

ABRAHAM M. LILIENFELD
13 November 1920–6 August 1984

IN APPRECIATION

This symposium issue, Frontiers in Epidemiology: Compelling Issues and Concepts, has been prepared by the American College of Epidemiology as a tribute to Abraham M. Lilienfeld, Founding President of the College. The scope of the symposium reflects the eclectic spirit with which he pursued research questions, methodologic principles, the historical development of epidemiology, and public policy issues. Epidemiology has evolved through the exchange of concepts and methods derived from various disciplines, and has been nurtured by a societal concern, expressed through the gathering and application of scientific knowledge for the purpose of advancing public health.

Abe made things happen. He was visionary yet pragmatic; devoted to his craft, though mindful of its limitations; rigorous in his pursuit of excellence, and warmly supportive and encouraging of students and colleagues. His legacy as a teacher and scientist has been the advancement of education and training at Schools of Public Health, and the attraction of young scholarly and inquisitive minds into our discipline. Transcending all of this is the memory of a compassionate, caring, unpretentious man who was able to extract the best from us all because we wished it to be so.

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