

Sandra I. Sulsky, MPH, PhD, United States

Candidate Statement

I have worked as a consultant epidemiologist since 1991, first at Epidemiology Resources, Inc. and then at Applied Epidemiology, Inc. The latter was acquired by the health sciences and environmental engineering firm, ENVIRON International Corporation, in 2003. ENVIRON was acquired by Ramboll, an international environmental engineering company, in 2015. While the vast majority of my career has been spent working in private companies, I also have worked in a semi-governmental/semi-academic position (at the Jean Meyer U.S.D.A Human Nutrition Research Center on Aging at Tufts University) and as a field consultant to a U.S. state Health Department.

My experience as an epidemiologist has focused on applying a sound understanding of epidemiological methods and concepts to a broad array of problems. When I introduce epidemiology to students or to new clients, I call it "the science of making smart comparisons". This approach has enabled me to be a successful consultant, and to carry out research in areas including occupational injury and disability, program evaluation, and outcomes of health care. I have a strong interest in developing and promulgating methods for critically reviewing the scientific literature, and for combining lines of evidence from epidemiology and toxicology. Since 2009, I have increasingly focused my attention on identifying and developing the scientific base needed to support tobacco product regulation.

This diversity of experiences provides a broad perspective on our profession. I have used these experiences to good advantage when advising new epidemiologists and students, and I propose to carry this forward to the International Epidemiological Association. The IEA is home to epidemiologists from many countries, who practice primarily in academic and governmental positions. With its aim of facilitating communication and promoting education in and use of epidemiology, I hope that adding my experiences as a consultant may be beneficial and facilitate broadening the perspectives of the organization.