The 47th Annual Conference on Cardiovascular Disease Epidemiology and Prevention in association with the Council on Nutrition, Physical Activity, and Metabolism occurred on Feb 28–March 3. Our 2006 meeting in Phoenix was a huge success, and we topped that in Orlando. We had a very large turnout, over 600 attendees, and an impressive number of those were first-timers. To our international attendees, thank you especially for traveling long distances to get to Orlando. I'm sorry the weather wasn't as good as it could have been, but at least it didn't rain on us.

Many of you very graciously told me how great you thought the meeting was going. While I thank you, I can't take credit for it. Our hard-working Program Committee, ably chaired by Peter Wilson, and our fabulous AHA staff, particularly Cindy McDonough, did a wonderful job. I will count on seeing you next March in Colorado Springs.

Now for the bad news! We were informed at the meeting that the National Center for Health Statistics, Division of Vital Statistics, will not be able to provide mortality data for calendar year 2008, due to a $3.1 million shortfall in funds necessary to purchase birth and death data from the 50 states and territories. Given projected budgetary trends, it is also likely that mortality data will not be available for calendar year 2010 and every other year thereafter. Researchers who rely on the National Death Index for mortality follow-up will need to consider the implications for their research protocols because the NDI will lack information for 2008, and any subsequent years for which NCHS cannot afford to buy the data. For further information, please contact Mr. Charles Rothwell, Director, Division of Vital Statistics, at 301-458-4468 or crothwell@cdc.gov. Mr. Rothwell can answer any questions you may have but he cannot fix the problem. The federal budget is already woefully short of needed resources to fund heart disease and stroke research, and now add to that basic mortality data collection on the national level. You are a critical piece of our efforts to correct this extraordinarily unfortunate situation. I have spoken with AHA's chief science officer, Rose Marie Robertson, about making this issue a key aspect of AHA's national advocacy efforts. Our council's advocacy ambassador, David Goff, is also on the case. You can help by signing up for the You're the Cure Network. For more information see: http://www.capitolconnect.com/yourethecure/index.aspx

A history of CVD epidemiology has been in the works since the report of Fred Epstein and Henry Blackburn on the council's history given at the 1995 Tampa meeting. A history Web site is now up and running. It gives a primer on the origins and early years of the field and has biographies of pioneers, abstracts of early studies, source material on 100 oral histories, photographs, documents, and essays on methods, institutions, events and controversies in CVD prevention research.

The site is maintained by the University of Minnesota School of Public Health. It invites additions about modern developments in research and public policy for prevention, and solicits participation of contemporaries interested in ongoing contributions to the history. Contributors should contact Henry Blackburn at: blackburn@epi.umn.edu

Please check out the site at www.epi.umn.edu/cvdepi

A companion book, Preventing Heart Attack and Stroke: A History of CVD Epidemiology, is in preparation by Henry Blackburn, Darwin Labarthe, and Kalevi Pyorala. It is anticipated for publication by Oxford University Press after completion later this year.
The Early Career Committee of the Epidemiology and Prevention Council was formed last year and consists of nine energetic early career individuals! Our mission is to promote career development in CVD Epidemiology, and represent early career issues in the council leadership.

At the recent Epidemiology and Prevention Spring Conference in Orlando we sponsored Connection Corner. This provided a casual forum during break periods where early career attendees could “connect” with senior council members and our committee. This was so successful that we will make Connection Corner a regular conference event.

Watch soon for our new Early Career Web site. This resource for early investigators will include information on training programs, funding opportunities, mentorship, membership and a CVD Epidemiology introductory reading list.

Finally, the Early Career Committee will sponsor two new $1,000 Early Career travel grants for the 2008 Spring Conference in Colorado Springs.

If you are an early career individual with energy and ideas, we hope you will apply for a position on this committee. Application information is available from Karen Modesitt at AHA (karen.modesitt@heart.org).

Highlights from the 47th Conference on CVD Epidemiology and Prevention in association with the Council on Nutrition, Physical Activity, and Metabolism

The Frederick H. Epstein Memorial Lecture is named for Dr. Epstein in appreciation of his dedication and outstanding career working in the areas of cardiovascular disease epidemiology in both the American and European cardiovascular scientific communities.

The Jeremiah and Rose Stamler Research Award for New Investigators is named for the Stamlers in appreciation of their seminal contributions to cardiovascular disease epidemiology. The award is designed to recognize and stimulate excellence in research by investigators in training.

The Sandra Daugherty Award for Excellence in Cardiovascular Disease or Hypertension Epidemiology is named for Dr. Sandra Daugherty, in appreciation of her outstanding career as a clinical researcher and epidemiologist working in the areas of hypertension, chronic fatigue syndrome and women’s health issues. The award is designed to recognize the role of junior faculty and to stimulate excellence in research by junior investigators.

The Trudy Bush Fellowship for CVD Research in Women’s Health is named for Trudy Bush, PhD, MHS, to honor her outstanding leadership in the field of women’s health and contributions to cardiovascular science.

The Roger R. Williams Memorial Award for Genetic Epidemiology and the Prevention and Treatment of Atherosclerosis is named for Dr. Roger R. Williams’ pioneering work in genetics of inherited lipid disorders and the prevention of atherosclerosis.
Sir Richard Doll, who died last July at the age of 92, is widely held to be the most influential epidemiologist of the second half of the 20th century. In recognition of his life and career, Green College at Oxford University, which Doll helped establish and served as the first Warden, is planning to build the Richard Doll Quadrangle, with a new academic center and residential quarters for students.

The Congress 2006 planning committee agreed in principle to contribute to the fund so as to recognize the many contributions Doll made in support of North American epidemiology. SET has made a contribution of $7500 in anticipation that other organizations will match and hopefully exceed that amount.

USA members wishing to make individual contributions to the Doll Fund can do so at:

The University of Oxford North American Office
198 Madison Avenue, 13th Floor
New York, NY 10016
(Checks payable to: Americans for Oxford Inc.)

Canadian donors:

Oxford University Development Office
Oxenford House
Magdalen Street
Oxford OX1 3AB, UK
(Checks payable to: University of Oxford Development Trust)

Rest of the world:

The Treasurer
Green College at the Radcliffe Observatory
Woodstock Road
Oxford OX2 6HG, UK
(Checks payable to: Green College [RDMF])

Mark your checks for the Richard Doll Memorial Fund at Green College.