



Society for Pediatric and Perinatal Epidemiologic Research

39th Annual Meeting, Phoenix, AZ

June 22-23, 2026

MONDAY, JUNE 22

- 1:30 – 6:00 pm **Registration**
- 2:00 – 3:00 pm **SPER Board meeting**
- 3:00 – 3:30 pm **Networking Break (Welcoming Peers Meet)**
- 3:30 – 4:30 pm **Welcome & Opening Panel**

HEALthy Brain and Child Development Study

The HBCD Study will enroll over 7,000 participating families across the United States and follow them from pregnancy through early childhood, with the long-term goal of characterizing how child development is affected by exposure to social and environmental experiences and conditions. This panel will provide an overview of the HBCD resource, including an introduction to study design, child brain imaging and developmental measures, findings from the first data release, and how to access public use data.

Stephanie M. Engel, PhD, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

“The HBCD Study Design”

Gretchen Bandoli, PhD, University of California at San Diego

“Assessment of maternal health and behavior during pregnancy in the HBCD Study”

Ashley Acheson, PhD, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences

“Assessment of peri-natal and early childhood social and physical environments in the HBCD Study”

Jen Zink, PhD, LASSO Informatics

“HBCD Data Access and Query”

- 4:30 – 6:00 pm **Poster Session 1**

TUESDAY, JUNE 23

7:30 – 10:00 am	Registration
6:45 – 7:45 am	Breakfast
7:00 - 8:00 am	Breakfast with experts
8:00 – 8:15 am	Welcome
8:15 – 9:45 am	Symposia

1. Perinatal Pharmacoepidemiology – Moving Beyond Gestational Exposure & Congenital Malformation Risk

- “Benzodiazepines & spontaneous abortions: sequential target trial emulation design and other methodological considerations”. Presenter: Chih-Wan Grace Lin
- “Studying perinatal vaccination and lactation outcomes using EHR data”. Presenter: Kristin Palmsten
- “Comparative effectiveness of front-line medications to treat hypertensive disorders in pregnancy and postpartum”. Presenter: Stephanie Leonard
- “Paternal metformin use during spermatogenesis & major congenital malformations”. Presenter: Ran Rotem

2. Health Equity Methods in Pediatric and Perinatal Epidemiologic Research

- “Integrating Multidisciplinary Approaches to Reduce Inequities in Pediatric Infectious Diseases in Low-Resource Countries”. Presenter: Yoshika Crider
- “Estimating the Impact of Hypothetical Interventions to Reduce Disparities in Perinatal Epidemiology”. Presenter: Claire Margerison
- “Approaches to Improve Measurement and Reduce Misclassification in Epidemiologic Research with Sexual and Gender Minority Parents”. Presenter: Diana Tordoff
- “Epidemiologic Methods for Studying Disparities in Infertility”. Presenter: Ugochinyere Vivian Ukah

3. Understanding social, contextual, and political drivers of Fertility, Pregnancy, and Reproductive Aging in Women After 40

- “Who is getting pregnant in their 40s and why? Characteristics of later pregnancies, social and political determinants of late fertility (including financial strain)”. Presenter: Sarah Kellerhals
- “Who can’t get pregnant in their 40s (but would like to): social and political barriers to access to reproductive technologies”. Presenter: Lasha Clarke
- “Protective factors for pregnancy outcomes among older birthing people”. Presenter: Laura Schummers
- “Perimenopause symptoms, drivers and consequences: Insights from Project Viva”. Presenter: Emily Oken
- “Menopause - why should reproductive epidemiologists care about it, research gaps and opportunities”. Presenter: Carrie Karvonen-Gutierrez

9:45 – 10:00 am	Break
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10:00 – 11:00 am	Keynote Address: Title TBA Speaker: Dr Sonia Hernandez Diaz, Harvard TH Chan School of Public Health
11:00 – 12:30 pm	Lunch on your own
12:30 – 1:30 pm	Poster Session 2
1:30 – 2:45 pm	3 Concurrent Sessions (Rooms TBA)
2:45 – 3:15 pm	Snack and networking break
3:15 – 4:30 pm	3 Concurrent Sessions (Rooms TBA)
4:30 – 5:30 pm	Recognition of 2026 SPER Award Winners; Two Prize Paper Talks Moderator: Sarka Lisonkova
5:30 – 6:30 pm	<i>Business Meeting (Room)</i> – everyone is welcome!

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