



APRIL 2002

SOCIETY FOR PEDIATRIC AND PERINATAL EPIDEMIOLOGIC RESEARCH

President's Corner

The 15th Annual Meeting of the Society for Pediatric & Perinatal Epidemiology is rapidly approaching. The Board is pleased to announce an exciting meeting that will formally host two new sessions – future training of reproductive, perinatal and pediatric epidemiologists and promising methods and analytic techniques for the field. The meeting will open on Monday evening with a panel discussion on training issues from 6-7 p.m. Please plan to attend and participate in the discussion devoted to the continued professional development of our field. There will be two parts to the methods session, which will be held on Tuesday, June 18th. The first part will comprise contributed papers focusing on analytic issues for our field. The second part will be a discussion led poster presentation from 1-2 p.m. All this is in addition to our usual high quality of papers and posters on a spectrum of endpoints including assisted reproductive technologies, maternal morbidity and mortality, gravid health status, pregnancy and infant outcomes. Dr. Jon Tyson, a former president of SPER, will deliver the keynote address on ethical aspects in caring for extremely premature infants. If you need another reason to join us, please come to celebrate the 15th official year of SPER! There will be a photo presentation highlighting the SPER's history and accomplishments. In case you are a new member or are not adequately represented in the photo archive, keep in mind that there will be many photo opportunities. The success of the meeting depends upon the participation of our members!

Germaine M. Buck, PhD

National Institute of Child Health & Human Development

Fifteenth Annual Meeting Palm Desert California

The registration form for the meeting is on page 4. Please note that when making room reservations at the Desert Springs Marriott Resort & Spa, if you plan to arrive early ask for **Karen Neal** in order to get the convention rate of \$115 per night. Her direct line is 760-862-1626.

The preliminary program for the meeting is on page 3. We are grateful to Germaine Buck for all of her hard work in organizing the panel discussion and developing the program.

Please plan to attend the Business meeting at the Annual Meeting. We will be discussing the By-law amendments. Your input is important to the Society!

Abstract Review

Once again the electronic abstract submission process went smoothly due to the hard work and organizational skills of Cheryl and Ed Prince of Prince Management Consultants. They are wonderful to work with!

Thanks to Russell Kirby and Mary Hediger for coordinating the review process. Everything was done electronically this year, which gave us a quick turn around time. Many thanks to our reviewers:

Melissa Adams
Cande Ananth
Jimmy Collins
Michael Cooperstock
Larry Edmonds
Elena Fuentes-Afflick

Wendy Hellerstedt
Claudia Holzman
Howard Hoffman
Thomas Hulsey
Michael Kramer
Pauline Mendola

Michael O'Shea
Mary Overpeck
Jennifer Parker

Kenneth Schoendorf
Bao-Ping Zhu

**Call for Nominations for the National
Maternal and Child Health Epidemiology
Awards**

**Journal Editors of Paediatric and Perinatal
Epidemiology Office Changes**

The American Editorial Office of the official SPER Journal has moved. Please submit papers from North, Central, or South America (including the Caribbean) to:

Drs. John and Michele Kiely
Office of Analysis & Epidemiology
National Center for Health Statistics
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
6525 Belcrest Road, Room 790
Hyattsville, MD 20850-2003 USA

Proposed Changes to the Society's By-laws

The Executive Committee has proposed a few changes to our By-laws to keep up with the information technology of today and to reflect how we are presently conducting our business. Please visit the website to view these changes and be prepared to discuss them at the Annual Business Meeting at 5:00 p.m. on June 18th. You can vote prior to the meeting by email or sending in the attached Ballot found on page 5 to the SPER secretary.

Sponsored by 14 national health and public health organization, the Coalition for Excellence in MCH Epidemiology announces the third year of the **National MCH Epidemiology Awards**. The Coalition, which includes SPER, is recruiting nominees for this year's awards. Nominees are individuals, institutions, and leaders of institutions who have made significant contributions to improving the health of women, children and families through epidemiology and the effective use of data in the five major categories: Advancing Knowledge, Effective Practice, Outstanding Leadership, Lifetime Achievement, and Young Professional Achievement. These awards recognize both new research and effective public health practice. *For more details, visit <http://www.citymatch.org/citymatch/mchepiawards.htm>.*

Deadline for nominations is June 1, 2002.

**EIGHTH ANNUAL MATERNAL AND CHILD
HEALTH EPIDEMIOLOGY
(MCH EPI) CONFERENCE**

December 11-13, 2002
Sheraton Sand Key Hotel, Clearwater, FL

ABSTRACT DEADLINE: MAY 3, 2002
Call for Abstracts can be found at the SPER website

**Preliminary Program
Society for Pediatric & Perinatal Epidemiology
15th Annual Meeting
Palm Desert, California**

June 17, 2002

4-9 p.m. Registration & Cocktail Reception

**6-7 p.m. Panel Discussion – *Training the Next Generation of
Reproductive, Perinatal & Pediatric Epidemiologists***

Panelists: Germaine Buck (NICHD), Christine Parks (MCH), Nigel Paneth (MSU), David Savitz (UNC),
Anne Willoughby (NICHD)

7-9 p.m. Poster Session

June 18, 2002

8:00 - 8:15 Welcome
Germaine M. Buck, President

8:15 - 10:15 Plenary Session I – Pregnancy Related Exposures & Outcomes

Student Prize Paper – TBA

International Travel Award Paper - TBA

10:15 - 10:45 Biobreak

10:45 - 12:00 Plenary Session II – Methods

12:00 - 1:00 Lunch & Poster Viewing

1:00 - 1:45 Poster Discussion – Methods

Discussants: Drs. Jennifer Parker, Kate Pickett, Robert Platt, & Enrique Schisterman

2:00 - 2:45 Keynote Address

Dr. Jon E. Tyson – Epidemiology and Ethics in the Care of the Extremely Premature Infant

2:45 - 3:30 Plenary Session III – Pregnancy & Environmental Influences

3:30 - 4:00 Biobreak

4:00 - 4:45 Plenary Session IV – Twinning

5:00 - 6:00 Business Meeting

Welcome – Dr. Pierre Beukens, President

Journal – Drs. John & Michelle Kiely

Secretary – Dr. Siega-Riz

Finance – Dr. Ananth Cande

Bylaws – Proposed Changes to Amendments

SPER ANNUAL MEETING, JUNE 17-18, 2002

Palm Desert, California
Desert Springs Marriott Resort & Spa

REGISTRATION FORM

Name _____
 Organization _____

 Address _____
 City _____
 State/Zip Code _____
 Country _____
 Telephone _____
 Fax _____
 E-mail _____
 Special Requirements _____

Registration Information Registration fees include an opening reception during Poster Session I, conference sessions, conference materials, continental breakfast, box lunch during Poster Session II, and refreshment breaks. You may complete registration by mail, fax, or the online form, and you may pay registration fees by check, VISA, MasterCard, or American Express. The conference organizers will send you a letter of confirmation upon receipt of the completed registration form. Please note that early registration ends on May 17th.

Cancellation Policy If cancellation of your registration is necessary, you must send written notice to Conferences & Institutes or call (801) 587-2980 to complete the cancellation process. Cancellations made by May 17th will be subject to a service charge of \$35. Confirmed registrants who do not attend the conference or who cancel after May 14 are responsible for the entire registration fee. You may, however, make a substitution at any time. When calling to cancel, ask for and retain your cancellation number.

Registration Fees (US Dollars)

	<i>Before May 17</i>	<i>After May 17</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> SPER Member	\$195	\$235
<input type="checkbox"/> SPER Non-Member	\$225	\$265
<input type="checkbox"/> Student	\$ 75	\$ 95
Total	\$ _____	\$ _____

Special Requirements The University of Utah Conference Services seeks to provide equal access to its programs, services, and activities for people with special needs. Please note any dietary or other special requirements when submitting your registration. You may also direct your requests to Conferences by email at conferences@guesthouse.utah.edu or by phone at 801-587-2980. Requests should be made two weeks prior to the meeting to obtain required assistance.

Payment Method

Check Enclosed
 (payable to the University of Utah—
 Tax ID 87-6000525)

You may either mail or fax this form to:

University Conference Services
 110 S. Fort Douglas Blvd.
 Salt Lake City, UT 84113-5036
 FAX: (801) 587-1002

Charge my credit card:

Master Card VISA American Express

Card # _____

Expiration Date: _____

Signature: _____

You may also register online at:

www.sper.org

Ballot 2002
Amendments to the SPER By-laws

If you have email, please send your vote to Anna Maria Siega-Riz at am_siegariz@unc.edu by **June 30th**. In the subject line of the email put **By-laws vote** and in the body just state a simple accept or reject. For those who do not have access to email please detach this page, mark the appropriate check box and send it to:

Anna Maria Siega-Riz, Ph.D., R.D.
SPER Secretary
403 Rosenau Hall, CB#7445
Dept of Maternal and Child Health
UNC-CH School of Public Health
Chapel Hill, NC 27599

- I accept the proposed changes to the SPER By-laws
- I do not accept the proposed changes to the SPER By-laws

Anna Maria Siega-Riz, Ph.D., R.D.
SPER Secretary
403 Rosenau Hall, CB#7445
Dept of Maternal and Child Health
UNC-CH School of Public Health
Chapel Hill, NC 27599