

Society for Epidemiologic Research Fall Newsletter 2005

SER, P.O. Box 990, Clearfield, UT 84089

FALL 2005

President's Corner Maureen Hatch, Ph.D.

Important current health issues such as stem cell research and gene/environment interactions increase the need for meaningful interchange among epidemiologists with different sub-specialties. Recently SER has been working especially hard to bring the various sub-disciplines together, principally through the design of the annual meeting. Symposia on methods hold an attraction for members from every area of epidemiology and there were no fewer than five such symposia at the June 2004 Annual Meeting in Salt Lake City. Because symposia, spotlight and poster sessions also cover an array of substantive topics, the non-specialist has an opportunity to become conversant with, or bone up on, other areas. The intensive pre-Meeting Workshops also serve to educate members about areas outside their main focus and to deepen understanding of new material within their chosen specialty.

An interesting and positive development for SER is the increasing involvement of other epidemiology organizations in the annual meeting. One example, of course, is this year's joint meeting in Toronto with the Canadian Society for Epidemiology and Biostatistics (CSEB) - aptly named "Epidemiology Without Borders" (thanks to Julie Buring). And then there is the 2006 meeting in Seattle - the Second North American Congress of Epidemiology, jointly sponsored by SER, ACE (the American College of Epidemiology), the Epidemiology Section of APHA and nine other organizations, with another 15 or more participating in other ways. In addition, the IEA (International Epidemiology Association) has asked to sponsor a symposium at each annual SER meeting. And recently the International Genetic Epidemiology Society has approached us to explore the possibility of meeting jointly, as has happened in the past.

As you can see, there is a lot of positive ferment from which SER members are sure to benefit. Contacts with other organizations can provide SER members with new information and with comparisons and contrasts with the way other disciplines and countries go about things, either reinforcing current ideas and approaches or motivating new ones.

Although many senior members of SER attended the 2004 Meeting, the upcoming joint meetings should be a draw for others who have not attended in recent years. The Planning Committee for the 2005 SER/CSEB Meeting is developing a program with a larger than usual number of symposia and an impressive list of timely and intriguing topics along with high-profile speakers likely to appeal to senior and junior members alike. Planning Committee Chairmen Jack Siemiatycki and David Savitz are bringing a focused energy to the task of creating a dynamic meeting covering international and cross-border issues as well as others of importance.

As most of you know, SER now has an official Student Caucus with an elected President, Sonia Singh from Johns Hopkins University and a membership of 346 (approximately 60 students are new recruits). One of the group's first initiatives was to create a "Meet the Experts" segment at the 2004 meeting. The students selected the experts (Noel Weiss, David Savitz, Timothy Lash and Charlie Poole) and met with them in a Roundtable format, where they asked questions on topics of concern such as career development. This interchange between senior and junior SER members was considered a huge success. Another SER initiative, aimed at widening the net by boosting participation of faculty and students at a long list of schools, has involved identifying at each of the schools a person to serve as "SER Champion", who agrees to circulate emails from SER about items such as the Student Workshop and other activities.

So...SER has developed some strategies to increase both recruitment and cross-fertilization - among juniors and seniors, sub-specialties, countries. However, new ideas and suggestions are always welcome. Of special interest are ideas about how SER can support members' interests and concerns about current substantive matters. Also, we are always interested in further adding value to the meetings and otherwise providing good reasons for people to belong to SER. Please email any suggestions you might have to:
hatchm@mail.nih.gov.

Best regards,
Maureen Hatch, President

SAVE THESE DATES!!
Epidemiology without Borders: SER-CSEB 2005 Joint Meeting June 27-30, 2005
WHERE: Toronto, Ontario, Canada

SYMPOSIA IN 2005 (PRELIMINARY)

The following symposia are proposed for the Epidemiology without Borders: SER-CSEB 2005 Joint Meeting in Toronto, Ontario, Canada. Titles and organizers are listed below:

"Bias modeling - conflicting perspectives"
Sander Greenland

"Multiple comparisons and multiple inferences"
Sholom Wacholder

"Resolving the discrepancies between clinical trials and observational studies"
Lynn Rosenberg

"Can epidemiology detect RR's below 1.1? - The story of air pollution and CVD"
Jon Samet

"The human genome and epidemiology"
Muin J. Khoury

"The SARS crisis in Toronto - epidemiologic perspective"
Barbara Yaffe

"Global HIV epidemiology"
Cate Hankins

"Physical activity and health"
Mike Pratt

"Psychiatric epidemiology - searching for causes"
Ezra Susser

"Important advances in the epidemiology of neurodegenerative diseases"
Christina Wolfson

"Using GIS to understand disparities in health outcomes in the US and Canada"
Jim Dunn, Jay Kaufman

"The role of epidemiology in genomics and proteomics"
David Hunter

"Epidemiologic research in the face of a growing obesity epidemic"
John Potter

"The impact of declining participation on epidemiologic research"
Tricia Hartge

"Are mega-cohort studies the way to go?"-TBA

"Can epidemiology survive the privacy zealots?"- TBA

"Can good infant nurturing solve the health problems of adulthood?"- TBA

"What can the US health care system learn from Canada?"- TBA

"When epidemiology delays progress in public health policy: the case of cervical cancer prevention"- TBA

POSTER WINNERS AT SER 2004

POSTER SESSION 1

First Prize: Jennita Reehuis #028

Assisted Reproductive Techniques and the Risk of Oral Clefts: Data from the National Birth Defects Prevention Study, 1997-2000

Second Prize: Maria Norton #006

Improving Assessment of Incidence of First-Onset Geriatric Depression in Population-Based Studies

Third Prize: Jennifer Legardy #017

Estimating the Effect of a Skill-Based Intervention on Consistent Condom Use among Inner-City Women through Time-Dependent, Intermediate Variables

Student Award Prize: Yu Chen # 090-S

Modification of Risk of Arsenic-Induced Premalignant Skin Lesions by Sun Exposure, Smoking, and Occupational Exposures among Males in Bangladesh

POSTER SESSION 2

First Prize: Yona Keich #238-S

A Twin Study of Male Factor Infertility

Second Prize: Haitao Chu #188

Estimating Vaccine Efficacy Using Auxiliary Outcome Data and a Small Validation Sample

Third Prize: Lawrence Engel #140

Pesticide Use and Breast Cancer Risk among Farmers' Wives in the Agricultural Health Study

Student Award Prize: Brian Whitcomb #203-S

Limit of Detection Bias and the Correction of Variance Estimates

POSTER SESSION 3

First Prize: Katie Stamatakis #380S

Socioeconomic Disparities in Restricted and Disturbed Sleep

Second Prize: Alison Mondul #401

Age of Natural Menopause and All-Cause Mortality in the CPS-II Prospective Cohort

Third Prize: Maria Melchior #384-S

Life-Course Socioeconomic Position and Premature Mortality: Findings from the French GAZEL Cohort Study

Student Award Prize: Tu Phung #326-S

Risk Factors Associated with Low Birth Weight Infants: A Hospital-Based Case Control Study in Thai Nguyen Province-Viet Nam, June 2003-Dec 2003

ALUMNI REUNIONS

A number of universities have organized successful receptions for faculty, alumni, and students at past meetings. If you would like to have a reunion at the conference hotel, the Westin Harbour Castle in Toronto, Ontario, Canada, please contact Karen Bannerman, CMP to make arrangements, phone: (416) 361-7412 or email karen.bannerman@westin.com

STUDENT CAUCUS Student President Report

The 350-member Student Caucus is off to a great start after its first-ever meeting at the Annual Meeting in Salt Lake City. The caucus is charged with advocating student issues within SER, serving as a network for the dissemination of educational resources and opportunities of special interest to students, facilitating networking among students and professionals, and developing opportunities for professional development during the SER Annual Meeting. In the coming year, SER-SC will undertake these issues.

Students are invited to join any of four committees (contact info for the committee chairs is below):

- Abstracts Committee
- Annual Meeting Programs Committee
- Membership Committee
- Nominations Committee

We have several exciting sessions planned for the SER-CSEB 2005 Joint Meeting in Toronto:

- What Do Editors Look for in a Manuscript: A Chat with AJE Editors
- Careers in Epidemiology: A Panel Discussion
- Breakfast Roundtables with the Experts
- How to Write and Review an Abstract
- Student Caucus Social
- Student Caucus Business Meeting

We hope that you will join our combined endeavors with the student members of CSEB.

SER-SC has newly created a list-serve for all student members. The list-serve will be used for general announcements regarding information useful to epidemiology students, updates on the progress of SER-SC Committees and the SER Annual Meeting. If you are a student and are not currently subscribed, information on subscribing can be found at <http://www.epiresearch.org/aboutus.html#faqs>

The SER-SC Administrative Council members for 2004-05 are:

President

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Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health

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University of Wisconsin

Secretary

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Harvard School of Public Health

Treasurer

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University of Utah

Annual Meeting Programs and Abstract Committee Co-Chairs

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Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health

Special thanks to Dr. Julie Buring, SER Board member who is serving as our SER Faculty Liaison.

Regards,
Sonia Singh

STUDENT WORKSHOP ON EPIDEMIOLOGIC METHODS

In conjunction with the Congress of Epidemiology 2006, SER is accepting applications from students for participation in a one-day workshop on epidemiologic methods related to their research. The workshop will be held on Wednesday, June 21, 2006 in Seattle Washington, immediately preceding the Congress, June 21-24, 2006. Four faculty members with expertise in epidemiology, biostatistics and various substantive areas will conduct the workshop. Michael Bracken, PhD, MPH, SER President-Elect, from Yale School of Public Health will serve as the workshop coordinator. Students selected for participation will receive a fellowship to cover the cost of travel, three days per diem, and the registration fee to the Congress of Epidemiology. To be eligible, applicants must be currently enrolled in an epidemiology doctoral program. Minority students are particularly encouraged to apply. Applicants should submit a 2 to 3 page paper (double-spaced on 8.5 x 11 inch paper) describing their project and proposing one or more methodological issues that it raises for discussion at the workshop. One or two pages of tables or figures may accompany the paper. A cover page/application form can be downloaded from <http://www.epiresearch.org/studentwkshp.pdf>. The application form must be signed by the applicant's academic advisor and attached to the paper as a cover sheet. The project is to be in progress and not already completed so that the workshop may affect how the project is actually conducted

Send to:

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**Applications must be RECEIVED no later
than February 15, 2006.**

LILIENFELD STUDENT PRIZE PAPER

An award of \$1,000 plus travel expenses to the Epidemiology without Borders: SER CSEB 2005 Joint Meeting in Toronto, Ontario, Canada will be presented to the student in an advanced degree program submitting the best paper describing work with a concentration in epidemiology. The work must have been completed during the two years prior to the June 27-30, 2005 meeting and must be unpublished at the time of the meeting. The recipient will be invited to present during the meeting and the paper will be considered for early publication in the *American Journal of Epidemiology*. Four copies of the paper (in English) must be **RECEIVED** no later than February 1, 2005. Authors should include: telephone number, fax number, address, current position, a statement indicating the date the work was completed, academic advisor name and signature, and the name of the department chair or head. No prize will be awarded if the review committee decides that none of the manuscripts are of superior quality. Please bring this PRIZE to the attention of potential applicants. Send papers to: Joseph L. Lyon, M.D., MPH, University of Utah, Public Health Program, 375 Chipeta Way, Suite A, Salt Lake City, UT 84108.

WINNER OF THE 2005 LILIENFELD STUDENT PRIZE

The 2005 Lilienfeld Student Prize was awarded to ~~xx~~, a doctoral candidate in the Department of Nutrition at the University of North Carolina School of Public Health. The title of her paper is: ~~"Are Adolescents Who Were Breastfed Less Likely to be Overweight? Reducing the Effect of Confounding through the Use of Sibling Pair Analyses,"~~ which she presented at the Plenary Session.

The Lilienfeld Prize is named in honor of Abraham Lilienfeld, a pioneer in epidemiology and a founding member of SER. He was renowned as a mentor and teacher.

CALL FOR REVIEWER

The unsung heroes of the annual meeting are the dozens of experts who volunteer their time to review abstracts. Each reviewer is asked to rank approximately 20 abstracts on topics in their area of expertise. The reviews are done blindly, and two reviewers examine each abstract. This year, abstracts will be sent to reviewers during the second week of February and will be due back by the first week of March. If you are interested and willing to undertake this time sensitive task, please contact Jacqueline Brakey **BY JANUARY 10, 2005**. Please note your area(s) of expertise and briefly describe your background and experience along with your contact information, mailing address and the email address where you can be contacted in early February. Thank you.

Jacqueline can be reached at:

Phone: (801) 525-0231

Fax: (801) 774-9211

Email: membership@epiresearch.org

UPCOMING MEETINGS!

2006: Seattle, WA (Congress) June 2 –24

2007: Boston, MA (SER) June 19-22

SPER IN SEATTLE, WASHINGTON

The Society for Pediatric and Perinatal Epidemiologic Research will hold its 19th annual meeting on June 20-21, 2006, at the Westin Hotel in Seattle, Washington. The meeting will include a poster session and opening reception on the evening of the 20th and a full day of plenary sessions with a poster session on the 21st. For information about abstract submission, see SPER's website at www.sper.org or contact Dawn Misra, Ph.D., SPER Secretary, Phone: (734) 647-7944 or Fax: (734) 763-7379, email: dmisra@umich.edu.

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