

JUNE 2013 EPIDEMIOLOGY CONFERENCE AWARD RECIPIENTS

The Department of Epidemiology is incredibly proud to recognize our outstanding award winners from the Society of Epidemiologic Research (SER) and Society for Pediatric and Perinatal Epidemiologic Research (SPER) conferences in June. The Department of Epidemiology alumni who received awards were Kristin Palmsten, John Jackson and Jenny Carwile.



Kristin Palmsten [SER]

Kristin received this year's **Abraham Lilienfeld Student Prize**. The prize was established by SER (The Society for Epidemiologic Research) to honor Dr. Abraham Lilienfeld, a beloved teacher and influential scholar. The Lilienfeld Prize recognizes "excellence in student research" and reflects SER's ongoing commitment to the support and encouragement of students. The prize includes travel, meeting expenses, and an honorarium award of \$1,000.

Kristin received a Doctor of Science in Epidemiology from the Harvard School of Public Health (HSPH) in March 2013. Her research interest is in pharmaceutical safety during pregnancy. For her doctoral dissertation, Kristin identified a cohort of over 1.2 million pregnancies ending in live birth from national Medicaid health care utilization data and studied the safety of antidepressant use during pregnancy. Her dissertation advisor is Dr. Sonia Hernández-Díaz, and she was supported by a training grant from the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development.

Kristin majored in Biology and minored in Women's Studies at Boston College. She worked at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center as the lab manager of the Division of Matrix Biology and performed angiogenesis and preeclampsia research. After earning a Master of Science in Epidemiology at HSPH with a focus on Reproductive Epidemiology and a concentration in Women, Gender, and Health, Kristin worked as a research coordinator at HSPH. Kristin continues to study medication use in pregnancy as a postdoctoral research fellow at HSPH.



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John Jackson [SER]



John Jackson won "**Best Poster**" and "**Best Student Poster**" during the first poster session at the 46th annual meeting for the Society for Epidemiologic Research. In May 2013 he earned a Doctor of Science from the Epidemiology Department at the Harvard School of Public Health. His research revolves around the use of advanced methods, emerging data sources, and evidence synthesis to tackle challenging questions in the effectiveness and safety of interventions that aim to improve mental health. He is pursuing these interests as a postdoctoral research fellow in the Division of Pharmacoepidemiology and Pharmacoeconomics at the Brigham and Women's Hospital.

John also serves as a bibliographic methods consultant for the AlzRisk project, a collaboration between Harvard and Massachusetts General Hospital. During his doctoral training he was supported by the Initiative for Maximizing Student Diversity Training Grant, the NIMH Training Grant in Psychiatric Genetics, and the Horace W. Goldsmith Fellowship.



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Jenny Carwile [SPER]



Jenny Carwile was the 2013 **SPER Student Prize Paper** award winner. She was awarded the Society for Pediatric and Perinatal Epidemiologic Research (SPER) Student Paper Prize for her dissertation paper on 'Sugar-sweetened beverage consumption and age at menarche.' With her advisor, Karin Michels, she focused on dietary predictors of ages at menarche and natural menopause as well as dietary

sources of bisphenol A (BPA) exposure.

This competition is open to graduate and medical students, postdoctoral fellows, medical residents, research trainees, and clinical fellows interested in reproductive, perinatal, and pediatric epidemiology. There were 14 papers submitted this year. A panel of 14 reviewers scored the submissions and Jenny's rose to the top according to Martha Werler, President of the Society for Pediatric and Perinatal Epidemiologic Research, for its 'originality, soundness of methods, biologic rationale, and public health importance.'

Jenny recently graduated from the Harvard School of Public Health in May of 2013 earning her Doctor of Science degree from the Department of Epidemiology. This June, she began a postdoctoral fellowship with Ann Aschengrau at BU, where she is exploring various new topics in reproductive and environmental epidemiology.

