

Report to the Intersociety Pathology Council
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Overview

The Society for Pediatric Pathology, founded in 1965, is an educational and scientific organization of physicians and scientists who share a common interest in this vital field which encompasses the study of perinatal, placental and pediatric pathology. Over 800 members of the Society practice in more than 60 Children's Hospitals, Community Hospitals and University Hospitals of the United States, Canada and throughout the world. It is the aim of the Society to foster research, education, and practice as they pertain to pediatric pathology, and to provide a forum for discourse among its members.

The Mission of Society for Pediatric Pathology is to perform the following and other related functions:

- Promote expertise, effective teaching and productive research in the practice of pediatric pathology.
- Assist and promote the development and recognition of resident/fellow training programs in pediatric pathology and work with certifying and accrediting bodies to establish and maintain a means by which pathologists may be certified as having special competency in pediatric pathology.
- Sponsor and promote the education of physicians and others in healthcare related to pediatric pathology.
- Establish and maintain appropriate relationships with other societies and groups of physicians, and other scientists who share professional interests with the SPP.

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 five years with the European Pediatric Pathology Society (PPS); is a constituent member of the International Pediatric Pathology Association (IPPA); is a cooperating society of the American Board of Pathology; publishes the journal Pediatric and Developmental Pathology; and gives awards in recognition of medical, scientific, and professional achievements. The SPP Executive Director at AOE Consulting provides management. The 2021 (since the March 2020 meeting) and first half of 2022 activities and accomplishments are summarized below.

Education

The SPP is fully accredited by the Accreditation Commission on Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) through 2026 and is approved by the American Board of Pathology to offer 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; a perinatal symposium additionally accompanies the fall meeting. Spring meeting Workshops are repeated in a three-year cycle to maximize opportunities for attendance.

The 2021 spring meeting was held virtually. It included scientific presentations, a symposium entitled, *Molecular Testing for Pediatric Sarcomas: Practical Strategies and Workflows in the Era of Personalized Medicine and an Updated WHO Classification*, an array of workshops and a COVID-19 Wellness lecture and panel discussion. Dr. Raj Kapur presented the Farber-Landing Lecture, entitled, *The Dynamic Nature of the Enteric Nervous System*. Platform presentations were broken down into three domains: Molecular Pathology and Dermpath, Pediatric and GI Pathology, and Perinatal Pathology. Additionally, there was a virtual poster hall and other virtual networking events.

The 2021 fall meeting was also held virtually. This annual meeting was designated for 16.25 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™ and consisted of the Children’s Oncology Group (COG) Update on Lymphomas, the WHO Update on Classification of Pediatric Tumors (the inaugural “Blue Book” edition), the Lotte Strauss Lecture entitled, *Congenital Pulmonary Airway Malformations: Understanding the Risk of Malignancy and the Role of KRAS*, scientific sessions – platform and poster presentations, a symposium entitled, *Inflammatory Bowel Disease: An Update on the Pathophysiology and New Molecular Insights*, and a Perinatal slide session.

Most recently, the SPP hosted the virtual 2022 spring meeting. The platform sessions for this meeting were divided amongst Pediatric Pathology/Genomics, GI Path/Cardiac Path, and Perinatal Path. The symposium entitled, *Technology Platforms to Supercharge Your Practice*, provided attendees with strategies for utilizing technology and social media platforms to improve practices. The Farber-Landing Lecture, *Extraordinary Changes in the Prevalence of Pediatric Disease: from Public Health to Precision Medicine*, was presented by Dr. Cynthia Kaplan. Attendees were able to virtually participate in a poster gallery and there were multiple Workshop sessions.

The SPP also annually provides the Slide Survey Program which is intended for all pathologists and pathology trainees. The slide survey online (SSO) consists of 15 cases comprising virtual microscope slides, digital booklets providing case presentations and case discussions, an electronic answer-submission sheet, as well as a survey analysis and access to select case archives. Participants are able to review the history and slide, arrive at a diagnosis, answer pertinent questions, check their results and review the contributor’s summary and referenced case discussion.

Publications

The SPP and PPS jointly publish *Pediatric and Developmental Pathology* (PDP). Perspectives in Pediatric Pathology is a peer-reviewed supplement to PDP. Subscription is included with membership in the SPP and PPS. For the year 2022, PDP will be made available solely online as a Flipbook. PDP highlights in 2021 included the following:

- 218 manuscript submissions in 2021, 4.8% increase from 2020
- 2,735 package subscriptions in 2021
- 100.5% renewal rate
- 6 issues published in 2021
- 68,727 full downloads in 2021
- Featured in Pharmacology, Toxicology and Pathology Hub

Social Media

The SPP has continued to publish quarterly newsletters and is focused on increasing its online presence. The Twitter feed @SocPediPath has 2,409 followers, an increase of 725 followers from last year.

Grants, Awards, and Other Honors

Various award and grant opportunities are funded by the Society of Pediatric Pathology. It is the aim of the Society to foster research, education, and practice as they pertain to pediatric pathology, and to provide a forum for discourse among its members. 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 workshop fees for trainees

- The Young Investigator Research Grant provides up to \$25,000 to establish scientific research in pediatric pathology. The 2021 recipient was Jonathan Bush, MD, FRCPC, from BC Children's & Women's Hospital and Health Centre, Vancouver, Canada with the proposed study, "High-Resolution Mass Spectrometry Proteomic Analysis in Osteosarcoma." The 2022 recipient was Serena Tan, MD, Stanford University School of Medicine, Stanford, CA with the proposed study, "Characterizing the Cellular Context of Liver Vascular Lesions."
- The A. James McAdams Short-Term Study Stipend provides up to \$5,000 for expenses related to receiving extramural training in pediatric pathology. The 2021 awardee was Brett Kurpiel, MD, UVA Health System for a one-month rotation at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP). Of note, Dr. Kurpiel was subsequently offered and accepted a Pediatric Pathology Fellowship position at CHOP.
- The Racial and Socioeconomic Disparities and Their Effects on the Health of Children Research Grant was awarded to Alexa Freedman, MD for her study entitled "Racial disparities in fetal growth: the role of fetal gene expression."
- Residents in the U.S. and Canada who are considering a career in pediatric pathology are eligible for the Resident Recruitment Award, which is based on a two-page case report highlighting unique aspects of pediatric or perinatal pathology. The award consists of reimbursement of travel, registration, and lodging expenses, and lunch or breakfast with "Legends in Pediatric Pathology." 2021 Award Winners: Elizabeth "Beth" Doughty, MD PhD, University of Colorado, "Unboxing" the pulmonary effects of TBX4 germline mutation, an autopsy case study;" Suzanne Schauwecker, MD, PhD, Vanderbilt University, "Novel FOXP3 Mutation Associated with Refractory Diarrhea, Late-Onset Necrotizing Enterocolitis and an Aggressive Course;" Yan Zhou, MD, PhD, University of Minnesota, "Infantile Diarrhea Secondary to an Acquired Duodeno-Colonic Fistula: Informed by Upper GI Biopsies."
- Several awards recognize outstanding scientific presentations at SPP meetings and in 2021 and 2022 the Research and Awards committee presented the following awards: The Gordon F. Vawter Pathologist-in-Training Award to Grace Neville, MB BCh, BAO, Sami Bannoura, MD, and Catherine Gestrich, DO; The Harry B. Neustein Award to Nicholas Willard, DO, Siddhartha Sen, MD, PhD, and Takato Yamasaki, MD; The Benirschke Perinatal Pathology Award to Tsz Wing (Karina) Chu, Jim Wright, MD, PhD, and Jefferson Terry, MD, PhD; The Case Report Award to Elaine Chan, MD.
- The Enid Gilbert-Barness Prize recognizes the impact of an outstanding pediatric pathology

paper on anatomic pathology, clinical practice, research, or public health. The 2021 awardee was Shengmei Zhou, MD for the publication, "Clinicopathologic Characteristics of Late Acute Antibody-Mediated Rejection in Pediatric Liver Transplantation." The 2022 awardee was Vinodh Pillai, MD, PhD, for "Kikuchi-Fujimoto disease is mediated by an aberrant type 1 interferon response."

- The Lotte Strauss Prize recognizes an outstanding publication in pediatric pathology by an early career (<40 years old) pathologist or basic scientist. The 2021 awardee was Nya Nelson, MD, PhD for the publication, "Mucinous Cell Clusters in Infantile Congenital Pulmonary Airway Malformations Mimic Adult Mucinous Adenocarcinoma But Are Not Associated With Poor Outcomes When Appropriately Resected." The 2022 awardee was Jennifer Picarsic, MD for the publication, "ALK-positive histiocytosis: a new clinicopathologic spectrum highlighting neurologic involvement and responses to ALK inhibition." Each recipient presents a lecture at the next meeting, highlighting their research.
- The 2021 recipients of the Presidential Distinguished Colleague Award were: Linda Ernst, MD, MHS; Jason Jarzembowski, MD, PhD; and Cheryl Coffin, MD. The 2022 recipients were Rebecca Baergen, MD; Gino Somers, MBBS, BMedSC, PhD, FRCPA; and Cristina Pacheco, MD.

New Initiatives

The SPP is working to expand educational offerings and is strategizing around virtual monthly sessions, podcasts, and Cases of the Month in the PDP. The Slide Survey is continuously expanding its case library and optimal access to archived materials is being explored. SPP Spring Meeting Workshops are scheduled to shift to a free-standing virtual CME accredited event.

Outreach

- In 2021 and 2022 the SPP participated in the ABPath Cooperating Societies Meeting.
- 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 regularly serve as Officers on the IPPA Council and as tutors for IPPA courses.
- The SPP has improved the dissemination of published educational content to nonmembers. Nonmembers are encouraged to subscribe to the online Slide Survey Program and to consider purchasing volumes of Perspectives in Pediatric Pathology pertinent to their subspecialty or their training programs.

Final Comments

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. Our immediate challenges include re-engaging members after 2 years without in-person meetings, revamping our meeting format to accommodate members diverse needs, some that were revealed by the Covid pandemic, and inspiring new members and practitioners to embrace pediatric pathology. It is a great honor to lead the Society in the upcoming year and to continue to strengthen and advance the field of pediatric pathology.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura S. Finn

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