

DRAFT Minutes Epidemiology Society Leadership Conference Call
April 11, 2002

Present: ACE - Dick Kaslow, SER - Lisa Berkman, APHA - Sarah Patrick,
ASA Epi - Ray Hoffman, CSTE - Jerry Gibson, IGS - Chris Amos, SAAPHI - Camara Jones,
SPER - Pierre Buekens, CSEB - Rick Gallegar, APA - Epi Dan Neuspiel, ISPE - Susan Sacks,
ISCE - Dean Baker

*Next Congress

*Website

*Arrange for next conference call (please send your availability to the dates listed at the end of this message)

*There was strong support for having another Congress of Epidemiology. Several issues were raised:

1. Should the Congress be truly North American, that is, include Mexico?

COMMENT: Each country has particular areas of concern. For a successful Congress, there must be sufficient country-specific content. However, there must also be enough attendance to justify the level of content.

The need for balance in expansion and inclusion of other organizations with getting a successful meeting off the ground was raised.

There was a call for inclusiveness.

Desire for sponsorship might somewhat hinge on this issue; CSTE is particularly interested in border issues and might be more interested in sponsorship in this situation.

The inclusion of Mexico might impact both the timing and location of the meeting.

ACTION: Jose Cordero will contact the officers of the Mexican Epidemiology Societies and explore interest in participating in a Congress, level of participation and if they would like to be represented on the website.

2. What would be the best way to organize the program planning committee?

COMMENT: Three levels of participation for organizations were identified: 1) sponsorship - representation on the program steering committee and an up front monetary contribution and assumption of liability (should there be insufficient attendees) and sharing in meeting profits; 2) co-sponsorship - responsibility for planning specific sessions, participating in advertising efforts, identification of potential reviewers for abstracts; 3) passive - making available membership lists for advertisement.

APHA-EPI, ACE, SER, SAAPHI and possibly SPER and ISPE would be interested in sponsoring the next congress.

CSBE felt there must be sufficient Canadian content if they were to sponsor the meeting, but the location was less important.

The need for continuity in leadership on the planning committee was expressed. There is also a need to specify the Congress goals and outcomes (e.g., is this SER with more sponsorship or something different).

A leader of the effort must be identified.

There was discussion regarding the need for translation and other models (translate plenary sessions only; speakers speak in their desired language).

ACTION: Persons on the call will discuss with their organization's officers.

3. Timing of the next Congress

COMMENT: Societies plan their meetings 5 to 7 years in advance in order to arrange of sufficient and appropriate space. The consensus was that the Congress would work best as a replacement meeting rather than an additional meeting. Thus, it was deemed important that it would substitute for the regular meeting of sponsors, and that it not overlap with meetings that might be of interest to epidemiologists.

ACTION: SER will circulate the list of the sites of their future meetings. Jose Cordero will send a list of possible meeting sites by size.

*Website: There was general approval of the website format. Vic Schoenbach stated that for now, the costs of updating, if minimal, would be absorbed by ACE. If a domain name was identified (such as epidemiology.org), there would be a monthly fee for the webspace (~\$20 per month).

Website Hits:

Access statistics to the Directory of Epidemiology Societies (www.acepidemiology.org/societies/) for the period March 1-26 are shown below. Since the same person sometimes visits more than one page during a visit, they represent fewer people.

It's not possible to identify people, but the visits below were made from 416 different IP (Internet Protocol) addresses - an IP address corresponds to a computer that is connected to the Internet, which may represent an individual user who has just dialed up her Internet Service Provider or may represent multiple people browsing the web from different PC's connected to a server in their university (large organizations would have several servers). My analysis suggests that these 416 addresses accessed the pages in a total of 940 "visits" (meaning that if the IP address was the same there was a 30 minute or greater interval between page views - that's one definition of a "visit"). I should add my disclaimer - that the analysis was done using a program that I wrote but have not had a chance to check out thoroughly. I'll be happy to send the log file to anyone wishing to do an analysis for publication!

If you don't recognize any of the abbreviations, you can visit the page by using the prefix [www.acepidemiology.org/societies/\[filename from below\]](http://www.acepidemiology.org/societies/[filename from below]) Note that URL's are Case-Sensitive after the ".org".

filename	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative	
			Frequency	Percent
AAP-ES.htm	41	4.06	41	4.06
ACE.htm	73	7.22	114	11.28
ACPM.htm	58	5.74	172	17.01
ADACES.htm	29	2.87	201	19.88
AES.htm	101	9.99	302	29.87
APHAES.htm	48	4.75	350	34.62
APICEI.htm	58	5.74	408	40.36
ASA_SIE.htm	41	4.06	449	44.41
CSEB.htm	42	4.15	491	48.57
CSTE.htm	67	6.63	558	55.19
DES.htm	13	1.29	571	56.48
IEA.htm	86	8.51	657	64.99
IGES.htm	26	2.57	683	67.56
ISEE.htm	44	4.35	727	71.91
ISPE.htm	36	3.56	763	75.47
SAAPHI.htm	47	4.65	810	80.12
SER.htm	87	8.61	897	88.72
SPER.htm	49	4.85	946	93.57
SSMUKI.htm	25	2.47	971	96.04
index.htm	40	3.96	1011	100.00

(index.htm is the Directory of Epidemiology Societies page)

*There seemed sufficient business, that we would discuss again in May. Lisa also offered that there could be a face to face meeting in conjunction with SER in June. Please let me know your availability during the following dates and times.

All times are Eastern Daylight Time

May 9

9:00

9:30

10:00

10:30

11:00

11:30

12:00

12:30

1:00

1:30

2:00

2:30

3:00

3:30

4:00

May 10

9:00

9:30

10:00

10:30

11:00

11:30

12:00

12:30

1:00

1:30

2:00

2:30

3:00

3:30

4:00

May 13

9:00

9:30

10:00

10:30

11:00

11:30

12:00

12:30

1:00

1:30

2:00

2:30

3:00

3:30

4:00

May 22

May 9

9:00

9:30

10:00

10:30

11:00
11:30
12:00
12:30
1:00
1:30
2:00
2:30
3:00
3:30
4:00