



# NEWSLETTER

## an SPP Publication

*Society for Pediatric Pathology*

*Fall 2025*



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Colleagues,

It is my great pleasure to submit the first President's Message of my year on watch with the SPP. Unlike the gracious and steadfast leadership of my predecessor, Dr. Cristina Pacheco, I hope to avoid any Clouseau-esque blunders during this next year. Firstly, I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to the planning committee at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia and our partners at AMI for their outstanding efforts in organizing a truly successful Fall Meeting in Philly. The symposium was well attended and provided exceptionally informative sessions across the spectrum of immune dysregulatory conditions.

As I alluded to in my president's address, I am reminded of that famous Mark Twain quote: "The past does not repeat itself, but it rhymes." Recent conversations I had with our membership at the Fall meeting reflect a shared sense of uncertainty about the future of the SPP—particularly regarding sustained interest among trainees and recruitment into our specialty. These concerns are not new; they have surfaced in previous President's messages and remain a challenge we must face head-on with indomitable spirit and adaptable strategies. Our resilience and commitment will be key to navigating these evolving times.

### *In This Issue*

President's Letter	Page 1
Editors Note	Page 2
Annual Meeting Retro	Page 3
PDP Alert	Page 5
January Workshops	Page 6
2026 Perinatal Course	Page 7
2026 Fall Meeting <i>Save the Date!</i>	Page 8
25 Years Ago...	Page 8

In response to these challenges, I am excited to highlight the development of a formal mentorship program within SPP. This initiative aims to foster connections between experienced members and those early in their careers. I strongly encourage all members—especially those who see a shorter horizon for their professional journey—to consider participating. Your guidance can make a profound difference in shaping the next generation of pediatric pathologists. In addition to mentoring, please consider volunteering your time (and smiles) to our fellowship booth. Last year's inaugural effort at the Spring meeting was a great success, and we can only hope to build on that effort with as many of our members filling volunteer slots and engaging with the audience. Please reach out to Rachel Mariani for additional information. In my personal experience, it was so much fun that I ended up spending nearly twice the time in the booth as I had signed up for.

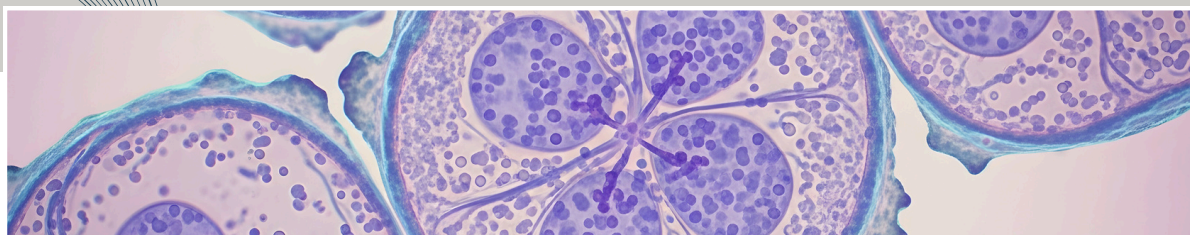
Finally, I am eagerly looking forward to our upcoming January Workshops and Spring Meeting in San Antonio, which promise to be both engaging and impactful. Alongside our new educational schedule, the Society will also mark the implementation of our new strategic planning initiatives, with a special emphasis on forging collaborations with like-minded societies across the pediatric subspecialty landscape. If you have ideas to engage “across the aisle,” so to speak, please feel free to share them with me or anyone on the Executive Committee.

I hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving and wish all of you a happy holiday season and New Year.



**Chandra Krishnan, M.D.**

*President, Society of Pediatric Pathology*



## A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

**David Parham, MD**

*Newsletter Editor*

Greetings from Little Rock, which has been blessed by beautiful fall colors and warm temperatures. This Fall 2025 edition of the Newsletter marks the beginning of the term of our new SPP President Chandra Krishnan. I wish him much success in what is sometimes a difficult and thankless task. However, service to our Society has its rewards, and I encourage all of our members to join him as volunteers and committee members in order to move our specialty forward. Preparing the historical section of the Newsletter always reminds me of how things have changed and how some seem to remain the same. How different our current world is from only a short time ago, when a large proportion of members had no registered emails! As in Fall 2000, our assistant editor Sonja Chen, abetted by Ashlie Rubrecht and Bindu Challa, extols the virtues of our recent Fall 2025 meeting held in Philadelphia. I was unable to attend, but I look forward to any electronic offerings to follow.

Finally, elsewhere in the Newsletter, you will find a promotion of our journal Pediatric and Developmental Pathology. Just as in 2000, our journal continues to lag in submissions by our membership, who tend to prefer more prestigious venues. In my 44-year career as a pediatric pathologist, I have never regretted using the PDP for any of the 33 articles that I published therein. There, your article will be seen by the entire membership of the PPS and the SPP, so that it offers an excellent venue for fellow and junior faculty publications. It's true that some journals have higher impact numbers, but these do not reflect the absolute value of your work for the people who most need to read it. Please always consider PDP for any publication involving pediatric and perinatal age patients.

# 2025 FALL MEETING

**Sonja Chen, MD**

*Newsletter Assistant Editor*

The Fall meeting was held in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and hosted by The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. With over 160 participants in attendance, the meeting provided a wonderful opportunity for learning as well as experiencing the vibrant City of Brotherly Love. On Thursday, in the Lotte Strauss Lecture, Dr. Faizan Malik outlined the role of DNA methylation in refining myoepithelial tumors as predominantly fusion-driven neoplasms. As the pathology community slowly grows to understand the role of methylation in soft tissue tumors, this was a very timely topic. 18 platforms and 51 posters were presented with topics of practical application, including the Novel Placental Health Score and many offered clinical or practical takeaways. At the Farber Landing lecture, Dr. Gino Somers shared his thoughts on leadership in academic pathology and shared his surfing skills with the audience.

Friday's programming was chaired by Dr. Maria Queenan and Dr. Benjamin Wilkins and focused on Immune Dysregulation Syndromes in the hematolymphoid system, digestive system, skin and lung. Each of the sessions combined pathologist and clinician presentations, highlighting the multidisciplinary efforts needed to care for patients with these syndromes. Of note, the memorial slide session for Dr. Kevin Bove was a beautiful tribute to his life and those with whom he shared his knowledge. The day rounded out with the banquet dinner in the Reading Terminal Market, which was followed by an EPIC dance party that I am sad to say I missed.

On Saturday, Children's Oncology Group members provided key updates on Ewing Sarcoma and Undifferentiated Round Cell Sarcomas with regards to the Molecular Characterization Initiative as well as quality improvement projects. Much of the group descended upon the Philadelphia Museum of Art which displays Van Gogh, Picasso and Andy Warhol to name a few! Finally on Sunday, there were some excellent perinatal symposia providing insight into In Utero Diagnosis, Interventions, Pathologic Consequences and Genetics chaired by Dr. Rebecca Linn and Dr. Angela Viaene.

Thanks to Dr. Ashlie Rubrecht and Dr. Bindu Challa for providing some pertinent details, as I could not attend in person this year.

*Note: Recordings are now available for purchase & credit claiming for those who could not attend the meeting (these are included for in-person attendees).*

*Cost is \$495 for all recordings.*

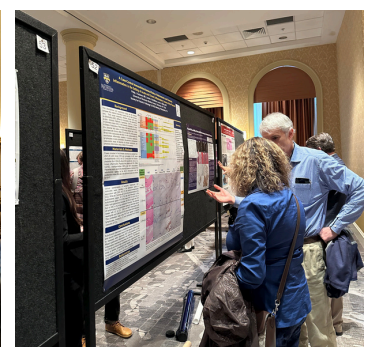
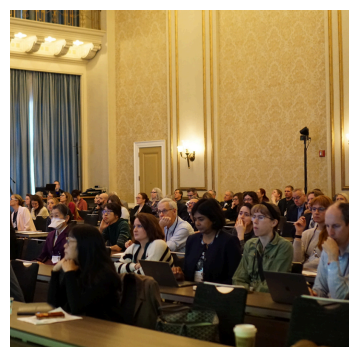
[Purchase Recordings  
Now](#)



## SPP 2025 Fall Meeting

**October 22nd - 26th, 2025**

Philadelphia Marriott Downtown | Philadelphia







# 2025 AWARD WINNERS

## Presidential Distinguished Colleagues

- Bradford Siegele, MD
- Jennifer Picarsic, MD

## Neustein Award

Lydia Du, MD

Case Series of Kawasaki Disease Fatalities: A Call to Action for the Pediatric Pathology Community

## Vawter Award

Daniel Schlam, MD, PhD

Gardner Fibromas Without APC Germline Alterations Frequently Harbor CTNNB1 Mutations

## Benirschke Perinatal Award

Linda Ernst, MD

Novel Placental Health Score (PHS): A Single Quantitative Score of Placental Function

## Enid Gilbert Barnes Prize

C. Katte Carreon, MD

High-resolution three-dimensional atlas of congenital heart defects based on micro-CT images of human postmortem wax-infiltrated heart specimens.

## Lotte Strauss Prize

Faizan Malik, MD

Reappraisal of Soft Tissue myoepithelial tumors by DNA methylation profiling reveals an epigenetically distinct group of mostly fusion-driven neoplasms

## USCAP Pathologist in Training Award

Jennifer Xizo Ye Ji, MD, PhD

The Proteomic Landscape of Pediatric Osteosarcomas

## Best Paper of the Year

Elaine Chan, MD

Maternal Cytomegalovirus (CMV) Serology: The Diagnostic Limitations of CMV IgM and IgG Avidity in Detecting Congenital CMV Infection

## Young Investigator Research Grant

Sunita Suresh, MD

Impact of chronic inflammation in late preterm birth

## Annual Research Grant

Terry Morgan, MD, PhD

Sex and fetal growth affect epigenetic variation in risk for pancreatic cancer

## A. James McAdams Short-Term Study Stipend

Morgan Jones, MD

## International Study Stipend

Zoltan Mikola, MD

## Resident Recruitment Awards

- Ian Taylor-Cho, MD: Gonadal Dysgenesis, Gonadoblastoma, and Mixed Germ Cell Tumor in Simpson-Golabi-Behmel Syndrome: A Developing Association with Disorders of Sex Development
- Laura Duzett, MD: Infantile Neuroaxonal Dystrophy Confirmation by Electron Microscopy in the Molecular Era
- Stephanie Torres, MD: TRAF7-mutated myxoid and spindle cell sarcoma occurring in a pediatric patient in the post-transplant setting: a new entity to explore?

## Case Report Award

Francesca Vacca, MD

Benign Pancreatic Elements Presenting as a Painful Abdominal Wall Mass in a Patient with History of Total Pancreatectomy with Islet Cell Autologous Transplantation: A Potential Mimicker for Malignancy



# PDP ALERT



The editorial board of Pediatric and Developmental Pathology would like to make our members and readership aware of a new article type that was recently introduced, the "Fellow Reviews", which is a concise review of a case-centered topic authored primarily by a trainee. As stated in the Instructions for authors, this manuscript should be under 2,000 words, including references and legends. There should be no more than 15 references. The submission must also include 4-5 keywords and an unstructured abstract of no more than 200 words. Up to four tables and figures are allowed.



Each workshop will be offered as a live, virtual presentation inclusive of live Q&A. The live portion will be recorded and made available to registrants for one year after the live workshop date. Each workshop will occur from 12:00pm – 2:00pm EST on the following dates:

Register for the 2026 Workshops Now!



**Patterns of Colonic Mucosal Injury in Chronic Diarrhea: A Diagnostic Approach to Pediatric IBD and Mimic**

January 9th, 2026

Iram Siddiqui, MBBS, MSc, FRCPC  
*The Hospital for Sick Children*

**Placental Pathology Reporting – Improving and Standardizing Quality and Clinical Utility**

January 23rd, 2026

Sanjita Ravishankar, MD  
*University Hospitals Cleveland Medical Center, Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine*

Eumenia Castro, MD, PhD  
*University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health, University of Wisconsin Hospital and Clinics*

**Gestational Trophoblastic Disease and Neoplasia: Bridging Histopathology and Genetics**

January 16th, 2026

Bradley Quade, MD, PhD  
*Brigham and Women's Hospital, Harvard Medical School*

Lawrence Hsu Lin, MD, PhD  
*Massachusetts General Hospital, Harvard Medical School*

**Surgical Pathology of Pediatric Pancreatic Diseases**

January 31st, 2026

Charlotte Kim, MD  
*Texas Children's Hospital*

Heather Keir, MBChB  
*Texas Children's Hospital*

You may register for each workshop individually, or you may register for all four workshops at a discounted, bundled rate as outlined below. Please note that course content will not become available until the date of each workshop. Recorded content will be posted within approximately one week after a live workshop.

**Pricing Per Workshop**

- Members | \$150
- Non-Members | \$200
- Trainees | \$50

**Bundled Pricing** (access to all four Workshops)

- Members | \$550
- Non-Members | \$700
- Trainees | \$150



# PERINATAL PATHOLOGY VIRTUAL COURSE 2026

Explore practical topics in Perinatal Autopsy, Placental Pathology, and current advances in the field.

**August 20th - 22nd, 2026**

*Course Co-Directors:*

*Katte Carreon, MD*

*Linda M. Ernst, MD, MHS*

---

## Preliminary Agenda

### Day One | Perinatal Autopsy

- Approach to Perinatal Autopsy - Linda Ernst, MD MHS
- Normal Fetal Histology and Common Abnormal Findings - Linda Ernst, MD MHS
- Perinatal Neuropathology - Angela Viaene, MD, PhD
- Segmental Analysis of Cardiac Anatomy - Katte Carreon, MD
- Skeletal Evaluation & Skeletal Dysplasia - Teresa Victoria, MD
- The Ona Faye-Petersen Perinatal Pathology Lecture - Perinatal Global Pathology Capacity Building (tentative topic) - Drucilla Roberts, MD

### Day Two | Perinatal Autopsy

- Gross Placental Pathology- Beverly Rogers, MD
- Maternal and Fetal Vascular Pathology - Sanjita Ravishankar, MD; Charlotte Kim, MD
- Inflammatory and Miscellaneous Placental Conditions - Jefferson Terry, MD
- Evaluation of the Twin Placenta- Rebecca Linn, MD
- Leveraging Placental Insights to Inform Clinical-Decision Making - Sunitha Suresh, MD
- Integrating Digital Pathology into Placental Pathology Practice - Jeffery A Goldstein, MD

### *Shaken, Not Stained: Mixology + Trivia Hour*

A relaxed virtual Friday night social hour bringing together great drinks and great minds-- featuring a guided mixology session using a mailed custom cocktail kit sent to all attendees and a round of pathology-themed trivia.

### Day Three | Special Topics

- Approach to Products of Conception - Jonathan Hecht, MD, PhD
- Pre-eclampsia: Updates and Impact on Life Course - W. Tony Parks, MD; Janet Catov, PhD, MS
- Virtual Perinatal Autopsies (Institutional experience and implementation) - Ciaran Hutchinson. MBBS, PhD, FRCPath; Rebecca Linn, MD
- An Extra-Uterine System to Physiologically Support the Extreme Premature Lamb - Alan Flake and/or Emily Partridge
- "A Case That Taught Me the Most" Case Presentation & Panel - Linda Ernst, MD MHS; Terry Morgan, MD PhD, Virginia Duncan, MD; Philip Katzman, MD



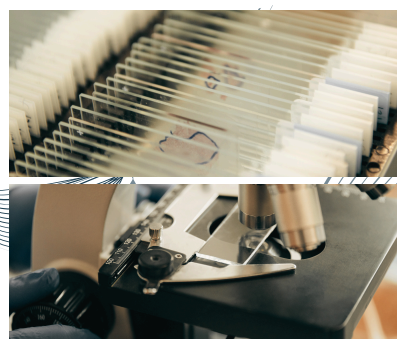
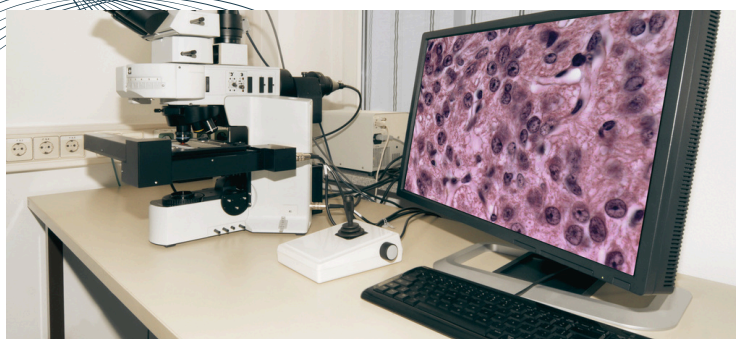


# SPP Fall Annual Meeting 2026

October 14th - 18th, 2026

Renaissance Columbus Downtown Hotel  
Columbus, Ohio

save the date!



## 25 YEARS AGO: FALL 2000

*Taken from The SPP Newsletter, Fall 2000*

Fall 2000 comprised a landmark of sorts for the SPP Newsletter, as it marked its first electronic-only copy. This move resulted in significant savings to the Society, more flexible deadlines, and the optional use of expanded text and color. However, a whopping 140 members did not have a registered email address at that time, excluding them from broadcast email messages alerting them to new issues. A one-time last chance mailing was prepared for these members, with the understanding that all mailing would henceforth stop, and all members were exhorted to send an email address to the Society office.

President Claire Langston lauded the 2000 Fall meeting held in Vancouver as a paragon of beautiful fall weather, a superb Scientific Program, a fascinating lecture by Lotte Strauss Award winner Aniban Maitra, and an informative seminar on Embryology to Gene Identification moderated by Dagmar Kalousek. Particular thanks were given to Jim and Judy Dimmick and the BC Children's and Women's Health Centre for their work in making things run smoothly.

Challenges faced by the SPP included searches for a new PDP editor, Website editor, and a move of the website to Health IT, Inc. Another challenge faced by the PDP was a decline in journal submissions to one-half of the previous year. The Perinatal Group, led by Bob Bendon, continued to find ways to be integrated into the Society.

To this end, President Langston agreed to appoint an ad hoc Perinatal Steering Committee.



NEWSLETTER  
an SPP Publication

Society for Pediatric Pathology | Fall 2025