



## Society for Epidemiologic Research

Over the past months, the SER executive board has been monitoring COVID-19 trends, travel policies, and our meeting contract with the hotel in Boston, while also considering various formats for our annual meeting. Given the continued uncertainty around the COVID-19 pandemic for the remainder of 2020 (and beyond) we have decided to shift to a fully-on-line SER annual meeting, December 15 – 18, 2020. Our originally planned plenary, symposia, oral abstract, poster, professional development, and workshops will remain part of the conference, but participation will be virtual. We know the learning and teaching opportunities at SER's annual meeting are invaluable and are pleased we can look forward to them in December. Of course, we'll miss not being able to see old friends, make new friends, meet future collaborators, run a few miles with other early birds, or take a selfie with a favorite epidemiologist. But these unusual times call for patience and flexibility, and we appreciate yours.

SER is committed to making our meeting available, especially at this time when epidemiology has such a critical role to play in the current crisis related to COVID-19 and renewed attention on the impacts of racism. We realize that many in our SER community have been financially impacted by COVID-19 and this might present an impediment to joining the SER virtual meeting. Therefore, meeting registration discounts will be available for those in need: 35% for students, 30% for early career, and 20% for regular membership. We offer these discounts in good faith and are not asking for any statements or documentation. In addition, we are offering a reduced registration fee for those who connect to the meeting from an IP address in a low or middle income country (LMIC).

As SER's executive body, we are also committed to the Society's fiscal stability, which includes balancing the increased audio-visual costs for the on-line annual meeting with the uncertainty of number of registrants. Thus, we kindly ask that you register at the usual rate if you are able. We appreciate your support to assure the society remains strong through this challenging time. Should 2020 membership and meeting attendance create less of a financial "hit" than we anticipate, we commit to using excess accrued funds for additional travel awards at the 2021 meeting.

Annual meeting rates, and the process for registration can be found [here](#). For those selected to present in the conference, a member of our administrative team will be in touch shortly.

Kind Regards,

Martha Werler, SER Past President  
Jay Kaufman, SER President  
Jennifer Ahern, SER President Elect  
Suzanne Bevan, SER Executive Director