



Society for Pediatric and Perinatal Epidemiologic Research

December 2005

President's Corner

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Mary L. Hediger, PhD

There seems to be an awful lot going on with SPER this year. Some of the increased activity can be traced to the 2006 Epidemiology Congress which is generating crossover participation and activity, but most of the awful lot we are initiating ourselves. This newsletter is full of calls, notices, and announcements. Read it, pass it on, post it in your Department or Division.

We are also already looking forward to the 19th Annual Meeting of SPER, which will be held on June 20-21, 2006 in Seattle, Washington. The Call for Abstracts and the deadline for submission are included in this newsletter and the SPER website page for abstract submission is open for business. Submit early, submit often. If you are interested in volunteering to review abstracts, please contact Jean Lawrence (Jean.M.Lawrence@kp.org). Because the 2006 Epidemiology Congress follows, we are hoping for record attendance and to put together a quality program.

Our new student representative (Brian Whitcomb) and student liaison with the SER Student Caucus (Sara Simonsen) have

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2006 SPER Annual Meeting

SPER will hold the 19th annual meeting on June 20-21, 2006, at the Westin Seattle Hotel in Seattle, Washington. The meeting will include a poster session and opening reception on the evening of the 20th and a full day of plenary sessions with a poster session on the 21st. Information concerning registration and the program will be available in our spring newsletter as well as online at our web site (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.



2005 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. Mark A. Klebanoff* for being the 2005 National MCH Epidemiology awardee in the area of Advancing Knowledge.

Dr. Mervyn W. Sasser and *Dr. Zena A. Stein* were awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award.



Dr. Mark A. Klebanoff
2005 MCH Epidemiology
Advancing Knowledge
Awardee

2006 SPER Meeting

June 20-21, 2006

Seattle, Washington

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

Nominations are being sought for President (3-year term) and one Member-at-Large (4-year term).

Our current President-Elect is Anna Maria Siega-Riz who will begin her term as President of SPER at the close of the June 2006 annual meeting. We are seeking nominations for a President (term 2006-2009) who will serve successively as President-Elect 2006-2007, President 2007-2008, and Past President 2008-2009.

The Member-at-Large participates in all Executive activities, and the unique task assigned to the Member-at-Large elected this cycle (term 2006-2010) is the coordination and production of the SPER annual meeting program (abstract editing, preparing the website publication (Word file), meeting book production). This member will be replacing Barbara Luke who completes her term at the close of the June 2006 annual meeting.

This Call for Nominations is also posted on the SPER website. Nominations are due February 17, 2006 and should be sent to Gary Shaw (gsh@cbdmp.org) for consideration. The slate of candidates will be presented to the membership for elections (electronic) in March 2006, and members will be notified by email when the ballot is available.

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gone right to work. They are in the midst of an aggressive campaign to attract new student members to SPER and to encourage them to join us at our meetings. I am also delighted that they are inaugurating a new feature this year, aimed at students, but not such a bad idea for the rest of us, either. Jointly sponsored by the Statistics in Epidemiology Section of the American Statistical Association, SPER is offering an advanced methods workshop. This is a great opportunity to find out what's happening at the leading edge of methodological research both in theory and in practice. The full announcement is elsewhere in this newsletter.

Finally, I am pleased to announce that our keynote speaker at this year's meeting will be *Dr. Irvin Emanuel*, Professor Emeritus of Epidemiology and Pediatrics at the University of Washington. Dr. Emanuel is perhaps best known for his pioneering research work on the intergenerational aspects of birth weight and the tendency for pregnancy and perinatal complications to repeat across generations.

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CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

2006 SPER Meeting Abstracts Submission:

As always, we welcome abstracts on all topics related to reproduction, fetal development, pregnancy or child health. The deadline is **February 11, 2006**.

Abstracts must be submitted electronically at the SPER website. The URL for the call for abstracts can be found at:

<http://www.sper.org/Callabstracts2006.htm>.

The website is accessible until midnight Eastern Standard Time February 11, 2006. There will be no abstract submission fee again this year!

All abstracts will be randomly assigned for blind review and ranking to three peer reviewers, and authors will be notified of the status of their abstracts before or by **April 3, 2006**.

Notification will occur by e-mail so do not delete an email from sper_org@yahoo.com. SPER members who have not served as an abstract reviewer for the past three years but would like to volunteer should contact Jean Lawrence (Jean.M.Lawrence@kp.org). Abstracts accepted for presentation will not be published in Paediatric and Perinatal Epidemiology as in years past, but will be included in the conference program materials.

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Before there was Barker, there was Emanuel. He has influenced an entire generation of perinatal and pediatric epidemiologists through his insights, publications and teaching. I have not yet pinned him down for a specific topic, but whether Dr. Emanuel tells us stories of discovery from his own research or reminisces about his life in epidemiology, we are sure to be enlightened and enthralled.

Please start making your plans for Seattle. We're hoping to see you there.

Second Annual NICHD-IHDCYH Summer Institute in Reproductive and Perinatal Epidemiology



The Epidemiology Branch of the National Institute of Child Health & Human Development (NICHD) and the Institute of Human Development and Child and Youth Health (IHDCYH) are jointly hosting their second Annual NICHD-IHDCYH Summer Institute in Reproductive and Perinatal Epidemiology from July 30 to August 5, 2006 at the Hyatt-Regency Chesapeake Bay, Cambridge (MD). Graduate students, postdoctoral and clinical fellows interested in a research career in Reproductive or Perinatal Epidemiology are invited to apply. The week-long Summer Institute will provide substantive and methodologic training in human fecundity and fertility, pregnancy and perinatal outcomes, maternal health, fetal growth and development, developmental disabilities, and promising new approaches for studying these outcomes. A combined didactic and case-based curriculum will be offered by faculty affiliated with NICHD and IHDCYH. A detailed course description is available at:

<http://www.cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/8688.html>.

Participants will be awarded a travel stipend (up to \$1,500 USD); room, lodging and transportation will be covered. Subject to availability, up to 20 qualified students will be selected. Interested students and fellows are invited to submit: a brief (2-page) cover letter stating your professional status and goals with regard to Reproductive and Perinatal Epidemiology, curriculum vita and two letters of support. All documents must be received by March 1, 2006. Applicants will be reviewed by a central committee based on: 1) personal statement of professional research interests and career plans; 2) evidence of graduate level training in introductory epidemiology and biostatistics; and 3) two letters of support. Applicants for the 2005 Summer Institute can resubmit their 2005 letters of support (if still applicable). Priority will be given to students/fellows with demonstrated excellence such as practical research experience or publications in this field. Selection will be made by April 15, 2006.

Applications should be submitted electronically to:
Anick Lambert, MSc, course coordinator
IHDCYH-IDSEA@cihr-irsc.gc.ca
Tel : 514-412-4414

DHHS and NIH are Equal Opportunity Employers

Joint SPER/ASA Statistics in Epidemiology Section Workshop on Advanced Methods in Reproductive and Perinatal Epidemiology

The Society for Pediatric and Perinatal Epidemiologic Research and the Statistics in Epidemiology Section of the American Statistical Association are jointly hosting the Advanced Methodology for Reproductive and Perinatal Epidemiology Workshop on June 20, preceding the first session of the SPER Annual Meeting.

Students, junior and senior investigators are invited to attend this three hour session (2 – 5pm) that will include presentations on emerging methodologic research. Speakers will include Drs. Miguel Hernán (Assistant Professor of Epidemiology, Harvard School of Public Health), Robert Platt (Associate Professor of Epidemiology and Biostatistics, McGill University) and Enrique Schisterman (Investigator, National Institute of Child Health and Human Development). Topics being covered will include causal inference, proper treatment of dependency in data and use of biomarkers in epidemiologic research

Pre-registration for students (i.e., those no more than one year since completing doctoral/post-doctoral work) is free and only \$25 for non-students. On-site registration is \$20 for students and \$50 for non-students. Pre-registration is especially encouraged, since it will be used to estimate the necessary room size and amount of refreshments needed.

For more information about the workshop, please contact SPER Student Representative, Brian Whitcomb (whitcomb@mail.nih.gov) or Student Liaison to SER, Sara Simonsen (sellis@dfpm.utah.edu). For information about the SPER Annual Meeting visit our webpage at: http://www.sper.org/Annual_Meeting.htm.

2005 March of Dimes Agnes Higgins Award

To honor her distinguished achievement in maternal-fetal nutrition, *Dr. Barbara Luke* (SPER Member-at-Large) was awarded the 2005 March of Dimes Agnes Higgins Award at the recent meetings of the American Public Health Association in Philadelphia (December 12, 2005).



Dr. Barbara Luke

Paediatric and Perinatal Epidemiology **News**

Coming 2006! Manuscript Central is coming to *Paediatric and Perinatal Epidemiology*. Blackwell Publishing is hoping to have Manuscript Central up and running early in 2006, however the kinks will need to be worked out before it is actually implemented. Details will be forthcoming as we receive them, but look to the new electronic submission system to improve both the time needed for review and for revision.

With the new year, the terms of the ten American members of the PPE Editorial Board will have expired. We are deeply grateful to the following outgoing members for their advice and service: Professor Greg Alexander (U Alabama, Birmingham), Dr. Fernando C. Barros (PAHO/WHO Latin American Center for Perinatology), Dr. José Belizan (U Nacional de Rosario, Argentina), Dr. Leslie L. Davidson (Columbia U SPH), David Dunson (NIEHS, Research Triangle Park), Professor Carol J. Rowland Hogue (Emory U, Atlanta), Professor Michael S. Kramer (McGill U, Montréal), Professor David A. Savitz (UNC, Chapel Hill), Dr. Gary M. Shaw (CA Birth Defects Monitoring Program, Emeryville), and Professor Michelle A. Williams (U Washington SPH).

Eleven new American members have been appointed to the Editorial Board each for a term of three years (2006-2008), including Professor Claire Infante-Rivard (McGill U, Montréal), Dr. K.S. Joseph (Dalhousie U, Halifax), Dr. Muin Khoury (CDC, Atlanta), Professor Russell S. Kirby (U Alabama, Birmingham), Dr. Dawn P. Misra (U Michigan SPH), Dr. Eve K. Moscicki (NIMH, Bethesda), Dr. Jennifer D. Parker (NCHS/CDC, Hyattsville), Professor Michael Reichenheim (Rio de Janeiro State U, Brazil), Professor Maureen Sanderson (U Texas-Houston SPH at Brownsville), Professor Cesar G. Victora (Federal U of Pelotas, Brazil), and Professor Martha Werler (Slone Epidemiology Center, Boston U). We welcome the new members to the Editorial Board and expect that PPE will continue to prosper with their help and guidance.

John Kiely
Michele Kiely

SAVE THE DATE

**SPER 2007: Boston, Massachusetts
June 18 – 19, 2007**

Jobs and Fellowships

We have opened a new page on the SPER website (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) who will review it and to our website managers directly for posting (sper_org@yahoo.com). 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.

SPER-PPE Special Issue Celebrating Our Majority

SPER is soliciting applications for a Guest Editor for a special issue of *Paediatric and Perinatal Epidemiology* (PPE) for publication in 2007. This issue will celebrate the 21st year of SPER and PPE (although PPE is a year older), and as such it will highlight the work of SPER members and provide an historical summary of the organization and our relationship with the journal. The Guest Editor will be responsible for writing an historical introduction and selecting articles that have been submitted to the journal for this purpose.

If interested, please call Anna Maria Siega-Riz (919-962-8410) *prior* to submitting an application. Application requires electronic submission of a CV and a cover letter that includes a plan of content for the issue and a list of suggested contributors. Application should be sent by January 20, 2006, to am_siegariz@unc.edu and a selection will be made by January 27, 2006.