



# SOCIETY FOR PEDIATRIC PATHOLOGY

NEWSLETTER

Spring 2000

## FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

*Art Weinberg, MD*

Please join me in thanking Edwina Popek for her outstanding performance as editor of the Society Newsletter. I am just now beginning to appreciate the extent of the task that she accomplished so well. I hope that you will notice little change with the passing of the torch, but there are a few new things that I would like to try. If they work, fine. If they don't, fire me. Your feedback (off line) will be appreciated.

From time to time members of our Society change jobs or otherwise alter their stations in life. Some savants in our organization seem to know about all of these comings and goings and others could care less. I think that it might be of general interest to members of the Society to learn through the Newsletter, rather than through the grapevine, when one of our relatively small circle moves, retires, drops out or passes on. I would like to call this section "Comings and Goings". Please pass along any information that you wish to have published to [Weinberg@childmed.dallas.tx.us](mailto:Weinberg@childmed.dallas.tx.us). It won't hurt to give it a try.

I would like to continue to publish in the summer Newsletter a listing of all of the fellows currently enrolled in accredited pediatric pathology fellowship programs and the date that each will complete his/her training. This will be useful information for prospective employers who are considering candidates for junior staff positions. In a similar vein, I would like to include in each summer or fall issue the fate of the fellows who graduated the previous June. Please send any information to me or to Alba Greco, who will coordinate this effort.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*Claire Langston, MD*

Having just returned from our meeting in New Orleans, I barely have had time to take in the wealth of information presented and the fleeting, but important opportunity to catch up with friends and colleagues, when I find I must also communicate with you all in my initial President's message.

The annual meetings are a source of both joy and frustration. The opportunities are myriad and inevitably choices must be made about how to spend these few days of the year when so many of us can meet together. There are new members to meet, friendships to renew, and issues to discuss, as well as the appeal of the scientific program. The time available for these activities is limited and there are always competing events. I have a wonderful time at the annual meetings, and this year was no exception. The scientific program has continually improved over the years. The fruits of the activities of the Research Committee and its retiring chair, David Parham, are becoming accessible as former awardees mature as investigators and return to share their increasing knowledge with us. Monique DePaepe, the recipient of this year's Young Investigator Award, is a previous recipient of the Lotte Strauss Prize. She reviewed her investigations into the controls of lung growth with us at the Symposium in Rhode Island. We have to thank the education committee led by Kathy Patterson for the efforts they put into reviewing abstracts, planning a coherent program, choosing moderators, selecting appropriate symposium and workshop topics, and coercing presenters for those occasions. But, we also need to thank the participants who choose to present their scientific work at our meeting, rather than elsewhere and those who listen critically and broaden the collective experience by their thoughtful comments and questions.

Beyond the educational and scientific programs, the business of the Society including financial management, publication and web site management, future technology, and strategic planning is becoming progressively more complicated. Even with the assistance of professional management, the skills and leadership necessary to further that business are not as available to us as is clinical and scientific expertise. Our relative lack of expertise in these areas means that there is neither widespread support for nor understanding of these important activities, and that decisions made in these areas do not always have the critical analysis that is applied to our educational and scientific endeavors. Society members who toil in these areas are vitally important to Society programs. Careful oversight of Society finances by the Secretary-Treasurer and by the Finance committee led by Joel Haas has brought us close to fulfilling our long-term commitment to support new investigative work in pediatric pathology. By providing an endowment we hope to sustain an investment in research, honor outstanding contributions by trainees, and encourage young investigators in this arena. The Finance committee will undertake an effort to consolidate the various Society funds in order to optimize our ability to support these important goals. The

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Publication Committee led by Beverly Rogers has overseen the successful integration of the Society journals. The first offprint of *Perspectives* articles from 1998 has been received by the membership, and the 1999 volume is soon to follow. This is a new endeavor of the Publications Committee and honors a commitment made to the editors of *Perspectives*. It is important to assess the value of this separate yearly bound volume both to the membership as a whole and to the community of pediatric specialists. For this evaluation to be successful, it is important that everyone participates and provides their opinion. These volumes obviously represent considerable effort on the part of the editors. The Publication and Executive Committees plan to provide you with background information to help evaluate the impact of this year end compilation of previously published articles as well as a forum for discussion.

In addition to ongoing programs, a new structure has been proposed for the Society to develop section status for special interest groups within the Society. This proposal must also be evaluated by the membership as a whole, not only by Council and the Executive. The perinatal interest group provided a program at the Interim Meeting in Rhode Island and has planned another for the Interim Meeting in Vancouver, notice of which appears in this newsletter. In order for the Society to survive as a viable entity it must meet the needs of diverse membership. And, as those needs change, so will the Society change. The form any change may take is again dependent on frank and open discussion of the issues involved. I look forward to some very interesting meetings as we sort out new directions for the Society. As everyone is not able to attend meetings to participate in person, please feel free to communicate your thoughts, apprehensions, and desires on these important issues facing the Society to me, any member of Council or the Executive Committee, or members of the involved committees directly.

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### **SOCIETY FOR PEDIATRIC PATHOLOGY**

**Annual Business Meeting Minutes  
March 25, 2000, New Orleans, LA  
Deborah Perry, secretary-treasurer**

President Rutledge called the business meeting to order at 5:15 p.m. in the Napoleon Room of the New Orleans Riverside Hilton Hotel, New Orleans, LA.

Dr. Rutledge acknowledged the loss of Dr. James McAdams and Dr. Alvin Rodin and a moment of silence was held.

The minutes of the 1999 business meeting were approved.

President Rutledge extended his appreciation to the outgoing committee chairs: Drs. D. Zwick, D. Parham, D. Witte and L. Penchansky.

President Rutledge reported on executive committee actions since the last business meeting. These include the following items: Budget variances for *Perspectives* publication and the perinatal group meeting budget. Dr. Rutledge, on behalf of the Society, sent a letter of support for the new AFIP building. Approval for a membership survey in regards to interest in creating an SPP Perinatal Group was granted. It was agreed to publish a list of contributors to the Young Investigator award in the SPP newsletter. An interim meeting ad-hoc committee was formed to explore the relationship of the interim meetings and the SPP. An ad-hoc committee of the past chairs of the Education committee was formed to explore new ways to organize that committee. An ad-hoc committee to organize a CME course for placental pathology was formed. Continuing efforts to liaison with the COG and the CAP were noted.

The Secretary-Treasurer reported on the membership status and the financial position of the Society. At year-end 1999, there were a total of 549 SPP members, with 371 regular, 42 junior, 51 affiliate, 1 honorary, 33 emeritus and 51 life members. As of January 1, 1998, all Society restricted and unrestricted funds were transferred into mutual funds managed by Salomon Smith Barney. As of December 31, 1999 the SPP had total assets of \$566,723.76, with \$441,943.78 in restricted funds (Vawter, Lotte Strauss, Young Investigator), \$119,878.41 in unrestricted general funds, \$2,721.40 in the checking and \$1,120.17 in the savings account. The Founders' Endowment for Research in Pediatric Pathology (FERPP), also known as the Young Investigator Fund, increased from \$160,299 in 1998 to the current value of \$205,421. The Lotte Strauss Fund value increased from \$165,989 in 1998 to the current value of \$205,221. The Vawter Fund value increased from \$25,983 in 1998 to the current value of \$31,300. Additional funding was received from the Vawter family. The financial status of the SPP at year-end 1999 was a deficit budget. The year 2000 budget, approved in September, 1999 is also a deficit budget, with recognition that no utilization of SPP reserve funds has occurred.

#### Reports were heard from the Committee Chairs:

Archives Committee - Dr. Stocker reported that the Oral History project is proceeding. The past interviews have been transcribed and are available for review.

Distinction and Awards Committee - Dr. Witte reported for the Awards Committee. A number of abstracts are being reviewed for the Neustein and Vawter awards, which will

be presented at this meeting. The Lotte Strauss award winner is Dr. Anirban Maitra (UT Southwestern; Children's Medical Center of Dallas). The Lotte Strauss awardee will give an oral presentation at the interim meeting. As outgoing chair, Dr. Witte extended thanks to committee members for a job well done.

Bylaws Committee - Dr. Dickey reported for the Bylaws committee and there are no bylaws changes.

Education Committee - Dr. Patterson reported for the Education Committee. ACCME re-accreditation has been received for 2 years. The number of abstracts received for the spring meeting is down this year - please encourage submission to the SPP meetings.

Fellowship Committee - No Report

Finance Committee - No Report

Long-term planning Committee - Dr. deSa reported for the Long-term planning committee. The minutes will be published in the newsletter. Progress is being made in regards to the web site. Liaison activity is proceeding, with a membership survey in process. Workshops with the ASCP are being explored. The next Long-Term Planning meeting is scheduled for Saturday afternoon in Vancouver (September 2000).

Practice Committee - Dr. Jevon reported for the Practice committee. A survey of the SPP Slide Survey program reveals an overall positive response. The Practice committee continues to work with the perinatal group. A pathologist workload study will be done this year. Pathology practice guidelines are being looked at for oncology specimens.

Publications Committee- Dr. Rogers reported for the Publications committee. Her full report appears elsewhere in this newsletter. The committee thanked Dr Popek for her excellent job as newsletter editor. The hard copy membership directory will be published in the summer of 2000, thanks to the efforts of John Buchino who obtained funding from outside donations. The most current membership information is now available on the SPP website and this should continue to be the case in the future. The membership directory data and website listings are taken from the membership dues statements, so please check to be certain that this information is complete and accurate. Notify the Degnon office of any necessary additions or corrections. Also include or update your current e-mail address, as this is extremely valuable to other members seeking to communicate. It will also be necessary to have this information if, in the future, announcements from the Society are "pushed" to your desktop. Grant funding to support the bound volume of Perspectives is being sought. Springer-Verlag has been

pessimistic about the marketability of a year-end bound volume because the articles have been published previously in the journal.

Research Committee - Dr. Parham reported for the Research committee. Many applications for the YI award and the McAdams travel stipend were received. Dr. Parham, as outgoing chair, extended thanks to the research committee members for their hard work. The Young Investigator award winner is Dr. Monique DePaepe for her work on Fas/Fas ligand in the pathogenesis of bronchopulmonary dysplasia. The McAdams stipend will go to Dr. Laura Finn, which will allow her to work with Dr. Jay Bernstein.

Membership Committee - Dr. Schauer reported for the Membership Committee. The newly elected members include:

Regular: Mario Cervantes-Vazquez, Michael de Tar, Marjorie Grafe, Carmela Monterio, Jennifer Ramsay, Jon M. Rowland, Erwin Schemankewitz.

Junior: Linda S. Ellis-Lasky, Barbara K. Fulton, Mamille Herrmann, James A. Petterchak, Adrian Suarez, Albertus Timmer

Affiliate: Soo-Yong Tan, Kim Wing Yan.

The membership committee will explore the reasons for lost SPP members and is also exploring ways to expand membership.

Nominating Committee - Dr. Langston reporting.

The slate of nominees is:

President-elect: Ron Jaffe

Secretary-Treasurer: Deborah Perry

Council: Liliane Boccon-Gibod and Larry Becker

There was a call for nominations from the floor. There were no additional nominations. The nominations were closed and the slate was unanimously accepted.

Dr. Rutledge introduced Kathryn Kelley as the Degnon central office representative.

Please note the poster designed by Dr. Alba Greco showing the distribution of 35 free PDP journals distributed around the world. Many letters of thanks are also displayed.

Outgoing councilors, Drs. Greco & Kapur, escorted incoming President Langston to the podium. President Rutledge presented Dr. Langston with the talking stick. Dr. Langston presented Dr. Rutledge with a carved plaque and thanked him for all his work for the Society.

Dr. Langston adjourned the meeting at 5:45 p.m.

## VIEWS FROM NEW ORLEANS



*Outgoing councilors Alba Greco and Raj Kapur escort the new president to the podium.*



*Joe Rutledge crowns the queen.*



*And presents her to her subjects with princess Linda Margraf in attendance*



*"Our sometimes sister now our queen".  
Claire Langston addresses the multitude.*



*Edwina Popek receives presidential commendation for her years of toil as editor of the newsletter.*