

December 2006

## President's Corner *Anna Maria Siega-Riz, PhD*

There appears to be many changes going on in our research world. One only needs to open up their email to see the evolving changes occurring with the grant submission and review process. I am sure that by now you have each experienced the electronic submission of a grant. It has been painful but everyone including institutions, PIs, and CSR are adapting. NIH is now considering shortening the RO1 applications and has begun to limit the number of reviewers for each study section including substantive reviewers. I can't tell you how much this will impact our field and I hope that you will take time out of your busy schedule to send them your comments on this matter. For more information and to share your comments go to the NIH Guide notice: [Request for Information: Possible Page Limit Reduction For the Research Plan Section of the Research Project Grant \(R01\) Application](#). Today, more so than ever, with the decreasing pay line of grants we need to have the NIH process be efficient and yet fair in order to keep pushing the science forward.

The executive committee has been busy with plans for the upcoming student workshop and meeting. Please read the article by our student representatives about the workshop and make sure you encourage your students to participate. I am amazed by the willingness of our members to help out with this workshop and am grateful for their time given how much they are in demand.

We have decided on the theme for our joint session with the European Reproductive Network. Instead of a keynote address we will have a session focusing on cohort studies done in the US and Europe comparing study designs, retention efforts and rates, findings and implications for generalizability. To illustrate this point we will be using cohorts conducted in preterm or very low birth weight populations. Stay tuned as this continues to evolve. The call for abstracts is included in this newsletter. The web site will open up in December so start early with your submissions.

## 2007 SPER Annual Meeting

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 20th. Information concerning registration and the program will be available in our spring newsletter as well as online at our web site ([www.sper.org](http://www.sper.org)).

If you have questions about the meeting format or schedule, please contact Dawn Misra, SPER Secretary, by phone: (734) 647-7944; fax: (734) 763-7379; or email: [dmisra@umich.edu](mailto:dmisra@umich.edu).



## Save the Date

2008 SPER Meeting

June 23-24, 2008

Chicago, Illinois

Cont. from President's corner on page 1

On a final note, you will notice that we are testing out a new logo for the Society. The original one was developed a while back by some of the original founders. We wanted to add some color and make it more modern to be included in our materials. We also changed one of the subject headings to include adolescent health. If you have a strong opinion about the change in the logo please send them to me at [am\\_siegariz@unc.edu](mailto:am_siegariz@unc.edu). Otherwise, enjoy the holidays that are coming up and good luck with all of your research endeavors!

## 2006 National MCH Epidemiology Awards

The Coalition for Excellence in MCH Epidemiology, of which SPER is a sponsoring member, this year recognized eight individuals and one team for their significant contributions to MCH Epidemiology in the areas of advancing knowledge, effective practice, excellence in teaching, outstanding leadership, young professional achievement, and lifetime achievement.

We congratulate *Dr. Jim Collins* for being the 2006 National MCH Epidemiology awardee in the area of Advancing Knowledge

## Jobs and Fellowships

We have opened a new page on the SPER website ([www.sper.org](http://www.sper.org)). There is now a prominent *Jobs & Fellowships* link. If you would like to post an announcement of a job opportunity or fellowship availability, please send your notice to both Dawn Misra ([dmisra@umich.edu](mailto:dmisra@umich.edu)) who will review it and to our website managers directly for posting ([sper1@comcast.net](mailto:sper1@comcast.net)). Include in your cover email, the date you want the posting to go up (minimum is two weeks) and, more importantly, when it should be *removed*. It is the responsibility of the poster to insure that notices for ongoing recruitments or competitions (e.g., fellowships awarded annually) are reviewed and updated annually.

## Call for abstracts!

### SOCIETY FOR PEDIATRIC AND PERINATAL EPIDEMIOLOGICAL RESEARCH

#### 20TH ANNUAL MEETING

Boston, Massachusetts

JUNE 18-19, 2007

Abstracts are being sought for consideration for presentation at the 2007 SPER meeting. Abstracts must be submitted electronically by midnight Eastern Standard Time, February 10, 2007. Authors do not have to be a member to submit an abstract, but if the submitted abstract is accepted, we **REQUIRE** that you join SPER before submitting your paper at the meeting. Accepted abstracts will be assigned to either a poster or an oral presentation. Authors must adhere to the requirements listed at <http://www.sper.org/Callabstracts2007.htm> exactly. Accepted abstracts will be available on the SPER website one month prior to the meeting and printed in the book of abstracts distributed at the meeting. Abstracts of papers that have been published or will be published prior to June 2007 should not be submitted.

Submit the abstract electronically from the web site. A confirmation will be returned electronically when the abstract has been submitted successfully. You will receive notification of abstract acceptance/rejection by April 3, 2007. If you have NOT received a letter from the SPER Secretary by that date, please contact the SPER Webmaster at [SPER1@comcast.net](mailto:SPER1@comcast.net).

#### Questions? Contact:

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## 2007 Joint SPER/SER-SC Statistics in Epidemiology Section Workshop on Advanced Methods in Reproductive and Perinatal Epidemiology

The Society for Pediatric and Perinatal Epidemiologic Research and the Society for Epidemiological Research—Student Caucus are jointly hosting the Advanced Methodology for Reproductive and Perinatal Epidemiology Workshop on June 18, preceding the first session of the SPER Annual Meeting. More sponsors may be added in the near future.

Students, junior and senior investigators are invited to attend this four hour session (1–5pm) that will include presentations on emerging methodologic research. Information about workshop topics and presenters will follow.

Pre-registration for students (i.e. those no more than one year since completing doctoral/post-doctoral work) is only \$20 and \$40 for non-students. On-site registration is \$30 for students and \$50 for non-students (cash/check only). Pre-registration is especially encouraged, since it will be used to estimate the necessary room size and amount of refreshments needed. Be sure to register for this session when you register for the annual meeting.

If you attended the 2006 Methods Workshop we would greatly appreciate your participation in a brief online survey to let us know what you thought of last year's workshop in order to make this year's even better. The survey takes only a few minutes and can be accessed at:

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.asp?u=531472788084>.

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 SPER Annual Meeting visit our webpage at: [http://www.sper.org/Annual\\_Meeting.htm](http://www.sper.org/Annual_Meeting.htm)

## UCSF – CHE Summit on Environmental Challenges to Reproductive Health and Fertility

**Sponsors:** University of California, San Francisco School of Medicine (UCSF) and the Collaborative Health and the Environment (CHE)

**Brief Description:** The UCSF-CHE Summit will provide a comprehensive overview of the new science on environmental contaminants' impact on reproductive health, and will explore: the translation of this research clinical care, regulatory agency and research funding priorities, community and environmental justice the formation of collaborative partnerships for effective action.

**When:** January 28-30, 2007

**Where:** Mission Bay Conference Center, UCSF, San Francisco, CA

**Organizers:** Linda C. Guidice, MD, PhD, UCSF, and Alison Carlson, CHE

**Who should attend:** Reproductive health clinicians and clinical researchers (in practice or in training); scientists for patient advocacy, women's health, community health, and environmental justice leaders; policy makers; fund

**For Further information:** Contact Mary Wade, Summit and UCSF Program in Reproductive Health and the Environment Manager, [wadem@obgyn.ucsf.edu](mailto:wadem@obgyn.ucsf.edu), 415-476-2563

**New fees for the SPER annual meeting.** Unfortunately, due to rising meeting costs we need to increase the fees for the annual meeting – but only by \$20! This is the first increase in over five years and we will continue to keep the student fees as low as possible

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

## **CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR OFFICERS**

### **SOCIETY FOR PEDIATRIC AND PERINATAL EPIDEMIOLOGIC RESEARCH**

In March 2007, the Society will elect a new President-Elect, Secretary and Member-at-Large. The following guidelines describe eligibility for nomination and the responsibilities of each position. Nominations are due February 9, 2007.

#### **ELIGIBILITY**

Any member of SPER may nominate herself or himself or any other member of the Society.

#### **RESPONSIBILITIES AND DUTIES**

##### **President-Elect**

1. The officer serves a three-year term as President-Elect, President, and Past President.
2. The President-Elect works with the President to develop plans for the Annual Meeting and is in charge of selecting the Student Prize Paper Award recipient.
3. The President-Elect for 2007-2008 will become the President for 2008-2009. The President designs the program for the Annual Meeting, is in charge of Executive Committee decision-making, and selects the Heinz Berendes International Travel Award recipient.
4. The President-Elect will remain on the SPER Executive Committee for a third year as Past-President, providing input to decision-making as needed.

##### **Secretary**

1. The officer serves a three-year term; he or she is involved in the planning and decision-making of the Society's annual meeting and its future direction.
2. The secretary works with the President to schedule conference calls, keeps minutes for the executive board, and develops newsletters and the Annual meeting brochure and program book.
3. Serves as the primary contact for the Annual meeting planning and logistics which is coordinated with help from Utah Conference Services.
4. Serves as the main contact person for questions about the organization.

##### **Member-at-Large**

1. Members-at-Large serve a four-year term; they are involved in the planning and decision-making of the Society's annual meeting and its future direction.
2. The four Members-at-Large each chair one of the various committees of the Society. These committees currently include Membership, Nominations and Elections, Abstract Review, and Abstract Publication. The member elected this year will focus on Nominations and Elections.

#### **QUESTIONS?**

If you have questions about the nomination process or responsibilities associated with each office, please contact Dawn Misra, PhD at 734-647-7944 or [dmisra@umich.edu](mailto:dmisra@umich.edu).