

## President's Corner

*Anna Maria Siega-Riz, PhD*

I want to thank all of you who submitted abstracts for the annual meeting. We hit a new record this year of a total of 198 abstracts! These abstracts were reviewed by our members listed on page 4. Each abstract is reviewed by 2 members and the average scores are sent to me without the authors names. I spent a lovely weekend in March picking the top abstracts and balancing out the podium program with talks that seemed to fit into a topical category (see page 6). This was a harder task than I thought due to the excellent quality of abstracts received. Given that, you should all be prepared for a wonderful meeting in terms of both podium and poster presentations. I am sure there will be plenty of lively discussions and exchange of ideas in addition of course, to catching up with old friends. So if you have not made your hotel reservations-get on the ball! This hotel is a bit smaller than the others we have held our meetings at in the past. Also be sure to register prior to May 23<sup>rd</sup> for the early bird discount rate.

I just want to share with you some of the activities that we were a part of during this year. As president I served on the Epidemiology Society Leaders group. The group is becoming more active in terms of advocacy for various political and public health issues. In the past SPER has not really taken on an active role in this type of activity but I fear with budget concerns at NIH, CDC, and other federal agencies it will be important for us to have our voices heard. For example, you may have heard about the decreased funding for NCHS which if this truly occurs, will impede the agencies ability to collect important vital statistics for our country in 2008. This seems ludicrous given that we fund other countries to collect these data and then can't manage to do so with adequate funding for our own.

*Continued in column two*

I hope that each of you will send your thoughts to your **congressional representatives** on issues like this one. **For further information, please contact Mr. Charles Rothwell - Director, Division of Vital Statistics at 301-458-4468 or crothwell@cdc.gov.**

Second, we took part in the IOM-sponsored study of HIPAA. Thanks to all of you who completed the survey. And lastly I know that several of you were instrumental in helping to get funded the National Children's Study. The future generation of reproductive, perinatal and pediatric epidemiologists thanks you for these efforts.

It has been a pleasure serving as your President this year. I want to personally thank Dawn Misra for all she has done in the capacity of secretary for the Society these past 3 years, Gary Shaw who has served as our member-at-large for the same time period, Cheryl Prince who manages our website and abstract submission process and to Peggy Christenson and her staff for the planning of the Annual meeting. Mary Hediger will be rotating off as Past-President. I am grateful for her consultations and encouraging words throughout the year. And to those who remain on the Executive Board, thank you for your time, dedication and effort to the Society's activities. We really have a wonderful group of individuals in this Society. I look forward to catching up with you at the annual meeting!

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## SPER ANNUAL CONFERENCE INFORMATION

### LOCATION

SPER will hold the 20th annual meeting on June 18-19, 2007, in Boston, Massachusetts. The meeting will include a poster session and opening reception on the evening of the 18th and a full day of plenary sessions with a poster session on the 19th. Registration will be held June 18 from 4:00-8:00p.m. and June 19 from 7:00-11:00a.m.

The meeting will be held at the Boston Park Plaza Hotel which is adjacent to the Public Garden with its Swan Boats and the chic boutiques, art galleries and restaurants of the world-famous Newbury Street. Within one mile of the hotel you will find the Freedom Trail, Boston Common, John Hancock Observatory, New England Aquarium, Copley Square, New England Conservatory, Theater District, Museum of Fine Arts - Boston, Trinity Church, Boston Symphony Hall, Esplanade Park, Faneuil Hall Square, Chinatown, North End of Boston and much more.

### ACCOMMODATIONS

The Boston Park Plaza Hotel is offering special room rates for SPER conference attendees of \$159 for single or double occupancy. The room block is being held until May 23rd, please be sure to make your reservations online before then at: <http://www.starwoodmeeting.com/Book/EPI>

At The Boston Park Plaza Hotel and Towers you will find eight distinct restaurants and lounges featuring Todd English's Bonfire Steakhouse and McCormick & Schmick's Seafood Restaurant. Attendees will receive 10% discount on food and non-alcoholic beverages in the Swan's Café and Room Service.

### TRANSPORTATION

American Airlines is offering special air transportation discounted travel of 5% and can be booked on-line at [www.aa.com](http://www.aa.com) for AA/AE flights. Please refer to: *AA Contract Booking A6767AM*.

## **2007 National MCH Epidemiology Awards: A Search to Recognize Excellence**

Have you, your colleagues or others you know made significant public health contributions for women, children and families through effectively using data? Do you know someone whose MCH research is having a community, state or national impact? Would you want to recognize this work nationally? Take time now to reward someone for excellence in MCH epidemiology.

Sponsored by 16 national public health organizations, the Coalition for Excellence in MCH Epidemiology announces the sixth year of the National MCH Epidemiology Awards. The Coalition is recruiting nominees for the 2007 awards. Nominees are individuals, teams, institutions, and leaders of institutions who have made significant contributions to improving the health of women, children and families through epidemiology, applied research and the effective use of data.

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## ***ADVANCED METHODOLOGY FOR REPRODUCTIVE AND PERINATAL EPIDEMIOLOGY WORKSHOP***

SPER and the SER-Student Caucus are jointly hosting a workshop on June 18th, preceding the first session of the SPER Annual Meeting.

Workshop presenters will be Clarice Weinberg (Family-based approaches to studying the role of genetic variants in birth defects), Amy Herring (Statistical methods for associations between exposure profiles and response), and Sonia Hernandez-Diaz (An application of case-only designs: Case-crossover design to study triggers of preterm labor).

Students, junior and senior investigators are invited to attend this 3 hour session on Monday the 18<sup>th</sup> from 2–5pm that will include presentations on emerging methodological issues.

Pre-registration for students (i.e. those no more than one year since completing doctoral/ post-doctoral work) is only \$20 and for non-students is only \$40. On-site registration is \$30 for students and \$50 for non-students (cash/check only). Pre-registration for this session when registering for the annual meeting is greatly appreciated!

For more information about the 2007 workshop, please contact SPER Student Representatives, Steve Korzeniewski at [stevek@epi.msu.edu](mailto:stevek@epi.msu.edu) or Sunni Mumford at [smumford@unc.edu](mailto:smumford@unc.edu) or Student Liaison to SER, Sara Simonsen ([sellis@dfpm.utah.edu](mailto:sellis@dfpm.utah.edu)).

For information about the upcoming 2007 SPER Annual Meeting visit our webpage at:  
[http://www.sper.org/Annual\\_Meeting.htm](http://www.sper.org/Annual_Meeting.htm)



## ***REGISTRATION INFORMATION***

The registration fees include attendance at all sessions, meeting materials, continental breakfast, box lunch, and refreshment breaks. Registration may be completed by mail, fax, or via the Internet at: <http://www.sper.org>.

The new registration fees are: early member \$215, late member \$255, early non-member \$245, late non-member \$285, new member: \$365, late new member 405, early student \$20, late student \$50 (no change), first-time students are free, late first-time students are \$20.

The early registration deadline is May 23, 2007. A confirmation letter will be sent upon receipt of the completed registration form. Payment can be made by check, MasterCard, Visa or American Express. Payment must be received prior to admittance to the meeting.

Direct access to the online registration form is available at:

<http://www.epiresearch.org/sper/regform.html>

### **NEED ADDITIONAL REGISTRATION INFORMATION?**

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**SPER Conference:  
Future Dates & Sites**

**SPER 2008: Chicago, IL**

**SPER 2009: Baltimore, MD**

**MANY, MANY THANKS TO  
ALL OUR 2007 MEETING  
ABSTRACT REVIEWERS:**

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ADAMS, Melissa  
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SZAMOTULSKA, Katarzyna  
VAHRATIAN, Anjel  
WEBSTER, Glenys  
WILCOX, Allen  
WOODS, Charles R.  
ZHANG, Jim

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**Recent Reproductive Environmental Health  
Research**

*Presented at the January 2007 UCSF-CHE Summit on  
Environmental Challenges to Reproductive Health and  
Fertility*

Recent research substantiates and expands previous findings that exposure to certain chemical and heavy metal contaminants at low, “environmentally relevant” levels can disrupt the development and function of the human endocrine system. These “endocrine disrupting chemicals” (EDCs) are linked to reproductive disorders including infertility/ subfertility in men and women; altered puberty onset, endometriosis, fibroids, breast, vaginal and uterine cancer in women; and poor sperm quality, cryptorchism, hypospadias, and testicular cancer in men. The incidence of many of these disorders is increasing. Adverse pregnancy and birth outcomes, including pre-eclampsia, preterm birth, low birth weight, and stillbirth, have also been associated with exposures to EDCs and other environmental contaminants.

To address growing concerns about EDCs, in January 2007 the University of California, San Francisco and the national Collaborative on Health and the Environment organized the *Summit on Environmental Challenges to Reproductive Health and Fertility*. Leading researchers presented the state of the science on EDC impacts across the female and male reproductive life spans and explored implications for research, clinical care and health policy. This article briefly notes Summit recent data presentations; find the extended article on: [www.ucsf.edu/coe/prhesummit.html](http://www.ucsf.edu/coe/prhesummit.html)

Proposed EDC mechanisms include perturbation of nuclear hormone signaling, inappropriate activation or inactivation of transcription factors, and alterations in hormone metabolism.

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Periconception and prenatal development are periods of heightened vulnerability to EDC exposures, and the health consequences can be life-long. This was first documented in relation to diethylstilbesterol (DES), a synthetic estrogen, to which millions of human fetuses were exposed between 1940 and the 1970s. Retha Newbold, National Institutes of Environmental Health Sciences, reported at the Summit that many of the reproductive abnormalities that characterize DES syndrome are similar to those described in animal and human studies following prenatal exposure to other EDCs.

Dr. Patricia Hunt, Washington State-Pullman, reported on a trans-generational effect seen in her research, where perturbation of the oocytes of female mice fetuses was documented following prenatal exposure to bisphenol-A (BPA). BPA is used in the manufacture of many plastic food and beverage containers and pervades the everyday environment at low levels.

BPA and other EDCs may also affect female reproductive tract development by altering a pattern of gene expression, reported Dr. Hugh Taylor, Yale University School of Medicine. (“Expression” refers to whether the gene is activated to perform its function.) Dr. Taylor’s study exposed pregnant mice to BPA during a sensitive period for uterine development, to see whether a lasting alteration of the gene HOX A10 would take place in the fetuses.

Dr. Shanna Swan, University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry, described her ground-breaking epidemiologic study that related levels of certain phthalates (plasticizers used in many common products and cosmetics) in pregnant women’s blood with the anogenital distance (AGD) of their male offspring. Dr. Swan embarked on this study to see whether human studies would correlate with numerous animal studies that document this “phthalate syndrome.”

Dr. Laura Fenster, California Department of Health Services Occupational Branch, reported on environmental and workplace contaminant exposures and preterm delivery, low birth weight and still birth.

**Submitted by:**

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*Preliminary Program*  
*Society for Pediatric & Perinatal Epidemiology*  
*20<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting*  
*Boston, Massachusetts*  
*June 18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup>, 2007*

**Monday June 18<sup>th</sup>, 2007**

2:00-5:00 PM                      Advanced Methods Workshop

4:00-6:00 PM                      Registration

6:30-8:00 PM                      Welcome Reception and Poster Session A

**Tuesday June 19<sup>th</sup>, 2007**

8:00-8:15 AM                      Welcome  
*Anna Maria Siega-Riz, President*

8:15-9:30 AM                      Plenary Session I: Pregnancy Complications  
**Moderator: TBA**

8:15-8:30 AM                      **Single nucleotide polymorphism in the vitamin D receptor gene and risk of spontaneous preterm birth and pre-eclampsia. *LM Bodnar***

8:30-8:45 AM                      **Trends in prevalence, outcome of pregnancy and standards of care in women with pre-existing diabetes, 1996-2004: regional population based cohort study. *R Bell***

8:45-9:00 AM                      **Risk of placental abruption in relation to reduced folate carrier (80G>A) polymorphism and folate concentrations. *DF Moore***

9:00-9:15 AM                      **Elevated levels of complement split product Bb are associated with subsequent development of gestational hypertension and pre-eclampsia. *A Lynch***

9:15-9:30 AM                      **Impact of diabetes in pregnancy on neonatal outcomes in twin versus twin pregnancies. *F Simonet***

9:30-9:45 AM                      Student Prize Presentation

9:45-10:00 AM                      Morning Break

10:00-11:30 AM                      Plenary Session II: Infant and Childhood Outcomes  
**Moderator: TBA**

10:00-10:15 AM                      **Antenatal steroid therapy for fetal lung maturation and the subsequent risk of childhood asthma: A longitudinal analysis. *MS Whitehead***

10:15-10:30 AM                      **Trends in early diagnosis of autism spectrum disorders in Massachusetts. *KM Clements***

10:30-10:45 AM                      **Antihistamine use during pregnancy and the risk of birth defects: Results from the National Birth Defects Prevention Study, 1997-2002. *SM Gilboa***

10:45-11:00 AM                      **Health and development in infants conceived following infertility treatment compared with those conceived spontaneously in the UK Millennium Cohort Study. *MA Quigley***

11:00-11:15 AM                      **Recurrence risk of SIDS and infant death due to other causes: A population-based study. *D-K Li***

11:15-11:30 AM                      **Residential pesticide use and childhood hematopoietic malignancies: The ESCALE study. *J Rudant***

- 11:30 AM-1:00 PM** Lunch and Poster Session B
- 1:00-2:15 PM** Joint Symposium with the European Reproductive Network
- The use of cohort studies in the field of Pediatric and Perinatal Epidemiology: a comparison of the European and US approach.**
- Introduction:** *N Paneth*  
**Panel:** *K Costeloe and, G Breart*  
**Closing:** *P Buekens*  
**Discussion**
- 2:15-3:15 PM** Plenary Session III: New Approaches  
**Moderator: TBA**
- 2:15-2:30 PM** **The feasibility of using birth certificates to identify a cohort of children conceived with the help of fertility treatment.** *CD Lynch*
- 2:30-2:45 PM** **Fetal growth restriction and adverse perinatal outcomes: what about the placenta?** *HM McNamara*
- 2:45-3:00 PM** **Validation study of pre-conception behaviors and time to pregnancy using prospective and retrospective data.** *MA Cooney*
- 3:00-3:15 PM** **Timing clinic visits to phases of the menstrual cycle using a fertility monitor: the BioCycle Study.** *PP Howards*
- 3:15-3:30 PM** Afternoon Break
- 3:30-4:45 PM** Plenary Session IV: Preterm Birth  
**Moderator: TBA**
- 3:30-3:45 PM** **NorChase: A comparative study of socio-economic inequalities in pregnancy outcome in the Nordic countries: The example of preterm birth.** *A-M Nybo Anderson*
- 3:45-4:00 PM** **Neighborhood effect on birth weight: An exploration of psychosocial and behavioral pathways.** *A Schempf*
- 4:00-4:15 PM** **Urinary catecholamine levels and risk of spontaneous preterm delivery.** *C Holzman*
- 4:15-4:30 PM** **Circulating granulocyte colony stimulating factor and preterm Birth.** *BW Whitcomb*
- 4:30-4:45 PM** **Structural equation modeling of psychosocial domains, corticotrophin-releasing hormone and preterm birth.** *N Dole*
- 4:50-5:00 PM** Closing Remarks  
*Anna Maria Siega-Riz, President*
- 5:00-6:00 PM** Business Meeting

## 2006 National MCH Epidemiology Award Recipients

Advancing Knowledge – James Collins, Children’s Memorial Hospital, Chicago  
Effective Practice:

- *Community* – No 2006 Awardee
- *State* – Douglas Paterson, Michigan Department of Community Health
- *National* – Stephanie Ventura, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Excellence in Teaching – No 2006 Awardee

Outstanding Leadership – Jeffrey Gould, Stanford University

Young Professional Achievement – Jihong Liu, University of South Carolina

Lifetime Achievement – David Erickson, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

These awards recognize research, teaching, leadership and effective public health practice and recognize individuals and organizations at a community, state and national level.

Please visit <http://www.citymatch.org/mchepiawards.htm> for more details on how to nominate and the awards criteria. **Deadline for nominations will be June 1, 2007.** Please contact us if you have questions or need assistance.

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