



Association
Internationale d'Epidémiologie

INTERNATIONAL EPIDEMIOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION
In official relations with the World Health Organization

国际流行病学协会

Международная
Эпидемиологическая Ассоциация

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IEA Newsletter – June 2009

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IEA Council List (2008 – 2011)

Editor:
Ahmed Mandil

Editorial Assistant:
Eman Hammam

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear IEA members

Since the last IEA newsletter, in June 2008, IEA has held the **18th World Congress of Epidemiology (WCE) in Porto Alegre, Brazil** during September 2008. The WCE was highly successful, and involved more than 4,000 epidemiologists and public health researchers, particularly from Brazil, but also from many other countries around the world. A pre-congress course was also well attended and involved many of the leading epidemiologists from North America and other parts of the world.

At the Porto Alegre meeting, I succeeded Jorn Olsen as President of IEA, for a three-year term, leading up to the **19th WCE in Edinburgh, Scotland, in 2011**. The planning for the meeting is progressing well, and we look forward to welcoming you to Edinburgh in two years time. At the Porto Alegre meeting, it was decided that the 20th WCE will be held in Anchorage, Alaska, in 2014. In addition to the triennial WCE, each IEA region usually holds a regional meeting during each triennium. Regional meetings over the next two years include those planned to be held in Europe (Warsaw, Poland, August 2009), Western Pacific (Koshigaya, Japan, January 2010), South East Asia (Colombo, Sri Lanka, May 2010) and Eastern Mediterranean (Beirut, Lebanon, November 2010).

IEA has just held its first annual **International Course in Epidemiological Methods** in Jaipur, India, April 2009. As well as the teaching on epidemiological methods, the IJE editors also presented a one-day workshop on writing and publishing in epidemiology. This course is allied to the IEA-sponsored European Educational Programme in Epidemiology, which has been held in Florence for three weeks every June/July for more than 20 years. The new IEA course is intended as a "Florence South" course which is planned to be held annually in low and middle income IEA regions. The Jaipur course included students from India (who comprised about one-half of the total), Pakistan, Afghanistan, Iran, Nigeria, Guinea-Bissau, Thailand, Indonesia, Mexico, Portugal and Australia. In addition to formal teaching, the course provided important opportunities for epidemiologists from the South-East Asian region to meet, and establish networks that will continue into the future. Next year's course is scheduled to be in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia (April, 2010). It is proposed that the 2011 course would be held in Africa.

The other major activity of IEA is the publication of the **International Journal of Epidemiology**, which continues to go from strength to strength under the editorship of George Davey Smith and Shah Ebrahim. The journal has improved markedly since George and Shah took over as editors, and introduced a number of new features, a fact that is reflected in its improved impact factor (currently 5.1).

Finally, I am pleased to report that IEA has recently signed a **Memorandum of Understanding with the International Clinical Epidemiology Network (INCLEN)**. The specific objectives are to: (i) support joint capacity building to conduct health research in low and middle income countries; (ii) participate and organize joint meetings, special sessions and create special interest groups in their scientific meetings; and (iii) sharing information between the two organizations through web linkage. We look forward to working with INCLEN to further develop and promote epidemiology throughout the world, and particularly in low and middle income countries.

Neil Pearce
IEA President



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Secretary's Report

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY Ahmed Mandil

IEA 18th World Congress of Epidemiology, Porto Alegre, Brazil, 2008

The 18th WCE held during September, 2008 was considered to be the largest IEA meeting in modern times with some 4,837 delegates. In addition, the international IEA course: "**Epidemiologic Research and New Directions**" that preceded the congress was quite successful, involved top-notch international speakers and attracted some 200 epidemiologists from all over the world as participants.

IEA 19th World Congress of Epidemiology, Edinburgh, Scotland, 2011

The IEA Council is closely working with the local WCE 2011 Organizing Committee, chaired by Raj Bhopal, on details of hosting this congress in Edinburgh, Scotland, 7 – 11 August, 2011. The WCE 2011 will be commemorating the 200th anniversary of John Snow's birthday. For more details, please visit its website: www.epidemiology2011.com

IEA 20th World Congress of Epidemiology, Anchorage, Alaska, 2014

During the 2nd IEA business meeting held after the WCE 2008, Anchorage, Alaska was selected to host the 20th IEA WCE in 2014

IEA New Council

The 2nd IEA business meeting also witnessed the election of new IEA officers for the period 2008-2011 where Cesar Victora (Brazil) was elected as IEA President-Elect, Patricia Buffler (USA) as IEA Treasurer and Ahmed Mandil (Egypt) as IEA Secretary. Following such elections, the Council commenced its activities, presided by Neil Pearce (current President), holding its first meeting on 25 September, 2008. Important decisions included:

a. Sir Richard Doll Prize

IEA offers this prize, in commemoration of Sir Richard Doll's legacy and achievements in the field of Epidemiology, to an epidemiologist of highest scientific standard in an active part of his/her career. It acknowledges scientific achievements that have advanced our understanding of the determinants of a disease of importance for health in populations through a body of research that may involve a series of studies, rather than a single publication.

The recipient of the 2008 Prize was Dr Nubia Muñoz, IARC, Lyon, France (offered during the WCE in Porto Alegre). It was decided that the selection process for the 2011 prize will commence during 2010 by announcements in the IEA website, newsletter and email.

b. IEA / INCLLEN Liaison Officer

The council approved the appointment of Babu L. Verma as IEA / INCLLEN Liaison officer, to coordinate relations and collaborative activities with INCLLEN. This has been crowned by signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between both parties during January 2008.

c. Upcoming council meeting in Edinburgh, Scotland

The council agreed to hold its 2nd meeting in Edinburgh, Scotland, 20-21 August, 2009. which would facilitate site-visiting the conference facilities of the upcoming 19th IEA-WCE 2011 and discussing its details with its local organizing and scientific committees



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Secretary's Report (continued)

Membership

It gives me great pleasure to invite all professionals working in the field of epidemiology, worldwide, to join IEA and actively participate in its different activities. We need our association to be more representative of the epidemiology community than it is now. Current members are strongly encouraged to invite their colleagues to join the association and enjoy benefits of membership

During 2008 / 2009, there has been an increase in new membership, mainly attributed to major activities as: the 18th WCE, Porto Alegre, Brazil (September, 2008), the 1st IEA International Course in Epidemiological Methods, Jaipur, India (April 2009) and joint membership with national societies (e.g. Australasian, Saudi and Lebanese Epidemiological Associations).

a. Incentives for 3 year and life-time memberships

The IEA is still offering a free copy of its landmark 50th IEA anniversary book: "**The Development of Modern Epidemiology**" (edited by Walter Holland, Charles du Ve Florey and Jorn Olsen) as an incentive for 3 year / life time memberships.

b. Elmer Villanueva Sponsorship Fund

Prof Elmer Villanueva still sponsors seven nominees (one from each of the 7 IEA regions for 3-year memberships per year) since 2004. The IEA has recently approved the 3 year memberships of all nominees with the criteria of:

1. Being a young professional working in the field of Epidemiology
2. Residence in low or middle income country (World Bank classification)
3. Perceived inability to cover membership fees

Recent recipients include:

- a. 2006 – 2008: 6 recipients (from Malaysia, Laos, Cuba, India, Kuwait, China)
- b. 2007 – 2009: 3 recipients (from Poland, India, and Nigeria)
- c. 2008 – 2010: 7 recipients (from Iran, Egypt, Iraq, Pakistan, Nigeria, and India)
- d. 2009 – 2011: 5 recipients so far

Please notice that 2010 will be the last year of the "Elmer Villanueva Fund". For all those who wish to apply for such fund (according to the above-mentioned criteria), please visit our website: www.ieaweb.org for downloading its nomination form.

Message to Colleagues-IEA Members

Please make sure that the Secretariat has your most updated email address. IEA Members are invited to recommend best methods for modernization of the functions of the IEA Secretariat, especially with regards to its different services as: updating the IEA website; producing this Newsletter, processing memberships; calling for bids for WCEs and regional meetings as well as organizing Council and business meetings. Please submit your suggestions to our e-mail address: IEAsecretariat@link.net. IEA members are also invited to kindly encourage fellow professionals working in the field of epidemiology from their respective constituencies, to join IEA. Please ask your colleagues to:

- Visit our website (www.IEAweb.org)
- Become familiar with our goals, objectives, and activities
- Study different categories of membership



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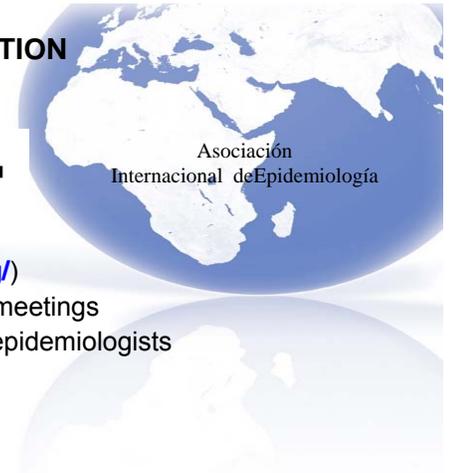
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Secretary's Report (continued)

IEA Membership's Benefits

- Browse our Journal (<http://ije.oxfordjournals.org/>)
- Participate in our global congresses and regional meetings
- Join the only international professional society of epidemiologists

Moreover, please share with them the table below:

BENEFITS OF IEA MEMBERSHIP

- **Enjoying** membership of the oldest and only truly international professional organization of epidemiologists
- **Interacting** with more than 1500 professionals from some 100 countries who work on a broad range of substantive and methodological areas in epidemiology and public health
- **Networking** with colleagues, regionally and internationally
- **Receiving** free copies of the: International Journal of Epidemiology (IJE) which is published 6 times per year; and the annual IEA Newsletter
- **Enjoying** reduced registration fees at IEA global and regional meetings and activities
- **Accessing** a platform for international health research studies with the assistance of the respective region's IEA Councilor to identify institutional partners in the 7 IEA regions (i.e. AFR, NAR, EMR, EUR, LAC, SEAR, and WPR)
- **Contributing** to how epidemiology will evolve through the IEA's ongoing discussions on practice boundaries, peer review, professional conduct and ethics
- **Assisting** fellow epidemiologists from developing countries via a portion of membership fee (if requested)
- **Providing** opportunities for graduate students to develop projects focusing on health inequalities of under-privileged remote populations
- **Becoming** part of an international data-base of epidemiologists, which appears on the Association's website



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Regional Councilors' Statements

STATEMENTS FROM REGIONAL COUNCILORS

Eastern Mediterranean Ali S. Al-Zahrani

Achievements during Oct 2008 – May 2009

1. Establishing the KSU Chair of Epidemiology and Public Health

King Saud University, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, has recently established a new Research Chair for Epidemiology and Public Health in 2008. The main goals of the Chair are: to address health problems and diseases through effective research, educational programs and assistance in the development of health strategic planning and national prevention and control programs. Moreover, it is concerned with development of effective analytic research programs to identify determinants of major diseases and health problems in the region, build research capacities and epidemiological skills for health workforce in epidemiology and public health, and educate new cadre of graduates from different health professions to support research conduction and development of health information systems in the region. The Chair is supervised by Dr. Abdulaziz bin-Saeed, Chair, Dept of Family & Community Medicine, KSU College of Medicine while its international expert is Prof Haroutune Armenian, President, American University in Armenia; Prof-in-Residence, UCLA School of Public Health and ex-Secretary, IEA.

2. Establishing joint membership between IEA and National Epidemiological Associations within EMR

Three national epidemiology associations in the EMR expressed interest in joint membership with IEA. These include: the Saudi Epidemiological Association (SEA), the Lebanese Epidemiological Association and the Tunisian Association of Preventive Medicine and Epidemiology. The IEA Council approved such arrangement.

3. Selection of the first Board of Directors of the Saudi Epidemiological Association

The Saudi Epidemiology Association (SEA) held its first general assembly on April 2nd, 2009. The main purpose of the meeting was to elect its first Board of Directors. Eight prominent Saudi epidemiologists and public health professionals were elected. They represent Saudi Ministry of Health, academic institutions and major healthcare agencies in Saudi Arabia. On May 11th, 2009, Ali Al-Zahrani was elected as SEA President, while Abdullah Al-Joudi was elected as its General Secretary.

Plan of Action for 2009 - 2011

1. Hosting the 2nd IEA International Course on Epidemiological Methods, April 2010

The second IEA International Course on Epidemiological Methods will be held in Riyadh from 3 to 15 April 2010. King Saud University will be the main host for the event in collaboration with King Faisal Specialist Hospital and Research Center, and the Saudi Epidemiology Association.

The primary objective is to provide intensive instruction on the principles, methods and applications of biomedical and health research. The course will include lectures, computer based analyses, exercises, discussion sessions, and practical experience in the design of a research proposal. The course will be of interest to different health professionals including epidemiologists, public health workers, biostatisticians, and clinicians.

The course is only available to members of the International Epidemiology Association; non-members will be required to apply for joining the IEA beforehand or to pay non-discounted rates for the course.



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Regional Councilors' Statements (continued)

2. Hosting the 8th Scientific Meeting for the IEA-EMR

The IEA Council approved the bid of the Lebanese Epidemiological Association (LEA) to host the "8th IEA-EMR Scientific Meeting" from 19 to 21 November 2010 in Beirut, Lebanon with the theme "Impact of Globalization in Public Health: EMR Implications". The local organizing committee will be chaired by Mary E. Deeb, LEA president, while the scientific committee will be chaired by Abla Sibai, Chair, Epidemiology Dept., American University in Beirut. Advisory Committees are planned to be formed to ensure a rich program that covers regional and global concerns. Local academic institutions and authorities as well as international organizations are being contacted to support participation in this regional meeting. Lebanon (as represented by LEA) had hosted the 4th IEA-EMR Scientific Meeting in 1997 which turned out to be a successful IEA regional meeting (with wonderful social program as well !!).

Membership Status

31 new applications were submitted for joint membership between IEA and local national societies, i.e. 28 from Saudi Arabia (IEA-SEA) and 3 from Lebanon (IEA-LEA).

North America Nancy Krieger

Achievements during Oct 2008 – May 2009

1. To increase cooperative work between the IEA and the numerous N. American epidemiology organizations, I developed and implemented a two-part plan to encourage joint sponsorship, with the IEA, of sessions at each organization's annual meetings.

Part 1: I arranged for the IEA to send an email to all N. American members encouraging them to develop proposals to organize sessions, to be jointly sponsored by the IEA, at their respective N. American epidemiology organizations, with these sessions focusing on any four of the following themes:

- (a) building epidemiological capacity in the global South;
- (b) increasing equitable global South/global North research collaborations;
- (c) research on determinants of between country and within country health inequities; and
- (d) enhancing the ability of epidemiologists to inform debates and policies to improve population health and reduce health inequities.

Any IEA member who organized such a session would then have up to \$500 of their conference costs defrayed (paid out of the N. American IEA budget). One such session is currently being organized.

Part 2: I wrote (on November 1, 2008) to all 11 major N. American epidemiology organizations to ask them to send an email to their membership encouraging them to do the same (and also join the IEA). Of the 11, 4 sent emails to their membership, and 3 did not send emails but expressed interest in future cooperation with the IEA.

2. I initiated contacts between the president of the N. American Society for Epidemiologic Research, Malcolm Maclure, with both Neil Pearce and Cesar Victor, to see if they could be involved in the global health plenary session he is organizing at the SER meeting this coming June; unfortunately, neither Neil nor Cesar were able to accept the invitation, due to schedule conflicts.



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Regional Councilors' Statements (continued)

3. I assisted with publicity for the IEA conference in Jaipur, India, by arranging for information about the conference to be posted on PAHO's EQUIDAD list-serve and also on the Spirit of 1848 list-serve that I moderate.

4. I have organized an exploratory workshop at Harvard University (to be held in October 2009), which will be attended by the IEA Councilor for Latin America & Caribbean, Maria Ines Schmidt, on investigating societal determinants of health inequities between & within countries, with the express intent of having the content of this workshop inform our discussions for a subsequent joint IEA regional combining the Latin American & Caribbean (LAC) and North American (NA) IEA regions (as discussed at the last IEA Council meeting).

Plan of Action for 2009 – 2011

1. I will continue to work on implementing the plan described as point #1 above, so as to increase cooperative work between the IEA and the numerous N. American epidemiology organizations.

2. I will work with Maria Ines Schmidt to co-organize a joint Latin American-North American IEA regional meeting

Membership Status

To increase the N. American membership in the IEA, I have reached out to the 11 major N. American epidemiological organizations, as described above (see "accomplishments"), to ask them to send an email to their membership to encourage joint work with the IEA (including their joining the IEA). I will continue in these efforts, and also ask to see yearly statistics for the N. American membership, to monitor trends in membership numbers (including new members).

South East Asia Vinod K. Srivastava

Achievements during Oct 2008 – May 2009

1. SPSS Foundation Course for Beginners – A Joint Activity of IEA and INCLIN, 1 - 2 April 2009 at Jhansi, India
2. IEA international course on epidemiological methods held at Jaipur, India, 5-17 April 2009 (part of global activity organized in SEA Region). For final report and photos, please visit: <http://www.dundee.ac.uk/iea/Jaipur.htm>

Plan of Action for 2009 - 2011

1. 10th SEA Regional Scientific Meeting of the International Epidemiological Association 23rd - 26th May 2010, Colombo, Sri Lanka.
2. Training course on Nutritional Epidemiology to be organized in October 2010 in New Delhi

Membership Status

22 new members subscribed from South East Asian Region during the IEA international course on epidemiological methods, Jaipur, India, 5 – 17 April 2009.



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Regional
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(continued)

WHO Liaison

Western Pacific Yosikazu Nakamura

Achievements during Oct 2008 – May 2009

I am now planning the next regional meeting of IEA during January 2010 in Koshigaya, Japan, jointly with the 20th annual meeting of the Japan Epidemiological Association, hosted by Yoshihiko Miura, Professor of Saitama Municipal University, who sends you the following message:

Dear IEA members,

It is my pleasure to invite you to The Joint Scientific Meeting of International Epidemiological Association Western Pacific Region (IEA-WPR) and Japan Epidemiological Association (JEA), which will be organized by IEA and JEA in Koshigaya, Japan on January 9th and 10th, 2010. This will be the international conference following the successful IEA-WPR meeting at Hobart, Australia in 2007. Abstracts should be submitted from May 1st through September 1st, 2009. For further information, please visit www.JEAWPR2010.spu.ac.jp/wpr/.

I would appreciate it if you could distribute this information to any of your colleagues that may be interested in this meeting. The organizing committee warmly welcomes your participation with a wide range of interests.

Finally, I would add information about scholarship for young investigators from developing countries to join the meeting. Details are on the web site. I look forward to seeing you in Japan on coming January.

*Prof. Kazunori Kayaba, Secretary of the Organizing Committee
Saitama Prefectural University, Koshigaya 343-8540, JAPAN,
E-mail: info-wpr@spu.ac.jp*

Plan of Action for 2009 - 2011

In addition to the Regional meeting, I am planning to have a Korean - Japanese Epidemiologic seminar at the time of the Regional meeting.

IEA-WHO LIAISON

Rodolfo Saracci

1. Liaison with the World Health Organization

The following information has been received from the Director of Partnership and UN Reform at WHO Headquarters "...the WHO Executive Board reviewed the report of our collaboration at its recent [2009] 124th session. I am pleased to inform you that the Board decided to maintain the International Epidemiological Association in official relations with WHO.

In making its decision, the Board commended the continuing dedication of the organization you represent in support of the work of WHO....I hope that our activities continue to be as fruitful". The Executive Board session in January 2009 has been personally attended and further contacts with Dr.C.Mathers, contact officer with IEA for WHO, are currently planned.

2. Liaison with CIOMS



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WHO Liaison (continued)

INCLLEN Liaison

The "International guidelines for epidemiological research" have been posted on the CIOMS website (www.cioms.ch) pending a printed version, initially scheduled for the end of 2008-early 2009. The availability of a booklet (as it is the case for the CIOMS 2002 guidelines for biomedical research) would increase the visible status of the guidelines, as all important documents of CIOMS have till now be also printed, although in fact the access via the web can be easier and wider.

3. Liaison with the European Educational Programme in Epidemiology

The 22st Residential Summer Course is taking place from June 22 to July 10, 2009 in Florence, and is preceded (from June 15 to 19) by a specialized course on the rapidly evolving field of "Design and analysis of genetic epidemiology studies". A definitely positive aspect is that for the fourth consecutive year it will be possible to grant four fellowships (of 4000 Euros each) to allow students from developing countries to attend the course. It is hoped that the support of the foundation Compagnia di San Paolo, which grants the fellowships, can continue in the future.

With the support of the same foundation a small meeting organized to encourage the development of the IEA "EYE group" (European Young Epidemiologists) took place successfully in Turin from 28 to 30 of May 2008. Fourteen young epidemiologists and seven 'seniors' (as discussants) took part in it. Scientific as well as career and societal issues concerning those embarking into the profession of epidemiologist were illustrated and discussed. A paper highlighting some of the most interesting points has been submitted to the International Journal of Epidemiology.

IEA-INCLLEN LIAISON

Babu L. Verma

The International Epidemiological Association (IEA) and the International Clinical Epidemiology Network (INCLLEN) are the two globally recognized professional organizations which have been working for worldwide development of epidemiology, with many common objectives and interesting programs serving such discipline. In past years, IEA and INCLLEN have had occasional collaborations, mainly for organizing regional scientific meetings (e.g. Pattaya, Thailand in 1988; Bali, Indonesia in 1994; Chiangmai, Thailand in 1996; Sharm-el-Sheikh, Egypt in 2000) and co-sponsoring special sessions in each other's meetings (e.g. 19th INCLLEN GM at Kunming, China in 2003; 20th INCLLEN GM at Agra, India, in 2004; IEA-SEA regional scientific meetings at Jhansi – India, in 2002 & 2004). IEA has recently started a new activity aiming at capacity building in developing countries, with its International Course on Epidemiological Methods. INCLLEN has similar programs, e.g. training programs in clinical epidemiology.

1. Creation of a Position of the "IEA-INCLLEN Liaison Officer"

To further strengthen the on-going ad-hoc collaboration between IEA & INCLLEN, the IEA council aproved the appointment of Babu L. Verma as IEA / INCLLEN Liaison officer, to coordinate relations and collaborative activities with INCLLEN. During the past year, Dr Verma took the following steps to further augment IEA - INCLLEN collaboration.

2. Involvement of INCLLEN with 'Porto Alegre (Brazil) 18th IEA/WCE 2008

On invitation from the Host Organizing Committee (HOC) of the 18th IEA / WCE, INCLLEN organized and sponsored following sessions during this IEA global meet.

Dr Verma acted as a link- person in arranging invitations from HOC for INCLLEN and thereafter,



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INCLIN Liaison (continued)

International Journal of Epidemiology

getting these sessions held and sponsorship arranged from the INCLIN:

- a. INCLIN joined a SEA Regional Workshop on “Measuring Disease Burden – Methods & Estimates”, held on 22 September 2008. INCLIN deputed Dr Ravindra Mohan Pandey, New Delhi, India to act as one of its speakers. Dr Pandey in this workshop spoke on the topic of: “Burden of Non Communicable Diseases in Developing Countries and Its Association with Equity Parameters”.
- b. INCLIN also organized and sponsored 2 Mini – Symposia, one on “Patients’ Safety Research”, held on 22 September 2008 and the other on “Networking in Clinical Research – An Experience from LatinCLIN”, held on 23 September 2008.

3. Linkage of IEA & INCLIN Websites

Upon approval of both councils, the IEA and INCLIN have now established their official linkages between each other’s websites.

4. MoU Between IEA & INCLIN Signed

As an umbrella for joint activities and after intensive efforts of the Liaison Officer, IEA and INCLIN signed a Memorandum of Understanding on January 2009 with Dr Neil Pearce, IEA President signing on behalf of the IEA and Dr Narendra Arora, INCLIN Executive Director, signing on behalf of the INCLIN.

5. SPSS Course - a Joint IEA & INCLIN Activity, India 2009

As a capacity building effort in Developing Countries, a joint free course on Statistical Software Package (SPSS) was organized at Jhansi (India) on 1 – 2 April 2009. Dr Babu L Verma, Jhansi (UP), India, was the Course – Coordinator, assisted by Dr Vinod K Srivastava, Lucknow (IEA-SEA, India) and Dr Ravindra Mohan Pandey, AIIMS, New Delhi (INCLIN) who was also a Resource Faculty. The course was attended by 65 participants.

6. INCLIN Involvement with Upcoming IEA Activity in SEA

The IEA Council has recently approved the bid of Colombo, Srilanka for hosting the next Regional Scientific Meeting (RSM), i.e. 10th IEA / SEA Regional Scientific Meeting during May 2010. Sometime before, Dr Babu L Verma had visited INCLIN Executive Director’s Office in New Delhi and discussed with Dr Narendra Arora the possibility of INCLIN’s joining the proposed RSM. The reception of Dr Narendra Arora in this regard was quite encouraging and appreciable. Details of such collaboration will be worked out soon.

INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF EPIDEMIOLOGY (IJE)

George Davey Smith & Shah Ebrahim
Co-Editors

We have co-edited the IJE for almost a decade and during this time the IJE has gone from a repository for worthy (but sometimes dull) epidemiological findings to something rather different – we like to think. The quality of manuscripts has improved over time and this has resulted in our rejection rate continuing to increase. Acceptance rates are broadly similar for manuscripts classified as from developing countries as for those from the developed world. Our impact factor has steadily increased which pleases our publishers, despite some controversy over the validity of impact factors. A decade ago IJE had an impact factor of 1.892 which has risen to 5.151, putting us among the top three journals in epidemiology and public health.

One index that seems important to us is the proportion of papers that receive zero citations - indicating that even the authors themselves have no desire to cite the work in subsequent



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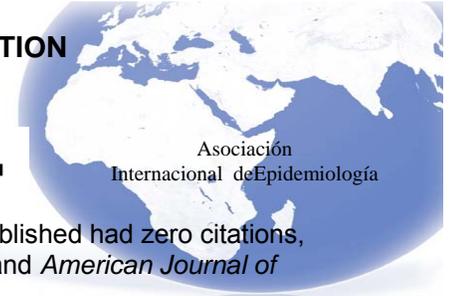
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International Journal of Epidemiology (continued)

publications! On this metric only 20% of the papers we published had zero citations, comparable with *Epidemiology* (19%), with *Lancet* (48%) and *American Journal of Epidemiology* (79%) doing less well.

We produced a special issue with the help of guest editors, Laura Rodriques and Cesar Victora (recently appointed the next President of International Epidemiology Association), on Latin America to coincide with the World Congress of Epidemiology held in Porto Alegre, Brazil in August 2008. This was a time-consuming and quite difficult supplement to produce as we wished to maintain standards of publications and tight deadlines were needed to ensure the issue came out on time. We also produced a supplement for the UK Biobank laboratory methods group which we hope will be a useful catalogue of important methods of relevance internationally for scientists establishing large scale biobanks.

Over the last decade the journal has changed substantially. The features that contribute most to our success are the historical and debate pieces – Point-Counterpoints – the cohort profiles which describe the rationale and findings of cohort studies, and themed issues. If you have ideas for historical or debate articles please share your ideas with us.

We have attempted to promote the *IJE* and better epidemiological writing in several ways. In 2007 we attended the South Asia regional meeting held in Dhaka, Bangladesh to conduct a one-day workshop on scientific writing and the *IJE*. We also contributed to a session at the World Congress of Epidemiology in 2008 at which the editors of *American Journal of Epidemiology*, *Epidemiology* and *IJE* discussed how they saw the role of journals and the future of epidemiology. In April 2009, we both took part in a one-day workshop on scientific writing and the *IJE* (among other sessions) at the Basic Epidemiology course, run by Neil Pearce, President IEA, in Jaipur, India. These opportunities to interact with members of IEA are important to us and enable us to gauge the needs of our members.

Our publishers, Oxford University Press (OUP), continue to provide us with excellent services and we hope you also find the final product of value. OUP ensure that the world's poorest countries gain access to *IJE* for free but with development, it is apparent that some countries fall between the gap – they are no longer among the world's officially "poorest" countries but their academic institutions are not in a position to take out expensive library subscriptions. Just as development is beginning to make an impact on markers of economic growth, epidemiologists and public health scientists have their access to knowledge hampered.

The editorial office has been split between University of Bristol and London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine for the last 4 years. With Shah Ebrahim's new post as director of the South Asian Network for Chronic Diseases, based in New Delhi, and George Davey Smith's sabbatical, also in New Delhi, for the coming year we look forward to making closer contact with medical journal editors and scientists in the region. We do not expect our efficient means of processing manuscripts to change as Barbara Coatesworth will be maintaining "business as usual" in Bristol.

Being located in India, recently reclassified as no longer among the poorest countries, will allow us first-hand experience of the tribulations of working in an environment where knowledge flows are restricted. Any ideas you have of how we might tackle this problem would be welcome.

Online Access to the International Journal of Epidemiology for IEA Members



International
Journal of
Epidemiology
(continued)

IEA World
Congresses of
Epidemiology

Free Online Access

IEA members receive **free online access** to the IJE as part of their membership (as well as a printed copy)

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We hope you enjoy your **free online access** to the *International Journal of Epidemiology*

IEA WORLD CONGRESSES OF EPIDEMIOLOGY

XVIII World Congress of Epidemiology, Porto Alegre, Brazil, 2008
Cesar Victora & Maria-Ines Schmidt

The XVIII IEA World Congress of Epidemiology and VII Brazilian Congress of Epidemiology, sponsored jointly by the IEA and ABRASCO, the Brazilian Association of Public Health, was the largest Epidemiology conference ever carried out. Held in Porto Alegre, Brazil, from September 20 to 24, 2008 the Congress attracted 4,837 delegates, of whom 564 were from 71 countries other than Brazil, including Ministers of Health from Portuguese Speaking Countries and from Latin America. A total of 1.125 participants also attended pre-congress activities (7 workshops, 19 courses and 04 special symposia).

We received 5,745 abstracts which were reviewed by at least two experts, 5,070 being selected for presentation: 516 as oral presentations (12 special mini-symposia were created from selected abstracts to highlight important topics) and 4,554 as posters (21 of which

received honors). A total of 21 bursaries were granted to young epidemiologists from different parts of the world, based on the merit of their abstracts. We thank the reviewers for their silent



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IEA World Congresses of Epidemiology (continued)

and dedicated assistance – without them completing this task would have been impossible.

The Congress included a total of 15 keynote lectures, 43 symposia, 25 lectures, two special sessions and 28 mini-symposia, as well as the traditional IEA regional workshops. With the theme “*Epidemiology in the Construction of Health for All: Tools for a Changing World*”, the program achieved its objectives, convening leadership from the field of epidemiology – academics, investigators, managers, and health professionals. It accomplished its mission of fostering debate and reflection by health professionals from different disciplines, in particular epidemiologists, aiming at coping with the theoretical and practical challenges of epidemiology worldwide.

The concept of *Construction*, emphasizing the role of epidemiology in building knowledge for improving public health through fruitful exchange and collaboration with other scientific disciplines and across the different regions of the world, was present in several discussions concerning what colleagues from low and middle income countries can learn from, as well as teach colleagues from high-income countries. The issues of how epidemiology can inform public health and improve health systems, and what are the interfaces between epidemiology, advocacy and policy also received special attention.

The concept of *Health for All*, the core of our conference theme, celebrating 30 years of the Alma-Ata declaration and 20 years of the creation of the Brazilian universal national health system, inspired much discussion. Sir Andy Haines addressed a keynote lecture on Epidemiology and Primary Care 30 Years after Alma Ata. The Millennium Development Goals were frequently raised and the role of epidemiologists in their achievement was specifically addressed in the Robert Cruickshank Lecture given by a vice-president of this Congress, Dr Cesar Victora, now IEA president-elect. The report on Social Determinants of Health was presented by Sir Michael Marmot followed by a debate on the challenging question of “What’s next?” The issue of Health for All also permeated discussions about how to eradicate health inequities in terms of gender, ethnic group and socioeconomic position.

The concept of *Tools*, emphasizing the essential methodological role of epidemiology, was covered in sessions on advancements in use of statistical methods, on nutritional epidemiology, on prospective studies, on data linkage, and on program evaluation, among many other methodological topics. Our Latin American friend and colleague, Dr. Nubia Munoz receive the first Sir Richard Doll Prize during the conference – and her lecture described her superb use of a whole array of epidemiological tools in establishing the causal role of human papilloma virus in cervical cancer, from early etiologic research to the development and testing of preventive vaccines.

Finally, the rapid progress that Brazil is undergoing, with its many inherent contradictions, provided a backdrop to the theme of a *Changing World*. The program highlighted major world changes occurring in the early 21st Century. The demographic, nutritional and epidemiological transitions, global environmental changes, new pandemics, population ageing and urban violence were discussed in several sessions. There was a Special Session on Health in Africa. The incoming IEA president, Neil Pearce, specifically addressed the theme of epidemiology in a changing world.

The final format of the congress was unique in the sense that it resulted from the synthesis of two major traditional gatherings of epidemiologists, the IEA World Congress of Epidemiology and the Brazilian Congress of Epidemiology.

As judged by the many correspondences we received and the editorials in press (Pearce N. JECH. 2008; 62: 762-3); (Cannon G. Public Health Nutrition. 2008; 11:1205-8) the event will



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**IEA World
Congresses of
Epidemiology
(continued)**

leave a lasting mark in the history of epidemiology in our times.

XIX World Congress of Epidemiology, Edinburgh, Scotland, 7-11 August 2011
"Changing populations, changing diseases: Epidemiology for Tomorrow's World"
Raj Bhopal

Dear Colleagues,

Scotland will be your host for the world's international epidemiology and public health 'party', in 2011. It is my privilege to invite you to join us. Please come to the International Epidemiological Association's showcase triennial event.

The Congress theme is reflected in the title: "Changing populations, changing diseases: Epidemiology for Tomorrow's World." Within this future-orientated theme we will discuss the full span of research across the many disciplines contributing to our science and practice.

In addition to grappling with today's problems across the globe, we will forecast what awaits us in the future, in terms of diseases (including uncovering causes); health effects of environmental and demographic change; and theoretical, conceptual and technical developments in epidemiology.

The Congress is hosted by the four academic departments leading epidemiology and public health in Scotland (in the Universities of Glasgow, Edinburgh, Aberdeen and Dundee). We have an Executive Committee (Chair, myself), an International Advisory Committee (Chair, Prof Richard Peto), a Scientific Committee (Chair, Prof Iain Crombie), a Fundraising Committee (Chair, Prof Jim McEwan), a Marketing Committee (Chair, Prof Gary Macfarlane) and a Social Committee (Chair, Dr A McCallum). All committees are poised to deliver to you a memorable, low-cost (subsidised) academic and social programme in one of the most spectacular cities in the world. The administration of the conference is in the capable hands of a professional conference company called In-Conference (leader, Mrs Margaret Sherry).

The Congress is in the week prior to the renowned International (Arts and Cultural) Festival in Edinburgh and during the accompanying Fringe Festival. You and your family/friends are advised to prolong your stay to enjoy the festival. (Please book your accommodation early as demand will be high.)

We have an ambitious goal of achieving representation at the Congress from every country in the world to achieve a unique international dialogue. (We will have bursaries for those in need.) Your participation is eagerly sought – let us know how we can help to make it possible for you to join us.

For more information, please visit our website: www.epidemiology2011.com

I look forward to welcoming you personally at the Congress.

Your sincerely,

Raj Bhopal
CBE, DSc(hon), MD, MPH
Chairman: Executive Committee of the Congress
Bruce and John Usher Professor of Public Health

RECENT EPIDEMIOLOGY RELATED PUBLICATIONS



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Epidemiology Related Publications

The Case-Control Method – Design & Application (Oxford University Press : 2009, ISBN: 9780195187113)

by Haroutune K. Armenian, MD, DrPH

with contributions by Gayane Yenokyan, M. Daniele Fallin, W.H. Linda Kao, & Miriam Khat

This book will help its users to address a number of general and specific questions dealing with the case-control and other case-based methods including:

- How to design and implement a case-control study that minimizes biases?
- How to analyze the data to appropriately deal with confounding and to help identify interactions?
- How to analyze and interpret data from a case-control study?
- How to use the method in a variety of problem solving situations?

The book provides an exposition of the uses of a study of individual cases as well as case series in epidemiology. It describes the development of the comparative method as a basis for decision making in the health professions.

The first part of the book deals with issues of design of the case control and other case based methods such as the case-crossover and case-cohort studies. In this section of the book several issues of design and analysis of case-control studies are presented within a framework for developing an information base for decision making in research and in health care.

The second part of the book has a focus on the applications of the method. These include the use of case-control studies in outbreak investigations as well as other acute events such as disasters, the use of the method in health care and health services evaluation, its use in genetic epidemiology as well as other applications.

This is a book for the epidemiologist as well as for the occasional user of the case-control and other case-based methods.

Concepts of Epidemiology (OUP, 2002 and 2008, ISBN: 978-0-19-954314-4), and Ethnicity, Race and Health in Multicultural Societies (Oxford University Press : 2007, ISBN: 978-0-19-856817-9)

by Raj Bhopal

IEA newsletter readers know that academics nowadays are challenged by excess information (forcing specialisation) and a focus on original research, rather than scholarship or teaching.

Readers may be wondering why an academic would, therefore, be motivated to write solo-author general textbooks, especially when many good books are already available.

In writing *Concepts of Epidemiology* I wanted readers to understand the subject through reflection about its fundamental strategies, particularly in a population health context. I wanted to show that epidemiology was more than an atheoretical tool-box of techniques, by presenting it as an integrated science and practical discipline. Writing the book was a difficult decision, as when I started in 1996 more than 25 textbooks were already available for the same postgraduate readership.

The book has gained excellent feedback from students, course teachers and reviewers. It won the BMA prize (Public Health Section) in 2003, and in 2008 was published in its expanded 2nd edition. Readers are spoilt for choice. Those who like reflection should like mine – but it is not



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Epidemiology Related Publications (continued)

for those who want the bare facts.

The application of the concepts of race and ethnicity in science is long established – and they are in the top ten of epidemiological variables. Nonetheless, they are highly controversial and research using them is often contested, sometimes on basic matters like terminology. In the view of Thomas Kuhn, the science philosopher, textbooks define the state of knowledge of the science at a set time. They provide a platform on which new work can be built. Although numerous books on health, race and ethnicity were available when I started writing in 2004, none were postgraduate level textbooks that went systematically from A to Z i.e. from basic concepts to a range of applications. While not shying away from controversies I concentrated on showing how ethnicity and race can add value to epidemiological and public health endeavours, both research and practice. I have tried to develop the kind of platform *that* Kuhn wrote about. *Ethnicity, Race and Health in Multicultural Societies* has been reviewed well and won the Medical Journalists' Association Prize in 2008. We now need some competitors (to my knowledge there are none) so readers can have a choice.

During a privileged 7.5 years of state funded Scottish University education, I learned to be grateful to book writers. I found no better way to lay the foundations of knowledge. I hope I have repaid some of my debt to my teachers and other authors by synthesizing and developing what they taught me, and encouraging learning through these foundational books.

Teaching Epidemiology, Second Edition (Oxford University Press, 2001, ISBN-13: 978-0192630667) by Jorn Olsen, Rodolfo Saracci, Dimitrios Trichopoulos

Teaching epidemiology requires skills and knowledge, combined with a clear teaching strategy and good pedagogic skills. The general advice is simple: if you are not an expert on a topic, try to enrich your background knowledge before you start teaching. *Teaching Epidemiology*, second edition helps you to do this, and by providing the world-expert teachers' advice on how best to structure teaching gives a unique insight in to what has worked in their hands. The book will help you plan your own tailored teaching programme.

The book is a guide to new teachers in the field at two levels, those teaching basic courses for undergraduates and those teaching more advanced courses for students at postgraduate level. Each chapter provides key concepts and a list of key references. Subject specific methodology and disease specific issues (from cancer to genetic epidemiology) are dealt with in detail. There is also a focused chapter on the principles and practice of computer-assisted learning.

The 3rd edition of 'Teaching Epidemiology' is scheduled to be out in October, 2009, completely revised and rewritten.



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IEA's Calendar of Events

UPCOMING IEA ACTIVITIES (2009 - 2011)

Region	Meetings	Contact Information
EUR	<p>European Educational Programme in Epidemiology (EEPE)</p> <p>22nd Residential Summer Course in Epid. 22 June - 10 July 2009, Florence, Italy three week main course</p> <p>Design and Statistical Analysis of Genetic Epidemiology Studies, 15 June - 19 June 2009, Florence, Italy one week course</p>	<p>EEPE Secretariat eepe@eepe.org www.eepe.org/</p>
EUR	<p>European Regional Scientific Meeting, 26 – 29 August 2009, Warsaw, Poland</p>	<p>- Susana Sans (EUR Councillor) cronicat@sanpau.es - Andrzej Zieliński (Chairman, Scientific Committee) - Katarzyna Szamotulska (Chairman, Organizing Committee) secretariat@euroepi2009.org www.euroepi2009.org/</p>
WPR	<p>Joint Scientific Regional Meeting with Japan Epidemiological Association (JEA), 9 – 10 January 2010, Koshigaya, Saitama, Japan - (Saitama Prefectural University)</p>	<p>- Yosikazu Nakamura (WPR Councillor) nakamuyk@jichi.ac.jp - Kazunori Kayaba (JEA) info-wpr@spu.ac.jp www.JEAWPR2010.spu.ac.jp/wpr/</p>
EMR	<p>2nd IEA International Course on Epidemiological Methods, 3 - 15 April 2010, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia</p>	<p>- Neil Pearce (IEA President) N.E.Pearce@massey.ac.nz - Ali Al-Zahrani (EMR Councillor) alisaz@Kfshrc.edu.sa</p>
SEAR	<p>10th SEA Regional Scientific Meeting, 23 – 26 May 2010, Colombo, Sri Lanka (Bandaranaike Memorial International Conference Hall, Bauddhaloka Mawatha, Colombo 7, Sri Lanka)</p>	<p>- Vinod Srivastava (SEAR Councillor) vinods51@hotmail.com - Janaki Vidanapathirana (Meeting Secretary) kavigaya@yahoo.com</p>
EMR	<p>8th EMR Regional Scientific Meeting, November 19 - 21, 2010, Beirut, Lebanon</p>	<p>- Ali Al-Zahrani (EMR Councillor) alisaz@Kfshrc.edu.sa - Mary E. Deeb (President, LEA) mary.deeb@gmail.com</p>
Global	<p>19th IEA World Congress of Epidemiology, 7 – 11 August 2011, Edinburgh, Scotland</p>	<p>Raj Bhopal (Chair of Organizing Committee) Raj.Bhopal@ed.ac.uk www.epidemiology2011.com</p>



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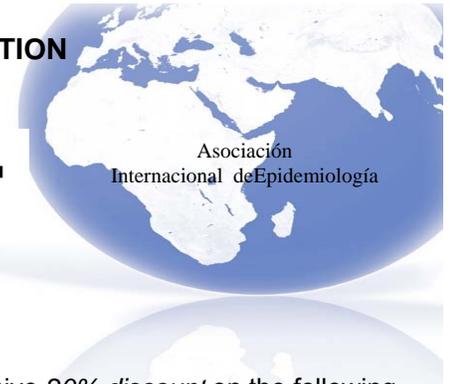
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What's New?

International Epidemiological Association Book Club

WHAT'S NEW?

IEA Book Club

Oxford University Press is offering IEA members an exclusive *20% discount* on the following selection of books in public health and epidemiology. Discount prices are only available when ordering directly from Oxford University Press.

Book Title	Author / Editor	Price
Concepts of Epidemiology Integrating the ideas, theories, principles and methods of epidemiology	Raj Bhopal	Normal Retail Price: £27.95 Discounted price: £22.36
Principles of Exposure Measurement in Epidemiology Collecting, Evaluating and Improving Measures of Disease Risk Factors	Emily White, Bruce K Armstrong, and Rodolfo Saracci	Normal Retail Price: £37.00 Discounted price: £29.60
A Decade of HAART The Development and Global Impact of Highly Active Antiretroviral Therapy	Edited by Jose M Zuniga, Alan Whiteside, Amin Ghaziani, and John G Bartlett	Normal Retail Price: £65.00 Discounted price: £52.00
Public Health Branding Applying marketing for social change	Edited by W Douglas Evans and Gerard Hastings	Normal Retail Price: £34.95 Discounted price: £27.96
Economic Evaluation of Interventions for Occupational Health and Safety Developing Good Practice	Edited by Emile Tompa, Anthony J Culyer, and Roman Dolinschi	Normal Retail Price: £29.95 Discounted price: £23.96
Environmental Epidemiology	Edited by Dean Baker and Mark J Nieuwenhuijsen	Normal Retail Price: £34.95 Discounted price: £27.96
War and Public Health	Edited by Barry S. Levy and Victor W. Sidel	Normal Retail Price: £31.99 Discounted price: £25.59
Textbook of Cancer Epidemiology	Edited by Hans-Olov Adami, David Hunter, and Dimitrios Trichopoulos	Normal Retail Price: £52.00 Discounted price: £41.60

For more information please visit: <http://www.oup.co.uk/sale/webiea08/>



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A Rapid Survey web-based course

Last Word

Rapid Epidemiological Surveys in Developing Countries A web – based course by Ralph Frerichs

Rapid Surveys are small, community-based surveys that typically take 5-7 days to gather field data and 2-3 weeks to analyze and prepare a final presentation and report. Such studies are often referred to as "quick and clean" prevalence surveys because they are done in a short time, adhere to proper statistical methodology, and are cross-sectional in nature.

A reference site is maintained by Professor Ralph Frerichs to support rapid surveys. The site contains rapid survey software and publications on surveys and survey methodology. This is a **free on-line version** of a four-unit course that was created and taught by Professor Frerichs at UCLA for two decades from 1988 through 2008. The intention of the course, **EPI 418 Rapid Epidemiological Surveys in Developing Countries**, was to present the need for rapid surveys; an appreciation of theories of sampling; the nature of rapid two-stage cluster surveys; and the importance of such surveys for decision-making. At the end of the course, students were expected to be able to do survey field work, statistically analyze their data, and present findings to a non-epidemiologic audience. This web course replicates EPI 418 and is intended for educational use only.

For more information please visit:

<http://www.ph.ucla.edu/epi/rapidsurveys/RScourse/index.html>

LAST WORD

We wish that this new edition of the IEA Newsletter has provided you good insight into the latest developments of our association. Should you have any queries regarding the newsletter or have any related suggestions or comments, please do not hesitate to drop us a line at the IEA Secretariat's email address: IEAsecretariat@link.net and please make sure that you kindly visit our website: www.ieaweb.org for more updated information



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