ACE Publications Committee Annual Report – June 2016

The Publications Committee (PC) agenda for the operating year October 2015 through June 2016 represents an abbreviated period with fewer initiatives due to the 2016 Epidemiology Congress of the Americas. Specifically, the usual workstreams shown in grey are not be required given the fact that these activities are covered by committees convened by the Congress.

1. Coordinate the annual meeting poster session
2. Content development for the “From the ACE Pages” section of Annals of Epidemiology [Edwin van Wijngaarden – Lead]
3. Work with the editor and publisher to improve the impact of Annals of Epidemiology [Eyal Oren – Lead]
4. Support the awards committee through selection of the best paper published in Annals in 2015 [Macarius Donneyang – Lead]
5. Support the Program committee by organizing a Brown Bag Workshop at the annual meeting related to publication issues

I will report briefly on the progress of each of these active workstreams with a note that all members of the Publications Committee did sign up and review abstracts submitted for Epicongress 2016, despite this workstream not being “live” this operating year.

2. Content development for the “From the ACE Pages” section of Annals of Epidemiology

Subcommittee members are: Edwin van Wijngaarden (Lead), Tina Hoang (Liaison to Publisher), Kate Williamson (Liaison to Publisher), Michael Cook, Victor Cardenas (BOD Representative)

Overview of activities: The period from October 2015 to June 2016 has been focused on improving the number of high-quality publications in the College pages. Our specific initiatives during this period have included: (#1) reviewing and publishing submitted manuscripts, and (#2) identifying potential contributions for the College pages. We will continue these initiatives for the remainder of the year, along with another initiative: (#3) raising awareness of “From the ACE” papers among potential readers. These initiatives are a continuation of the work started by the committee in the previous year. Descriptions of our activities are provided below.

Initiative #1: Reviewing and publishing manuscripts: Since October 2015, our sub-committee has reviewed four papers. As part of this process, we have been aiming to maintain a turn-around time from “receipt of submission” to “notification of first decision to authors” of less than 7 business days. We have not always succeeded to maintain this quick turn-around due to the holidays and competing demands among committee members. We anticipate that we will be identifying new committee members soon which will help with ensuring a quick response time. The four papers have been or are in the process of publication. Table 1 provides a detailed summary of all articles submitted to the College pages since October 2015.
Table 1. Summary of articles submitted to “From the ACE” (from 10/1/2015 to 6/1/2016)

(a) Accepted manuscripts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Author(s)</th>
<th>Article</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Cole, SR</td>
<td>Nondogmatism</td>
<td>Based on remarks upon receipt of the 2015 ACE award for outstanding contributions to epidemiology</td>
<td>Published</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Salerno, J; Hlaing, WM; Weiser, T; Striley, C; Schwartz, L; Angulo, FJ; Neslund, VS</td>
<td>Emergency Response in a Global Health Crisis: Epidemiology, Ethics, and Ebola Application</td>
<td>Based on plenary session at ACE 2015 meeting</td>
<td>Published</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Marmot, M; Bell, R</td>
<td>Social Inequalities in Health: a proper concern of epidemiology</td>
<td>Based on plenary session at ACE 2015 meeting</td>
<td>Published</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Perry, M</td>
<td>The Role of Epidemiologists in Funding Biomedical Education and Research</td>
<td>Based on her ACE Presidential presentation at ACE 2015 meeting</td>
<td>Accepted</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Initiative #2: Identifying potential contributions for the pages:** In the hopes of improving the number of articles moving from the “idea stage” to “actual submission”, we continued our proactive approach this year in identifying potential contributions for the College pages with a specific emphasis on commissioning high-quality material that was already well-formulated for presentation or publication in a non-journal format (e.g., ACE Annual Meeting, ACE website and ACE President’s monthly notes). Our logic behind this strategy was that prepared material on a specific topic could be more quickly and easily transformed by authors into high quality publications for the College pages, while ensuring a close alignment between the ACE pages and themes running within the College. In addition to the publications shown in Table 1, the Ethics Committee is currently drafting an update to the ACE Ethical Guidelines that we hope to publish in the near future in the College Pages with an accompanying commentary/editorial. We have also been granted approval by the Organizing Committee for the 2016 Epidemiology Congress of the Americas to approach conference contributors to ask whether they may be interested in publishing an associated article/commentary in the College pages within Annals of Epidemiology. We will shortly email solicitations that have been selected.

**Initiative #3: Raising visibility of “From the ACE” papers among potential readers:** We will continue to work on increasing readership of the College pages through maintaining the collection of “From the ACE” papers on the Annals website ([http://www.annalsofepidemiology.org/content/aep-from-the-ace](http://www.annalsofepidemiology.org/content/aep-from-the-ace)) and advertising recently published papers through ACE related media (Facebook and President’s Monthly Notes). The manuscripts are available open access from the website.
3. **Work with the editor and publisher to improve the impact of Annals of Epidemiology**

The subcommittee (Eyal Oren (Lead), Michael Cook, Rich Rothenberg, Cara Frankenfeld, Kate Williamson, and Tina Hoang) has worked on two major initiatives, and discussed several other *Annals of Epidemiology* matters related to ACE.

1. The subcommittee continues to advertise the call for symposia. **Board members are asked to consider submitting a topic with guest editor suggestions to Annals as well advertising this opportunity to other ACE members** ([http://www.annalsofepidemiology.org/content/aep-call-for-symposia-topics](http://www.annalsofepidemiology.org/content/aep-call-for-symposia-topics)). A journal symposium consists of 6 to 12 papers focused on a particular theme. This format creates an outlet for in-depth presentation of topical and methodological content by invited experts. Journal symposia give readers a comprehensive, timely update on recent advances. Symposium ideas can be on variety of epidemiological topics, but should be of interest to ACE members and the broader epidemiology community. Previous symposia topics include:
   - Risks and Benefits of Moderate Alcohol Consumption (May 2007, Guest Edited by R. Curtis Ellison),
   - Epidemiology of Vitamin D and Cancer (July 2009, Guest Edited by Cedric F. Garland)
   - Causes of Cancer (March 2015, Guest Edited by David Schottenfeld).
   - Microbiome (May 2016, Guest Edited by Betsy Foxman & Sandra Melnick Seitz)

   Upcoming symposia topics include:
   - FDA Post-Approval Surveillance of cancer medications and chemotherapy (anticipated publication date: late summer)
   - Mini-symposium on the intervention criterion for causality
   - GIS and spatial analyses for epidemiologic research

2. The subcommittee is working with the journal and other ACE Committees to expand the from the College pages to four “corners”, each representing an ACE activity that lends itself well to soliciting contributions from ACE committees, ACE membership, and practicing epidemiologists at large:
   - Conference corner (ACE Annual Meeting / EpiCongress);
   - Education corner;
   - Policy corner; and
   - Ethics corner.

   We have developed a draft SOP which expands on the current ACE From the College Pages SOP. We hope to finalize this shortly and present it to the Board for approval.

4. **Selecting the 2014 Best Paper published in the Annals of Epidemiology**

Subcommittee members are: Macarius Donneyang (Lead), Paul Bakaki, Patrick Fleming, Dora Il'yasova, Phani Veernaki.

Due to the Epidemiology Congress of the Americas meeting, the workstream in charge of selecting the best original article from the 2015 *Annals of Epidemiology* edition had a tight timeline to execute this task. The screening process of all published articles in the 2015 edition of the *Annals of Epidemiology* produces a shortlist of the top 12 best articles. Unlike previous years', this screening process involved eight volunteers (within the Publications Committee) with **diverse content expertise** in the field of epidemiology. Elsevier provided a list of articles, classified by sub-specializations indicated by the authors, which we used to map articles to reviewers. We believe this approach enhanced the robustness of the initial screening process of all 2015 original articles. Screening was completed by March 01, 2016. The shortlist of the top 12 best articles was reviewed by the Associate Editors who completed this task by March 31, 2016. This produced the top four articles which were subsequently circulated to all members of the Publications Committee to vote for the singular best article by May 1st.

The winner of the 2015 Annals of Epidemiology Best Paper award supported by the American College of Epidemiology is Dr. Aditya S. Khanna for the article “*Individualized diagnosis interventions can add significant effectiveness in reducing*
human immunodeficiency virus incidence among men who have sex with men: insights from Southern California”. Dr. Khanna will receive a cash prize of $3,000 and a plaque from the College. Aditya, S. Khanna, PhD, is a Staff Scientist, Director of Network Modeling, at the University of Chicago. As a computational epidemiologist, Dr. Khanna investigates questions at the intersection of behavioral epidemiology, network science and modeling, and HIV prevention. His research is guided by consideration of the social and ecological networks in which individuals are embedded, and interactions that influence health behaviors and outcomes within these networks. Dr. Khanna believes ongoing conversations between academic researchers, community health workers, and governmental public health organizations are critical, and he tries to incorporate scientific questions emerging from these conversations into his work. Dr. Khanna holds an MS in Statistics, and an MS and a PhD in Quantitative Ecology and Resource Management (QERM) from the University of Washington. This paper was initially written as part of his PhD dissertation.

Chair’s Note
This is the second year of my three year term as committee chair and my fifth year on the committee. The committee’s agenda for this Epicongress year is lighter than the usual heavy workload this committee has due to the fact that a sizable proportion of our work is directed towards the ACE annual meeting. Nevertheless the other workstreams have been very active as can be seen in this annual report. We are still increasing the institutional memory of this committee by having SOPs written by each workstream lead. I have also recruited two new members last year, and three more new members by the end of this operating year. These new members are essential as some of committee members will reach the limit of their 6 year term in the next year or two. Succession planning will form an important component of the next operating year.