. A brief biographical sketch of each candidate is included with this newsletter. Please vote for one candidate for president-elect and for two candidates for member-at-
CONFERENCE WEB SITE
Don’t forget – you can register for the meeting, look through the program, or find out about Toronto attractions and entertainment at the meeting web site. Check it out at: http://www.ser-cseb 2005.org

REGARDING PRESENTATIONS
We schedule sessions carefully to avoid conflicts to the extent possible and to balance the distribution of topics across the meeting, but we are unable to provide schedule preferences. Please make sure that you have an alternate presenter in case you are unable to participate in the session assigned to you.

SER-CSEB LATE-BREAKER SESSIONS
This session will provide a forum for the presentation of investigations, analyses, and methods that were conceived, conducted, or completed so recently that authors could not meet the deadline for regular abstract submission. This session is fun because it is eclectic (diverse topics are presented), the topics are timely, and the session moves at a rapid pace (presentations are five minutes each and five minutes for questions). The deadline for submission was February 4.

PRELIMINARY PROGRAM
This year the preliminary program is online for you to view. You can see the up-to-date program any time. If you do not have access to the Internet, you may call (801) 587-7721 and request a copy. Access the preliminary program at: http://www.ser-cseb2005.org/prelim_program.pdf

POSTER SESSIONS
The meeting will begin with the first poster session on the evening of June 27th. Posters are a primary venue for presentation of the annual meeting’s highest quality research findings. Posters are hung each night before the session and will be on display for almost 24 hours. A panel of judges will select the three best posters from each session. Winners will be publicly recognized at the end of each session and receive a gift certificate from Oxford University Press.

2005 LOCAL HOST
SER would like to thank the local organizing committee for the joint meeting of the SER-CSEB in Toronto which was convened by the Institute for Work & Health. Members of the committee include Cam Mustard, John McLaughlin, Kristan Aronson, Jacob Etches and Lorraine Marrett.

SYMPOSIA
Symposia provide the opportunity to hear the experts express opposing views. The following symposia are scheduled:
- Bias modeling - Conflicting Perspectives - 2 parts, Sander Greenland
- Can Epidemiology Detect RR's below 1.1? - The Story of Air pollution and CVD, Jon Samet and Aaron Cohen
- Changing Face of Epidemiology: Genomic and Proteomics in Epidemiology: Treasure Trove or “High-Tech Stamp Collecting”? Allen Wilcox and David Hunter
- Declining Rates of Participation in Population-Based Research: How Bad is the Problem and What is the Solution, Patricia Hartge
- Did Epidemiology Delay Progress in Cervical Cancer Prevention? Eduardo Franco
- Environmental Burden of Occupational Disease, Jack Siemiatycki
- Epidemiologic Research in the Face of a Growing Obesity Epidemic, John Potter and Dale Sandler
- Global HIV Epidemiology, Cate Hanks
- Important Advances in the Epidemiology of Neurodegenerative Diseases, Christina Wolfson
- Multiple Comparisons and Multiple Inferences, Sholom Wacholder
- Pharmaco-Epidemiology, Samy Suissa
- Psychiatric Epidemiology: Searching for Causes, Ezra Susser
- Quantifying the Relationship of Physical Activity to Health, Mike Pratt
- Radiation and Cancer, Dan Krewski
- SARS - Epidemiologic Perspective, Arthur Reingold
- Space, Geography, Neighborhoods and Social Epidemiology: New Methods and Concepts, Patricia O'Campo
- The Human Genome and Epidemiology, Muin J. Khoury
- The Women's Health Initiative, Hormone Therapy, and Cardiovascular Disease: The End of Observational Research or a New Beginning? Lynn Rosenberg
- What's New with the Old: The Epidemiology of Aging, Tamara Harris

CONTRIBUTED PAPER SESSIONS
These sessions are organized and moderated by experienced epidemiologists. The following are the topics and the moderators scheduled:
- Associations of Occupational and Environmental Exposures with Cancer, Maureen Hatch
Bias in Regression Analysis of Epidemiological Data, Trivellore Raghunathan

Bias: Methodological and Practical Considerations, Yutaka Yasui

Cancer Screening, Pam Marcus

Eclectic Methodology: Rigor vs Revelance in Epidemiology applied to Policy, Malcolm Maclure

Environmental Epidemiology, Matthew Longnecker

Epidemiologic Insights into Cognitive Decline in Older Persons, Jay Magaziner

Epidemiology and Policy, Michel Ibrahim

Epidemiology of Substance Use and Its Consequences, Sandro Galea

Ethnicity, Racial Bias, and Health Services, Jean-Francois Boivin

Exposure Assessment in Occupational Epidemiology: From Using the Best Current Methods to Future Methods, Claire Infante-Rivard

Food- and Index-based Measures of Dietary Intake: Applications in Nutritional Epidemiology, Marilyn Tseng

From Lifestyle to Cancer: Are There Common Paths for Multiple Cancers?, Gail Eyssen

Infectious Diseases: First Discovery, then Action, Theresa Gyorkos

Issues in Women's Health, Julie Buring

Life Course Studies of Psychiatric Disorders: Critical Times and Cumulative Effects, Ezra Susser

Long-Term Effects of Early-Life Exposures, Mark Klebanoff

Modeling Issues in Epidemiology, Ben Armstrong

Moms & Babes: Predictors of Adverse Pregnancy Outcomes, Irvan Hertz-Picciotto

Neurodegenerative, Christina Wolfson

Perinatal Determinants of Pediatric Outcomes, K.S. Joseph

(Contributed Paper Sessions continued)

Potential Causes and Intermediates in the Causal Pathway to Female Cancers, Kristan Aronson

Quantifying the Impact of Study Imperfections on Study Results, George Maldonado

Race and Class Health Inequalities in Canada and the US, Irene Yen and Patricia O’Campo

Race/Ethnicity and CVD Risk Factors, Treatment and Outcome, Murray Mittleman

Reaching the Hard-to-Reach and Addressing the Unmentionable in Behavioral Epidemiology, Lise Gauvin

Recent Advances in the Epidemiology of Childhood Leukemia, Patricia Buffler

Shedding Light on Gene-Environment Interactions, John McLaughlin

Social Epidemiology: Life Course Perspectives, John Lynch

Socioeconomic Status and Cancer, Patti Groome

ROUNDTABLES

Roundtables are led by members of the 2005 faculty. Ten complimentary tickets per table are available. Two roundtable sessions will be held, with each session having 4-5 roundtables. Tickets can be registered for in advance at: http://www.epiresearch.org/ser-cseb/regform.html or you can email meeting@epiresearch.org. Remaining tickets will be available the morning of the session.

ALUMNI REUNIONS

A number of universities have organized successful receptions for faculty, alumni, and students at past meetings. To schedule a reunion at the conference hotel, the Westin Harbour Castle in Toronto, Ontario, Canada, please contact Karen Bannerman, CMP to make arrangements: phone (416) 361-7412 or email karen.bannerman@westin.com.

ACCOMODATIONS

The SER-CSEB Joint Meeting is being held June 27(eve) to 30, 2005 at the Westin Harbour Castle in Toronto, ONT, Canada. The hotel is located at The Westin Harbour Castle, 1 Harbour Square, Toronto. Reservations: Phone: (416) 869 1600 Fax: (416) 869 0573. The room rate secured for SER is $225 Canadian per night (approx $183 US), single/double occupancy. Rooms will be held at that rate until June 3rd. When reserving your room please remember to ask for the SER-CSEB conference rate.

ACE WORKSHOPS

Eight workshops will be offered this year on Monday, June 27th. From several half day offerings to full day workshops, this year’s ACE pre-conference sessions have something for everyone. To register for these workshops go to: http://www.ser-cseb2005.org/aceflyer.pdf
1. (Full day) An Introduction to Bayesian Methods in Epidemiology
2. (Full or half day) Introduction to MultiLevel Analysis in Epidemiology and Public Health
3. (Full or half day) Applying Quantitative Sensitivity Analysis to Epidemiologic Data
4. (Full or half day) Molecular Genetics for Epidemiologists: From the Basics to the Bleeding Edge
5. (Half day - AM) Mentor or Minotaur: A Workshop on Mentoring for Both Sides
6. (Half day - AM) Epidemiology of Disasters and Their Consequences: History, Methods and Research Directions
7. (Half day - PM) Integrating Science and Public Policy: An Introduction to Risk Assessment for Epidemiologists
8. (Half day - PM) Pharmacoepidemiology: The Practice of Epidemiology in the Pharmaceutical Industry

Student Sessions:
- What Do Editors Look for in a Manuscript: A Chat with AJE Editors
- Careers in Epidemiology: A Panel Discussion
- Breakfast Roundtables with the Experts
- How to Write and Review an Abstract
- Student Caucus Business Meeting and Social

ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER
This newsletter has been sent either electronically or via US mail to all SER members, even if they have not renewed their membership for 2005. However, any future correspondence will be mailed only to paid SER members. Please contact Jacqueline Brakey with any questions. Telephone: (801) 525-0231; email: membership@epiresearch.org

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION
Candidate for SER President:

Graham A. Colditz, MD DrPH, FAFPHM
Professor of Medicine, Channing Laboratory
Brigham and Women's Hospital and Harvard Medical School

During my medical training at the University of Queensland, Australia, I became interested in medical education and health policy. After a range of research experiences in the Department of Social and Preventive Medicine, I explored options for training in prevention. Harvard School of Public Health offered a suitable program and on the suggestion of Chris Bain I enrolled requesting Olli Mietinen as my MPH advisor and changing to Walter Willett for my doctoral thesis advisor.

My research has focused on risk factors for chronic disease among women and I have maintained a strong interest in application of research finding to broader public health action. This work has included collaborations with economists, behavior scientists, and most recently the development of web-based tools for risk assessment (www.yourdiseaserisk.harvard.edu).

Underlying these interests is my commitment to apply our research for prevention and population benefit. I am concerned that we are not always working to train our next generation of researchers with the skills that they will be require for successful careers as collaborative prevention scientists. As President of the Society, I will work to bring our awareness of these needs to the membership and to build on linkages with NCI and other institutes at NIH as issues of data sharing and collaborative research reshape the funding and structure of our activities.

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION
Candidate for SER President:

Michael B. Bracken, PhD, MPH
Susan Dwight Bliss Professor of Epidemiology
Yale University

My career in epidemiology started in 1968, coincidentally the year SER was founded. At my first annual meeting, I recall a small room full of men in blue suits. Thankfully, the SER membership profile has changed (as, less thankfully, has my own) but the mission remains the same. SER has always focused on promoting epidemiology methods and high quality research, as advanced
through AJE, the annual meeting and student workshops. Indeed, support of students has been a continuing thread for almost 40 years. All of this must continue to be nourished.

The future relevance of epidemiology was famously questioned a decade ago. Particularly for the weekly litany of contradictory news accounts of exposure and disease, which seem only to immunize a skeptical public to epidemiological research. The basis for that concern has only increased in recent years. To be sure, we have difficult methodology problems to resolve. We are already immersed in a floodgate of candidate polymorphisms that will require much of the older epidemiology to be examined afresh while avoiding pitfalls of multiple comparisons and possibly requiring entirely new paradigms of investigation such as genome wide or “hypothesis free” strategies. There are other methodological insights still to be incorporated into the corpus of epidemiology - some from the world of evidence based medicine: how to systematically review bodies of literature in an unbiased fashion, how to construct appropriate forms of meta-analysis and regression, and how to identify and avoid publication and other biases when synthesizing bodies of evidence. These are exciting times for SER and its primary mission of nurturing epidemiology methods. The annual meeting and Journal must continue to foster discussion and development of these topics.

There are other daunting problems facing the conduct of epidemiologic research, not least related to the new HPPA regulations. It would not be wise for SER to try and work on these policy related issues single handedly and so alliances with our other epidemiology organizations need to be further enhanced and nurtured. In this regard, I support increasing the frequency of holding combined epidemiology meetings.

I am the Susan Dwight Bliss Professor of Epidemiology at Yale University where I formerly served as Head of Chronic Disease Epidemiology. I Co-Direct the Yale Center for Perinatal, Pediatric and Environmental Epidemiology. I have an interest in a range of research designs, from large simple RCTs (Lancet 2004), cluster design RCTs (BMJ 2004) to the design and analysis of genome-wide association studies (Science 2005). When formerly President of the American College of Epidemiology, I tried to facilitate communication among our epidemiology societies and was privileged to Chair the Planning Committee for the 2001 Congress of Epidemiology in Toronto. The SER has grown and flourished under outstanding leadership and it would be an honor to serve as your next President.
BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION
Candidate for Executive Committee Member at Large:

Harry A. Guess, MD, PhD
Professor, Epidemiology Department
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

I have been a member of SER since the early 1980’s. My main area of research is pharmacoepidemiology. Over the past decade there have been impressive developments in epidemiologic methodology that have brought about improvements in both the design and analysis of epidemiologic studies. Genetic and molecular markers are increasingly being used in pharmacoepidemiology. At the same time there has been a growing recognition of the importance of improving the safety monitoring of drugs and vaccines both before and after marketing approval. Interest in pharmacoepidemiology on the part of students is increasing. As the students begin to undertake research in pharmacoepidemiology they learn that to design such studies they need to learn methods in areas of epidemiology related to the disease outcomes they are studying. In other words, students come to learn that to conduct research in pharmacoepidemiology they also need to understand other areas of epidemiology. SER is an epidemiologic organization that spans all the subdisciplines and serves as a unifying professional organization for all epidemiologists. I would welcome the opportunity to serve as a member-at-large on the Executive Committee and to help our organization continue to meet the needs of all epidemiologists. I am especially interested in promoting SER activities that serve the needs of students and that help them both in their education and in their career planning.

On a personal note, I received my PhD in Mathematics from Stanford University in 1972 after spending 5 years in the Navy. My general area of specialization was applied probability and my dissertation research was in mathematical population genetics. I subsequently worked at NIH in the Biometry Branch of the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) in mathematical population genetics and environmental risk assessment. I received my MD from the University of Miami, completed a residency in Pediatrics at UNC, and did elective work in epidemiology at UNC School of Public Health. I am board certified in Pediatrics and in Public Health and General Preventive Medicine. From 1982 to 2003 I worked at Merck Research Laboratories where I founded the Epidemiology Department and became Vice President for Epidemiology. I retired from Merck in 2003 and joined the faculty at UNC, where I had been teaching as an adjunct faculty member in epidemiology. I have taught the main pharmacoepidemiology course at UNC since 1988 and have served as dissertation committee chairman for 11 students, all of whom completed their doctorates in epidemiology. I am a Fellow in the American College of Preventive Medicine, the American Academy of Pediatrics, and the American College of Epidemiology and am currently on the Editorial Consultant Board of the Journal of Clinical Epidemiology and the Editorial Board of Epidemiology.

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION
Candidate for Executive Committee Member at Large:

Irene H. Yen, PhD, MPH
Department of Medicine
University of California, San Francisco

I have been a member of SER since 1996 and have regularly attended the meetings since that time. My research interests are in the influence of place on health and the social determinants of health. For six years (2000-2005), Pat O’Campo and I have co-chaired a spotlight session at SER, “Race and Class Inequalities in Health.” During this period the presence of social epidemiology topics has been a constant at SER meetings. If I am elected to the executive board, I would work to continue this tradition. Specific topics that would be of interest include: race and genetics, social theory, epidemiology and social policy. I consider SER my primary professional organization.

I currently work at the University of California, San Francisco, with an appointment in the Division of General Internal Medicine and as an affiliated investigator with the Center on Aging in Diverse Communities (CADC). I have funding from the CADC to create a measurement tool to assess childhood social and economic circumstances for older adults retrospectively. I conducted intensive interviews of people from a broad range of economic and ethnic backgrounds, identified key themes from the transcript data, and have created an item pool of survey questions informed by the thematic analysis.

I have a masters in public health in epidemiology and biostatistics and a PhD in epidemiology, both from the University of California, Berkeley. My undergraduate degrees were in medical microbiology and political science.
BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION
Candidate for Executive Committee Member at Large:

Mary N. Haan, DrPH, MPH
Professor of Epidemiology
University of Michigan

Many years after discovering epidemiology I remain as excited as ever about its potential for 4 reasons: (1) it is interdisciplinary, (2) it is practical, (3) it can change the world through preventing diseases, (4) it has a framework of methods and a world view that is flexible enough to meet the constant challenges of a changing environment. Historically, epidemiologic science grew out of a passion to improve health and prevent disease through intervention in the broader social and physical environment. As epidemiology gains increasing respect as a technical science, we should also maintain that commitment and passion. Our next generation is better trained than ever in methods and biostatistics. At the same time that we train our new scientists to be good technicians, we must, at the same time, appeal to their passion for changing the world as we train them to think about the substance of science.

Epidemiology has led me down many interesting paths. This has included field and analytic work for the California State Health Department, a senior research position at Kaiser Permanente Division of Research, nearly 10 years at UC Davis as Director of the Center for Aging and Health in Epidemiology and Preventive Medicine and my current position as a Professor at University of Michigan, Department of Epidemiology. I have been continuously funded by NIH for nearly 20 years. I have served on NIH study sections as a permanent member for 5 years and as ad hoc reviewer for another 5. My research focuses primarily on chronic diseases in older populations, especially in women and in racial and ethnic minorities. My flagship study is an 11-year cohort study of dementia and diabetes in older Mexican Americans living in the California Central Valley.

The National Academy of Sciences recently released a 300+ page report detailing the need for interdisciplinary research in academia, government and private industry. NAS has also recommended IDR training in the undergraduate, graduate and postdoctoral years. Epidemiology is by nature an interdisciplinary science: in my own work, there are social scientists, geriatricians, geneticists, infectious disease specialists, neurologists, neuropsychologists, biochemists, psychiatrists and endocrinologists. As a science, we are well positioned to take advantage of this trend both in supporting institutional change that will promote IDR and in our epidemiology training programs. The growing number of epidemiologic studies that incorporate biologic and social mechanisms is an example of the enormous value of IDR.

As scientists, we face increasing challenges from federal policies about human subjects research. These changes often pose an increased burden for researchers without necessarily protecting human subjects. As Chair of the Research Policies Committee for the Office of the Vice President for Research at UM, I am leading an effort to review the implementation of these policies and find ways to reduce these burdens. I am also working with the American College of Epidemiology Policy Committee on this issue.

As an organization, SER can promote the values of epidemiologic science through meeting topics that emphasize (1) values and examples of interdisciplinary research, (2) successful examples of epidemiologic research in applied settings, (3) innovations in disease prevention (4) innovations in methodology and biostatistics. SER can work at the national level to assess the impact of federal human subjects research policy on our science and to work with other organizations to improve protection while reducing the potential ‘chilling’ effect of these policies on the growth and health of our discipline.
BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION
Candidate for Executive Committee Member at Large:

Noel S. Weiss, MD, MPH, DrPH,
Professor of Epidemiology
University of Washington

I attended my first Society for Epidemiologic Research annual meeting in 1971, just a few years after the organization had begun. It was a pretty small conference then, small enough that a newcomer to the field such as myself could make a presentation to the plenary session. While my talk wasn’t all that well received by the formal discussant assigned to comment on it (not that I keep track of all these old slights!), I was impressed enough with the organization to join, and I have attended about half of the subsequent SER annual meetings.

In addition to being able to speak with friends in the field who aren’t located in Seattle (and some who are located in Seattle who I don’t get to see all that often), I go to these meetings because they are perfect for a person like me who has an interest in the application of epidemiologic methods to a variety of subject areas. I do not attend the meetings of the SER to learn about the latest in research in the molecular epidemiology of cancer, for example (though occasionally that is just what is presented), as I might in meetings run by the American Association for Cancer Research. Rather, I go to hear how epidemiologists approach a problem, and to be stimulated to think about how I might have done so had I been in their shoes. In the 1980’s, for example, listening to a presentation on the epidemiology of ectopic pregnancy, I was led to ponder the questions that could be addressed using different sorts of control groups when studying the causes of this condition. Ultimately, this led me to write an article on the subject. Then, just last year, in response to a question I received on a talk I gave on the merits and demerits of randomized controlled trials, I was stimulated to examine an area I had not been aware of, i.e. analytic strategies for dealing with non adherence to the assigned treatment regimen in such a way as to not lose validity. Consideration of this question, and of the settings under which such strategies could be employed, have now been incorporated into my teaching and will be incorporated into the next edition of my book on clinical epidemiology.

The foregoing describes why I value the Society for Epidemiologic Research, and in particular its annual meetings. By serving as a member of the organization’s Executive Committee, I’ll be able to do a little to repay it for the benefits I’ve obtained.

SAVE THE DATE!!! June 21-June 26, 2006
SEATTLE, WASHINGTON

From June 21 through 24, 2006, epidemiologists representing the breadth of areas addressed by epidemiology will meet together at the Seattle Westin Hotel. The 2006 Congress is sponsored, co-sponsored and supported by 19 national and international organizations that have epidemiology as a primary focus. The plenary sessions will address both the breadth and depth of epidemiology. Working titles are: “Meeting Public Health Problems with Epidemiology”; “Epidemiology and Public Health Policy”; and “Global Health Present and Future,” with examples ranging from cervical cancer to depression to tuberculosis. In addition, each co-sponsoring organization will be presenting a symposium reflecting their focus area, and other groups and individuals are encouraged to submit symposium proposals. Nine hundred and sixty poster presentations, pre-meeting workshops and special events for students are planned. This is a large undertaking, and the program committee welcomes assistance! Volunteers to assist in reviewing abstracts, poster judging, planning breakfast roundtables and social events are welcome. For more information, abstract deadlines, to submit a symposium topic, or to volunteer to assist in Congress planning see our website: http://www.epicongress2006.org/
SOCIETY FOR EPIDEMIOLOGIC RESEARCH

BALLOT

2005 ELECTIONS

Ballot 2005

Office of President -Elect: (vote for 1)

☐ Graham A. Colditz

☐ Michael B. Bracken

Office of Member-at -Large (vote for 2)

☐ Harry A. Guess

☐ Irene H. Yen

☐ Mary N. Haan

☐ Noel Weiss

Deadline for receipt of ballot – May 27, 2005

Please mark your choices and mail to: Public Health Programs, Attn: Sherilen Clark, 375 Chipeta Way, Suite A, Salt Lake City, Utah 84108 or fax (801) 587-3353, or go to our website at http://www.epiresearch.org and follow instructions to cast your ballot. Candidate statements with a brief biographical sketch are included with this newsletter. Thank you!