



# INTERNATIONAL EPIDEMIOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

INCORPORATED

*In official relations with the World Health Organization,  
Affiliated with Council for International Organization of Medical Sciences*

Association  
Internationale d'Epidemiologie

国际流行病学协会

Международная  
Эпидемиологическая Ассоциация

الإتحاد  
المؤلى للوبائيات

Asociacion  
Internacional de Epidemiologia

**NEWSLETTER: OCTOBER 2001**

## Report from the President, Charles V. duFlorey

**Future Document** - The draft document (The Role of the Association in the 21st Century. A Discussion Document Prepared by the Executive Committee of the Association) has been revised according to the proposals at the last Council Meeting in Bahrain. It was circulated to a small group composed of David Wegman, Rodolfo Saracci and Jorn Olsen and their recommendations were included in a new draft that went before the EC on July 28, 2001. It will be included in the Handbook.

It is planned that this and other documentation will be available for consultation with the membership before the end of the year.

**World Congress of Epidemiology** - The arrangements for the World Congress of Epidemiology were reviewed during the EC meeting in Montreal. They are proceeding very satisfactorily and we expect the meeting to be highly successful.

**Regional meetings** - There have been two regional meetings in 2001, one in Kitakyushu, Japan and the other in Oxford, England. The Japanese meeting was under the supervision of the Regional Councillor for the Western Pacific, Dr. Takesumi Yoshimura. There were about 40 oral presentations and 70 posters. Participants from India, Pakistan, Korea, China, Taiwan, Japan, Thailand, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Iran attended. About 60 people were from developing countries. The total number of participants was around 200. There were good exchanges covering the problems of developing countries, chronic diseases, and infectious diseases.

The President was active on the Scientific Committee of the Oxford meeting. Over 500 abstracts were received, of which approximately 180 were accepted for oral, and 180 for poster presentation. There were 26 invited speakers. Because of the political changes in Europe, the organizers requested that the IEA make available funds for the bursaries for people coming from former Eastern European countries, since these are classified as developing. Six bursaries were awarded, taking into account the criteria set by Council (2000).

A meeting will be held next February in Jhansi, India, organized by the South East Asia Regional Councillor, Dr Babu Verma. This will be the last regional meeting of the triennium preceding the Montreal World Congress of Epidemiology.

**Computer assisted learning** - The IEA CAL group has corresponded among its members. Two of its members presented their work at a workshop in Oxford (Kreis and Florey). Creation of a universal approach to writing CAL material, suitable for dissemination by the IEA, is now in the beta testing stage. It is expected that this will be ready for general use before the World Congress in 2002.

**WHO liaison** - (Rodolfo Saracci) WHO's list of non government organizations in official relationship with WHO underwent a major revision in 2000. The IEA remains on the list. The IEA may be able to offer help, such as providing referees, in the selection of epidemiologically competent students to attend the courses on "Burden of diseases" given annually in different developing countries and providing experts to be polled in the "opinion surveys" on public health matters that WHO is carrying.

**Publications** - The fourth edition of the Dictionary of Epidemiology was published at the end of the year 2000. The new edition of Teaching Epidemiology was published in time for the Oxford meeting in September. Purchase can be made via a link on the IEA web site.

Dr John Last will be gradually withdrawing from the editorship of the Dictionary, replaced by Dr. Miquel Porta over the next 5 years.

**Web site** - The web site continues to be a source of information for members. A directory of members has been added at the Johns Hopkins site, accessible only by password (see item at end of newsletter). It is the web master's impression that Council underuses the IEA's site. There have been more advertisements for non-IEA than IEA activities and some parts of the site have not been updated for 4 years.

## Report from the Secretary - Haroutune Armenian

The enclosed vote for the necessary constitutional changes (sent only to those who have not voted) will allow us to have our organization's operation consistent with its constitution. It is more than imperative that you vote on these amendments as soon as possible. Votes should be sent via e-mail to HTELLJOH@JHSPH.EDU. Lack of the required number of participants in this vote can make it impossible for the IEA to run its activities and programs with reasonable efficiency. Please, take a moment of your time to respond to this request. Thank you.

## Report from the Treasurer - David H. Wegman

During the meetings of the IEA council at the International Scientific Meeting it was decided to improve on the detail available in the statements of income and expenditure such that it would be possible to comment knowledgeably about the figures. It was decided to charge the Treasurer with the task of providing both much more detail about income and expenditures along with a formal budget that could be reviewed and approved. The past ten years of the Association accounts were reviewed and a budget for the triennium was proposed and approved at the Council meeting in Bahrain. This was the first time such an effort had been undertaken and the Council plans

to review the accuracy and usefulness of the new budget process as well as propose amendments to the process at the World Congress in Montreal in 2002.

At this time, the Association account shows a good positive balance with two major sources of income: membership fees and income from the Oxford University Press that results primarily from sales of the International Journal of Epidemiology to non-members and libraries. The account is used for two major purposes: operating expenses and support for regional meetings. Operating expenses have been fortuitously low during this triennium since only the Secretary's office has required funds to reimburse personnel who are responsible for the daily operations of the Association. While this has permitted a minimal expenditure of funds recently, we have chosen a conservative approach by projecting that the President and Treasurer offices will require funds for support personnel in the future.

The council meeting in Bahrain provided excellent guidance for expenditures in service of the Association's mission. In support of regional efforts to build the field of epidemiology, particularly in developing nations, funds are allocated for regional meetings to support travel bursaries awarded to young or new epidemiologists who can benefit greatly by attending regional IEA conferences. In addition, the Association has been able to provide loans to each region to begin the process of planning meetings with repayment of these loans shortly after the meetings are held. Such funds are awarded only after adequate financial proposals have been received and approved. Funds are also used, if necessary, to support travel of council members to the council meetings and to the International Scientific Meeting. When these funds are requested every effort is made to have the council member also participate actively in the meetings. In this way the funds provide the maximum possible benefit.

Finally, an effort is being launched to examine ways in which the Association funds could be invested conservatively so that earnings could be developed sufficient to allow more creative support of the Association's mission and the development of epidemiology world-wide.

## **Reports from the Councillors**

### **Eastern Mediterranean - Dr. Ahmed Mandil**

The Regional Assembly held in Bahrain, during the 5th IEA/EMR Meeting, to hold the 6th Regional Meeting in Ahwaz, Iran, during December, 2003, and the 7th Meeting in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, 2004.

IEA/EMR is co-sponsoring the "XVIII Global INCLLEN Meeting", scheduled to be held in Sharm-El-Sheikh, Egypt, from February 10-13, 2002, under the theme of: "Equity-Oriented Research: Leadership Challenges in the 21st Century." It is also co-sponsored by WHO, BMJ, and AHRQ. More information about the Meeting is available by visiting the website: <http://www.inclen.org>. A limited number of IEA scholarships was provided to cover hotel accommodations for IEA/EMR members who reside in the Region outside Egypt, and have accepted papers for presentation (deadline was October 5, 2001). When registering for the Meeting and sending your abstracts, please provide your e-mail address, which facilitates and expedites communication.

Members are encouraged to visit the IEA's website at <http://www.IEAWeb.org> to maintain membership status and dues. Kindly invite just ONE colleague who works in the field of epidemiology to become an IEA/EMR member. Application forms are available on the website. Thank you for your kind cooperation.

### **Europe - Dr. Jorn Olsen**

Epidemiology has European roots and epidemiology has an established position in most European countries. Still, most of the research units are small and most of the national societies have no strong international profile. Without a common European structure, epidemiologists will not be heard even in matters that have profound influence for our discipline. The IEA itself is not strong enough; only few epidemiologists find it necessary to support the organization by becoming members, and the situation is even worse in other regions.

To fill the gap, the IEA European Councillor has taken the initiative to link IEA with European national societies in epidemiology to establish "the IEA European Federation". National societies from Denmark, Sweden, Finland, Germany, Holland, Switzerland, France, Italy, Spain, United Kingdom, Poland, and Yugoslavia take part in this Federation, and other countries are most welcome to join the Federation.

We will start our work by describing how different interpretations of the EU directive on data protection play a role for epidemiological research in Europe.

We also know that ethical appraisal varies considerably, perhaps due to the fact that epidemiologists never agreed upon a common document on Good Epidemiological Practice that could set the standard for the ethical committees.

We also need to see if we can influence research policy at EU level. Many other research disciplines are much more active than we are, and we lose our position and possibilities unless we raise our voice when important decisions are made.

Our three weeks summer school in Florence is a great success, mainly due to its rector magnificus Rodolfo Saracci.

We intend to continue the annual IEA Europe meeting between the International IEA meetings. This year it is held in Oxford, United Kingdom; in 2003 it will be held in Spain. Please visit the IEA home page for an update.

### **North America - Dr. David Savitz**

The International Epidemiological Association sponsored a symposium on "International Collaborative Cancer Research - Challenges, Rewards and Lessons Learned at the highly successful 2001 Congress of Epidemiology. This unprecedented meeting, with over 1,700 participants, was a joint effort of four major North American epidemiology organizations, the American College of Epidemiology, the American Public Health Association Epidemiology Section, the Canadian Society for Epidemiology and Biostatistics, and the Society for Epidemiologic Research. The symposium was chaired by Richard Gallagher of the Cancer Control Agency of British Columbia, and included presentations by Elaine Ron of the US National Cancer Institute, Rolando Herrero, of the Costa Rica Ministry of Health, and Mimi Yu of the University of Southern California. Given the proliferation of international collaborative research on cancer in recent years, the session was

designed to review the scientific motivation for engaging in such ventures, as well as the practical pitfalls and rewards faced by investigators both in the more and less developed parts of the world. Case studies of research in Costa Rica, China, and Russia provided the basis for more general observations. The profound variation in cancer occurrence around the world, typically far more extensive than would be found within a single country or region, remains the primary scientific motivation for such studies.

However, as research extends across multiple cultures, some of which may have limited experience with epidemiologic research, investigators face potential challenges regarding data quality, political barriers to the acquisition of the desired information, ethical concerns for individual participants, and a broader concern with ensuring long-term benefit to the epidemiology infrastructure in the less developed research sites.

Among the common themes that emerged in the discussion was the need to develop a high level of trust among the investigators and ensure sufficient personal contact through visits to the study sites. The research protocols and published manuscripts must also be joint ventures among the team of investigators, avoiding the reality or perception of exploitation by the researchers from the more developed countries. Practical issues affecting field research such as adequacy of equipment, distinctive cultures and customs, quality control, and applying the concept of "informed consent" fairly were of general concern. Despite these challenges, there was general agreement that such studies should be continued because of the scientific and public health benefits of the knowledge they produce, but safeguards need to be built in to ensure that ethical standards are met and that the less developed countries that participate are able to obtain benefit in the form of improved health research or health care resources as a result of their involvement with the research.

### **Southeast Asia - Dr. Babu L. Verma**

Current activities : As proposal from this Region to organize a South East Asia Regional Meeting in February 2002, was cleared by IEA Council at Bahrain in October 2000, plans have been under way since then, to organize this event. The proposed programme is entitled "IEA South East Asia Congress of the Epidemiology" and is scheduled to be held at Jhansi (Uttar Pradesh), India, on 24-27th February 2002. Jhansi is located in Central India, in the State of Uttar Pradesh and is about 415 km. from New Delhi. The city is well known world over for the heroic deeds of Rani of Jhansi - Maharani Laxmi Bai. There are several attractive places, worth visiting, near Jhansi like Taj Mahal at Agra and world famous temples at Khajuraho.

Host institution for this meeting is Maharani Laxmi Bai Medical College & Hospital, Jhansi, (U.P.), India and main organizing person is : Babu L. Verma, Councillor of IEA of the Region and Congress Secretary General (e-mail:blvmedstat@yahoo.com, epidcong@rediffmail.com ). Updated details of the meeting are available from the Congress website: [www.epidcong.8m.com](http://www.epidcong.8m.com). Last dates for submitting abstracts and for reduced registration fee are 15th November 2001 and 31st October 2001 respectively. Part of the scientific programme has already been given final shape. This 4-day meeting will have an attractive scientific programme, consisting of plenaries, workshops, panel discussions, series of symposia on priority topics and abstract-based oral as well as poster sessions.

Further, to expand membership of the Association in this Region, I have been persuading, from time to time, some of the non-IEA members for accepting IEA membership, while dealing with them for Congress purposes. For a few, I have succeeded also for

this. Unpaid members were reminded for renewals of their membership.

Future Activities : In near future, my major activities will be to organize the forthcoming Regional Scientific Meeting in February 2002 and to continue my efforts for enrolling new IEA members, particularly during the course of this 4-day programme.

### **Western Pacific - Dr. Takesumi Yoshimura**

The Western Pacific Regional Scientific Meeting was held in conjunction with the Third Asian - Pacific Congress of Epidemiology from September 3 - 5, 2001 at University of Occupational and Environmental Health, Japan (UOEH), Kitakyushu Japan. The full program can be found at [www.epi.med.uoeh-u.ac.jp/APEPI2001](http://www.epi.med.uoeh-u.ac.jp/APEPI2001).

Participants for the meeting were around 200, including 60 foreign participants from 24 various countries. In the meeting, 39 oral papers and 68 poster papers were presented. Among them, 10 oral presenters were selected by the program committee as travel fellowship awardees. Besides, two excellent posters (Dr. Guo Xiao Juan from China and Dr. Lee Seung-Mi from Korea) were chosen by participants voting.

Invited lectures were presented by Prof. Walter Holland (UK, former president of IEA), Prof. Kunio Aoki (Japan, former president of IEA), Prof. Chitr Sittithi-Amorn (Thailand, President Elect of IEA) and Dr. Douglas Weed (USA, National Cancer Institute, NIH).

Two Symposia were held in the Congress. One was titled 'Current Progress in Cancer Epidemiology in the Asian Pacific Area' organized by Dr. Kazuo Tajima (Aichi Cancer Inst.) and 'Contribution of Epidemiology to Communicable Disease Control in Asia Pacific Countries' organized by Dr. Nobukatsu Ishikawa (Research Institute of Tuberculosis).

## **Meeting Announcements**

### **IEA South East Asia Congress of Epidemiology (Regional Scientific Meeting of IEA for South East Asia) Khajuraho (MP) India February 25-27, 2002**

Host-Maharani Laxmi Bai Medical College and Hospital

**Theme**-"From Preventing Disease to Promoting Health and Quality of Life "Congress Information

**Topics for technical sessions**- Biostatistics, Metaanalysis, Maternal mortality, HIV/AIDS, Cancer, Natural disasters, Malaria and much more.

Registration fees are as the following:

For IEA members, up until October 31, 2001, US\$ 250

For IEA members, from November 1, 2001 on, US\$ 300

For Non IEA member registration, up until October 31, 2001, US\$ 300

For Non IEA member registration, from November 1, 2001 and on, US\$ 350

The fee will be reduced for SAARC countries delegates and further reduced for Indian nationals (payable in INR)

The last date for submitting abstracts is November 15, 2001

You can visit the meeting webpage at  
<http://www.epidcong.8m.com>

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**IEA XVI World Congress of Epidemiology  
Montreal, Canada, August 18-22, 2002  
[www.iea2002.com](http://www.iea2002.com)**

Montreal, Canada, will host the 16th World Congress of  
Epidemiology of the International Epidemiological Association  
during August 18-22, 2002. The meeting will be held in the city's  
main convention centre, the spacious, well-equipped, and  
centrally-located Palais des Congrès.

The main theme for the meeting will be "Epidemiology and  
Modern Public Health." There will be four plenary sessions with  
distinguished speakers who will present on the major trends and  
issues in the profession of epidemiology:

Global Health Concerns for Epidemiology: The impact of global  
change and its effects on human health. Planned topics include  
climate change, water contamination, biodiversity and habitat  
destruction, population pressures and increases in life  
expectancy.

International Health and Int'l Epidemiology: The practice of  
epidemiology in different nations and cultures, social inequality  
and health, effects of globalization on nations and local  
communities, theoretical frameworks for epidemiology and  
models of health, health of indigenous peoples.

Epidemiology as a trans-disciplinary science: Methods used by  
and messages learned from disciplines which are not part of  
"traditional" epidemiology, such as history, anthropology,  
humanities, philosophy and the social sciences.

Molecular and genetic epidemiology: The contribution of  
molecular biology and genetics to epidemiology, and vice versa.  
Trends of the post-genomic era and its implications on the future  
practice of epidemiology.

The meeting will also showcase the world's leading epidemiologic  
research in specific topics: infectious diseases, cancer,  
cardiovascular diseases, children's health, environmental and  
occupational determinants, social causes of disease, health in  
developing countries, screening and prevention, trauma,  
nutritional epidemiology, statistical methods, teaching, and many  
other content and methodological areas.

Please mark your calendar for August 2002 and plan to present  
your research results. The deadlines for the fellowship programme  
and for abstracts are February 15 and March 15, 2002,  
respectively. Registration details are on the conference web site:

[www.iea2002.com](http://www.iea2002.com)

For further information please contact the IEA 2002 Congress  
Secretary at:

Events International Meeting Planners  
759 Square Victoria, Suite 300  
Montreal, Quebec  
Canada H2Y 2J7  
Phone: 514-286-0855  
E-mail: [iea2002@eventsintl.com](mailto:iea2002@eventsintl.com)

**Now Available**

**"Teaching Epidemiology" from Oxford Press  
University**

"Teaching Epidemiology" is a guide for teachers of epidemiology  
in public health and clinical medicine. It was edited by Jorn Olse,  
Rodolfo Saracci, and Dimitri Trichopoulos. For more information  
on ordering "Teaching Epidemiology", there is a link on the IEA  
web site.

**IEA Directory Searchable on Web**

The IEA membership directory is posted on the Web. This  
directory will contain the names of current members who have  
agreed to have their information posted. This directory will  
contain name, address, phone, fax and email information and will  
be updated periodically. To view this searchable database please  
go to <http://support.jhsph.edu/departments/iea>  
and enter the following information:

**Login:** ieamembers

**Password:** johnsnow

Please forward any comments or suggestions concerning this  
web site to [htelljoh@jhsph.edu](mailto:htelljoh@jhsph.edu).

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