



## Executive Committee (2022-2023)

### President:

Jaime Slaughter-Acey

### Past-President:

Lisa Bodnar

### President-Elect:

Penelope (Penny) Howards

### Secretary:

Helen Chin

### Treasurer:

Erinn Hade

### Members-at-Large:

Bola Grace

Audrey Gaskins

Anne Marie Jukic

Kristen Rappazzo

### International Representative:

Siri Haberg

### Student Representative:

Menolly Kaufman

### Administrator:

Sue Bevan

# SPER Winter Newsletter

## President's Corner

Dear Colleagues,

Happy 2023! It's hard to believe our Annual Meeting in Portland, OR is less than four months away. I want to share updates on 1) what the SPER executive committee has been working on since the 2022 Annual Meeting in Chicago, IL; 2) planning for the upcoming 2023 Annual Meeting in Portland; and 3) upcoming events.

We are excited to report that SPER received an unprecedented number of abstract submissions for an in-person annual meeting! On average, the society has received 240 to 250 abstracts per in-person annual meeting since moving to an online submission system in 2009. **This year SPER received 318 submitted abstracts for the 2023 Annual Meeting in Portland.** Thank you to every member who participated in the abstract review. If you wish to participate in the abstract review process for the 2024 Annual Meeting that will be held in Austin, Tx, please make sure you have an active SPER membership. Membership is renewable annually and active for the calendar year dues are paid (expiring 12/31).

I'm also happy to report that we received an overwhelming number of volunteers for the Program Planning Committee. Yes, y'all filled my inbox! I received a response to our call for volunteers from more than 80 people. We are working hard to assemble the Program Planning Committee and evaluate all abstracts so that we can organize the sessions with the impactful and innovative work you submitted! Abstract decisions will be shared in April.

The preliminary program is now available on SPER's website (<https://sper.org/annual-meeting-2/>). The SPER Student and Postdoc Committee has planned a great advanced methods workshop with Dr. Allison Gemmill (Johns Hopkins University) and will focus on the use of interrupted times series approaches for evaluating the impacts of population or demographic shocks in relation to reproductive, perinatal, and pediatric outcomes. The workshop will be held on Monday, June 12, 2023 at noon. You can register for the workshop when you register for the annual meeting.



To accommodate the large volume of abstract submissions we will once again hold concurrent oral sessions. We will also be hosting four symposia organized by members at various career stages.

- Symposium 1: Developmental impacts of socioeconomic status on maternal and child health: The role of perceived inequality.
- Symposium 2: SGA at a dead end? Time for a paradigm shift.
- Symposium 3: Shifting towards strengths-based approaches for Indigenous family health.
- Symposium 4: Pinpointing homogenous groups in heterogeneous data: applications of latent trajectory modeling in perinatal and pediatric research.

Lastly, **we are currently seeking nominations for open positions on the SPER Executive Committee: President, Treasurer, Member-at-Large, Student Representative, and International Representative.** I personally have enjoyed participating on the Executive Committee. I have found it to be a rewarding experience in several ways. During the past year and a half, I have had opportunities to expand my professional network and connect with members, work closely with those whom I esteem, and address behind-the-scenes processes that affect equity, diversity, and inclusion in the Society. I give back to SPER because I want each member to feel seen, valued, and welcomed. *Nominations are due March 18th. If you are interested it's totally ok to nominate yourself! Nominations should be sent to Anne Marie Jukic at [jukica@niehs.nih.gov](mailto:jukica@niehs.nih.gov) or can be submitted online through the SPER website. <https://sper.org/executive-committee-call-for-nominations/>*

I look forward to seeing you in June in Portland!

Jaime Slaughter

**Jaime C. Slaughter-Acey, PhD, MPH**

*SPER President*

*Associate Professor*

Division of Epidemiology and Community Health

School of Public Health

**University of Minnesota**

1300 South Second Street, Suite 300

Minneapolis, MN 55454

E-mail: [jslaught@umn.edu](mailto:jslaught@umn.edu)

Twitter: @DrSlaughter99

## Save the Date: 2023 SPER Annual Meeting

June 12 - 13 2023

Portland, Oregon

### Registration Information

#### Advanced Methods Workshop:

Register now for the 2023 SPER Advanced Methods Workshop led by Alison Gemmill from Johns Hopkins University. **This workshop will immediately precede the SPER Annual Meeting on Monday, June 12.** To learn more about the Advanced Methods Workshop, please [click here](#).



#### Annual Meeting:

Registration is now open ([click here for link](#)). 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 on Monday, June 12, following the Advanced Methods Workshop and finish on Tuesday, June 13.**

[Click here](#) to register for the Advanced Methods Workshop and the Annual Meeting! The deadline for early registration is **Monday, May 12th**. Please join us!

### Accommodations

A block of rooms has been reserved at the Marriott Portland Downtown Waterfront, the venue for our 2023 Annual Meeting. [Click here](#) to book your special-rate accommodations!

## [2023 Awards](#)

Nominations for the Student Prize Paper Award, Mentoring Award, Rising Star Award, and the Travel Award to Promote Equity close on March 6<sup>th</sup>, 11:59pm PST. award submissions. Honor a special colleague by nominating them. Applications for the Heinz Berendes Award are now undergoing evaluation, thank you to everyone who submitted! Click [here](#) to view details on how the awards are evaluated 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 Menolly Kaufman (SPER Student & Post-Doc Representative) at [harme@ohsu.edu](mailto:harme@ohsu.edu). Thank you!

## [European Perinatal and Pediatric Epidemiology Conference \(EPEC\)](#)

We are proud to announce that the first ever **European Perinatal and Pediatric Epidemiology Conference (EPEC)** will be held on September 28<sup>th</sup> in beautiful Stockholm, Sweden.

In this first European conference in perinatal and pediatric epidemiology, we wish to create an arena for collaboration, development and fostering of perinatal and pediatric epidemiological research in Europe as well as world-wide by bringing together world-class researchers in the field. The conference is aimed at researchers interested in epidemiologic research applied on life-course epidemiology combined with reproduction, and child health.

Confirmed speakers for the conference, in alphabetical order are: ***Cande Ananth, Sven Cnattingius, Siri Eldevik Håberg, Deshayne Fell, Håkon Gjessing, KS Joseph, Deborah A Lawlor, Nils-Halvdan Morken, Anne-Marie Nybo Andersen, Jonathan Snowden, Olof Stephansson, Allen Wilcox, and Jennifer Zeitlin.***

Please visit the website [here](#) for more information

## ***Nominate and Vote for Executive Committee Members!***

Nominations are being sought for President (2023-2026), one Member-at-Large (2023-2027), Treasurer (2023-2026), International Representative (2023-2026), and SPER Student Representative (2023-2024). All terms will begin at the close of the June 2023 Annual Meeting. Members of SPER are encouraged to nominate themselves or any other member of SPER to run for these positions, and help our Society achieve continued success through this opportunity for professional service.

The **President** will serve as President Elect (2023-2024), President (2024-2025), and Past President (2025-2026). The main duties of the President-Elect are to help the President develop plans for the Annual Meeting and to chair the selection of the Student Prize Paper Award Recipient. The President designs the program for the Annual Meeting and is responsible for the Executive Committee's decision-making. The Past President chairs the selection of the Heinz Berendes International Travel Award recipient and provides input as needed.

The **Member-at-Large** participates in all Executive Committee activities. The Member-at-Large elected this cycle will be responsible for managing the Digital Engagement Committee and SPER annual elections. This member will replace Anne Marie Jukic.

The **Student Representative** participates in Executive Committee meetings, encourages and facilitates student participation in SPER and plans the Advanced Methods Workshop, which precedes the Annual Meeting. This member will replace Menolly Kaufman.

The **Treasurer** is involved in all Executive Committee activities and will work with SPER staff to manage the Society's finances, process membership payments, and prepare financial reports. This member will replace Erinn Hade.

The **International Representative** (to replace Siri Haberg) participates in all Executive Committee activities, including monthly conference calls. This representative serves as a link between SPER and the pediatric and perinatal epidemiologic research communities outside of North America, with a goal of increasing SPER membership across the globe. To be eligible, the individual must reside full-time in a country outside North America.

This call for nominations will be posted on the SPER website. Nominations are due by March 18, 2023 and should be sent to Anne Marie Jukic at [jukica@niehs.nih.gov](mailto:jukica@niehs.nih.gov) or can be submitted online through the SPER website. Nominees will be asked to submit a candidate statement by the above deadline. You can also contact Anne Marie by email for more information. The slate of candidates and ballot will be presented to the membership for electronic voting to take place in April 2023.

## **Upcoming Events!**

See [SPER's Online Events page](#) for details and registration links!

*March 28, 12 pm eastern time:* SPC Journal Club: Postnatal Contraception after In Vitro Fertilization (IVF) – what do women need?

The Student/Post-Doc Committee (SPC) invites you to a discussion with Dr. Anette Thwaites from University College London on postpartum contraception after in vitro fertilization (IVF). She will be discussing her recently published work “**Contraception after in vitro fertilization (IVF): a qualitative study of the views of women who have had spontaneous pregnancies after successful IVF**” published in *Reproductive Health*. There are many different reasons why women can have problems getting pregnant, and in a quarter of cases the cause is never found. Globally, over 8 million babies have been born using IVF. Some women, who have babies using IVF, get pregnant again afterward without fertility treatment. Getting pregnant again quickly, or when a woman isn't ready, can have health consequences for the mother and the baby. Dr. Thwaites work aims to understand what

*April 18th, 12-1:30pm:* Acetaminophen use during pregnancy and neurodevelopmental issues among offspring

*May 30, 12-1:30pm:* Climate change and women and children's health

*Sept 19th, 12-1:30pm:* Breastfeeding within social, behavioral, and structural correlates – current research among diverse samples

## **Paediatric and Perinatal Epidemiology**

Cande V. Ananth

Editor-in-Chief

This year marks the completion of *Paediatric and Perinatal Epidemiology's* 35<sup>th</sup> year! The first issue of PPE was rolled out in April 1987, stewarded by our founding (now emeritus) Editor-in-Chief, Jean Golding. We have come a long way since! Several new initiatives have been introduced in PPE in 2022-23.

With the help of our deputy editor, Jennifer Zeitlin, we reconstituted our journal's editorial board which took effect in January 2023. Look out for the updates on our journal's home page. We recently recruited 8 talented young minds as our third batch of junior editors. During the two-year period (2023-24), these junior editors will oversee the processing of manuscripts through various stages of academic publishing – from first submission to an eventual acceptance (or sadly, a rejection). The new junior editors include:

Asma Ahmed, Toronto, Canada	Collette N. Ncube, Boston, USA
Joanne Given, Belfast, UK	Neda Razaz, Stockholm, Sweden
Sonia Grandi, Toronto, Canada	Sarah E. Seaton, Leicester, UK
Rheanna Mainzer, Victoria, Australia	U. Vivian Ukah, Minneapolis, USA

Other new developments with PPE are that we have transitioned to an online-only Journal, and we have gone from 6 to 8 issues a year. The two additional issues in 2024 will be earmarked for our upcoming special issues

- *Paediatric and Perinatal Pharmacoepidemiology* (co-edited by Sonia Hernandez-Diaz and Robert Platt)
- *Impact of Obstetrical Complications on Chronic Health Along the Life Course* (co-edited by Cande Ananth and Sonia Grandi)

We welcome submissions to the special issues (and regular submissions too!), and further details can be found on the Journal's [webpage](#).

### ***Join a Committee! Opportunities for member involvement and leadership***

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

- **Communications Committee**, working to shape our social media presence, newsletters, and communications policies
- **Outreach Committee**, promoting awareness and increasing accessibility of the Society to help grow the membership. This committee has the responsibility of overseeing initiatives aimed at recruitment of new members, retention of existing members, and expanding the Society's reach. We are looking for more people to join our group, particularly those from diverse backgrounds.
- **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 EAB meets approximately 4 times per year to review existing SPER activities and programming and to develop new initiatives to promote equity.
- **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 2023! 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.

Memberships run from January 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup> no matter when you renew, so renew early for more SPER value!

### ***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.

### ***SPER Members in the News Highlights***

Members of the Society for Pediatric and Perinatal Epidemiologic Research (SPER) do a lot of fantastic research and we would love to highlight the work that everyone is doing! We invite members (and especially student and post-doctoral members) to provide information about recent media reports covering their work or quoting them, publications, or major events (awards, dissertation defense announcements) for the @SPER\_News twitter account to promote and share.

Please fill out the form [here](#) if you'd like to be highlighted!

### ***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!



**@SPER\_News**

**Search: SPER**