Dear colleagues,

It’s hard to believe that the Annual Meeting is just about one week away! We have some very exciting things planned for this year’s meeting. I’d like to thank the Program Committee for all of their hard work in helping me to develop the program. Prior to the meeting, we will begin with the Methods Workshop that will address translating causality into practice, which will be led by Jonathan Snowden. It promises to be a great session!

The meeting will officially kick off mid-afternoon Monday with out of the box keynote addresses given by Lisa Bodnar and Matthew Fox. They will be talking about the use of social media to expand your reach online. I’m certain that they’ll be both informative and entertaining. Following the keynote addresses, in an effort to increase scientific content at the meeting, we will be hosting concurrent sessions that will address pediatric research and environmental influences on perinatal and childhood outcomes. Both sessions look great and I’m certain that members will struggle in deciding which one to attend.

Tuesday morning, we will be starting things early with the opportunity for attendees to join one of three breakfast roundtable sessions. The options will be: environmental influences on reproduction, hosted by Pauline Mendola; meet the editors, with Cande Ananth and Mark Klebanoff; and career and funding advice with Sarah Keim, Lauren Wise, and yours truly. We will then have a full day of sessions on Tuesday along with an exciting symposium addressing the power of data linkage in reproductive and perinatal epidemiology. Our Communications Committee also has some fun activities plan for attendees.

In related news, I’m excited to announce that our NIH conference grant renewal received a fundable score (i.e., 10). The funds from this grant provide general meeting support as well as funding for some of our awards. So, we are thrilled that it looks like we will continue to receive those funds for the next five years.

It has been my pleasure to serve as President for SPER this past year. I’m looking forward to seeing everyone in Minneapolis! Safe travels.

All the best,

Courtney Lynch
Paediatric and Perinatal Epidemiology... in the Spotlight

Cande V. Ananth

Editor-in-Chief
Paediatric and Perinatal Epidemiology

A few recent developments with Paediatric and Perinatal Epidemiology…

New associate editor. We are delighted to welcome Peter Andersen from Monash Institute of Cognitive and Clinical Neurosciences, Monash University, Victoria, Australia, as our new associate editor. Peter has joined (on 1 May 2019) the team of associate editors Courtney Lynch and Sarah Keim, and the deputy editor Jennifer Zeitlin. Peter Anderson will assist us with submissions in childhood outcomes.

Flexible submission policy. As previously communicated, the Journal has instituted a flexible submission policy for manuscript. Authors can submit papers to the Journal “as is” without having to modify them to suit the Journal’s formatting guidelines.

Special issues. The Journal is inviting submissions for the following planned “special issue” supplements (we have extended the submission deadline to 15 August 2019 for all 3 issues)

- Leveraging Innovative Technology to Enhance Research in Reproductive and Perinatal Epidemiology. Guest Editors: Lauren Wise and Courtney Lunch


- Prenatal Exposure to Acetaminophen and Childhood Neurodevelopment. Guest Editors: Samantha Parker and Martha Werler

We are delighted to note that we have received an interesting collection of geographically diverse papers for the “maternal health” special issue. KS Joseph and Marian Knight are working hard to coordinate the submissions, and we hope to publish this issue toward the end of this year.

Finally, we are looking to recruit “trainee editors” for PPE in the areas of pediatric and child health (1 position to work with Sarah Keim), perinatal or reproductive epidemiology (2 positions to work with Courtney Lynch and Jennifer Zeitlin), and methods (1 position to work with Cande Ananth). These are 1-2 year unpaid positions to learn the ropes of academic publishing and gearing up to be an editor someday. We welcome nominations (self-nominations are encouraged too). Please submit a CV with a brief statement (no more than a page) of why this position interests you by 15 July 2019.
Registration Information
There is still time to register for the Advanced Methods Workshop and the Annual Meeting! Payment can be made by check, MasterCard, Visa, Discover or American Express. Please note that anyone selected to present a talk or a poster at the annual meeting is required to become a member of SPER. Click here to register!

Accommodations and Transportation
Hotels
The Hyatt Regency Minneapolis (conference hotel) is nearly full, with some dates completely sold out. However, special-rate accommodations are still available at other nearby hotels! Click here for more information.

Transportation
The Hyatt Regency Minneapolis is located 14 miles from the MSP airport. Transportation options include:

- **Taxi:** one-way fare ~ $40 USD.
- **Light Rail Service:** Take the Blue Line from MSP to the Nicolet Mall station (Nicolet & 5th St), which is located 7 blocks north of the conference hotel. One-way fares are either $2.00 (non-rush hour) or $2.50 (M-F: 6-9 am; 3-6:30 pm).

Advanced Methods Workshop: Monday, June 17, 12:00-3:00 pm
Join us for the 2019 SPER Advanced Methods Workshop, “Translating Causality into Practice: Causal Questions and Analysis in Applied Epidemiology,” led by Jonathan M. Snowden and Kelly M. Reavis of Oregon Health & Science University-Portland State University School of Public Health. This hands-on workshop will immediately precede the SPER Annual Meeting, from 12:00-3:00 pm on Monday, June 17. Click here to learn more.

Annual Meeting: Monday, June 17, 3:00 pm
We are excited to launch several new initiatives as part of this year’s annual meeting. These include:

- an extended program,
- concurrent contributed sessions (member-initiated),
- a symposium (member-initiated),
- a methods debate (member-initiated)

The Annual Meeting will begin following the conclusion of the Advanced Methods workshop at 3:00 pm on Monday, June 17. Click here for a preview of the conference program!

Keynote Address
We will kick off the Annual Meeting with our Keynote Speakers, Lisa Bodnar, Ph.D. (University of Pittsburgh) and Matthew Fox, D.Sc. (Boston University), who will discuss social media use as a tool for extending your impact as an epidemiologist.
**Roundtables – Tuesday, June 18, 7:00-7:45 am**
We are looking forward to hosting three Roundtable discussions at the Annual Meeting. Our topics and facilitators this year include:

- “Environmental Threats to Human Reproduction,” a discussion moderated by **Pauline Mendola, Ph.D.** (*Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development*)

- “Meet the Editors,” a conversation led by **Cande Ananth, Ph.D.** (*Columbia University; Paediatric & Perinatal Epidemiology Editor-in-Chief*) and Editor **Mark Klebanoff, M.D** (*The Ohio State University; American Journal of Epidemiology Associate Editor*)

- “Career Development and Finding Funding,” a discussion aimed at trainees & early career investigators moderated by **Suzan Carmichael, Ph.D.** (*Stanford University*), **Sarah Keim, Ph.D.** (*The Ohio State University*), **Courtney Lynch, Ph.D.** (*The Ohio State University*), and **Lauren Wise, Sc.D.** (*Boston University*).

These forums provide an excellent opportunity for informal discussion and getting to know fellow SPER colleagues. All registered conference attendees are welcome to attend!

**Fun Run 5K**
Experience the beauty of the “Land of 10,000 lakes” by participating in our annual Fun Run! This SPER and SER-sponsored event will take place on the morning of Wednesday, June 19. If you are interested in registering for this event, please [click here](#). Hope to see you there!

**Election Results – SPER Executive Committee**
Thanks to all members who offered their service to SPER and ran for election! Our newly elected officers for 2019 are:

**President-Elect**
Lauren Wise, Sc.D.
Professor
Dept. of Epidemiology
Boston University School of Public Health

**Secretary**
Sarah Keim, Ph.D.
Associate Professor
Center for Biobehavioral Health
The Research Institute at Nationwide Children’s Hospital
The Ohio State University

**Member at Large**
Anne Marie Jukic, Ph.D.
Tenure Track Investigator
Epidemiology Branch
National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences

**Student Representative**
Krista Wollny, RN, MN
Ph.D. Student, Epidemiology
Community Health Sciences
University of Calgary
Thank you for reviewing abstracts!

Thank you to everyone who reviewed abstracts for the 2017 SPER Annual Meeting. We appreciate the time and attention you took in conducting your reviews.

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Looking for a job or fellowship? Recruiting for a position?

Explore the SPER jobs & fellowships bank! It currently has 13 listings, which include advertisements for postdoctoral fellowships and professorships. Check back regularly for timely access to these opportunities!

If you are looking to hire an epidemiologist with expertise in perinatal and/or pediatric health and would like to advertise your position on the SPER website, please click here to submit your contribution.

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