



EpiMonitor

Epidemiology for Epidemiologists

A monthly update covering people, events, research, and key developments

Editor's Note:

This month, we have an interview about the California Public Health Information Technology (PHIT) partnership and an article on changes that have been made by the federal government to reporting and classification standards. From our archives we have reprinted a prescient piece written after the Ebola epidemic about our global preparation for the next epidemic.

Please note the call for abstracts for WCE 2024 in Cape Town, South Africa this September!

We continue to provide you with our popular monthly crossword feature, Notes on People, an overview of what we read from the public media, and a listing of upcoming epidemiology events. Finally, don't miss the Job Bank offerings this month. We have some fantastic opportunities advertised both here and on our website.

Did you miss last month's issue? Read it here: <https://tinyurl.com/yc42nuzv> or here: <https://tinyurl.com/bdcsbf45>

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Making the Most of Public Health Data in California and Abroad

Interviewer: Madeline Roberts, PhD, MPH

In epidemiology, data is our love language. However, accessing curated data and growing a state and local public health workforce trained in informatics have presented challenges. California State University at Long Beach, University of California at Berkeley, and California state and local health departments are attempting to meet these challenges with a Public Health Information Technology (PHIT) partnership. Dr. Susan Ivey is contributing to this effort in her work as a UC Berkeley adjunct professor; she is also the Director of Research at Health Research for Action where she focuses on health services research and interventions among underserved populations. As Dr. Ivey explained, "The overarching goal [of the PHIT program] is to improve public health workforce capacity in the area of public health informatics and technology as well as to ensure we deliver a diverse set of workers in this new discipline."

We spoke with Dr. Ivey and two of the UC Berkeley PHIT program students, Juliet Munyambanza and Brenda Nash. These interviews have been edited for length and clarity.

EpiMonitor: Please tell us a bit about how the idea began for this partnership between Berkeley and local health jurisdictions.

Dr. Ivey: The grant seeks to both create courses and train students but it is also tied to placing a certain number of trained students into experiential learning settings. Given I have also worked at a local health jurisdiction for many years, my goal has been to move these

workers to as many of our California public health agencies (county and city) as possible.

EpiMonitor: What kind of public health projects are current students engaged in?

Dr. Ivey: Students have worked either in PH agencies, non-profits, or public health/health settings so far. My own group has been working on mapping of public health issues (using GIS software) including air pollution data, helping on evaluation of public health programs, working in private companies developing new ways to exchange health information, and analyzing public health data in different settings.

Juliet Munyambanza: I was part of a group that conducted a point-of-care ultrasound feasibility study in maternal and child health in rural Uganda using Qualtrics Survey software. The aim was to identify a community health issue and apply technology in a low resource setting. The health issue here was lack of access to diagnostics tools, namely, ultrasound enhancing maternal and child health outcomes, and the solution was the use of portable point-of-care ultrasound technology, which is cheaper than regular ultrasound machines and can be used at the point of service. The topic was influenced by my interest in maternal and child health in developing countries and the solution was influenced by my groupmate's expertise in ultrasound technology.

In terms of GIS projects, I worked with a group to create a dashboard showing Sexually Transmitted Infections—Chlamydia, Syphilis, HIV and Gonorrhea cases in California by County.

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Currently, I am creating a story map showing infant mortality rates by county in the state of Mississippi.

Brenda Nash: Programs I participated in included addressing mental health challenges in young adults, maternal and child health in Uganda, and using GIS to visualize COVID data in the San Benito Dept of Public Health.

EpiMonitor: What types of long-term opportunities could graduates be positioned for when they exit the program?

Dr. Ivey: We hope many of these students will be excited to be placed into wonderful public health departments around our state, where there are great needs. However, these skills can cross many settings so we believe some students might choose to work at tech companies or other private companies or in non-profits or community-based organizations who also have data needs.

EpiMonitor [to students from the program]: After your experience in the PHIT program, what types of long-term opportunities are you interested in? Or how do you plan to use your PHIT coursework/experience in the future?

Juliet: I plan to pursue a career such as data analyst, health informatics analyst, and

research-related roles, using technology such as GIS to solve public health challenges. My favorite part of the program is the way PHIT skills can be applied in different fields, not just in public health. I feel well equipped to tackle various challenges that require skills in technology such as GIS, data analysis, project management, programming, etc.

Brenda: Long-term opportunities that I would be interested in continuing to pursue are public health informatics and the application of GIS and spatial analysis for health equity.

EpiMonitor: What are some of your hopes for the future of the program?

Dr. Ivey: We are hoping for an additional community college level course that can better attract diverse and low-income students who may start at community colleges and not necessarily have thought about either public health or informatics but once exposed may become more interested in transferring to 4-year schools and even go on for master's level training. That was the pipeline we hoped for. And right now we hope we can successfully place 700 students into internships around the state!

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Federal Government Announces Revisions to Reporting & Classification Standards

Author: Madeline Roberts, PhD, MPH

The first [revision](#) in nearly 30 years to federal reporting and classification standards for race and ethnicity was announced on March 29 by the federal Office of Management and Budget (OMB). The new standards include a major, welcoming three-fold shift:

1. Capture race and ethnicity data in one combined question (rather than two questions as previously),
2. a new minimum reporting category of “Middle Eastern and North African” (MENA), and
3. require agencies to collect detailed race and ethnicity data as a default from the

individuals they serve.

These changes were made effective immediately and full compliance required by 2029.

Created in 1977 in an effort to achieve consistent and comparable race and ethnicity information across federal datasets, *Statistical Policy Directive No. 15: Standards for Maintaining, Collecting, and Presenting Federal Data on Race and Ethnicity (SPD 15)* was revised in 1997 and now in 2024.

The new OMB SPD 15 “Race and Ethnicity Question with Minimum Categories Only and Examples” below (Minimum Categories with Multiple Detailed Checkboxes available [here](#)).

What is your race and/or ethnicity?
Select all that apply.

American Indian or Alaska Native
For example, Navajo Nation, Blackfeet Tribe of the Blackfeet Indian Reservation of Montana, Native Village of Barrow Inupiat Traditional Government, Nome Eskimo Community, Aztec, Maya, etc.

Asian
For example, Chinese, Asian Indian, Filipino, Vietnamese, Korean, Japanese, etc.

Black or African American
For example, African American, Jamaican, Haitian, Nigerian, Ethiopian, Somali, etc.

Hispanic or Latino
For example, Mexican, Puerto Rican, Salvadoran, Cuban, Dominican, Guatemalan, etc.

Middle Eastern or North African
For example, Lebanese, Iranian, Egyptian, Syrian, Iraqi, Israeli, etc.

Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander
For example, Native Hawaiian, Samoan, Chamorro, Tongan, Fijian, Marshallese, etc.

White
For example, English, German, Irish, Italian, Polish, Scottish, etc.

The previous two-question structure was found to be a source of confusion for respondents, and further, that it obscured accurate race data for the Hispanic and Latinx population in particular. In the 2020 Census, approximately 43% of the self-identified Hispanic and Latinx population either declined to report a race or selected the less informative “Some Other Race” category. Non-response and selection of “Some Other Race” were among the drivers for change, indicating that respondents did not identify with the race and ethnicity categories as presented. Research in conjunction with the Census Bureau showed that a single race/ethnicity question resulted in better data quality and a marked decrease in the number of “Some Other Race” responses. The directive to “select all that apply” allows respondents flexibility to report each of the racial and ethnic categories with which they identify.

There is some [controversy](#) within the Afro-Latin community as to whether a combined question is appropriate or will lead to an undercounting of the Latinx population. The Census Bureau reports that Afro-Latin population estimates were slightly higher under the combined question when detailed checkboxes and write-in fields were present, though they also

recommended further research on Afro-descendant populations based on cognitive interviews regarding how these individuals self-identify.

OMB notes that “the race and ethnicity categories set forth are sociopolitical constructs and are not an attempt to define race and ethnicity biologically or genetically.”

The US Census Bureau reported the changing racial and ethnic composition in America and growing diversity between 2010 and 2020. The White alone, non-Hispanic population was 63.7% in 2010, which decreased to 57.8% in 2020. The Census Bureau utilizes the [Diversity Index](#), bounded by 0 and 1, to assess “the probability that two people chosen at random will be from different racial and ethnic groups.” This probability increased from 54.9% in 2010 to 61.1% in 2020. It is noteworthy that census methodology for race and ethnicity data collection changed between the 2010 and 2020 census. However, Census Bureau analyses indicate that the reported increase in diversity is a result of true changes in population demographics and also improved question design.

- Standards cont'd on page 6

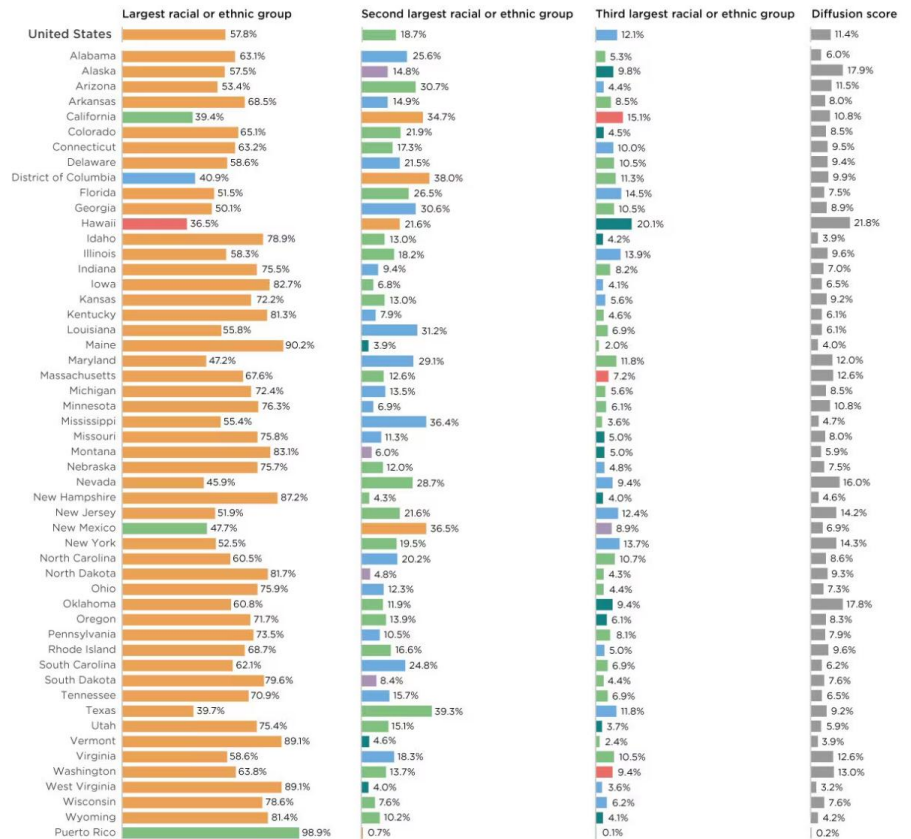
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Figure 1.
Race and Ethnicity Prevalence by State: 2020



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2020 Census Redistricting Data (Public Law 94-171) Summary File.

Even so, a study from March 2000 to March 2020 demonstrated that [more than half of US clinical trials fail to report race and ethnicity enrollment data](#), and that these studies under represent minorities, though incremental progress has been made over recent years. From a public health standpoint, race and ethnicity data is paramount for understanding the burden of disease among specific populations as well as for resource programming, advocacy, and developing

targeted interventions. In a study setting, inaccurate race and ethnicity reporting can obscure effects among subpopulations and be a potential source of residual confounding. In an applied context, it muddles the picture of where and how to best support community needs. In a data-dependent world, our hope is that improved survey methodology and continued research allow for increasingly accurate population estimates to better serve communities. ■

January 2016

Global Public Health Community Takes Stock as Ebola Epidemic Ends

Level of Readiness to Tackle Next Epidemic is In Question

Author: Roger Bernier, PhD, MPH

Just hours after the WHO declared the West African Ebola epidemic had come to an end on January 14th, the disease had reemerged with the confirmation of a new case in Sierra Leone. This most recent case underscores the continuing risk of new flare-ups throughout the region and the importance of looking back on what has been learned over the last 2 years fighting the largest public health disaster in recent history. Compiled from a series of recent meetings and articles about Ebola in *Nature* and elsewhere, here are some of the key lessons scientists and public health officials are relying on as they make recommendations for the future (4).

1. The world is not adequately prepared to deal with international epidemics.

There was a general failure on the part of public health officials and international organizations to respond quickly and effectively to the outbreak. Delays both in identifying initial cases of the disease and in declaring the outbreak a public health emergency allowed it to grow out of control. At the same time, the resources necessary to contain the initial spread of the disease were not deployed rapidly enough.

After the WHO received much of the blame, director-general [Margaret Chan](#) told the New York Times, "We are not the first responder... the government has first priority to take care of their people and provide health care." However,

the Ebola outbreak has shown that the global health community cannot rely on the governments of some of the poorest countries in the world to handle outbreaks of this nature alone.

2. The true extent of the weaknesses in the health systems of some of the world's poorest countries.

A shortage of healthcare workers as well as a lack of proper equipment, training and information-sharing systems in West Africa enabled the rapid spread of Ebola. Large-scale investment in the health systems of these countries is urgently necessary as future outbreaks of Ebola and other diseases are likely to strike the region.

3. Support of community leaders is absolutely critical in overcoming cultural challenges

Ebola raised many unique cultural challenges related to social, traditional and religious practices in the affected regions. A lack of trust and clear communication led people to resist quarantines, travel bans and sending the sick to treatment centers. In addition, traditional funerals and burial methods involve extensive contact with family members and the bodies of victims, promoting further spread of the disease. Local religious leaders, village chiefs and elders were by far the most effective at educating communities about Ebola

transmission and gaining compliance with measures that proved essential to containing and controlling the epidemic.

4. It is possible to conduct rapid clinical trials during an epidemic.

Under normal circumstances it takes years to complete all the phases of approval and testing involved in controlled trials of new drugs or vaccines. Outbreaks tend to be over too quickly for clinical trials to take place and conditions in the field have generally been thought too challenging to make quality trials possible. Despite early failures to get various clinical trials underway rapidly, a WHO-supported fast-track approach to testing an experimental Ebola

vaccine was ultimately successful, finding the vaccine to be safe and highly effective within the limited scope of the study (1).

Not only are these results promising in terms of controlling further Ebola outbreaks, this study can also serve as a model for the rapid development of drugs and vaccines in future epidemics. In fact, the WHO announced in the September Ebola Newsletter the development of a “blueprint action plan” intended to “reduce the time between identification of a nascent outbreak and final testing of the most advanced products”.

- Ebola cont'd on page 9

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For more information please contact:

Michele Gibson / michele@epimonitor.net

5. The world must remain vigilant

As this most recent case in Sierra Leone demonstrates, there is a high-risk for continuing small outbreaks of Ebola throughout the region. Scientists are still learning to what extent the virus persists in survivors. Some evidence suggests that in rare instances the virus can be sexually transmitted by male survivors for up to a year. While the epidemic transitions to a new phase in which the focus shifts to controlling the risk of new infections, bolstering disease surveillance and identifying the animal reservoirs for the virus (a topic that remains controversial) (2) will be essential.

Actions Stemming From Lessons

By far the largest in history, this Ebola outbreak surprised the public health community with its length and scope and in the process exposed the weaknesses in the global health system. In November of 2015 a joint panel of more than 20 experts from the Harvard Global Health Institute and the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine authored an assessment of the global response to the epidemic in which they argued that we are no better prepared to

handle another epidemic today than we were 2 years ago (3). In response to these they argued that we are no better prepared to handle another epidemic today than we were 2 years ago (3). In response to these shortcomings and the lessons learned, the panel laid out what it called "10 Essential Reforms" aimed at improving prevention, detection and response to outbreaks in the future. In addition, panels have been convened by other organizations including the WHO and UN to make specific assessments and recommendations. Z

It appears critical that the world learns from these lessons and takes recommended actions to correct systemic shortcomings in the infrastructure and leadership of the world's health systems before the next global health emergency strikes.

References

- (1.) <https://tinyurl.com/qeyjzor>
- (2.) <https://tinyurl.com/jmjda4>
- (3.) <https://tinyurl.com/zklsj74>
- (4.) <https://tinyurl.com/hm82cau>

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WORLD CONGRESS OF EPIDEMIOLOGY 2024



**Abstract
submissions open**

**Theme: Epidemiology and complexity -
challenges and responses**

All abstract submissions open: **1 October 2023**

Fast track submission deadline:
1 December 2023

Fast track dispositions:
8 January 2024

General submission deadline:
16 February 2024

General dispositions:
25 March 2024

Late-breaker submission deadline:
1 May 2024

Late-breaker dispositions:
24 May 2024



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Epi Crossword Puzzle – March 2024

They Represent the Base

Our crossword puzzle was created by by Dr. Richard Dicker—A former CDC employee and not-quite-retired epidemiologist. For an online version go to: <https://tinyurl.com/4n4zwt83>

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12	
13					14					15				16
17				18					19					
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	25	26					27					28	29	30
31						32						33		
34						35					36			
37				38	39				40	41				
42			43						44					
			45						46					
47	48	49					50	51				52	53	54
55							56					57		
58							59					60		
	61						62					63		

- Crossword Questions cont'd on page 13

Across

1. The frequency distribution of a variable may have one, more than one, or none
5. Coding command used after If and Then
9. Honorary degree given to Samuel Clemens (Mark Twain)
13. Persia, now
14. Organization's desirable outcome broader than an objective
15. Pop singer Mann
17. *Comparison group selected on the basis of the frequency distribution of the cases*
20. Bass, for one
21. Digital formats for theses and dissertations, or when products are supposed to ship (abbr.)
22. Sans-serif typeface named after the Native American name for Mount Ranier
23. Here, if you are in Paris
24. Use a surgical beam
25. Lieutenant Commander, Rear Admiral, etc.
27. Epidemiology specialty focused on health-related criminal events
31. *Type of dialing to find comparison group*
33. TV show with spin-offs in Miami and NY
34. "A-one and ___": Lawrence Welk
35. Egg: Prefix
36. Where a barista might work
37. "Cheap Thrills" singer
38. *Type of study once disparaged as "trohoc"*
42. Dopamine and insulin, e.g.
44. Less common
45. Cupid, to the Greeks
46. Two-base hit (abbr.)
47. Chekhov's first play
50. Destiny's Child, e.g.
52. Suffix with special
55. *Comparison group selected from the community*
58. Source of Andrew Carnegie's fortune
59. First name of Best Actress winner, 2024
60. Place for a béret
61. "Como ___ usted?"
62. What Monty Hall wanted to make from 1963 to 1986
63. Frequency distribution's center of gravity

Down

1. Flexible silicate mineral
2. Many dissertation defenses are this
3. Usual variable on X-axis of epidemic curve
4. Direction from Mo. to Me.
5. "I" trouble
6. House member in the Palace of Westminster
7. "Simon ___"
8. Freddy Krueger's street
9. What READ command reads in R or Epi Info
10. Growth on trees affected by the Industrial Revolution pollution
11. "It seems to me," online
12. Abound
16. Statistical approach advocated by John Tukey (abbr.)
18. Insurance lizard
19. Video game pioneer
23. ___-European
24. Math-like course in Philosophy department
25. Common way for epidemiologists to compare two values
26. Egypt's Sadat
27. Change for a ten
28. What "Boo!" is intended to induce
29. Middle words of almost all Sue Grafton books
30. Paris sky
31. Clinical feature of measles
32. What is counted by the Administrative Method to estimate vaccine coverage
36. Key keyboard key
38. Toyota brand named after flower petals
39. Method to compare 63-Across of 3 or more groups
40. Type of data for which Mann-Whitney U Test is used
41. Bigwig
43. Bach's ___ in G Major
47. Computer addresses, for short
48. What U.S. citizens should do on the Tuesday after the first Monday in November
49. King Kong and King Louie, but not King Mufasa
50. Component of descriptive epidemiology triad
51. Capital of Italia
52. "Amazing Grace" ending
53. Epsilon follower
54. Tree of life site
56. Type of talk
57. Source of cash

What We're Reading This Month

Editor's Note: All of us are confronted with more material than we can possibly hope to digest each month. However, that doesn't mean that we should miss some of the articles that appear in the public media on topics of interest to the epi community. The EpiMonitor curates a monthly list of some of the best articles we've encountered in the past month. See something you think others would like to read? Please **send** us a link at info@epimonitor.net and we'll include it in the next month.

Public Health Topics

- ◆ This state led the nation in measuring obesity in kids. Did it help? (KFF Health News)
<https://tinyurl.com/bj7cxw9x>
- ◆ Alzheimer's May Spread Through Blood Transfusions, Scientists Find (Futurism Magazine via AppleNews)
<https://tinyurl.com/38n534hs> <https://tinyurl.com/bxbx563e> (Newsweek)
- ◆ Why diseases that were virtually eliminated from the West, like cholera and the bubonic plague, are returning (BBC)
<https://tinyurl.com/fvm5ee8e>
- ◆ CRISPR could disable and cure HIV, suggests promising lab experiment (New Scientistt via Apple News)
<https://tinyurl.com/28vkkfpk>
- ◆ Scientists revived an ancient virus found in suspended animation. Here's what happened next (BBC Science Focus Magazine)
<https://tinyurl.com/3sy7y8er>
- ◆ Whooping cough sickens 65 in outbreak at Bay Area high school, California officials say (Miami Herald)
<https://tinyurl.com/5n6cycjh>
- ◆ Biden administration announces new treaty with 50 countries to identify next killer pathogens (Daily Mail)
<https://tinyurl.com/cbt8bpe5>
- ◆ Cancer Epidemiologist Sees Collaboration As Key to Research Success (Cedars-Sinai)
<https://tinyurl.com/3w5sufwp>
- ◆ New Textbook Makes Epidemiology Approachable and Accessible (Emory University)
<https://tinyurl.com/mvcvysb3>

COVID-19

- ◆ Is COVID-19 still a pandemic? (Boston University – *The Brink*)
<https://tinyurl.com/nss5h32s>
- ◆ Who's dying now? Here's how recent COVID deaths compare to the early months of the pandemic in California (The Mercury News)
<https://tinyurl.com/y4zku9vf>
- ◆ What Is Long COVID? Understanding the Pandemic's Mysterious Fallout (Yale Medicine)
<https://tinyurl.com/4kjtamms>
- ◆ Four Years On, the Mysteries of Covid Are Unraveling (NY Times)
<https://tinyurl.com/4c4v698f>
- ◆ COVID-19 epidemiological update – 12 April 2024 (WHO)
<https://tinyurl.com/3a33j9nz>
- ◆ A boost to biomedical research with statistical tools: From COVID-19 analysis to data management (MedicalXpress)
<https://tinyurl.com/35speam5>
- ◆ Stanford Medicine study flags unexpected cells in lung as suspected source of severe COVID (Stanford Medicine)
<https://tinyurl.com/33hn4u2r>
- ◆ COVID vaccines not linked to fatal heart problems in young people, CDC finds (NBC News)
<https://tinyurl.com/2y663dsw>

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Notes on People

Do you have news about yourself, a colleague, or a student?

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Awarded: "Great Barrington Declaration" co-author Dr. **Jay Bhattacharya** and two others were awarded the Samizdat Prize by Real Clear Politics. The organization stated that the three were chosen for their bravery in resisting censorship.



Awarded: Claudia Zimmermann, a member of the Department of Epidemiology at MedUni Vienna's Center for Public Health, has been awarded this year's Best Paper Award by the Austrian Society for Epidemiology for her work on suicide mortality in healthcare professions and other highly qualified occupational groups.



Named: Mercedes Carnethon, PhD, vice chair and Mary Harris Thompson Professor of Preventive Medicine and chair of the Appointments, Promotions, and Tenure Committee at Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine, has been named chair of the Department of Preventive Medicine, effective September 1.



Honored: Pandemic Center Senior Adviser **Seth F. Berkley**, MD, will receive the 2024 Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter Humanitarian Award for his work as an innovative entrepreneur, a pioneer in global health, and a champion of equitable access to vaccines. Berkley is adjunct professor of the practice of epidemiology at the Brown University School of Public Health.

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Honored: **Leonard E. Egede**, M.D., M.S. has been chosen to deliver the 2024 *Robert S. Gordon, Jr Lecture in Epidemiology*. He is a general internist, a tenured Professor of Medicine, and the Inaugural Milwaukee Community Chair in Health Equity Research at the Medical College of Wisconsin. He is also Chief of the Division of General Internal Medicine and Director of the Center for Advancing Population Science. Dr. Egede's research focuses on developing and testing innovative interventions to reduce and/or eliminate health disparities related to race/ethnicity, socioeconomic status, and geographic location for chronic medical and mental health conditions.



Named: **Justin B. Starren**, MD, PhD, has been named director of the Center for Biomedical Informatics and Biostatistics at the University of Arizona Health Sciences. He is a professor, researcher and data scientist with more than 30 years of experience in biomedical informatics. He joins the university from Northwestern University in Evanston, Ill., where he started in 2010 and was the director of the Center for Biomedical Informatics and Data Science. He was also a professor and chief of the Division of Health and Biomedical Informatics, which he founded.



Named: **Heather Bush**, Ph.D., has been named permanent dean of the University of Kentucky's College of Public Health. Bush has served as the acting dean of the College of Public Health since June 15, 2022. Bush earned her bachelor's degree in mathematics from Mount Vernon Nazarene University, and she earned both her M.S. and Ph.D. in statistics from UK's College of Arts and Sciences. Prior to her academic appointment at UK in 2006, Bush worked as a senior biostatistician in industry, developing protocols and designing observational studies.



Awarded: Internationally recognized sexual health epidemiologist Professor **Eric Chow** has received a 2024 Australian Academy of Science Gottschalk Medal, one of 22 annual honorific awards announced by the Academy today. The Gottschalk Medal honors the contributions to science by the late Professor A Gottschalk FAA and recognizes outstanding research in the biomedical sciences by researchers up to 10 years after completing their PhD.

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Published: **Erjia Cui**, PhD, is a tenure-track assistant professor in the Division of Biostatistics and Health Data Science at the University of Minnesota. In March 2024, Erjia co-published the book [*Functional Data Analysis with R*](#)



Awarded: **Dr. Jessica Cohen**, Associate Professor of Global Health at Harvard has been selected as this year's recipient for the Alice Hamilton Award and will deliver the 2024 Alice Hamilton Award Lecture. Dr. Cohen is an original thinker whose work is of substantial global health impact. Dr. Cohen is a dedicated teacher, mentor, leader, and scholar. Her work in the field of maternal and child health has transformed the design of malaria control policies around the world and has been innovative in addressing gaps in care that often led to worse and inequitable outcomes for pregnant people and babies.



Named: The UNC-Chapel Hill Gillings School of Global Public Health has appointed **Michael Hudgens**, PhD, as chair of the Department of Biostatistics, effective August 1. Hudgens has been on faculty in the biostatistics department since 2004. He became a full professor in 2016 and has served as associate chair since 2021. He also has served as director of the UNC Center for AIDS Research Biostatistics Core since 2010.



Honored: It has been announced that Dr. **Bhramar Mukherjee** will receive the 2024 Marvin Zelen Leadership Award. Dr. Mukherjee is a statistician working in key areas of statistical genetics and genetic epidemiology, with an expansive body of work that has helped to define the methodological landscape in statistical genetics. She is currently a Professor of Biostatistics, Chair of the Biostatistics Department, and Assistant Vice President for Research at the University of Michigan. Dr. Mukherjee is also the Siobán D. Harlow Collegiate Professor of Public Health, and Professor of Epidemiology and Global Public Health at the University of Michigan.

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Appointed: Brown University has announced that **Rebecca A. Hubbard, Ph.D.** will join the university as a professor of biostatistics and data science. She is currently a professor of biostatistics and vice chair for faculty professional development in the Department of Biostatistics, Epidemiology and Informatics at the Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania.



Appointed: Brown University has announced that **Corwin Zigler, Ph.D.** joins as a professor of biostatistics. He is currently an associate professor of statistics and data sciences at the University of Texas at Austin.



In the News: Since 2021, **Marta Shore**, a biostatistics lecturer at the University of Minnesota, has spent her free time painstakingly recreating classic album artwork using everything from quinoa to chia seeds to flax to barley to wild rice. It's called crop art, and at the 2023 Minnesota State Fair, Shore displayed three plant-based recreations of 1983 pop classics: Madonna's self-titled debut album, Donna Summer's *She Works Hard for the Money* and Cyndi Lauper's *She's So Unusual*. <https://tinyurl.com/44h82824>



Passed: **Dennis Michael Perrotta, Ph.D., CIC**, passed away January 13, 2024, at his home in Smithville, Texas. His education was extensive, earning his PhD in epidemiology in 1982 and becoming Board Certified in Infection Control (CIC) in 1989. Throughout the 52 years of his professional career, he was notably known as director and chief of the Bureau of Epidemiology or the Texas Department of Health and professor of epidemiology at the University of Texas. <https://tinyurl.com/jve256tx>

Notes on People

Do you have news about yourself, a colleague, or a student?

Please help The Epidemiology Monitor keep the community informed by sending relevant news to us at this address for inclusion in our next issue. people@epimonitor.net



Passed: Dr. **Joel Gordon Breman** passed away April 6, 2024 in Chevy Chase, Maryland, after a full and uniquely impactful life. A deeply loved husband, father, grandfather, uncle, friend and colleague to so many in the global health community, Joel was known for his kindness, optimism, humor, athleticism, passion for social service, mentoring the next generation of global epidemiologists, and love for the African continent. He was a dedicated leader in the smallpox eradication program, a pioneer in the discovery of the Ebola virus, and part of the global fight to control and eliminate malaria, among many other scourges.

He earned his M.D. from the Keck School of Medicine at the University of Southern California (USC). Joel's medical school advisor piqued his interest in global health, which led to his participation in the Centers for Disease Control's Epidemic Intelligence Service (EIS) program, Infectious Disease training at Harvard Medical School, and a Doctorate of Public Health from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.

<https://tinyurl.com/ymz2kavz> <https://tinyurl.com/bdehknr6>

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Near Term Epidemiology Event Calendar

Every December The Epidemiology Monitor dedicates that issue to a calendar of events for the upcoming year. However that often means we don't have full information for events later in the upcoming year. Thus an online copy exists on our website that is updated regularly. To view the full year please go to: <http://www.epimonitor.net/Events> The events that we are aware of for the next month follow below.

May 2024

May 1-3 <https://tinyurl.com/bhzrp9t7>

Conference: 2024 Public Health Partnership Conference / NY State Public Health Assn / Saratoga Springs, NY

May 1-3 <https://tinyurl.com/pn2ezfju>

Conference: STATGEN 2024: Conference on Statistics in Genomics and Genetics / American Statistical Association / Pittsburgh, PA

May 1-3 <https://bit.ly/3s6nOXC>

Short Course: Epigenetic Epidemiology / University of Bristol / Virtual

May 1-3 <http://tinyurl.com/mvbrbtew>

Short Course: Molecular Epidemiology / University of Bristol / Virtual

May 2-4 <https://tinyurl.com/2p9hr2j6>

Conference: EpiCause 2024 - Causality in Epidemiology / Johannes Kepler University of Linz / Linz, Austria

May 8-10 <https://tinyurl.com/4f8f6w8k>

Conference: 2023 Annual Conference on Vaccinology Research / National Foundation for Infectious Diseases / Virtual

May 9-10 <https://tinyurl.com/zsyycmeb>

Short Course: Analysis of Repeated Measures / University of Bristol / Virtual

May 13-15 <https://bit.ly/2C4g1PE>

Short Course: Quality of Life Measurement / Erasmus MC / Rotterdam, The Netherlands

May 13-17 <http://tinyurl.com/3y8ejd74>

Short Course: Designing and Conducting Pragmatic Randomised Controlled Trials / University of Bristol / Virtual

May 13-31 <http://bit.ly/2P1VUrR>

Summer Program: Summer Public Health / University of Minnesota / Minneapolis, MN

May 14-17 <http://bit.ly/2DXzS3d>

Conference: INTEREST 2024 / IeDE (Intl Epi Databases to Evaluate AIS) / Cotonou, Benin

May 15-17 <https://tinyurl.com/4en4yu7u>

Conference: Brain Tumor Epidemiology Consortium Conference / BTEC / Mainz, Germany

May 16-18 <https://bit.ly/3Fz1F9t>

Conference: Accelerating Health Equity / Multiple / Kansas City, KS

May 19-22 <https://bit.ly/3FBbwf3>

Conference: 45th Annual Meeting / Society for Clinical Trials / Boston, MA

May 2024 continued

March 11-13 <https://tinyurl.com/34x5tnn5>
Conference: Teaching Prevention 2024 / Assn for Prevention Teaching & Research / Alexandria, VA

May 20-22 <https://tinyurl.com/mr2j64tm>
Conference: Global Summit on Public Health and Preventive Medicine (GSPHPM2024) / The Scientistt / Prague, Czech Republic

May 20-24 <http://tinyurl.com/4xwhe3y9>
Short Course: Introduction to Qualitative Research Methods / University of Bristol / Virtual

May 20 – June 9 <https://tinyurl.com/22rpunzb>
Short Course: Health Diplomacy Training Institute / Georgetown University / Washington, DC

May 21 – June 14 <http://bit.ly/38mW6tl>
Summer Program: Summer Institutes in Global Health / McGill University / Montreal, Canada & Virtual

May 22-24 <http://tinyurl.com/mpthtun8>
Short Course: Human Immunology - Genes and Environment / Wellcome Connecting Science / Hybrid

May 27 – June 1 <https://bit.ly/321Yo2B>
Conference: 77th World Health Assembly / WHO / Geneva, Switzerland

May 27 – June 7 <https://bit.ly/3YwW6kG>
Short Course: Missing Values in Clinical Research / Erasmus MC / Rotterdam, The Netherlands

May 27-31 <https://tinyurl.com/mr24u6sd>
Conference: 46th Annual Kettil Brunn Society Meeting / Kettil Brunn Society / Fremantle - Walyalup, Western Australia

May 28-31 <https://tinyurl.com/44hhdwth>
Conference: 2024 Annual Conference / Society for Prevention Research / Washington, DC

May 29 – June 7 <http://tinyurl.com/4wkbwcu3>
Short Course: Sustainable Public Health / Erasmus MC / Rotterdam, The Netherlands

May 30 – June 1 <https://bit.ly/3IO7yAC>
Short Course: Child Psychiatric Epidemiology / Erasmus MC / Virtual

May TBD <http://tinyurl.com/39r4cwmy>
Short Course: Networking & Influencing Skills / Erasmus MC / Rotterdam, The Netherlands

June 2024

June 1–30 <https://tinyurl.com/jxms5vue>
Summer Program: EpiSummer@Columbia / Virtual

June 3-4 <https://tinyurl.com/93tfeknz>
Conference: ICNEPH 2024: International Conference on Nutritional Epidemiology and Public Health / WASET / New York, NY

June 2024 continued

- June -5 <https://bit.ly/3DNvDDG>
Conference: Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology (APIC) 2023 Annual Conference / APIC / San Antonio, TX
- June -7 <https://tinyurl.com/5d3ypera>
Conference: ISEE Europe Young and Early Career Researchers Conference / International Society for Environmental Epidemiology / Rennes, France
- June 9-13 <https://bit.ly/2Pkd8Q4>
Conference: Council of State & Territorial Epidemiologists 2024 Annual Conference / CSTE / Pittsburgh, PA
- June 10-12 <http://tinyurl.com/msdrnpt2>
Short Course: Cardiovascular Epidemiology / Erasmus MC / Rotterdam, The Netherlands
- June 10-12 <http://tinyurl.com/2s34e9y5>
Short Course: Multiple Imputation for Missing Data / University of Bristol / Virtual
- June 10-14 <https://bit.ly/2zSUnwy>
Short Course: Psychopharmacology / Erasmus MC / Rotterdam, The Netherlands
- June 10-15 <https://tinyurl.com/368tcijt>
Short Course: Biology of Vector-Borne Diseases / Infectious Disease Society of America / Moscow, ID
- June 12-14 <https://tinyurl.com/yc8jb892>
Short Course: 11th Nordic Conference of Epidemiology and Register-Based Health Research (NordicEpi) / Danish Epidemiological Society (DES) & Univ of Copenhagen / Copenhagen, Denmark
- June 12-14 <https://tinyurl.com/mtyba3jy>
Conference: Conf on Epidemiological Birth Cohort and Longitudinal Studies / University of Oulu / Oulu, Finland & Virtual
- June 13-14 <https://tinyurl.com/32h8ndvc>
Conference: 15th Annual Conference on Epidemiology - Infectious Diseases & Public Health / Conference Series / Rome, Italy
- June 17-18 <http://bit.ly/2RyvIGU>
Conference: 37th Annual SPER Meeting / Society for Pediatric and Perinatal Epidemiologic Research / Austin, TX
- June 17-18 <https://tinyurl.com/555bw3r9>
Conference: 2024 Policy Action Institute / APHA / Hybrid
- June 17 – July 5 <http://eepe.org/>
Summer Program: 36th Residential Summer Course in Epi / EEPE / Florence, Italy
- June 18-21 <http://tinyurl.com/yeyvpndm>
Conference: Global Health Security Conference 2024 / Multiple / Sydney, Australia
- June 18-21 <https://tinyurl.com/2yxev9dj>
Workshop: Student Dissertation Workshop / Society for Epidemiologic Research / Austin, TX
- June 18-21 <https://tinyurl.com/mr26dsvr>
Conference: Society for Epidemiologic Research Annual Conference / SER / Austin, TX

June 2024 continued

June 19-21 <https://tinyurl.com/5n6knukk>
Conference: 6th Mendelian Randomization Conference / MRC Integrative Epidemiology Unit at the University of Bristol / Bristol, England

June 20-21 <https://tinyurl.com/mvrb6jun>
Conference: 7th Annual Conference on Epidemiology & Public Health / Conference Series / Dublin, Ireland

June 24-25 <http://tinyurl.com/2f2ax7jw>
Short Course: Statistical Methods for Mediation Analysis / University of Bristol / Virtual

June 24 – August 9 <https://tinyurl.com/yc35sbw3>
Summer Program: Stanford Population Health Summer Research Program / Stanford Univ / Stanford, CA

June 29 – July 3 <https://tinyurl.com/sav2chch>
Conference: 2024 Annual Research Meeting / Academy Health / Baltimore, MD

June 29 – July 6 <https://tinyurl.com/mrxm4py7>
Summer Program: ESCMID Summer School / Escmid / Utrecht, The Netherlands

June TBD <https://bit.ly/3xxZn8o>
Summer Program: 41st Summer Institute of Biostat & Epidemiology / Johns Hopkins University / Virtual

June TBD <https://bit.ly/3BLd4IC>
Conference: Advancing Policy to Improve Health / APHA / Washington, DC & Virtual

June TBD <https://tinyurl.com/bdcufee9>
Summer Program: Pharmacoepidemiology Summer School / AARHUS University / Grenaa, Denmark

June TBD <http://bit.ly/368xRgK>
Summer Program: Summer Program in Epidemiology / Harvard University / Boston, MA

June TBD <http://bit.ly/37u0852>
Conference: 8th annual Symposium on Advances in Genomics, Epidemiology and Statistics (SAGES) / University of Pennsylvania - CCEB / Philadelphia

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The Division of Public Health Sciences Postdoctoral Research Fellowship in Public Health

Seeking postdoctoral fellowship applicants with an interest in cancer prevention and control to join diverse team of multidisciplinary researchers in the Division of Public Health Sciences and Siteman Cancer Center at Washington University in St. Louis. We welcome applicants from a range of disciplines. Our multidisciplinary faculty conducts world-leading research on a wide range of health issues and leads community education and outreach to prevent cancer and other diseases, promote population health, and improve quality and access to health care in Missouri and beyond. Engaging populations underrepresented in research and addressing cancer disparities are priorities in the work we do.

The Division has a diverse range of NIH funded projects and faculty mentors—to see the full range, consult our website.

While we welcome applicants in any relevant research area, these are the highest priorities for the Training Program:

- Cancer Disparities and Health Equity
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- Cancer Epidemiology
- Implementation Science
- Shared Decision Making
- Social Determinants of Health

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We particularly welcome applications from first generation college graduates and other backgrounds underrepresented in biomedical sciences. Washington University School of Medicine is an equal opportunity employer.

Send inquiries to: Dr. Aimee James and Dr. Graham Colditz, Training Directors, at aimeejames@wustl.edu

To apply: send an application, cover letter, curriculum vitae, and professional reference list by email to PIIspostdoc@wustl.edu. Applications are considered on a rolling basis.

To learn more about the Division and our faculty, please visit: <https://publichealthsciences.wustl.edu/>

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