



Call for Team Applications 19th Annual *Sloboda and Bukoski SPR Cup*

Significant advances in prevention science are often due to teams of individuals working closely together across many years. In recognition of the importance of the collaborative process to the field, the Society for Prevention Research (SPR) sponsors a friendly annual competition amongst teams of students and trainees for the honor of bringing home the *Sloboda and Bukoski SPR Cup*. The *Cup* is named for two of the founders and long-time active members of SPR, Dr. Zili Sloboda and Dr. William Bukoski. The competition is an opportunity for a unique experience: several teams of scientists, each working with the same dataset, will develop a research question, analyze the data accordingly, and present their work to each other and to a panel of senior prevention scientists and the SPR membership.

Competition

- The presentation component of the competition will take place during the annual SPR meeting, May 28 through May 31, 2024, at the Hyatt Regency Washington on Capitol Hill, Washington, DC.
- At least one representative from each team must be in Washington, DC, to present on behalf of the team. Travel funds are not provided, although all team members are encouraged to apply for travel funds through SPR's ECPN travel awards. (Applications will be available March 2024).
- Leading up to the meeting, each team will conduct a literature review, generate hypotheses, and conduct analyses using the competition dataset. Teams will be asked to prepare a 1-page research proposal outlining their research questions and analyses.
- Four teams will be chosen as finalists based on their research proposal and will present a 15-minute talk based on their results during a highlighted, invited symposium at the SPR annual meeting. A panel of senior prevention scientist judges and the audience at the symposium will rate the quality of the research and of the presentation. The highest-scoring team will be recognized and awarded the 2024 *SPR Cup* during the SPR Awards Ceremony.

Teams

Teams should include at least two and no more than five team members. Eligible team members are individuals who are currently enrolled in a masters or doctoral training program or a postdoctoral position/training program. Each team should include participants with knowledge and practical experience in research methodology, data analysis, and conference presentations.

Dataset

The dataset to be used for this year's competition is the *Future of Families and Child Wellbeing Study*. This is a longitudinal dataset with approximately 4,700 children born in 20 large US cities. The sample was selected through a stratified random sampling design that oversampled nonmarital births at a three-to-one ratio with the purpose of learning more about the context and consequences of 'fragile families' in the US. The first round of data collection started at the birth of the child between 1998 and 2000.

The dataset's webpage with <https://ffcws.princeton.edu>.

Dataset Mentor

A researcher with expertise in the dataset will serve as a mentor for all teams, holding three zoom office hours (dates TBD) for teams to ask questions regarding the dataset and available variables.

This year's data mentor is Dr. Sarah Pachman. Sarah (Gold) Pachman is the Director of Research and Policy at The Bendheim-Thoman Center for Research on Child and Family Wellbeing. She earned her PhD in Social Work from Rutgers University in 2018. Her research broadly focuses on understanding how policies impact poverty and inequality among children and families in the United States. In particular, she examines how childhood contexts impact outcomes in adolescence and adulthood and how these contexts are informed by policy. Her research has been published in journals including The Journal of Marriage and Family, Social Service Review, and Health Affairs.

Team Mentors

An experienced prevention science mentor should be identified by each team. If needed, we can help to identify a mentor. This person should be available for consultation in person or via videoconference, phone, or email on an as-needed basis – and especially during the month leading up to the conference. Mentors may advise but may not conduct work for their team. All mentors must be acknowledged during the presentation. Teams are invited to engage mentors from multiple disciplines to consult with them as they work.

Criteria

Presentations will be judged on eight criteria: 1) Innovation of Project, 2) Depth and Usefulness of Statistical Analyses, 3) Ability to Draw Meaningful Conclusions from the Data, 4) Significance of the Project to Prevention Science, 5) Quality of Verbal Presentation, 6) Quality of Visual Presentation, 7) Quality of Responses to Judges/Audience Questions, and 8) Connection with the SPR Annual Meeting Theme.

Publication

All participating teams are encouraged to refine their analyses after the meeting and to generate publishable products.

Application and Acceptance Process

Step 1. Submit Team Application and Verify Eligibility

- To apply, one person for each team should complete this Google Form: <https://forms.gle/HgEqQzwBA2XmHcfU7>.
- In the form, you will be asked to provide each team member's name, email address, mailing address, highest academic degree, current position, primary institutional affiliation, and a brief summary of research skills and expertise. You will also be asked to specify a team name and designate a team captain and a primary team mentor (or request assistance in finding one).

Applications are due by 11:59 pm Eastern Time on Monday, January 15, 2024.

Step 2. Develop Research Proposal

- Teams who complete the application form in Step 1 will be informed by email on regarding their eligibility to continue in the application process.

- Teams have until Friday, March 15, 2024, to submit their 1-page research proposal (more details to come). Proposals will be assessed based on the quality of their research questions and relevance to this year's conference topic.

Step 3. Present at SPR

- Finalists will be notified of their acceptance by Friday, March 22, 2024. A maximum of four teams will be accepted to present during the invited *SPR Cup* symposium, and the other teams will be offered the opportunity to present their work as a poster during the conference.

Questions can be sent to:

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Co-Chairs, 2024 *Sloboda and Bukoski SPR Cup*