



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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Internacional de Epidemiología

IEA Newsletter – June 2008

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Editor:
Ahmed Mandil

Editorial Assistant:
Eman Hammam

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT Jorn Olsen

Dear IEA members

The most important event, the 18th World Congress of Epidemiology (WCE), is soon coming up. More than 5500 participants have already signed up, but registration is still open. IEA has arranged a 2 day 'Course on Epidemiologic Research and new Directions' to be held right before the opening of the WCE. We hope many members will use this opportunity to be informed about new and important developments in research methodology. The program includes a spectacular list of the leading epidemiologists in this field. Please go to the IEA website and check out additional information (www.IEAweb.org).

If you have not read the latest IEA book: 'The Development of Modern Epidemiology' published by the Oxford University Press, you should find time to do so, and study the fascinating reports by those who played a key role in the development of the discipline. A 3-year / life-time membership of the IEA will give you the book, free of charge.

The IEA closely follows the conditions for doing epidemiologic research; takes active part in trying to improve our funding situation; and influences rules that govern our access to data and to make sure that epidemiologic research is promoted worldwide. The most important instrument to do this is through our publication: the International Journal of Epidemiology, but you can also find our comments to activities that impact our work at the IEA website: check out the rapid response section.

But most importantly; do come to Porto Alegre in southern Brazil in September 2008, and take part both in the IEA pre-congress course and the WCE. Both events are still open for registration.

Jorn Olsen
IEA President



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Secretary's Report

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY Ahmed Mandil

This report covers: membership issues; IEA Regional Councilors' elections; upcoming WCEs (2008 - 2014); and call for suggestions for improvement of IEA Secretariat's performance

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 2007 / 2008, there has been an observed boost in new memberships, especially during the IEA Regional Meetings which took place in the Western Pacific Region (Tasmania, Australia, August 2007, Eastern Mediterranean Region (Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, November 2007), as well as Southeast Asian Region (Dhaka, Bangladesh, February 2008).

During the IEA Council Meeting in 2006, the Australasian Epidemiological Association (AEA) became formally affiliated with the IEA. AEA members have now the option of obtaining joint membership of both organizations when they apply for (or renew) their AEA membership. Applications for similar arrangements are anticipated from other epidemiology professional societies, especially from low and middle income countries.

Incentives for 3 year and life-time memberships

As an incentive for 3 year / life time membership, the IEA is offering a free copy of its landmark 50th anniversary book: "***The Development of Modern Epidemiology***", since June 2007 (edited by Walter Holland, Charles du Ve Florey and Jorn Olsen).

Sponsorship

Elmer Villanueva Sponsorship Fund

In response to the council decision in Porto Alegre, 2007, it was agreed upon to accept nominees for the **Elmer Villanueva Sponsorship Fund (which covers 3-year membership fees)** 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

After designing / posting a new application form on the IEA website since 2007, the IEA Secretariat has been receiving nominations from different low / middle income countries, including: India, Pakistan, Iran, Iraq, Poland, and Nigeria. Consequently, the nominees were proposed to / funded by Prof Elmer Villanueva accordingly.

New Developments

IEA is currently working on further developing its website's functions and services, in order to provide IEA members a simpler **online** system for: application for new membership; renewal of membership as well as voting during elections



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**Secretary's Report
(continued)**

Election of IEA Regional Councilors (2008-2011 Council)

Invitation for nominations for IEA Regional Councilors (2008 – 2011 Council) was carried out through advertisements in the IEA Newsletter of June 2007, the IEA website as well as mass emails from the IEA Secretariat. The IEA Nomination Committee was chaired by Dr Rodolfo Saracci. Based on the Committee's report, ballots were mailed to all IEA paid-up members through 2007, during the 2nd half of February, 2008, with a deadline of April 30th, 2008 (later extended to May 20th, 2008, due to some international mailing problems). Ballots were accepted by mail, email and fax transmission to IEA Secretariat

The final result of elections of IEA Regional Councilors (2008 – 2011) is:

IEA Region	Elected Regional Councilor
Africa (AFR)	Dr Newton Isaac Kumwenda (Malawi)
Latin America & Caribbean (LACR)	Dr Maria-Ines Schmidt (Brazil)
Eastern Mediterranean (EMR)	Dr Ali Al-Zahrani (Saudi Arabia)
Europe (EUR)	Dr Susana Sans (Spain)
North America (NAR)	Dr Nancy Krieger (USA)
South East Asia (SEAR)	Dr Vinod Srivastava (India)
Western Pacific (WPR)	Dr Yosikazu Nakamura (Japan)

As seen above, apart from the WPR, all Regional Councilors are IEA members joining the IEA Council for the first time. The new Council meets on September 25, 2008

IEA Sir Richard Doll's Prize in Epidemiology

In commemoration of Sir Richard Doll's legacy and achievements in the field of Epidemiology, IEA is offering a triennial prize of \$ 20,000 to be awarded 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.



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Secretary's Report (continued)

Calls for nominations for the 2008 prize was announced in the IEA Newsletter (June 2007) and IEA website, with a deadline of February 28, 2008. Accordingly, the IEA secretariat received the following 6 nominations:

1. Anthony John McMichael, Australia
2. Ignatius Tak-sun Yu, China / Hong Kong
3. Nubia Muñoz, France
4. Matti Hakama, Finland
5. Mohsen Janghorbani, Iran
6. Jeremiah Stamler, USA

The 2008 selection committee was chaired by the current IEA President, Dr Jorn Olsen, and included in its membership: active past presidents, the Editors of the International Journal of Epidemiology as well as the IEA President-elect. The winner will be recognized by the IEA President during the closing session of the 18th IEA World Congress of Epidemiology, Porto Alegre, Brazil, on September 24, 2008.

The winner of the 2008 IEA Sir Richard Doll's Prize is:

Dr Nubia Muñoz, IARC, Lyon, France *

* International contributions by Dr Nubia Muñoz to the field of epidemiology

The situation in the late 80's was characterized by much scepticism concerning the role of HPV infection. Early molecular epidemiologic studies that attempted to test Zur Hausen's hypothesis failed because they used the wrong tools for exposure assessment (i.e., HPV detection). Pharmaceutical companies were not interested in taking risks in pursuing the enormous expenditures (hundreds of millions of dollars are not uncommon as research and development costs to bring a new vaccine to the market) required to develop a vaccine that could prevent infection by a virus whose causal link with an important disease was not conclusively proven. From her unit at the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC), in Lyon, Muñoz began to lead in 1988 a massive effort that achieved two major goals, as described below.

First, she conducted an international series of case-control studies using modern laboratory techniques that ended up demonstrating that HPV infection by certain genotypes of HPV is unequivocally one of the strongest cancer risk factors ever found. Her subsequent work also produced precise estimates of relative risks that permitted defining the HPV genotypes that had to be targeted for prevention. Likewise, it was from this enormous and persuasive series of case-control studies and from collaborative work that she had led as part of the International Biological Study of Cervical Cancer (IBSCC) that came the realization that HPV infection was not only the unequivocal central cause of cervical cancer but it should also be viewed as a necessary one. No other cancer prevention paradigms (e.g., smoking-lung cancer, HBV-liver cancer) have this distinction

Secondly, she convinced the IARC to convene a group of experts to reach a consensus concerning the classification of HPVs as carcinogens for its authoritative Monograph series on carcinogenicity evaluation. In 1995, experts led by Muñoz classified HPVs 16 and 18 as two genotypes receiving the label "Group 1, Human Carcinogens". This monograph had an



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Secretary's Report (continued)

enormous impact in subsequent prevention research and policy. The biotechnology industry began to develop HPV tests with the aim of improving traditional cervical cancer screening with Pap cytology to make it more efficient and more in line with the new knowledge. This led to today's improved secondary prevention approaches in cervical cancer control via screening and management with HPV tests. Likewise, and more importantly, the 1995 IARC Monograph gave pharmaceutical companies the body of evidence they needed to take the financial risks in developing and field-testing candidate HPV vaccines. The end result is that

about 10 years later we have two new exciting fronts for cervical cancer prevention: HPV vaccination and improved screening with HPV tests, all originated from Muñoz' vigorous and relentless leadership on the epidemiology front grounded on the pioneer work by Zur Hausen. It should be mentioned also that Muñoz, after retiring from the IARC, continued to influence the field by advising the vaccine companies to conduct relevant trials that could be generalizable worldwide.

IEA 18th World Congress of Epidemiology (WCE), Porto Alegre, Brazil

The IEA Council, especially its Executive Committee, is closely working with the local WCE organizers on details of holding this landmark meeting, planned for September 22-24, 2008 (expected to attract more than 5000 delegates, to be the largest IEA meeting in modern times). For more details about the WCE and its program, please visit its website: www.epi2008.com. In addition, you are cordially invited to participate in the international IEA course: "**Epidemiologic Research and New Directions**", planned and administered by IEA for epidemiologists from all over the world who plan to participate in the WCE. The IEA course precedes the WCE (September 20-21, 2008). Please visit the link below for more details: http://www.iseventsolutions.com/epi/course_program/index.html

Professor Cesar Victora (Brazil) was selected to deliver the 2008 IEA Robert Cruickshank Memorial Lecture during the IEA World Congress of Epidemiology in Porto Alegre. Prof Victora will speak on: *The Millennium Development Goals: A Challenge to Epidemiologists*

WCE 2011: Edinburgh, Scotland

The Organizing Committee of the WCE 2011 has started its preliminary preparations to host this congress, planned to be held in Edinburgh, Scotland, during August 2011. The WCE 2011 will be commemorating the 200th anniversary of John Snow's birthday, as suggested by some IEA members. The organizers will be having a special booth during the upcoming WCE 2008 in Brazil, in order to promote and provide details about this great event.



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Secretary's Report (continued)

Requests to host WCE 2014

During 2007 / 2008, the IEA Secretariat received several requests to bid for hosting the WCE 2014. Such potential bidders have been requested to prepare a draft proposal and submit their preliminary application by July 15, 2008. Accordingly, the Secretariat will advise on how such proposals could be improved to be submitted during the upcoming WCE 2008, Porto Alegre, Brazil (if possible). The requests came from: Turkey and Germany (EUR), Hong Kong (SEAR), Canada (NAR) and Australia (WPR). Other bids are welcomed. For further information, please contact the IEA Secretary at: IEAsecretariat@link.net

IEA Regional Meetings

During 2007 / 2008, several IEA regional meetings and activities were held, brought together experienced epidemiologists with young ones in different IEA regions. Those meetings were:

1. The Joint Scientific Meeting of the Australasian Epidemiological Association (AEA) & the IEA / Western Pacific Region, Tasmania, Australia, 27 – 29 August 2007
2. The Joint Meeting of the UK Society for Social Medicine (SSM) & the IEA / European Epidemiology Federation (IEA/EEF), Cork, Ireland, 12 - 14 September, 2007
3. The 7th IEA Eastern Mediterranean Regional Scientific Meeting, held by King Faisal Specialist Hospital & Research Centre & IEA / EMR, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, 27-28 November, 2007
4. The 9th IEA Southeast Asian Regional Scientific Meeting, held by IEA / SEAR, Dhaka, Bangladesh, 9-12 February, 2008

Improvement of Communication with IEA members

Mass E-mails

As of June 2007, the IEA Secretariat started communicating with IEA active members electronically (via e-mail). Such mass messages covered:

1. IEA Secretariat activities; calling for suggestions for improving them
2. Call for nominations for: IEA council (2008 – 2011); IEA Sir Richard Doll's Prize for 2008
3. IEA Newsletter (June 2007)
4. Announcements of the:
 - 7th IEA / EMR meeting, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, November 2007
 - 9th IEA / SEAR meeting, Dhaka, Bangladesh, February 2008
 - 18th IEA World Congress of Epidemiology, 21-24 September 2008
 - Pre-congress IEA Course, 20-21 September, 2008

Please make sure that the Secretariat has your most updated email address. IEA Members are invited to suggest means and ways for development and modernization of the functions of the IEA secretariat, especially with regards to the: IEA website; application for / processing of new / renewing membership; and the IEA Newsletter. Please submit your suggestions to our e-mail address: IEAsecretariat@link.net.



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Secretary's Report (continued)

IEA Membership's Benefits

IEA members are also invited to kindly encourage fellow professionals working in the field of epidemiology from their respective constituencies / agencies / nations / regions, 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
- Browse our Journal (<http://ije.oxfordjournals.org/>)
- Participate in our global congresses and regional meetings, especially our upcoming historical World Congress of Epidemiology (www.epi2008.com)
- Join the only international professional society of epidemiologists

If they do not have time for all of the above, 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 an eclectic mix of over 1000 professionals from more than 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 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 other 7 IEA regions (e.g. AFR, NAR, EMR, EUR, LAC, SEAR, WPR)
- **Providing** opportunities for graduate students to develop projects focusing on health inequalities of under-privileged remote populations
- **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)
- **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

Africa

Champak C. Jinabhai

Achievements during 2007

- Promotion of IEA at several local, national and continental forums and meetings
- Promoting and dissemination of information, membership application forms and abstract submission forms for the WCE in Brazil
- Encouraging scientific article submissions for the IJE
- Dissemination of IEA material at the AFRIHEALTH Conference in Pretoria, South Africa and the COHRED Conference in East Africa

Plan of Action for 2008

The main activity is involvement in the Conference Organizing Committee of the Public Health Association of South Africa (PHASA) to jointly plan the Annual Scientific Conference in collaboration with the IEA Africa in June 2008. The primary purpose of the IEA Africa sections involvement is to promote and motivate for colleagues from the wider African Region – outside South Africa - to attend the meeting and for them to join the IEA. The wider scientific purpose is to promote the theory and practice of epidemiology and its application to Health Services and policy development.

Europe

Hans-Werner Hense

Achievements during 2007

The highlight of 2007 was the European Epidemiology Conference organized by the UK Society of Social Medicine in close collaboration with the IEA European Federation of Epidemiology (IEA-EEF). The conference was hosted by the Department of Epidemiology & Public Health, University College Cork, from September 12 to 14, 2007. Robert West for the SSM / IEA and Ivan Perry from the UCC, as the local host, convened this attractive conference which attracted more than 450 participants from the UK and more than 10 European countries. The conference site was beautifully located in a new building on the campus of the University College and we were lucky to enjoy three days of perfect weather with high-quality plenary lectures, very well organized parallel sessions and many high quality scientific contributions. Four bursaries were awarded by IEA-EEF.

We continued our new concept of establishing IEA/EEF as a non-governmental organization accredited with the European Union and Council to further strengthen the role of epidemiologic research and public health in Europe. Six national epidemiological societies (UK, Spain, Sweden, Finland, Germany, Norway plus Netherlands who started the initiative) joined to financially initiate a network called CORESE. Two CORESE Newsletters were disseminated to the collaborating societies in 2007 providing latest news and relevant background information with respect to public health and epidemiological research.



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Regional Councilors' Statements (continued)

EYE (European Young Epidemiologists) is growing rapidly. It is regrettable that only a minority of the EYE members holds also a membership in the IEA. This is partly due to a lack of information about the mission of the IEA which is what we try to remove. The EYE group has its own time slots allotted in the European Epidemiology Conferences which were very well attended in Cork.

There were changes in the representatives from national societies in the IEA-EEF board: New representatives are: Marisa Rebagliato (Spain), Biljana Kocic (Serbia), Magnus Stenbeck (Sweden) and Beatrice Blondel Thierry Lang (ADELF, Association de sociétés épidémiologiques de langue française). The Elmer Villanueva Sponsorship Fund awarded a 3-year IEA membership to Dr Alexander Galas from Poland.

Plan of Action for 2008

We will attempt to continue with the CORESE network activities. This awaits decisions of the participating national societies and the IEA-EEF board on future perspectives to be taken during a board meeting in June 2008.

A workshop is organised by the European Educational Programme in Epidemiology, the IEA, the EYE and the Foundation Compagnia di S. Paolo at the end of June 2008. The topic is "Epidemiology in the new century: perspectives of and for young epidemiologists in Europe". The workshop is organised by Rodolfo Saracci (IEA), Ana Azevedo (EYE) and Hans-Werner Hense (IEA-EEF).

North America Patricia Buffler

Achievements during 2007

Most of our activity in North America has been on preparations for the IEA course on "Epidemiologic Methods and New Directions" to be held in conjunction with the World of Congress of Epidemiology on September 20-21, 2008. We have attempted insofar as possible to coordinate this with SER and ACE. Full program details can be found on the following website: www.iseventsolutions.com/epi

In spite of its successful track record, epidemiology has become the focus of controversy concerning its usefulness and limitations to identify relevant public health hazards, such as causes of cancer, cardiovascular disease, and other chronic ailments. The public visibility of epidemiologic findings and the lack of a coherent picture concerning newly identified risk factors have greatly fueled the debate on whether epidemiology has reached its limits in producing further cornerstones for preventive approaches.

We believe epidemiology is far from having reached its limits; the plethora of new methods that have emerged in recent years can greatly expand the scope and utility of epidemiology. Novel study designs and statistical methods are available that can serve epidemiologists in probing complex etiologic relations and verify the efficacy of new preventive technologies. The emergence of new interfaces with molecular genetics and social epidemiology has greatly expanded the purview of the discipline.



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Regional Councilors' Statements (continued)

The IEA has undertaken the organization of a series of seminars that are intended to bring to the epidemiology community: an overview of the latest developments in methods and revisit well established approaches discussions on limitations and caveats in the theory and practice of epidemiologic methods.

The invited speakers are among the most influential contributors of statistical methodology and experienced epidemiologists who have shaped our substantive knowledge about disease causation and exposure assessment.

As the most inclusive of all international epidemiological societies, the IEA will sponsor these seminars to provide epidemiologists and public health professionals an opportunity to become acquainted with the advances in epidemiologic methods that can enhance the role of our discipline in serving society.

Secondly, North America has also tried to coordinate the Richard Doll Award with both IEA and the American College of Epidemiology, but due to certain logistical considerations, the award will be administered only by the IEA.

Plan of Action for 2008

The upcoming course on "Epidemiologic Methods and New Directions" is to be held on September 20-21, 2008, preceding the World Congress of Epidemiology. The full program details can be found on the website at www.iseventsolutions.com/epi.

Membership Status

North America is using all venues to increase its membership. It is our hope that through the positive exposure through the Epidemiology Research Methods Seminar, North Americans will find IEA to have great merit and take up membership.

South East Asia Babu L. Verma

Achievements during 2007

During 2007, I concentrated mainly on 4 activities: i) organization of a SEA Regional Scientific Meeting in 2007- 08, ii) strengthening collaboration with INCLLEN – globally, particularly in SEAR, iii) improving IEA regional membership and iv) organization of a SEA Regional Activity during forthcoming XVIIIth *IEA World Congress of Epidemiology (WCE)*

1. Organization of a SEA Regional Scientific Meeting

To finalize a proposal that I had received from Dr AKM Fazlur Rahman, Dhaka (Bangladesh), for organizing "9th IEA/SEA Regional Scientific Meeting (RSM)", I visited Dhaka in early 2007 to have an on-site assessment of the proposal. Consequently, the meeting was held at Dhaka (Bangladesh) during 9-12 February 2008 at the Institute of Child and Mother Health (ICMH), Matuail, Dhaka. The **theme** was: Epidemiology: A key to achieve the MDGs

Major Topics covered were: Epidemiological Methods; Infant and Young Child Feeding; Biostatistics; Neonatal and Child Health; Non-communicable Diseases; Adolescent Health; Injury and its prevention; Maternal Health; Infectious Diseases; Violence Against Women;



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Regional Councilors' Statements (continued)

Occupational and Environmental Health; Health Promotion; Nutrition; Health Policy. There was a Pre-Conference Workshop on "How to write in science, what editors want?" The Scientific Program of the Meeting included around 30 guest lectures and symposia presentations on different priority topics by world-renowned epidemiologists / biostatisticians. Dr. A M. Shawkat Ali, Honorable Advisor, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of Bangladesh, was the Chief Guest in the Opening Ceremony of the Meeting. Prof. M. A.

Majid, Pro-Vice Chancellor, BSMMU, ADG, Planning and Development, Directorate General of Health Services, Dhaka, Bangladesh, was Chair in its Closing Ceremony. **Sponsoring Agencies included:** IEA; UNICEF Bangladesh; WHO SEARO; UNFPA, Bangladesh; Plan Bangladesh; Save the Children Bangladesh. The main collaborators / partners in Dhaka included: Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU); Institute of Child and Mother Health (ICMH); National Institute of Preventive & Social Medicine (NIPSOM); Bangladesh Medical Research Council (BMRC); ICDDR,B; BIRDEM; Centre for Women and Child Health (CWCH); Bangladesh Breastfeeding Foundation (BBF). Total registered delegates were 437 (of whom 51 were international). The number of scientific presentations was 204 (of which 174 were oral and 30 posters). The number of participants in the pre-conference workshop was: 100. 19 scholarships were offered (19 of which were full, 5 partial) in addition to supporting 15 keynote speakers; while registration was waived for 120 local participants.

2. Improving Collaboration with INCLLEN

As IEA / SEA RC, I have been keeping a good relationship with INCLLEN since I took over (1999). As the Global HQ Office of INCLLEN has been at New Delhi in India for the last few years, I used this opportunity to strengthen IEA's relationship with INCLLEN. This was done through correspondence and personal meetings with Professor Narendra Arora, INCLLEN's present Global Executive Director. As an outcome of my efforts, the two organizations have now agreed to link their websites. Upon IEA invitation, INCLLEN is now organizing a Symposium during the 2008 Brazil IEA/WCE. Further, both organizations are now of the view that they should have a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to have collaborative activities of mutual interest, on regular basis. The draft for this MOU is in progress and expected to be finalized by the end of 2008

Plan of Action 2008

1. Organization of a SEA Regional Activity during 2008 Brazil IEA/WCE

I have submitted a proposal for a Regional Symposium on "Estimation of Disease Burden: Methods and Estimates" with 6 speakers, proposed to cover different aspects of the topic. Speakers are currently working on securing funds to support their participation in this activity from local sources.

2. A Proposal for Next SEA Regional Scientific Meeting

For organizing 10th IEA / SEA RSM during 2009 - 2010, I had made good correspondence with countries like Nepal and Srilanka. Dr Janaki Vidanapathirana, National STD & AIDS Control Program, Ministry of Health Care & Nutrition, expressed interest to organize the 10th IEA / SEA RSM at Colombo, Srilanka during 2009-10. It is expected that the new SEAR Councilor will formally invite Srilanka to prepare the proposal for such RSM.



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Regional Councilors' Statements (continued)

Membership Status

The regional membership situation is not satisfactory. Six out of 11 countries of the Region (Srilanka, Maldives, DPR Korea, Myanmar, Bhutan, Timor-Leste) did not have any IEA member till 2007. The following efforts were made to boost regional membership. Firstly, I went to Thimphu (Bhutan) to represent IEA to the 60th WHO/SEA Regional Committee (31 August - 3 September 2007). I contacted several delegates of the Region, handed over Membership Application Forms (along with a document highlighting benefits of IEA Membership and some publicity - material of the 2008 Dhaka IEA/SEA RSM) and invited them to become IEA Members.

Secondly, as immediate past-president (2005 -2006), I attended the *Silver Jubilee National Conference of the Indian Society for Medical Statistics (ISMS)* which took place on 30 November – 2 December 2007 at Manipal University, India. I used this opportunity to advertise 9th IEA / SEA Dhaka 2008 RSM and displayed an IEA pamphlet including its Membership Application Form, to enroll new members. Thirdly, during the 9th IEA / SEA RSM of Dhaka (Bangladesh), 9 - 12 February 2008, an *IEA Desk* was arranged at the *Reception Counter* of this Meeting on all 4 days. It handled IEA enquiries, advertised its activities and provided IEA Membership Application Forms for those who requested them.

Suggestions

1. Regional membership needs to be drastically improved. Special efforts are required to enroll new members. Best way is to get this done through advertising IEA in national, regional and international scientific meetings. Also, for this, one *Country Representative* (who is an IEA member) should be identified in each of the 11 countries of the Region to support new membership. Further, scholarships for attending WCEs / RSMs are big attractions for young epidemiologists to become IEA members in Developing Countries. Thus, the number of IEA scholarships needs to be increased for young as well as other professionals who cannot afford participation in IEA meetings. Furthermore, while enrolling members, emphasis should be on the Life Term Membership of IEA.
2. Capacity of epidemiology in the Region is not satisfactory and there is need to improve upon it. IEA should organize frequent short term training courses in the Region in near future.
3. On the lines of INCLIN, IEA should start undertaking projects by its members. This will further enhance IEA visibility and also generate additional funds, which can be used for scholarships to IEA members etc.
4. Application of bio-statistical methods in epidemiological research in the Region is not up to the mark. IEA should contribute in different ways for this purpose, e.g. by organizing short term courses and sponsoring publications on the subject.

Concluding Remarks

This year, I shall be completing 9 years of my IEA Councillorship of the Region (this being my last term) and hence, this is my last report as SEA RC. During this long period, I have enjoyed working with 3 IEA Councils. With regard to the development of epidemiology in the Region, I did whatever I could by organizing IEA regional activities during my past 3 terms. I have received enormous co-operation, help and support from IEA HQ – particularly from its 3 Presidents, Secretary and Treasurer. I express my gratitude and thank them. Please forgive me if I could not reach to anybody's expectations as SEA RC. Lastly, I will continue to contribute to the IEA in all the ways possible if I have a chance in future days to come.



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Regional Councilors' Statements (continued)

WHO Liaison

Western Pacific Yosikazu Nakamura

Achievements during 2007

The regional meeting was held in Hobart, Australia from August 26 - 29, 2007. The meeting was jointly held with the annual meeting of the Australasian Epidemiological Association (AEA) and hosted by Professor Leigh Blizzard, Menzies Research Institute. The slogan was "Epidemiology: making an impact". There were several keynote presentations including: "Epidemiology: making an impact in Brazil" by Professor Mauricio Barreto, Federal University of Salvador, Brazil and IEA / LAC Regional Councilor; "Long-term epidemiological study of atomic bomb survivors in Hiroshima and Nagasaki: history, achievements, and public health implication" by Dr. Kazunori Kodama, Radiation Effects Research Foundation, Japan and President of the Japan Epidemiological Association; and "Making an impact on asthma through international collaboration: the International Study of Asthma and Allergies in Childhood (ISAAC)" by Professor Neil Pearce, Massey University, New Zealand and IEA President-Elect. There were 7 plenary presentations, 5 biostatistical tutorials, and 224 general presentations. Details of the meeting could be seen in Volume 14 (3) of the Australasian Epidemiologist 2007. Approximately 30 researchers joined the meeting outside Australia and New Zealand. The Western Pacific Regional Councilor wishes to cordially thank Professors Pearce and Blizzard, and other related persons.

Plan of Action 2008: Next Regional Meeting is planned, if possible, in Japan in January, 2010, jointly with the 20th annual meeting of the Japan Epidemiological Association.

IEA-WHO LIAISON Rodolfo Saracci

1. Liaison with the World Health Organization (WHO)

Apart from personal attendance to the session of the Executive Board in January 2008, there have not been further developments in this area. While participation of WHO from various offices into IEA meeting (including in particular the World Epidemiology Congress) appears as of definite interest to WHO staff, other initiatives move very slowly. For example the formalities for a proposed cooperation agreement between Health Metrics Network and IEA are taking more time than expected, essentially at the level of a formulation that can meet the legal requirements.

2. Liaison with Council for International Organizations of Medical Sciences (CIOMS)

The "core group" in charge of preparing the "International guidelines for epidemiological research" met for two days at the end of November 2007, to finalize the draft of the guidelines. As it was apparent from the extensive exchange of viewpoints in the web and from the consultation meeting held in Geneva early in June 2007, there was a large agreement between epidemiologists, other scientists and bioethics specialists on most issues but also some non-negligible differences of emphasis on a few important issues such as a broad or a restricted, specific consent of subjects to the use of biological samples stored in biobanks. The "core group" was confronted with the task of reaching agreement on a



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WHO Liaison (continued)

National Epidemiological Societies' reports

consensus text, first through repeated exchanges by e-mail and then at the meeting in November 2007. The text, which expresses the best achievable compromise between different viewpoints, is now available, pending publication in printed form as a booklet, on the CIOMS website.

3. Liaison with the European Educational Programme in Epidemiology (EEPE)

The 21st Residential Summer Course is taking place from June 23 to July 11, 2008 in Florence, and is preceded (from June 16 to 20) by a specialized course on "Health inequalities in Europe". A definitely positive aspect is that for the fourth consecutive year it will be possible to grant five or six fellowships (of 4000 Euros each) to allow students from developing countries to attend the course. In addition eight fellowships (of 1500 Euros each) will be granted to students from Eastern Europe with lower level of resources to attend the course on "Health inequalities in Europe". It is hoped that the support of the foundation Compagnia di San Paolo, which grants the fellowships, can continue for another two years.

With the support of the same foundation the already announced small meeting organized to encourage the development of the IEA "EYE group" (European Young Epidemiologists) will take place in Turin from 28 to 30 of May 2008. Scientific as well as career and societal issues concerning those embarking into the profession of epidemiologist will be discussed.

REPORTS FROM NATIONAL EPIDEMIOLOGICAL SOCIETIES

The Lebanese Epidemiological Association (LEA) Mary E. Deeb, LEA President

The Lebanese Epidemiological Association (LEA) is a scientific non-governmental organization created in 1994. Membership eligibility is open to individuals engaged in epidemiological research, teaching and training and the constituency of our present membership is multidisciplinary. LEA organizes an annual Lebanese Epidemiological Conference during which national findings are presented, disseminated and discussed with keynote researchers from prestigious international institutions. Our third national conference was consolidated with a Regional Meeting of the IEA- East Mediterranean Region, held in Beirut in 1997. The latest (13th) annual conference, entitled: "Post-War Recovery and Reconstruction in Vulnerable Populations", was held in December 14-15, 2007, in cooperation with the Association of Health Promotion Professionals in Lebanon and the Lebanese Health Management Association (these sister associations are considering forming a larger Lebanese Federation for Public Health). The meeting was partially sponsored by the WHO Office in Beirut and UNFPA; covered two thematic subjects: Population Health Needs Assessment and Community Based Interventions. Presentations in the first session highlighted wartime surveys and focus group discussions undertaken to assess the psychosocial and mental health situation of Internally Displaced Populations of children, women and adolescents. Issues presented in the second session constituted a partial list of post-war community based-interventions that were implemented in war affected areas in Lebanon. This session captures particularly the role of Academia, UN agencies and NGO's in supporting government agencies in the post-war recovery period. The enriching presentations will be used to stimulate public health policies to ensure adequate preparedness and response in the aftermath of disasters (EPR). This will hopefully constitute the basis of establishing and monitoring "Best Practices" that need to be replicated and



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National Epidemiological Societies' reports (continued)

Epidemiology Related Publications

practices that need to be avoided. As a follow up to the annual conference, a workshop is being planned for June 2008, entitled: "How to enhance the role of Academia to promote the evaluation process to assess the impact of Community-based Programs?" Proceedings will be appended on the IEA website (www.iea-lb.org) currently undergoing major development

Birth of A New Epidemiology National Society: The Saudi Epidemiological Association (SEA)

Following the success of the 7th IEA/EMR scientific meeting, held in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, November 27-27, 2007 at King Faisal Specialist Hospital & Research Center (KSHRC), and several national preparatory steps, April 30th, 2008 witnessed the birth of the Saudi Epidemiological Association (SEA) during the meeting of its ad-hoc committee (details below). The SEA is established under the umbrella of the Saudi Commission for Health Specialties (SCFHS), by an initiative from many epidemiologists and public health professionals all over the country. While all health care professionals are invited to join the association, only those specialized in Epidemiology or related specialty from Saudi Arabia and GCC countries are allowed to be nominated and elected as Board members. The SEA is planning to organize an annual scientific meeting, to launch a website, to distribute a bulletin, and design and conduct short courses and hope to establish its official peer-reviewed journal: The Saudi Epidemiological Association Journal (SEAJ). The SEA ad-hoc committee is chaired by Dr Abdulaziz Al-Othaimen (Epidemiology Research Unit, KFSHRC, Riyadh). Its members are: Dr Tawfeeq Al-Ghabra (Dean, College of Medicine, Tabouk), Dr Abdulaziz Bin-Saeed (Chairman, Family & Community Medicine Dept, King Saud University, Riyadh), Dr Bakr Bin Sadiq (Deputy Chairman, Research Center, KFSHRC, Jeddah), and Dr Abdullah Al-Joudi (Deputy Chairman, SEA ad-hoc committee and Epidemiologist, Ministry of Health). The ad-hoc committee is responsible to set the stage for the first General Assembly during which the Executive Board will be elected from the nominated candidates. It was agreed to call for such Assembly during the last week of October 2008.

EPIDEMIOLOGY RELATED PUBLICATIONS

A Dictionary of Epidemiology - Fifth Edition

Miquel Porta, *Professor and Head of the Clinical & Molecular Epidemiology of Cancer Unit, Institut Municipal d'Investigació Mèdica; Professor of Preventive Medicine & Public Health, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, Spain (editor)*

The International Epidemiological Association (IEA) and Oxford University Press (OUP) are currently working on the Fifth Edition of 'A Dictionary of Epidemiology', whose first four editions were edited by Prof John Last (Ottawa). The Fifth Edition, edited by Prof Miquel Porta (Barcelona, Spain), is expected during June 2008, to coincide with the IEA World Congress of Epidemiology in Porto Alegre, Brazil.

The new, completely revised, and updated edition of this classic text remains the definitive dictionary in epidemiology worldwide. In fact, with contributions from over 220 epidemiologists and other users of epidemiology from around the globe, it is more than a dictionary: it includes explanations and comments on both core epidemiologic terms and on other scientific terms relevant to all professionals in clinical medicine and public health, as well as to professionals in the other health, life, and social sciences. Anyone seeking clarity



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**Epidemiology
Related
Publications
(continued)**

on epidemiologic and methodological definitions important to human health will find it here. On the eve of a field trip to a foreign land, a health scientist remarked that if he had to limit his professional library to one volume on epidemiology, this would be the book he would choose.

For more information please visit:

<http://www.dundee.ac.uk/iea/Dictionary51.htm>

**Race, Ethnicity and Health in Multicultural Societies: Foundations for Better
Epidemiology, Public Health and Health Care**

Raj S Bhopal, *Bruce and John Usher Chair of Public Health, University of Edinburgh;*
Honorary Consultant in Public Health, NHS Lothian Health Board; Chairman, Steering Group
of the National Resource Centre for Ethnic Minority Health, Scotland, UK

This book aims to convey the concepts of race and ethnicity and demonstrate how these can be applied in scientific research, policy making, health service planning, and health promotion. Theory is emphasized, yet practical application is included through numerous examples, allowing the reader to put the concepts into context. The book covers: the concepts of ethnicity and race in health; terminology and classifications for ethnic and racial groups; challenges of collecting and interpreting data using the concepts of ethnicity and race; historical analysis of the development of health and health care services for ethnic minorities; defining health and health care needs using quantitative and qualitative data; ethnic inequalities in health and health care; principles for setting priorities for ethnic minority populations; strategic approaches to health and health care services for ethnic minority groups; research on and with ethnic minority groups: past and future; Theoretical, ethical and future-orientated perspectives. The book is winner of the Specialist Readership category of the MJA Open Book Awards 2008

For further information, please visit:

<http://www.oup.com/uk/catalogue/?ci=9780198568179>



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**IEA's Calendar of
Events**

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING IEA ACTIVITIES (2008 / 2009)

Region	Meetings	Contact Information
Europe	<p>European Educational Programme in Epidemiology (EEPE)</p> <p>21st Residential Summer Course in Epidemiology, Florence, Italy, 23 June - 11 July 2008 <i>three week main course</i></p> <p>Social Inequalities in Health in Europe, Florence, Italy, 16 June - 20 June 2008 <i>one week course</i></p>	<p>Dr Rodolfo Saracci (Course Coordinator) saracci@hotmail.com EEPE Secretariat eepe@eepe.org www.eepe.org/</p>
Global	<p>18th IEA World Congress of Epidemiology, Porto Alegre, Brazil, 20-24 September, 2008</p>	<p>Dr Maria Ines Schmidt (Brazil) mschmidt@adufgrs.ufrgs.br Dr Mauricio Barreto (IEA) mauricio@ufba.br www.epi2008.com</p>
International	<p>1st IEA International Course on Epidemiological Methods, Jaipur, India, 5-17 April, 2009</p>	<p>Dr Neil Pearce (IEA) N.E.Pearce@massey.ac.nz Dr D Prabhakaran (India) dprabhakaran@ccdcindia.org</p> <p>Course Secretariat Naomi Brewer/Hilary Nuttall h.g.nuttall@massey.ac.nz www.IEAweb.org</p>

OTHER NON – IEA EPIDEMIOLOGY ACTIVITIES

Crash Course in Epidemiology

INTERNATIONAL EPIDEMIOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION, UK

In official relations with the World Health Organization

This is the **fourth 5-day crash course** in Epidemiology, following on the success of previous courses in 2005, 2006 and 2007. It is intended for those who want to lay a sound foundation to their knowledge of epidemiology, particularly as it relates to public health practice, policy and research. It will be most suitable for those in the health professions, such as nurses, doctors, health promoters, health policy makers and health researchers. Social sciences, statistics and health management colleagues may also find the course useful.

Delegate feedback from the previous courses has been first class and may help potential 2008 participants to decide if the course is suitable for them. Ratings for the 2007 course were particularly high; with **100%** of respondents indicating that the course had met (or exceeded) their expectations and that they would recommend it to their colleagues. Check it out at: <http://www.lifelong.ed.ac.uk/cpd/courses/medicine?Course=K1457>

WHAT'S NEW?

IEA International Course on Epidemiological Methods Jaipur, India, 5-18 April 2009

This is an introductory level course, but the participants will gain the maximum benefit from the course if they already have some experience of epidemiology and have already completed some form of introductory course. It will include lectures, computer-based analyses (using the Stata package), exercises, discussion sessions, and practical experience in the design of a research proposal. The course will be of interest to epidemiologists, public health professionals, statisticians, and clinicians. The course is only available to members of the International Epidemiology Association; non-members will be required to join the IEA before commencing the course.

Course Directors

- Professor Neil Pearce (New Zealand)
- Professor Rodolfo Saracci (France)
- Dr D Prabhakaran (India)

Overview of the Course

- Descriptive epidemiology
- Study design options (cohort, case-control, cross-sectional, intervention studies)
- Study design issues (confounding, selection bias, information bias, effect modification)
- Data analysis (stratified analysis, multivariable analysis)
- Writing and publishing epidemiological research (conducted with the editorial team of the International Journal of Epidemiology)

Accommodation and Course Fees

Candidates are expected to find their own financial support for course fees (including accommodation, breakfast and lunch) of €450 for a single room or €290 for a shared twin room. Accommodation reservations will be arranged after candidate applications have been accepted.

Contact Information

Naomi Brewer / Hilary Nuttall; Centre for Public Health Research; Massey University Wellington Campus; Private Box 756; Wellington, New Zealand; Fax: 00-64-4-3800-600
e-mail: h.g.nuttall@massey.ac.nz



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IEA COUNCIL LIST (2005 – 2008)

Name	Position	Mail Address	E-mail
Executive Committee			
Dr Jorn Olsen	President	Department of Epidemiology - UCLA School of Public Health Box 951772, Los Angeles, CA 90095-1772, USA	jo@ucla.edu / jo@soci.au.dk
Dr Ahmed Mandil	Secretary	Dept. of Epidemiology, High Institute of Public Health, Alexandria University - 38, Ismailiah Street, Apt 201, Mostafa Kamel, Alexandria, Egypt	IEAsecretariat@link.net
Dr David Wegman	Treasurer	Dean, School of Health & Environment, University of Massachusetts Lowell - 3 Solomont Way, Suite 1 Lowell, MA 01854-5121, USA	David_Wegman@uml.edu
Dr Neil Pearce	President- Elect	Director, Centre for Public Health Research Massey University - Wellington Campus Private box 756 - Wellington, New Zealand	n.e.pearce@massey.ac.nz
Dr Chitr Sitthi- Amorn	Past President	Director, Institute of Health Research Dean, College of Public Health Chulalongkorn University, 4 th floor, Institute Building 2 Phyathai Road, Pathumwan, Bangkok 10330, Thailand	Chitr@md2.md.chula.ac.th
Ex-officio Members			
Dr George Davey- Smith	IJE Editor	Prof of Clinical Epidemiology Department of Social Medicine University of Bristol Canyng Hall, White Ladies Road - Bristol BS8 2PR, UK	George.Davey-Smith@bristol.ac.uk
Dr Shah Ebrahim	IJE Editor	Dept. of Epidemiology & Population Health London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine Keppel St, London LICIE 7HT - UK	Shah.Ebrahim@lshtm.ac.uk
Regional Councilors			
Dr CC Jinabhai	Africa	School of Family & Public Health, Nelson R. Mandela School of Medicine University of KwaZulu-Natal, Private Bag 7, Congella 4013 Durban, South Africa	jinabhai@ukzn.ac.za
Dr Mauricio Barreto	Latin America & Caribbean	Instituto de Saude Coletiva Federal University of Bahia Rua Basilio da Gama s/n - Canela 40110-040 Salvador, Bahia, Brazil	mauricio@ufba.br
Dr Hassan El Bushra	Eastern Mediterra- nean	World Health Organization Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean Abdul Razzak Al Sanhoury St. - Nasr City, Cairo 11371, Egypt	elbushrah@emro.who.int
Dr Hans-Werner Hense	Europe	Professor of Clinical Epidemiology Institute of Epidemiology & Social Medicine University Muenster Domagkstr. 3 - 48129 Muenster, Germany	hense@uni-muenster.de
Dr Patricia Buffler	North America	Prof. of Epidemiology & Dean Emerita Kenneth & Marjorie Kaiser Endowed Chair University of California, Berkeley - School of Public Health 140 Warren Hall, MC 7360 - Berkeley, CA 94720, USA	pab@berkeley.edu
Dr Babu Verma	South East Asia	Division of Biostatistics, Dept. of Social & Preventive Medicine Maharani Laxmi Bai Medical College & Hospital Jhansi - 284 128, Uttar Pradesh, India	blvmedstat@yahoo.com
Dr Yosikazu Nakamura	Western Pacific	Department of Public Health - Jichi Medical School 3311-1 Yakushiji - Shimotsuke, Tochigi 329-0498, Japan	nakamuyk@jichi.ac.jp
Dr Rodolfo Saracci	WHO Liaison	IARC - 150 Cours A. Thomas 69008 Lyon, France	saracci@hotmail.com