



SOCIETY FOR PEDIATRIC AND PERINATAL EPIDEMIOLOGIC RESEARCH
reproduction | pregnancy | fetal development | child | adolescent health

Dear colleagues,

In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, we have decided to reschedule SPER 2020 to December (immediately preceding SER 2020) at the same location in Boston, MA. We will be also be compressing this year's meeting to a one-day program; details on the program will be shared as soon as the revised meeting agenda is set, but we plan to hold sessions on Tuesday, December 15th.

Many of us look forward to our annual society gathering with colleagues and we are very pleased that we were able to reschedule despite these challenging times. We recognize that December can be a busy month, but we hope that everyone will make it a priority to join us for what promises to be another exciting Annual Meeting.

We know that you have questions. Below is a summary of the key points that we think you will want to know related to the rescheduling of the meeting.

Abstracts

All individuals who submitted abstracts will be provided instructions about how to indicate whether you plan to attend SPER 2020 in December and would like to keep your abstract under consideration for inclusion in the meeting program, or would like to withdraw your abstract from consideration. Keep in mind that we will be able to accommodate a change in presenters should that need arise (e.g., a trainee cannot attend, but the mentor can present the poster). We are working on a way to recognize those who have submitted abstracts that are accepted for presentation, but who are unable to attend in December and must withdraw the abstracts from consideration; more information to be shared when it is available.

Conference Program for SPER 2020

An updated conference program will be released when possible, but the meeting is planned to take place on Tuesday, December 15th. As soon as a draft program is available, it will be posted on the SPER website.

Advanced Methods Workshop

Because of the compressed format for the December meeting this year, the Advanced Methods Workshop will be held using an online format, with details including the final date still to be determined. If you have already registered for this year's on-site Workshop, you will be refunded and can register separately for the online Workshop.

Lodging

If you made a hotel reservation through the Society's website, you may find that your June reservation has already been canceled by the hotel. Please check, however, to be certain that your reservation has been canceled. December lodging information will be posted soon.

Conference Registration

If you have already registered SPER 2020, you will be able to transfer your registration fee to the December meeting or, if you are unable to attend the December meeting, cancel your registration and receive a full refund. If you have not yet registered for SPER 2020, registration for the December meeting will be available on the Society's website soon.

Awards

Review of nominations for SPER awards will happen on the originally scheduled timing. All of the usual awards will be presented at the December meeting.

If you have additional questions regarding the rescheduling of the meeting, please contact Sue Bevan, SPER's Administrative Manager, at sbevan@sper.org.

We hope that everyone is staying safe and healthy at home and we hope to see everyone in Boston in December.

On behalf of SPER's Executive Committee, best regards,

Brian Whitcomb, PhD
President, SPER