JCCC Member Directory

James E. Enstrom, Ph.D., M.P.H.

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Scientific Interest(s):
Since 1974 Dr. James Enstrom has conducted research on the epidemiology of cancer, particularly examining the health practices and cancer risk in several well-defined populations within California and the United States. His significant findings relevant to cancer include: identification of unusually low-risk populations, like health-conscious Mormons; measurement of an inverse relationship between dietary intake of vitamin C and mortality; assessment of the population impact of smoking cessation based on long-term natural experiments; determination of the long-term relationship of active and passive smoking to mortality; and interpretation of cancer survival rates and lung cancer mortality trends. He is currently investigating lifestyle and environmental factors in several large cohorts, including California Mormons, California Cancer Prevention Study, Alameda County Study and national samples available from the National Center for Health Statistics.


11/11/2009
Lester Breslow, Who Linked Healthy Habits and Long Life, Dies at 97

By DOUGLAS MARTIN

Lester Breslow, a public health leader whose research gave mathematical proof to the notion that people can live longer and healthier by changing habits like smoking, diet and sleep, died Monday at his home in Los Angeles. He was 97.

The University of California, Los Angeles, where Dr. Breslow was a former dean of the Fielding School of Public Health, announced the death.

Dr. Breslow’s most lauded accomplishment was a study of 5,928 people in Alameda County, Calif., that examined their behavior over intervals of up to 20 years. It used quantitative analysis to prove that a 45-year-old with at least six of the seven healthy habits Dr. Breslow chose as important had a life expectancy 11 years longer than someone with three or fewer.

Over a 70-year career, Dr. Breslow helped expand the very definition of public health, from the historical concentration on communicable disease to a new concern with individual behavior and the effects of community and environment. As people lived longer and had more cancer and heart attacks, he was a leader in emphasizing the mounting importance of chronic disease.

“He changed the way we thought of public health,” said Linda Rosenstock, the current dean of the Fielding School. His message, she said, was that “the root causes of our health problems are broader than our own biology.”

In 1952, President Harry S. Truman appointed Dr. Breslow director of a commission to assess the nation’s health care. The panel’s report emphasized that people make their own health choices but “exercise them mainly under social influences.”

In 1969, as president of the American Public Health Association, he said the public health profession must go beyond issuing scientific reports and suggest social actions to improve people’s lives. “In the long run, housing may be more important than hospitals to health,” he said.

He advised a half-dozen presidential administrations and was director of the California Public Health Department in the mid-1960s. Gov. Ronald Reagan fired him in 1967, citing “philosophical differences” over state cuts in medical care for the poor.

As an official of the California department in the 1940s and ’50s, he did some of the early definitive studies on the harmful effects of smoking. Three of these studies were cited in the United States surgeon general’s landmark report in 1964 linking cigarettes to lung diseases, particularly cancer.

But it was the Alameda County study that rocked the public health world, because it proved with numbers that behavior indisputably affects longevity. Its recommendations: do not smoke; drink in moderation; sleep seven to eight hours; exercise at least moderately; eat regular meals; maintain a moderate weight; eat breakfast.

A follow-up study showed that those who followed better habits were less likely to become disabled. Of those with four or more good health habits, 12.2 percent were likely to be disabled 10 years after the study began; those with two or three, 14.1 percent; and those with only one or no positive health habits at all, 18.7 percent.

Dr. Breslow found that a 60-year-old who followed the seven recommended behaviors would be as healthy as a 50-year-old who followed fewer than three.

Lester Breslow was born March 17, 1915, in Bismarck, N.D., where his parents had moved to escape the teeming poverty of the Lower East Side of Manhattan. His father, a pharmacist, opened a drugstore in Bismarck. Lester devoured socialist books and newspapers as a teenager, he wrote in his autobiography, “A Life in Public Health: An Insider’s Retrospective” (2004). He overcame a stutter to speak at his high school graduation.

He graduated from the University of Minnesota Medical School in 1938 with the intention of being a psychiatrist, but he soured on the field while working at a psychiatric hospital in the summer because he doubted much could be done to help the patients.

He shifted to public health, he said, because he thought it suited his ideology as “a political activist for disadvantaged people.” After a public health internship at a hospital in Staten Island, he applied to the United States Public Health Service Corps but was rejected — “I assume because of my political orientation,” he wrote.

Dr. Breslow returned to the University of Minnesota and earned a master’s in public health in 1941. He joined the Minnesota Department of Public Health as an epidemiologist, handling six rural counties.

In 1943 he joined the Army, even though his job and having a young child both exempted him from the World War II draft. He wrote that he felt guilty because he had not earlier joined the “antifascist struggle” by volunteering to fight in the Spanish Civil War. He served in the Pacific as a captain.

After his discharge, he approached the California health department about a job, making the case that it needed a chronic disease specialist. The director told him to go back to Minnesota, but a subordinate quietly brought him on board.

After 21 years at the agency, Dr. Breslow was hired by U.C.L.A. as dean of the public health school, a post he held for eight years. He wrote more than 200 scientific publications, and was founding editor of The Annual Review of Public Health and The Encyclopedia of Public Health. In addition to serving as president of the public health association, he was president of the International Epidemiological Association and the Association of Schools of Public Health.

Dr. Breslow’s first marriage ended in divorce. He is survived by his wife, the former Devra J.R. Miller; three sons from his first marriage, Norman, Jack and Stephen; three grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

In 2010, Dr. Breslow, then 95, joined with Prof. James E. Enstrom of U.C.L.A. to publish a paper about a group of California Mormons whom they had studied over 25 years. The life expectancy of the Mormon males was 9.8 years greater than that of the general population of white American males; female Mormons lived 5.6 years longer than their general-population counterparts. The authors credited the Mormons’ healthy lifestyle.

Dr. Breslow himself did not smoke or drink. He walked regularly, practiced moderation in all things and enjoyed tending his vegetable garden.

U.C.L.A. FIELDING SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Dr. Lester Breslow
The EPA Science Advisory Board (SAB) Staff Office is forming the Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee (CASAC) Carbon Monoxide Review Panel (Panel). The Panel will provide advice to the EPA Administrator regarding the primary national ambient air quality standards (NAAQS) for carbon monoxide (CO). Nominations for technical experts to augment the chartered CASAC were requested in a 12 October 2007 Federal Register Notice (72 FR 58078). Individuals with expertise regarding carbon monoxide in one or more of the following areas were sought: atmospheric science; exposure modeling; risk assessment modeling; dosimetry; toxicology; controlled human exposure; epidemiology; and biostatistics.

Biosketches of the seven members of CASAC are available at: http://yosemite.epa.gov/sab/sabpeople.nsf/WebCommittees/CASAC. Below are the biosketches for the fifteen candidates under consideration. We hereby invite comments from members of the public for relevant information, analysis or other documentation for the consideration of the SAB Staff Office in making the final decision about the CASAC CO Panel.

Information furnished by the public in response to this Web site posting will be combined with information provided by the nominee and information gathered independently by the SAB Staff Office. For the SAB Staff Office, a balanced subcommittee or review panel includes nominees with the necessary domains of knowledge, the relevant scientific perspectives (which, among other factors, can be influenced by work history and affiliation), and the collective breadth of experience to adequately address the charge. Specific criteria to be used in evaluating an individual Panel member include: (a) scientific and/or technical expertise, knowledge, and experience; (b) availability and willingness to serve; (c) absence of financial conflicts of interest; (d) absence of an appearance of a lack of impartiality; and (e) skills working in committees, subcommittees and advisory panels; and, for the Panel as a whole, (f) diversity of, and balance among, scientific expertise, viewpoints, etc. The SAB Staff Office Director makes the final decision concerning who will serve on the CASAC CO Review Panel.

Please provide any comments no later than 26 February 2008. Please make your comments to the attention of Ms. Kyndall Barry, Designated Federal Officer (DFO), at: barry.kyndall@epa.gov.

**Kleinman, Michael T.**

University of California, Irvine

Michael T. Kleinman is a Professor of Community and Environmental Medicine at the University of California, Irvine. He is an inhalation toxicologist and has been studying the health effects of exposures to environmental contaminants found in ambient air for more than 30 years. He holds a BS in Chemistry (Biochemistry) from the Polytechnic Institute of Brooklyn and a PhD. in Environmental Health Sciences from New York University. He is a Professor and Co-Director of the Air Pollution Health Effects Laboratory in the Department of Community and Environmental Medicine at University of California, Irvine. Prior to joining the faculty at UCI in 1982, he directed the Aerosol Exposure and Analytical Laboratory at Rancho Los Amigos Hospital in Downey, CA. He has published more than 95 articles in peer-reviewed journals dealing with environmental contaminants and their effects on cardiopulmonary and immunological systems. He has directed more than 50 controlled exposure studies of human volunteers and laboratory animals to ozone and other photochemical oxidants, carbon monoxide, ambient particulate matter and laboratory-generated aerosols containing chemically or biologically reactive metals such as lead, cadmium, iron and manganese. He recently served on two National Academy committees to examine issues in protecting deployed US Forces from the effects of chemical and biological weapons. Dr. Kleinman's current studies focus on neurological and cardiopulmonary effects of inhaled particles, including nanomaterials and ultrafine, fine and coarse ambient particles in humans and laboratory animals. His current studies have demonstrated that inhalation of combustion-generated particles can promote airway allergies and accelerate the development of cardiovascular disease and that these effects may be associated with organic and elemental carbon components of the ultrafine fraction of the ambient aerosol. His studies have also demonstrated that inhalation of ambient particles is associated with persistent inflammation in the brain and that particles associated with manganese can alter dopamine and serotonin levels in the brain and can cause changes in nerve structure during
The Honorable Karen Bass  
Speaker of the Assembly  
State Capitol, Room 219  
Sacramento, California 95814

Dear Speaker Bass:

In your letter of October 5, 2009, you asked that I provide nominees for a pool of experts in Biochemistry and Toxicology from which you may select someone to fill a vacancy on the Toxic Air Contaminants Scientific Review Panel due to expiration of the current members’ terms of appointment.

I am happy to provide you with names of individuals in these areas. The University has reviewed each individual’s scientific research credentials and they were also asked to self-report any disclosures they deemed relevant to their service on the Toxic Air Contaminants Scientific Review Panel. We understand that any individuals appointed would also be subject to an interview and vetting process administered by your office.

In the area of Biochemistry, I am pleased to nominate the following:

Sarjeet Gill is a Professor in the Department of Cell Biology and Neuroscience at UC Riverside. His research uses a cellular and molecular approach to elucidate the mechanisms of toxicity and cell membrane transport. He is a frequent peer reviewer of scholarly publications and research grant proposals and a member of the American Chemical Society, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and the Society of Invertebrate Pathology.

Chao-Yin Chen is an Associate Professor in the Department of Pharmacology at UC Davis. Her research focuses on how sensory information from the cardiovascular and lung receptors is processed and how that processing is altered in response to environmental factors such as exercise, stress, exposure to air pollution, hypertension, and obesity. She is a member of the Society for Neurosciences and the American Physiological Society.
The Honorable Karen Bass  
February 8, 2010  
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Barry Wilson is a Professor in the Department of Animal Sciences and Environmental Toxicology and a researcher in the Western Center for Agricultural Health and Safety. Dr. Wilson studies the modes of actions of environmental neurotoxicants, biomarkers of exposure and the effects of organophosphates and other esterase inhibitors on humans, experimental animals and wildlife. He is a member of the Society of Toxicology, the Society for Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry, and served on the EPA Science Advisory Board from 1989-1992.

In the area of Toxicology, I am pleased to nominate the following:

Laura Van Winkle is an Associate Adjunct Professor in the Department of Anatomy, Physiology and Cell Biology at the UC Davis School of Veterinary Medicine. Dr. Van Winkle studies the effects of air pollution on childhood health, diseases and lung development. She is a frequent peer reviewer, a diplomate of the American Board of Toxicology and an Associate Editor of the peer reviewed journal, Toxicology Letters.

Carroll Cross is a Professor and Medical Co-Director of the Adult Cystic Fibrosis Clinics at UC Davis School of Medicine. He conducts research in inhalation toxicology and is an active physician. Dr. Cross is a Fellow of the American College of Chest Physicians.

Michael Kleinman is a Professor in the Department of Medicine at the UC Irvine School of Medicine, Co-Director of the Air Pollution Health Effects Laboratory, and a member of the UCI Center for Occupational and Environmental Health and the UCI Chao Family Comprehensive Cancer Center. Dr. Kleinman conducts research on the mechanisms by which inhaled toxic chemicals, alone and in mixtures, interfere with the cardiopulmonary system and with respiratory system defenses. He was a co-author of the 1999 National Academies of Sciences report, Strategies to Protect the Health of Deployed U.S. Forces: Force Protection and Decontamination.

All of these individuals have been contacted and, if selected, are willing to serve on the panel. Please do not hesitate to get in touch with me if additional information is needed.

With best wishes, I am,

Sincerely yours,

[Signature]

Mark G. Yudof  
President

cc: Interim Provost Pitts  
Senior Vice President Dooley  
Vice President Beckwith  
Associate Vice President Juarez
Prof. Michael T. Kleinman

Research Area: Health Effects

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Professor of Environmental Toxicology and Co-Director of the Air Pollution Health Effects Laboratory in the Department of Community and Environmental Medicine, Adjunct Professor in College of Medicine [Ph.D. in Environmental Health Sciences from New York University, NY]. Professor Kleinman brings to the ORU expertise in the health effects of air pollution on animals and humans, as well as the development of analytical techniques for assessing biological and physiological responses to exposure to environmental contaminants and for determining concentrations of important chemical species in air.

Environmental pollutants represent important potential causes of preventable neurological, cardiac, and pulmonary diseases. The research in Dr. Kleinman’s laboratory uses immunological and molecular methods to examine the mechanisms by which toxic agents affect the lung and heart. Current studies include the effects of ambient particles on blood pressure and heart rate in sensitive animal models. Other studies examine the link between asthma and environmental exposures to ambient particles near real-world pollutant sources, such as freeways in Los Angeles.

Research focuses on mechanisms of cardiopulmonary injury following inhalation of toxic compounds. State-of-the-art methods are used to evaluate the roles of free radicals and oxidative stress in sensitive human volunteers and laboratory animals. In vitro methods are used to evaluate specific mechanisms. Dr. Kleinman’s current studies involve the inhalation exposures to manufactured and combustion-generated nanomaterials fine and coarse particles using state of the art field exposure systems and real-time physiological monitoring methods. Recent findings demonstrate that fine and ultrafine particles near heavily trafficked roads increase the risk of developing airway allergies but this allergic potential is attenuated at greater distances downwind of the source. The chemical and physical changes in the aerosol responsible for the heightened allergenicity of the near-source particles is an important focus of Dr. Kleinman’s research.

Biological mechanisms related to oxidative stress have been identified after particulate matter exposure and Dr. Kleinman’s team is also pursuing how these mechanisms affect pathological and physiological changes in the heart and lungs. Other interests include analytical and atmospheric chemistry, environmental sampling and analysis, and the application of mathematical and statistical methods to environmental and occupational assessments of exposure and risk.

Prior to joining the faculty at UCI in 1982, he was the Director of the Aerosol Exposure and Analytical Laboratory at Rancho Los Amigos Hospital in Downey, CA. Dr. Kleinman was also a Physical Scientist at the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission Health and Safety Laboratory (now the DOE Environmental Measurements Laboratory) in New York and has published approximately 100 peer-reviewed articles in the fields of environmental health sciences, atmospheric chemistry and radiochemistry, transport and fate of airborne contaminants in tropospheric and stratospheric air, apportionment and identification of sources of air pollution, and the effects of air pollution on health. Dr. Kleinman is the current chair of the California Air Quality Advisory Committee, a member of the U.S. EPA Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee and also chairs the Executive Committee for the U.C. Toxic Substances Research and Teaching Program.

Research Interests:
- Inhalation toxicology
- Oxidative stress
- Cardiopulmonary diseases

Selected Honors and Awards:
University Extension Teacher of the Year (2001).
National Academy of Science - Co-Principal Investigator, Strategies for Protection of Deployed Forces from Chemical and Biological Weapons (1998-2000).
As much of Southern California struggles through a summer of unrelenting smog, a study released Wednesday offers a stark reminder of why air quality matters.

Researchers believe that thousands of people die each year because of exposure to the region’s poor-quality air. Pollution levels routinely exceed the levels deemed safe by health professionals.

In the Los Angeles-Long Beach-Glendale area, about 1,341 people are estimated to die each year because of bad air.

That makes the L.A. area’s air quality the deadliest in the nation.

The Riverside-San Bernardino-Ontario metropolitan area was second-worst, with about 808 people estimated to die annually because of air pollution.

The situation isn’t as dire in Orange County, but the county is hardly immune: The study found that the Santa Ana-Irvine area incurred 64 estimated deaths a year because of air pollution.

Also troubling for Orange County is that pollution is expected to get worse here because of population growth and drought-fueled wildfires, according to Michael Kleinman, a UC Irvine occupational and environmental medicine professor who studies inhalation of toxins.

“We have more traffic; we have more cars. It’s inevitable to have more emissions and more output,” Kleinman said. “When you have more fires and they’re more intense, there’s more exposure to people throughout the South Coast Air Basin, and Orange County is not immune.”

The study released Wednesday was conducted by the American Thoracic Society, a group of health care professionals that focuses on understanding pulmonary diseases, critical illnesses and sleep-related breathing disorders, and New York University’s Marron Institute of Urban Management.

Nationally, the deaths were estimated at 9,330 a year, which is comparable to the number of lives lost annually to drunken driving.

The study’s lead author, Kevin Cromer, a professor at the NYU institute, said by telephone that he hopes the results will raise public awareness and better inform policymakers.