

## President's Corner

As I sit down to jot my reflections from this year's SPER annual meeting in Seattle, my thoughts come flooding with many! At the outset, I would like to thank Russell Kirby, our past-president, and his team for organizing a wonderfully orchestrated meeting that was an imminent success. The meeting brought together scientists from a variety of disciplines proudly holding up some of their research findings. This year's keynote speaker was Jan Friedman, MD, PhD from the University of British Columbia, Canada. His well-received talk was entitled "*Genetics, Epigenetics, Genomics, and the Future of Perinatal and Pediatric Epidemiology.*" The ever-popular "SPER Student Workshop" was, once again, a run-away success – Tyler VanderWeele (Harvard School of Public Health, MA) gave a stimulating presentation on mediation analysis, followed by two talks by Paul Albert and Edwina Yeung (NICHD) on modeling menstrual cycle function. Kudos to Mahsa Yazdy and Enrique Schisterman for hosting a wonderful and lively session! In the accompanying pages, you will find more details of the workshop.

As in past years, we continued our tradition by bestowing three important awards: The "Student Prize Paper" award, the "Rising Star" award, and the "Mentoring Awards." This year, 10 complete submissions were received for the "Student Prize Paper", and Jennifer Hutcheon of the University of British Columbia was judged the winner for her paper entitled "Optimal timing of delivery in pregnancies with pre-existing hypertension." Of the two nominations for the "Rising Star Award", the winner was Cuilin Zhang from the NICHD. For the "Mentoring Award", we received five nominations of which Germaine Buck Louis was judged the winner for her excellent contributions to the mentoring of junior members in our field.

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## President's Corner *(continued)*

Pauline Mendola coordinated SPER's Heinz-Berendes International Travel Award, and the winner of this award was Darya Gaysina from the University College London. I thank all the reviewers, panelists for the awards, and Pauline for a wonderful job, and must note that I thoroughly enjoyed coordinating the process!

Plans for the grand 2011 Epi-Congress are well underway, and I am pleased to report that SPER will play an important role in the planning for the Congress. I will communicate with you all as we have more updates regarding the Congress.

The success of our Society rests on the people that work behind the scenes! What better opportunity can I get to thank these dedicated individuals to whom we owe all of SPER's success? I would like to thank members that have rotated off from the executive committee this year: Pauline Mendola (Past-President), Marcia Feldkamp (Secretary), Courtney Lynch (Member-at-Large), and Mahsa Yazdy (Student representative.) Equally, I welcome our new members to the executive committee: Enrique Schisterman (President-Elect), Courtney Lynch (Secretary), Claudia Holzman (Member-at-Large), and Laura Tomedi (Student representative.) I look forward to working closely with the executive committee as we begin planning for the next SPER meeting. Finally, I would like to take to this column to express my deepest gratitude to both the Eunice Shriver Kennedy National Institute of Child Health and Human Development and the March of Dimes for their generous support of the meeting. In particular, thanks to both Anna Maria Siega-Riz and Russell Kirby who led the efforts to secure conference funding on the Society's behalf.

In closing, I would like to reiterate my earlier sentiments – it is truly an honor to serve as the President of SPER, and look forward to working with all of you to make this Society one of par excellence! Our next meeting will be hosted in Montreal, Canada (June 21-22, 2011), and it is never too late to begin your travel plans to this beautiful city! If you have suggestions or comments, please send them to me at [cande.ananth@umdnj.edu](mailto:cande.ananth@umdnj.edu).

Cande V. Ananth  
President, SPER

## HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2010 SPER ANNUAL MEETING

### 2010 Advanced Methods Workshop

This year's Advanced Methods Workshop was a great success! The workshop was organized by Dr. Enrique Schisterman and the 2009-2010 SPER Student Representative, Mahsa Yazdy. It was held on June 22, 2010 prior to the SPER opening reception and was attended by 70 students, researchers and senior investigators.

The workshop featured presentations from two distinguished methodologists and a postdoctoral fellow. Dr. Tyler VanderWeele of Harvard School of Public Health presented on causal mediation analysis. He then walked participants through an example that explored what proportion of the effect of prenatal care on infant mortality is mediated by medically induced preterm birth. He was followed by Dr. Paul Albert of NICHD who gave a presentation on approaches to modeling menstrual cycle function including using nonlinear mixed models with harmonic terms. Dr Edwina Yeung a postdoctoral fellow at NICHD then presented an application of harmonic models that examined racial differences in menstrual cycle patterns using data from the BioCycle Study.

The program and materials for the workshop can be found online at the SPER website (<http://www.sper.org/meeting/program.html>).

### QUICK FACTS:

The Society has 238 members, of which 151 are regular members, and 87 are students.

225 individuals attended the 2010 Annual Meeting, with 64 attending the student advanced methods workshop.

### DID YOU MISS THE 2010 MEETING?

The 2010 SPER Annual Meeting program book is now available online at:  
<http://www.sper.org/finalprogram2010.pdf>

### SAVE THE DATE!

SPER 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting  
June 20-21, 2011  
(Immediately preceding 3<sup>rd</sup> North  
American Congress of Epidemiology)  
Le Sheraton Centre  
1201 Boulevard Rene-Levesque West  
Montreal, QC H3B 2L7 Canada

### 2010 SPER STUDENT PRIZE RECEIPT

Dr. **Jennifer Hutcheon** from the University of British Columbia was awarded the 2010 SPER Student Prize Paper Award for her paper, entitled "*Optimal timing of delivery in pregnancies with pre-existing hypertension*".

In her oral presentation, Dr. Hutcheon used population-based data from the U.S. and Canada to look at week-specific risks of stillbirth between 36-41 weeks against week-specific risks of serious neonatal morbidity or mortality among births delivered following induction of labor. She concluded that among women with otherwise uncomplicated pre-existing hypertension, induction of labor at 38-39 weeks provides the optimal trade-off between the risk of adverse fetal and neonatal outcomes.



### 2010 HEINZ BERENDES INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL AWARD RECIPIENT

Dr. Darya Gaysina from the MRC Unit for Lifelong Health and Aging, University College London was awarded the 2010 Heinz Berendes International Travel Award for her paper, entitled "*Emotional problems in adolescence and metabolic syndrome in mid-life: the modifying effect of C-reactive protein (CRP) gene*".

In her oral presentation, Dr. Gaysina used data from a British birth cohort to look at associations between emotional problems such as depression and anxiety at age 13-15 years and metabolic syndrome at age 53 years. She also examined whether a CRP polymorphism was associated with these two factors. She found a positive association between depression and anxiety in adolescence and metabolic syndrome in mid-life, and that this association was stronger in those who were homozygous for the major allele (C) of rs1205 than in carriers of the T allele.





### **2010 SPER RISING STAR AWARD RECIPIENT**

Dr. Cuilin Zhang  
Investigator, Division of Epidemiology, Statistics  
& Prevention Research, NICHD

The Rising Star award is to recognize early to mid-career investigators whose achievements and potential set them on a trajectory to become research leaders in the field of reproductive, perinatal and pediatric epidemiology.

### **2010 SPER MENTORING AWARD RECEIPT**

Dr. Germaine Buck Louis  
Director and Senior Investigator, Division of  
Epidemiology, Statistics & Prevention Research,  
NICHD

The Mentoring Award is to recognize the importance of dedicated and skilled mentors in the development of reproductive, pediatric, and perinatal epidemiologists at all levels.



## IMPORTANT DEADLINES

(Deadline for all submissions is 5:00 PM local time on the scheduled day)

SPER Annual Meeting abstract submission deadline: Friday, February 4, 2011

Heinz Berendes submission deadline: Friday, March 4, 2011

Student Prize paper submission deadline: Friday, March 4, 2011

Rising Star Award submission deadline: Friday, April 15, 2011

Mentoring Award submission deadline: Friday, April 15, 2011

Descriptions of the four Society awards can be found at:  
<http://www.sper.org/awarddescription.html>

## CALL FOR REVIEWERS! - 3rd North American Congress of Epidemiology

We are looking for dedicated individuals to assist with abstract review for the Congress, which will be held June 21-24, 2011 in Montreal, QC Canada. Each reviewer will be asked to review no more than 20-25 abstracts. A reviewer interest form will be posted to our website October 15-December 15, 2010. If you are interested in assisting with this time sensitive task, go to <http://www.epiresearch.org/congress/review.php> after October 15<sup>th</sup> and provide your information and areas of expertise.

### Please note:

- This is a new request for reviewers.
- Even if you have already agreed to be a reviewer, please provide your contact information through the website.
- Students are not eligible to serve as reviewers for the Congress.

## SPER MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME!

It is time to renew your SPER membership. SPER membership runs from January 1, 2011 to December 31, 2011. Renewing by December 1, 2010 will avoid interruption in membership benefits. We will be adding a new feature this year, a "Members Only" section, where you can update your membership information on-line. Look for this section in the next couple of months.

Register on-line at: <http://www.sper.org/membership.php>

## MEET YOUR 2010-2011 SPER EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

### **President**

Cande V. Ananth, PhD, MPH  
Professor and Director  
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### **Past President**

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### **President Elect**

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 Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of  
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### **Secretary (2010-2013):**

Courtney D. Lynch, PhD MPH  
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### **Treasurer (2008-2011)**

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### **Member-at-Large (2007-2011)**

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### **Member-at-Large (2010-2014)**

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### **Student Representative (2010-2011)**

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