



SPER Newsletter (Spring/Summer 2025)

President's Corner

Executive Committee (2024-2025)

President:

Edwina Yeung

Past-President:

Penelope (Penny) Howards

President-Elect:

Dawn P. Misra

Secretary:

Helen Chin

Treasurer:

Candice Johnson

Members-at-Large:

Stefanie Hinkle

Stephanie Leonard

Kristen Rappazzo

Kari Weber

International Representative:

Neda Razaz

Trainee Representative:

Sara Stephens

Administrator:

Sue Bevan

I am supremely looking forward to catching up with everybody in person in just a few short weeks in Boston at the annual meeting. #whatayear

The **annual meeting** will begin on Monday June 9th at 2pm with concurrent sessions and a mentoring panel followed by a time to meet and greet each other (#hugs #snacks) at the Welcoming Peers networking session. More

details on the full program below but wanted to highlight that I'm excited to hear from our Keynote speaker Professor Régine PM Steegers-Theunissen talk on "*A scientific journey towards a solid start in the early life course*," based on her unique cohorts, including 3D imaging with virtual reality and AI technology assisted measurement of the placenta and fetal development. As a periconception epidemiologist, she has also aimed to translate her research into practice in lifestyle care management and clinical care.



A big thank you to Dr. Dawn Misra, our incoming President, for leading the **Virtual meeting** last month. It was again a big success! We had over 200 register for the meeting and 50-100 attendees during any one session. It also remained open to non-members as a way to welcome more epidemiologists to SPER. Also special thanks to Dr. Sara Stephens as the Student Representative who put together the lunch-time professional development session featuring Dr. Sara Pugh from Pfizer and her colleague Dr. Lara Lemon from University of Pittsburgh Department of OBGYN. It's always nice to hear about different career development paths and to also be encouraged again to broadly network with others. (Which is why don't be a stranger and stop to say "Hi" in Boston for those coming. And since I'm digressing on this topic of #networking "Talk" by Dr. Alison Wood Brooks is a great read/listen!)

Dr. Stephens also organized the **Virtual Advanced Methods Workshop**, made online instead of in-person for the first time in response to the feedback that trainees would prefer it given travel is not always guaranteed for them. Drs. Dana Goin and Corinne Riddell did a wonderful job expertly explaining the difference-in-difference methodology as well as providing extensive code with clear examples.

My personal thanks for all those who helped with putting the Program together including the **Abstract Reviewers, Program Committee, and Award reviewers** (see below for more details). It's always humbling how willing members are to serve SPER, even in face of numerous technical and other unanticipated adversities. For the first time, I made it so that members can volunteer for reviewing the SPER awards not just out of efficiency but because it (hopefully) opened it up to people who have not served before to feel more connected to the organization. I've definitely e-met a lot more of you and hope to thank you all in person soon. Safe travels to all coming to the Annual Meeting.

And after the meeting I will be passing the baton to Dr. Misra and the rest of the board (see below for the results of the **SPER election**), who will undoubtedly creatively and effectively lead the organization through this unprecedented time.

Sincerely,

Edwina Yeung

SPER President

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2025 SPER Annual Meeting

Monday, June 9 & Tuesday, June 10

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 9-10!

Our Annual Meeting program includes:

- Pre-meeting career development sessions
- An opening session entitled, “The widespread population health impacts from abortion bans in the US” Co-chaired by Julie M. Petersen and Anthony J. Nixon, and featuring Alison Gemmill, Savannah Adkins, Kelly DeBie, Elisabeth Woodhams, Maeve Wallace, Jane Seymour, and Erika Sabbath as speakers
- A keynote presentation entitled, “: *A scientific journey towards a solid start in the early life course* ” by Prof. Régine PM Steegers-Theunissen, MD, MSc, PhD, Erasmus University
- Symposia
 - Minipuberty: An early window into reproductive function
 - Reproductive and Perinatal Health in the Digital Age: Insights from App-Based or Online Studies
 - Climate Change and Children's Health: From Epidemiologic Evidence to Policy and Clinical Interventions
 - Addressing Disparities in Rural Maternal Healthcare Access: Challenges and Solutions
 - Identifying Critical Windows of Susceptibility to Environmental Exposures for Perinatal and Developmental Outcomes: Benefits and Challenges
- Six exciting contributed oral abstract sessions!
- Two poster sessions
- A “snacking and networking” break on Tuesday!
- SPER Award presentations
- SPER Business Meeting
- We will also be having a green screen photo “booth” during poster sessions!

Get more information on the [SPER Annual Meeting webpage!](#)

Annual Meeting Registration

[Register here!](#)

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

Childcare

The following company is available for onsite services:

Nanny Poppins Agency

888-849-6090

Or Book online using the following link: [Nanny Poppins Agency](#)

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.

QR Code for Meeting Conduct Policy





Thank you!



2025 Virtual Meeting Moderators and Chairs

Homegnon Bah Colette Davis Maeve Wallace Rebecca Campbell Sara Stephens

2025 Annual Meeting Program Committee, Moderators, and Chairs

Ellen Caniglia	Suzan Carmichael	Eugenia Chock	Kara Christopher
Carolyn Drews-Botsch	Jessica Gleason	Teresa Janevic	Samantha Kelleher
Ai Kubo	Angela Malek	Carrie Nobles	Gizachew Tessema
Ugochinyere (Vivian) Ukah	Kathryn Wagner	Seungmi Yang	

2025 Award Reviewers

Ban Al-Sahab	Izzuddin Aris	Shalmali Bane	Sarah Comstock
Valery Danilack	Sonia Grandi	Christine Hockett	Anne Marie Jukic
Russ Kirby	Zeyan Liew	Collette Ncube	Diane Putnick

2025 Abstract Reviewers

Katherine Ahrens	Ban Al-Sahab	Homegnon Antonin Ferreol Bah	Siva Balakrishnan
Ruby Barnard-Mayers	Bridget Basile	Kristin Bergman	Emine Bircan
Julia Bittner	Lisa Bodnar	Kim Cajachagua Torres	Suzan Carmichael
Adrija Chakrabarty	Yajnaseni Chakraborti	Rana Chehab	Uchenna Chijioke-Ofoma
Kara Christopher	Chibuike Chukwunyere	Sara Conroy	Kelly DeBie
Julia DiTosto	Danielle Gartner	Ruth Geller	Katherine Grantz
Mandy Hall	Quaker Harmon	Stefanie Hinkle	Nafisa Nawal Islam
Jennifer Jairam	Candice Johnson	Rima Kaddoura	Michelle Klawans
Alison Krajewski	Stephanie Leonard	Shan-Xuan Lim	Sueny Lima dos Santos
Sharonda Lovett	Angela Malek	Claire Margerison	Smriti Maskey
Susanna Mitro	Sunni Mumford	Giulia Muraca	Azam Najaf Kouchak
Natasha Nassar	Collette Ncube	Timothy Nielsen	Carrie Nobles
Chidinma Oli	Kristen Rappazzo	Annette Regan	Sanika Rege
Lindsey Russo	Kara Skelton	Ashley Smedley	Kaitlyn Stanhope
Anita Subramanian	Alexandra Sundermann	Kristen Upson	Catherine Vladutiu
Kathryn Wagner	Dongqing Wang	Andrew Williams	Jessica Wong
Edwina Yeung	Mingyu Zhang	Xuanxuan Zhu	

Election Results

President Elect:

Sarka Lisonkova, MD, PhD

Associate Professor

Division of Maternal-Fetal Medicine, Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Faculty of Medicine,
University of British Columbia

Secretary:

Stefania Papathedorou, MD, PhD, MSc

Associate Professor

Department of Biostatistics and Epidemiology
Rutgers School of Public Health

Member at Large – Communications:

Andrew Williams, MPH, PhD

Assistant Professor,

Department of Population Health

University of North Dakota School of Medicine & Health Sciences

Trainee Representative:

Xuanxuan Zhu, PhD

Postdoctoral Fellow

NICHD

Committee News

Communications Committee

In the past year, the Communications Committee has developed the SPER Communications Bluesky account (@spercomms.bsky.social), and has worked to promote upcoming events and disseminate information on SPER activities through our social media accounts. 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 efforts!

Communications Committee Membership (2024-2025)

Kristen Rappazzo (Chair)

Nicole Talge

Danielle Stevens

Funmi Knutson

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 2025 and Spring 2026. 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!

Digital Engagement Committee Membership (2024-2025)

Stefanie Hinkle (Chair)

Brian Whitcomb

Buyun Liu

Cande Ananth

Jessie Buckley

Kim Nail Cajachagua Torres

Lauren Wise

Shahpar Najmabadi

Liyang Zhang

Luther-King Fasehun

Natasha Nassar

Shristi Rawal

Shu Qin Wei

Sonia Grandi

Stefania Papatheodorou

Anne Marie Jukic

Timothy Ciesielski

Yeyi Zhu

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. Over the past six months we have worked on developing marketing materials for the virtual and in-person meetings and sent it out to our curated list of EPI, OB/GYN, and MCH programs to encourage more people to participate in both meetings. Our plans are to continue with this type of outreach by targeting HBCUs and other traditionally under-represented schools/departments that do RPPE-adjacent work. 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 (2025-2025)

Kari Weber (Chair)

Danielle Stevens

Sheree Boulet

Nandita Perumal

Angela Malek

Jeffrey Korte

Andrew Williams

Catherine Vladutiu

Zohra Lassi

Elizabeth Widen

SPER Student, Trainee, and Post-Doc Working Group

The Student, Trainee, and Post-Doc Working Group organized two Professional Development Panels across the virtual and in-person meetings, contributed to the “Symposium: Demystifying the Development of the SPER Program” Webinar alongside the DEC, and held two open meetings. They also launched the inaugural virtual [Advanced Methods Workshop](#), held this past April, where attendees learned how to apply advanced statistical approaches to improve causal inference in epi research. We look forward to planning future professional development opportunities for trainees in pediatric and perinatal epidemiology-related disciplines. As we start the next term, we encourage all trainees to reach out with suggestions on how we can improve their experience.

Student, Trainee, and Post-Doc Working Group Membership (2024-2025)

Sara Stephens (Chair)	Eunsun Gill	Nadia Arshad	Ruth Geller
Jennifer Jairam	Joanna Marroquin	Naria Sealy	Sharonda Lovett
Carolyn Cramoy	Julia DiTosto	Nedghie Adrien	Sueny Paloma Lima
Diana Soria-Contreras	Kelsi Morris	Patrick Seitzinger	Zohra Lassi
Emma Amissah	Maria Cinzori	Ruby Barnard-Mayers	Michelle Klawans
Ngozi Okafor	Esther Ebuehi	Emily Sousa	Brittney Boakye
Dayna Dorestin	Tesfa Habtewold		

Equity Advisory Board

The Equity Advisory Board is organizing a Welcoming Peers initiative for the SPER 2024 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. We also welcome and encourage feedback on inclusivity and accessibility of SPER events. Please check the committees page on sper.org for information on joining the EAB or email Stephanie Leonard at stephanie.leonard@stanford.edu.

Equity Advisory Board (2024-2025)

Stephanie Leonard (Chair)	Irene Headen	Michelle Dimitris	Susanna Mitro
Dawn Misra	Julia Porth	Ugochinyere Vivian Ukah	

European Perinatal and Paediatric Epidemiology Conference (EPPEC)

We are delighted to announce the 3rd European Perinatal and Paediatric Epidemiology Conference (EPPEC) in Oslo, Norway, September 15-16, 2025. We have eminent keynote speakers who are all prominent researchers within their respective fields. Additionally, we are excited to provide a dedicated space in the program for talented young researchers, allowing them to present their work and contribute to collective knowledge.

Confirmed speakers for the conference, in alphabetical order are:

Jasper Been, David Burgner, Abigail Fraser, Sonia Hernandez-Diaz, Jeremy Labrecque, Per Magnus, Jenny Myers, Martine Vrijheid

Information about the preliminary program and abstract submission is available at [the EPPEC event site](#).

Follow SPER on Social Media!

SPER is currently active on [LinkedIn](#), [Bluesky](#) and [Facebook](#), follow/connect with us for society updates and information!



SPER Communications



@spercomms.bsky.social



Search: SPER

Give to SPER

Fund the future and support our mission to foster pediatric and perinatal epidemiologic research! Donated funds will be used to support our annual meeting, student travel awards and memberships, and expanded programming throughout the year. SPER is a Non-Profit 501c(3) organization, so your donations may be tax deductible. [Donate to SPER here!](#)

Sponsor the SPER Annual Meeting

Support SPER and promote your organization! Sponsorships are available at the Full (\$750) and Email (\$350) levels. [Details on sponsoring the SPER annual meeting available here.](#)