



Society for Pediatric and Perinatal Epidemiologic Research

May 2005

President's Corner

Can SPER help to secure the place of reproductive, perinatal, and pediatric epidemiology in the biomedical, clinical, and population research communities?

As my days as SPER President wind down, passing the virtual presidential seal or mantle or baton to Mary Hediger at the June meeting, I would like to propose a more active role of SPER in the broader research community. We have done an outstanding job of bringing ourselves together that is, convening a spectrum of new and established researchers focused on reproductive, perinatal, and pediatric epidemiology and helped to solidify our professional identity. Our meetings have all the desired elements of intellectual sharing of methods and findings, and bonding with like-minded colleagues both socially and in academic content. That is no small achievement and we would do well to be protective of that success.

However, given the security of our position as a society and as a field of research, we could now begin to consider how to help build more direct links with other segments of the research community. Clearly, the tie to the Society for Epidemiologic Research is strong, given the close

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2005 SPER Meeting

We will hold our 18th annual meeting on June 26-27, 2005, at the Westin Harbour Castle in Toronto, Ontario, Canada. The meeting will include a poster session and opening reception on the evening of the 26th and a full day of plenary sessions with a poster session on the 27th. During the evening poster session (June 26th) we will have a general discussion of a few posters similar to the format of past years. Information concerning registration and the program is available on line at our web site (www.sper.org).



Please note that US citizens must have either a passport OR an official birth certificate to travel to Canada. The last time our meeting was in Toronto, I nearly missed my flight while my spouse was faxing my passport to the airport! So please be prepared!

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.

Related Meeting Announcements:
11th Annual MCH EPI Conference:
Wyndham Miami, Miami, FL
December 7-9, 2005

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**Society for Pediatric & Perinatal
Epidemiologic Research
18th Annual Meeting
Preliminary Program**

Sunday, June 26, 2005

- 4 - 6 PM Registration**
**5:30 - 6:30 PM Poster Symposium:
Environmental Exposures and
Perinatal Health Outcomes
Moderator: Dawn Misra**
- Relationships between air pollution and preterm birth in California *M Huynh*
 - Association between maternal exposure to ambient pollutants during pregnancy and fetal growth restriction *S Liu*
 - Influence of delta-aminolevulinic acid dehydratase (ALAD) genotype on lead biomarkers and birth outcomes *AS Ettinger*
 - Indoor mold and the risk of wheeze in the first year of life for infants at risk for asthma *PF Rosenbaum*
 - Time-to-pregnancy and exposure to pesticides among male greenhouse workers *RW Bretveld*

6:30-8:00PM Poster Session I

- Environmental exposures
- Nutrition
- Infant & Child Health
- Pregnancy Complications
- Conception
- Infection
- Social factors

Monday, June 27, 2005

- 8:15 - 8:30AM Welcome
David Savitz, President**
**8:30-10:00AM Plenary Session I:
Stress, Biomarkers, and Preterm Birth
Moderator: Mary Hediger**
- The Longitudinal Study of Vaginal Flora: Longitudinal and case-crossover analyses of psychosocial stress and bacterial vaginosis *T Nansel*
 - Stress and bacterial vaginosis in pregnant women *EW Harville*
 - Psychosocial stress, corticotrophin-releasing hormone and preterm delivery among working women *S Guendelman*
 - Serum transferrin receptor and preterm birth *AM Siega-Riz*
 - Prenatal depression and its effect on the risk of preterm delivery *D-K Li*
 - Neighborhood crime, deprivation, and Black-White preterm birth disparity *LC Messer*

10:00 - 10:30AM Morning Break

**10:30 - 11:30AM Plenary Session II:
Pregnancy Complications & Placental
Disorders
Moderator: Cande Ananth**

- Recurrence of preeclampsia across generations: Exploring fetal and maternal genetic components *R Skjaerven*
- Changes in the spatial pattern of preeclampsia in Washington State: 1992-2002 *CL Butler*
- Using histopathology to examine pathways of preterm delivery *C Holzman*
- Association of gestational diabetes and low-density lipoprotein particle size in pregnant women *C Qiu*

**11:30 - 11:45 AM Student Prize Presentation:
To be announced**

11:45 - 1:45 PM Lunch and Poster Session II

- Preterm birth, birth weight, pregnancy loss
- Interventions, medical care
- Methods
- Birth defects
- Multiple gestation
- Exposures

**1:45 - 2:30 PM Keynote Address: Duane Alexander
“Needs and Opportunities in Pediatric
and Perinatal Epidemiology: An
NICHD Perspective”**

**2:30 - 3:15 PM Plenary Session III:
Effects of Medical Care on Infant
Health
Moderator: Michael O’Shea**

- Risk factors for neonatal morbidity and mortality among near-term newborns discharged early *CK Shapiro-Mendoza*
- Hospital volume and mortality in preterm newborns *DB Bartels*
- Randomized trial of an ECV decision aid for pregnant women with a breech-presenting baby *N Nassar*

3:15 - 3:45 PM Afternoon Break

**3:45 - 4:45 PM Plenary Session IV:
Folic Acid and Neural Tube Defect
Moderator: TBA**

- Resurgence of neural tube defects following change in policy regarding premarital health examinations in Shijiazhuang, China—The Sino-US
- Changes in the birth prevalence of selected birth defects after grain fortification with folic acid in the United States: Findings from a multi-state population-based study *MA Canfield*
- Psychosocial factors associated with regular multivitamin use by women in a large managed care organization, 1999-2000 *IB Abluwalia*
- Differences in folic acid use among English- and Spanish-speaking Latinas in Southern California, 1998-2000 *JM Lawrence*

4:45 - 5:00 PM Closure

5:00 - 6:00 PM Business Meeting

relationship of SPER's focus to other areas of epidemiologic inquiry and underlying methods. Given my role in SER over the years, I can see clearly how the existence and vitality of SPER brings a consciousness of our specialty to epidemiologists working in other areas, some of whom are drawn in as a result. But there are other important research interfaces that we explore routinely as individuals and as members of research teams, but have not engaged with as a society. Our roots include the linkage to the pediatric research community, which is an important subset of the biomedical research enterprise, including genetics, pathology, pharmacology, and other basic sciences, and the clinical research community, which also includes obstetrics and gynecology and other medical specialties. Looking in other directions, we have some informal ties to the public health community, as represented by the Maternal and Child Health Epidemiology forum, and to the population research community, as embodied by the Population Association of America. While there is little argument that we have much to offer and learn from the research conducted by members of those organizations, we have largely been passive in fostering those relationships as a Society.

We have the privilege of hearing from Duane Alexander, Director of the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, at this year's annual meeting. Within the United States, at least, he is squarely at the center of biomedical, clinical, population, and epidemiologic research activities. I am looking forward to hearing his perspective on the agenda for the broader realm of health research addressing reproductive and child health. Over the past year, I have attended to the Teratology Society meeting (participating in a joint SPER/Teratology Society session), the Maternal and Child Health Epidemiology Meeting, and the Population Association of America meeting, giving me abundant frequent flyer miles but more importantly some sense of how deeply appreciated an epidemiologic approach to understanding the causes and solutions to reproductive, perinatal, and pediatric health issues has become. We all have our laments of colleagues from surrounding disciplines who fail to give us the respect we believe we deserve, but there is a steady shift in attitudes and we may even be reaching a "tipping point" in that regard. These researchers are not just accepting but hungry for including an epidemiologic perspective. While I would be delighted to offer a specific, practical agenda for how to act collectively on these multiple interfaces to enhance the mutual benefit, I don't have such a plan. But I would like to at least begin more serious discussion perhaps among subgroups of "double agents" who are active in SPER and the Teratology Society or SPER and the Population Association of America to consider moving beyond their quiet but effective cross-fertilization at the individual level and see what we can do as a Society to accelerate that process.

2005 National MCH Epidemiology Awards: A Search to Recognize Excellence

Have you, your colleagues, or others 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 15 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 2005 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. These awards recognize research, teaching, leadership and effective public health practice and recognize individuals and organizations at a community, state and national level. For more details, visit <http://www.citymatch.org/mcheaward.htm>. **Deadline for nominations is June 1, 2005.**

2004 National MCH Epidemiology Award Recipients

Advancing Knowledge:

David Savitz, PhD
University of North Carolina, School of Public Health

Effective Practice:

Community:

Carol M. Brady, MA
Northeast Florida Healthy Start Coalition

State:

Paul A. Buescher, PhD
North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services

National:

Laura Kann, PhD
Division of Adolescent and School Health, CDC

Outstanding Leadership:

Magda Peck, ScD
CityMatCH, University of Nebraska Medical Center

Young Professional Achievement:

Kay Tamashek, MD, MPH
Division of Reproductive Health, CDC

New Award Categories for 2005:

- **Excellence in Teaching**
- **Lifetime Achievement**

A BIG Thank You!

We would like to thank all of our 2005 meeting abstract reviewers:

- Cande V. Ananth
- R. J. Berry Germaine
- M. Buck
- Suzan Carmichael
- Lisa Chasan-Taber
- Michael Cooperstock
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- Jennifer Davidson Parker
- Dona Schneider
- Kenneth Schoendorf
- Bebe Selwyn
- Anna Maria Siega-Riz
- Joseph B. Stanford
- Donna Strobino
- Nedra Whitehead.

Save the Date!



2006 SPER Meeting: June 20-21, 2006

***The Westin Seattle
Seattle, Washington***

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