



SOCIETY FOR PEDIATRIC PATHOLOGY

NEWSLETTER



SPP Quarterly Newsletter | Spring 2025

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Editor's Note

Greetings to all fellow SPP members, and my apologies for not attending the Spring USCAP meeting in person. After a busy week at my part-time position at Arkansas Children's Hospital, I opted not to fly on Saturday. However, the availability of recorded meeting content makes virtual meeting an attractive option for "stay-at-home" pathologists, and USCAP offers a wide variety of educational content that will fatten up my CME hours over the next few months.

Missing events like booths, poster walks, receptions, and personal networking mightily detracts from my enjoyment of virtual meetings. To this end, Assistant Editor Sonja Chen and Society President Christina Pacheco herein offer their takes on happenings in Boston. In the meeting photos, everyone seems to be having a wonderful time.

In spite of not attending the meeting, I viewed the Companion session on Congenital Tumors. I congratulate speakers **Linda Ernst, Jason Jarzembowski, Miguel Reyes-Mugica, Karen Chisholm,** and the session organizers for a job well done. Their presentations offered a fabulous review of old material and a plethora of new information, even for an old war-horse like myself. After that great beginning, I am looking forward to continuing my learning with the Pediatric Evening Specialty Conference and Platform Sessions.

Finally, I want everyone to plan to attend our upcoming Fall meeting to be held in downtown Philadelphia. Register early on line to receive a discounted rate; more details will be on-line soon.

Best to everyone,

David Parham, MD

SPP Newsletter Editor

President's Letter

Dear SPP Members,

I hope all of you are enjoying spring!

It was wonderful to see so many of you in Boston at USCAP. Our first year as an USCAP Companion Society felt like the start of something special, and we hope this is the first of many successful spring companion meetings. Special thanks to Boston for hosting a reception for SPP members on Saturday night. It was great to see everyone and have a chance to catch up. The Sunday Companion Society was very well-attended. **Drs. Chisholm, Ernst, Jarzembowski** and **Reyes-Mujica** gave a great session on congenital tumors and their presentation within our youngest patients. Our SPP Reception provided a second opportunity to meet-up with SPP members and those considering membership and/or pediatric pathology as a profession. Finally, the USCAP Pediatric Pathology Evening Session and posters offered additional opportunities to learn about pediatric pathology topics and research.

I would be remiss if I did not mention the SPP booth at the USCAP expo. I had originally signed up for 2 hours of volunteer time, but because I was having so much fun, I ended up spending about 7 hours over Tuesday and Wednesday, talking to pathologists, trainees, and vendors. For any current member who considered staffing our booth but hesitated for whatever reason, please know the time really does fly and the opportunity to network and introduce people to pediatric pathology was fantastic. Thank you to Dr. **Jennifer Picarsic** and her task force for putting so much thought into planning the booth! Our new status as a USCAP Companion Society offers much more visibility in the pathology world at USCAP and the ability to interface with many more trainees.

As much as being a Companion Society was a success, I know that the transition does require some adjustments for those who have been in the Society for a while. However, I am confident that our fall meeting with an expanded agenda will help maintain our traditions and autonomy as a Society while we increase our visibility in the spring. This coming fall, I hope you are all able to join us in Philadelphia October 22-26, 2025. **Dr. Portia Krieger** has planned a great meeting for us that will feature: a pediatric pathology symposium entitled Immune Dysregulation Syndromes and Organ Specific Pathologies, a perinatal symposium entitled In Utero Diagnosis, Interventions, Pathologic Consequences, and Genetics, and a special **Dr. Kevin Bove** Memorial Slide Session on liver pathology.

The Executive Committee selected **Drs. Laura Finn** and **Mark Luquette** to be SPP representatives to the International Paediatric Pathology Association (IPPA) in addition to the Secretary and President as outlined in our by-laws. **Dr. Lara Berklite** was selected as the SPP liaison to College of American Pathologists Autopsy Committee. Thank you to all who volunteered for the positions. Please look for additional opportunities to volunteer. Towards the end of May or beginning of June we will be putting a call out to SPP members for committee member volunteers and for nominations to the SPP President-Elect and Secretary-Elect positions.

Finally, please do not forget to consider submitting workshop proposals or proposals for USCAP Companion Meetings. The links to submit can be found on the SPP website.

As always, it is a great honor to serve as the President of your Society.

Sincerely,

Christina Pacheco
SPP President

SPP/USCAP Meeting in Boston, MA



The March Spring meeting in Boston was delightful! The Society for Pediatric Pathology (SPP) has begun their companion society standing with the United States and Canadian Academy of Pathology (USCAP) 114th Annual Meeting, and we were all able to meet under one roof – at the Boston Convention Center. I particularly enjoyed this single venue, as one did not need to brave the whipping winds around Boston’s beautiful waterfront. The last time SPP met with USCAP, I think I was a resident!

On Saturday evening, the SPP had a lovely private reception for membership at the Omni Seaport Boston Hotel, hosted by Boston Children’s Hospital Department of Pathology. It is always exhilarating (at least to me!) to be in a room with so many other like minds – not to mention those smarter than myself! Despite the recent challenges of travel, folks journeyed from across the country and the globe, and it was a pleasure to reconnect and to make new acquaintances and to see the fresh faces of recently graduated fellows and junior attendings, mingled with the stalwarts and leaders of our Society. I did miss the live music and talents of our own society members, but I am sure that there will be no shortage of such at the fall meeting in Philadelphia.

On Sunday morning, the Society had an excellent inaugural companion society symposium on Congenital Tumors. Over the two-hour symposium, Dr. **Linda Ernst** described the nuances of congenital tumors and their in utero effects; Dr. **Jason Jarzembowski** and Dr. **Miguel Reyes-Mugica** detailed the challenges of congenital neuroblastic tumors and congenital germ cell tumors, respectively; and Dr. **Karen Chisolm** reviewed the subtleties of congenital myeloproliferative disorders/leukemias. The topics were pertinent to most pediatric pathologists and combined relevant, basic clinical and histologic information along with newer challenges in the state of diagnosis in these areas.

After the morning companion meeting, an interlude allowed us to mingle with colleagues in various disciplines through other companion society meetings and gave us an opportunity to socialize. On Sunday evening, many programs participated in the bustling Fellowship Fair, meeting and greeting medical students, residents, new fellows, and new junior attendings, inspiring the next generation of pediatric pathologists.

The SPP organized an Expo Booth that allowed folks to represent their institution and the society as a whole. The booth provided education on the subspecialty of pediatric pathology and doubled as a place for folks to network and grab some SPP swag! The Expo Booth served as the starting point for poster walks moderated by SPP members for the Stowell Orbison, Pediatric/Perinatal and Gynecologic/Obstetric poster sessions. Hopefully, the poster walk will be a tradition that will continue to provide in person visibility of the Society and to serve as an engaging way to visit subspecialty posters and discuss findings with presenters.

Finally, on Monday evening, the Society had a specialty session chaired by Dr. **Jeff Goldsmith**, highlighting interesting bone and soft tissue, hematopathology, and central nervous system pediatric pathology cases in which molecular analysis was crucial to the diagnosis. The session highlighted the benefits and challenges of molecular testing in a world where we are doing so much more with less material. All of the recorded sessions are available through the USCAP Annual Meeting at their On Demand Platform.

Overall, the Companion Society status of SPP has been a positive move and hopefully will position pediatric pathology in the spotlight for continued growth and consistent exposure to future and current pathologists.

Thanks to all who attended!

Sonja Chen

Assistant Editor



Congratulations to the Winners of Our 2025 Awards & Grants!

Society for Pediatric Pathology USCAP Pathologist-in-Training Award

Society for Pediatric Pathology USCAP Pathologist-in-Training Award is given to the best trainee presentation, poster or platform presented at the spring USCAP meeting. The first award was presented in 2025.

Jennifer Xiao Ye Ji, MD, PhD | The Proteomic Landscape of Pediatric Osteosarcomas

Lotte Strauss Prize

The Lotte Strauss Prize recognizes meritorious work by an individual 40 years of age or younger in a subject germane to pediatric pathology and published or accepted for publication during the year immediately preceding the award (i.e., published or accepted for publication in 2024).

Faizan Malik, MD, St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital | “Reappraisal of soft tissue myoepithelial tumors by DNA methylation profiling reveals an epigenetically distinct group of mostly fusion-driven neoplasms.” *Virchows Arch.* 2025 Mar;486(3):573-584. doi: 10.1007/s00428-024-03977-4. PMID: 39636306

Enid Gilbert Barness Prize

The Enid Gilbert Barness Prize honors the achievements and contributions of Dr. Enid Gilbert Barness, the past president and life member of the SPP, to children’s healthcare and to our specialty. The prize recognizes the impact of an outstanding pediatric pathology paper on anatomic pathology, clinical practice, research, or public health, and encourages excellence and relevance in pediatric pathology practice. The paper should be accepted or published in a peer reviewed journal during the past three calendar years (i.e., 2022-2024) by a member of the SPP who is the first or last author and the primary contributor to the work to be eligible for the prize.

Chrystalle Katte Carreon, MD, Boston Children’s Hospital | “High-resolution three-dimensional atlas of congenital heart defects based on micro-CT images of human postmortem wax-infiltrated heart specimens.” *Cardiovasc Pathol.* 2025 Jan-Feb;74:107690. doi: 10.1016/j.carpath.2024.107690. PMID: 39218168

Young Investigator Research Grant

This grant is given to facilitate basic or applied research by a young investigator in the field of pediatric an perinatal pathology, with the goal of fostering research within the SPP by providing funds to young investigators in the field of pediatric pathology, and/or funding a pilot project which will lead to long-term research support from other granting agencies.

Sunitha Suresh, MD, NorthShore University Medical Center | “Impact of chronic inflammation in late preterm birth.” *SPP sponsor: Linda Ernst, MD, MHS*

Annual Research Grant

This grant is given to facilitate basic or applied research by an investigator in the field of pediatric pathology, with the goal of fostering research within the SPP by providing funds to investigators in the field of pediatric pathology.

SPP 2025 Annual Fall Meeting



October 22nd - 26th, 2025 | Philadelphia Marriott Downtown | Philadelphia

Featuring:

Pediatric Symposium: Immune dysregulation syndromes

Perinatal Symposium: In Utero diagnosis, interventions, pathologic consequences & genetics

Also featuring abstract competitions, the Kevin Bove Memorial Slide Session, COG update, plus networking, social events, and more! Registration to open in June. Abstract window to open in July.

Book your hotel room in our discounted block [here](#).

Exhibitor and Sponsorship Opportunities Available Now!

We are open to exhibitors and sponsors at our annual meeting--space is limited and filling up, but exhibitor tables and sponsored items are still available! If your institution, or another group you are familiar with, is interested in exhibiting, sponsoring, or recruiting, please pass on our prospectus and direct any questions to info@spponline.org.

Download the Meeting Prospectus



Call for January Workshop Proposals!



SPP JANUARY WORKSHOPS

Interested in Teaching on Your Area of Expertise?

The SPP Education Committee is currently requesting proposals for 2026 and 2027 workshops. Slots are currently available for each!

[Submit Your Proposals Now](#)

Topic ideas, as well as to view past workshops, can be [viewed here](#).

With questions, please reach out to Shahrazad Saab at Shahrazad.Saab@UHhospitals.org.

The SPP 25 Years Ago

The Spring 2000 SPP Newsletter listed the activities of the Society in a variety of fronts, as detailed by President **Claire Langston**'s President's Message and by committee reports from the Spring 2000 meeting. Thanks to a favorable market, the funded resources of the SPP had significantly increased, in spite of a deficit budget. Progress and challenges regarding the Society organ *Pediatric and Developmental Pathology*, the year-end *Perspectives in Pediatric Pathology*, and the development of the new SPP website were detailed. After being shepherded by **Paul Dickman** in its developmental stages, website management was being transferred to a commercial firm. Finally, the Education Committee reported on substantial work accomplished by four subcommittees, the Workshop/symposium Subcommittee, the Abstract Subcommittee, the CME Subcommittee, and the Extramural Subcommittee.

Connect with SPP

Society for Pediatric Pathology

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