

CSTE UPDATE

COUNCIL OF STATE AND TERRITORIAL EPIDEMIOLOGISTS

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



It seems like only yesterday that we were together at the June CSTE annual meeting in Portland. I'm sure those of you who were able to attend will concur that it was among the best CSTE meetings we've ever held. Certainly it was the best attended, with almost 1,200 registered participants. Let me thank our host Mel Kohn, who served as my predecessor as CSTE President, for his gracious hospitality, the CSTE staff who worked so hard to make the meeting a success, the planning committee, and most of all the many presenters and attendees. It was a clear demonstration of the vibrancy of our organization, the enthusiasm of the membership, and the great value placed on what we do as state and local epidemiologists.

It's important that we harness the momentum generated during the annual meeting and keep our wide-ranging agenda moving forward. Toward this end, based on input from many of you and the Executive Board, I've laid out a set of Presidential priorities that will help guide our work over the coming year. These priorities include:

- Strengthening the state and local epidemiology workforce
- Supporting state-based surveillance systems
- Leveraging informatics as a tool for state-based epidemiology
- Elevating the role of epidemiology as health care reform is implemented
- Addressing the obesity epidemic
- Assessing the public health impact of climate change
- Nurturing global epidemiology partnership opportunities

In my first newsletter as CSTE President, I want to focus on workforce issues. People are at the core of epidemiology and will always be our greatest strength. Without epidemiologists, there is no surveillance, no investigation, no analysis and no prevention. Yet the vitality of the workforce is also among our greatest challenges. The 2009 Epidemiology Capacity Assessment showed progressive erosion of the state-based epidemiology workforce. Most states face another round of budget cuts with possible furloughs and ongoing hiring freezes. Federal support is uncertain. The proportion of our workforce nearing retirement grows steadily, and those who retire will be difficult to replace.

Addressing these challenges requires that we vigorously pursue opportunities to enhance the quality and the number of epidemiologists working at the state and local level. We can do this by exploring how CSTE can enhance the skills

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CSTE 2010 ANNUAL CONFERENCE



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A MESSAGE FROM THE CSTE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

It goes without saying that we all continue to experience the repercussions of the economic downturn. Budget cutbacks, hiring freezes and furlough days are just a few of the added challenges over and above the usual. The past couple of years could be a case study for a curriculum on Public Health in Tough Times 101.

At CSTE, we find ourselves in the unusual position of offering opportunities that you, our members, may not be able to take full advantage of. We know the continued recession and fiscal constraints you face every day at the state and local level make it hard to engage with us, the CDC, or other partner organizations.

However, we want to be sure we continue to be value-added for the work that you do and provide growth opportunities for our membership. These run the gamut from informational calls among states and with CDC, webinars, workshops, consultancy opportunities, the CSTE annual conference, national assessments, fellowship placements, and more. Our goal is to keep all states and members plugged in to what's happening at CSTE and on the national level in public health.

Whatever the future may hold, state-based epidemiology needs to come out on "the other side" strong and fully functioning. CSTE is committed to make this possible through communication, sharing of best practices, and providing professional development opportunities.

CSTE can provide information to you to help justify your participation in extra-curricular activities like CSTE consultancies or committees and to allow people in your

organizations to attend national meetings. We're working to make more consultant opportunities available to members. We can also assist in building your workforce. As one example, we just completed a contract agreement with a major city that will use federal grant dollars to support placement of epidemiology fellows in lieu of direct personnel hiring. We can work with you on ideas for direct assistance (like fellows) in situations where hiring is frozen.

We'll be asking for your help with activities such as a special enumeration of the national epidemiological workforce by state and subject area. We need to gather this information late in 2010 – an "off" year from our usual epi workforce capacity survey – to determine how our workforce has been impacted by the economic downturn. We will try to make the process as painless as possible. Your efforts will result in the ability to address areas that are lacking and try to be well-positioned when things improve.

If you have suggestions about how CSTE can work in other ways to help members and states find new or better ways to engage and participate in these difficult times, please feel free to contact me. We are always open to your ideas.

In the meantime, please know that CSTE and your colleagues at CDC appreciate the work you do each and every day to protect the nation's health and the challenges you face. We are committed to do our part to help you meet those challenges however we can.

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

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and training of the existing workforce, support efforts to hire and place personnel, and help train the next generation of epidemiologists through programs like the CDC/CSTE Applied Epidemiology fellowship and EIS programs, along with the placement of informatics and prevention effectiveness fellows. In recognition of the importance of this issue to the membership, I am proposing that a Workforce Summit be held this winter to develop fresh ideas and strategies to meet our workforce challenges.

Our workforce challenge also applies to CSTE. Despite a fantastic core national office staff, CSTE is by and large a member-driven and operated organization. There is much more to CSTE than the Annual Conference, and we are so much more effective with the active involvement of as many of our members as possible. Therefore, I ask each of you to consider volunteering to serve on a subcommittee, to mentor a CSTE fellow, or to serve as a subject matter expert liaison. Involvement with this organization is amazingly rewarding and a great personal growth opportunity. My sincere hope is that **every** state epidemiologist and deputy state epidemiologist is a member of at least one committee or serves in at least one liaison role. If you are not currently involved, opportunities abound to volunteer. More information about the committee structures and liaison opportunities can be found on the CSTE website. If you wish to get involved, please contact me or any of the Executive Board members, or contact Pat McConnon or LaKesha Robinson in the national office.

Please feel free to send to me or the national office staff any ideas, feedback, or concerns that you'd like to share. We want to hear from you. And we want to support you. I look forward to working with as many of you as possible over the coming year.

CSTE 2010 ANNUAL CONFERENCE



NEW CSTE BOARD MEMBERS

Please join us in welcoming CSTE's two new board members, Dr. Katrina Hedberg and Dr. Tim Jones. We look forward to working with them as CSTE continues to grow and work to serve our members.



KATRINA HEDBERG, MD

Member-at-Large

Dr. Katrina Hedberg is Interim State Epidemiologist and Administrator of the Office of Disease Prevention and Epidemiology at the Oregon Public Health Division, and has served with the Oregon Public Health Division for the past 20 years.

During that time, she has worked as a medical epidemiologist and manager in a variety of programs, including HIV/AIDS, Acute and Communicable Disease, Sexually Transmitted Diseases, Environmental and Occupational Health, Injury Epidemiology, Chronic Disease Prevention, Communicable Disease Preparedness, Tuberculosis, and Health Statistics. She is also an Affiliate Associate Professor in the Department of Public Health and Preventive Medicine at Oregon Health Sciences University.

Dr. Hedberg received her undergraduate degree from Yale University in 1980 and her medical degree from Oregon Health Sciences University in 1985. She completed a year of clinical training at Emory University and then worked for the Centers for Disease Control from 1986-1989, first as an EIS officer assigned to the Minnesota Department

of Health, and then as a Preventive Medicine Resident with the Malaria Branch. She earned her Master's of Public Health Degree from the University of Washington in 1990, and is board certified in Public Health and Preventive Medicine.

Dr. Hedberg has authored and co-authored numerous publications, including articles on Serogroup B meningococcal disease in Oregon, a multistate outbreak of salmonellosis related to alfalfa sprouts, smoking-related mortality in Oregon, and Oregon's experience with legalized physician-assisted suicide.

As a CSTE member since the early 1990s, Dr. Hedberg has worked on projects concerning workforce development, public health surveillance, and chronic disease indicators. She has served as the CSTE lead for the EIS program and on the CSTE fellowship advisory board, and is now a member-at-large on the Executive Board, where she will focus on workforce capacity and training issues. One of her particular interests is working to make public health data available for policy and decision making at state and local levels.



TIM JONES, MD

Secretary-Treasurer

Dr. Tim Jones is State Epidemiologist for the Tennessee Department of Health. In this role, he directs the department's Communicable and Environmental Disease Services section of the Bureau of Health Services. He oversees statewide investigation and epidemiologic surveillance programs including TB, HIV/STDs, Immunizations, Zoonotic and Vectorborne Diseases, Emergency Preparedness, Hospital Infections, Environmental Epidemiology, Outbreak Investigations, and Surveillance and Epidemiology sections.

Before his appointment as State Epidemiologist in 2007, Dr. Jones was the state's Deputy State Epidemiologist and Director of the FoodNet and West Nile Virus (WNV) Programs. In 2007 and 2008, he also served as Tennessee's Acting State Medical Officer.

Prior to moving to Tennessee, Dr. Jones practiced with the National Health Service Corps in an underserved area in Utah before joining the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Epidemic Intelligence Service in 1997. He is a noted expert in the area of foodborne

disease epidemiology, and has offered national and international consultations with the CDC and the World Health Organization. He has traveled extensively in this capacity, including assignments in Alaska, Liberia, Central and South America, Japan, Yemen, Malaysia and the Philippines.

Dr. Jones' participation in CSTE includes serving as Co-chair of the Council to Improve Foodborne Outbreak Response (CIFOR) and as the CSTE representative on the ASTHO Food Safety Taskforce, both since 2005. Beginning in 2006, he also became Lead Consultant/FDA Liaison. He now serves as Secretary-Treasurer on the Executive Board.

Dr. Jones holds a bachelor's degree from Amherst College and a medical degree from Stanford University School of Medicine. He completed his three-year residency in family medicine and one-year fellowship in maternal and child health at Memorial Hospital of Rhode Island and is certified by the National Board of Medical Examiners.



2010 PUMPHANDLE AWARD WINNER MATT CARTTER, MD, MPH

The Pumphandle Award of the Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists is awarded annually for outstanding achievement in the field of applied epidemiology.

The 2010 recipient of the Pumphandle Award has served public health and CSTE well. Dr. Matt Cartter has been CSTE's vice-president and president-elect, and was president twice, in 2001-2002 and 2003-2004. His very first meeting as CSTE president began on the morning of September 11, 2001, an unbelievable day to take charge of our nationwide public health and epidemiology efforts. In a CSTE Update President's Message several years later, he said that working with others on the board helped: "Being part of CSTE has helped me keep a balanced perspective during these stressful times."

In the public health landscape that has evolved since then, Dr. Cartter has continued the dedication he showed that first day as president. He serves as State Epidemiologist for the Connecticut Department of Public Health, where he is responsible for the management of programs including the Epidemiology and Emerging Infections Program, the Sexually Transmitted Diseases Program, the Pulmonary Diseases Program, and the Health Care Associated Infections Program. He

also manages the investigation of infectious disease outbreaks, maintenance and improvement of the public health surveillance system for infectious diseases, and design and implementation of special epidemiological studies. Dr. Cartter is known for his work on Lyme disease and influenza epidemiology and has shown national leadership on many issues including pandemic influenza, rabies, West Nile Virus and other emerging diseases.

Dr. Cartter was an Epidemic Intelligence Service Officer from 1983 to 1985 following his medical residency at the Rhode Island Hospital. He is an adjunct associate professor in the Department of Community Medicine and Health Care at the University of Connecticut School of Medicine and an associate clinical professor of Epidemiology and Public Health at the Yale University School of Medicine.

CSTE congratulates Dr. Matt Cartter on his recognition as the 2010 Pumphandle Award winner.



2010 JONATHAN MANN LECTURER JAMES W. CURRAN, M.D., MPH

The Jonathan M. Mann Memorial Lectureship is made possible annually by the CDC Foundation with proceeds from a generous grant provided by The Hoffman Family Foundation of Dallas, Texas. In 1999, the lectureship was established to honor Dr. Jonathan Mann, who lost his life in the Swissair plane crash off Nova Scotia in 1998. Dr. Mann was an accomplished state epidemiologist who was called the "architect of the global mobilization against AIDS" for his role as the founding director of the World Health Organization's Global Program on AIDS.

Each year at the CSTE President's Banquet a public health presentation is given to honor Dr. Mann. Lecturers are selected by the CSTE Executive Board for their demonstrated leadership in the public health community.

James W. Curran, M.D., MPH, has been Dean and Professor of Epidemiology of the Rollins School of Public Health since 1995. He holds joint appointments in the Emory School of Medicine, the Nell Hodgson Woodruff School of Nursing and the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences. In 2009, the Deanship of the School was endowed in his honor and he holds the position as the first James W. Curran Dean of Public Health. He serves as Principal Investigator and Co-Director of the Emory Center for AIDS Research, funded by the National Institutes of Health. Dr. Curran has been author of more than 260 scientific publications. He serves on numerous non-profit Boards and Committees locally, nationally and internationally, and has served as

Chair of the Association of Schools of Public Health. He is currently Chair of the Office of AIDS Research Council of the National Institutes of Health. Among his honors and awards is included election to the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences in 1993 of which he currently serves as Chair of the Board of Population Health and Public Health Practice. Dr. Curran came to Emory from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention where he served for over two decades, most recently in leadership of that agency's HIV research and prevention activities. Dr. Curran and his wife, Juanita, have two adult children and have lived in Atlanta since 1978.



The 3rd Annual
**ROBERT WOOD JOHNSON
 FOUNDATION (RWJF)
 NATIONAL AWARD**

for Outstanding Epidemiology Practice in Addressing Racial and Ethnic Disparities was presented to Amanda Bennett, a CDC/CSTE Applied Epidemiology Fellow in maternal and child health at the Illinois Department of Human Services and the Illinois Department of Public Health, at the 2010 CSTE Annual Conference.

CSTE AWARD IN ADDRESSING RACIAL AND ETHNIC DISPARITIES

CSTE presented Bennett with a plaque to commemorate the occasion and an honorarium valued at \$1,000. “Overall, I was just very surprised and honored because there were so many great presentations at the conference on disparities work,” said Bennett.

The RWJF award was established to recognize a presenter at the CSTE Annual Conference whose professional work advances public health knowledge through epidemiology and applied research in racial and ethnic disparities and improves public health practice through effective use of data and epidemiology.

More than 500 abstracts were submitted for participation in the conference, and 25 were considered for the award according to eligibility requirements. CSTE Member-at-Large Michael Landen convened a panel of judges to select five finalists and the award winner from abstracts submitted to the conference planning committee. Judges reviewed presentations based on:

- Impact of work to the field of eliminating health disparities
- Contribution/Translation to Practice
- Policy Implications for evoking long term change in eliminating and preventing health disparities
- Quality of poster or breakout session presentation

Bennett’s breakout presentation was entitled, “Racial/ Ethnic Disparities in Postpartum Depression Treatment in Illinois.” Postpartum depression (PPD) is estimated to affect 10 to 20 percent of new mothers. Most cases can be treated effectively using outpatient methods like counseling or medication. Bennett’s study found that in Illinois, non-Hispanic Black and Hispanic women were less likely than non-Hispanic White women to receive medication for diagnoses of PPD. Recommendations from the study include developing mechanisms that ensure referral and treatment for postpartum depression, particularly among non-Hispanic Black and Hispanic women. “We are trying to hammer out ways the public health department and health providers will need to carry this out,” said Bennett.

This [award] has affirmed the importance of postpartum depression and PPD treatment in the state,” said Bennett. “I think it helps encourage Illinois to continue looking at PPD and the disparities involved. And it has encouraged me to continue focusing on applied epidemiology – things that really affect people at the local level.”



HILLARY B. FOULKES MEMORIAL AWARD

The 3rd Annual Hillary B. Foulkes Memorial Award was presented at the CSTE Annual Conference to Michelle Glaser, an Injury Epidemiology Fellow with the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene.

“Everyone had done amazing things in our Fellows class,” said Glaser, “so it was such an honor to be recognized.”

With a bachelor’s degree in neuroscience and classics from Union College in Schenectady, N.Y., Glaser wanted to continue in a medicine-related field. “What could I do in medicine without being in the lab all the time?” she asked. The answer was an M.P.H. in epidemiology from George Washington University, followed by her two-year fellowship, where she was able to focus on the “public” in public health.

“New York City has such a big department, so I had access to all sorts of experts when I had questions or needed information. I loved going to work every day,” Glaser said. “I also gained great experience in infectious disease because of the H1N1 outbreak.”

With her fellowship complete, Glaser is now an epidemiologist at the New York City Fire Department focusing on firefighter health data pre- and post-work at the 9/11 World Trade Center site.

Hillary B. Foulkes was a member of Class V of the CDC/CSTE Applied Epidemiology Fellowship, placed as a Maternal and Child Health Fellow at the Texas Department of State Health Services. Six months after the start of her Fellowship, Hillary unexpectedly passed away. The Hillary B. Foulkes Memorial Award was created in her honor and recognizes a graduating CDC/CSTE Applied Epidemiology Fellow who embodies characteristics similar to Hillary’s.

With this award, CSTE hopes to encourage current and future Fellows to spend their two years as Hillary did, by striving for outstanding quality in their work, being motivated to make a public health impact, developing their interpersonal skills, and working with others on a team to reach their goals.

CSTE OUTSTANDING MENTOR OF THE YEAR AWARD

The work of the CDC/CSTE Applied Epidemiology Fellows is well known throughout the CSTE membership. But there is also another side of the story, so to speak. To acknowledge the efforts of the mentors in the program, CSTE created a new award for the 2010 Annual Conference: the 1st Annual CSTE Outstanding Mentor of the Year Award.



The first recipients of the new award were Laura DiGrande, from the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, and Mark Lobato, from the Connecticut Department of Public Health. Nominated by their fellows, these mentors were recognized for their exceptional guidance, support and dedication to the professional growth of their fellows.

Lobato served as a mentor to Paul Gacek. “Paul was a great fellow, so it wasn’t difficult to want to work with him and try to help,” said Lobato. “I think it’s a wonderful program, so I’m very grateful to be recognized.”

Lobato sees many benefits of the program for public health departments as well as fellows. Departments have the opportunity to train new people who are coming into public health and learning what it’s like to practice in the field, not just learn in school. Fellows receive hands-on experience and often employment after the fellowship ends. “It gives the fellows long-term tools, and we are able to build workforce capacity,” he said.

Digrande mentored Michelle Glaser, who received the Hillary B. Foulkes Memorial Award this year as an outstanding fellow. “This is my first experience with such a structured mentoring program. It’s very organized and is longer than many mentoring situations, which is very good,” said Digrande. She believes the two-year experience provides enough time to plan and complete projects and helps the fellows build up their experience.

“Looking back, I realized we had a very special two years,” Digrande said. “Michelle had a real interest in the injury work we do, so it was a good fit.”

CSTE congratulates Mentors of the Year Laura Digrande and Mark Lobato on their achievement.



Laura DiGrande receives mentor of the year award.



Lisa Ferland receives 2010 Super Staff award from Jennifer Lemmings.

2010 SUPER STAFF AWARD

The Super Staff Award was created in 2001 as a way to recognize staff members for their dedication and for working “above and beyond” job requirements. Nominations are made and voted on by CSTE staff, and the award is presented at the CSTE Annual Conference.

The cross-cutting aspects of working at CSTE are some of the most interesting parts of the job, according to this year’s Super Staff Award recipient Lisa Ferland. “It’s a unique situation,” she said. “Many, if not all, of our projects involve some level of coordination between the states and CDC. I really value and enjoy working with people from local, state and federal government levels.”

As an Associate Research Analyst, Ferland has had wide-ranging opportunities to participate in such multi-level public health initiatives. She served as the CSTE lead staff member for the 2009 Epidemiology Capacity Assessment, working with state epidemiologists across the United States. She also led the effort of reformatting 78 CSTE position statements. “These types of projects require a lot of project management and coordination with people in many different areas of public health and epidemiology,” she said. “That makes it really interesting and challenging.”

“Everyone works so hard at CSTE and we have such a small staff that to be recognized amongst this group of people was really an honor,” said Ferland. “CSTE is a great organization to work for, and I really enjoy working with epidemiologists around the country.”

Ferland joined CSTE in 2007. She received her bachelor’s degree in biology from the University of Tampa and holds an M.P.H. in epidemiology from Emory University.

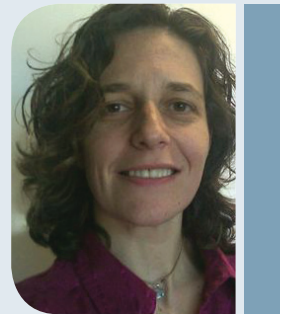
CSTE congratulates Lisa Ferland on her recognition as the 2010 Super Staff Award winner.

SPOTLIGHT

NEW STATE EPIDEMIOLOGIST

Dr. Sharon Alroy-Preis

Dr. Sharon Alroy-Preis started as the State of New-Hampshire Epidemiologist on July 1, 2010. She received her degree of Doctor of Medicine cum laude from the Technion, Israel Institute of Technology. She completed Internal Medicine residency at Lady Davis Carmel Medical Center, Haifa, Israel. She then continued to work as an attending physician and was the director of the regional outpatient clinic of the largest HMO in Israel. She moved to New Hampshire in 2007 and completed Infectious Disease fellowship at Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center. As part of her interest in public health and health care delivery she completed Preventive Medicine residency at Dartmouth and received a Masters in Public Health from The Dartmouth Institute for Health Policy & Clinical Practice, Dartmouth Medical School.



Dr. Alroy-Preis is especially interested in quality improvement, a field she has devoted a great deal of her time to in the past couple of years. Her quality improvement project, which focused on timely administration of antibiotics to hospitalized patients, was awarded for exemplary work by the Quality and Patient Safety Committee at Dartmouth- Hitchcock Medical Center and was presented in national meetings. She wishes now to bring her expertise into the public arena.

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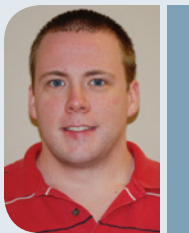


NEW CSTE EMPLOYEES

Robert Jones

*Information
Technology
-Part Time*

My name is Robert Jones. Although I have only recently been brought on board with CSTE, I have already learned a lot and am enjoying my time here immensely. I am currently working with Kevin Gibbs and Stephen Clay in the IT department. I am working towards my Bachelors degree in IT at Georgia Gwinett College. I am looking forward to working with the CSTE National Office staff and CSTE members and staying with CSTE for a long time to come.



Monica Huang

Associate Research Analyst

Monica joined the CSTE staff in June 2010. Monica received her MPH in Global Epidemiology from the Rollins School of Public Health at Emory University. During her graduate studies, she spent time as an intern at CDC's Division of HIV/AIDS Prevention and the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. Prior to entering public health, Monica taught middle school science in Atlanta. She received bachelor's degrees in Biochemistry and English from Rice University in Houston and is originally from Connecticut. Monica will be working on CSTE's surveillance and informatics projects at the national office.



EXECUTIVE BOARD

CSTE is governed by a 10-member Executive Board. Four members serve as officers, three as Members-at-Large, and three who represent Infectious Disease Epidemiology, Chronic Disease/MCH/Oral Health Epidemiology, and Environmental/Occupational/Injury Epidemiology. The 2010-2011 Executive Board members are:

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save the date

