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- The 2008 annual meeting will be held in Chicago, from June 24-27.
- For the first time, SER-SC will offer six \$500 travel scholarships to assist students, post-docs, fellows or trainees to attend the 2008 Annual SER Meeting in Chicago, IL.
- Call for Abstracts for the 41st Annual SER Meeting

Individual Highlights:

Future SER Dates	2
SC Presidents Letter	3-4
SER Award Winners	4
Call for Abstracts	5
SER Student Workshop	7
Lilienfeld Paper	
Poster Winners	

President's Corner by Sherman James



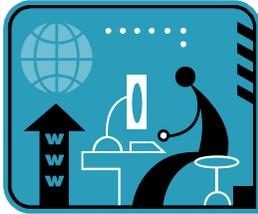
First, let me say what a privilege it is to serve as the president of SER for 2007-2008. Our organization is strong, forward looking, and very well managed – thanks to an excellent Executive Committee and to our permanent staff based in Salt Lake City.

The 2007 annual meeting, which was held in Boston from June 19-22, was a tremendous success. The total number of registrants was 852, one of the highest in recent years. Of the 852 registrants, 284 (33%) were students. Illustrating SER's global reach, 127 (15%) registrants came from outside the US, with geographical representation from Europe, Asia, Africa, Latin America, and the Middle East. The theme of the 2007 meeting – *Genome to GIS: how can high technology contribute to modern epidemiology research?* – posed a very timely question, and a number of important issues embedded in this question were explicated in a lively debate between David Altschuler and Richard Cooper that comprised the opening plenary session.

The 2007 Abraham Lilienfeld Student Prize for “best paper” by a doctoral student in epidemiology was awarded to Matthew Fox, a recent graduate of the Boston University School of Public Health. The title of Dr. Fox's paper and lecture was – *Is advanced maternal HIV disease stage infant mortality among HIV-exposed children mediated through breastfeeding?* We are indebted to the following individuals who served as judges for the 2007 Student Prize competition: Allison E. Aiello, Jennifer Beebe-Dimmer, Margaret McCann, Hal Morgenstern, Michael Oakes, David Savitz, MaryFran Sowers, and Karin Yeatts. I would also like to thank our epidemiology colleagues at both Boston University, and Harvard University, for their excellent support of our 2007 annual meeting.

The 2008 annual meeting will be held in Chicago, from June 24-27. The theme of the Chicago meeting will be *Social Determinants of Health*, an area of research with fast growing appeal to epidemiologists in many parts of the world. Two very distinguished social epidemiologists will give the two major lectures at the Chicago meeting. The opening keynote address will be given by Diana Kuh, Professor of Life Course Epidemiology at University College –London. Professor Kuh is also the Director of the Unit for Lifelong Health and Ageing at the Medical Research Council. David R. Williams, the Norman Professor of Public Health at Harvard University, will give the John C. Cassel Memorial Lecture. As always, our annual meeting will feature symposia, spotlight sessions, and posters covering a wide range of topics of interest to epidemiologists. In this regard, the 2008 meeting will feature a special symposium on *Epidemiology and the Media*. This topic should be of considerable interest to the membership, given the periodic (and sometimes very critical) attention our discipline receives from the mainstream media. Chicago is a great convention city, especially in June. Be sure to submit your abstracts by the Feb 1, 2008 deadline.

President's Corner Continued



Finally, the SER Executive Committee (EC) would greatly appreciate your taking a few minutes to fill out the Demographic Survey on the back of your membership renewal form prior to mailing same. This information, which will be reported only at the aggregate level, will enable the EC to monitor important changes in the profile of the SER membership, and it will also facilitate our efforts to plan annual meetings, and any other major activity, in keeping with the interests of the membership.

Save The Dates



Hyatt Regency Chicago

41st Annual SER Meeting:

June 24th – 27th

Chicago, IL

Hyatt Regency Chicago

On the Riverwalk

151 East Wacker Drive

Chicago, Illinois, USA 60601

Tel: 312 565-1234 Fax: 312 239-4414

“The SER Executive Committee (EC) would greatly appreciate your taking a few minutes to fill out the Demographic Survey on the back of your membership renewal”

FUTURE MEETING DATES:

2008 Chicago - June 24th to 27th.

2009 Orange County - Hyatt –Orange County

2010 Seattle - Westin

2011 Montreal, CANADA (Congress) Sheraton

“SER-SC maintains a List-serve that is used for general announcements, information about SER and SER-SC events and other epidemiology related issues. ”

Student Caucus President's Corner by Danielle Iuliano



The SER Student Caucus (SER-SC) is actively working this fall to plan activities and workshops for the 2008 Annual Meeting (June 24-27, 2008), to organize an application and award process for six travel scholarships to attend the 2008 meeting, to continue to increase SER membership among students and fellows, to recruit students and faculty to serve as champions, and to develop more opportunities for young public health practitioners to grow and develop professionally.

During the 2007 Annual Meeting, we collected surveys to evaluate each of the SER-SC sessions. The feedback from our programs was overwhelmingly positive and students found the information from the speakers to be valuable. In the evaluations, we asked attendees to suggest ideas, programs and speakers for the 2008 meeting. We will use this information to plan events for the 2008 Annual Meeting. We would like to thank the session speakers who volunteered their time and experiences to lead our sessions. Thanks to all attendees who completed the surveys!

We recently also administered an online survey that went out to individuals subscribed to our List-serve. The survey contained questions about students' plans for attending the 2008 meeting and the programs they would like to see

offered. We also asked students to comment on possible participation in an online conference, research interests, demographic information and reasons for not attending the SER Annual Meeting in the past. We received a very positive response to this survey and are in the process of analyzing the data. Thanks to everyone who completed our survey!

For the first time, SER-SC will offer six \$500 travel scholarships to assist students, post-docs, fellows or trainees to attend the 2008 Annual SER Meeting in Chicago, IL. We are currently developing the application process and will work with the SER Board to select scholarship recipients based on merit and need. Please look for more information about this in the coming weeks. If you would like to receive more information, please contact Sara Simonsen (sara.simonsen@utah.edu).

We are currently developing SER-SC programs for the 2008 meeting in Chicago, IL. We are looking forward to conducting several great programs including Pre-Conference Training Workshops; Meet the Experts Sessions, Noontime Sessions, a Guided Poster Tours and informal social activities. If you are interested in assisting to plan SER-SC programs, please contact Caroline Hoffman (cshoffma@email.unc.edu) or Lizzi Torrone (torrone@email.unc.edu).

The SER-SC board is in the process of recruiting students and fellows to review abstracts submitted for the 2008 meeting. SER-SC abstract reviewers must be student members of SER and must have passed all doctoral exams except their final defense. An official announcement and registration form will be available soon. For more information, please contact Kristal Raymond (raymon@email.unc.edu).

In order to promote SER-SC activities and opportunities as well as to expand student and fellow membership, we are working to update our list of SER Champions (faculty and staff at schools/programs of public health). We are also recruiting students and fellows to serve as SER-SC Champions. SER-SC Champions will help to promote SER-SC activities and encourage SER-SC membership and participation in events. If you are a faculty member, student, fellow or post-doc and interested in serving as an SER or SER-SC champion, please contact Simone Pinheiro (spinheir@hsph.harvard.edu).

We are actively recruiting students or fellows to run for SER-SC office for the 2008-2009 year. This is a great opportunity to get involved with SER and to meet students and faculty from across the country. To learn more about the different positions, please visit our website <http://www.epiresearch.org/students/index.html> or contact any of our current officers. For more information about nominations and eligibility, please contact Simone Pinheiro (spinheir@hsph.harvard.edu).

Please visit our website at <http://www.epiresearch.org/students/index.html> to learn more about our organization and our mission. You will also be able to obtain more information about the opportunities and events that I have shared with you on our website. We are also in the process of developing resources for students and fellows including information on writing and reviewing abstracts, putting together a poster presentation, writing a manuscript and other topics.



Student Caucus President's Corner - continued

These resources can be viewed in the resources section of our site, accessible at: <http://www.epiresearch.org/students/resources.html>. Please take a few minutes to review these helpful materials. Additionally, SER-SC maintains a List-serve that is used for general announcements, information about SER and SER-SC events and other epidemiology related issues. If you would like to subscribe to this List-serve, please visit http://hsphsun3.harvard.edu/mailman/listinfo/ser_studentcaucus.

The SER-SC Executive Committee Members for 2007-2008 are:

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Lizzie Torrone, torrone@email.unc.edu

University of North Carolina

Cheers,

Danielle Iuliano
SER-SC President 2007-2008

LILIENFELD AWARD WINNER

Congratulations to Matthew Fox for his paper entitled "Does advanced maternal HIV disease stage increase infant mortality among HIV-exposed children mediated through breastfeeding?" Matthew was selected as the The 2007 Abraham Lilienfeld Student Prize Paper recipient.

POSTER SESSION WINNERS

Poster Session 1

1st Prize: Vincent Doria-Rose

The Evaluation of Self-Selection Bias in Observational Studies of Cancer Screening Using Data from Randomized Controlled Trials.

2nd Prize: Sonja Berndt

Disparities in Survival between Black and White Patients with Renal Cell Cancer

3rd Prize: Marina Kauskof

Personal History of Benign Gynecological Disease and Cutaneous Melanoma Risk in a Cohort of French Woman

Student Prize: Britton Trabert

Adenomyosis: Potential Biases Associated with Control Selection

Poster Session 2

1st Prize: Gregory Howard

Contrasting Theories of Additivity, Synergy, and Antagonism in Epidemiology and Toxicology

2nd Prize: Megan Welsh

Population-based Estimates of the Relation between Family History and Breast Cancer Risk

3rd Prize: Yvette Cozier

The Association between Experiences and Perceptions of Racism and Cumulative Weight Gain in U.S. Black Women

Student Prize: David Maduram

An Analysis of the Efficacy of Cervical Cancer Screening in Elderly women

Poster Session 3

1st Prize: Gregory Wellenius

Temporal Trends in Myocardial Infarction Case Fatality Rates among the Elderly in the U.S.

2nd Prize: Lauren Cain

Noncompliance Corrected Effect of HAART on AIDS Using Inverse Probability of Censoring Weights

3rd Prize: Wildon Farwell

Can Statins Prevent Colorectal Cancer?

Student Prize: TIE

Qi Sun - *Plasma and Erythrocyte Biomarkers of Diary Fat Intake and Risk of Coronary Heart Disease*

Roland Thorpe - *Racial Disparities in Hypertension Awareness, Treatment and Control in the Exploring Health Disparities in Integrated Communities Study*

Call for Abstracts for the 41st Annual SER Meeting
June 23 (eve), 24-27, 2008 --- Chicago, Illinois

Abstract Submission Guidelines

Abstracts are requested for consideration for spotlight and/or poster presentations for the 41st Annual SER Meeting in Chicago, Illinois. 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 abstract.

2. A letter of notification of acceptance or rejection will be emailed to the authors no later than May 2, 2008.
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 1,876 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. Abstracts are 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, 2008.**

General Topic Areas:

- | | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|------------------|---------------------------------------|----------------|-------------------|
| •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 |
| • Barriers to Population Sampling | | • Bioterrorism Effects | | • Causal Analysis |
| • Community-Driven Epidemiology | | • Fetal Growth | | • Women's Health |
| • New Approaches to Confounding | | • Race/Ethnicity & Class Inequalities | | |
| • Gene-Environment Interaction | | | | |

SER STUDENT WORKSHOP ON EPIDEMIOLOGIC METHODS

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 Tuesday, June 24th, 2008 in Chicago, Illinois, immediately preceding the 41st annual SER meeting, June 24-27, 2008. Four faculty members with expertise in epidemiology, biostatistics and various substantive areas will conduct the workshop.

Malcolm Maclure, ScD, SER President-Elect from University of Victoria, 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 SER meeting. 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 (not counting references, 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. An application form can be downloaded from 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: 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 general or submission questions; phone: (617) 278-0863; email: jburing@rics.bwh.harvard.edu.

**Applications must be RECEIVED BY
EMAIL no later than February 15, 2008,
Followed by hardcopy**



LILIENFELD STUDENT PRIZE PAPER

An award of \$1,000 plus travel expenses to the SER meeting in Chicago, IL will be presented for the best paper submitted describing work done as a student in an advanced degree program with a concentration in epidemiology. The work must have been completed during the two years prior to the June 2008 meeting and must be unpublished at the time of the Annual Meeting.

The recipient will be invited to present the research in the Plenary Session in Chicago, 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, 2008.

Authors should include their telephone number, address and current position, a statement indicating the date the work was completed, their academic advisor's name and signature, and the name of their department chair or head. No prize will be awarded if the review committee decides that none of the manuscripts is of superior quality. Please bring this PRIZE to the attention of potential applicants.

Send papers to:

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