

President's Corner

A lot of changes have happened since our last newsletter. Osama Bin Laden was found; the US avoided a government shutdown; and we got ready for the June SPER Annual Meeting. I was told by the next President-elect Robert Platt (by the way, congratulations!) that there is no place on earth as beautiful as Montreal in the summer. The program is exciting and we hope that you all will come to Montreal. We are looking forward to exciting presentations, lively discussions, and warm encounters with old colleagues and friends.

Let me update you on a couple of changes that the Executive Committee has been working on over the past year. We have a new logo for the Society and a new website that will be unveiled in the coming weeks. I hope you like it! Comments and suggestions for changes are always welcome. We want the website to become your main source for our shared information by making it very user-friendly. Please email our secretary, Courtney, with any comments (Courtney.Lynch@osumc.edu).

We have also made some great strides towards putting together the 25th anniversary SPER meeting, which is next year. It will be a 3-day meeting with Dr. Alan Guttmacher as the main keynote speaker but also multiple session keynote speakers, debates, and of course a gala. Please stay tuned through updates on our website.

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**2011 SPER Annual Meeting
Montreal, Quebec, Canada
June 21-22, 2011**



MEETING LOCATION

Le Sheraton Centre
1201 Boulevard Rene-Levesque West
Montreal, QC H3B 2L7 Canada
Phone: (514) 878-2000
Fax: (514) 878-3958

2011 SPER ANNUAL MEETING – PROGRAM

The preliminary program is now available at:
<http://sper.org/meeting/program11.pdf>

2011 SPER ANNUAL MEETING – AT A GLANCE

SPER's 24th Annual Meeting will include a poster session and opening reception on the evening of June 20th from 6:30 – 8:00 pm. A full day of plenary sessions will begin at 8:00 am as well as a lunch time poster session on the 21st. Registration will be held June 20th from 4:30 – 7:30 pm and June 21st from 7:00 – 10:00 am.

The keynote address, "*On the Perils of Adjusting for Gestational Age*" will be given by Dr. Allen J. Wilcox, principal investigator of the NIEHS Reproductive Epidemiology Group and editor-in-chief of the journal, *Epidemiology*. Following his keynote address we have invited 3 experts, K.S. Joseph, Mark Klebanoff and Enrique Schisterman, to a panel debate with Dr. Wilcox. We look forward to very stimulating discussions!

The Advanced Methods Student Workshop will be held on June 20th from 3:30- 6:30 pm, preceding the SPER opening reception and poster session. More information on the workshop is provided in this newsletter.

ACCOMMODATIONS

This year's SPER Annual Meeting will be held at the Le Sheraton Centre (514-878-2000, <http://www.starwoodhotels.com/sheraton/property/overview/index.html?propertyID=463>), which is minutes away from St. Catherine Street and the Bell Centre.

Le Sheraton Centre is offering room rates for SPER conference attendees of 215 CAD for single/double occupancy (plus 17% sales tax). A personalized web site has been created for the Annual Meeting. Guests can access the site at any time to learn more about the event and to book or modify a reservation.

Go to the following website to reserve a room or to find out more about the Le Sheraton Centre: <https://www.starwoodmeeting.com/StarGroupsWeb/booking/reservation?id=1009013604&key=22383>

AIRPORT & TRANSPORTATION

The local airport is the Montréal–Pierre Elliott Trudeau International Airport. More than 40 airlines provide service into the Montreal-Trudeau airport, including Air Canada, American Airlines, Delta, United Airlines, US Airways and many others. Go to <http://www.admtl.com> for more specific details. A new special bus route – the "747" – connects the Trudeau International Airport to downtown for \$7. Buses run every 15 minutes or less and stop #4 is next to the conference centre. Fares are payable in cash (coins only) or with fare cards, available at the International Arrivals level of the airport. The fare also gives access to the public transit system for 24 hours. Go to <http://www.stm.info/english/info/a-747.htm> for more specific details.

You can get a taxi at the arrivals level near the central exit. Fixed taxi fares to downtown Montreal are \$38. *(This information is approximate and subject to change)*



SPER 2011 REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Our registration fees include attendance at all sessions, meeting materials, continental breakfast, box lunch, and refreshment breaks.

Registration may be completed by mail, fax or via the internet. A confirmation letter will be sent upon receipt of the completed registration from within 7-10 business days.

Payment can be made by check, MasterCard, Visa, or American Express. **Payment must be received prior to admittance to the meeting.** We encourage you to be green and use **online registration** at:

<http://www.epiresearch.org/sper/regform.php> .

You can download a printable registration form at <http://sper.org/meeting/regform.pdf> .

If you need additional registration information, please contact:

Jacqueline Brakey
P.O. Box 990
Clearfield, UT 84089
Phone: (801) 525-0231
Fax: (801) 774-9211
E-mail: meeting@epiresearch.org

REGISTRATION FEES:

SPER Member:	\$295
SPER Non-Member:	\$325
SPER New Member:	\$485*
SPER Student Member:	\$135

* Price includes the cost for membership and e-print journal

DON'T FORGET TO REGISTER EARLY FOR THE ADVANCED METHODS WORKSHOP!

Student	\$70
Non-Student	\$110

2011 SPER ADVANCED METHODS WORKSHOP

The 6th annual Workshop on Advanced Methods in Reproductive and Perinatal Epidemiology will be held on June 20, 2011 from 3:30-6:30pm, prior to the first session of the SPER Annual Meeting.

Students and junior and senior investigators are invited to attend this three hour session that includes presentations on emerging methodologic research. The presentations for this year's workshop include:

Sholom Wacholder, PhD, Senior Investigator in the Division of Cancer Epidemiology and Genetics at the National Cancer Institute, on maximizing evidence about important questions from your studies.

Timothy L. Lash, DSc MPH, Professor of Cancer Epidemiology at Aarhus University Hospital, on using bias analysis to address misclassification in pediatric and perinatal epidemiology.

Presenting with Dr. Lash will be Katherine Ahrens, MPH, from the Slone Epidemiology Center at Boston University. The topic of her talk will be "Example of bias analysis: Influenza vaccination misclassification and preterm birth".

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEWLY ELECTED SPER BOARD MEMBERS!

President-Elect

Robert Platt, PhD, MS
Professor, Departments of Pediatrics and of Epidemiology, Biostatistics, and Occupational Health, McGill University

Treasurer

Danelle T. Lobdell, PhD
Environmental Health Scientist, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Member-at-Large

Brian W. Whitcomb, PhD
Assistant Professor, Division of Biostatistics and Epidemiology, School of Public Health and Health Sciences, University of Massachusetts, Amherst

Student Representative

Candice Johnson, MSc
Doctoral Student, Department of Epidemiology, Emory University

President's Corner

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Lastly, as I become President, I will be initiating a program to increase our membership. As you have seen from the business meetings, we are doing a great job recruiting the next generation of reproductive and perinatal epidemiologists but we are not doing as well at maintaining those who are more senior in our field. We need to work together to increase the membership size and I propose we set a goal to increase our membership by one-third by the 25th anniversary. We all need to be committed to member retention for the successful continuation of our wonderful Society. If we all bring one person who stopped coming or has never joined, then we will more than achieve our goal. So be sure to invite all of your friends and colleagues. We are all going to benefit from their participation in SPER. As Robert has promised, Montreal is beautiful in June. See you all there!

Enrique Schisterman, Incoming President

Perhaps YOU could be the winner of a SPER award

Did you get another poster this year? Are you longing for the opportunity to have your work in the spotlight? We heard you loud and clear! In order to recognize the impressive work put forth by all of our members, the Executive Committee has launched a new awards program. We have recruited a panel of judges who will evaluate all of the posters and plenary presentations. At the annual business meeting, we will be presenting four "Outstanding Poster" awards (two per session) and one "Outstanding Plenary Presentation" award. In light of the judging, we strongly encourage all presenters to be present at their posters for at least the first 1.5 hours of each session in order to field questions from judges. This is yet another important reason to attend our SPER business meeting on June 21, 2011 at 5:05 pm!

We are very excited to launch this new facet of our Annual Meeting and hope that you as members will be equally intrigued. So, bring your best work. We look forward to seeing you in Montreal!

THANK YOU!!

The SPER Executive Committee would like to extend a big thank you to those who reviewed abstracts for the annual meeting this year.

Interested in volunteering next year?
Just check the box on the membership renewal form in the fall!

Lara Akinbami	Marlene Goldman	Amy Padula
Ndidi Amutah	Arden Handler	Lisa Pastore
Dodie Arnold	Mary Hediger	Robert Platt
Ludmila Bakhireva	Danielle Herbert	Kristen Rappazzo
Timothy Barnes	Penelope Howards	Camille Raynes-Greenow
Erin Bell	Jennifer Hutcheon	Monique Robinson
Connie Bish	Jyotsna Jagai*	Megan Romano
Michael Bloom	Candice Johnson*	Carole Rudra
Lisa Bodnar	Rena Jones	Maureen Sanderson
Nansi Boghossian	Sarah Keim	Reg Sauve
Marit Bovbjerg	Martin Kharrazi	Enrique Schisterman
Jean Brender	Jane Khoury	Carrie Shapiro-Mendoza
Carol Bruce	Phillip Khoury	Sara Simonsen
Jessie Buckley	Mark Klebanoff	Kelly Strutz
Alison Cammack	Kobto Ghislain Koura	Katarzyna Szamotulska
Tonia Carter	Claudia Kozinetz	Marie Thoma
Lisa Chasan-Taber	Katherine Laughon	John Thorp
Izumi Chihara	Qing Li	Sarah Tinker
James Collins	Sarka Lisonkova	Marcelo Urquia
Lyn Colvin	Danelle Lobdell	Anjel Vahratian
Adolfo Correa	Rebecca Ludvigsen	Catherine Vladutiu
Leslie Davidson	Courtney Lynch*	Stephanie Watkins
Lisa DeRoo	Beth McManus	Nedra Whitehead
Nancy Dole	Jareen Meizen-Derr	Martha Wingate
Adrienne Ettinger	Pauline Mendola	Edwina Yeung
Chunyuan Fei	Lynne Messer	Naohiro Yonemoto
Marcia Feldkamp	Amy Metcalfe	
Jane Ford	Renee Mijal	
Elena Fuentes-Afflick	Sunni Mumford	
Nicolas Gilbert*	Felix Okah	
Suzanne Gilboa	T. Michael O'Shea	

* And a special thanks to those who completed extra reviews.