

2017 Report to Intersociety Pathology Council

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Overview

The Society for Pediatric Pathology (SPP) is an organization of more than 700 members who are pediatric pathologists or have an interest in pediatric pathology education, practice, or research. Most are from the United States and Canada, although members come from all over the world.

The mission and purposes of the SPP are:

- To promote expertise, effective teaching and productive research in the practice of pediatric pathology.
- To assist and promote the development and recognition of resident/fellow training programs in pediatric pathology and, through the American Board of Pathology, establish and maintain a 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 healthcare related to pediatric pathology.
- To establish and maintain appropriate relationships with other societies and groups of physicians, and other scientists who share professional interests with the Society.

To accomplish its mission, the SPP has a website (www.spponline.org); holds two scientific meetings each year; offers a separate course in perinatal pathology every several years; holds a joint meeting every 5 years with the European *Paediatric Pathology Society* (PPS); is a constituent member of the International Paediatric Pathology Association (IPPA); publishes the journal *Pediatric and Developmental Pathology*; and gives awards in recognition of medical, scientific and professional achievements. The SPP Executive Director at The Kellen Company provides management. The list of the 2017 SPP accomplishments is summarized below.

The Society for Pediatric Pathology has undergone a series of major changes for the last three years, resulting in unparalleled modernization. From contracting a new publisher for our Society's journal and appointing a new Editor-In-Chief, to updating our bylaws and hiring a new management company, the Society has been working non-stop on updating and renewing itself, preparing to tackle the challenges of practicing modern academic Pediatric Pathology. As an example, we have fully digitized the Slide Survey Online program, making this a more agile and efficient experience, while reducing costs significantly. Although these efforts are part of an ongoing project, several new and important objectives have been achieved successfully already.

Education

The SPP is fully accredited by the Accreditation Commission on Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) through 2018 and is approved by the American Board of Pathology to offer Self-Assessment Modules (SAMs) for Maintenance of Certification (MOC) in pathology. Regular educational programs are offered twice yearly in spring and fall for pediatric and other types of

pathologists whose practices include pediatric material. Both meetings include peer-reviewed abstracts as poster or platform presentations and a major symposium. Spring meeting workshops are repeated in a three-year cycle to maximize opportunities for attendance. The 2017 Spring meeting was held in San Antonio, Texas. The symposium topic was “Personalized Medicine In The Practice Of Pediatric Tumor Pathology”. 54 abstracts were presented. Pediatric Pathology Workshop included: “Pediatric Lung Biopsy: A Pattern-Based Approach & Update On Pathogenesis”; peripheral nerve sheath tumor pathology, “Pediatric Kidney Biopsy Interpretation: Essentials for the Pathologist-on-Call”; “Challenges in Pediatric Soft Tissue Pathology: A Case-Based Approach to Selected Difficult Cases”, “Pediatric Gastrointestinal Biopsy: An Update on the Diagnosis and Pathogenesis of Pediatric Upper Gastrointestinal Disease”; “Pediatric Peripheral Nerve Sheath tumors: Pathology and Associated Syndromes”; and Adding Relevance to the Pediatric Autopsy With Defined Pre-Autopsy Goals and Practical Techniques”. An evening slide seminar was given in conjunction with the U.S. and Canadian Academy of Pathology (USCAP). The Farber-Landing lecture by Cheryl M. Coffin, M.D., was entitled “Gardner Fibroma: A Diagnosis at the Confluence of Perception, Reason and Intuition”. The 2017 Fall meeting was held in Denver, Colorado. 39 abstracts were presented. The symposium topic was “Personalized Medicine in the Clinical Pathology Laboratory”. The program also included a perinatal pathology symposium, “Down Syndrome in the Twenty-First Century,” a perinatal slide seminar, and Children's Oncology Group updates on pediatric bone tumors. The SPP Slide Survey provided subscribers with the clinical history and slides/digitized images for 18 challenging cases, to evaluate for CME credit.

Publications

The SPP and PPS jointly publish *Pediatric and Developmental Pathology (PDP)*. *Perspectives in Pediatric Pathology*, formerly an independent publication of the SPP, is now a peer-reviewed supplement to *PDP*. Subscription is included with membership in the SPP and PPS. An initiative approved by the Board of Directors in San Antonio resulted in the launching in April of the *Society for Pediatric Pathology* Twitter feed: @SocPediPath, which in less than a year has won 1067 followers. We are excited with these early results, which have been successful and even contagious, as our sister society, the *Paediatric Pathology Society (PPS)*, also launched in June of this year, in collaboration with leadership members of the SPP, its Twitter feed under @PaedPathSoc, which has won already 353 followers. Finally, our Journal's Editor-In-Chief, Dr. Pierre Russo, approved in July of 2017 the launching the Twitter feed for our Society's Journal, @PediDevPath, which currently has 372 followers for *Pediatric and Developmental Pathology*. This is proof of positive interactions and collaboration between the SPP and PPS, converging in higher visibility for their written voice, which should result in enhancing the presence of our subspecialty around the world.

Grants, Awards and Other Honors

Recruitment of new talent, ongoing professional development in Pediatric Pathology, recognition and support of academic work and research, are important for the SPP members and pediatric pathology trainees. To this effect, the SPP offers discounted meeting registration and fees for trainees. Grants, awards and other honors are listed below for 2017 and at www.spponline.org/Grants-and-Awards.

The Young Investigator Research Grant provides up to \$15,000 to establish scientific research in pediatric pathology. The 2017 recipient was Shengmei Zhou, from Children's Hospital of Los Angeles, with the study “Integrated Genomic Analysis of High Risk Hepatoblastoma”.

The A. James McAdams Short-Term Study Stipend provides up to \$5000 for expenses related to receiving extramural training in pediatric pathology. The 2017 recipient was Bonnie Cole, M.D., a staff pediatric pathologist at the Seattle Children's Hospital. Dr. Cole's proposal was to spend a 3-week rotation at Nationwide Children's Hospital in Columbus, Ohio, focusing on pediatric neuropathology under the supervision of Dr. Christopher Pierson, a neuropathologist at Columbus and COG central reviewer. Dr. Cole plans to use this knowledge to increase her expertise at Seattle Children's, and also become more involved in COG Neuropathology Activities.

Residents in the U.S. and Canada who are considering a career in pediatric pathology are eligible for the Pediatric Pathology Resident Recruitment Award, which is based on a written critique of a recent publication in pediatric pathology. The 2017 awardee was Laura Biederman, M.D., of Thomas Jefferson University Hospital in Philadelphia, PA. Several awards recognize outstanding presentations at SPP meetings. The 2017 Gordon F. Vawter Pathologist-in-Training Awardees were Tricia Petes, M.D., from Baylor College of Medicine, Houston, TX for "Characterization of hepatoblastomas with HCC features", and Jeffery Goldstein, M.D., Ph.D., from Vanderbilt University Medical Center, Nashville, TN, for his presentation, "Age-specific effects of common genetic variants and human leukocyte antigen types". The 2017 Harry B. Neustein Awardees were Michael Fritsch, M.D., Ph.D., from Northwestern University, Chicago, IL for his study "Correlating MR imaging and histology in a rat model of placental dysfunction due to diminished maternal vascular perfusion", and Nicholas Willard, M.D. from the University of Colorado, Denver, CO for "Transcriptomic analysis for molecular subgrouping of former CNS-PNETs". The 2017 Perinatal Pathology Awardee was Ona Faye-Petersen, M.D. from the University of Alabama at Birmingham for her presentation titled "Placental microbiome, cord blood microbiome, and meconium microbiome are all distinct at term".

The Enid Gilbert-Barness Prize recognizes the impact of an outstanding pediatric pathology paper on anatomic pathology, clinical practice, research, or public health. Csaba Galambos, M.D., Ph.D., from the Children's Hospital Colorado received the award for the study "Prominent intrapulmonary bronchopulmonary anastomoses and abnormal lung development in infants and children with Down syndrome" (J Pediatr 2017;180:156-162).

The Lotte Strauss Prize recognizes an outstanding publication in pediatric pathology by an early career (<40 years old) pathologist or basic scientist. The 2017 awardee was Miriam Conces, M.D., from Nationwide Children's Hospital, Columbus, OH, for her publication "A strategy for *Helicobacter* immunohistochemistry utilization in pediatric pathology," in the American Journal of Clinical Pathology (2016;145(5):611-617.)

The 2017 recipients of the Presidential Distinguished Colleague Awards were Vijay Joshi, M.D., Ph.D., David M. Parham, M.D., and Raj Paul Kapur, M.D., Ph.D. in recognition of their decades of service in the Society for Pediatric Pathology, their seminal contributions to diagnostic and academic pediatric pathology and laboratory medicine, and their ongoing investments in education and efforts to advance the provision of high quality pediatric pathology services to infants and children, everywhere.

The SPP has funded attendance at the International Paediatric Pathology Association (IPPA) Advanced Course in Paediatric Pathology through 2019 for a pathologist from an underserved area who could not participate otherwise.

Boston Children's Hospital offers a Pediatric Pathology Visiting Scholar Award for additional training in pediatric pathology for a visiting trainee or pathologist.

Outreach

The SPP is a constituent member of IPPA, the worldwide umbrella organization for pediatric pathology. The SPP practices international educational outreach with IPPA, the International Academy of Pathology (IAP), the College of American Pathologists, the USCAP, the Latin American Society of Pediatric Pathology (SLAPPE), the Paediatric Pathology Society (PPS), the Australia/New Zealand Pediatric Pathology Group (ANZPPG), and other locally or individually organized courses and educational programs. SPP members serve regularly on the IPPA Council, as Officers, and as tutors for IPPA courses. The 2016 SPP President, Ona M. Faye-Petersen, M.D., has been a tutor in several IPPA Courses in the past and also is scheduled to participate in the 2018 Course. The current SPP President, Miguel Reyes-Múgica, M.D., is also the President-Elect of IPPA for the period 2018-2020.

The SPP has also continued to initiate and respond to requests to form official liaison positions with other pathology subspecialty societies and professional organizations, and hopes to formalize many of these during 2018. In addition, the SPP is making plans, via the creation of a special ad Hoc committee, to provide updates and access to resources and courses through social media. Nonmembers are also encouraged to subscribe to the Slide Survey Program and to consider purchase of volumes of *Perspectives in Pediatric Pathology* pertinent to their subspecialty or their training programs.

Final Comments

In keeping with its mission to be a vital component in the progress and optimization of support for the care of infants and children, worldwide, 2017 became a focused year of change for the Society for Pediatric Pathology. Indeed, because of the commitment to the ongoing advance of practice, education, research and professional development in pediatric pathology and the collegiality of its members, the SPP remains a primary force in the quest to improve the well-being of children. Moreover, SPP members have contributed to the development of global multidisciplinary networks of pathologists, pediatricians, obstetricians, and other specialists who are united in their commitment to improve pregnancy, infant, and childhood outcomes and to provide answers and contacts for families faced with illness of or loss of a child.

Respectfully submitted,

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