



Society for Pediatric Pathology 2013



At the end of December 2012, the Society for Pediatric Pathology (SPP) had 717 members, 46 of whom are junior members at various stages of training and 123 of whom are affiliate members from outside of the United States and Canada. These numbers reflect a very slight increase in membership.

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. The Spring meeting is a full two day affair which is currently underway. We are featuring a joint symposium with the American Society of Dermatopathology entitled "Update on cutaneous melanocytic, mesenchymal and lymphoproliferative lesions in children" to be held March 3 in the afternoon. We also offer six educational workshops by noted faculty and a full day of poster and platform scientific presentations. Our meeting last Fall was held in Houston, TX and hosted by Texas Children's Hospital. In addition to scientific platform and poster presentations, there was a symposium on cut-edge advances in molecular diagnostics. A second symposium concentrating on perinatal and placental pathology was also held, organized by the SPP ad-hoc Perinatal committee.

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. Cases are sent out in three separate mailings and include cases of cytopathology and perinatal pathology. A digital slide version of the survey is now available to subscribers. Once the subscriber has submitted their diagnoses and answers to questions pertaining to the cases, they receive detailed discussion of the cases and a summary of the responses of other subscribers. 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. We are also interested in ensuring that pathology trainees are exposed to educational programs concerning pediatric and placental pathology. The two annual meetings provide numerous educational opportunities for pathologists and trainees, as described above. Hosting joint symposia with other societies has been an excellent way for us to reach a broader audience. Members of the SPP, in conjunction with the USCAP, present an evening Specialty conference in Pediatric Pathology at the USCAP Spring meeting.

Our Fellowship Committee serves as a forum and resource for pediatric pathology fellowship directors and fellows, and has now created a pediatric pathology inservice examination in collaboration with the ASCP's RISE program. The examination has now been given twice in 2012 to pediatric pathology fellows.

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, a contest through which residents considering Pediatric Pathology as their career may win expense-paid trips to the Fall Meeting by authoring a review of a paper germane to pediatric pathology. Trainees are encouraged to present their scientific work at our meetings and we often host a breakfast to welcome them. 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 hold a joint meeting every four years with our European colleagues in the PPS. This meeting alternates between Europe and North America and the next meeting will be in Great Britain in 2014. 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 experiencing a gradual decrease in our workforce and open positions often outnumber those in training to join our specialty. There is also a growing trend in large academic centers to shift of some responsibility for the diagnosis of pediatric specimens to organ-specialty pathologists. In many community hospitals, pediatric pathology cases are shared amongst the general pathologists. Recognizing this, we search for opportunities to share our knowledge of pediatric-specific diseases with these pathologists. We are eager to welcome them into the ranks of our society.

We also search for ways to interest residents in a career in pediatric pathology. Not all residency programs are able to offer much exposure to pediatric pathology and others offer the exposure late in the training curriculum, after trainees have already committed to fellowships in other subspecialties. We are hopeful our educational programs and recruitment efforts will help offset these challenges.

As a small subspecialty society that relies 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 management office, that provides many of our administrative services. Over the last several years, we have worked in partnership with them to enhance their role in helping to plan our meetings and to supplement our efforts for CME compliance and documentation.

Communication:

The SPP has an up-to-date website which has become the cornerstone of communication for activities pertaining to the Society. There are sections on the site detailing upcoming and recent meetings, links to on-line educational activities, employment opportunities, fellowship news and other trainee information. Detailed information and applications for the various awards and grants we offer are available. Links and summaries of recent pertinent literature is updated regularly. For further information about the SPP, please visit our website at <http://www.sponline.org/>

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. Although the listserv is not formally run by the Society, most members subscribe and many actively participate in discussions of issue of interest in pediatric and placental pathology. Additionally, the SPP has a secure membership email list that allows for rapid communication of important notices to the members.

Respectfully submitted,



Linda Margraf, MD
President, Society for Pediatric Pathology (term ends March 2, 2013)