Editors’ Note

2015 Articles of the Year, Reviewers of the Year, and Figure of the Year

We are delighted to announce the 10 best articles published in 2015. We believe that all papers published in our Journal meet the standard of excellence. However, the 10 papers selected this year represent, in the editors’ opinions, the best in the field. The articles are listed below in the order of publication.


The editors have also selected the 10 best reviewers of 2015, whose names are listed below in alphabetical order. We are thankful to all of our reviewers for the quality of their reviews; however, the editors feel that the reviewers who were selected as the best went beyond the call of duty in providing us with timely and high-quality reviews.

Hanna Arem
Lisa Bodnar
Jessie Edwards
Matthew Fox
Paul Gustafson
Kate Lapane
Catherine Lesko
Sunni Mumford
Ashley Naimi
Daniel Westreich

In addition to best articles and reviewers, the Journal has chosen to recognize the best figure of the year. This year’s winner is the figure reproduced on the next page. A paragraph describing what made this the best figure superior is shown beneath the figure legend. The corresponding author of the article that contained the winning figure will receive a plaque with a high-resolution copy of the figure.
All of the figures in the article by Cooper et al. (Am J Epidemiol. 2015;181(11):898–907) are outstanding, but Figure 3 in particular is both clear and information-dense. The Figure shows the numbers of observed and expected deaths associated with influenza, causes related to influenza, and 2 control causes of death. The use of color to code excess deaths (pink for positive, blue for negative) is innovative and helpful. There is an impressive amount of data in this Figure, which summarizes 4 years, 9 conditions, and countless data points into a single grid to form a clear and concise summary plot. The Figure allows the reader to take in a great deal of information very quickly, including cross-disease comparisons (with the caveat that the y-axes differ from plot to plot) and the unexpected protective association of influenza on circulatory deaths. Just imagine, for a moment, trying to report these same data in tabular form!

All award winners will be announced at the 2016 Society for Epidemiologic Research (SER) meeting and listed on the SER’s website. The winners will also be listed on the Journal’s website.

The Journal and the SER invite all readers to nominate articles to be published in 2016 and beyond.

The Editors