

TOP TEN LIST

TEN BEST REASONS TO BECOME ACTIVELY INVOLVED IN SPER

With apologies to David Letterman, and thanks to my colleagues and associates around the country, including Germaine Buck Louis (NICHD), Mary Hediger (NICHD), Pauline Mendola (NCHS), and others.

R.S. Kirby, June 2010

Number 10

You Will Develop Important Life-long Career-building Skills

- Learn to deal with important details of conference planning and management*
- Learn to participate or lead executive committee conference calls**

*for further details on this topic, consult the top ten list on how to plan a public health conference badly

**for further details on this topic, consult the top ten list on how to plan and participate in a conference call badly

Number 9

Receive Accolades from Your Peers

Your colleagues will be very thankful for a job well done.

If the slightest thing goes wrong, your colleagues will gracefully bring it to your attention, in the interests of TCCQI.***

*****total continuous conference quality improvement**

Number 8

The Box Lunches Rock!

Want to find out what's involved in ordering them?

Get elected to the SPER executive committee, and you too can learn the cost/quality issues involved in selecting mayonnaise rather than aioli sauce for the sandwiches.

Number 7

What's Better Than a Name? A Face!

Meet the people whose papers you cite all the time.

And if they reviewed abstracts this year, you won't even have to buy them a drink!



Number 6

Develop Your Critical Reading and Evaluation Skills

Grading papers is just too passé. Why not try reading and reviewing abstract submissions for SPER. This helps to ensure the quality of our annual meeting, and you get perks:

- You get to find out before the conference what some of the posters and presentations may focus on.
- You can get a free drink ticket and participate more fully in the liquid evening poster session.

Number 5

Help to Chart the Future Direction of our Field

This is one of the primary purposes of SPER.

Serving in leadership roles provides opportunities to be directly involved in activities that may influence research agendas, theoretical developments, and funding decisions.



Number 4

Hone Your Crisis Management Skills

Not everything about a conference goes as planned, so this could be where you step in.

What might go wrong, you might ask?

Not enough program books, keynote speaker late, all the presentations loaded onto the desktop for display disappear, too many vegetarian lunches, too few vegetarian lunches, no receipts for on-site registration, hotel overbooked, microphone doesn't work, speaker spends 15 minutes on background to introduce topic for 12 minute platform presentation, . . .

Number 3

**It's a Great Way to Meet Women
(or the Occasional Guy)**

But seriously, you probably already know most of them, and most of the work is done by conference call.

But you will get to know a few of your colleagues much better.



Number 2

Travel the World

As an SPER EC member you will travel to interesting destinations around the world.

Ok, let's make that more exact. As an SPER EC member you will:

- **Spend more time in meeting rooms at the hotel where your meeting is held anyway.**
- **Spend more time in the city where SER decided to hold their annual meeting.**
- **Spend more time on conference calls in your office at work.**

Number 1

None of Us Has Enough to Do . . . Not!!

But seriously, if YOU don't take the time to get actively involved in our professional scientific organizations, who will?

And, you will miss a major opportunity to give back to our profession while simultaneously enriching our own professional experience.