

## A Note from the Chair

### Dear Epidemiology Alumni and Friends:

It's been an exciting beginning to another great year in the Department of Epidemiology. Starting from the first days of orientation, Matt Boulton and his wonderful crew from the Practice Office were loading up buses to give students their first taste of epidemiology in action. Some spent the morning in the Detroit Department of Public Health learning about their current programs in disease prevention and health promotion. Then they were off to Southeast Detroit to identify houses that needed to be condemned or to clean up schoolyards and neighborhoods. Other students headed to the Washtenaw Department of Health and worked with Project Grow in Ypsilanti.

We just held our annual Poster Day during which our returning master's students display the adventures of their summer internships. We had students working all over the world—for example, Egypt, Ghana, Morocco, Mexico, Tanzania, and so forth. Indeed, a total of 23 MPH students undertook international internships this past summer. A big thanks to all the alumni that helped us find internships, both in the United States and abroad, for these bright and energetic young people. The University of Michigan continues to attract the best and brightest students from the state, the United States, and many countries worldwide. We remain among the largest schools of public health, and epidemiology continues to rank among the top departmental programs nationally. In addition, we have been gaining international visibility through the many accomplishments of our students.

Our faculty have also been busy. Mary Haan's research on statins and dementia was featured on the CBS evening news and on the front page of *The New York Times*. Sandro Galea has mobilized his team to study the effects of Hurricane Ike on the mental health of Gulf Coast citizens. Sioban Harlow was asked by Mary Sue Coleman to lead the President's Advisory Committee on Labor Standards and Human Rights. Amr Soliman is bringing in cancer experts from across the world for the Cancer in Africa and African Americans Symposium. Ana Diez Roux just gave The Wade Hampton Frost Lectureship Award at the APHA annual meeting. And this is just the tip of the iceberg.

I hope this newsletter finds everyone well and enjoying the holiday season. It's the time of year that our students start setting their sights on finding the perfect internship or perfect job. If you have any ideas or know of any opportunities, please let us know. And, if you're in town, please come visit us. This is my first term as chair and I'm enjoying creating new connections. One of my missions is to build better connections among our alumni, our students, and our faculty. Come talk to me or send me an email ([skardia@umich.edu](mailto:skardia@umich.edu)).

Best wishes,  
**Sharon Kardia**  
*Professor and Chair*



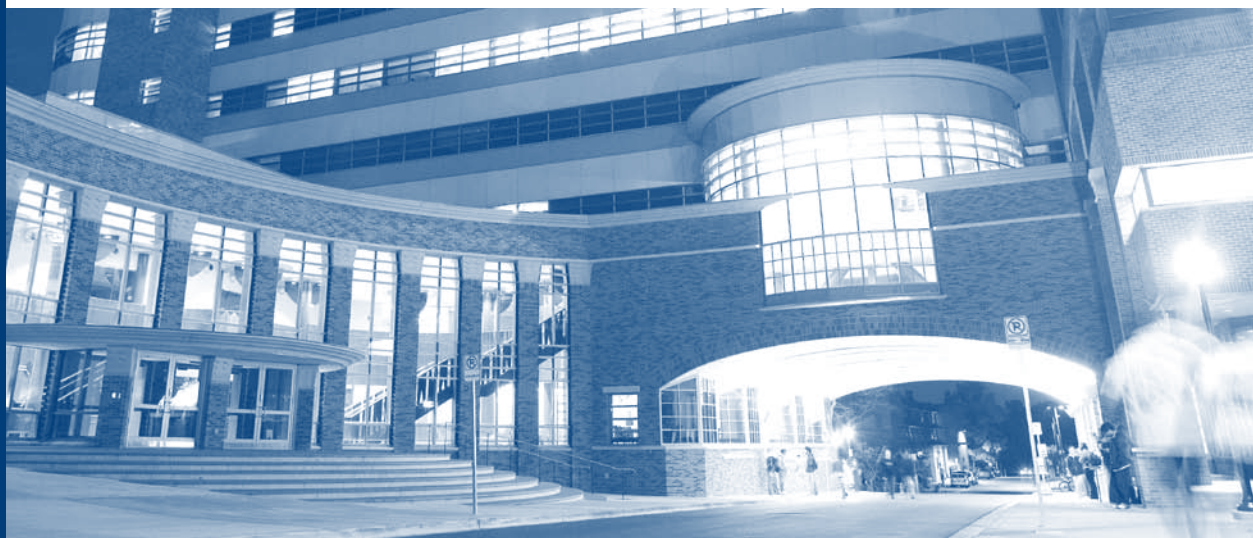
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# David Schottenfeld: Scholar, Mentor, and Friend



The establishment of the Schottenfeld Scholarship Fund in the Department of Epidemiology is a fitting tribute to one of the giants of American public health, who helped define the fields of cancer epidemiology and preventive oncology. Dr. Schottenfeld has nurtured innumerable scientists over the past four decades with unparalleled dedication to education and mentoring, and I am fortunate to count myself among his protégés.

David Schottenfeld was educated in the classical tradition of public health and epidemiology, beginning with outstanding training in clinical medicine, medical oncology, epidemiology, and preventive medicine. After graduating from Hamilton College (Phi Beta Kappa) and Cornell University Medical College, he completed his internship at Duke University Hospital and his residency in medicine at Bellevue Hospital Center and Memorial Hospital in New York. Immediately following his residency, Dr. Schottenfeld moved to Atlanta to the Communicable Disease Center in the United States Public Health Service in the Division of Epidemiology. He then continued his training in epidemiology at the Johns Hopkins School of Public Health and the Harvard School of Public Health before returning to his alma mater to take a faculty position as assistant professor in the Department of Public Health at Cornell University Medical College with a joint appointment at Memorial Hospital of the Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center.

Dr. Schottenfeld's legacy at Memorial Sloan-Kettering remains extraordinary. He gained national prominence directing research and training programs in cancer epidemiology, and helping to develop the field of cancer prevention and control during his 23-year career on the faculty. In 1975 he co-founded the American

Society of Preventive Oncology, which remains one of the pre-eminent academic forums for prevention research and its application in practice. In 1980 he was awarded a prestigious Academic Career Award in Preventive Oncology from the National Cancer Institute. Not only did he serve as the chief of Epidemiology and Preventive Medicine for a decade, he also served as the director of Cancer Control at Memorial Hospital from 1981 to 1986.

Fortunately for the University of Michigan, Dr. Schottenfeld was lured away from Memorial Sloan-Kettering in 1986 to serve as professor and chair of the Department of Epidemiology as well as director of the Epidemiology, Causation and Prevention Program of the newly established University of Michigan Comprehensive Cancer Center. He was appointed the John G. Searle Professor of Epidemiology as well as professor of Internal Medicine in the University of Michigan Medical School. Dr. Schottenfeld also served as co-director of the Preventive Medicine Residency Program at U-M.

When Dr. Schottenfeld arrived at the university, he was already recognized as the nation's pre-eminent cancer epidemiologist. His reputation was forged on his encyclopedic contributions to multiple primary cancers—colorectal, prostate, breast, endometrial, lung, testicular, and thyroid. He made seminal contributions to elucidating the role of alcohol and tobacco in cancers of the upper digestive system, larynx, and lung; to understanding racial disparities in cancer incidence and mortality; and to establishing the role of serum sex-steroid hormones in prostate biology. But perhaps beyond any of the individual contributions that he has made to deciphering the epidemiology of specific cancers, the textbook that he co-edited with Joseph Fraumeni, *Cancer Epidemiology and Prevention*, sealed his legacy as one of the founding fathers of cancer epidemiology. I remember the first edition of Schottenfeld and Fraumeni as being the single most influential book of my graduate education. Its blue cover contained 1,173 pages of essential material for cancer epidemiologists, and we passed it back and forth among the graduate students with relish and respect. "Who's got Schottenfeld and Fraumeni?" was the typical morning refrain for the copy that the Ph.D. students shared, and no one was allowed to remove the library's copy from its special place. Now this classic textbook is in its third edition, and the graduate students and post-doctoral fellows that I have had the privilege of training all know exactly where to find it: first shelf, last book on the right in my office.

David Schottenfeld welcomed me with open arms, and graciously provided exceptional

opportunities for teaching and mentoring graduate students, while simultaneously protecting a young faculty member from the potential for excessive commitments. In addition to his nurturing approach to teaching EPID 601, Introduction to Epidemiology, Dr. Schottenfeld also developed one of the most successful courses in the department: EPID 621, Cancer Epidemiology. This is the course where I really learned to teach, under the gentle encouragement and tutelage of a truly great mentor. For nearly a decade, he provided me with the opportunity to co-teach this course, giving me a chance to see how to adapt and develop a course over time, commensurate with advances in the field and new ways to teach. Shortly after I arrived at Michigan, he also invited me to co-mentor one of his star Ph.D. students. Dr. Schottenfeld certainly knew what he was doing. I now appreciate that he not only taught me how to mentor graduate students through what he said and did, he also showed me how to mentor by what he chose not to say or do. A great graduate student only needs to be pointed in the right direction, and I was fortunate that he graciously gave me an opportunity to mentor a student who needed very little guidance (and was mature enough to tolerate my learning curve).

Dr. Schottenfeld's teaching philosophy permeates the department and helped establish the Graduate Summer Session in Epidemiology as one of the premiere graduate training programs in epidemiology. Teaching is one of the hallmarks of the Abraham Lilienfeld Award from the American College of Epidemiology, which he was presented in 2002 for "outstanding achievement in research, teaching, and national leadership in epidemiology." Dr. Schottenfeld has appropriately been recognized with numerous awards, including the John Snow Award from the American Public Health Association. Just as important as the national awards for his lifelong contributions to epidemiology and public health is the establishment of the Schottenfeld Scholarship Fund, an appropriate tribute given Dr. Schottenfeld's contributions to graduate education at the University of Michigan. He is a scholar, mentor, and friend. I am pleased to add my own contribution to this inaugural scholarship, and invite each of you to contribute to this lasting legacy.

by **Stephen B. Gruber**, *Professor*

To donate to the Schottenfeld Scholarship Fund, please see page 3.

## Update Yourself

Please update us on where you are and what you are doing.

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## You Can Make a Difference to Epidemiology Students!

Scholarships like the Schottenfeld Scholarship help us recruit top students for the Department of Epidemiology. Please consider a gift in support of the next generation of the leaders and best in epidemiology and to honor Dr. Schottenfeld's legacy.

If you would like to give to the Schottenfeld Scholarship, support internships or other programs in the Department of Epidemiology, please visit our secure online giving form at [www.sph.umich.edu/epid/alumni/index.html](http://www.sph.umich.edu/epid/alumni/index.html), or contact the Office of Development and Alumni Relations at 734-764-8093 or [sph.giving@umich.edu](mailto:sph.giving@umich.edu).

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## Epidemiology Internships: Where the Rubber Meets the Road

Every summer after their first year of academic training, more than 50 Epidemiology students fan out across the United States and the wider world to learn first-hand what it means to be an epidemiologist. They work in diverse settings such as local health departments, the CDC, rural health clinics, and NGOs. Nearly half of the students do internships in developing locations such as Sub-Saharan or North Africa, the Middle East, China, South Asia, and Latin America. The other half work in the United States in local or state health departments, hospitals, nonprofit organizations, private sector firms, or on faculty research projects. The skills and knowledge they bring to the study of disease prevention, risk analysis, or public health program implementation are dwarfed only by the "hands on" skills and knowledge they gain from these valuable experiences.

"I had a fantastic experience working with the Marshfield Clinic Research Foundation in Wisconsin," says Erin Payne. "My work focused on a gene-environment interaction of a chronic disease, fibromyalgia. I could not have asked for a more complete experience from my two mentors, Drs. McCarty and Reeser. I was involved in every stage from survey development to IRB meetings, patient enrollment to data collection, entry, and analysis. It was an invaluable experi-

ence to both my academic and professional development."

Clearly, a great internship is an important cornerstone in training future epidemiologists—but great positions and solid funding are hard to come by. Some students are able to obtain at least partial funding from training grants, travel fellowships, faculty research grants, and a very small alumni-supported fund in Epidemiology. Internships in developing countries are even more difficult to find, and travel expenses are high and salary is not often available. "Whether you can give a little or something more substantial, we would appreciate your help building internship funds to support these courageous students," says Sharon Kardia, professor and chair, Department of Epidemiology.

If you are willing to offer or suggest an internship opportunity for an Epidemiology student, please contact Dr. Mark Wilson at 734-936-0152 or [wilsonml@umich.edu](mailto:wilsonml@umich.edu).

Alumni interested in supporting Epidemiology internships are encouraged to visit our secure online giving form at [www.sph.umich.edu/epid/alumni/index.html](http://www.sph.umich.edu/epid/alumni/index.html), or contact the Office of Development Alumni Relations at 734-764-8093 or [sph.giving@umich.edu](mailto:sph.giving@umich.edu).

## Upcoming Events Save the Date!

### MAC-EPID Symposium

**Microbial Ecology: Relationship to the Environment and Human Health**

March 13, 2009, Ann Arbor, MI  
[www.sitemaker.umich.edu/macepid/home](http://www.sitemaker.umich.edu/macepid/home)

**Epidemiology/SPH Symposium  
A Symposium in Honor of John Maassab,  
Influenza: Past, Present and Future**

March 27, 2009, Ann Arbor, MI  
[www.sitemaker.umich.edu/macepid/home](http://www.sitemaker.umich.edu/macepid/home)

### Regional EIS Conference

March 30, 2009, Ann Arbor, MI  
[www.mipha.org/epi/Conf2009/ConfInfo.html](http://www.mipha.org/epi/Conf2009/ConfInfo.html)

### Michigan Epidemiology Conference

March 31, 2009, Ann Arbor, MI  
[www.mipha.org/epi/Conf2009/ConfInfo.html](http://www.mipha.org/epi/Conf2009/ConfInfo.html)

### Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists (CSTE) Annual Conference

June 7–11, 2009, Buffalo, NY  
[www.cste.org/dnn/](http://www.cste.org/dnn/)

### Society of Epidemiologic Research Annual Meeting

June 23–26, 2009, Anaheim, CA  
[www.epiresearch.org/](http://www.epiresearch.org/)

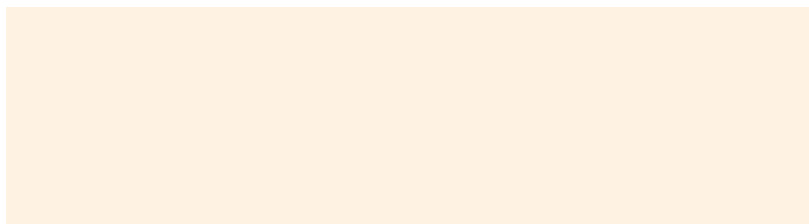
### Graduate Summer Session in Epidemiology

July 12–31, 2009, Ann Arbor, MI



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MM&D 080747



Dr. Allison Aiello, Department of Epidemiology, and other U-M researchers are testing influenza interventions among university students, such as wearing medical masks.