



SEPTEMBER 2002

SOCIETY FOR PEDIATRIC AND PERINATAL EPIDEMIOLOGIC RESEARCH

President's Corner

The 15th Annual SPER Meeting held in Palm Desert, California, was a great success. I would like to thank Germaine Buck, all of the SPER Officers, and the University of Utah Conference Center for their wonderful organization. My special thanks to Ken Schoendorf, our out-going Member-at-large, for his many years of extraordinary service to the society and welcome to Barbara Luke, our new Member-at-Large.

SPER is increasingly building bridges with sister organizations. I would like to welcome Coleen Boyle (SER Liaison), and Elena Fuentes-Afflick (SPR Liaison) to our Executive Committee. Linda Van Marter will continue to be our AAP Liaison, and Russ Kirby is our Liaison with the MCH-Epidemiology Conference and Coalition.

Our Past-President has to be commended for her visionary approach of methodological and training issues. The sessions on new challenging methodological issues were extremely interesting. The stimulating round table Germaine Buck organized to discuss the urgent need of a formal reproductive epidemiology training program was inspiring. Advocating for a training grant in reproductive epidemiology will continue to be a key priority for me.

Another of one my priorities will be to attract more international participants to our meetings, and to increase the global role of SPER. Epidemiological research is a global endeavor, and the differences between domestic and international research are disappearing. The Heinz Berendes Travel Award is a wonderful opportunity to globalize our meeting. In

addition, we will also broadly diffuse our call for Abstracts in international arenas.

Building bridges between experimental and observational epidemiology will also be one of my objectives. Randomized controlled trials are clearly part of Epidemiology, but are often not central to our meetings or the Journal. Many new methodological and ethical challenges have been emerging during the recent years that should be extensively discussed among the membership. We are considering focusing part of our next meeting on Randomized Controlled Trials. Ideas and suggestions are most welcome. Don't hesitate to e-mail me (Pierre.Buekens@unc.edu). And please already book on your calendar the dates of our next meeting, which will be held in Atlanta on June, 10-11th 2003.

Pierre Buekens, MD, PhD

Stats for Paediatric and Perinatal Epidemiology Journal

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 it is 64.7 days and for revise and resubmit it is 70.2 days. For the past year from the US office, 33% of submissions were accepted, 18% revise and resubmit and 49% rejected.

For 2002 there are 21 on-line subscriptions (all institutional), 130 institutional, 254 from SPER members, 7 personal, 29 editorial, 16 free list and 13 standard free for a total of 470 subscriptions. The

UK, Canada, and US make up for 77.8% of the subscriptions. The Canada and US have 49 hard copy institutional subscriptions.

Thank you Michele and John Kiely for all your hard work as editors of the US office for the Journal.

Increase in Membership Dues

Due to increases in the membership price for the *Journal* subscription and our diminishing operating budget, the Executive Board proposes the following increases to our membership dues:

Category	Old rate	New rate
Regular member (print only)	\$120	\$150
Regular member (e-print only)	--	\$140
Regular member (print+e-print)	--	\$165
Student member (with PPE)	\$ 60	\$ 75
Student member (e-print only)	--	\$ 65
Student member (print+e-print)	--	\$ 90
Student member (without PPE)	\$ 30	\$ 45

Please bear in mind that our membership rates have not increased in at least 4 years. Moreover, our membership rates (even the newly proposed rates) are perhaps one of the lowest compared to most other epidemiology-related societies. It is important to note that the society is now offering the e-print version of the *Journal*. However, before implementing these new rates we need your vote. Please send an email to the Secretary-Anna Maria Siega-Riz am_siegariz@unc.edu as to whether you accept or reject these new rates. **The deadline for voting is October 1st.**

In Memory of Doug Richardson

It is with deepest regrets to report that on August 14th, Doug Richardson, a neonatologist at Harvard and a member of SPER, was killed while riding his bike to work. The family has suggested that those wishing to send flowers instead send them to a loved one. In lieu of flowers, consider making a contribution to support the research award that DeWayne Pursley and his colleagues are setting up in

Doug's name. Donations for the Society for Pediatric Research Douglas K. Richardson Health Services Research Award can be sent to the Department of Neonatology, Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, 330 Brookline Ave., Boston, MA 02215. Condolences can be sent to Linda Heffner, Doug's widow at 15 Farlow Rd, Newton, MA 02458.

MCH/Public Health Milestones History Series Now Available

Now available for public access and use is Maternal and Child Health/Public Health Milestones, a web-based, multi-volume history of MCH and public health in the United States. Developed by the MCH Leadership Skills Training Institute at the University of Alabama at Birmingham, Department of Maternal and Child Health, with support from the Maternal and Child Health Bureau, HRSA, this visual and narrative presentation chronicles milestones from 1792 to the present and highlights in its timeline significant MCH and public health achievements, momentous political/social events, and landmark legislation, programs and policies related to the health and well-being of children and families. The series, Alexander GR, Chadwick C, Petersen DJ, Pass MA, Slay M, Shumpert N. MCH/Public Health Milestones: Volumes I-XII. MCH Leadership Skills Training Institute, Dept of MCH, Univ of Alabama at Birmingham, 2002, can be found on <http://main.uab.edu/show.asp?durki=45534>. Each of the 12 volumes in the series is available in a PDF file and hard copies can be downloaded from the indicated website. For complementary copies of the original PowerPoint presentation, please contact Dr. Greg R. Alexander at (205) 934-7161 or alexandg@uab.edu.

Business Meeting Minutes, Pictures, and List of New Officers

Please go to our web site www.sper.org to view the minutes from the Business Meeting held on June 18th at the end of the Annual Meeting, pictures of SPER members enjoying themselves, and the contact information for SPER officers.

Mark Your Calendar Now

Please mark your calendar now for our next meeting to be held June 10th-11th in Atlanta at the Marriott Marquies <*Marriott.com*>.