



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**
- 3:00 – 3:30 pm **Networking Break (Welcoming Peers Meet)**
- 3:30 – 4:30 pm **Welcome & Opening Panel**

Welcome

Dawn Misra, Michigan State University, SPER President

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

Chair: Loreen Straub, Brigham and Women’s Hospital

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

2. Health Equity Methods in Pediatric and Perinatal Epidemiologic Research

Chairs: Stephanie Leonard, Stanford University and Ellen Caniglia, University of Pennsylvania

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

3. Understanding social, contextual, and political drivers of Fertility, Pregnancy, and Reproductive Aging in Women After 40
Chairs: Audrey Gaskins, Emory University and Kate Stanhope, Emory University

- “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, Emory University
- “Who can’t get pregnant in their 40s (but would like to): social and political barriers to access to reproductive technologies”. Presenter: Lasha Clarke, Kaiser Permanente Georgia
- “Protective factors for pregnancy outcomes among older birthing people”. Presenter: Laura Schummers, University of British Columbia
- “Perimenopause symptoms, drivers and consequences: Insights from Project Viva”. Presenter: Emily Oken, Harvard Medical School
- “Menopause - why should reproductive epidemiologists care about it, research gaps and opportunities”. Presenter: Carrie Karvonen-Gutierrez, University of Michigan

9:45 – 10:00 am

Break

10:00 – 11:00 am

Keynote Address: "Target trial emulations in pregnancy: Challenges and solutions"
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

Concurrent Sessions 1-3 (Rooms TBA)
CCS 1 : Environmental
Moderator: Danelle Lobdell, EPA

1. Heatwave Exposure During Pregnancy and Risk of Gestational Diabetes Mellitus in Arizona (2014–2021). Presenter: Luna Ramirez, University of Arizona
2. Air Pollution Exposure Across Spermatogenesis and Sperm DNA Methylation. Presenter: Carrie Nobles, University of Massachusetts Amherst
3. PFAS, Perceived Stress, and Miscarriage in a Cohort of U.S. Black Women. Presenter: Samantha Schildroth, Boston University
4. The role of early-life lead exposure on allergic endpoints among disadvantaged children residing in Philadelphia, PA. Presenter: Greta Ziegler, University of Buffalo
5. Gestational Exposure to Organophosphate Esters and Adiposity at 7–9 Years. Presenter: Yohane Phiri, University of Nevada Las Vegas

CC2: Nutrition in the perinatal period: Interventions and programs
Moderator: Suzan Carmichael, Stanford University

1. Separating causal questions from statistics with application to dietary interventions in Project Viva cohort offspring. Presenter: Soren Harnois-Leblanc, Harvard University
2. Dietary intake and childhood adiposity beyond BMI: the Upstate KIDS study. Presenter: Xuanxuan Zhu, NICHD
3. Periconceptional plant-based dietary patterns and cardiometabolic risk at 3 years postpartum. Presenter: Qianhui Jin, University of Pittsburgh
4. Pre-pregnancy calcium supplementation on the risk of gestational hypertension and proteinuria: A per-protocol analysis of a randomized trial. Presenter: Chase Latour, University of Pennsylvania
5. The association between social supports in the perinatal period and breastfeeding status in the MAASTHI cohort in Southern India. Presenter: Andrew Williams, University of North Dakota

CC3: Maternal Morbidity
Moderator: Linda Ugwu, University of Alabama Birmingham

1. Intersectional Disparities in Perinatal Outcomes among Ethnoracial Minority Same-Gender Couples. Presenter: Diana Todorff, Stanford University
2. Reducing maternal health disparities for Asian American/Pacific Islanders: the role of comorbidities. Presenter: Mekhala Dissanayake, Stanford University
3. Decomposition of the Black-White Disparity in Vaginal Birth after Cesarean with a Trial of Labor. Presenter: Lindsay Mallick, NICHD
4. Timing of Sepsis and Progression to Septic Shock During Pregnancy and Postpartum. Presenter: Hiluf Ebuy Abraha, University of South Carolina
5. Exploring Temporal Trends in Ectopic Pregnancy Using Electronic Health Record Data. Presenter: Kirsten Hepburn, University of Nebraska

2:45 – 3:15 pm **Snack and networking break**

3:15 – 4:30 pm **Concurrent Sessions 4-6 (Rooms TBA)**

CCS 4: Novel methods in neighborhood research
Moderator: Kaitlyn Stanhope, Emory University

1. Residential Proximity to Major Roads and Semen Quality in a U.S. Preconception Cohort. Presenter: Eliza Pentz, Boston University
2. PM_{2.5} and Preterm Birth by Neighborhood Racial and Economic Composition in Florida, 2010 to 2022. Presenter: Jessica Broach, Tulane University
3. Neighborhood and Individual Food Insecurity, Federal Food Assistance Programs, and Gestational Diabetes. Presenter: Rana Chenab, Kaiser Permanente
4. Neighborhood Typology and A1C Trajectories among Women with Gestational Diabetes in New York City: A Longitudinal Study. Presenter: Teresa Janevic, Columbia University

5. Residential mobility and exposure misclassification of PM_{2.5} among pregnant Medicaid enrollees from 2001-2014. Presenter: Stefania Papatheodorou, Rutgers University

CC5: Beyond One-Size-Fits-All: Precision Perinatal Epidemiology Across Biological, Environmental, and Clinical Domains

Moderator: Michelle Klawans, NIEHS

1. Air pollution exposure and reproductive hormonal levels across the menstrual cycle in a time-to-pregnancy cohort. Presenter: Kaniz Rabeya, University of Massachusetts Amherst
2. Extreme Heat Exposure Before Conception Shapes Placental Transcriptomic Signatures. Presenter: Kimi Van Winkle, University of North Carolina Chapel Hill
3. Precision Medicine Approach to Elective Induction Decisions: Secondary Analysis of a Randomized Trial of Induction Versus Expectant Management (ARRIVE). Presenter: Yuri Sebastiao, University of North Carolina Chapel Hill
4. Regression-Based Proximal Reconciliation of Conflicting Randomized Trials with Unmeasured Effect Modifiers. Presenter: Daniel Xu, University of Pennsylvania
5. A Mendelian Randomization Study of Maternal Thyroid Function and Cerebral Palsy. Presenter: Yewen Ge, Yale University

CC6: Early Life Influences on Children's Neurodevelopment

Moderator: Nicole Talge, Michigan State University

1. Community Influenza Activity During Pregnancy and Cerebral Palsy in Offspring. Presenter: Cole King, Yale University
2. Prenatal and postnatal exposure to ambient temperature and risk of autism spectrum disorder and attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder among Medicaid recipients. Presenter: Wanyu Huang, Harvard University
3. Neonatal functional brain network maturation, prematurity, and early language development. Presenter: Ayesha Sania, Columbia University
4. Effectiveness of developmental screening and early intervention for communication delays. Presenter: Diane Putnick, NICHD

4:30 – 5:30 pm **Recognition of 2026 SPER Award Winners; Two Prize Paper Talks**
Moderator: Sarka Lisonkova

SPER Mentoring Award: Suzan Carmichael, Stanford University

SPER Rising Star Award: Yu-Han Chiu, Brown University

SPER Travel Award to Promote Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion:

Michelle Tam, Harvard University; Hiluf Ebuy Abraha, University of South Carolina;

Andrea Chalem, University of North Carolina Chapel Hill; Elleni Hailu, Stanford University

Student Prize Paper Award: Chase Latour, University of Pennsylvania

Heinz Berendes Prize Paper Award: Laur Sillis, KU Leuven, Belgium

5:30 – 6:30 pm **Business Meeting (Room TBA)** – everyone is welcome!

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