



SPER Newsletter (Spring/Summer 2023)

President's Corner

Dear colleagues,

Our Annual Meeting in Portland OR is just about one month away! We have a very exciting program planned for this year's meeting. I would like to thank the Program Committee, abstract and award reviewers, and executive committee members for all their hard work in helping me to develop the program. Prior to the start of the meeting, we will have the Methods Workshop, organized by our Student and Post-doc Working Group, led by Allison Gemmill. The workshop will address the use of interrupted times series approaches for evaluating the impacts of population shocks on health. It promises to be a great session!



The meeting will officially kick off mid-afternoon Monday with two amazing concurrent symposia. Julia Bittner (formerly Porth) will be leading a symposium on the developmental impacts of socioeconomic status on maternal and child health, while Allen Wilcox and colleagues revisit the study of SGA and FGR. Both symposia look great, and it will be hard to choose. Following the symposia, we will have the Welcome Reception and Poster Session A.

Tuesday morning, we will be starting things off with a wonderful breakfast and amazing keynote address given by Jessica Sanigaq Ullrich, an Inupiaq scholar, a tribal citizen of Nome Eskimo Community and a descendant of Kijigin- the Native Village of Wales. Dr. Ullrich's work uses digital storytelling with Alaska Native youth and focuses on culturally based curriculum development, tribal child welfare prevention efforts, and connectedness for multiple systems change. Following the keynote addresses, we will have two exciting symposia and, 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.

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

The annual meeting is also a moment of transition. My term as President ends on June 13th and we will welcome the current President-elect Penelope Howards as President. It has been my pleasure to serve as President for SPER this past year. I'm looking forward to seeing everyone in Portland! Safe travels.

Jaime C. Slaughter-Acey, PhD, MPH

Assistant Professor

Division of Epidemiology and Community Health

School of Public Health

University of Minnesota

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Website: <https://www.jaimeslaughter-acey.com/>

Twitter: @DrSlaughter99

2023 SPER Annual Meeting

Monday, June 12 & Tuesday, June 13

Advanced Methods Workshop (Registration required)

The 2023 Advanced Methods Workshop will focus on evaluating impacts of population shocks using an interrupted time series approach and will be led by Allison Gemmill on Monday June 12th, noon to 3pm. [Click here](#) for more information and to register!



Annual Meeting Program (Registration required)

We have pulled together an exciting line-up of reproductive, perinatal, and pediatric research presentations for the program on June 12-13th!

Our Annual Meeting program includes:

- Concurrent contributed sessions
 - Examining Perinatal Health Disparities Across Marginalized and Minoritized Populations
 - Women's Health: A Focus on Endometriosis, Adenomyosis, and Fibroids
 - Determinants of neurobehavioral health in childhood and adolescence: evidence across cohorts & methodologies.
 - Advancing Perinatal Epidemiology: Approaches to Addressing Causality, Confounding, and Bias
 - Gynecologic Health, Fertility, and Environmental Exposures
 - Concurrent Contributed Session 6: Children's social environments, health care, and wellbeing
- Symposia
 - Developmental impacts of socioeconomic status on maternal and child health: The role of perceived inequality
 - SGA at a dead end? Time for a paradigm shift
 - Shifting towards strengths-based approaches for Indigenous family health.
 - Pinpointing homogenous groups in heterogeneous data: applications of latent trajectory modeling in perinatal & pediatric research.
- A keynote presentation by Jessica Sanigaq Ullrich, MSW, PhD (Washington State University) on *Indigenous Connectedness for Child and Collective Wellbeing*
- Two poster sessions
- SPER Award presentations and plenary presentations
- SPER Business meeting
- Snack breaks!
- [Click here](#) for the Annual Meeting program!

Annual Meeting Registration

[Click here](#) for more information and to register!

Twitter Posters (optional)

Looking for an additional opportunity to engage with the SPER membership about your research?



Consider making a Twitter Poster! The process is simple:

- [Use this template](#) (optimized aspect ratio for Twitter) to create three slides that summarize key points from your presentation. credit: Mike Morrison.
- Save the template as an animated GIF. The resulting file will cycle among the three slides as part of a single image. To do this:
 - If you have PowerPoint 365:
 - File → Export → Animated GIF. Save the animated GIF to your computer.
 - If you do not have PowerPoint 365:
 - File → Export → Create a Video. Save the video to your computer.
 - Use a freely available Video to Animated GIF converter (<https://ezgif.com/video-to-gif>) and save the GIF to your computer
- Using your Twitter account, post the animated GIF with the hashtag **#SPER_TwitterPosters2023** on **Monday, June 13**. Don't forget to tag **@SPER_News**, too!

Questions?

[Click here](#) for a short video description of the process and [click here](#) for an outstanding Twitter Poster prepared by Fintan Mooney and colleagues (University of Massachusetts) for the 2020 Annual Meeting!

During the SPER Annual meeting, childcare services and a lactation room will be available.

Childcare

The following company is available for onsite services:

*Northwest Nannies
503-245-5288*

Or Book online:

Visiting families register with NW Nannies for free at <https://nwnannies.net/forms/hotel-visitor-family-registration/>. Make the request by using the following link: <https://nwnannies.net/forms/hire-temp-nanny/>

Individuals interested in using childcare services are responsible for coordinating and paying the agency directly. Arrangements shall not be made through SPER but rather directly through the interested parties. You should give the company a two-week notice before the service is needed.

Lactation Room

A lactation room will be available throughout the conference. Please inquire about the location at registration.



Thank you!



2023 Annual Meeting Moderators and Chairs

Julia Bittner	Collette Ncube	Andrew Williams	Emily Oken
Allen Wilcox	Anne Marie Jukic	Danielle Stevens	Stefinie Hinkle
Olga Basso	Caitlin Howe	Kelly Ferguson	Kristen Rappazzo

2023 Annual Meeting Program Committee

Collette Ncube	Ky'Era Actkins	Emily Oken
Stefanie Hinkle	Yu-Han Chiu	Aris Izzuddin
Carrie Nobles	Anne-Marie Jukic	Carolyn Drew-Boch
Susanna Mitro	Linda Kahn	Asma Ahmed
Sonia Grandi	Shan Xuan Lim	David Mallinson
Monique Hedderson	Sharonda Lovett	Buyun Liu
Rhonda Dailey	Elizabeth Nethery	Ruby Nguyen
Molly Wood	Stefania Papatheodorou	Caitlin Howe
Ellen (Ellie) Caniglia	Bethany Rand	Wei Perng
Kait Stanhope	Kristen Rappazzo	Carrie Shapiro-Mendoza
Alison Krajewski	Kristin Upson	Rupak Shivakoti
Jennifer Straughen	Bradley (Brad) Ryva	Elizabeth Widen
Meejin Park		

2023 Award Reviewers

2023 Abstract Reviewers

Ky'Era Actkins	Mandy Hall	Natasha Nassar	Sara Stephens
Myriam Afeiche	Quaker Harmon	Collette Ncube	Danielle Stevens
Emma Amissah	Marni Jacobs	Carrie Nobles	Jennifer Straughen
Izzuddin Aris	Candice Johnson	Diana Pacyga	Anita Subramanian
Sylvia Badon	Anne Marie Jukic	Amy Padula	Maya Tabet
Kristin Bergman	Whitney Kerr	Kristin Palmsten	Nicole Talge
Emine Bircan	Russell Kirby	Stefania Papatheodorou	Brandie Taylor
Lisa Bodnar	Mark Klebanoff	Bo Park	Fasil Tekola-Ayele
Jessie Buckley	Maria Kloboves	Trang Pham	Kristen Van Buren
Rana Chehab	Christine Langton	Julia Porth	Catherine Vladutiu
Helen Chin	Tiange Liu	Alexandra Purdue-Smithe	Kathryn Wagner
Tim Ciesielski	Sharonda Lovett	Sarah Quinones	Andrew Williams
Priscilla Clayton	Angela Lupattelli	Bethany Rand	Bohao Wu
Helen Foley	Jennifer Lyons	Kristen Rappazzo	Seungmi Yang
Audrey Gaskins	Angela Malek	Natalie Rosenquist	Edwina Yeung
Jessica Gleason	Lin-Chieh Meng	Brad Ryva	Israel Yoles
Sonia Grandi	Sunni Mumford	Kaitlyn Stanhope	Haoran Zhuo
Olivia Halabicky			

Committee News

Committee Changes

Bola Grace will transition off as a Member-at-Large and overseeing the Equity Advisory Board. Stephanie Leonard will serve in the position from June 2023 until June 2026. Thank you to Dr. Grace for your service!

Communications Committee

The Communications Committee has been focused on maintaining and improving the efficiency of the several initiatives launched in the past year, including our live tweets, member spotlights, and our general social media management strategies. We have recently developed an online form for individuals to request their work be highlighted ([Highlight request form](#)). We would like to direct the membership to our recommendations for social media engagement, available on the SPER website (<https://sper.org/about-sper-2/social-media-recommendations/>). If you are interested in joining our group, please click here to contact us: <https://sper.org/committees/>. Many thanks to the Communications Committee members for their hard work in coordinating our activities this past year.

Communications Committee Membership (2021-2022)

Kristen Rappazzo (Chair)
Maria Politis

Nicole Talge

Dominique Heinke

Danielle Stevens

Digital Engagement Committee (DEC)

The purpose of the Digital Engagement Committee is to help develop and oversee SPER online education initiatives, to include: online seminars, including joint SPER/SER presentations as well as other webinars, and other posted material such as SPER playlists. See recordings of past events at <https://sper.org/online-events/>

The DEC is looking for volunteers to help organize webinars for Fall 2023 and Spring 2024. If you'd like to volunteer for the DEC, please go to <https://sper.org/committees/join-our-committee-digital-engagement/> We look forward to seeing you at a seminar in the Fall!

Outreach Committee

The purpose of the Outreach Committee is to promote awareness and accessibility of the Society to help grow the membership. The Committee has responsibility for overseeing initiatives aimed at recruitment of new members and retention of existing members and expanding the Society's reach. We held several meetings in the first half of 2023 to brainstorm ideas on how to reach a larger audience, how to recruit a more diverse membership base, and how to enhance the retention of existing members. Do you have any new or exciting ideas? We are always looking for more people to join our group, particularly those from diverse backgrounds. Please click here to contact us: <https://sper.org/committees/>.

Outreach Committee Membership (2022-2023)

Audrey Gaskins (Chair)	Danielle Stevens	Sheree Boulet	Samantha Lain
Angela Malek	Jeffrey Korte	Andrew Williams	Catherine Vladutiu
Zohra Lassi	Elizabeth Widen		

Student & Postdocs Committee

The Students and Post-Docs Committee organized a webinar featuring original research by doctoral students and post-docs, two online journal clubs, and four open meetings with our membership. We are also excited for the upcoming SPER Annual Meeting, including the Advanced Methods Workshop. Visit the SPER website for details and to register, please. We are also looking forward to future initiatives, including a mentorship program and a career development series. As we start a new year, we encourage trainees to reach out with any suggestions on how we can provide more value for them as a member of SPER. Thank you for your participation in our events. We look forward to seeing everyone in Portland!

Student & Postdoc Working Group Membership (2022-2023)

Menoly Kaufman (Chair)	Michelle Klawans	Kelly O'Shea	Bethany Rand
Krista Wollny	Hannah Murphy	Ruth Geller	Nehaa Khadka
Michelle Dimitris	Zohra Lassi	Chad Coleman	Anita Subramanian
Sarah Twardowski	Abidemi Okechukwu	Patrick Seitzinger	Kalera Stratton
Asma Ahmed	Sara Stephens	Luther King Fasehun	Anna Booman
Emma Amissah	Amanuel Gebremedhin	Diana Soria	Colleen Reynolds

Equity Advisory Board

The Equity Advisory Board is organizing a Welcoming Peers initiative for the SPER 2023 Annual Meeting. The purpose of this initiative is to link new attendees and new SPER members with folks who have been part of SPER for a while. The Welcoming Peers will personally welcome new meeting attendees, answer questions about the meeting, facilitate networking with scholars doing similar work, and attend newer members' talks and posters. The Committee has also put together a short presentation on how SPER presenters can incorporate issues of health equity into their research and presentation, and we welcome questions from presenters about how to do this. Please check the committees page on sper.org for information on joining the EAB.

Equity Advisory Board (2022-2023)

Bola Grace (Exiting Chair)	Irene Headen	Michelle Dimitris	Sunsanna Mitro
Dawn Misra	Julia Porth	Vivian Ukah	Stephanie Leonard (Incoming Chair)

Election and Award Results

Executive Committee

Thanks to all members who offered their service to SPER and ran for election! Our newly elected officers for 2023 are:

President-Elect

Edwina Yeung

Senior Investigator and Acting Branch Chief,
Epidemiology Branch, Division of Population Health
Research, Eunice, Kennedy Shriver National Institute of
Child Health and Human Development

Member at Large – Digital Engagement

Stefanie N. Hinkle

Department of Biostatistics, Epidemiology and Informatics
Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology
Perelman School of Medicine, University of Pennsylvania

Treasurer

Candice Johnson

Assistant Professor
Department of Family Medicine and Community Health
Duke University School of Medicine

Student Representative

Sharonda Lovett

Epidemiology PhD Student
Boston University School of Public Health

International Representative

Neda Razaz

Assistant Professor, Docent
Clinical Epidemiology Division
Department of Medicine Solna | Karolinska Institutet

2023 SPER Awards

Congratulations to the winners of the 2023 SPER awards!

Heinz Berendes Award

Lin-Chieh Meng

Graduate Institute of Clinical Pharmacy
College of Medicine, National Taiwan University
Paper: *Association Between Maternal
Benzodiazepine or Z-Hypnotic Use in Early
Pregnancy and the Risk of Stillbirth, Preterm Birth,
and Small for Gestational Age*

Student Prize Paper

Safyer McKenzie-Sampson

Boston University School of Public Health
Paper: *Structural racism, nativity, and risk of adverse
perinatal outcomes among Black women in California*

Rising Star Award

Neda Razaz, PhD, MPH

Clinical Epidemiology Division, Department of
Medicine, Karolinska Institutet, Stockholm, Sweden

Mentoring Award

Monique Hedderson, PhD, MPH

Kaiser Permanente Northern California Division of
Research

Travel Award to Promote Equity

Sharonda Lovett

Boston University School of Public Health

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 28th 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

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Give to SPER

Fund the future and support our mission to foster pediatric and perinatal epidemiologic research!

Donated funds may be used to support our annual meeting, student travel awards and memberships, and expanded programming throughout the year.

SPER is a Non-Profit 501©3 organization, so your donations may be tax deductible.

[Click here](#) to donate!

Sponsor the SPER Annual Meeting

Support SPER and promote your organization! Sponsorships are available at the Full (\$750) and Email (\$350) levels

[Click here](#) For more details!