

**Executive Committee  
(2025-2026)**

**President:**

Dawn Misra

**Past-President:**

Edwina Yeung

**President-Elect:**

Sarka Lisonkova

**Secretary:**

Stefania Papatheodorou

**Treasurer:**

Candice Johnson

**Members-at-Large:**

Stefanie Hinkle

Stephanie Leonard

Andrew Williams

Kari Weber

**International Representative:**

Neda Razaz

**Trainee Representative:**

Xuanxuan Zhu

**Administrator:**

Sue Bevan

# SPER Newsletter (Summer 2026)

## President's Corner

I look forward to seeing all of you in just a few short weeks in Phoenix at the annual meeting. The annual meeting will begin on Monday June 22<sup>nd</sup> at 3 pm with a time to meet and greet our newer and our “older” members at the Welcoming Peers networking session. The meeting will officially kick off with an Opening Panel on the *HEALTHY Brain and Child Development Study*. More details on the full program appear later in the newsletter (also see our website).



### Virtual Meeting

Thank you to Sarka Lisonkova for organizing and leading our successful 3rd SPER Virtual Meeting. We also appreciate our Trainee Representative, Xuanxuan Zhu, organizing the career networking session at the Virtual Meeting (as well as the Virtual Methods Meeting!)

### SPER in 2026

The assault on science infrastructure and funding in the U.S. has now reached unprecedented levels. Please consider staying on for the Business Meeting to talk about what we can do as individuals and as an organization. To keep up with the most recent news, I have found the Stand Up for Science organization to be very informative and to be an avenue for advocacy: <https://fight2win.standupforscience.net/>

You may want to read the [news article](#) as well as [the editorial](#) as it provides context to what we are experiencing. I promise that our attendees can share whatever they want to distribute at our SPER meeting!

**At the end of the scientific meeting, Dr. Lisonkova will transition to the SPER President and new board members will join us.**

Sincerely,

**Dawn Misra**

**SPER President**

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# 39th SPER Annual Meeting

**June 22-23, 2026**

**Phoenix, AZ**

SPER is thrilled for the upcoming Annual Meeting, taking place June 22–23, 2026, in Phoenix, Arizona. This year’s gathering will bring together researchers, clinicians, and epidemiologists for two days of collaboration, scientific exchange, and community building.

2026 Annual Meeting resources are below to help you prepare:

**Register now!**

**<https://sper.org/annual-meeting-2/registration-information/>**

**Preliminary Program**

**[https://sper.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/03/SPER-2026-preliminary-program\\_for-website\\_rev.pdf](https://sper.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/03/SPER-2026-preliminary-program_for-website_rev.pdf)**

**Abstract Book**

**<https://sper.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/06/Abstract-Book-0606926.pdf>**

**General Information**

**<https://sper.org/annual-meeting-2/general-information/>**

# 2026 SPER Election Results

Congratulations to the new SPER Executive Committee Members!

## President Elect



Karen Schliep  
University of Utah

## Treasurer



Marina Feiler  
University at Buffalo

## Member at Large



Ugochinyere Vivian Ukah  
McGill University

## Trainee Representative



Sabrina Chiodo  
University of Toronto

**International Representative**



Rima Kaddoura  
American University of Beirut

# 2026 SPER Award Recipients

Congratulations to the winners of the 2026 SPER awards!

## Heinz Berendes Award



Laure Sillis  
KU Leuven  
Belgium

Paper: *Reliability of Self-Reported Maternal Health and Mother-Infant Outcome Data in Web-Based Questionnaires.*

## Student Prize Paper



Chase Latour  
Department of Epidemiology  
School of Public Health,  
Boston University, Boston, MA

Paper: *Comparative Effectiveness of initiating Nifedipine versus Labetalol in early Gestation for Chronic Hypertension in Pregnancy.*

# 2026 SPER Award Recipients

Congratulations to the winners of the 2026 SPER awards!

## Rising Star Award



Yu-Han Chiu, ScD MPH  
Brown University

## Mentoring Award



Susan Carmichael, PhD MS  
Stanford University

## Travel Award to Promote Equity



Hiluf Ebuy Abraha  
University of South Carolina

## Travel Award to Promote Equity



Michelle Tam, PhD  
Harvard University

**Travel Award to Promote Equity**



Eleni Hailu, PhD  
Stanford University

**Travel Award to Promote Equity**



Andrea Chalem  
University of North Carolina

# Join an SPER committee!

## [SPER committee webpage](#)

### **Program Committee**

The Program Committee helps plan the annual meeting. Committee members identify topics for Concurrent Contributed Sessions and select presentations for these sessions from submitted abstracts. A call for volunteers will be announced in the coming weeks.

### **Communications Committee**

The purpose of the Communications Committee is to coordinate and enhance communications between the Society and membership. The committee has primary responsibility for the SPER newsletter, for SPER's communication via social media, and developing a communications plan.

[Join the communications committee here.](#)

### **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.

[Join the digital engagement committee page here.](#)

### **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.

[Contact or join the outreach committee here.](#)

### **Student & Post-Doc Working Group**

The mission of the Student, Trainee, & Post-Doc Working Group is to facilitate the educational experiences and professional development of trainees in pediatric and perinatal epidemiology-related disciplines by providing information, resources, and networking opportunities; facilitating trainee exchange of research ideas; planning the [Advanced Methods Workshop](#) and trainee events at the annual symposium; and promoting trainee engagement in SPER..

[Join the student and post-doc committee here.](#)

### **Equity Advisory Board**

The Equity Advisory Board intersects with SPER programming and activities to promote equity both within the society and in perinatal, pediatric, and reproductive epidemiologic research. The board meets monthly and hosts an open listening session each year where any current or prospective SPER member can attend and discuss topics related to equity, and we plan activities over the coming year.

[Join the Equity Advisory Board here.](#)

## 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!](#)