



NEWSLETTER

a SPP Publication

Society for Pediatric Pathology

Summer/Fall 2026

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Fall is “technically” here. I say “technically” because, if you live where I do, it means stepping outside into 100-degree heat, humidity thick enough to drink, and a chocolate Lab who stares at an open front door like I’ve just asked him to cross the Mojave Desert. He used to love walks! Now? He just gives me this look of pure, unadulterated contempt. He’s stubborn. He’s set in his ways. He’s entirely unreasonable.

Which brings me, naturally, to how we recruit new pediatric pathologists.

Look, we cannot be like my dog. We can’t just sit on the rug and refuse to move because change feels unpleasant. My spring message touched on our need to grow our ranks, and I’m bringing it up again because—much to my ongoing disappointment—the issue hasn’t magically resolved itself. (Believe me, the daily barrage of recruiter emails begging you to leave your existing job for a new one proves nobody is coming to fix this for us.) If you’re joining us in Columbus for the Fall Meeting, I am begging you: keep bringing your ideas for how we fortify this society for the future.

Looking back, frankly, it’s a mild miracle I’m writing a message to *anyone* right now. In just the last few years, this society has

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survived three separate management companies, an actual IRS audit, a canceled Fall meeting, a complete overhaul of our Spring meeting, launching a workshop month, and re-engineering how we engage with USCAP. Any one of those items should have broken us. By all laws of organizational physics, we should be extinct. Yet, somehow, we're still here.

We survived because of you. Every single time things started to fall apart, our members stepped up, gave up their free time, and dragged this society back from the brink into actual success. That's the real secret of the SPP: we are a collective of people who care just enough to step in, prevent total catastrophe, and somehow turn a disaster into progress. To every volunteer member who has pitched in—thank you.

Finally, a quick word on the Executive Committee and Rachael Lowery as our Executive Director. Serving alongside the EC has been ... something.

There is the heavy burden of stewardship, which mostly consists of babysitting me so I don't ruin everything. My EC colleagues have worked tirelessly to ensure my tenure didn't end like the Death Star—exploding into a million pieces over a minor design flaw. I thank them for their thoughtful counsel and camaraderie during my term as president. Serving alongside this group has been an immense pleasure and a very rewarding experience.

You can rest easy knowing the EC will keep working hard to help us navigate our pediatric pathology journeys.



Chandra Krishnan, MD
SPP President

A LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

This Summer/Fall 2026 edition of the Newsletter comes at the end of a particularly grueling summer in Arkansas. For weeks on end, we have experienced record high temperatures and no decent rainfall, so we are under a statewide fire watch. The current conditions remind me of California, but minus the Santa Ana winds that I remember from my sojourn in Los Angeles. I can't look at the trees in the backyard without feeling a sense of guilt and foreboding. Thanks to air conditioning life goes on, and with it my regular monthly trips to my correct locum tenens at Arkansas Children's Hospital. There, the practice of pediatric pathology offers the satisfaction and reward that we usually associate with our career choice.

This issue contains a brief interview with Dr. Margaret Collins, guru of eosinophilic gastrointestinal diseases, in response to the web topic that recently appeared on our Newsletter. Assistant Editor Sonja Chen reports on the recent Perinatal Pathology Virtual Course 2026, also accessed online, and our Member Spotlight

features outgoing Board of Directors member and incoming Treasurer-Elect, Jennifer Picarsic. Outgoing SPP President Chandra Krishnan offers his thoughts on the state of the SPP. Managing Editor Rachael Lowery adds information on the upcoming Fall Meeting in Columbus, which promises to be the fun and fact-filled weekend that we typically enjoy. Because of overlap with the Spring/Summer edition, there is no "25 Years Ago" column in this issue, but I plan to take it up again next issue.

My wife Jean and I plan to see you in Columbus, and we wish you a pleasant journey there!



David Parham, MD
Newsletter Editor



SLIDE SURVEY ONLINE 2026

Open and Available
for Registration

The Slide Survey Program of the SPP is intended for all pathologists and pathology trainees. The slide survey is offered in online version only, released annually. The slide survey online (SSO) consists of 15 cases per year (3 sets of 5 cases each) which include virtual microscope slides, digital versions of the booklets and the electronic answer-submission sheets, as well as survey analysis, case discussion, and select case archives.

Participants can expect to spend approximately one hour on each case, including reviewing the history and slide, arriving at a diagnosis, answering the questions, and reviewing the contributor's summary and case discussion.

This activity is registered for American Board of Pathology (ABPath) Lifelong Learning (CME) credit and Improvement in Medical Practice (Part IV) requirements of the ABPath Continuing Certification Program.

[Register Today](#)

Call for Cases

The annual Slide Survey Online is a core educational offering of the SPP. The Slide Survey Committee is in need of cases to bolster the case library. Anyone can submit a case using the link below.

[Submit A Case](#)

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Jennifer Picarsic, MD

Years in Practice: 14 Years

Institution Affiliation:
University of Pittsburgh
School of Medicine

Length of Membership in SPP: 17 Years (2009
SPP fall Meeting in Philadelphia was my first meeting!)

Areas of Interest in Pathology/Pediatric Pathology: Histiocytic neoplasms/Pediatric transplant pathology/Digital Pathology

What is Your Reason for Choosing Pediatric Pathology?

During residency, I planned to pursue cytopathology, but my time with the pediatric pathology team at Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh changed my perspective. I realized I could combine general surgical and cytopathology with a subspecialty in pediatric pathology. The diversity of cases, from rare tumors to pediatric transplants, and close collaboration with surgeons, oncologists and care teams brought a meaningful sense of direct patient-centered care to the work.

What Message Would You Give to Interested Trainees?

A pediatric pathologist is endlessly curious and eager to learn. We still have much to discover about the rare diseases affecting children and young adults. With advances in molecular discovery and digital pathology, a new generation can uncover subtle clues in H&E slides that may reveal molecular drivers and improve treatments and outcomes for this vulnerable population.

What are the Benefits of SPP Membership that You Enjoy?

I have enjoyed building a network of like-minded colleagues who share advice and guidance on everything from diagnoses to career advancement, while enjoying time together at meetings. Serving on the SPP Board during its management transition was eye-opening and gave me a deeper appreciation for the executive team's behind-the-scenes work supporting our society, all on a volunteer basis.

As Chair of the Slide Survey Online Committee for four years, I have learned from motivated and collegial pediatric pathologists while providing curated educational content to our members. Over four years as a Board member, I have advocated for our membership and contributed to new SPP initiatives, including our first-ever SPP booth at USCAP, where we launched "Grow Your Career in Any Direction" to increase our visibility among the next generation of pathologists.



ASK THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Have an Idea, Suggestion or Question for SPP?

We want to hear from you! Submit your thoughts directly to the SPP Executive Committee. They'll review your submission at their next meeting and follow up with you.

Ask the EC

SPP PERINATAL PATHOLOGY VIRTUAL COURSE



Sonja Chen, MD

Newsletter Assistant Editor

As summer recess wrapped up, the SPP Perinatal Pathology Course was virtually delivered, occurring at the end of August. It is quite phenomenal that the Perinatal Pathology Course, first delivered in May 2005 in Boston, MA, with Dr. Ona Faye-Petersen at its helm, is already at its fifth offering. This three-day virtual course provided valuable insights from the Who's Who of placental and perinatal pathology and was moderated by co-directors Dr. Katte Carreon and Dr. Linda Ernst. The conference offered high-quality images, numerous pertinent references, challenging cases, and practical pearls from the experts in fetal autopsy, cardiac anatomy, neuropathology, and placental pathology, with recorded content and materials available until February 2027.

Because pediatric pathologists know how to enjoy themselves, there was also a Shaken, Not Stained Happy Hour & Trivia with a relaxed virtual social hour. A swag box containing a very cute cocktail glass was delivered to my home so that I could make the Midnight in Havana (Espresso Martini). A mixology kit came with the swag. If you are a lightweight, like me, you could also make a mocktail using non-alcoholic rum and adding coffee syrup to the heavy cream.

My favorite part of the conference was the inaugural Ona Faye-Petersen Honorary lecture, delivered by Dr. Drucilla Roberts. Dr. Roberts focused on Anatomic Pathology in Resource Limited Regions. Dr. Faye-Petersen is certainly a legendary figure in perinatal pathology, and it is clear that she has inspired and touched the lives of many with her work. Dr. Roberts' talk also reminded me, in many ways, of my days of working in pathology in the Caribbean, but it also brought to mind all for which we have to be grateful, working as pathologists here in the United States. If you missed out on all the pearls provided from Dr. Hecht, Dr. Katzman, Dr. Linn, Dr. Morgan, Dr. Ravishankar and many others, you can still [purchase the course with its recorded content](#) for access to over 15 ABPath CME credits. All in all, if you sign out fetal autopsies or any perinatal pathology, this course can reinforce and improve your current practice, and I highly recommend it.



Midnight in Havana — (AGED RUM)
• 1.5 oz Aged Rum
• 1 oz Cuban Espresso Syrup with Xocolatyl Bitters
• 0.75 oz Organic Fresh Cream
Classic, smooth, velvety — the timeless espresso martini experience.

INTERVIEW WITH MARGARET COLLINS, MD



Editor: Hi Margaret, I am calling regarding the Non-eosinophilic gastrointestinal disease in children web topic that recently appeared on the SPP Website. I know that we all struggle with diagnosis of non-esophageal eosinophilic gastrointestinal disorders (EGID), and I would like to hear your thoughts on this topic.

First, what is abnormal? I know from experience that residents tend to overcall EGID after being confronted with the large numbers of eosinophils that are seen in the normal gut, particularly the proximal colon. Have the published normals been standardized?

Dr. Collins: I think there has been a trend to accept multiples of the published numbers ("normal" peak eosinophil counts) as threshold values needed for a firm diagnosis, as outlined in J Pediatr Gastroenterol Nutr. 2024 Jan;78(1):122-152. The numbers in this publication appear to be reproducible and are recommended for use in pediatric surgical pathology.

Editor: There seems to be a lot of other entities in the differential diagnosis of EGID. How do you handle these?

Dr. Collins: You are correct. EGID can only be diagnosed after rigorous exclusion of things like inflammatory bowel disease, drug reaction, food allergy, and infections.

Editor: One particular entity in the differential diagnosis that seems to come up from time to time is a mast cell disorder such as mastocytic enterocolitis. Mast cells seem to be increased in EGIDs, as well. How do you separate these lesions?

Dr. Collins: It seems that mastocytic enterocolitis is still not a well-defined entity and has some overlap with EGID. For one thing, knowing numbers appears to be important, and this cannot be done properly without the use of mast cell immunohistochemistry. For this purpose both CD117 and tryptase have been used as markers. CD117 stains other things besides mast cells and so lacks specificity, whereas tryptase immunohistochemistry is specific for mast cells. Basophils express much less tryptase than mast cells and may require immunofluorescence for detection. For the most part, mast cell disorders have a tumoral quality, analogous to Langerhan cell histiocytosis.

Editor: Thank you, Margaret, for your sharing your thoughts with the SPP Newsletter readers.

RECENT PDP ARTICLE HIGHLIGHT

Founders in Pediatric Pathology:

Don B. Singer - Halit Pinar, Beverly B. Rogers, Heather Rytting, C. James Sung

Terminology in Perinatal Pathology

Beverly B. Rogers, Linda M. Ernst

Normal Fetal Growth and Development

Beverly B Rogers, Teck Yee Khong

Assessing Normal Histologic Patterns in Perinatal Tissue: A Practical Guide

Linda M. Ernst, Erica Price, Beverly B. Rogers

Perinatal Autopsy Guidance for the General Pathologist

Beverly B Rogers, M Halit Pinar, Linda M Ernst, Erica Price, Fusun Gundogan

Ancillary and Advanced Techniques for the Postmortem Examination

Halit Pinar, Füsün Gündoğan

Beyond the Autopsy: The Role of Postmortem Conferences in Supporting Families

Halit Pinar, Füsün Gündoğan

The Placenta: Identifying Normal

Beverly B. Rogers, Teck Yee Khong, Erica Price, Halit Pinar, Füsün Gündoğan, Linda M. Ernst



INTERNATIONAL PAEDIATRIC PATHOLOGY ASSOCIATION (IPPA) SPOTLIGHT

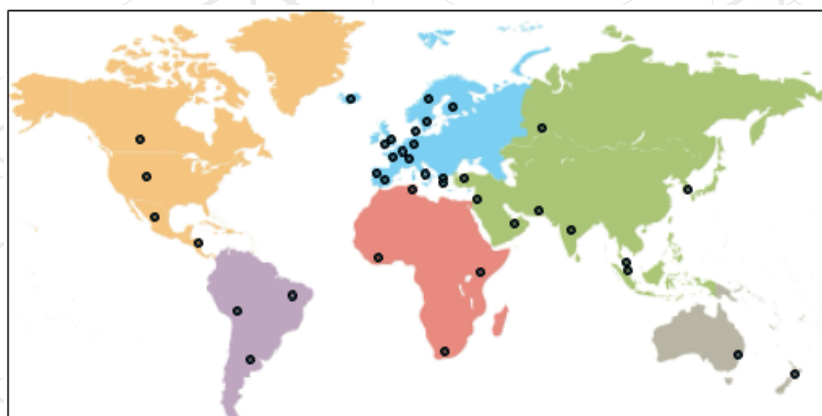
Established in 1978, the International Paediatric Pathology Association is a global "umbrella" organisation that brings together interested groups to advance knowledge of the diseases of the embryo, fetus, neonate and child, and to apply that knowledge to the health needs of all countries. Its membership is drawn from affiliated constituent societies around the world, giving the association a truly international reach.

IPPA pursues its mission on four fronts: facilitating contacts between paediatric pathologists, organising conferences and teaching programmes, encouraging publication in developmental, paediatric and perinatal pathology, and global advocacy for the recognition of and resources for the specialty. The association is guided by an elected Executive Board (Gino Somers, Toronto, President; Maureen O'Sullivan, Dublin, Chairperson; Claudia Salgado, Miami, Treasurer; Isabel Colmenero, Madrid, Past-President; & Nicole Graf, Sydney, President-Elect) and Council.

At the heart of its educational work are the IPPA Advanced Courses in Paediatric Pathology, now in their 47th year, with 331 graduates from 44 countries. Each six-day annual course combines lectures, discussions and slide seminars; participants who complete the rolling programme of five annual courses receive a graduate certificate in paediatric pathology. Annual scholarships support attendees from low-income countries (LICs), reinforcing IPPA's commitment to building capacity worldwide.

Looking ahead, IPPA's priorities are growth, partnership and access. The association is broadening membership across Asia and Southeast Asia, strengthening links with affiliated societies in regions where paediatric pathology expertise is in growing demand. It is also working with local organisers on the paediatric pathology programme for the upcoming International Academy of Pathology Congress in Fukuoka, Japan, this October. In parallel, IPPA is seeking greater scholarship support for pathologists from LICs to attend its advanced courses, ensuring support reaches those who stand to benefit most.

If you would like more information or would like to get involved in IPPA activities, please reach out to Dr. Somers at gino.somers@sickkids.ca.



IPPA's global impact – each circle represents the country-of-origin of attendees at IPPA's Advanced Courses.

UPCOMING MEETINGS



SPP Fall Annual Meeting 2026

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

- Pediatric Symposium: Artificial Intelligence Applications in AP & CP: The Pediatric Pathology Perspective
- Perinatal Symposium: Pathology Within the Obstetric Medical Malpractice Canon

Also featuring poster and platform research presentations, Farber Landing Lecture, Friday Night Banquet, and more.

[Register Now](#)



USCAP 116th Annual Meeting

March 13th - 18th, 2027
Vancouver, Canada

SPP Companion Society Meeting

How to Perform the Pediatric CNS Autopsy and Identify CNS Structural Malformations, Improving Diagnostic Mastery Amongst Pathologists

Sunday, March 14th | 8:00AM - 10:00AM

[View Details](#)



SPP Annual Fall Meeting 2027

October 20th-24th, 2027
Sheraton Phoenix Downtown,
Phoenix, Arizona

save the date