

2016 Report to Intersociety Pathology Council

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Overview

The Society for Pediatric Pathology (SPP) is an organization of more than 600 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 2016 SPP accomplishments is summarized below.

Importantly, and also occurring during 2016, the SPP underwent a several-stage process of change in its Bylaws necessitated for compliance with current governance standards and other aspects of law related to nonprofit organizations. These changes involved structural modifications and were made while fully upholding the mission and purposes of the SPP, as well as ensuring their continuation in the future. The changes were ratified by a majority vote by the Membership on November 28, 2016 and were posted on the SPP Website. While a number of modifications were made, the main change in the SPP structure involved the construction of an elected Board of Directors (BOD) composed of a minimum of 8 Members who, upon recommendations offered by the Nomination Committee, appoint the President, President-Elect, Secretary, and Treasurer. The transition from the past structure to full implementation of the new BOD and officers was facilitated by the sitting,

elected President's appointment of two new Board Members and BOD appointments of a new Secretary and Treasurer-Elect. In addition, a separate CME Course Advisor position was created, and a process of reorganization of standing SPP Committees was initiated to ensure the ongoing existence of a streamlined and continually progressive, purpose and mission driven Society.

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 2016 Spring meeting was held in Seattle, Washington. The symposium topic was "Neonatal and Infantile Cholestatic Liver Disease". 54 abstracts were presented. Pediatric pathology Workshop topics included pediatric lung biopsy, peripheral nerve sheath tumor pathology, kidney biopsy, hematopathology, cytopathology of pediatric non-thyroidal head and neck masses, and specific aims and methods to ensure added relevance to the pediatric autopsy. An evening slide seminar was given in conjunction with the U.S. and Canadian Academy of Pathology (USCAP). The Farber-Landing lecture by Louis P. Dehner, M.D., was entitled "Pleuropulmonary Blastoma".

The 2016 Fall meeting was held in Honolulu, Hawaii. 39 abstracts were presented. The symposium topic was "Current Concepts in Pediatric Tropical Medicine". The program also included a perinatal pathology symposium, "Obesity in Pregnancy," a perinatal slide seminar, and Children's Oncology Group updates on rhabdomyosarcoma and pediatric cystic nephromas.

The SPP Slide Survey provided subscribers with the clinical history and slides/digitized images for 18 challenging cases, to evaluate for CME credit. In November 2016, the Membership voted to move to an online only format for the Slide Survey, which will become effective upon the first release of program materials in Spring 2017.

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. In 2016, change in the Journal's publisher from

AllenPress to SAGE was initiated with full transition to be active on January 1, 2017. In addition, a new Editor-in-Chief was selected by a Selection committee chaired by Sharon Geaghan, MD and composed of SPP and PPS members. Miguel Reyes-Múgica, MD, completed 15 years as Editor-in-Chief on December 31, 2016 and the new Editor-in-Chief, Pierre Russo, MD was named in early October 2016 to enable a smooth transition in leadership of the Journal. Drs. Manuel Nistal and Miguel Reyes-Múgica published segments of the current volume of *Perspectives* on testicular pathology in issues of PDP. The hard cover version of the full volume was prepared for purchase and will be available, along with other volumes, at the 2017 SPP Spring Meeting.

In October 2016, the Archives of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine released the electronic publication (ahead of the February 2017 publication) of the SPP Practice Committee's article, "Pathologist Effort in the Performance of Fetal, Perinatal, and Pediatric Autopsies: A Survey of Practice".

Grants, Awards and Other Honors

Recruitment of new talent, ongoing professional development in pediatric pathology and recognition and support of academic work and research are important for the SPP members and pediatric pathology trainees. The SPP discounts meeting registration and fees for trainees. Grants, awards and other honors are listed below for 2016 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 2016 recipient was Elena Repnikova B.S., M.S., Ph.D., from the University of Missouri Kansas City Medical School for her project "Characterization of Copy Number Variations in Genomic Regions Containing Long Non-Coding RNA Using DNA Microarray".

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 2016 awardee was Jennifer Kasten, M.D., of University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center in Dallas, TX.

Several awards recognize outstanding presentations at SPP meetings. The 2016 Gordon F. Vawter Pathologist-in-Training Awardees were Chrystalle Katte Carreon, M.D., from the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, Philadelphia, PA for "Histologic Features of Very Early Onset Compared with Older-Onset Inflammatory Bowel Disease", and Priya Skaria, M.D., of Children's Mercy Hospital of Kansas City, MO, for her presentation, "Role of HBME-1, Galectin-3 and CD56 in the Diagnosis of Follicular Variant of Papillary Thyroid Carcinoma in Childhood". The 2016 Harry B. Neustein Awardees were Miguel Reyes-Múgica, M.D., from the Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh of UPMC, Pittsburgh, PA. The title of his study was "Serotonin Induces Proliferation in NRAS-mutated Nevus Cells from

Patients with Large/Giant Congenital Melanocytic Nevi”, and Rangaraj Selvarangan, M.D., also of Children’s Mercy Hospital of Kansas City, MO, for his work, “Human Parechovirus 3 is the Leading Picornavirus Associated with CNS Infections in Children”. The 2016 Perinatal Pathology Awardee was Dr. William (Tony) Parks, M.D. of Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center, Lebanon, NH, for “Maternal Prepregnancy Obesity and Maternal Vascular Malperfusion of the Placenta: A Study of >10,000 Recent Deliveries”.

The Enid Gilbert-Barness Prize recognizes the impact of an outstanding pediatric pathology paper on anatomic pathology, clinical practice, research, or public health. Angshumoy Roy, MD, from Baylor College of Medicine, Texas Children’s Hospital, Houston, TX received the award for the study “Recurrent internal tandem duplications of *BCOR* in clear cell sarcoma of the kidney,” which was published in Nature Communications. (2015;6:8891. DOI: 10.1038/ncomms9891.)

The A. James McAdams Short-Term Study Stipend provides up to \$5000 for expenses related to receiving extramural training in pediatric pathology. The 2016 recipient was Julianna Weiel M.D., a second year pathology resident at Stanford's Lucille Packard Children's Hospital, who focused on pediatric renal and gastrointestinal pathology during a 4-week rotation, working with David Witte, M.D., at Cincinnati's Children's Hospital, Cincinnati, OH.

The Lotte Strauss Prize recognizes an outstanding publication in pediatric pathology by an early career (<40 years old) pathologist or basic scientist. The 2016 awardee was Mariana Cajaiba, M.D., from Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital in Chicago, IL, for her publication “Pediatric Cystic Nephromas: Distinctive Features and Frequent *DICER1* Mutations,” in Human Pathology (2016;48:81-7.)

The 2016 recipients of the Presidential Distinguished Colleague Awards were Louis P. Dehner, M.D., Deborah A. Perry, M.D., and Elizabeth J. Perlman, M.D.

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., is a Councilor and has been a tutor in several IPPA Courses in the past and also is scheduled to participate in the 2018 Course. The SPP President-Elect, Miguel Reyes-Múgica, M.D., is also the President-Elect of IPPA, and will assume this IPPA office in 2018.

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 2017. 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, 2016 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.