

# Society for Pediatric & Perinatal Epidemiologic Research

## Business Meeting Palm Desert, California June 18, 2002 (5:00-5:45 p.m.)

### Minutes

#### I. Welcome – Pierre Beukens

- Pierre presented thanks and a plaque to Germaine Buck and Kenneth Schoendorf.
- He also announced the results of the elections: Michael O'Shea-President-elect and Barbara Luke-member-at-large.
- Pierre announced that he would like next year's meeting to have a special focus on randomized trials. There was support from the members for this idea.

#### II. Journal –Michele Kiely

**Peer Reviews**-Michele thanked those who have reviewed for the Journal and reminded the membership that if they are called upon to do this if they would please do so in a timely manner as well as to provide constructive criticism.

**Blinding**-Michele would like for the journal to have a blinded review process however; John is less enthusiastic about this. The members agreed with Michele and would like to her to push forward with this idea.

**Journal Stats**- Our impact factor for 2000 was 1.265, which is higher than in previous years. The mean time for rejections is 69.8 days, for accept with minor revisions is 64.7 day, and for revise and resubmit is 70.2 days. For 2002 there are 21 on-line subscriptions (all institutional) 130 institutional, 254 from SPER, 7 personal, 29 editorial, 16 free list and 13 standard free for a total of 470. The US, UK and Canada make up for 77.8% of the subscriptions. The US and Canada have 49 hard copy institutional subscriptions. For 2001 from the USA office, 33% of submissions were accepted, 18% revise and resubmit and 49% rejected.

**Online submission**- Michele would really like to move to an online submission and review process. This would eliminate the need to photocopy and would in fact speed up the whole review and publication process.

#### III. Secretary – Anna Maria Siega-Riz

- There were 116 abstracts submitted this year for the annual meeting; 106 abstracts were accepted, and 147 individuals attended the meeting.
- Next year's meeting will be held in Atlanta Georgia at the Marriott Marquis on June 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>. The following year it will take place in Salt Lake City Utah.
- The abstract deadline for next year's meeting will be February 21<sup>st</sup>, 2003. Anna Maria warned members not to delete an email by Prince associates that will now have the SPER name in the return address. It will contain information on the status of their abstract submission.
- The members were reminded that the newsletter from here on would be electronic file attached to an email. A copy will also be available on the SPER web site.

-There was a discussion about CEU's approximately 13 members in attendance said that they would be interested in having CEU's for the annual meeting. The executive committee will pursue this further.

-Members were asked to become more active in the organization's activities.

**IV. Bylaws – Discussion related to the amendments**

-Anna Maria briefly described the changes to the bylaws. Very little discussion resulted. Members were asked to vote by signing their name to a circulating paper.

**V. Finance – Cande Ananth**

-The annual expense report was verbally presented to the members. Presently the organization is in a deficit of \$4026.67. This was primarily due to abstract publication fees and overspending in the Travel award line item for last year's meeting.

-Contributions from our members was encouraged.

**VI. Membership-Cande Ananth**

-We have 228 members from the US and Canada, 37 members from other countries for a total of 265 members. Four new members signed up at the meeting or by email recently.

**VII. Other**

-Members asked for an evaluation of the meeting to be included in the folder as a way to provide feedback to the executive committee.

-Linda Van Marter asked that we provide more time for discussion after each presentation.

Respectfully submitted by:



Anna Maria Siega-Riz, PhD, RD

Secretary

July 10, 2002