

MINUTES

Business Meeting, Society for Pediatric Pathology Saturday, February 26, 2011 San Antonio, Texas

PRESIDING: Cynthia Kaplan, President

CALL TO ORDER: Dr. Kaplan grasped the talking stick and called the meeting to order at 5:10 p.m.

I. Passing of Society Members

- A. Dr. Kaplan spoke about two recently deceased SPP members, Dr. Nevenka Gould and Dr. Grover Hutchins.
- B. A moment of silence was observed.

II. Reports from the Standing Committees

- A. Archives Committee (Paul Dickman for Nina Tatevian)
The committee has proposed a project involving the digital conversion of many papers. Funding has been requested for this project.
- B. Award Committee (Maria Tsokos)
Dr. Tsokos directed members to the committee's report, posted on the SPP website.
- C. Bylaws Committee (Cynl D'Cruz)
Dr. D'Cruz noted that proposed changes to the SPP bylaws were approved by council and circulated to the membership. He summarized the changes (see Appendix A).
MSC: That the SPP membership approve the changes to the bylaws.

D. Education Committee (Ona Faye-Petersen)

- 1. Dr. Faye-Petersen noted that much detail about the committee's work can be found on the website.
- 2. The fall meeting in Banff had excellent evaluations.
- 3. Upcoming meetings:
 - a. Milwaukee, Fall 2011: All educational symposia plans in place.
 - b. Vancouver, Spring 2012: The plan for a symposium on Hirschsprung's disease was approved in Council meeting.

- c. Houston, Fall 2012: Planning of a symposium on “Molecular Diagnosis in Pediatric Pathology: Beyond Blue Cell Tumors” is underway.
 - d. Baltimore, Spring 2013: A possible joint meeting with the Dermatologic Pathology Society will be explored.
 - e. Salt Lake City, Fall 2013: Planning in progress.
4. Slide Survey. The survey is working on improving TAT and on stockpiling cases. Evaluations for the slide survey have been added on line.

E. Finance Committee (Linda Ernst)

- 1. Financial position
 - a. The Society’s asset allocation was reviewed.
 - b. Investment returns over the past two (2) years have helped to balance our 2008 loss.
- 2. A development subcommittee has been formed. The goal is to increase the society sponsored awards and grants for research.

F. Fellowship Committee (Charles Timmons)

- 1. ACGME fellowship requirements: New pediatric pathology fellowship requirements were just released. In general, the changes are not radical. The committee will put together comments to the ACGME. Anyone wanting to join the discourse should contact Dr. Timmons.
- 2. The committee continues to work on the Fellowship Training Guide.
- 3. American Board of Pathology Update: Six months ago, the board announced that they wanted to change their pathology residency requirement of 50 autopsies. Until now, they have defined “autopsy” as including fetopsies having an autopsy permit.
- 4. Fellowship In-Service Exam: The committee was not able to collect enough questions to create a RISE exam for 2011. They will form a subcommittee to write questions for 2012.

G. Practice Committee (Debra Heller)

- 1. The committee is working on a Workload Survey and an Autopsy Survey. They would also like to undertake a Clinical Pathology Survey.

H. Publications Committee (Cheryl Coffin)

- 1. *Pediatric and Development Pathology*: The committee is working with Morna Conway to negotiate a *PDP* contract renewal with Allen Press. The committee wants to have reduced color charge rates for SPP members.
- 2. The committee is working on a proposal for a new set of society guidelines for the vetting of society – authored and society sponsored publications.

3. The website subcommittee is looking at website priorities and goals.
- I. Research Committee (Amy Heerema-McKenney)
 1. McAdams Award: The application deadline was changed. It was moved to May (after the USCAP meeting) to reach more trainees who might be interested. Applications were encouraged.
 2. This year's Young Investigator Award was given to Dinesh Rakheja for a project on PTPE and Wilms tumorigenesis.
 - J. Strategic Planning Committee (Kathy Patterson)
 1. The committee reviewed the Strategic Planning document and emerged with a major goal of increasing the visibility of pediatric pathology as a specialty.
 - K. Ad Hoc Perinatal Committee (Rebecca Baergen)
 1. Perinatal Interest Group: The committee set-up an e-mail list with 152 people.
 2. Future Perinatal Symposia:
 - a. Fall 2011: Fetal Hydrops (Mike Caplan)
 - b. Spring 2012: Metabolic Disease (Galen Schauer)
 - c. Fall 2012: Genetics of Congenital Anomalies (Harsh Thaker)
 3. The informal slide review has been well received, and the committee plans to continue it as an annual event in the fall.
 4. The committee submitted a proposal for a web page to the Website Subcommittee.
 - L. Membership Committee (Ted Pysher)
 1. The total membership of 681 appears to be a slight decline after 10 years of steady growth.
 2. Wide fluctuations in the numbers of junior members have been observed.
 3. Dr. Pysher welcomed all new members present.
 4. He announced that the committee is interested in hearing ideas regarding recruiting and retaining members.
- III. Election of Officers: Kathy Patterson, the Chair of the Nominating Committee, announced the following slate of officers, recommended by the Nominating Committee, approved by Council, and already previously circulated to the membership:
1. President: Linda Margraf
 2. Secretary-Treasurer: Sara Vargas
 3. Councilor-at-Large: Monique de Paepe
 4. Councilor-at-Large: Ana Gomez
- MSC: The proposed slate of officers was approved.**

IV. Website Presentation (Robert Ruiz)

Dr. Ruiz displayed the website. He showed a new feature of the web called “My SPP”. He has created a new version of the website newsletter where news items are posted separately – to improve the timeliness of news postings. He would like to consider bringing spononline content to Twitter, to improve its visibility.

V. Talking Stick (Cindy Kaplan/David Hartwick)

Dr. Kaplan briefly described the history of the SPP talking stick, which was originally donated to the society by David Hartwick and passed down year-to-year from president to president. The stick was carved in the tradition of the Pacific Northwest Indians and is of great artistic and symbolic value to the Society. Dr. Kaplan noted that the stick, which stood taller than herself, was prone to damage as it was carted to various cities yearly by successive presidents. To minimize this damage, it was proposed that the stick be retained in a safe location, and that the SPP President preside over meetings using a small version, which Dr. Hartwick graciously donated to the Society. Dr. Hartwick went to the podium and presented Dr. Kaplan with the smaller version of the talking stick.

VI. Fall Meeting Announcements

- A. Milwaukee, September 29th—October 2nd, 2011: Paula North summarized plans for the fall 2011 meeting. It will be held at Milwaukee’s historic Pfister Hotel. The program will include time to visit the host institution, Milwaukee Children’s Hospital. The scientific and social programs were described.
- B. Houston, Fall 2012: Karen Eldin described the program planned. The agenda will include a tour of the new hospital, now under construction. The scientific program was described.

VII. Request for other notices and announcements

None were put forward.

VIII. Meeting Adjournment

MSC: To adjourn the annual business meeting.

Dr. Kaplan adjourned the meeting at 6:02 p.m.

Appendix A. Summary of changes to the bylaws:

ARTICLE II

MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Types of Membership

a., Regular Membership, in the third paragraph, last sentence:

The period was moved inside the parentheses, correcting a typographical error.

e., Junior Membership, first sentence

Deleted: “who are actively engaged in formal training in”

Added: “actively engaged in education or postgraduate training with an interest in pediatric”

Deleted, 4th sentence: “They may submit abstracts for presentation at scientific meetings of the Society.”

Deleted, 5th sentence: “When Junior Members have completed their training, it is their responsibility to notify the Secretary of the Society and request Regular or Affiliate membership in order to remain as members.”

Added as the 5th sentence: “Appointments to Junior Memberships shall commence on the date the application is approved, and continue until the next July 1, at which time they shall expire unless the junior member provides documentation of his/her continued status as a student or trainee.”

ARTICLE VI

COMMITTEES

Section 7. Education Committee

b., Duties, 2, 1st sentence

Deleted: “Evaluate abstracts and a”

Added and began 1st sentence with: “A”.

Added, 1st sentence: “other” after the word “in”.

Section 10. Distinctions and Awards Committee

a., Composition, last sentence: Change “Education” to “Research”.

b., Duties,

Add as number 3: “Manage selected society awards, including publicizing, soliciting nominations, assessing eligibility, judging submissions, and announcing award winners, as needed.”

b. Duties

Added number 4 becomes the prior number 3: “Provide suitable plaques and/or certificates for presentation to recipients of awards.”

Section 13. Research Committee

b. Duties

Added as number 10: “Evaluate abstracts for the Society’s scientific meeting.”

Section 15. Fellowship Evaluation Committee

The word “Evaluation” is deleted, changing the name to “Fellowship Committee”

a. Composition, second sentence

Added: the word “ordinarily”, is added after the word “Members”.

Added as the third sentence: “The President may extend the term of a committee member as necessary to maintain staggered terms.”

b., Duties

Deleted: The following duties were deleted:

1. Develop and maintain a voluntary program for evaluation and ongoing monitoring of training programs in pediatric pathology.
2. Establish standards for the evaluation of such training programs.
3. Maintain records of program evaluations.
4. Provide feedback to participating program directors regarding program deficiencies and make recommendations for improvements.
5. Interact with appropriate external agencies and committees regarding issues of program accreditation in pediatric pathology.
6. Collate content and output of existing training programs, define a core curriculum for training in pediatric pathology and make recommendations for meeting projected manpower requirements.

Added: The following duties were added:

1. Interact with appropriate external agencies and committees regarding issues relating to accreditation of fellowship programs in pediatric pathology.
2. Interact with appropriate accrediting and certifying agencies to define a core curriculum for education and training in pediatric pathology.
3. Interact with certifying agencies and programs to assess the outcome of training in pediatric pathology, as measured by subspecialty certification and employment.

4. Facilitate communication regarding requirements for accreditation and certification, innovation and best-practice methodology in education, and other useful information among fellowship programs and program directors.
5. Participate in the development of activities to enhance educational opportunities for trainees in pediatric pathology.
6. Assist the Society in raising the visibility of pediatric pathology as a subspecialty choice among medical students and residents considering fellowships.
7. Assist in recruiting new trainees in pediatric pathology into the Society and its activities.
8. Assist the Society in matching the production of new trainees in pediatric pathology to the evolving manpower needs of the field.

ARTICLE VII

FINANCIAL MATTERS

Section 3. Financial Report

In the first sentence: the words, "or his/her designee", have been added after the word, "Treasurer".