

Society for Pediatric and Perinatal Epidemiologic Research

September, 2006

President's Corner

Hope you have all had a fun and productive summer. It is hard to believe that it is over. We started the summer off with a bang in Seattle, Washington with our 19th Annual meeting. The agenda for the meeting was filled with exciting and cutting edge work of our members. I informally heard from many of you who attended the meeting that the scientific quality of the working being presented this year both in the oral and poster presentations was outstanding. Thanks to all of you who submitted your work and to our past president Mary Hediger, our secretary Dawn Misra, and our Members-at-large Barbara Luke and Jean Lawrence who worked with the program to

make this such a successful meeting. I especially wanted to highlight the keynote speaker's talk by Irvin Emanuel on *What History Tells us about Maternal and Child Health*. Thank you Dr. Emanuel for dedicating your life to research and academics in our field; you are an inspiration to us all.

We also heard from Michael Bloom who won the student prize award for his work at NICHD on "Selecting controls is not selecting "normals": design and analysis issues for studying the etiology of polycystic ovary syndrome". This paper which was published in *Fertility and Sterility* in the July issue (86:1-12) demonstrates

the creativity and hard work of the future leaders in our field. At this year's meeting we had a record number of students attending. As I was reminded yesterday at a talk during the UNC student orientation, many great scientific discoveries have occurred by individuals who are in their training or just out. The young scientist's ability to be creative and think outside of the box challenges us all and pushes the field forward. Let's constantly remember to fuel their thinking and not quench the fire of the young. We will continue to subsidize student membership and please encourage your students to attend the meeting as well as to participate in the student workshop...

continued on page 2

Inside this issue:

Student Prize
Paper Award.....2

*Advanced
Methods
Workshop*.....3

*Heinz Berendez
International
Travel Award*.....3

*World Congress
of the World Society
for Pediatric
Infectious Diseases*.....3

*SPER Annual
Business Meeting
Highlights*.....4

*SPER Annual
Meeting Timeline*.....4

2nd Annual NICHD-IHDCYH Summer Institute Success

Building on last year's strong start, this year's Second Annual NICHD-IHDCYH Summer Institute in Reproductive and Perinatal Epidemiology held in Cambridge, Maryland on July 30-August 5 was, at least for the faculty, a gratifying affirmation of the quality of the students and our future colleagues. A group of twenty outstanding students in reproductive and perinatal epidemiology, medicine, and biostatistics were drawn from the U.S. (U Miami, Harvard, Columbia,

Utah, Michigan State, UNC, Johns Hopkins, Washington, California), Canada (McGill, Calgary, Laval, Toronto), and universities in Sweden, Denmark, Finland, and Brazil. Aside from the regular faculty and topics covered, the Institute hosted Keynote Speaker Michelle Williams (U Washington) who lectured on her work on gestational diabetes.■



Faculty and students at the NICHD-IHDCYH Summer Institute (above).

SPER in the Know:

- Congratulations to this year's Student Prize Paper Award Winner, Michael Bloom! [*page 2*]
- Papers for the Heinz Berendez Travel Award must be submitted by March 9, 2007. [*page 3*]
- The SPER Annual Meeting will be held this year June 18-19 in Boston, Massachusetts. [*page 4*]

Student Prize Paper Award

Congratulations to this year's recipient of the Student Prize Paper Award, **Michael Bloom**, for his paper, *Selecting controls is not selecting 'normals': Design and analysis issues for studying the etiology of polycystic ovary syndrome*.

The Society for Pediatric and Perinatal Epidemiologic Research (SPER) requests papers for the Annual Student Prize Paper Award. This competition is open to graduate and medical students, postdoctoral fellows, medical residents, research trainees, and clinical fellows interested in reproductive, perinatal, and pediatric epidemiology. The winner of the award will present the selected paper at the 2007 meeting in Boston, Massachusetts.

An award of \$250 plus expenses for travel, two days lodging, and SPER meeting registration will be given to the author of the selected paper. The paper should represent work in reproductive, perinatal, or pediatric epidemiology conducted as a student or trainee during the two years prior to the 2007 meeting. The paper must be written by the student/trainee and must be unpublished at the time of the submission. The author may submit the paper simultaneously to the Abraham Lilienfeld Student Prize Paper competition of the Society for Epidemiologic Research (SER); however, if the paper is selected for that award, it will not be eligible for the



(from left to right) Mary Hediger, 2005-06 President, Michael Bloom, and his mentor, Enrique Schisterman.

SPER award. Authors do not have to be members of SPER to apply.

Students are also encouraged to submit their papers as abstracts, following the standard abstract submission guidelines (available at our web site <http://www.sper.org>) and the February 10th submission deadline. Abstracts of all accepted papers will be available on the web and printed in the book of abstracts distributed at the meeting. ■

Applicants will be notified of the selection committee's decision by **April 3rd**.

To apply for this award, please submit the following materials:

- Manuscript: submit four copies of the paper, which must be prepared according to the "Instructions to Authors" printed in the journal *Pædiatric and Perinatal Epidemiology*.
- Include the following information on a removable face page: your name, telephone number, address, current position, a statement indicating when the work was completed, the name of your Department Chair (or Division Chief, etc.), and the name of the person under whose supervision the work was done.
- A letter from the person under whose supervision the work was done, indicating your specific contribution.

Papers must be received by MARCH 9, 2007.

Send papers to SPER President-elect: Mary Croughan, Ph.D.

Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology, and Reproductive Sciences, Women's Health Clinical Research Center
University of California, San Francisco
1635 Divisadero Street, Suite 601, San Francisco, CA 94115

Phone: 415-353-9770

Fax: 415-353-9788

Email: Mary.Croughan@ucsfmedctr.org

President's Corner [continued]

which will be repeated in Boston next year (see Brian Whitcomb's article in this newsletter). I extend my congratulations and sincere thanks to Enrique Schisterman and Brian Whitcomb for organizing this excellent workshop.

It was a pleasure to have the editors of PPE, Jean Golding, Tim Peters and Michele Kiely attend the meeting this year. They told us about changes to come with regards to manuscript submission and the improvement in the Journal's ranking in the field. Please read the business meeting report in this newsletter for more details.

I also want to recognize the hard work of Mary Hediger, Michael Cabana, and Mike O'Shea for orchestrating and obtaining funding for the Asthma Symposium that was sponsored by SPER jointly with the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) Section on Epidemiology for the 2006 North American Epidemiology Congress. A grant from Novartis for \$25,000 funded this symposium which will also cover the publication costs of a supplement for the talks that were presented. We will let you know more details about the supplement in a future newsletter. Finally, I wanted to let you know that for the 20th Annual meeting we will be

making an effort to encourage our European and Scandinavian colleagues to join us. I have asked Drs. Pierre Buekens (Tulane School of Public Health) and Sophie Alexander (Brussels School of Public Health) to help me with this endeavor. I am thinking of having a session that compares and contrasts issues in the field among these regions of the world. I ask all of you to share the information with your foreign collaborators as it becomes available and to send me your ideas on this topic (am_siegariz@unc.edu).

Advanced Methods Workshop



The first SPER Advanced Methods Workshop was by all accounts a great success. Held on June 20th prior to the SPER Opening Reception, the

inference in observational studies, modeling of dependency in pregnancy data, and analysis of biomarker data. Attendance was beyond expectations, with more than 100 people attending the workshop. The program from the Workshop, along with the presented material, is posted on the SPER website.*



The first SPER workshop was a great success (above).

Workshop featured presentations from three prominent methodologists and their students. Topics covered included causal

Heinz Berendes International Travel Award

The Society for Pediatric and Perinatal Epidemiologic Research (SPER) requests papers for the Heinz Berendes International Travel Award. The paper should represent work in reproductive, perinatal, or pediatric epidemiology, and research that concerns populations in developing countries is encouraged. To be eligible for this award, the applicant must not currently reside in the United States or Canada as a student, exchange scholar, or permanent resident. The winner will present the selected paper at the 2007 meeting in Boston, Massachusetts.

An award of \$250 plus expenses for travel, 2 days' lodging, and SPER meeting registration will be given to the author of the paper selected by the International Travel

Award Committee. The paper must be unpublished at the time of submission. Authors do not have to be SPER members to apply for the award.

Applicants should also submit the abstract of their paper in order to be considered for oral podium presentation, following the standard SPER abstract submission guidelines (available at our web site www.sper.org) and the February 10, 2007 submission deadline. If not accepted as a podium presentation, the winning paper will be automatically accepted for poster presentation. Abstracts of all accepted papers will be available on the web and printed in the book of abstracts distributed at the meeting.*

To apply for this award, please submit the following materials:

- Manuscript — submit the manuscript only **electronically**. It should be prepared according to the “Instructions to Authors” printed in the journal *Pediatric and Perinatal Epidemiology* (available online at <http://www.blackwellpublishing.com/journals/ppe/>).
- Please include a cover letter that provides the name and address of your academic affiliation or research establishment and your country of residence in the previous six months.

Papers must be received by March 3, 2007.
Send papers to:

SPER Past President:
Mary L. Hediger, Ph.D
Epidemiology Branch
DESPR, NICHD, NIH
Bethesda MD 20892-7510
Phone: 301-435-6897
Fax: 301-402-2084
Email: hedigerm@exchange.nih.gov

Applicants will be notified of the selection committee's decision by **March 24th**.

You're Invited!

The 5th World Congress of the World Society for Pediatric Infectious Diseases will take place in Bangkok, Thailand, November 15-18, 2007

To view the Preliminary Program visit:

www.kenes.com/wspid.



SPER Annual Business Meeting (2006) Highlights

Membership

Anna Maria encouraged continued student participation and stated that we will examine our finances to determine if we are able to continue to subsidize our student memberships. We expect no increase in regular membership fees and we expect no increase in registration fees for the 2007 meeting.

2006 Conference

The preliminary count was 231 registrants for the 19th annual meeting, including on-site registration. This is a substantial increase over last year's count of 146. Registration fees for the 2006 meeting were waived for those students who preregistered with a \$50 fee for those students who register on site. This seems to have substantially increased the number of students attending.

2007 Conference

Next year we meet in Boston and will join forces with the European Perinatal Epidemiology network and the Scandinavian network. We hope to have more of a "global" conference.

2007 will be the 20th year of SPER and the Paediatric and Perinatal Epidemiology journal's 25th anniversary. The journal expects to have a special issue for its



Dr. Irvin Emanuel, University of Washington, delivers his keynote address (above).

anniversary. We will defer a major celebration of SPER until our society's 25th year to give us more planning time.

PPE Journal

Jean Golding, Tim Peters, and Michelle Kiely, editors of the Paediatric and Perinatal Epidemiology Journal, gave the annual report on the journal. There has been a substantial increase in the number of submissions. The editors encouraged submission of methodologic papers in pediatric and perinatal epidemiology. The journal's impact

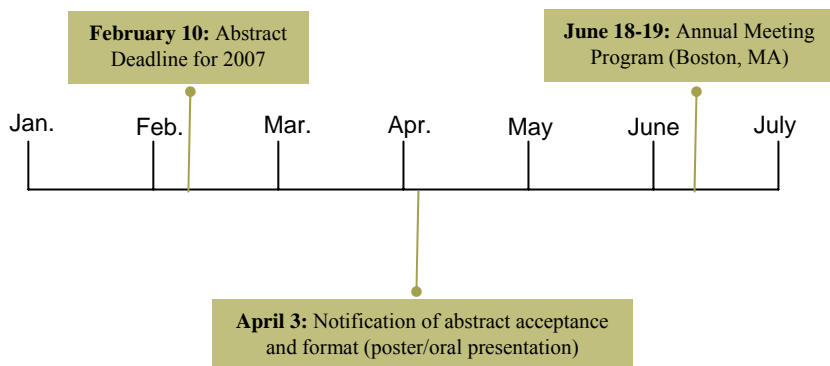
factor is now at 1.77, its highest ever. The "target" at present is an impact factor of 2. In terms of meaning in comparison to journals, PPE is 20th on the list of the 36 obstetrics journals. Among 73 pediatrics journal, PPE is ranked 17th. Among the 93 public health journals, PPE is ranked 41st.

There are three supplement issues currently underway for the journal: timing of conception; measuring gestational age; repeated pregnancies.

The journal is currently publishing 6 issues per year. The average time from submission to response back to the author is 103 days for the U.S. office and 111 days for the UK office (no major change from previous year). Last year, there was approximately a one year turn around from acceptance to publication. PPE has endeavored to improve this, primarily by increasing rejection rates. The time from acceptance to publication has now improved to 9 months with a goal of 6 months. The journal is working to implement an electronic submission and reviewing system.▪

"The journal's impact factor is at 1.77, it's highest ever."

Timeline for SPER Annual Meeting



Questions? Concerns?

Contact Dawn Misra.

Dawn P. Misra, PhD, MHS
SPER Secretary
University of Michigan School of Public Health
1420 Washington Heights, M5015
Ann Arbor, MI 48109-1209

Phone: 734-647-7944
Fax: 734-763-7379
E-mail: dmisra@umich.edu

