



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

2020 Business Meeting

Lauren Wise, ScD

President



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Executive Committee

- **Welcome to:**

- Lisa Bodnar (President Elect)
- Erinn Hade (Treasurer)
- Audrey Gaskins (Member-at-large)
- Sonia Grandi (Student representative)
- Siri Håberg (International Representative)



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Executive Committee

- **Farewell and thank you to:**
 - Courtney Lynch (Past President)
 - Neil Perkins (Treasurer)
 - Michael Kramer (Member-at-large)
 - Krista Wollny (Student representative)
 - Natasha Nassar (International representative)



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Secretary's Report

Sarah Keim



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Meeting Attendance

	2016 Miami	2017 Seattle	2018 Baltimore	2019 Minneapolis	2020 Virtual
Total Attendees	275	268	264	264	172
Students	121 (44%)	111 (41%)	109 (41%)	124 (47%)	85 (49%)
International*	51 (19%)	19 (7%)	22 (8%)	20 (8%)	17 (10%)
Methods Workshop	62	77	72	81	54

* All countries except Canada and United States



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Treasurer's Report

Neil Perkins/Erinn Hade



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Membership (prior to meeting)

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
North America*	239	251	236	222	315	303	310	315	375
Outside North America	20	31	26	11	36	30	31	25	30
Total	259	282	262	233	351	337	341	340	405
Non-Students	148	173	153	148	191	188	192	185	198
Students	111	109	109	85	160	149	149	155	207

* Contains members with unknown country



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FY2018/2019 Income Summary*

Donations	\$ 0
Dues	\$ 38,475
Interest	\$ 291
NICHD Grant	\$ 6,000
Meeting 2018 Income	\$ 80,420
Total	\$ 125,186

* Covers July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019



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FY2018/2019 Expense Summary*

2019 Meeting Expenses	\$ 70,405
Professional Fees	\$ 33,952
Bank and Transaction Fees	\$ 4,486
Journal Subscriptions	\$ 19,249
Web services	\$ 3,480
Insurance	\$ 1,403
Other	\$ 0
Total	\$ 132,975

* Covers July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019



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Annual Ending Balances

	Total Assets	Net Income
June 2011	\$ 96,731	\$ 37,106
June 2012	\$106,882	\$ 10,150
June 2013	\$ 123,324	\$ 16,442
June 2014	\$ 133,186	\$ 9,862
June 2015	\$127,689	-\$ 5,497
June 2016	\$159,942	\$ 32,253
June 2017	\$222,563	\$ 62,621
June 2018	\$224,397	\$ 1,834
June 2019	\$216,608	-\$ 7,788



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Moving Forward

- **Contract with Wiley**
 - Began Jan 2019 – 2 year contract
 - Fixed cost \$7500 (versus \$15-18,000 previously)
- **Meeting and Professional costs**
 - Will see ‘dip’ in income FY 2020 due to no in-person meeting
 - Increased number of webinars in 2020
 - Sue’s contract renegotiated Jan 2020
- **To stay balanced consider**
 - Reduce meeting costs (box lunches)
 - Increase income (membership fees)



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Abstracts Review Report

Michael R Kramer (outgoing)

Audrey J Gaskins (incoming)

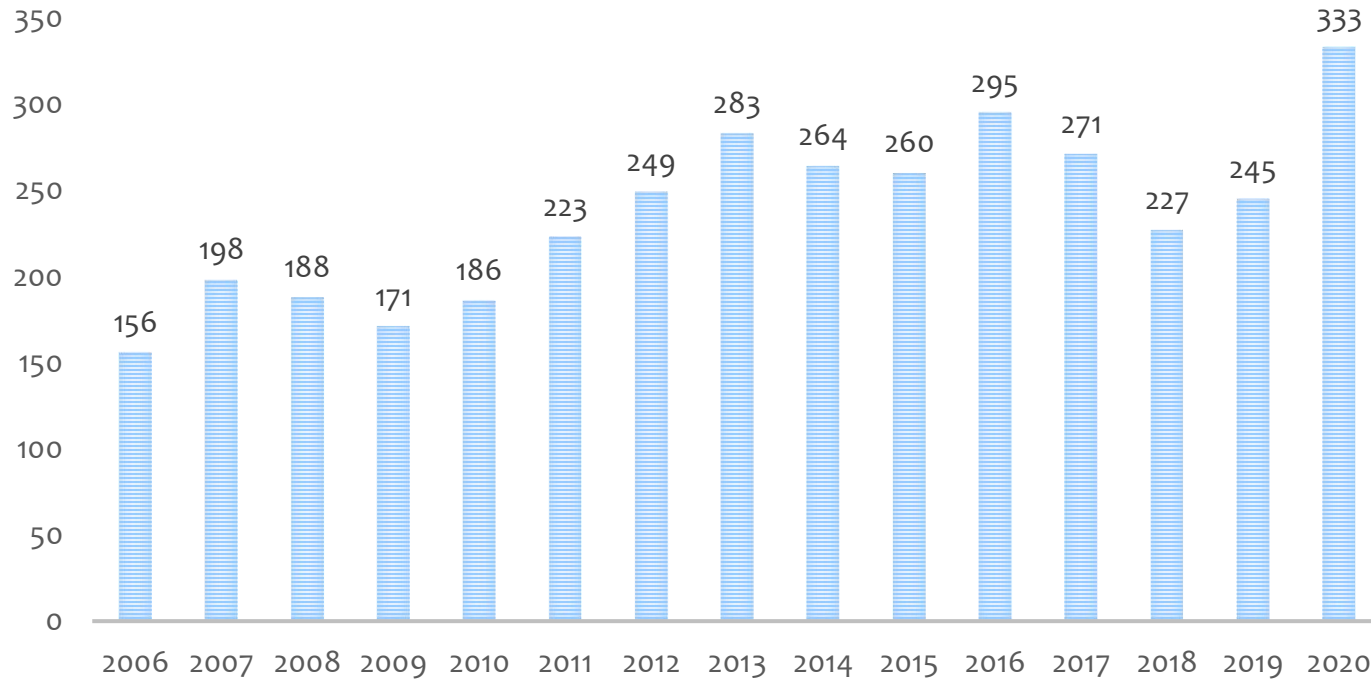
Abstract Submission 2020

- 333 total abstracts submitted
 - 22 oral presentations
 - (down from 34 in 2019)
 - 17 presentations as part of symposia
 - Abstracts for accepted posters by members to be published in *Paediatric and Perinatal Epidemiology*
 - 58% of all submissions from students/trainees
 - (up from 44% in 2019)



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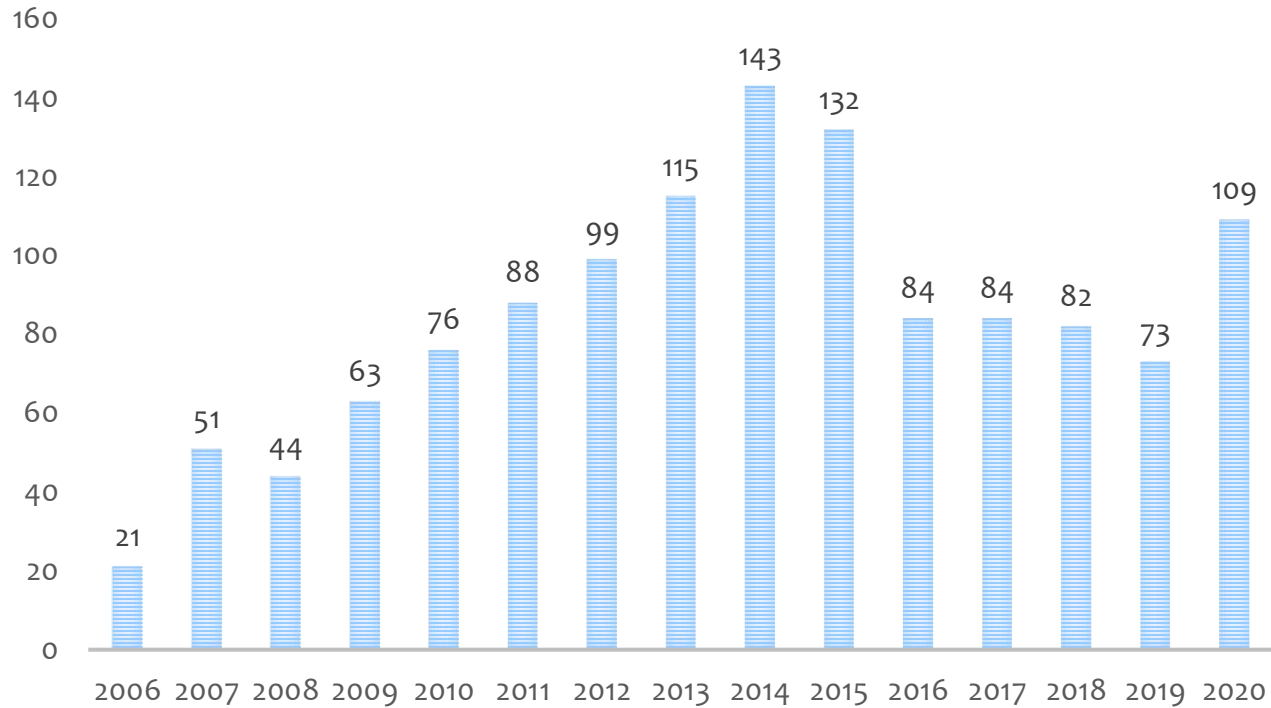
Trend in Abstract Submission



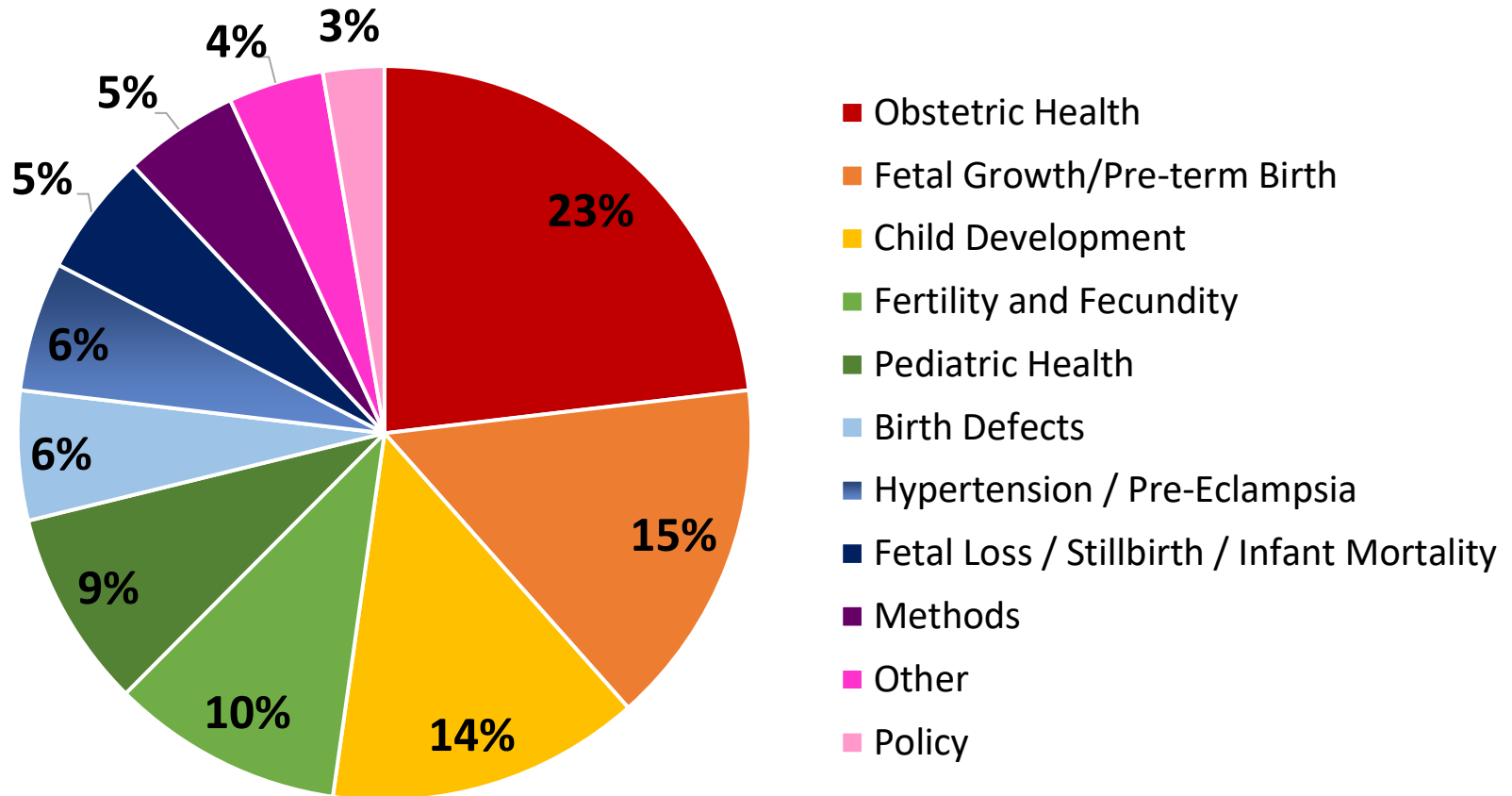


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Trend in Number of Reviewers



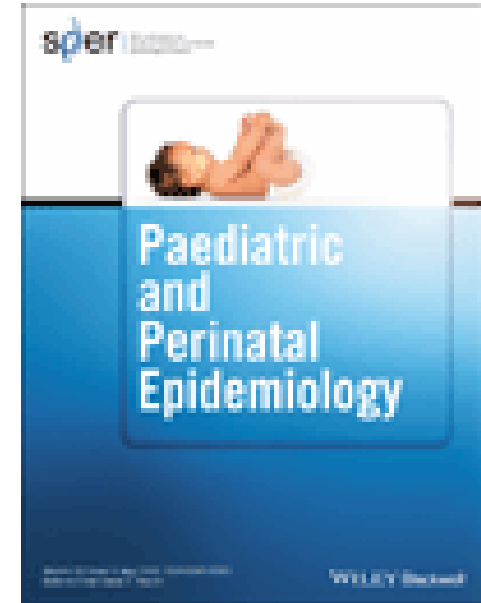
Abstract Submissions by Primary Category





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PPE Editor's Report



Cande V. Ananth
Editor-in-Chief



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Deputy Editor



Jennifer Zeitlin
Perinatal
Epidemiology



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Associate Editors



Sarah Keim
Pediatrics-Child Health
Epidemiology



Courtney Lynch
Reproductive
Epidemiology



Peter Anderson
Child Health
Epidemiology

New Associate Editors



Lauren Wise
Reproductive
Epidemiology



Natasha Nassar
Child health
Epidemiology



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Submission category: 2019-20

Submission category	Number (%) of papers
Pediatrics/neonatal	115 (27)
Child health	81 (19)
Reproductive	34 (8)
Perinatal	175 (41)
Study designs	7 (2)
Methodology	10 (2)
Total submissions	422

Submissions in 2019-20

Manuscript Type	Submitted Papers	Accepted Papers
Original manuscripts	358 (79%)	67 (19%)
Reviews	30 (7%)	4 (13%)
Brief reports	17 (4%)	3 (2%)
Methodology	10 (2%)	2 (4%)
Study designs	7 (2%)	4 (57%)
Commentaries	25 (6%)	20 (80%)
Editorials	2 (<1%)	2 (100%)
Letters	5 (1%)	5 (100%)
Total	454 (100%)	107 (24%)



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Median Turnaround Times 2019-20

Median Days to First Decision	Excluding papers without review
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All submissions

50

Median Days to Acceptance	Excluding papers without review
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All submissions

143

Data are median



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Acceptance Rates: 2019-20

Acceptance Rates

Reject

347 (76%)

Accept

107 (24%)

Based on decisions made between July 2019-June 2020



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Reviewers

- **2,146 invited reviews**
- **21% (n=449) accepted the invite**
- **685 reviews were completed**

Researchers, Authors and Reviewers: What are our Responsibilities?

Michael S. Kramer

Departments of Epidemiology, Biostatistics and Occupational Health and Pediatrics, Faculty of Medicine, McGill University, Montreal, Canada

One could argue that, given a reasonable rejection rate (mine, sadly, has not diminished despite age and experience), the **2 : 1 ratio of reviews to submissions** should be multiplied by the ratio of rejections to acceptances. But increasingly, some journals to which I



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Special Issues, 2020

- **Acetaminophen and Neurodevelopment**
 - Co-edited by Samantha Parker and Martha Werler
 - Published in May 2020
- **Maternal Health**
 - Co-edited by K.S. Joseph and Marian Knight
 - Published in July 2020
- **Leveraging Technology**
 - Co-edited by Courtney Lynch and Lauren Wise
 - Published in September 2020

Initiatives

- **New initiatives in place**
 - Flexible submission policy
 - Recruited two new associate editors
 - Recruited new social media editor: Dominique Heinke
 - Recruited 10 “junior editors”
 - Revised “Instructions to authors”
- **Planned initiatives for 2020-21**
 - Commission “expert reviews” on hot topics
 - Twitter posting for all papers starting in July 2019



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New Special Issues Forthcoming

- **Climate Change and Reproductive, Perinatal, and Pediatric Health**
 - Amelia Wesselink and Gregory Wellenius (guest editors)
 - 31 March 2021 deadline for submissions
- **Prognosis After Very Preterm Birth**
 - Jennifer Zeitlin and Peter Anderson (guest editors)
 - 30 June 2021 deadline for submissions
- **Infection During Pregnancy**
 - Annette Regan and Deshayne Fell (guest editors)
 - 30 June 2021 deadline for submissions



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Social Media

- **Facebook (1,633 followers)**
<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Society-for-Pediatric-and-Perinatal-Epidemiologic-Research/135879141953>
- **Twitter**
https://twitter.com/PPE_Journal (739 followers)
https://twitter.com/SPER_News (1,156 followers)
- **Courtney Lynch**



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President's Report

Lauren Wise

lwise@bu.edu



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Goals of my term

To reinforce efforts to improve **diversity, equity, & inclusion (DEI)** in all facets of SPER:

- SPER is fully committed to promoting actions that confront systemic racism and injustice both within and outside of the Society.
- Our long-term and sustained work:
 - Listen to members from historically oppressed or underrepresented backgrounds
 - Address inequitable structures and processes
 - Create inclusive environments
 - Provide opportunities to highlight research on injustice and inequity in RPP health along intersecting dimensions of race, ethnicity, gender, sexual identity, socioeconomic status, disability status, and other factors
- SPER is committed to supporting the research and careers of BIPOC members by recognizing the barriers they face and will take steps to expand participation of individuals from underrepresented groups within and outside of the Society.



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Initiatives

- Since 2018, SPER formed new committees (<https://sper.org/committees/>) to increase opportunities for member involvement.
- Outreach Committee (Chair: Dr. Claire Margerison) & DEI Subcommittee oversee efforts to improve DEI in the Society. New initiatives:
 - Offer travel awards to promote equity, diversity, and inclusion
 - Reduce financial barriers to joining SPER (e.g., waivers, bundled memberships, sponsorship fund)
 - Increase transparency by which SPER selects leadership, content, and moderators (detailed in new “SPER processes” document, to be posted 12/31)
 - Include at least one standing member from DEI committee on Program Committee
 - Increase mentorship and support of junior members
 - Revise abstract submission categories
 - Encourage speakers at sessions to reflect on how their work impacts health equity
 - Evaluate success via improved data collection and analysis



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Keynote speaker 2021

- **Dr. Elizabeth Howell** is a physician, researcher, and advocate committed to improving the health and well-being of women.
 - Chair of OB/GYN Dept University of Pennsylvania
 - Research foci: racial and ethnic inequities in maternal and child health, postpartum depression, and maternal and infant mortality
 - Recognized for shaping national policy and implementing strategies to **reduce racial disparities in maternal and infant mortality**
 - To learn more:
<https://www.penmedicine.org/updates/blogs/womens-health/2020/september/meet-elizabeth-howell-md>





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Open DEI meeting

- DEI committee is hosting open meeting with theme: “So SPER has a DEI committee, how can it work best for you?”
- We welcome any past, present, or future SPER member to join us at our next SPER Diversity, Equity, Inclusion committee meeting on January 14th at 4 ET/3 CT/2 MT/1 PT. Potential topics include, but are not limited to:
 - What’s working and what’s not working?
 - Do you plan on attending the 2021 SPER Annual Meeting?
 - If not, what are some potential barriers we can help address?
- If you would like to submit a question, suggestion, or comment prior to the meeting, we will circulate an anonymous feedback poll ahead of time. We plan to discuss these comments during the meeting.
- Stay tuned: we will be adding a poll and information about how to attend meeting via email, Twitter, and SPER website



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Feedback?

- **Outreach and engagement**
 - SPER Committees, Student Group
 - Website material, webinars, online events, social media
 - Meeting format – request for feedback
- **Revision to By-Laws (Brian & Siri)**
 - Plan: post to website in December, vote in early 2021
 - Finances: change in dues proposal to address increase in operating expenses and projected loss for 2020. Proposal:
 - Increase regular dues from \$190 to \$200
 - Increase student dues from \$20 to \$30



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QUESTIONS and SUGGESTIONS



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SPER
June 21-22, 2021
San Diego, CA, USA



Suggestions? Email me: lwise@bu.edu