

22 October 2017

As we begin preparing our abstracts for the upcoming SPP Spring meeting in Vancouver, I would like to update our membership on the activities carried out by our SPP.

The Society for Pediatric Pathology has undergone a series of major changes for the last three years, resulting in unparalleled modernization. From contracting a new publisher for our Society's journal and appointing a new editor-in-chief, to updating our bylaws and hiring a new management company, the Society has been working non-stop on updating and renewing itself, preparing to tackle the challenges of practicing modern academic Pediatric Pathology. As an example, we have fully digitized the Slide Survey Online program, making this a more agile and efficient experience, while reducing costs significantly. Although these efforts are part of an ongoing project, several new and important objectives have been achieved successfully already.

For the first time ever, our Spring meeting, in San Antonio, featured an app that included functional interconnectivity in real-time, a paperless program and the ability to preview content, complete evaluation surveys, et cetera. After a successful experience, the app was improved and updated for our Fall meeting in Denver. This initiative, which we proposed during our strategic meeting in 2016, has proven to be a welcome achievement and brought our Society to the level of other professional pathology groups, providing our members with a faster, reliable and efficient mechanism to participate in our annual meetings, which is available on a 24/7 basis.

As part of this reinvigoration, a more recent project became a priority for the current SPP leadership group, aiming to increase the visibility and respect received by our subspecialty. To this effect, we decided to enter the social media era, and in April of 2017 our Society's Twitter feed [@SocPediPath](#) was launched. This initiative, proposed to and approved by our board of directors in San Antonio, included the appointment of a social media subcommittee (under the Informatics and Communication Committee), whose members have been working tirelessly to reach the goal. In the ensuing six months SPP has garnered 894 Twitter followers, attracting unprecedented visibility for a Pediatric Pathology professional group around the world. Along the same effort, and with the approval of our Journal's new editor-in-chief, we launched the Twitter feed for our Society's Journal, [@PediDevPath](#), in July of 2017, and currently we have won 274 followers for *Pediatric and Developmental Pathology*. We are excited with these early results, which have been successful and even contagious, as our sister society, the Paediatric Pathology Society (PPS), also launched in June of this year, in collaboration with leadership members of the SPP, its Twitter feed under [@PaedPathSoc](#), which has won already 353 followers. This is proof of positive interactions and collaboration between the SPP and PPS, which should result in enhancing the presence of our subspecialty around the world.

Taking advantage of the growing presence of Pediatric Pathology in the international social media scene, a recent important event took place live in Twitter, when an online

Pathology Journal Club reviewed a paper published in our Journal. This Journal Club session was conducted under the coordination of Maren Fuller (at the Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh) and Michael Arnold (at Nationwide Children's Hospital), both of whom are members of the SPP SoMe SubCommittee, as well as cofounders of the #PathJC and who should be commended for their successful efforts. The exposure of the manuscript reviewed can be seen here: <https://sage.altmetric.com/details/24872693>, and it is several times over the highest exposure of any other paper in our Journal, to-date. With an Altmetric score of 57 ("In the top 5 percent of all research outputs scored by Altmetric"), the paper has been downloaded 666 times! In addition, by taking advantage of our Twitter feed, publicity and *in situ* (real time) activity during our meetings in Hawaii, San Antonio, and Denver, the SPP's academic contributions gained remarkable international exposure, bringing it to a much wider audience than previously achieved.

The above-mentioned evidence reveals that we have entered a new era in terms of widespread exposure and modernization of the SPP, which will benefit our membership at multiple levels. This was a goal embraced since the beginning of our tenure in the SPP leadership, and we feel gratified to see the response of our membership and our volunteers serving in different committees of the Society.

In other news, our recent Fall meeting in Denver was a splendid demonstration of educational work in our SPP. The local organizers, led by Dr. Jennifer Black, put together a strong program and the social activities were excellent. Dr. Black, Dr. Lovell and their colleagues and guests deserve our gratitude, and we thank them for their efforts.

I would also take this opportunity to mention several appointments, distinctions and awards received by members of our Society, who deserve our congratulations:

## **APPOINTMENTS**

Chair, Awards Subcommittee: Karen Chisholm, MD, PhD, Seattle Children's Hospital  
Member, Education Committee: Jiancong Liang, MD, PhD, Vanderbilt University  
Medical Center

Member, BOD: Eduardo Zambrano, MD, Lucile Packard Children's Hospital Stanford

## **AWARDS (2017 Fall Meeting)**

Gordon F. Vawter Pathologist-in-Training Award:

Jeffery Goldstein, MD, PhD, "Age-specific effects of common genetic variants and human leukocyte antigen types", Vanderbilt University Medical Center, Nashville, TN.

Harry B. Neustein Award:

Nicholas Willard, MD, "Transcriptomic analysis for molecular subgrouping of former CNS-PNETs", University of Colorado, Denver, CO.

Perinatal Pathology Award:

Ona Faye-Petersen, MD, "Placental microbiome, cord blood microbiome, and meconium microbiome are all distinct at term", University of Alabama at Birmingham, Birmingham, AL. Dr. Faye-Petersen donated the monetary award (\$500) to the SPP.

Intersociety Council for Pathology Information:

Ali Nael, MD, Children's Hospital Los Angeles

Resident Recruitment Award:

Laura Biederman, MD, Thomas Jefferson University Hospital

McAdams Short Term Study Stipend:

Bonnie Cole, MD, Seattle Children's Hospital

Finally, I would like to inform you that the Trainee Membership rate was reduced from \$145 to \$50, and that this includes subscription to PDP.

I will close this letter inviting our membership to continue supporting SPP, taking advantage of the many offerings through its educational benefits, including attending its meetings, symposia and workshops, participating in the Slide Survey Online program, and enjoying our journal *Pediatric and Developmental Pathology*. I would also encourage our members to join our modernization efforts joining the rapidly growing community of active professionals in social media, especially Twitter, which has a track record of disseminating information (despite its tainted reputation due to misuse by some politicians and other public figures).

I wish you all a merry holiday season and the best of luck with your abstract submission. I'll see you all in Vancouver!



Miguel Reyes-Múgica  
President