



NEWSLETTER

a SPP Publication

Society for Pediatric Pathology

Spring/Winter 2026



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear SPP Members,
Spring is in full swing, and we recently wrapped up our 2nd SPP spring USCAP companion meeting in San Antonio. People are saying it was the best companion meeting we've ever had. I swear, I overheard someone saying that while waiting for the coffee to arrive at the coffee break station. Who am I to argue if that's the consensus? In all seriousness, the enthusiasm for supporting SPP during the meeting was truly humbling.

We've been making very directed efforts to address our top priority: Recruitment. It's an "evergreen" topic, which is a nice way of saying it's a problem that never really goes away. We might not see the results for a few application cycles, but I'm confident all our different efforts will bear fruit. Toward this end, it was wonderful to help staff our USCAP SPP booth and to see potential future fellows stopping to learn what makes us so special. I would be remiss if I didn't highlight the residents, fellows, and practicing faculty who took time to staff our booth through the bitter end. It's a collective effort, and honestly, it's just the right thing to do. You don't want to be the one person not doing the right thing, so please consider volunteering opportunities as they present themselves.

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A few moments to highlight specific efforts, if you don't mind a bit more rambling. First, thanks to Rachel Mariani and all volunteers who helped with the SPP booth. Also, I want to extend thanks to Drs. Mike Arnold, Linda Ernst, and Selene Koo who led the SPP poster walks. Visibility is vital for our future survival. It's important to show the fellows that we aren't just looking at the posters—we are walking to them. It shows a level of commitment that a stationary person just can't convey. It also highlights what a collegial and supportive collective SPP could be for any undecided floor walkers at the meeting.

A quick reminder: our mentorship program is live. The Executive Committee reviews applications twice a year to pair fellows and residents with "ideal" mentors. It's a big responsibility. I'm personally asking you to consider taking on a mentee. We all do this informally, but now there's a structure and you can [find it on our website here](#).

Finally, a change in how we work with our friends at IPPA. We're moving from a per-member fee to a simple yearly grant. It's cleaner. It's less math for everyone involved, and who doesn't want less math? In return, we'll get bi-yearly updates so we can stay aware of international opportunities. It brings us closer to our international colleagues without making things overly complicated. Please be on the look for those announcements in upcoming newsletters. I hope everyone has a great summer. I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible in Columbus this fall.



Chandra Krishnan, M.D.
President, SPP



LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

This Winter/Spring editor of the SPP Newsletter comes with reports of our recent USCAP meeting and our society's efforts to recruit new pediatric pathologists. Ironically, the same topic appeared in our newsletter 25 years ago, with a pithy comment from previous editor Art Weinburg: our society's efforts are in vain without participation from individual members. Like most of you, I'm always on the lookout for new talent among the residency pool, and I always encourage worthy residents to consider our specialty as a career.

The problem lies in the timing of our exposure to residents. In all hospitals where I've attended, pathology residents generally rotate in pediatrics during their second or third year of training. By this time, other attendings have also recognized talent, and my trainees tend to already have another specialty in mind. How to break this cycle?

One possibility is to train first year residents, and my past successes have been in the occasional resident that came to me during these times. Secondly, any medical student that does a pathology elective is fair bait, and I note that we frequently have SPP presenters from this pool. Thirdly and most important, be present and active among residents. If you are a stay-at-home telepathologist, you are unlikely to attract any trainees. Conversely, the more time you spend with them, the more likely our specialty will be replenished.

Also in this issue is a report from the recent SLAPPE meeting, submitted by former SPP President and PDP Editor Miguel Reyes-Múgica. I noted that a similar report had been printed 25 years ago, and I think it is important that we continue to maintain ties to our neighbors to the south as well as "across the pond". To this end, a report from IPPA will be part of our next issue.

Have a great summer!

David Parham, MD
Newsletter Editor





Submit an Idea Directly to SPP’s Executive Committee!

Have an Idea, Suggestion or Question for Our Society? Send an idea or request directly to SPP's Executive Committee. They will review at their next meeting and get back!

[Submit Your Form Here](#)

USCAP CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS



Sonja Chen, MD

Newsletter Assistant Editor

The second companion meeting of the Society for Pediatric Pathology and The USCAP was held in the second oldest city in the United States: San Antonio, Texas. The conference was held in the Henry B. González Convention Center. As with Texas in general, the Center was so large that at least one other similar sized convention appeared to be happening at the same time.

The convention center was accessible along the beautiful River Walk, which offered a much cooler stroll than on the steamy street level. On Sunday morning, the Society for Pediatric Pathology proffered three excellent presentations for the practicing pediatric pathologist. Dr. Raj Kapur discussed the challenges of Hirschsprung biopsies and the use of immunohistochemistry in resolving those challenges. Dr. Cristina Pacheco discussed the differential diagnoses of liver biopsies in the first three months of life, giving much attention to biliary atresia and other neonatal liver diseases such as Alagille disease and progressive familial intrahepatic cholestasis. And finally, Dr. Ivan González presented an excellent summary of a convoluted topic - gastrointestinal biopsies in patients with chronic diarrhea in infancy.

On Tuesday, there was an afternoon platform for pediatric and perinatal pathology, as well as the evening specialty conference in pediatric pathology. The specialty conference incorporated a plethora of topics. Hematopathologist, Dr. Robert Lorsbach discussed immunohistochemistry in histiocytic disorders and its application new diagnoses, such as ALK-positive histiocytosis. Dr. Benjamin Wilkins discussed diagnostic metallothionein immunohistochemistry in the context of hepatic Wilson’s disease. Dr. Erin Rudzinski discussed an older immunohistochemical stain for myogenic differentiation, MyoD1, which is making a comeback in rare and new diagnoses of rhabdomyosarcoma. Finally, neuropathologist Dr. Lakshmi Nair described an immunohistochemical stain, EZHIP, that saved the day and clinched the diagnosis in a case with no tissue available for molecular testing. Overall, the evening specialty conference reinforced the importance of histology in directing use of ancillary tests including immunohistochemistry and molecular diagnostics.

Thank you to all those who gave of their time at the SPP Booth Monday to Wednesday! I had a blast discussing the magic of pediatric pathology with trainees and meeting up with fellow pediatric pathologists. The poster walks on Monday and Tuesday highlighted the cream of the crop, with the USCAP Pathologist-in-Training Award going to Dr. Zachary Kadow, MD, PhD, for his work entitled “Clinicopathologic and Molecular Characterization of Pediatric Poorly Cohesive Gastric Carcinoma” . Thank you to those of you who came by the SPP booth in the poster hall or went on the poster walks!



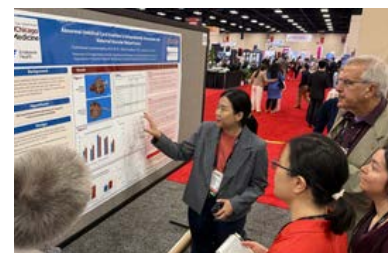
Dr. Erin Rudzinski presents at the evening specialty conference.



Ped. pathologists at the SPP Booth (Top left to right: Dr. Ian Gelarden, Dr. Jeffery A. Goldstein, Dr. Michael Arnold; Bottom left to right: Dr. Sonja Chen, Dr. Anita Gupta, Dr. Juan Putra)



Dr. Michael Arnold and Dr. Selene Koo lead the charge at the first poster walk.



Dr. Ausavarungnirun, University of Chicago, discusses her poster with attendees of the poster walk.

SLAPPE REPORT

Sociedad Latinoamericana de Patología Pediátrica

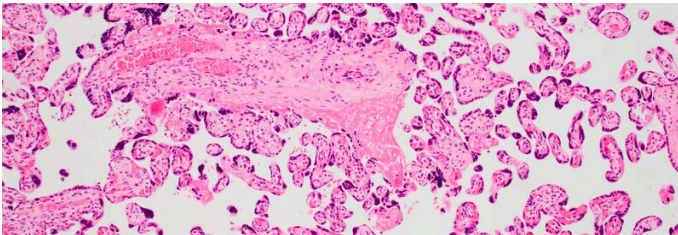
Miguel Reyes Múgica, MD

Claudia and I attended the most recent SLAPPE meeting, held in Santiago de Chile last November (11th - 14th). The SLAPPE meeting is currently incorporated into the SLAP (adult/general pathology) meeting. The program included pediatric pathology sessions on thoracic and mediastinal tumors, lymphoproliferative disorders, Wilms tumors, soft tissue tumors, dermatologic pathology, head and neck tumors, transplant pathology, and causes of unexpected death. One of the noteworthy items that took place was that we paid homage to my friend and mentor, Dr. Eduardo López-Corella, an important figure in both the SLAP and the SLAPPE. I presented Dr. López-Corella (whom is affectionally referred to as “El Chori”), with an award at the SLAPPE meeting plenary session.



Dr. Lopez-Corella and his late wife, Cecilia Ridaura-Sanz (also my dear friend and mentor... my youngest daughter is named in her honor), were the two towering pediatric pathologists in México. I trained under them and in 1986. I joined their Department of Pathology at the National Institute of Pediatrics, in Mexico City before moving to Chicago.

UPCOMING EVENTS



PERINATAL PATHOLOGY VIRTUAL COURSE 2026

Join us online from August 20th - 22nd as we explore practical topics in Perinatal Autopsy, Placental Pathology, and current advances in the field. We look forward to seeing you there! Please visit the [SPP website](#) for further details.

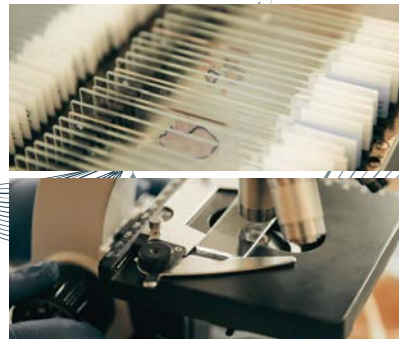
[Register Today](#)

[View the Agenda](#)

SPP FALL ANNUAL MEETING 2026

October 14th - 18th
Renaissance Columbus Downtown Hotel |
Columbus, Ohio

Don't miss our annual meeting! The Pediatric Symposium will cover AI applications in AP and CP from a pediatric pathology perspective, while the Perinatal Symposium explores pathology in obstetric medical malpractice—plus platform presentations, the Farber Landing Lecture, Friday Night Banquet, and more. Registration opens in June.



SPP 25 YEARS AGO

Compiled by David Parham

Winter 2001 marked a time of few new events, according to Newsletter editor of Art Weinberg. However, some comments from that issue of the Newsletter have survived the test of time. One notable comment regarding recruitment is the following from Art: "Positive personal interactions with young malleable pathology residents will always have a much greater impact than any institutional effort promulgated by the Society". So true, so true, Art, and how has our recent CoVID epidemic affected those interactions? Food for thought!

Publications Committee Beverly Rogers wrote of the ongoing search for a new editor for our journal Pediatric and Developmental Pathology and the related results of a task force to define its future. Of note at that particular juncture were the resignation of its editor, declining submissions to the journal, and the low number of institutional subscriptions. Results of a membership poll regarding the journal were presented by Drs Raj Kapur for the SPP and Dr. Marion Malone for the PPS. Major issues felt to be responsible for declining submission included a narrow readership and slow turnaround time. A particular concern was the number of institutional library subscriptions and how to advertise for more subscriptions. Particularly pithy comments included: "We can advertise all we want, but if the quality of the articles submitted to the journal does not increase, advertising will be a hollow gesture" and "If we want to have a journal for our Society, we must actively support it or bemoan its demise".

Finally, Alba Greco reported on a successful meeting to the IX Conferencia Latinoamericano of Pediatric Pathology, held in Buenos Aires in October 31-November 3, 2000. There were 160 participants representing a variety of South American, North American, and European nations. Scientific sessions comprised conferences, round tables, seminars, courses, CPCs, and posters, with a wide variety of topics pertinent to pediatric pathology. Kudos were in order to Conference President Maria Garcia de Davila and Secretary Fabiana Lubieniecki and the organizing committee for making it a success.