



Society for Pediatric Pathology



The Society for Pediatric Pathology (SPP) has 683 members, 40 of whom are junior members at various stages of training and 93 of whom are affiliate members from outside of the United States and Canada. The mission of the Society is

- To promote expertise, effective teaching, and productive research in the practice of pediatric pathology.
- To assist and promote the development and recognition of resident and fellow training programs in pediatric pathology and, through the American Board of Pathology, establish and maintain means by which pathologists may be certified as having special competency in pediatric pathology.
- To sponsor and promote the education of physicians and others in health care related to pediatric pathology.
- To establish and maintain relationships with other societies and groups of physicians and other scientists who share professional interests with the SPP.

To accomplish this mission the SPP holds two scientific meetings each year, a Spring Meeting in conjunction with the annual meeting of the United States and Canadian Academy of Pathology and a Fall Meeting hosted by a member of the SPP. The SPP also offers an annual slide survey in which the clinical history and glass and digital slides for 15 challenging cases are provided to subscribers as unknowns; and sponsors a biennial three-day course in perinatal pathology. The SPP publishes a periodic monograph of topical reviews, *Perspectives in Pediatric Pathology*, now in its 27th volume, and co-sponsors with the European Paediatric Pathology Society a journal, *Pediatric and Developmental Pathology*. The SPP is fully accredited by the Accreditation Commission on Continuing Medical Education, and has been approved by the American Board of Pathology to offer Self Assessment Modules (SAMs) to pathologists who are seeking Maintenance of Certification (MOC).

Recruitment: A major component of the Society's mission is to recruit new talent to the field. To this end the SPP again provided discounted registration and activity fees to trainees for both the Spring and Fall meetings, and sponsored an essay contest through which three trainees won expense-paid trips to the Fall Meeting. The Gordon F. Vawter Pathologist-in-Training award provides a certificate and cash prize for the best presentation by a trainee at the both the Spring and Fall meetings, and at last year's Spring Meeting, 26 of the 51 abstracts accepted for presentation were eligible for that award. The A. James McAdams Short-Term Study Stipend which provides up to \$5000 for expenses related to receiving training in an area of Pediatric Pathology outside one's own institution was divided between two residents, and there were six applications for the \$10,000 Young Investigator Research Grant. The Society also continued its practice of appointing fellows in approved Pediatric Pathology programs to SPP committees, and not only did the newly appointed fellows attend the committee meetings, several of those appointed the previous year requested re-appointments when they joined the Society as full members.

Education: Another major thrust of the SPP mission is to provide educational programs to meet the needs of pediatric pathologists and pathologists whose practice includes pediatric material. In addition to poster and platform presentations of new studies, a major symposium is presented at both the Spring and Fall meetings. The Farber-Landing lecture, six workshops and an evening slide seminar are given at the Spring Meeting; and a

Perinatal Pathology Symposium, Children's Oncology Group update, and lecture by the winner of the Lotte Strauss Prize for the outstanding publication in Pediatric Pathology by a young (<40 years old) pathologist occur at the Fall Meeting.

As noted above, 51 abstracts were accepted for the 2008 Spring Meeting. The Spring Symposium on Pediatric Endocrine Pathology was co-sponsored by the Endocrine Pathology Society and included lectures on congenital hyperinsulinism (C. Stanley, Children's Hospital of Philadelphia), development of the adrenal gland (C. R. Parker, University of Alabama), adrenal cortical neoplasia (L. P. Dehner, Washington University) and heritable endocrine disorders involving the adrenal gland (J. A. Carney, Mayo Clinic). The Farber-Landing Lecture was delivered by Dr. Claire Langston, and workshops were offered on the topics of Pediatric Bone Pathology, Renal Tumors, Coagulation and Transfusion Medicine, Leukemia and Lymphoma, Head and Neck Pathology, and Developmental and Perinatal Neuropathology.

Thirty-three abstracts were accepted for the Fall Meeting in Louisville, Kentucky. Clinicians (R. Morton, Kosair Children's Hospital and E. Crotty and S. Wert, Cincinnati Children's Hospital) and review pathologists (G. Deutsch, Seattle Children's Hospital and M. Dishop, Texas Children's Hospital) from the Children's Interstitial Lung Disease (ChILD) Network provided an update at the Fall Symposium; and the Perinatal Symposium featured experts in the pathology (A. Juraszek, Boston Children's Hospital), embryology (A. Wessels, University of South Carolina), genetics (J. Towbin, Texas Children's Hospital) and treatment (E. Austin, University of Louisville) of heterotaxy disorders.

In 2008 the SPP also sponsored its second biennial three-day Perinatal Pathology Course which drew 58 attendees and featured a faculty of 11 nationally-recognized authorities in maternal-fetal medicine, genetics and perinatal and placental pathology.

Communication: Since 1994 pediatric pathologists worldwide have participated in a lively listserv <https://mailman2.u.washington.edu/mailman/listinfo/pedpath> that now has 495 subscribers.

For further information about the SPP, please visit our website at <http://www.spponline.org/>

Respectfully submitted,

Ted Pysher
Past President, Society for Pediatric Pathology