



Society for Pediatric Pathology

Newsletter

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- **Message from Deb Perry, SPP President**
- **Reports from the Interim Meeting in Columbus, Ohio, October 5-8, 2006**

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Fall 2006 Issue

President's Message

First, I would like to thank the Columbus Children's Hospital Department of Pathology for hosting a fabulous fall meeting!! It was obvious that many PEOPLE put in a lot of time to make sure that everything went smoothly. Special thanks go to Drs. Hammond and Qualman! The dinner event complete with exotic animals and an engaging presentation by Jack Hanna, director emeritus of the Columbus Zoo, made for a delightful evening. All of the scientific sessions, including the leukemia and lymphoma symposium, the poster and platform sessions, and the perinatal symposium, were excellent.

PEOPLE in the training ranks deserve special recognition. The three resident recruitment awards went to Drs. Daniel Fajardo, Madolin Ziadie and Joe Lennerz. The competition was stiff this year with 19 applications. Each award winner wrote a composition related to the theme of "What's so special about pediatric pathology?" Congratulations to the winners and to all who applied! Pediatric pathology is special and we're glad that you are interested!

I would like to welcome Robert Ruiz as our new newsletter editor and website editor. Rob will be working hard with the central office, Linda Margraf and members of all the committees to get timely and educational materials on our website. Look for great changes to come in the next few months at www.spponline.org!

The issue of Maintenance of Certification (MOC) for pathologists is a hot issue not only for those just completing their residencies, but all of us. To help us determine the best way that the SPP can meet the educational needs in regards to MOC, I have appointed an ad-hoc committee to review this issue. Dr. Jeffrey Goldstein has agreed to chair the committee, with help from Drs. Chris Reyes, Eduardo Ruchelli, Ana Gomez and Charles Timmons. Thank you in advance to these PEOPLE for their hard work on this important issue.

Lastly, but most certainly not least, I would like to thank Linda Margraf for organizing all of the PEOPLE and events in the Society. Linda's hard work is greatly appreciated by me personally and by all members.

See you all in San Diego in March!

Deb Perry
SPP President

Interim Meeting Award Winners

The Gordon L. Vawter Pathologist-in-Training Award
Sara M. Duesterhoeft, M.D., Seattle Children's Hospital
"Three cases of a single umbilical artery arising from the aorta, in support of the vascular steal phenomenon of caudal regression".



Interim Meeting Award Winners (continued from page 1)

The Perinatal Award

Raymond W. Redline, M.D., University Hospitals of Cleveland
"Placental vascular and inflammatory lesions as predictors of cerebral palsy and abnormal neurocognitive function at 8 years of age in extremely low birth weight infants (<1Kg)".



The Harry B. Neustein Memorial Award

Monique E. De Paepe, M.D., Women and Infants Hospital
"Microarray analysis of ventilated preterm lungs identifies differential expression of angiogenesis-related genes".

Resident Recruitment Awards

Daniel Fajardo, University of Texas Southwestern
Madolin Ziadie, University of Texas Southwestern
Joe Lennerz, Washington University in St. Louis

Committee Reports

Strategic Planning Committee

The Strategic Planning Committee, composed of the six at-large Councilors and the immediate past-president, and chaired by the president-elect, held its first meeting in Columbus. The SPP Strategic Plan and the composition of the Committee were approved at the Society's annual business meeting in Atlanta this past February. The committee is charged with reviewing the Strategic Plan, providing oversight of the relationship between the SPP and other scientific bodies, and suggesting changes in the overall direction of the Society. At the Columbus meeting, the Committee reviewed the Strategic Plan and discussed the relationship between Plan goals and objectives and current or proposed Society activities. Prior to the 2007 Annual Meeting in San Diego, the Committee will circulate a list of specific goals from the Strategic Plan to each of the standing committees, and will prepare a progress report on the Strategic Plan that will be circulated to the membership of the Society.

Ted Pysher
Chair, Strategic Planning Committee
SPP President-Elect

Committees at work...



Left to right: Linda Margraf - SPP Secretary-Treasurer, Deb Perry - SPP President, Raj Kapur, Ashley Hill.

Committee Reports (continued)

Education Committee

Many thanks to all Committee members, retired, retiring and new!

Workshop/symposium subcommittee: Next year's spring symposium will be a joint symposium with the Cardiovascular Society. New workshops starting in the spring include a renal tumor workshop and a hematopathology workshop, both of which promise to be excellent. Future ideas for symposia include another joint venture, this time with the Endocrine Society.

Future workshop ideas include pediatric clinical pathology and bone tumors. Because of problems with the AV systems that we often encounter, the workshop chairperson is assigned at each spring meeting to establish a contact within the team providing AV services and to meet with them ahead of time to ensure that the equipment works. Fall interim leaders are encouraged to do the same. Feedback from evaluations of workshops will be given in a timelier manner to the presenters so as to provide them with time to review and revise their workshops if necessary. Workshops have been filling quickly, and so the number of participants will be increased. The limiting factors are (1) room size and (2) making them so big as to prohibit faculty-participant interaction. Finally, we are working on getting "older, retired" workshops onto our web site.

Abstracts committee: The number of abstracts submitted returned to the pre-Tours norm of the low 30's. However, the overall quality was adequate. The numbers submitted for the spring meeting 2007 were relatively increased, as usual. We are working on establishing guidelines for when to open and close the abstract submission process.

CME committee: Lisa Teot provided the Education Committee members with an overview of "basic CME'eze", so that the members will all have an understanding of this process. In addition, she presented the new standards that the ACCME is requiring. The impetus is now on changing physician performance, competence and patient outcomes. This will take some work. It was suggested that the Practice Committee may be able to participate in this, since in order to evaluate how we influence practice we must first know what the standards of practice are.

Interim meetings: 2007 is in Phoenix; 2008 is in Louisville; 2009 is in Philadelphia. Thanks very much to all of these organizers for their generous offers to host our meeting!

Extramural Committee: Ona Faye-Peterson discussed repeating the perinatal course in Salt Lake City in May of 2008.

New business: Maintenance of certification (MOC) was on the agenda. However, Deb Perry, SPP president, presented the Executive Committee's decision that it would be best to form an ad hoc committee to evaluate the meaning of, and methods by which we can contribute to, maintenance of certification for pediatric pathologists.

Chris Reyes
Chair, Education Committee

Fellowship Committee

The Fellowship Committee, whose members include John Buchino (Chair), Laura Finn, Gino Somers and Charles Timmons, met at the interim meeting in Columbus, and were joined by SPP president-elect, Ted Pysher. The Committee is exploring additional means for pathology residents to interact with fellows and fellowship directors. An open invitation will be extended to pediatric pathology fellowship directors to participate in Fellowship Committee meetings at future SPP interim meetings in the hopes of sharing common concerns and resolutions. Charles Timmons was selected to serve as the Committee's representative to the "Maintenance of Certification" task force.

Laura Finn
Web Liaison, Fellowship Committee

Committee Reports (continued)

Finance Committee

The statements of Income and Expenses for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2006, were received shortly before the interim meeting and reviewed by the Committee and Council. The Society had a \$57,186 surplus of income over expenses for the last fiscal year. This was due to a number of likely one-time items.

From the income side the most important were the good attendance at the Atlanta Annual Meeting, increased income from the Case Survey Program due to greater subscriptions, and increased investment income. There was also overlap between the publications editorial support between Springer and Alliance. This will of course not be carried through for subsequent years. We will also lose the Springer royalties of \$15,000 per year beginning this current fiscal year.

On the expense side, General Meeting expenses were down. However, this reflected specific audio-video support issues. An additional expense not included in the statement is for poster-board charges (\$754). The bill for this was delayed and needs to be added to the meeting expenses. CME expenses were down, basically reflecting only the CME annual fee without recertification fees or travel expenses. IPPA dues have not yet been submitted and will have to be added to this year's dues. The total expense for PDP was significantly up from the previous fiscal year, but within the proposed budget made last fiscal year. Case Survey costs were up due to the increase of subscriptions, well offset by the increase of income from the program. Expenses for the Tours Interim Meeting were minor as no management travel or Perinatal Section expenses were generated. There was no standalone Perinatal Meeting last fiscal year, therefore those expenses (and income) are not applicable.

Reviewing the proposed Income and Expenses budgets for the current fiscal year beginning June 30, despite the disappearance of Springer royalties for the journal, the Society can still anticipate a small surplus.

Regarding the two Society funds, the Operating Fund and the Awards Fund, the fiscal year-end net portfolio values were \$312,276.63 for the Operating Fund and \$367,172 for the Awards Fund. For the Awards Fund, this represents a \$7,248 increase over the last fiscal year-end numbers.

Council approved additional expenses, not originally on the proposed budget for 2006/07, related to the web site. These included a one time expense of up to \$10,000 for the web site redesign and an ongoing maintenance of \$5000 per year (this had been originally budgeted at \$1800 per year). A few other minor expenses were added, resulting in a potential budget deficit between \$9000 and \$14,000.

Glenn P. Taylor
Chair, Finance Committee

Making time for dinner...



Left to right: Chris Reyes, Ana Gomez, Bev Rogers - SPP Past-President, Linda Margraf - SPP Secretary-Treasurer, Edwina Popek, Kathy Patterson, Ted Pysher - SPP President-Elect.

Committee Reports (continued)

Membership Committee

The current roster of members includes:

Regular	394
Junior	43
Affiliate	88
Emeritus	74
Life	46
TOTAL	645

New members approved in Columbus:

Junior Members

- Dr. Valdas Gasilionis, Chicago, IL
- Dr. David Grynspan, Grosse Pointe Woods, MI
- Dr. Jailan Osman, Philadelphia, PA
- Dr. Norma Quintanilla, Kansas City, MO
- Dr. Neil Rawlinson, Omaha, NE
- Dr. Erin Rudzinski, Nashville, TN

Affiliate Member

- Dr. Marcia DeSouza Ishigal, Sao Paulo, Brazil

Requests for Emeritus Status Approved:

- Dr. Blair Carpenter
- Dr. William H. Donnelly
- Dr. John E. Fisher
- Dr. Wei Hsueh

Bruce Pawel
Chair, Membership Committee

An abundance of excellent speakers...



Top, left to right: Steve Qualman - Meeting host, Kadria Sayed, Raja Rabah, Joe Lennerz.
Bottom, left to right: Mary Beth Ross, Portia Krieger, Mark Luquette.

Committee Reports (continued)

Practice Committee

Two members of the Practice Committee (Ana Gomez and Debra Heller) met with Beverly Rogers and Ted Pysher. The following items were discussed:

1. Autopsy turnaround time: The issue of recommending a change in the CAP requirement that the majority of autopsies be signed out within 30 working days was discussed during the meeting of the Practice Committee in Atlanta. We concluded that the majority of pediatric institutions did not meet the requirement. Further, discussions with forensic pathologists on the Committee indicated that turnaround time was not always under the control of the prosecuting pathologist due to the need for multiple ancillary tests. The Committee recommended that the turnaround time be changed to reflect more realistic goals. The issue was also discussed by the Council who felt that there was no justification to recommend a change in the guidelines.

Since then, the Practice Committee once again probed 5 pediatric institutions in the US and found that one consistently met the requirement. Another pediatric hospital, which previously had not met the requirement and had been cited by CAP for that reason during a recent inspection, had introduced several initiatives to improve their autopsy turnaround time, and as a result was now signing out the majority of their autopsies within the CAP-required 30 working days. The other 3 pediatric institutions do not consistently meet the CAP requirement. A second discussion by the Council led to the conclusion that there was no reason to recommend a change in the CAP guidelines at this time.

2. GI Survey: A survey on the practice of GI pathology was undertaken by the Practice Committee. The results were discussed during the meeting in Atlanta and will be the subject of a future publication.

3. Maintenance of Certification: Ted Pysher, on the Pediatric Pathology Test Committee, attended the American Board of Pathology meeting last spring. There was a discussion of impending recertification/maintenance of competency issues. Although it will only be required by the ABP for those certifying beginning in 2006, many feel that state licensing boards, payers, institutions granting privileges, and others may require similar “recertification” even of those who have lifelong certificates. The issue was discussed by the Practice Committee and we were informed that a task force, with representatives from the Practice and Education Committees, will study this issue and will make recommendations later.

4. Measure of Productivity of Pediatric Pathologists: Beverly Rogers recently examined the evaluation of the productivity of pediatric pathologists. In the process, she asked the chiefs of pathology at several pediatric institutions in the US how they evaluated the productivity of their pediatric pathology faculty. Three of five institutions did not have any measure of productivity, as they had never been asked to produce it. One institution looked at published numbers and/or guidelines as benchmarks. One institution looks at the overall mission of pediatric pathology as it relates to the hospital’s mission (clinical, administrative, call, and educational) and goes from there with an estimate of FTEs. Their contract is quite detailed as to the services they must provide that are beyond professional billings. As an alternative to RVUs, Beverly Rogers has proposed a measure of productivity based on faculty FTEs and number of billables, which more accurately reflects the situation at pediatric institutions and will allow direct inter-institution comparisons. The adoption of this standard by the SPP will be

(continued on page 7...)

Connecting with friends and sightseeing...



Left to right: Claire Langston, Susan Simonton, Maria Tsokos, Steve Qualman, Pepper Dehner, Deb Perry - SPP President.

Committee Reports (continued)

Practice Committee (continued from page 6)

presented to the Practice Committee and the Council for consideration. The Council requested more information on this issue, but agreed to consider it later.

Ana Gomez
Chair, Practice Committee

Publications Committee

The Publications Committee meeting first reviewed the status of the society journals and then focused on the structure and future development of the SPP webpage.

The transition to Alliance Publishing Group as the publisher of PDP has progressed with only a few minor glitches. A mishap in the handling of the SPP mailing list resulted in delayed mailing of the initial issues to some members of the SPP. Once identified, this problem was readily resolved and publication of the 2006 issues is currently on track. Transfer of files from Springer to Alliance resulted in somewhat delayed publication of a few accepted articles; this backlog is no longer an issue.

Raj Kapur reported on this year's journal activity for Miguel Reyes-Mugica. From January 1 through October 1, 2006, Pediatric and Developmental Pathology received 157 manuscripts, with approximately 1/3 being original articles and 1/2 case reports. Implementation of an automatic review tracking system resulted in improvement of the average reviewer turnaround time of 12.2 days and a dramatic improvement in the overall average turnaround time from submission to final decision of 20 days. It is nice to see an increased number of submitted manuscripts, as compared to the 137 manuscripts received in 2005. It would also be nice to have increased numbers of submitted original articles and SPP members are again encouraged to submit their scientific work to the PDP journal for publication.

Don Singer reported that Volume 26 of the Perspectives in Pediatric Pathology, currently entitled *Developmental Neuromuscular Pathology*, is nearing completion with an anticipated publication date in the spring of 2007. Volume 27, currently entitled *Advances in Pediatric Pulmonary Pathology*, is in full swing with one article already published in PDP and the remainder in various stages of preparation.

Robert Ruiz, the new combined Newsletter/Website editor, presented his vision for updating and improving the website. A lively enthusiastic discussion led to the following implementation plan:

- Following Council approval of funding, the website format will undergo a significant upgrade with a goal of having the new webpage available for review at the spring meeting.
- The Chairs of each SPP Committee will be asked to designate a committee member who will provide timely information and the support needed to update and improve the website vis-à-vis the aspects of pediatric pathology addressed by their committee. Examples of proposed activities that will require committee input include
 1. An up-to-date complete listing of the pediatric pathology fellowships with appropriate links
 2. Placing completed symposia and workshops on the web
 3. Exploring the possibility of placing prior slide surveys on the web (with or without CME credit)
- Rob Ruiz will work with John Hicks, COG Pathology Chair, to create a link to the COG.
- A procedure for the solicitation, approval, and implementation of possible webpage links will be created for review by the Publications Committee at the spring meeting.

The webpage has already undergone a number of changes, with many more to come. To quote Rob, "the core vision for the SPP website is to make it the key information hub for pediatric pathologists, present and future." The goals, as outlined by Rob, include making the website a resource for

- (1) attracting trainees to pediatric pathology,
- (2) fostering greater communication and closer relationships within the membership, and
- (3) creating broader cooperation between the SPP and other organizations focusing on pediatrics and child health.

The ultimate goal is to further the Society's mission to develop and enhance pediatric pathology practice, education, and research. Ideas for implementing these goals are welcomed and encouraged.

Kathy Patterson
Chair, Publications Committee

Fatigue finally sets in...but it was well worth every minute!



John Buchino collecting his thoughts



Jack Hanna's feline friend taking five

From the Editor's Desk

Hello! I am very excited to take the reins of the SPP Newsletter for the first time. I would like to extend my thanks to my predecessor, Margaret Collins, for her excellent work the past three years. I am personally grateful to Margaret for her extremely helpful advice in this transition. As you may be aware, the roles of Newsletter editor and Website editor have been combined, and I promise to work diligently to build upon the strong foundations already in place. My goal, simply stated, is to make the Newsletter and Website more useful to you than ever.

The purpose of the present Newsletter was to bring you up to date on the latest happenings in the SPP, with a letter from our President, Deb Perry, and a recap of the important Committee activities at the Interim Meeting, held in Columbus, OH, from October 5 through 8, 2006. Whether you were there or unable to make it, I hope you also enjoyed some lovely photos of our SPP colleagues, kindly provided by Bahig Shehata. More photos will be available soon on the new Photo Gallery page of the website (www.spponline.org). I hope you will come visit.

In closing, I hope to hear from all of you soon. Please feel free to email me your comments and suggestions. I will do my utmost to make the Newsletter and Website responsive to your evolving needs.

Until next time,

Robert E. Ruiz
SPP Newsletter/Website Editor

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About the Society

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. Over 600 members of the Society practice in more than 60 children's 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.