



**Executive Committee  
(2021-2022)**

**President:**

Lisa Bodnar

**Past-President:**

Lauren Wise

**President-Elect:**

Jaime Slaughter-Acey

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Sarah Keim

**Treasurer:**

Erinn Hade

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Audrey Gaskins

Claire Margerison

Kristen Rappazzo

**International  
Representative:**

Siri Haberg

**Student Representative:**

Luther-King Fasehun

**Administrator:**

Sue Bevan

# SPER Winter Newsletter

## President's Corner

Dear friends and colleagues,

Let me be the 5000<sup>th</sup> person to extend my wishes that you are holding up as we begin year 3 of this pandemic. When I agreed to run for President in 2020, I never imagined that we would still be concerned about this virus affecting the SPER annual meeting in 2022. But here we are!



The SPER Executive Committee is continuing to plan an in-person [annual meeting in Chicago, June 13-14, 2022](#). As most of you know, our meeting is tied so closely to the Society for Epidemiologic Research (SER) annual meeting that the decisions SER makes about their annual meeting (whether it will be in-person and what Covid safety protocols are in place) will be the ones SPER will follow. SER will make this decision mid-April. I share your frustration that we will not have a final plan until April, and the discomfort that goes along with this uncertainty. However, we have all learned that it is hard to predict today what our world will look like in the next few months. In the meantime, [book your hotel room](#) before the hotel fills, and [register](#) for the meeting!

We are happy to have received about 250 submitted abstracts to the annual meeting! Thank you to everyone who reviewed abstracts. If you wish to review next year, please check your membership profile.

The Program Planning Committee is working hard to evaluate all of your abstracts and put together sessions with the most interesting, innovative work you submitted! We originally told you we would have decisions to share on April 1, but with the Covid timeline setbacks, we will aim for emailing you by April 22 instead. Apologies for the delay. I know that many of you are waiting to book your travel. I promise that we will have these decisions to you as soon as possible! Thank you for your patience!

We are thrilled that [Dr. Rachel Hardeman](#) will present our keynote address at the meeting entitled, "Momma! An exploration of the intersections of reproductive justice and police violence." Dr. Hardeman's research, advocacy, writing, teaching, and activism seek to dismantle structures, institutions, and systems that allow racial health inequities to persist. Dr. Hardeman's message is inspiring! I can't wait to hear her address our society! The meeting will also include 4 symposia on exciting, timely topics in pediatric and perinatal epidemiology. Thanks to all who submitted symposia! I wish we could take them all.

The SPER Student and Postdoc Committee has planned a great [Advanced Methods Workshop](#) as part of our annual meeting. The workshop will be held on Monday, June 13, 2022 at noon. The theme is "Time-Dependent Exposures and Selective Testing in Pregnancy: SARS-CoV-2, COVID-19, and Preeclampsia." Register for the workshop when you register for the meeting!

Lastly, SPER is seeking [nominations for open positions](#) on the Executive Committee: President, Secretary, and Member-at-Large. I have found the experience of participating on the Executive Committee to be incredibly fulfilling, and I am happy to give back to the society that has provided me with so much as my career has progressed. Nominations are due March 25<sup>th</sup>. It's fine to nominate yourself!

I am very excited to see all of your faces in 3D (fingers crossed!) June 13-14, 2022 in Chicago! Please reach out to me if you have any questions, comments, or complaints! The Executive Committee is here to serve and represent you!

Lisa Bodnar

President, SPER 2021 – 2022

[lbodnar@pitt.edu](mailto:lbodnar@pitt.edu)

@lisabodnar

### Thank you to the 2022 Annual Meeting Program Committee!

|                          |                    |                    |                  |
|--------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| Farland, Leslie          | Rappazzo, Kristen  | Yu, Ya-Hui         | Paneth, Nigel    |
| Ahrens, Katherine        | Ncube, Collette    | Oken, Emily        | Perng, Wei       |
| Chin, Helen              | Yang, Seungmi      | Bircan, Emine      | Regan, Annette   |
| Jukic, Anne Marie        | Cohen, Jacqueline  | Buckley, Jessie    | Shivakoti, Rupak |
| Kaufman, Menolly         | Grandi, Sonia      | Fan, Qiping        | Widen, Elizabeth |
| Mahalingaiah, Shruthi    | Hedderson, Monique | Ghassabian, Akhgar |                  |
| Papatheodorou, Stefania  | Hinkle, Stefanie   | Kirby, Russell     |                  |
| Purdue-Smithe, Alexandra | Mitro, Susanna     | Nguyen, Ruby       |                  |

### Thank you to the 2022 Abstract Reviewers!

|                    |                   |                    |                  |                   |                            |
|--------------------|-------------------|--------------------|------------------|-------------------|----------------------------|
| Penelope Howards   | Emily Oken        | Angela Lupattelli  | Jennifer Jairam  | Annette Regan     | Stefania Papatheodorou     |
| Danelle Lobdell    | Amy Padula        | Sabrina Luke       | Anne Marie Jukic | Emine Bircan      | Ixel Hernandez-Castro      |
| Izzuddin Aris      | Sarah Haight      | Kaitlyn Stanhope   | Jacqueline Cohen | Anna Booman       | Menolly Kaufman            |
| Rana Chehab        | Tracy Bastain     | Edwina Yeung       | Danielle Stevens | Seungmi Yang      | Jingyuan Xiao Xiao         |
| Mark Klebanoff     | Stephanie Leonard | Pengfei Guo        | Cande Ananth     | Sarah Keim        | Ruby Barnard-Mayers        |
| Ginna Doss         | Helen Chin        | Mrudula Naidu      | Kristen Upson    | Olga Basso        | Carolyn Drews-Botsch       |
| Nicole Talge       | Colleen Reynolds  | Anna Pollack       | Candice Johnson  | Carolyn Cramoy    | Susanna Mitro              |
| Sonia Grandi       | Jessie Buckley    | Bethany Rand       | Elizabeth Kamai  | Audrey Gaskins    | Kimberly McKee             |
| Elizabeth Widen    | Katherine Ahrens  | Anita Subramanian  | Tona Pitt        | Yu Zhang          | Vanessa Short              |
| Ronee Wilson       | Kristen Rappazzo  | Jennifer Dunne     | Carolyn Cesta    | Andrew Williams   | Florence Martin            |
| Sheree Boulet      | Sunni Mumford     | Zohra Lassi        | Vida Rebello     | Katie Tastad      | Diana Soria-Contreras      |
| Eric Rubenstein    | Abidemi Okechukwu | Catherine Vladutiu | Courtney Walker  | Anjel Vahratian   | Dongqing Wang              |
| Lisa Bodnar        | Safiya Soullane   | Sharonda Lovett    | Valery Danilack  | Rupak Shivakoti   | Stephani Kim               |
| Kelly Strutz       | Eugene Wong       | Janet Aucoin       | Hannah R. Murphy | Asma Ahmed        | Gentiane Perrault Sullivan |
| Katherine Pohlman  | Melissa Amyx      | Sylvia Badon       | Lisa Rokoff      | Christine Langton | Alexandra Purdue-Smithe    |
| Kyle Campbell      | Lina Dimitrov     | Tim Ciesielski     | Joanna Merckx    | Stefanie Hinkle   | Myriam Carol Afeiche Zehil |
| Nedghie Adrien     | Joanna Marroquin  | Monique Hedderson  | Giehae Choi      | Andres Cardenas   | Estifanos Baye             |
| Sara Stephens      | Kyera Actkins     | Fasil Tekola-Ayele | Katherine Grantz | Collette Ncube    | Ugochinyere Vivian Ukah    |
| Natalie Rosenquist | Marni Jacobs      |                    |                  |                   |                            |

## Save the Date: 2022 SPER Annual Meeting

June 13-14, 2022

Chicago, Illinois

### Registration Information

#### Advanced Methods Workshop:

Register now for the 2022 SPER Advanced Methods Workshop, “Time-Dependent Exposures and Selective Testing in Pregnancy: SARS-CoV-2, COVID-19, and Pre-Eclampsia,” led by Chelsea Messinger from Harvard University and Harvard Medical School, and Louisa Smith, PhD from the Roux Institute at Northeastern University **This workshop will immediately precede the SPER Annual**



**Meeting, from 12:00-3:00 pm on Monday, June 13.** To learn more about the Advanced Methods Workshop, please [click here](#).

#### Annual Meeting:

Registration fees for the Annual Meeting includes admission to all sessions (keynote, other oral sessions, and the poster sessions), continental breakfast, and refreshment breaks. **The annual meeting will begin at 4:00 pm following the conclusion of the Advanced Methods workshop on Monday, June 13, and finish at 6:00 pm on Tuesday, June 14.** A preliminary program for the meeting is on the SPER website, [found here](#).

[Click here](#) to register for the Advanced Methods Workshop and the Annual Meeting! The deadline for early registration is **Monday, May 13th**. Please join us!

### Accommodations

A block of rooms has been reserved at the Sheraton Grand Chicago, the venue for our 2022 Annual Meeting. [Click here](#) to book your special-rate accommodations!

### [Fun Run 5K \(/Walk 1 mile\)](#)

Experience downtown Chicago by participating in our annual Fun Run! This SPER and SER-sponsored event will take place on the morning of Wednesday, June 15. Cost is \$30 and includes a T-shirt. If you are interested in registering for this event, please [click here](#). Hope to see you there!



## 2022 Awards

Student Prize Paper Award, Mentoring Award, Rising Star Award, Student/Trainee Poster Awards Award applications are now undergoing evaluation, thank you to everyone who submitted! Information on how the awards are evaluated can be found [here](#) under each specific award.

## Poster Judges Needed!

Get to know the next generation of reproductive, pediatric and perinatal epidemiologists by volunteering to serve as a poster judge at the upcoming Annual Meeting. Your involvement would entail visiting up to five presentations during one of the two scheduled poster sessions. If you are able to help, please contact Luther-King Fasehun (SPER Student & Post-Doc Representative) at [luther-king.fasehun@temple.edu](mailto:luther-king.fasehun@temple.edu). Thank you!

## Nominate and Vote for Executive Committee Members!

Elections are being held for **President** (2022-2025), one **Member-at-Large** (2022-2026), **Secretary** (2022-2025), and **SPER Student Representative** (2022-2023). Nominations are being accepted through Friday March 25<sup>th</sup>. You may nominate yourself or others! All terms will begin at the close of the June 2022 Annual Meeting. Candidate statements will be available on the website soon.

## Upcoming Events!

The imperative for including pregnant women in vaccine trials: successes, challenges, and future avenues for vaccine trials in Africa.

Webinar, May 10<sup>th</sup>, 10:00-11:45AM EST

The webinar speakers will include Dr. Etienne Karita (“Evaluating safety and immunogenicity of an Ebola vaccine for pregnant women: considerations for trial design”), Dr. Sara Healy (“Advancements toward development and testing a malaria vaccine for pregnant women in Africa: a path for a more inclusive vaccine R&D agenda”), Dr. Sonali Kochhar (“Lessons learned from COVID-19 vaccines for pregnant women: Safety, efficacy, and effectiveness assessments”), and Dr. Carleigh Krubiner (“Ethical issues with vaccine studies during pregnancy in Africa: COVID-19, Ebola, malaria, and other infections”). The webinar will be moderated by Drs. Kristin Wall and Jodie Dionne.

## **Special Issue of *Paediatric and Perinatal Epidemiology* – Call for Submissions!**

### **Big data in Perinatal Epidemiology: Methodologic Considerations**

Guest Editors: Julia F. Simard and Kristin Palmsten

*Paediatric and Perinatal Epidemiology* invites submissions exploring, highlighting, and/or proposing solutions to methodologic issues arising from perinatal epidemiologic research in “big data.” In addition to submissions demonstrating sources of bias in this work, we are interested in research highlighting important steps forward to address these challenges, including validation studies that may help inform future bias analysis. We are also interested in profile papers describing big data sources for perinatal research that may foster future collaborations. Some topics of interest include (but are not limited to):

- Bias (e.g. misclassification and measurement error, selection bias, immortal time bias, informed presence bias, left truncation, confounding)
- Identification and estimation of critical perinatal events (e.g., pregnancy, loss, post-partum complications)
- Analytic tools (e.g., bias analysis, machine learning, competing risks approaches)
- Disparities and health equity research
- Expanding frontiers in perinatal health and big data (e.g., telehealth, doula support, lactation, universal health screening data)

Submissions should address questions related to reproduction, pregnancy, perinatal and neonatal health, lactation, or child health outcomes.

The deadline for submissions is **31 July 2022**. This special issue is intended for publication in early 2023. Early access versions of accepted articles will be available online soon after acceptance.

## Committee Changes

Thank you to Theresa Chapple-McGruder for her service! Kristen Rappazzo will be taking over as Member-at-Large 2022-2025.

### Join a Committee! Opportunities for member involvement

Are you interested in getting more involved in SPER? Consider joining one of our five standing committees! They include the:

- **Communications Committee**, working to shape our social media presence and policy (as well as the newsletters)
- **Outreach Committee**, spearheading efforts to promote diversity, equity, and inclusion in the Society
- **Digital Engagement Committee**, coordinating our online seminar series throughout the year;
- **Equity Advisory Board**, ensuring that equity is prioritized across all aspects of SPER programming. The Equity Advisory Board will be seeking new members to start a 2 year term in June 2022. If people are interested in joining, they can send the committee chair ([margeris@msu.edu](mailto:margeris@msu.edu)) a brief statement that introduces themselves and describes why they would like to be on the EAB
- **Student and Postdoc Working Group**, planning student-focused events and promote student engagement with the Society

[Click here](#) for our “Committees” page on the SPER website where you can find more information about these groups as well as links to join them

### Membership Renewal Time!

It's time to renew your SPER membership for 2022! Benefits include discounted registration rates for the annual meeting; access to the online jobs and fellowships board; participation in the electronic mailing list; subscription to *Paediatric and Perinatal Epidemiology* – and more! If you would like to join SPER (or know a colleague who does), [click here](#) to complete the membership application.

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

Explore the SPER jobs & fellowships bank [here](#). It currently has 15 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.

## Follow SPER!

Keep a look out for our Spring newsletter in the future, and in the meantime, check our website or follow us on Twitter/Facebook for society updates!



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