



# 2021 Fall Newsletter

Volume 26, Issue 3

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## Editor's Note

Cooler weather has arrived, and with it the Fall Newsletter. Sadly, I was unable to attend the Fall 2021 meeting this year, because I registered for a post-meeting week in a Bed and Breakfast Inn at a Willamette Valley vineyard. This required me to travel across the country or lose my registration fee, so after my COVID-19 booster, my wife Jean and I felt up to it. I admit that my pediatric pathology knowledge store did not appreciably increase, but my wine stores certainly did! To remedy my absence, I have called upon our Assistant Newsletter Editor, **Rob Ruiz**, to add some comments about the meeting, and he has kindly complied. I can tell from our President's glowing remarks that the meeting was a success.

A couple of weeks prior to the SPP meeting, I virtually attended the Children's Oncology Group (COG) Pathology Discipline meeting, ably chaired by **Jason Jarzembowski**. These meetings typically highlight the work of the Young Investigators, who usually give an excellent program, and this year was no exception. The Pathology Discipline has consistently excelled in training COG Young Investigators, and a number of our current stars in pediatric pathology have been part of this program. If you are interested in oncology, have completed your fellowship, and work in a COG-supported institution, then contact Jason or **Chris Pierson** for more information. Just a word of advice: "young" is a relative term.

This Newsletter features a review of happenings 25 years ago, at which point the SPP began to formulate a Strategic Plan. In reviewing the elements of this plan, I can see that some initiatives continue to be problematic; perhaps this is just the nature of our specialty. However, others, particularly our attempts to organize our Society, expand membership, and use new communication technologies, have been roaring successes, thanks to the efforts of many of you. This success is reflected by the positive feedback given by our various committee chairs in the following reports.

Will we finally meet in person in 2022? I sure hope so! I have missed interacting with you on a non-virtual platform, i.e., in person, although the success of our recent meetings suggests that virtuality may continue in some form.

Until then,



**David Parham, MD**  
Newsletter Editor

## President's Letter

Happy Fall! Our virtual fall meeting was a resounding success. The new platform was particularly conducive to interactions among attendees, and it certainly seemed to me like everyone was engaged. We welcomed registrants from 12 different countries and had a combined 90 non-member and trainee registrants. Thank you all for helping to get the word out on this meeting! Additionally, I greatly appreciated all of the presenters for taking the time to provide us with their invaluable updates, insights and perspective. There were ~230 attendees who tuned in each day to listen live and many others have accessed the recorded content after the live meeting.

I'd again like to acknowledge the hard work of all the committee members, as well as our management company, AOE, for making the Fall Meeting possible. The contributions of the membership are invaluable. Keep an eye out for a call for volunteers for committee membership in the next few weeks.

The Society's Executive Committee and Board of Directors are in full swing behind the scenes, with upcoming publishing contract renewal for the PDP Journal, as well as ACCME re-accreditation. Further, the Society's finances are in good shape and our recent audit went well.

We are now swinging into planning the Spring 2022 meeting. As of now it is scheduled to occur live, in Los Angeles, CA, prior to the annual USCAP meeting, but a final decision is pending by the end of the year. Hopefully we can all be together again soon! Future meetings are being planned as well, including Fall 2022 in Rochester, Spring 2023 in New Orleans, Fall 2023 in Portland, and Spring 2024 in Baltimore. Perhaps we will be able to use some of those airline credits a lot of us probably have!

Stay healthy and consider a booster shot if you qualify!



**Debra Heller, MD**  
SPP President

## SPP History – This Time 25 Years Ago

At the 1996 SPP Fall meeting in Houston, a long term planning retreat commenced with a one and a half day session, with the goal of developing a strategic plan for the Society. Dr. **Tom Stocker** chaired the session. The attendees agreed on seven specific initiatives:

1. Convince others of the unique value of pediatric pathology
2. Enhance our discipline by initiatives targeting non-pediatric pathology audiences.
3. Define more clearly the roles of Society leadership.
4. Continue strategic planning as an integral part of our Council's business.
5. Expand membership of the Society by creating a "broader tent" with easier entry.
6. Apply new communication technologies to education by creating a new committee.
7. Enhance research by expanding and defining Research Committee activities.

Small groups developed specific objectives for each of these initiatives. The committee's efforts were abetted by SPP President **John Buchino** and President-elect **Jim Dimmick**, as well as various committee chairs and council members. The group was smiling in the end-of meeting group photo, a testament to a successful retreat.

## Important Items



### Reminders

- Save the date: Spring Meeting
  - March 16-21, 2022 – Los Angeles, CA
  - Abstract submission will be open November 22 – December 20, 2021.
- Slide Survey 2021
  - [Register](#) at any time for access to all Case Sets! All three case sets are now available.
- Membership Renewal
  - The SPP will implement an annual membership renewal period, from November 1<sup>st</sup>-December 31<sup>st</sup>. A renewal notice will be sent to members via e-mail. Please check your spam if you do not receive it.
  - If members do not renew during this time period, their membership will lapse, and there will be a 90-day grace period.
- Nominations
  - The Nominating Committee has reached out to members to solicit nominations for open leadership positions. Please submit your nominations by November 26<sup>th</sup>.

## SPP Fall Meeting Recap

### Fall Meeting Summary and Highlights

The Fall Meeting, held in a virtual format, was well-attended with 271 participants engaging via the meeting website. Please see the Research & Awards Committee report below for award winners.

Although the stars failed to align for a planned return to live meetings, the virtual Fall Meeting was highly educational and enjoyable.

As usual, Committee meetings took place first, from October 5 through 7, 2021. The virtual Fall Meeting was held on October 8 and 9, 2021. I found the meeting website comprehensive and easily navigable, with a few highlights mentioned below

SPP President **Debra Heller** kicked the meeting off with the President's Welcome.

The COG Update on Lymphomas was provided by **Rodney Miles**, who discussed two new provisional entities in the 2017 WHO Classification, Burkitt-like lymphoma with 11q aberration and large B-cell lymphoma with IRF4 rearrangement, and two previously provisional entities that now have definite status, ALK-negative ALCL and pediatric-type follicular lymphoma. He also gave an update on lymphoma treatment and biology studies from the COG Non-Hodgkin Lymphoma Committee, including an open study of minimal disseminated disease in B-lymphoblastic lymphoma.

Next up was a WHO Blue Books tag team with an update on the upcoming volume dedicated to pediatric tumors (or is that paediatric tumours?). **Jason Jarzembowski** discussed the WHO Blue Book approach to classification and diagnosis and described the need and rationale for a pediatric volume. **Rita Alaggio** followed up with a discussion of the move from morphologic classification to molecular definition of tumors. She described several advances reflected in the upcoming volume, including the alignment of the WHO and ISSVA classifications of benign vascular lesions and the incorporation of pediatric NTRK-rearranged spindle cell neoplasms into the category of myofibroblastic tumors. She provided insights into changes affecting the classification of CNS tumors including the role of DNA methylation analysis, the introduction of "pediatric-type" glioma categories, and the inclusion of novel tumor types with molecular definitions. She also foreshadowed upcoming changes in the WHO classification of hematolymphoid neoplasms. **Miguel Reyes-Múgica** closed this highly informative session with a review of the efforts involved in producing the pediatric volume and an explanation for the importance of a developmental approach to classification of pediatric tumors.

Although virtual meetings can't match the opportunity a live meeting provides for interacting and rubbing elbows with fellow pediatric pathologists, one of the built-in treats for this meeting was the use of Zoom networking breaks on both days. I found these to be lively sessions that drew a varied cross-section of the Society, from trainees to academic and private practice pathologists to Society officers and directors. The topics of conversation ranged from the impact of COVID-19 on pathology training to development of a core online curriculum for pediatric pathology to the use of voice recognition software in practice. **Jeff Goldstein**, a past President of the SPP, deserves a special mention for taking on the role of unofficial host for these sessions, keeping the conversation flowing and making sure all the attendees felt included. **Aliya Husain** joined in on Saturday and helped ensure a welcoming and interactive session.



The first Platform Session was devoted to perinatal pathology. As one might expect, the pathology of SARS-CoV-2 loomed large, but many topics received thoughtful attention. The second Platform Session continued with perinatal topics and segued smoothly into pediatric topics including bone marrow transplant complications, autopsy, and even cryopreservation. As **Jason Jarzembowski** observed in his Daily Wrap-Up email at the end of the first day, there was a heartening range of presenters, from students to trainees to senior pathologists, and many institutions were represented.

The first day of the meeting was capped by a fascinating Lotte Strauss Lecture from **Nya Nelson**, whose talk spanned from histopathology of congenital pulmonary airway malformations to molecular pathology, highlighting the role and clinical implications of KRAS codon 12 mutations in the development of type 1 and 3 congenital pulmonary airway malformations.

The second day of the meeting began with a Platform Session dedicated to neoplasia and featured talks on a broad range of pediatric tumor types, from hepatic tumors to leukemias. The Fall Symposium offered a highly engaging group of speakers, each providing a different window on inflammatory bowel disease. **Thomas Walters** provided a clinical perspective, **William DePaolo** discussed the interplay between the microbiome and inflammatory bowel disease, **Judith Kelsen** focused on very early onset inflammatory bowel disease, and **Pierre Russo** rounded out the Symposium by discussing difficulties in the pathologic diagnosis of inflammatory bowel disease, unusual features of ulcerative colitis one might encounter, and ongoing issues in the use of histologic biopsies in disease management.

The interactive poster session was another built-in treat of the meeting website. Presenters had the option to pre-record an audio accompaniment, and poster viewers could engage the presenters with online questions and answers, as well as download and even tweet about posters that caught their fancy. It was not the same as meeting and chatting with presenters in person, but these features really helped to bridge the distance.

One of the very few technical issues I encountered during the meeting interfered with my ability to view the Awards Presentation. Fortunately, the video with Research and Awards Committee Chair **Jefferson Terry** was subsequently available on the meeting website until November 9. To avoid redundancy, I will leave the discussion of the awards and the award winners to his committee report, found elsewhere in the Newsletter.

As the meeting began to wind down, **Debra Heller**, SPP President, provided parting words and offered thanks to all involved.

The Perinatal Slide Session brought the meeting to a satisfying close, offering a wide variety of very interesting cases. For the first time, the Perinatal Session offered CME credit, which is richly deserved for this very educational and popular pillar of the Fall Meeting.

If you were able to join in for the Fall Meeting, I hope that this is a useful refresher of some highlights. If you were unable to attend, I hope that this review brings you up to speed and whets your appetite to attend the Spring Meeting in person. Until then, be well!



Robert Ruiz, MD, PhD  
Assistant Newsletter Editor



### **Evaluations and Credit Claiming**

The deadline to complete the evaluation and claim credit has now passed, and recordings are no longer available for viewing.

## **Committee Reports**



### **Education Committee**

#### **Highlights from Last Quarter**

- The 2021 Fall Annual Meeting occurred October 8<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup>, 2021 and was well received. The Perinatal Slide Session was accredited for the first time.
- The SPP will participate in the ACCME Accreditation Interview on November 9<sup>th</sup>. The final Accreditation Decision will be communicated in March 2022.
- The SPP is currently reviewing updated Accredited CE Policies and Procedures that align with the new *ACCME Standards for Integrity and Independence in Accredited CE*. All accredited providers must be in compliance by January 1, 2022.

#### **Announcements and Upcoming Initiatives**

- Planning for the 2021 Spring Annual Meeting is underway.
- The 2021 Slide Survey Online Case Set 3 was released at the end of October. It's not too late to [register](#).



Sanda Alexandrescu, MD  
Chair, Education Committee

### **Fellowship Committee**

#### **Highlights from Last Quarter**

- The Fellowship Committee has requested updates from Program Directors for the website and a list of current fellows for 2021 and incoming fellows for 2022.

- On October 7<sup>th</sup>, the Fellowship Committee met during the SPP’s virtual Fall Meeting. American Board of Pathology (ABP) business included updates on continued certification, related survey questions, and position on virtual examination. Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Examination (ACCME) Milestones were also discussed. In new business, the committee discussed APC collaboration, a fellowship match opportunity, unfilled fellowship positions, and a possible SPP fellowship recruitment and enhancement initiative.

### **Announcements and Upcoming Initiatives**

- The Fellowship Committee will use the list of 2021 fellows and 2022 fellows for SPP membership recruitment efforts and a “Call for Committee Interest” to elicit Junior membership for 2022.
- The Fellowship Committee discussed the recruitment and enhancement initiative and decided that the project is better directed for presentation to the SPP Education Committee; this would avoid duplication of their ongoing efforts for CME and other projects.
- The fellowship committee will work with SPP Slide Survey team and anatomic pathology program directors list for advertising free online cases for residents.
- For the next committee meeting, the Fellowship Committee will explore a potential script for patient safety events, as part of “new business”.



Amer Heider, MD  
Chair, Fellowship Committee

### **Finance Committee**

#### **Highlights from Last Quarter**

- There has been continued healthy growth and diversification of the SPP financial portfolio.
- A successful transition has occurred from Kellen to AOE financial management, including increased transparency for key stakeholders within the Society.
- We have discussed asset allocation and account projections with Merrill Lynch as we consider future award distribution.
- Strategic planning is in progress for resolving/consolidating restricted award account funds, in keeping with the mission and purpose of the SPP.

#### **Announcements and Upcoming Initiatives**

- The committee will begin work on the 2022 annual budget for the organization.
- We plan an analysis of membership suggestions for initiatives and programs that will inform discussions of SPP’s future financial direction.
- An updated Finance Committee Policy and Procedure Manual is in process.



Jennifer Black, MD  
Chair, Finance Committee

## **Membership Committee**

### **Highlights from Last Quarter**

- Membership application and a transition request process were developed and implemented.
- An attendee ribbons feature was added to the virtual Fall Meeting, to help attendees identify others with similar experience and to recognize SPP leadership.
- The committee reimplemented regularly scheduled monthly meetings.

### **Announcements and Upcoming Initiatives**

- The next membership application and transition request review will occur in late-October, and then moving forward it will fall into a quarterly recurrence, planned for January, April, July, and October.
- The Membership Committee will select attendee ribbons for the next in-person meeting, potentially Spring 2022. These ribbons will encourage a warm welcome for our new and junior members.
- The committee will develop a member benefits letter, outlining the myriad benefits of joining the SPP. This letter will be sent to new members, and a version will also be developed to remind renewing members of what the SPP offers. Ideally, this letter or letters will also be posted on the SPP's website.
- Working in conjunction with the Information and Communication Committee, the Membership Committee would like to expand the SPP's outreach.
- The committee requested the addition of a profile indicator, "areas of professional/research interest" to be included in the SPP member profiles; this addition was included on the SPP's renewal form as part of the 2022 dues renewal process. Its goal is to create a searchable field that will allow SPP members to easily identify others with similar research interests and to foster collaborations.



Erin Rudzinski, MD  
Chair, Membership Committee

## **Perinatal Committee**

### **Highlights from Last Quarter**

- The Perinatal Committee met on October 6, 2021 and discussed the following:
  - Upcoming Perinatal Symposium proposals for 2021 – 2023.
  - Accreditation of the Perinatal Slide Session held at the 2021 Fall Annual Meeting.
  - Future directions for the Perinatal Pathology Course
  - A placental triage publication being developed by Dr. Drucilla Roberts.

- A potential forum for case discussions.

### **Announcements and Upcoming Initiatives**

- There are no announcements or upcoming initiatives at this time.



Eumenia Castro, MD, PhD  
Chair, Perinatal Committee

### **Practice Committee**

#### **Highlights from Last Quarter**

- The committee finalized and approved a survey assessing the role of **electron microscopy** in pediatric pathology practice.
  - This survey was sent out to the SPP membership and there were ~90 unique institutional responses, including international respondents.
  - The committee analyze these results in the coming months.
- The committee finalized revisions on an **appendectomy survey** to be sent to membership in the coming months.
  - This survey was drafted by Dr. Robyn Reed in order to ascertain current practice in handling and reporting appendectomy specimens.
  - It will be presented to the Executive Committee for approval.

### **Announcements and Upcoming Initiatives**

- The committee is starting a new project cataloging and reviewing recommendations on molecular and genomic test utilization in pediatric solid tumors.
- There is an **on-going brain tumor molecular testing guidelines project**, undertaken in collaboration with the Education Committee.
- The members would like to increase discussion among SPP members involved in different sub-specialties and across other specialty medical and professional organizations.



Dolores Lopez-Terrada, MD, PhD  
Chair, Practice Committee

### **Publications Committee**

#### **Highlights from Last Quarter**

- The Publications Committee gave input on the SAGE/SPP contract renewal, which is now moving to the contracting stage. The contract includes an online-only subscription option for the *PDP Journal*.

- The Publications Committee provided input on the developed *Editor-in-Chief* contract between the SPP and Dr. **Pierre Russo**. A group of volunteers reviewed the contract draft and provided their feedback for consideration by SPP leadership.
- The SAGE year to date report, indicating the overall health and improvement areas of journal, was given at the Publications Committee meeting. The *PDP* had a higher impact factor than ever before, and the review date to first decision has been reduced.

### **Announcements and Upcoming Initiatives**

- Dr. **Monique De Paepe**'s term as the Chair of the Publications Committee will end in March 2022, she has requested that if anyone is interested in taking over, to kindly reach out to the SPP.
- Dr. **Pierre Russo** is pleased to continue in his role of *Editor-in-Chief* for the *PDP* for another 5-years.
- The Publications Committee is interested in considering some sponsorship for open-access publication fees.
- The Publications Committee discussed the current single-anonymized review process and determined that this process will continue for now. We decided that the SPP would proceed with use of the term "anonymized" instead of the outdated "blinded".
- We will continue to pursue the goals of the *PDP*, including maintaining high publishing standards, expanding journal discoverability, lowering the review turnaround time, sustaining paper flow, increasing the impact factor, and expanding diversification of the editorial board.



Monique De Paepe, MD  
Chair, Publications Committee

### **Research & Awards Committee**

#### **Highlights from Last Quarter**

- **Congratulations to the following award recipients presented at the 2021 SPP Fall Meeting:**
  - The Gordon F. Vawter Pathologist-in-Training Award, which recognizes the meritorious work of medical students, residents and fellows:
    - **Grace Neville**, MB BCh BAO - Brigham and Women's Hospital
    - "Prior cesarean section correlates with higher invasiveness grade in patients with Placenta Accreta Spectrum: Questioning the concept of uterine scar dehiscence"
  - The Harry B. Neustein Award, which recognizes abstracts presenting meritorious work involving electron microscopy, new methodological advances, or other innovative technological advances in the study of disorders of children:
    - **Nicholas Willard**, DO – Children's Hospital Colorado
    - "Spatial Gene Expression in Childhood Ependymoma Reveals Tumor Cell Subpopulations and Their Locations In Situ"
  - The Benirschke Perinatal Pathology Award, which recognizes the best presentation that advances the field of perinatal pathology:

- **Tsz Wing (Karina) Chu** – University of Toronto
- “Association of Placental Pathology with Growth Arrest Line Formation in Fetal Growth Restriction”
- The Case Report Award, which recognizes the best case report presentation:
  - **Elaine Chan**, MD – University of Calgary
  - “Biliary Atresia in a Neonate with Congenital Cytomegalovirus Infection – An Autopsy Case”
- The A. James McAdams Short-Term Study Stipend, which allows a pediatric pathologist or interested pathology resident to offset expenses while gaining experience:
  - **Brett Kurpiel**, MD – University of Virginia Health System
- The Resident Recruitment Award, which is provided to three residents to encourage consideration of a career in pediatric pathology. 2021 recipients are:
  - **Elizabeth “Beth” Doughty**, MD, PhD – University of Colorado
    - “Unboxing” the pulmonary effects of TBX4 germline mutation, an autopsy case study
  - **Suzanne Shauwecker**, MD, PhD – Vanderbilt University
    - Novel FOXP3 Mutation Associated with Refractory Diarrhea, Late-Onset Necrotizing Enterocolitis and an Aggressive Course
  - **Yan Zhou**, MD, PhD – University of Minnesota
    - Infantile Diarrhea Secondary to an Acquired Duodeno-Colonic Fistula: Informed by Upper GI Biopsies

### **Announcements and Upcoming Initiatives**

- Research and Awards Committee plans to send out a survey to evaluate the attitudes towards submitting abstracts.
- The committee plans to work on creating a research mentoring hub for the SPP.



Jefferson Terry, MD, PhD  
Chair, Research & Awards Committee

### **Informatics & Communication Committee**

#### **Highlights from Last Quarter**

- A few members of the I&C Committee assisted with implementation of the CadmiumCD platform for the Fall Meeting. Overall, the platform was a success.
- Additional updates and changes were made to the SPP website to ensure up-to-date information and make it more user-friendly.

#### **Announcements and Upcoming Initiatives**

- Archival documents have been compiled and will be reviewed and organized. Dr. **Sonja Chen**, Archives Director, will be heading up this project along with several I&C members.

- We continue to maintain an active social media presence on Twitter ([@SocPediPath](#)) and via the pediatric pathology forum. Dr. **Michael Arnold**, Social Media Director, is leading this work.



Jason Jarzembowski, MD, PhD  
Chair, Informatics & Communication Committee

## Upcoming Meetings of Interest

<i>Meeting</i>	<i>Meeting Dates and Location</i>
USCAP Annual Meeting	March 19-24, 2022 – Los Angeles, CA
International Paediatric Pathology Association (IPPA) Advanced Course	May 7-13, 2022 – Egmond ann Zee, Netherlands
International Paediatric Pathology Association (IPPA) Update	The 2021 course has been postponed until: June 18-21 2022 – Crowne Plaza, Rome, Italy

## SPP Organization

### **Society for Pediatric Pathology**

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### Board of Directors

Jim Wright, MD, PhD  
Sanda Alexandrescu, MD  
Raffaella Morotti, MD  
Vivekanand Singh, MD  
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Bruce Pawel, MD  
Lisa Teot, MD  
Sara Vargas, MD  
Fusun Gundogan, MD  
Kyle Kurek, MD  
Jason Jarzembowski, MD, PhD

### Official Journal

*Pediatric and Developmental Pathology*  
Editor: Pierre Russo, MD

### Newsletter Editorial Team

David Parham, MD, Editor-in-Chief  
Robert Ruiz, MD, PhD, Assistant Editor  
Jason Jarzembowski, MD, PhD, Chair of Informatics & Communication Committee  
Bonnie Doman, Project Coordinator, AOE Consulting

### Officers

President: Debra Heller, MD  
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Past-President: Gino Somers, MBBS, PhD, FRCPA  
Secretary: M. Cristina Pacheco, MD  
Treasurer: Chandra Krishnan, MD

### Committee Chairs

Education Committee: Sanda Alexandrescu, MD  
Workshop Subcommittee: Jessica Davis, MD  
Symposium Subcommittee: Jiancong Liang, MD, PhD  
Slide Survey Subcommittee: Bradford Siegele, MD, JD  
Fellowship Committee: Amer Heider, MD  
Finance Committee: Jennifer Black, MD  
Informatics & Communication Committee: Jason Jarzembowski, MD, PhD  
Membership Committee: Erin Rudzinski, MD  
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Practice Committee: Dolores Lopez-Terrada, MD, PhD  
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