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*Society for
Epidemiologic
Research*

SER FALL NEWSLETTER 2009

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

by Arthur Reingold, MD



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University of California,
Berkeley
School of Public Health
Division of Epidemiology

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Let me begin by saying how honored I am to be serving as the President of SER for 2009-2010, particularly to be following in the footsteps of Malcolm Maclure, Sherman James, and the other distinguished epidemiologists who have led the organization in previous years. The talented and diverse membership of SER, together with its outstanding staff (welcome, Sue Bevan!) and fully engaged Executive Committee, make it a true pleasure for me to serve as President.

Our 2009 meeting in Anaheim, California, was in every

respect a memorable one, even for those attendees who did not visit nearby Disneyland. The combination of featured speakers, symposia, spotlight sessions, and poster sessions, along with the numerous social functions and informal get-togethers, made for a truly educational and enjoyable meeting.

The 2009 Abraham Lilienfeld Student Prize for "best paper" by a doctoral student in epidemiology was awarded to Jaimie Gradus, a recent graduate of Boston University, School of Public Health. Her paper, entitled "The Association Between Post-traumatic Stress Disorder and Completed Suicide In The Adult Population Of Denmark", was outstanding. However, having read all of the 22 papers submitted for consideration, I can attest to both the high quality of all of them and the very difficult job the numerous reviewers had in choosing a winner. The doctoral student workshop that preceded the formal opening of the meeting was also terrific, made all the more so by the use of Elluminate technology to permit initial "presentation" of the research being done by the twelve students selected to participate (again, chosen from an extraordinary group of over 30 applicants) in advance of our arrival in Anaheim. We are indebted to Malcolm Maclure for his wisdom in introducing this innovative (and almost carbon neutral!) way to enhance the experience of the participants, as well as to our four faculty, Jen Ahern, Jon Samet, Kat Hogatt, and Sue Hankinson.

The 2010 meeting will be held in Seattle from June 23rd – 26th. The theme of the Seattle meeting will be "Epidemiology without Borders," a timely topic indeed, given the current novel H1N1 influenza pandemic that is reminding us of what a truly interconnected planet we inhabit. However, it is not just infectious agents that fail to respect national borders. Everything from toxic waste and industrial emissions, to tobacco products and fast food, to novel biostatistical and epidemiologic methods, freely circumnavigates the globe, along with quite a few of our members.

(Continued on next page)

SAVE THE DATES

•
2010

The Westin Seattle
1800 5th Avenue
Seattle, WA
(June 23-26)

•
2011

Congress Year
Le Centre Sheraton
Montreal
1201 Rene-Levesque
Blvd West
Montreal, QC
(June 21-24)

•
2012

Hyatt Regency
Minneapolis
1300 Nicollett Mall
Minneapolis, MN
(June 27-30)

•
2013

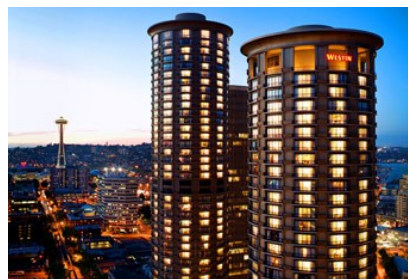
The Boston Park Plaza
Hotel & Towers
64 Arlington Street
Boston, MA
(June 18-21)

PRESIDENT'S CORNER CONTINUED...

As in previous years, we expect to welcome and reconnect with colleagues and friends from diverse countries at the Seattle meeting, which will also feature two major lectures (to be announced - stay by your phones!). As always, the meeting will also feature symposia on a wide range of topics, spotlight sessions, and posters galore. Be sure to submit your abstracts by the February 1, 2010 deadline. I look forward to seeing you all in Seattle in June!

Arthur Reim

*"Epidemiology
without Borders"*



The 43rd Annual SER Meeting will be held June 23rd (eve) through June 26th, 2010. Meeting and accommodations will be at "The Westin Seattle" in Seattle, Washington.

A large number of Symposia Proposals were submitted which will provide a wide-range of topics for this conference.

ALUMNI REUNIONS

A number of universities have organized successful receptions for faculty, alumni, and students in past meetings. Friday June 25, 7:00 pm has been scheduled for these reunions. If you would like to have a reunion at the conference hotel The Westin Seattle, please contact Peggy Christensen, SER Conference Manager, to make arrangements. Phone: (801) 585-6808, fax: (801) 587-3353 or email: peggy.christensen@utah.edu

SER-SC President's Corner by Arijit Nandi



**President,
SER-Student Caucus
Harvard University**

It is my pleasure to serve the student caucus and coordinate student events for this year. Thanks to the purposefulness of last year's student caucus board, including Vanessa Stevens, Stella Aslibekyan, Jennifer Smith, Karen Schliep, Whitney Robinson, and Michael Lowe, our programs in Anaheim were well attended and favorably reviewed. This year, we hope to build on this momentum through the continuation of our student programs at the Annual Meeting in Seattle, as well as the launch of some new initiatives.

During the 2009 meeting in Anaheim we asked students about the ways in which the student caucus could aid in their academic and professional development. Overwhelmingly, the most common responses were about increased networking, both among students and between students and faculty. Given last year's theme of *Epidemiologists as Vectors for Transmitting Health* and high-profile research showing network transmission of everything from happiness to obesity, perhaps it is time we look introspectively into the ways in which we can leverage our professional network to facilitate the development of our student members. With the continued support of the SER executive board, we are considering a number of innovative programs.

One idea raised last year by Dr. Malcolm Maclure was the idea of a mid-year web meeting. This would be an extension of last year webinar, which allowed students to view presentations over the internet in advance of a half-day in-person workshop that focused on reviewing and writing epidemiologic abstracts, as well as strategies for developing them into publishable manuscripts. The ratings for the workshop in general, and the webinar in particular, were extremely positive, suggesting that the use of online or virtual forums may be an underutilized resource for encouraging the links between us.

Although the details are tentative, a mid-year web meeting would allow students to view online presentations concerning an epidemiologic topic of interest, such as a methodological session on absolute vs.

relative measures of risk, and give them the opportunity to interact with the presenters and with one another. The poten-

tial formative benefits are many, including the didactic benefit of being able to view presentations at one's own pace along with relevant readings, as well as the professional component, which would allow students to network at a time and space besides the Annual Meeting. There is also, of course, no additional risk of swine flu.

An extension of this idea is to take advantage of our entire network through enhanced web services, something that we will be exploring in the coming year with the assistance of the SER executive committee and administration. Potential resources available to student caucus members could include job postings, online presentations and podcasts from our Annual Meetings, and polls/surveys. I look forward to investigating these possibilities along with a talented and inspired group of student leaders, including:

Edgar Simard

President-Elect

University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey SPH

Katie O'Brien

Membership/Nominations Co-Chair

University of North Carolina SPH

Elizabeth Brownell

Membership/Nominations Co-Chair

University of Rochester

Leona Bessonova

Program Committee Co-Chair

University of California, Irvine

Miranda Ritterman

Program Committee Co-Chair

University of California, Berkeley SPH

Kellee White

Abstracts Committee Chair/Treasurer

Harvard SPH

Jennifer Lund

Secretary/Communications Chair

University of North Carolina SPH

Of course, the most important input should come from you, the members of SER and the student caucus. I hope to hear back from you about our plans for the upcoming year and the ways in which we can continue to strengthen the SER professional network. No, twitter is not an option.

Regards,

Arijit Nandi

anandi@hsph.harvard.edu

Click on the link below to see the SER web meeting pilot project, including recordings of the SER 2009 Keynote Address on Climate Change and Health, plus talks by Poole and Hernan on absolute versus relative measures of effect.

<http://web.his.uvic.ca/HINF591/SERwebmeeting.htm>

**SER ANNUAL WORKSHOP ON METHODS
FOR EPIDEMIOLOGY DOCTORAL STUDENTS
June 22-23rd 2010, Seattle WA**

SER is seeking applications from students who want to participate in a workshop on epidemiologic methods related to their dissertation research. The workshop will be held immediately preceding the 43rd annual SER meeting (June 23-26, 2010). Mary Haan, SER President-Elect from University of California, San Francisco, Epidemiology Department, is the workshop coordinator. Four additional faculty members with expertise in epidemiology, biostatistics, and various substantive areas will conduct the workshop.

The workshop meets the evening of June 22 and all day the 23rd. There is intensive interaction between students and faculty at the workshop. Before the workshop meeting, students will present their work online and receive comments from participating faculty and students. The project must be in progress and not completed so that the workshop may affect how the project is actually conducted. Cancer epidemiology is a focus of the workshop but papers on other topics are acceptable.

The 12 students selected for participation will receive a fellowship to cover the cost of travel, three days per diem, and registration fees for the SER meeting. Students from under-represented racial and ethnic groups are particularly encouraged to apply. Only doctoral students in epidemiology are eligible. An application form can be downloaded from www.epiresearch.org/studentwkshp.pdf. Further Instructions are on the website.

Send the completed application to: Julie Buring, ScD, Division of Preventive Medicine, Brigham and Women's Hospital, 900 Commonwealth Ave East - Third floor, Boston, MA 02215. Contact Dr. Buring for questions about the submission process; phone: (617) 278-0863; email: jburing@rics.bwh.harvard.edu. Contact Dr. Haan (mary.haan@ucsf.edu) for questions about content and organization.

**Applications must be RECEIVED BY EMAIL
no later than February 10, 2010,
followed by a hardcopy.**

**2009 POSTER
SESSION WINNERS**

Poster Session 1

1st Prize – Reem Hasan

*The Association Between First Trimester
Vaginal Bleeding And Miscarriage*

2nd Prize – Yvette Cozier

*Reproductive And Hormonal Characteristics In
Relation To Sarcoidosis In U.S. Black Women*

3rd Prize – Jennifer Lee

The Relation Of Thyroid Function To Women's Symptoms

Student Prize – Miriam El-Zein

*Does BCG Vaccination Protect Against The
Development Of Childhood Asthma? A Systematic
Review And Meta-Analysis Of Epidemiological Studies*

Poster Session 2

1st Prize – Charu Mathur

Transitions In Smoking Among Adolescents

2nd Prize – Michael Alavanja

*Pesticide Exposure And The Risk Of Monoclonal
Gammopathy Of Undetermined Significance
(MGUS) In The Agricultural Health Study*

3rd Prize – Aaron Wendelboe

*Importance Of Employee Vaccination Against
Influenza In Preventing Cases In Long-Term
Care Facilities*

Student Prize – Karen Bartley

*Diagnostic X-Ray Exposures And Risk Of
Childhood Acute Leukemia*

Poster Session 3

1st Prize – Amy Kalkbrenner

*Hazardous Air Pollutants And Autism In
North Carolina And West Virginia*

2nd Prize – Daniel Westreich

*Bias And Confidence Limit Coverage Of
Marginal Structural Cox Models*

3rd Prize – Kyndaron Reinier

Population-Based Analysis Of Sudden Cardiac Arrest

Student Prize – Kristen Rappazzo

Carbon Monoxide And Birth Outcomes: A Meta-Analysis

LILIENFELD AWARD WINNER!



Congratulations to Jaimie Gradus for her paper entitled:

*“The Association Between Posttraumatic Stress Disorder and Completed Suicide In
The Adult Population Of Denmark”*

Jaimie was selected as The 2009 Abraham Lilienfeld
Student Prize Paper recipient.

THE SER ABRAHAM LILIENFELD PRIZE PAPER COMPETITION

**Deadline:
February 5, 2010**

Abraham Lilienfeld was a founder of and key contributor to modern chronic disease epidemiology. To honor his memory, the SER makes an annual award of \$1,000 plus travel expenses to the SER meeting for the best submitted paper by a student in a doctoral program with a concentration in epidemiology. Please bring this competition to the attention of potential applicants.

The winner will present his or her research in the SER Annual Meeting in a plenary session. The paper will be considered for early publication in the *American Journal of Epidemiology*. The work must have been completed during the two years prior to the June 2010 meeting in Seattle, WA and must be unpublished at the time of the Annual Meeting. The applicant need not be a student at the time of the submission. No prize will be awarded if the review committee decides that none of the manuscripts is of superior quality.

Electronic copy (in English) must be **RECEIVED** no later than February 5, 2010. Authors must include their telephone number, address and current position, a statement indicating the date the work was completed, their academic doctoral advisor's name and signature, and the name of their department chair or head. Email papers in PDF to: Mary Haan (Mary.Haan@ucsf.edu) and Sue Bevan (suzannebevan@comcast.net).

**Submission Deadline
February 1, 2010**

Call for Abstracts for the 43rd Annual SER Meeting
June 23 (eve) -26, 2010 --- Seattle, WA

Abstract Submission Guidelines

Abstracts are requested for consideration for spotlight and/or poster presentations for the 43rd Annual SER Meeting in Seattle, WA. Accepted abstracts will be distributed at the June meeting and will also be published in a Supplement issue of the *American Journal of Epidemiology*.

The following rules are AJE policies and must be adhered to precisely:

1. Abstracts are required to be submitted online:

Please use the form located at <http://www.epiresearch.org/abstracts/>. Begin the abstract in the box with a title, a complete list of authors (with presenter noted with an asterisk), and the institution at which the work was done. **EXAMPLE: A Study of Exposure to Disease. I. Smith, *S. Jones, and P. Gold (University, City, State, Zip Code.)** Please leave a space between the heading and the ab-

2. A letter of notification of acceptance or rejection will be emailed to the authors no later than May 1, 2010.
3. **General Rules about the abstracts:**
Please read these instructions carefully. Do not include figures, tables, or mathematical equations in the abstract. **The abstract should not exceed 1,935 characters, which includes title and author information.** Avoid acronyms. If you use references, provide the journal, volume, year, and page numbers. Spell out abbreviations (including OR or RR) the first time you use them. If you calculate confidence intervals, specify whether they are 90%, 95%, etc. Choose one topic area from the list below. If applicable, also choose a special highlight topic area. These special topic areas will be the focus of this year's spotlight sessions.
4. Presentation of specific data and methodologic details assist reviewers in judging the quality of the research. New findings are of **greater** interest than confirmation of known relations. Clarity and brevity of writing will allow evaluation of the importance of the research. Each abstract is scored by two reviewers. An overall acceptance proportion is applied to each subject area. The allocation of papers therefore represents the number of abstracts submitted for the subject areas.
All abstracts must be received in final form no later than February 1, 2010.

General Topic Areas (used for review):

- | | | | | |
|------------------------|------------------|--------------|----------------|------------------|
| •Aging | •Behavioral | •Biomarkers | •Birth Defects | •Cancer |
| •Cardiovascular/Stroke | •Diabetes | •Environment | •Ethics | •Female Cancer |
| •Genetics | •Health Services | •Infection | •Injury | •Methods |
| •Nutrition | •Occupational | •Other | •Pediatrics | •Pregnancy |
| •Psychiatric | •Reproductive | •Screening | •Social | •Substance Abuse |
| •Women's Health | | | | |

Highlighted Topic Areas:

- | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------------|
| •Disease Surveillance | •Epidemiologic Transition |
| •Global Aging | •Global Health |
| •Health Disparities | •Health in Developing Countries |
| •Obesity | •Preparedness/Disaster Epidemiology |
| •Qualitative Methods | |

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“SER IS COMMITTED TO KEEPING EPIDEMIOLOGISTS AT THE VANGUARD OF SCIENTIFIC DEVELOPMENTS”