

## *President's Corner*

There has been a lot of activity in SPER lately! Here are a few items of note:

### ***Technology Updates***

SPER is busting a move into the 21<sup>st</sup> century! ☺ We're moving forward on making better use of the internet and electronic communication. We have a new website contractor, Jackie Brakey, and she is leading the way to update the content and give our site a fresh look. It's a work in progress, but little-by-little we are cleaning out the old content and putting a fresh look out there. We've moved from an older expensive credit card processing system to PayPal – and it's working great so far. Finally, our ancient (and well tended by Carol Bruce) listserv is gone and we are contemplating a new SPER Bulletin Board. We have a sample shell template on the web, ready to be fleshed out by interested members. See the item on page 5 for an opportunity to work with Courtney Lynch on setting up the bulletin board. We're looking for a few tech-savvy members to get us started in the right direction.

### ***New Committees***

In addition to the technology group, the executive committee has formed two new committees. Russ Kirby is chairing an awards committee to develop new opportunities to recognize members (see the item on page 3) and Germaine Louis is gearing up to celebrate our 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary on page 5.

### **SPER Conference: Future Dates & Sites**

SPER 2010: Seattle, WA  
SPER 2011: Montreal, QC

## **2009 Annual SPER Conference**

June 22<sup>nd</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> in Anaheim, CA

### **On-Line Abstract Submission Coming SOON!**

On-line abstract submission should be available in early January. Abstracts will be due on Friday, **February 6th, 2009 5pm** (local time)

#### **Submission Highlights:**

- Stay tuned for a link to submit abstracts on our webpage: [www.sper.org](http://www.sper.org)
- Notifications of acceptance will be made via email by April 6, 2009
- Poster board size will be 46" x 46"
- Text box will allow a maximum of **2100** characters (including title, authors, affiliation of presenting author, etc.) so sharpen your editing pencils and put the best words in there first ☺

## **SPER STUDENT PRIZE PAPER**

Application deadline: March 6, 2009

The prize paper is open to all students (graduate or medical), post-docs, trainees, residents, and fellows

This award supports travel and registration plus a \$500 honorarium.

See page 4 for details!

## 2009 Advanced Methodology for Reproductive and Perinatal Epidemiology Workshop

The Advanced Methodology for Reproductive and Perinatal Epidemiology Workshop will be held on June 22nd, preceding the first session of the SPER Annual Meeting. Students, junior investigators, and senior investigators are invited to attend this three-hour session (3:30-6:30 pm).

Drs. Sander Greenland (UCLA) and Stephen Cole (UNC-Chapel Hill) are confirmed speakers and topics will include applications of Bayesian methods and marginal structural models to epidemiology emphasizing perinatal outcomes.

Pre-registration for students (i.e., those no more than one year since completing doctoral/post-doctoral work) is only \$40 and \$75 for non-students. On-site registration is \$60 for students and \$100 for non-students (cash/check only). Be sure to register for this session when you register for the annual meeting.

For more information about the 2009 workshop, please contact: Amy Branum at: [abranum@jhsph.edu](mailto:abranum@jhsph.edu) or Andrea Deierlein at: [andread@email.unc.edu](mailto:andread@email.unc.edu).



Information about the workshop will be coming to the SPER Annual Meeting webpage soon at: <http://www.sper.org/AnnualMeeting.htm>



## CALL FOR NOMINATIONS



Nominations are being sought for SPER President (2009-2012), and one Member-at-Large (2009-2013). All terms will begin at the close of the June 2009 annual meeting. Members of SPER may nominate themselves or any other member of SPER.

The *President* will serve as President-Elect (2009-2010), President (2010-2011) and Past President (2011-2012). The main duties of the President-Elect are to help the President develop plans for the annual meeting and to chair the selection of the Student Prize Paper Award recipient; the President designs the program for the annual meeting and is in charge of Executive Committee decision-making; and the Past President chairs the selection of the Heinz Berendes International Travel Award recipient and provides input as needed.

The *Member-at-Large* participates in all Executive Committee activities. The unique tasks assigned to the Member-at-Large elected this cycle are to coordinate and prepare SPER newsletters that are distributed to the membership and to coordinate and implement strategies to recruit new members. This member will replace Deborah Nelson.

This call for nominations will be posed on the SPER web-site. *Nominations are due February 16, 2009* and should be sent to Suzan Carmichael, [scarmichael@marchofdimes.com](mailto:scarmichael@marchofdimes.com). The slate of candidates and ballot will be presented to the membership for elections by email in March 2009.

### **Annual Meeting Plans**

Annual meeting planning is coming along very well. The advanced methods workshop organized by our student representatives Amy Branum (JHSPH) and Andrea Deierlein (UNC-CH) with Enrique Schisterman is firming up the program. We are working to streamline the on-line abstract submission forms and I hope you'll find submitting easier than ever, including a new feature that will allow you to edit an abstract without resubmitting up until the deadline. We've increased the honorarium for the Student Prize Paper to \$500 and announcements for the Student Prize and Heinz Berendes International Travel awards are featured in this issue.

### **MOD comes through!**

We are very pleased to report that the March of Dimes is supporting our meeting with a \$5,000 grant. Thanks to Russ Kirby, Deb Nelson and Marcia Feldcamp for their efforts in securing funding.

### **SPER Elections**

Nominations for President-Elect and Member-at-Large are due February 16, 2009. Wouldn't you like to be part of this great team?? (see page 2 for details)

More to come as we head into 2009!

**Wishing everyone a safe, happy and healthy Holiday Season!**

### **NEW SPER AWARD COMMITTEE**

The SPER Executive Committee is beginning a formal awards/recognition program. Russell Kirby, President-elect, will organize a committee comprised of former SPER presidents to develop the program, create specific awards, and help oversee the process. While this process will take several years to evolve, we expect to initiate at least one SPER award or recognition at our June 2009 annual meeting.

### **Heinz Berendes International Travel Award:**

The Society for Pediatric and Perinatal Epidemiologic Research (SPER) requests papers for the 2009 Heinz Berendes International Travel Award. The paper should represent work in reproductive, perinatal, or pediatric epidemiology, and research that concerns populations in developing countries is encouraged. To be eligible for this award, the applicant must not currently reside in the United States or Canada as a student, exchange scholar, or permanent resident. The winner will present the selected paper at the 2009 meeting in California.

An award of \$250 plus expenses for travel, 2 days' lodging, and SPER meeting registration will be given to the author of the paper selected by the International Travel Award Committee. The paper must be unpublished at the time of submission. Authors do not have to be SPER members to apply for the award.

0Applicants should also submit the abstract of their paper in order to be considered for oral podium presentation, following the standard SPER abstract submission guidelines (available at our web site [www.sper.org](http://www.sper.org)) and the March 6, 2009 submission deadline. If not accepted as a podium presentation, the winning paper will be automatically accepted for poster presentation. Abstracts of all accepted papers will be available on the web and printed in the book of abstracts distributed at the meeting.■

Manuscript — submit the manuscript only electronically. It should be prepared according to the "Instructions to Authors" printed in the journal *Pædiatric and Perinatal Epidemiology* (available online at <http://www.blackwellpublishing.com/journals/pppe/>).

Please include a cover letter that provides the name and address of your academic affiliation or research establishment and your country of residence in the previous six months.

Papers must be received by March 6, 2009. Please send papers to:

SPER Past President:

Mary Croughan, Ph.D.  
Obstetrics, Gynecology, & Reproductive Sciences  
University of California, San Francisco  
1635 Divisadero, Suite 601  
San Francisco, CA 94115  
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[Mary.Croughan@ucsfmedctr.org](mailto:Mary.Croughan@ucsfmedctr.org)

## ***STUDENT PRIZE PAPER AWARD***

### **SOCIETY FOR PEDIATRIC AND PERINATAL EPIDEMIOLOGIC RESEARCH 22nd ANNUAL MEETING**

**June 22-23, 2009**

**Anaheim, CA**

The Society for Pediatric and Perinatal Epidemiologic Research (SPER) requests papers for the Annual Student Prize Paper Award. This competition is open to graduate and medical students, postdoctoral fellows, medical residents, research trainees, and clinical fellows interested in reproductive, perinatal, and pediatric epidemiology. The winner of the award will present the selected paper at the 2009 meeting in California.

An award of \$500 plus expenses for travel, two days' lodging, and SPER registration will be given to the author of the selected paper. The paper should represent work in reproductive, perinatal, or pediatric epidemiology conducted as a student or trainee during the two years prior to the 2009 meeting. The paper must be written by the student/trainee and must be unpublished at the time of the meeting. The author may submit the paper simultaneously to the Abraham Lilienfeld Student Prize Paper competition of the Society for Epidemiologic Research (SER); however, if the paper is selected for that award, it will not be eligible for the SPER award. Authors do not have to be members of SPER to apply.

Students are also encouraged to submit their papers as abstracts, following the standard abstract submission guidelines (available at our web site <[www.sper.org](http://www.sper.org)>) by the February 6, 2009 deadline.

TO APPLY FOR THIS AWARD, PLEASE SUBMIT THE FOLLOWING MATERIALS:

- Manuscript: email an electronic copy of the paper, which must be prepared according to the "Instructions to Authors" printed in the journal *Pediatric and Perinatal Epidemiology*
- Include the following information on the first page: your name, email address, telephone number, address, current position, a statement indicating when the work was completed, the name of your Department Chair (or Division Chief, etc.), and the name of the person under whose supervision the work was done
- Letter: Email an electronic copy of a letter from the person under whose supervision the work was done, indicating your specific contribution

EMAILED PAPERS MUST BE RECEIVED BY MARCH 6, 2009. SEND PAPERS AND SUPERVISOR LETTER TO:

SPER President-Elect:

**Russell Kirby, Ph.D.**  
**(813) 396-2347 (phone)**  
**[rkirby@health.usf.edu](mailto:rkirby@health.usf.edu)**

Applicants will be notified of the selection committee's decision by April 6, 2009.



*Announcing the creation of a  
25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary SPER Celebration Committee!*

In 2012, SPER will be 25 years young!! To celebrate this important milestone in style, the SPER Executive Committee has established an Anniversary Celebration Committee, chaired by Germaine Louis.

We're looking for a few good party-makers and SPER history buffs to join Germaine in the planning efforts for this celebration.

Interested?  
Please email Germaine at:  
[louisg@nih.mail.gov](mailto:louisg@nih.mail.gov)

**AD HOC WEB COMMITTEE**  
**Join today!**

The Society is seeking volunteers for an ad-hoc organizational website committee. The charge of the committee is to discuss various website-related issues including the potential utility of adding a message board to facilitate member communication and interaction. The committee will also identify ways in which our current website could be modified to make it more useful to our membership.

Anyone who might be interested in serving on this committee should send an e-mail to Courtney Lynch at [clynch@cph.osu.edu](mailto:clynch@cph.osu.edu).