



ANNUAL REPORT

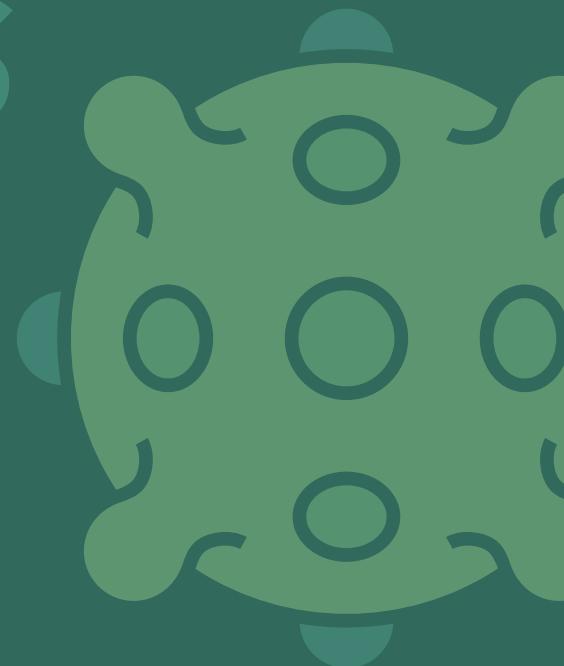
ACE FOUNDATION

2024



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MICHELE R. FORMAN Ph.D

President, ACE Foundation



Dear ACE Members and Donors,

It has been an honor to serve as the ACE Foundation President for the past four years. I was lucky to follow in the footsteps of our Founding President, Ed Trapido, who constantly had my back. During my tenure, the Foundation moved the still point of the compass to serve the ACE and its constituent members by: 1) initiating RFPs with funds that accelerate and foster growth by the ACE committees and enrich the membership; 2) supporting the new ACE Scholars Program under the leadership of Jan Eberth; and 3) continuing to support the MAC Workshop and the Endowed Lectures. These endeavors represent the growth of the Board of Directors of the ACE Foundation and ACE membership. No one could have achieved these accomplishments without the help of others!

The Foundation Board was trained in development and then strategized about and targeted waves of donations that led to the largest yield of donations this year. Bravo to all donors! We thank YOU!

The Foundation Board recently approved a strategic plan with a new mission and vision statement that appears in this Annual Report. The Board laid out next year's agenda with priorities and a budget for them. The Foundation Board has revised its organizational structure to meet the new demands of its responsibilities as it grows in its efforts to serve the ACE. Thus, the Foundation Board has entered an era as a well-tuned body that works with and supports the ACE and its membership.

During my four-year tenure, I have worked with the ACE Presidents who relinquish their baton each year. It has been my desire for the ACE and the ACE Foundation to be threaded and at the same time, recognize the independent status of each. While challenging at times, it has been my observation that the best results occur when the two entities are in strong communication so that the Foundation has a heads up about the needs of the ACE. I hope that these two train tracks—the ACE and the ACE Foundation—will seek to work together to support our field of epidemiology and public health.

The recent unsettling times for public health in our country make demands on us. We need to be strong and stand up to those who do not understand the need for: the well-established public health infrastructure in the federal government; and continued funding of investigators and their teams at the local, state and federal levels and in academia. These individuals are the essential players who foster discovery that is the underpinning to the unheralded high status of the United States in biomedicine across the world. All of us understand how discovery leads to strong public – private enterprise in the pharmaceutical and biotech worlds to screen, detect, and treat patients and maintain quality of life. My greatest wish is for everyone to fight for the next generation of scientists. Don't get deterred by stupid tactics and statements without an evidence base. We know better! Show it!

Finally, let me return to our Foundation. Sunday Clark, Ph.D., was the Secretary Treasurer during my four-year period and was a quintessential team player. Now, I toss the baton to Will Lee, J.D., MPH, who brings high energy to the leadership as President of the Foundation. He is flanked by a new team, of Russ Kirby, Ph.D., as Vice President and Kelly Sullivan, Ph.D., as Secretary Treasurer. I wish them the best!

Most sincerely yours,

Michele R. Forman, Ph.D., President ACE Foundation/FACE

OUR MISSION:

The Epidemiology Foundation is the philanthropic organization that expands resources and supports research, education, mentorship, and leadership development of the American College of Epidemiology, its members, and the public worldwide.



OUR VISION:

The Epidemiology Foundation will be the premier philanthropic organization in support of the American College of Epidemiology.

2024

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Provided grants to enrich member careers, enhance visibility of the ACE, and train future leaders envisioned by the following ACE units:

- The Associate Member Committee
- Mentoring and Education Committee
- The Awards Committee

Supported the ACE Annual Meeting by:

- Funding the MAC Workshop
- Awarding the Endowed Lecture
- Supporting the ACE Scholars
- Foundation Reception

Developed a new Strategic Plan

Revised our organizational structure to meet the growth of the Foundation and the needs of the ACE.

Developed a Donor Bill of Rights

Worked on guidelines for external sources

Endowed Lecture at the **ANNUAL MEETING** of the American College of Epidemiology



Linda B. Cottler, PhD, MPH, FACE

Linda B. Cottler, PhD, MPH, FACE, is Dean's Professor of Epidemiology at the College of Public Health and Health Professions and the College of Medicine (2011-present) and former Senior Associate Dean for Research at the College of Public Health and Health Professions (2012-2022) at the University of Florida. Before moving to UF to become Founding Chair of the Department of Epidemiology (2011-2018), Dr. Cottler was at Washington University for 30 years, where she earned her PhD and developed a robust research program in addiction and community engagement science. She has been continuously funded by NIDA since 1988 and has received numerous contracts and grants from multiple Institutes. This research includes: development of culturally reliable and valid measures for identifying substance use, abuse and dependence, along with psychiatric disorders and their risk factors; innovative methods for conducting national surveys of high risk behaviors; and community based, peer-delivered interventions to change high risk behaviors and substance abuse. Her work has had international focus as well, extending to Afghanistan, Australia, Haiti, India, Kenya, Taiwan, and Thailand. Dr. Cottler's research has also focused on populations underrepresented in the research enterprise to increase health equity. She is Founding Director of HealthStreet (1989)—a community engagement program of the UF CTSA in which Community Health Workers assess health concerns and needs of community members and provide referrals to medical and social services and opportunities to participate in research. Cottler is Director of the Community Engagement for the UF Clinical and Translational Science Institute. She also serves on the Board of Directors of the Association for Clinical and Translational Science (President 2022 to 2024), and is Co-Chair of the Special Interest Group PACER (Partners for the Advancement of Community Engaged Research).

Dr. Cottler has had the privilege to be mentored by Dennis Slone and Allen Mitchell in Boston, as well as Lee Robins in St. Louis, where she coordinated the landmark Epidemiologic Catchment Area Program. She has been PI of numerous intervention studies to reduce high risk behaviors. She directs the NDEWS initiative, and co-directs the UF site of ABCD and All of Us initiatives, among others. The highlight of her career has been working with the many talented and diverse mentees as part of her funded training programs, especially the NIDA T32 and Fogarty International Center Training Grants. Cottler has published over 360 manuscripts and chapters and been the recipient of numerous awards for her mentoring and research achievements including the Rema Lapouse Award. This award from ACE Foundation means the world to Dr. Cottler.

DESCRIPTION OF TALK:

Epidemiology: the Intersection of Serendipity, Hard Work and Creativity, presented on September 11, 2024, reflected on the work epidemiologists do every day to remove the pump handle as John Snow did. Dr. Cottler discussed her perspectives of some of the work in her career, how choosing epidemiology as a career was one of the best choices of her life, and her work with populations underrepresented in research. Dr. Cottler described her work starting out in epi at the (now) Slone Epidemiology Center in Boston, working with Allen Mitchell, her move back to her home town, St Lous, to coordinate the ECA study with her mentor Lee Robins, and the surveys she has developed to assess psychiatric and substance use disorders. She explained the essentials for a good assessment, new techniques to determine reasons for discordant data in reliability studies, and several "first" studies, of prescription pain pill use in former NFL players, a household survey of opioid use in Afghanistan men, women and children, a back translational model of the neurocognitive effects of polysubstance use (humans to rodents!), her HealthStreet community engagement program to build trust between academic health centers and the community at large and her NIDA-funded National Drug Early Warning System (ndews.org). In the end, she provided a few tips: as Leon Gordis said in 1979, "no scientific discipline can be any better than the quality of its raw data", from her mentor, Lee Robins, "if something doesn't seem right, it probably isn't". Her own tips included: epi is the intersection of serendipity, hard work and creativity. It is fun, it brings people together for years of collaboration, primary data collection is more important now than ever before, and get back to basics, especially now during the explosion of AI.

FOCUS FOR 2025

Using the RFP mechanism and other funding mechanisms, the Foundation seeks to:

- Establish a Guideline for External Sources of Donations including: corporate, non-governmental organizations, and individual non-members of the ACE. We aim to monitor all organizations in a dynamic environment.
- RFP for ACE Committees and Scholars.
- Support individuals who have suffered economic hardship due to cuts from funding or layoffs.

DONORS

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Diana Bensyl, PhD, MA
William Blot, PhD
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2024 ANNUAL REPORT

THE EPIDEMIOLOGY FOUNDATION HAD A BANNER YEAR OF DONATIONS!

Over \$17,495 was raised during three waves!
Thank you to our Donors, such as you!

The funds raised benefited the:

- ✓ ACE Scholars
- ✓ Endowed Lecture at the 2024 ACE Annual Conference
- ✓ Foundation Reception in conjunction with the 2024 ACE Annual Conference
- ✓ ACE Committee activities to enrich and to sustain our membership
- ✓ MAC Workshop at the Annual Conference

We would not have accomplished this without your support.
Thank you again for your generosity to The Epidemiology Foundation.

* If you wish to see greater financial detail, please contact Karen Wendling
[at office@aceepidemiology.org](mailto:office@aceepidemiology.org)

