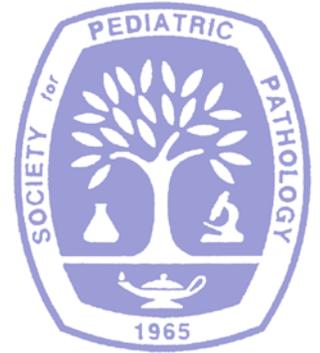




Society for Pediatric Pathology 2011



At the end of December 2010, the Society for Pediatric Pathology (SPP) had 681 members, 49 of whom are junior members at various stages of training and 105 of whom are affiliate members from outside of the United States and Canada. Despite adding 19 regular and 27 junior members in 2010, our membership experienced its first decline since 2001, perhaps as a reflection of the economic downturn.

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 support our 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 hospital or academic department's SPP members. Yesterday's spring symposium was on Hemophagocytic Lymphohistiocytosis, and last fall's symposium, in Banff, Alberta, on pediatric lymphomas featured a panel of distinguished hematopathologists in conjunction with the Universities of Calgary and Alberta's Annual Pathology Course. At the Fall Meeting, the SPP Perinatal Section organizes a second scientific symposium on a perinatal topic, which last year was on Intrauterine Treatments for Fetal Disorders.

The SPP offers a Slide Survey in which the clinical history and glass and digital slides for 15 challenging cases are provided to subscribers as unknowns. A digital only version of the survey is now available to subscribers outside of North America. The SPP also sponsors a periodic three-day course in perinatal 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 must participate in Maintenance of Certification (MOC).

The SPP publishes two journals: a periodic monograph of topical reviews, *Perspectives in Pediatric Pathology*, now in its 28th volume; and together with the European Paediatric Pathology Society, *Pediatric and Developmental Pathology*.

Education:

The 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. Six practical workshops are offered at the Spring Meeting; workshops are repeated over three years to allow as many pathologists as possible to attend during the cycle. The Farber-Landing lecture and an evening slide seminar in conjunction with the USCAP are also given at the Spring Meeting. The Perinatal Pathology Symposium, a Children's Oncology Group update, and lecture by the winner of the Lotte Strauss Prize occur at the Fall Meeting. A recent addition to the fall meeting program this year, which likely will become a permanent feature, was a very informal digital slide program on placental pathology.

Our Fellowship Committee serves as a forum and resource for pediatric pathology fellowship directors and fellows, and this year has undertaken the development of a pediatric pathology inservice examination in collaboration with the ASCP's RISE program.

Recruitment and Awards:

A major component of the Society's mission is to recruit new talent to the field. To this end the SPP provides discounted registration and activity fees to trainees for both the Spring and Fall meetings, and sponsors the Pediatric Pathology Resident Recruitment Award, an essay or creative media contest through which residents considering Pediatric Pathology as their career may win expense-paid trips to the Fall Meeting. Trainees are encouraged to present their scientific work at our meetings. 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. The A. James McAdams Short-Term Study Stipend provides up to \$5000 for expenses related to receiving training in an area of Pediatric Pathology outside one's own institution. Residents who are training in programs that do not have a Pediatric Pathology fellowship are eligible for this award to enable them to rotate at a facility that does. In order to begin integration of new pathologists into our Society, we have appointed fellows in approved Pediatric Pathology programs to SPP committees.

The Young Investigator Research Grant provides seed money of \$10,000 for the establishment of research in pediatric pathology. The SPP awards the Lotte Strauss prize annually for the outstanding publication in Pediatric Pathology by a young (<40 years old) pathologist or basic scientist working in our field. Most recently, we have established a new award, the Enid Gilbert-Barness prize, which recognizes excellence in clinically related publications in the field of pediatric pathology.

Outreach:

The SPP practices international outreach with a variety of groups, including but not limited to the Latin American Society of Pediatric Pathology (SLAPPE), the Paediatric Pathology Society (PPS) in Europe, and the International Pediatric Pathology Association (IPPA). A number of our members serve as tutors for the IPPA course, which is a multi-year program through which our international colleagues who do not have subspecialty fellowships available achieve recognition as pediatric pathology specialists. We have held joint meetings with the PPS, most recently in 2009, and are planning already for a joint meeting in Holland in 2014 on the PPS's 60th anniversary. Discussions have also begun for an initial joint meeting with SLAPPE. As part of this outreach mission, we have worked with the Friends of Africa by donating issues of our journal, and have sponsored a visiting scholar and technologist to instruct African pathologists and cytotechnologists.

Current challenges:

We are continuing to experience a gradual decrease in our workforce (82 of our members are emeritus and 46 are life), and projected positions outnumber those training to join our specialty. This will no doubt continue the existing trend that began with the transfer of pediatric care in general from academic centers and free-standing

children's hospitals into community settings, which has resulted in a shift of some responsibility for pediatric diagnosis to general or organ-specialty pathologists. As a result, we search for opportunities to share our knowledge with and update the diagnostic skills of these pathologists. We are continuing to make efforts to find these "partially differentiated" pediatric pathologists and welcome them into the ranks of our society.

We also search for ways to interest residents in a career in pediatric pathology. Our fellowship programs have experienced declines in enrollment with the growth of fellowships in general surgical pathology, oncopathology, and organ system focused programs that do not have American Board of Pathology certification. Our fellowships appear to be at a disadvantage as residents may not have exposure to pediatric pathology until relatively late in their training, often after committing to fellowships in other subspecialties because of a sense of competitive pressure.

As a small subspecialty society that has traditionally relied on volunteer efforts, maintaining independent accreditation to provide continuing medical education has been a challenge. We are fortunate to have a strong and valued relationship with the USCAP, who serves as our organizational management. Over the last two years we have worked in partnership with them to enhance their role so that we may utilize their professionals and resources to a greater extent in the planning of our fall meeting and for our CME compliance and documentation. We are looking forward to the implementation of these changes that we are confident will make us a stronger organization, better able to serve the needs of our members, and to promote our mission.

Communication:

Since 1994, pediatric pathologists worldwide have participated in a lively listserv <https://mailman2.u.washington.edu/mailman/listinfo/pedpath> that now has over 500 subscribers.

For further up-to-date information about the SPP, please visit our website at <http://www.sponline.org/>

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeffrey D. Goldstein". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with some loops and flourishes.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeffrey D. Goldstein, MD
Past-President, Society for Pediatric Pathology