

Dear SPP members,

As the 2017-2018 cycle draws to a close, we are gearing up to attend in only a few days our annual meeting in the beautiful city of Vancouver. This is an exciting opportunity to show and share our work, meet friends of many years and make new ones.

For this meeting we have a superb academic program. The highlights include the Farber-Landing lecture, the keynote address of our meeting, which will be delivered by Dr. Eliezer Masliah, Director of the National Institute on Aging, Division of Neuroscience, National Institutes of Health. The title of his lecture is "The Spectrum of Neurodevelopmental and Neurodegenerative Disorders. Lessons from Down Syndrome and Gaucher Disease". Dr. Masliah is a highly accomplished researcher and prolific academic pathologist with close to 1000 publications. His experience includes many years of service as Chief of Autopsy at the University of California, San Diego, where his practice included pediatric cases routinely. He is an entertaining speaker and I am sure he will deliver an outstanding scientific lecture. Another highlight is the symposium: "Pediatric Liver Tumors: New Advances in Pathologic Classification, Molecular Diagnostics and International Cooperative Trials", in which a distinguished group of experts will give us the latest on the challenging topic of hepatic pediatric neoplasia. Our traditional workshops include two new topics: "What every pediatric pathologist needs to know: WHO classification of Tumors of the Central Nervous System (2016) Pediatric Tumors"; and "Bone dysplasias: A systematic diagnostic approach", presented by outstanding faculty. This is in addition to the platform and poster presentations showcasing cutting edge Pediatric Pathology research.

Our SPP has been busy continuing its modernizing efforts, completing transitions at several fronts including the application of our new bylaws, coordinating our work with Sage, our new publisher for PDP, and solidifying our relationship with Kellen, our new management company. We have also modernized our Slide Survey Online program, which recently became fully digitized, making this a more agile and efficient experience, while reducing costs significantly for our Society. Progress on all fronts has been excellent.

During this year, we made a special effort to increase the worldwide visibility of our specialty by entering the sphere of Social Media. This resulted in the launching of the SPP's Twitter feed @SocPediPath, which in less than a year has accumulated 1084 followers and continues to accrue new ones daily. This is an excellent medium for teaching and advocacy, collaboration and networking. This became a sort of "viral infection", contagious across the Atlantic, and our sister society, the *Paediatric Pathology Society* (PPS), reproduced these efforts launching in June of last year, with collaboration from leadership members of the SPP, its Twitter feed @PaedPathSoc which is also growing fast. Another "victim" of this epidemic was our Journal, *Pediatric and Developmental Pathology* whose Twitter feed @PediDevPath, inaugurated only in July of 2017, has gathered 380 followers to date. These are exciting results, with positive interactions and collaboration between the SPP and PPS bringing a wider dissemination for their written voice, enhancing the projection of our subspecialty

globally. If you have not done so, I urge you to explore this new way to exchange, learn and teach while advocating for our profession.

In a few days, Dr. Sara O. Vargas, a distinguished colleague who has made major contributions to the SPP on many levels, will assume her role as President of our Society. I am sure that she will continue contributing to our Society in meaningful ways, and I am ready to continue supporting her efforts. Our Society is in excellent hands.

At this opportunity I want to express my sincerest gratitude to all members of the SPP and its staff. Presiding our Society has been the highest honor of my professional life and I will treasure this memory forever. I have enjoyed the opportunity to advocate for our specialty and to connect with many colleagues in the Society and around the world, highlighting our trade and watching our continued growth. But my work does not end here. I will continue our efforts and I invite you all to feed our collective enthusiasm on this, supporting the SPP with your input, publications in our Journal, attendance to our meetings, joining our Social Media presence, connecting and collaborating with one another, all of which make our Society stronger. The Society's future depends on these efforts, and I am certain that we all want this future to be as bright as possible.

With my best wishes to all,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Reyes-Múgica', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Miguel Reyes-Múgica