The Editors and Editorial Board of Epidemiology are pleased to announce the selection of Corwin M. Zigler as the winner of this year’s Rothman Epidemiology Prize. This award of $5000 is funded from a private endowment and is given annually for the best paper published in the journal in the preceding year. The selection criteria are importance, originality, clarity of thought, and excellence in writing. Dr. Zigler’s winning paper, titled “Impact of National Ambient Air Quality Standards Nonattainment Designations on Particulate Pollution and Health,” appeared in our March 2018 issue. The paper used causal inference methods and a spatial hierarchical regression model to characterize the extent to which a designation of “nonattainment” with the 1997 National Ambient Air Quality Standard for ambient fine particulate matter in 2005 affected health outcomes among over 10 million Medicare beneficiaries in the Eastern United States in 2009–2012. The targeted principal stratification analysis provided evidence of the effectiveness of local control measures after nonattainment designations, with noteworthy reductions in all-cause mortality, chronic obstructive pulmonary disorder, heart failure, ischemic heart disease, and respiratory tract infections.

Dr. Zigler is an Associate Professor in the Department of Statistics and Data Sciences and in the Department of Women’s Health at Dell Medical School, the University of Texas at Austin. He was appointed in the Department of Biostatistics, Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health at the time of the submission. Congratulations also to runners-up Lara S. Lemon and colleagues for their paper titled “Methadone Versus Buprenorphine for Opioid Use Dependence and Risk of Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome” (March, 2018) and Kaitlyn B. Gam and colleagues for their paper titled “Lung Function in Oil Spill Response Workers 1–3 Years After the Deepwater Horizon Disaster” (May, 2018).

Past Winners

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2015 Dmitry Shaposhnikov
2016 John Jackson & Sonja Swanson
2017 Douglas Wiebe
2018 Esra Kürüm