



Society for  
Epidemiologic  
Research

## SER FALL NEWSLETTER 2010



### 3rd North American Congress of Epidemiology

Epidemiologic researchers, educators, and policy makers from academia, public health, government, and industry are invited to come together at the Third North American Congress of Epidemiology. The Congress will be held instead of the SER Annual Meeting, and will occur from June 21 to 24, 2011, in Montreal, Quebec, Canada. Montreal is the second largest city in Canada, as well as the second largest primarily French-speaking city in the world. Montreal is renowned for its architecture, diverse neighborhoods, gourmet food, and cultural offerings.

The Congress aims to showcase and promote the diversity of study, practice and policy within epidemiology as a whole. This meeting is held only once every five years and provides an unique opportunity to interact with a diverse group of approximately 1,500 scientists and practitioners from more than 25 professional societies. The meeting will include plenary addresses from visionary leaders; symposia addressing emerging issues cutting across topical fields; spotlight and poster sessions selected from submitted abstracts; and awards for a variety of accomplishments in our field. **Proposals for Pre-Conference workshops are due on September 30 and for Symposium on October 31. Abstract submissions will be accepted from November 1, 2010, to January 5, 2011; individuals willing to review abstracts are asked to sign-up beginning October 15, 2010. Nominations for awards and exhibitor and sponsor applications will be available later this fall. Pre-conference registration will begin the beginning of February 2011.**

For more information on the Congress, and to participate in any of the opportunities mentioned above, please see: <http://www.epicongress2011.org/index.html>.

#### SAVE THE DATES:

- 2011 CONGRESS  
LE SHERATON MONTREAL 1201  
RENE-LEVESQUE BLVD. WEST  
MONTREAL, QC  
(JUNE 21-24)
- 2012 SER MEETING  
HYATT REGENCY MINNEAPOLIS  
1300 NICOLLETT MALL  
MINNEAPOLIS, MN  
(JUNE 27-30)
- 2013 SER MEETING  
THE BOSTON PARK  
PLAZA HOTEL & TOWERS  
64 ARLINGTON STREET  
BOSTON, MA  
(JUNE 18-21)

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## President's Message



**Dr. Mary Haan**  
Professor, UCSF  
Epidemiology &  
Biostatistics

These are challenging times to be President of the Society for Epidemiologic Research and I am honored that the SER membership elected me to do this demanding job. I have been an SER member since 1986 and relish the chance to give back to the organization that has served so many so well for so long.

Thanks to the SER Board and staff, the June 2010 SER meeting in Seattle was an outstanding success with record high attendance and dozens of high quality, cutting edge symposia, workshops, posters and events. Student involvement is an important key to SER's success and is a highlight of SER meetings. The future of epidemiology is in their hands and I am fully confident that our discipline will continue to blossom under the guidance of these brilliant, forward-looking minds. Notably, Susan Mason won the coveted 2010 Lilienfeld Stu-

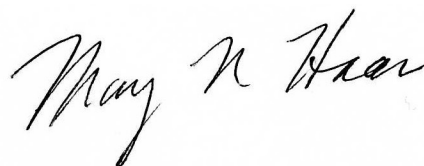
dent Prize paper for her innovative and important paper titled: "Preterm birth risk in black immigrant enclaves: African, Caribbean and US-born non-Hispanic black populations in New York City". Our key note speaker Chris Murray highlighted the importance of chronic disease in a global context. The John C. Cassel Memorial Lecture was given by Lisa Berkman, renowned social epidemiologist.

We are constantly looking for ways to improve membership benefits for all of you. As an example, starting in 2011, we will be able to offer lower membership rates to people who choose to have the American Journal of Epidemiology on-line only. Not only will this lower rates, it is consistent with the goal of reducing the environmental impact of our organization.

Running an organization takes money. For decades, membership fees and meeting registrations have been the sole sources of income for the SER. While this has sustained us well for a long time, hard economic times are hitting everyone. We would like to be able to help support more students and new investigators to attend our meetings and to participate in other SER activities. In 2011, the SER website will have an online form that will allow anyone to donate money for these activities when you register or if you just come to visit the site. Even small donations add up!

SER is one of four lead organizations working very hard to bring into being the Third North American Congress of Epidemiology to be held in Montreal, Canada next June 21-24, 2011. The Congress will bring together researchers and practitioners from Canada, the US, Mexico and beyond. At present, 20 organizations are sponsoring this important event. Our annual meeting will be integrated into the Congress. I personally urge SER members to attend.

Today, epidemiology faces new and growing demands around the globe. Witness the world-wide obesity epidemic that affects every nation and will lead to increases in hypertension and type 2 diabetes. Witness the aging of the global population confronting health care systems around the world. Witness the toll from annual flu and other major infectious disease epidemics. We all have work to do. See you in Montreal.



## Student and Postdoc Committee (SER-SPC)

Greetings from the newly re-named SER-Student and Postdoc Committee (SER-SPC). We changed our name to be more inclusive, acknowledging our many postdoctoral members. While our name may have changed, our membership criteria have not: we welcome all students (at any level), trainees, and postdoctoral researchers to join us. Please encourage your colleagues to visit our website for additional information or contact a member of the SER-SPC executive board.

The annual meeting in Seattle was a huge success, thanks to the SER program staff and the excellent planning and teamwork demonstrated by the SER-SPC leadership. I would like to extend my sincerest thanks to the outgoing board members: Miranda Lucia Ritterman Weintraub, Kellee White, Elizabeth Brownell, and Vanessa Stevens. Our evaluation of student and postdoc activities in Seattle revealed an overall very high level of satisfaction among participants. We use these data to continually improve our programs to better meet the wants and needs of our members. We welcome your comments and advice, and invite you to become more involved with the SER-SPC by joining a committee and/or participating in our planning conference calls.

We are developing a dynamic agenda of activities to be held at the Congress of Epidemiology in Montreal (June 21-24, 2011). In addition to SER, the other groups sponsoring the Congress are: the American College of Epidemiology (ACE), the APHA Epidemiology Section, and

the Canadian Society for Epidemiology and Biostatistics (CSEB). In collaboration with the student and postdoc groups from these societies, we will offer a cross-cutting program focused on helping early career epidemiologists make important decisions such as choosing a career path (whether it be academic, government, industry, or otherwise), and successfully competing for research funds. In addition, we will again provide ample opportunities for professional and social networking between epidemiologists at all career stages. Please visit the Congress website ([www.epicongress2011.org](http://www.epicongress2011.org)) to learn about the discounted housing options, volunteer opportunities, as well as information on travel scholarships and awards.

In addition to planning for the Congress of Epidemiology, logistics are underway for a web meeting focused on the application of an epidemiologic method. We will solicit abstracts from SER-SPC members later this fall. We recently tested a web meeting application which we hope to share with you sometime in the near future. We have also increased our presence on the Internet: please follow us on **Twitter @SER\_SPC**. Soon, the SER website will also have a “members only” job board available. We are exploring the utility of other social media to increase networking opportunities between SER-SPC members. If you have any feedback or ideas on this, please contact us.

*Continued on page 4*



**Edgar P. Simard**  
Columbia University

“WE HAVE  
CHANGED OUR  
NAME TO BE  
MORE INCLUSIVE,  
ACKNOWLEDG-  
ING OUR MANY  
POSTDOCTORAL  
MEMBERS.”



Montréal skyline from  
the Old Port

# SER FALL NEWSLETTER 2010

## Student and Postdoc Committee (SER-SPC)

Finally, I am excited to announce the 2010-2011 SER-SPC Executive Board to you:

**Stella Aslibekyan**

President-Elect  
Brown University

**Arijit Nandi**

Past-President  
McGill University

**Jennifer Lund**

Secretary/Communications Chair  
UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health

**Abdulrahman El-Sayed**

Treasurer/Abstract Committee Chair  
University of Oxford

**Leona Bessonova**

Program Committee Co-Chair  
University of California, Irvine

**Britton Trabert**

Program Committee Co-Chair  
National Cancer Institute

**Katie O'Brien**

Nominations/Membership Committee Co-Chair  
UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health

**Pamela Klein**

Nominations/Membership Committee Co-Chair  
UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health

Please contact us with your suggestions and ideas regarding the SER-SPC and we look forward to seeing you in Montreal!

Best wishes,

**Edgar P. Simard**

Columbia University  
es3002@columbia.edu  
President, SER-Student and Postdoc Committee (SER-SPC)

## Congress Student/Post-Doc Activities

- Grant Writing Workshop
- SAS Training Workshop
- The Job Search—Post-docs, Academia, Government, Industry, and Beyond
- Breakfast with Leading Epidemiologists
- Lunch Time Sessions
  - Meet the Editors
  - Career Panel—Jobs in Epidemiology
- Guided Poster Tours

**Visit [www.epicongress2011.org/students](http://www.epicongress2011.org/students) for more detailed information.**

# WEB MEETINGS



Society for  
Epidemiologic  
Research  
Student Caucus

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS  
EPIDEMIOLOGIC METHODOLOGY APPLICATIONS CONFERENCE  
THE 1ST ANNUAL SER-STUDENT CAUCUS WEB-MEETING  
JANUARY 8TH, 2011

Abstracts are requested for consideration for the first annual SER-Student Caucus (SER-SC) sponsored online web-meeting, the **Epidemiologic Methodology Applications Conference (eMAC)**. The theme of eMAC is the **Application of Novel Epidemiologic Methods in Student Research**.

The meeting will begin with a live plenary session, “**Rah-rah for (and against) Risk Relativism**,” a debate between Drs. Malcolm Maclure (UBC) and Charles Poole (UNC). This will be followed by live presentations of abstracts accepted for oral presentation. Abstracts accepted for “poster presentation” will be pre-recorded and available online before the meeting. All accepted abstracts will be distributed electronically after the meeting and jointly submitted for publication in *American Journal of Epidemiology*. Applicants can withdraw confidentially any time: if a presenter does not like the quality of their pre-recorded presentation, they can withdraw it. So, don't be shy about submitting an abstract.

## The following rules must be adhered to:

1. The first/submitting author must be a member of the SER-SC; membership to SER-SC is open to students, residents, fellows, post-docs, and recent graduates (within 1 year of graduation). If you are not a student member of SER and would like to learn more about SER-SC membership, as well as eMAC, please visit [www.epiresearch.org](http://www.epiresearch.org). Updates and instructions for participating in this meeting will be sent to members.
2. **Submissions should feature a novel twist on an epidemiologic method when applied in one of the following areas: (1) study design; (2) measurement; (3) statistical methods; or (4) communication of results.**
3. Presentation of specific data and methodologic details assist reviewers in judging the quality of the research. New approaches are of greater interest than confirmation of known approaches. Clarity and brevity of writing will allow evaluation of the importance of the research. Each abstract will be scored by two reviewers.
4. Abstracts are required to be submitted online. Please use the form located at <http://www.epiresearch.org/webmeetings/>. Begin the abstract in the box with a title, a complete list of authors and the institution where 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 abstract. 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.
5. A letter of notification of acceptance or rejection will be emailed to the first/submitting author no later than December 1, 2010, along with details about how to record/upload presentations and use the web-meeting software that will be made available by SER-SC. **All abstracts must be received in final form no later than November 15, 2010.**



**Submission Deadline  
January 5, 2011**

**Call for Abstracts for the 3<sup>rd</sup> North American Congress of Epidemiology**  
June 21-24, 2011 --- Montreal, QC, CANADA

**Abstract Submission Guidelines**

Abstracts are requested for consideration for spotlight and/or poster presentations for the 3rd North American Congress of Epidemiology. 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.epicongress2011.org>. 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 abstract.

2. A letter of notification of acceptance or rejection will be emailed to the authors no later than May 1, 2011.

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 January 5, 2011.**

**[Topic Areas can be found on the website at www.epicongress2011.org](http://www.epicongress2011.org)**

# **SER Annual Meeting, Seattle WA**

## **Poster Winners**

### **POSTER SESSION 1**

#### **1st Prize - Lisa Bodnar**

"A factor analysis of dietary biomarkers in relation to depression during pregnancy"

#### **2nd Prize - Janet Catov**

"Preterm birth and maternal visceral fat measured 10 years after delivery"

#### **3rd Prize - Sze Y Liu**

"School desegregation and associated decreases in female adolescent births"

#### **Student Prize - Christine Torris**

"Prolonged lactation is associated with later favorable maternal metabolic profile. The Norwegian EBBA-I study"

### **POSTER SESSION 2**

#### **1st Prize - Anna Prizment**

"Psoriasis and risk of cancer: the Iowa Women's Health Study (IWHS)."

#### **2nd Prize - Marta Prescott**

"Context of military and civilian traumatic events and posttraumatic stress disorder among National Guard soldiers"

#### **3rd Prize - Sarah Starks**

"High Pesticide Exposure Events and Adverse Central Nervous System (CNS) Function in Pesticide Applicators"

#### **Student Prize - Simone Gray**

"Hierarchical Spatial Modeling of Uncertainty in Air Pollution and Birth Weight Study"

### **POSTER SESSION 3**

#### **1st Prize - Ayleen Godreau**

"Association of Body Mass Index with Cystatin C"

#### **2nd Prize - Chanelle Howe**

"Marginal structural models to estimate the effect of alcohol consumption on HIV acquisition"

#### **3rd Prize - Maria Glymour**

"Southern Birth and Rate of Memory Loss in Late Life"

#### **Student Prize - Michelle Danaher**

"Gene-Environment Interaction by Pooling Biospecimens"

# STUDENT DISSERTATION WORKSHOP

## SER ANNUAL WORKSHOP ON METHODS

FOR EPIDEMIOLOGY DOCTORAL STUDENTS

June 20-21st 2011, Montréal, QB, Canada



Pointe-à-Callière,  
Montréal Museum  
of Archaeology and  
History

STUDENT  
DISSERTATION  
WORKSHOP:  
“APPLICATIONS  
MUST BE  
RECEIVED BY  
EMAIL NO LATER  
THAN **FEBRUARY  
10, 2011.**”

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 3rd North American Congress Meeting (June 21-24, 2011). Dr. Polly Marchbanks, SER President-Elect from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta Georgia, is the workshop coordinator. Four additional faculty members with expertise in epidemiology, biostatistics, cancer, and various other substantive areas will conduct the workshop.

The workshop meets the evening of June 20th and all day the 21st. There is intensive interaction between students and faculty at the workshop. The thesis 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 Congress meeting. Students from under-represented racial and ethnic groups are particularly encouraged to apply. Only doctoral students in epidemiology, or in related doctoral programs but whose thesis involves an epidemiologic study, are eligible. An application form can be downloaded from [www.epiresearch.org/studentwkshp.pdf](http://www.epiresearch.org/studentwkshp.pdf). Further Instructions are on the website.

Please send the completed application to: Julie Buring, ScD, at [jburing@rics.bwh.harvard.edu](mailto:jburing@rics.bwh.harvard.edu). The mailing address to send the hard copy is Julie Buring, Division of Preventive Medicine, Brigham and Women's Hospital, 900 Commonwealth Ave East - third floor, Boston, MA 02215. You may contact Dr. Buring for questions about the submission process or Workshop organization by phone: (617) 278-0863 or email: [jburing@rics.bwh.harvard.edu](mailto:jburing@rics.bwh.harvard.edu); or contact Dr. Polly Marchbanks ([pam2@cdc.gov](mailto:pam2@cdc.gov)) for questions about the Workshop itself.

Applications must be RECEIVED BY EMAIL  
no later than February 10, 2011,  
followed by a mailed hardcopy with advisor's signature.

## Lilienfeld Award Winner?

Congratulations to Susan Mason for her paper entitled:

**“Pre-term birth risk in black immigrant enclaves: African-, Caribbean-, and US-born non Hispanic black populations in New York City”**

Visit [www.epicongress2011.org](http://www.epicongress2011.org) for information to  
apply for the 2011 Lilienfeld Award.



# SER Executive Committee 2010-2011

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# SER FALL NEWSLETTER 2010

## Society for Epidemiologic Research

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Visit us on the web at  
[www.epiresearch.org](http://www.epiresearch.org)

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## SER Membership for 2011



### 2011 Membership Rates:

Full Member—	\$160
Online Only—	\$115
Emeritus—	\$100
Student—	\$85
Student Discount—	\$25

Membership renewals for 2011 will begin on October 15, 2010. We are pleased to announce a reduced rate for Online Only access to the American Journal of Epidemiology. The online only fee will be \$115 per year.

We will also continue to offer the discounted

Student Rate, which does not include the journal online or printed version. The annual rate is \$25.

All other membership will receive the printed version of the AJE as well as online access to the journal.

**Renew online at [www.epiresearch.org/membership](http://www.epiresearch.org/membership)**