



2022 Fall Newsletter

Volume 27, Issue 4

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Editor's Note

This past quarter has been capped by an in-person Fall meeting, a glorious return to form by the SPP after a two-year hiatus. By all accounts, the meeting was a great success that was enhanced by a video option that brought it to folks who couldn't attend in person. I tried both options, and the virtual meeting was easily accessible. Congratulations to **Phil Katzman** and **Leon Metlay** for a successful meeting, made possible by their hard work and commitment! More details about the meeting can be found in our President's message and the Committee reports below.

I also attended the recent Children's Oncology Group (COG) meeting, another in-person get together held in New Orleans on September 19-23. This was a landmark meeting for the Soft Tissue Disease Subcommittee, as they celebrated 50 years of research as first the Intergroup Rhabdomyosarcoma Study Group (IRSG) and then part of COG. Because of this "class reunion" of sorts, all of the "old-timers" were invited, and I was reminded of the February 25, 2021, demise of Dr. **William A. Newton, Jr.** From the beginning of the IRS, Bill served with Dr. Ed Soule at Mayo as co-reviewer of rhabdomyosarcoma cases. As a Pediatric Oncology Group representative, I started reviewing material with them in 1985, and I witnessed Bill's strong leadership, which also included being the third President of the SPP (then the Pediatric Pathology Club), Director of Pathology at Columbus Children's Hospital (now Nationwide Children's Hospital), Brigadier General commanding the 2291st Medical Reserve, and even Director of his church choir.

It was under Bill's leadership and direction that the Children's Cancer Research Network initially began as a Biorepository for the IRSG. This work was enhanced by his protégé **Steve Qualman**, who developed this bank as part of COG. Today it comprises part of the Biopathology Center of Nationwide Children's Hospital, which receives up to 1,000 biospecimens per day and houses more than 4 million biospecimens. Bill's work did not end with developing tissue resources; he also played a major role as an international mentor of pediatric pathologists, who have included **Hiro Shimada**, Ana Gaiger, Roman Kodet, Ivo Leuschner, and **Bruce Pawel**. Retirement did not stop him from service, as he then worked to forge international collaborations with Chinese pediatric oncologists and pathologists.

In preparing this Newsletter, I also learned of the recent demise of Susan Simonton, who was a regular attendee of SPP meetings for many years and who hosted the SPP Fall meeting 25. Years ago. Our sympathies go out to her family and friends.

Before I end my comments, I also want to thank Leon and Phil for providing an excellent social program to the SPP meeting.

Our Saturday afternoon featured a tour on the Erie Canal, famous for its provision of the first navigable waterway between the Atlantic and the Great Lakes. This construction was a massive undertaking made possible by strong gubernatorial support from Governor Clinton, ingenious civil engineering by a team with no prior experience, and hard exertion of many laborers, largely immigrants from Ireland. The waterway that they produced provided a means of cheap transportation that gave New York and its harbor city a major economic advantage over other states, and it enabled the growth of Midwestern agriculture, producing a string of large Great Lakes port cities such as Chicago and Cleveland. Yet these major historical changes were scarcely in evidence during our leisurely trip, as the canal now holds little commercial shipping traffic.

The organizers held the Saturday banquet in the mansion of George Eastman, who founded the Eastman Kodak Company and made photography a popular hobby in the US. His contributions also included establishment of schools of music, dentistry, and medicine in Rochester, as well as expansion of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Cambridge and Tuskegee University and Hampton University in the South. His home now houses the George Eastman Museum, a National Historic Landmark that served us a most elegant and educational venue while the catering staff served an excellent repast. History and photography buff **Kevin Bove** gave me a brief insight into the great camera collection that comprises some of the artefacts present there.

In closing, I hope that we will be treated to similar style when we travel to Portland for the next Fall meeting. Wine connoisseurs are well advised to stay a few extra days to sample the excellent pinot noirs available in the adjacent Willamette Valley.



David Parham, MD
Newsletter Editor

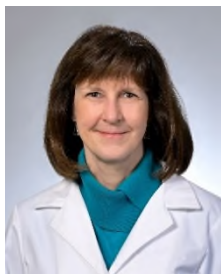
President's Letter

There was something really special about the Fall 2022 meeting in Rochester. I'm not sure whether it was the infusion of so many new and young faces, the participation of the young-at-heart (great to see you **Drs. Bove, Parham, and Hubbard**), or just the fact that it has been over 2 years since we've met in-person; the thrill of shaking hands and sharing a meal together was galvanizing. Our host, The University of Rochester, provided a welcoming venue, and **Drs. Phil Katzman** and **Leon Metlay** put together two stimulating symposia on the evaluation of birth defects and pediatric lung disease that capitalized on local authorities plus the expertise of our Society members, like **Dr. Gail Deutsch**. We learned about the utilization of molecular testing by COG from **Drs. Jason Jarzembowski, Erin Rudzinski**, and Christine Fuller and how we, as pathologists, can each contribute to its progress. **Dr. Jennifer Picarsic** provided a comprehensive overview of her Lotte Strauss award winner paper on ALK+ histiocytosis; this was very timely as just last month, her mentor, **Dr. Ron Jaffe**, was awarded the Golden Pin in Stockholm from the Histiocyte Society, for his lifetime contributions to the advancement of the study of histiocytoses. I'd like to extend congratulations to all the platform and poster presenters and a sincere thank-you to all committee members, chairs, and Board of Directors (BOD) members, for the work that you do and for your continued commitment to the SPP. The AOE team also deserves a significant amount of gratitude for expertly helping us to successfully complete our first hybrid meeting.

Please see committee reports below for some of the exciting and challenging forthcoming changes, including: the implementation of a Learning Management System to ease, centralize, and hopefully expand the delivery and crediting of educational materials; the introduction of stand-alone Workshops with evolution to a dynamic virtual platform; the creation of new social media exposure; the implementation of an abbreviated Spring Meeting format, as recommended by the Future Meetings Task Force overseen by President **Gino Somers**; and the offering of new and more valuable research/study grants, in addition to our current plethora of awards.

I am grateful to my associates on the Executive Committee who provide such insightful and creative opinions and guidance. With their input, attention from the BOD, and the support of our AOE partners, I believe the SPP can face the challenges of navigating unpredictable financial turmoil, growing our membership, fostering our remarkable subspecialty, and adapting to the post-Covid normality.

Hope to see everyone again in New Orleans in March!



Laura Finn, MD
SPP President

SPP History – 25 Years Ago

The Fall 1997 interim meeting held in Minneapolis was a great success, thanks to the efforts of **Susan Simonton [Ed. note: Recently deceased. See SPP Website for details]**, and her colleagues. The Council and Long-Term Planning Committee moved the Society closer to realizing the goals set forth in previous sessions, and the Ad Hoc Committee made stride in initiatives to expand membership to include pediatric pathology practitioners not associated with a children's hospital. Under the leadership of **David Zwick** and **Bob Novak**, the Practice Committee planned to make the SPP Slide Survey into a CME-sanctioned procedure, and the Ad Hoc Committee for Electronic Communications outlined the direction for a website presence, thanks to the leadership of **Paul Dickman** and colleagues.

Because of concerns regarding activities by the American Board of Pathology, the Fellowship Committee debated the optimal length of a pediatric pathology fellowship; some favored one year, whereas others felt that two years including a research year optimized the training experience. The Committee stressed the importance of a bilateral US and Canadian consensus.

Henry Krous, Education Committee Chair, promulgated a set of guidelines for optimal preparation of materials for platform and poster presentations at SPP meetings [Ed Note: And any meeting, for that matter]. Readers of the SPP Newsletter are well advised to consult these guidelines in preparation for future meetings. They can be found in the Archives posted on the SPP Website under "Fall 1997":

[Fall 1997 Newsletter Final.pdf](#)

Fall Meeting Highlights

SPP members greatly enjoyed being back in person and having the opportunity to greet each other once again.



Meeting attendees welcome each other and glimpse at posters at the opening reception.



Overhanging trees cast sylvan shadows on the Eric Canal.

Amer Heider and Saragarajan Ranganathan await their turn board the Colonial Belle.





Meeting attendees including Raja Rabah, Jean Parham, Amer Heider, Amy Herrema McKenney, David Parham, and Aliya Husain enjoy the upper berth on an Eric Canal ride. Meeting host Leon Metlay can be seen in the background.

The upper deck crowd includes a number of officers, such as Fellowship Chair Amer Heider, Secretary-Elect Jefferson Terry, and President Laura Finn. Thanks go to Aliya Husain for boat ride photos.



Important Items



Reminders

- Call for Nominations: Board of Directors and Officers
 - Send nominations, as well as a brief candidate biosketch, for Board of Directors openings, President-Elect, and Treasurer-Elect to spp@aoeconsulting.com. Nominations due Monday, November 28, 2022.
- Interested in hosting a future SPP Fall Meeting?
 - Visit the SPP website at [Fall Meeting Host Submissions \(sponline.org\)](https://sponline.org) to complete an application.
- Slide Survey 2022
 - Don't forget to [register](#) for the 2022 Slide Survey online activity! Case Set 1 and 2 are available now. Case set 3 is expected to be released by November 2022.

Committee Reports



Education Committee

Highlights from Last Quarter

- 2022 Fall Annual Meeting: The 2022 Fall Annual meeting offered 16.50 *AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™*. It was the first-ever hybrid meeting for the SPP. Select recorded content is available to registered attendees for 30-days post meeting until November 9, 2022.
- Workshops: The Workshop Subcommittee developed a proposal for reimagining the workshops that were previously associated with the SPP Spring Meeting; this proposal was reviewed and approved by the Board of Directors at the Fall Meeting in Rochester. Moving forward, workshops will be offered as live virtual presentations with live Q&A and an interactive slide review. Each workshop will be recorded and available for a select amount of time. Further details and a timeline are being outlined and more information will be forthcoming.
- Slide Survey Online – Case Set 3: The final case set of the 2022 Slide Survey Online activity will be launching soon.

Announcements and Upcoming Initiatives

- A call for workshop and symposium proposals will be posted soon. Stay tuned to email and the SPP website.
- More information regarding the new workshops format will be forthcoming. Keep an eye on email and the SPP Website.
- Join us for the 2023 Spring Annual Meeting in New Orleans, LA from March 10th – March 11th.



Lauren Parsons, MD
Chair, Education Committee



Fellowship Committee

Highlights from Last Quarter

- The Fellowship committee completed the process of appointing junior members to committees. Welcome to all new junior members!
 - Term is one year, August 1, 2022 through July, 31, 2023.

Announcements and Upcoming Initiatives

- The Committee is discussing a unified timeline for fellowship applications, interviews, and offers.
- The Committee will be liaising with the Informatics & Communications Committee to discuss advertising the benefits trainees and fellows gain from joining the SPP.
- The Committee is still looking to pursue the development of a 1-hour lecture to comprehensively talk about the pediatric pathology fellowship and SPP.



Amer Heider, MD
Chair, Fellowship Committee



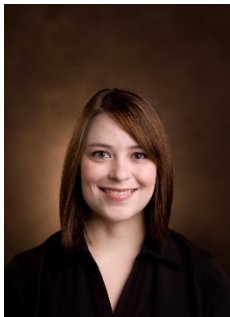
Finance Committee

Highlights from Last Quarter

- The Finance Committee welcomed a new junior member, **Dr. Jacob Havens**, University of Alabama at Birmingham.
- A sum of \$50,000.00 has been transferred from the SPP checking account to the SPP operating reserve account. The goal is to build the operating reserve account up to \$250,000.00; it is currently at \$100,940.35.
- Early projections show that the Society will likely break even on the Fall Meeting.

Announcements and Upcoming Initiatives

- The committee will continue to methodically move money over to the operating reserve account to meet the \$250,000 goal.
- The SPP's 2021 annual audit is in the final preparatory stages; preliminary correspondence from SPP's auditor, SME, is looking positive. The SPP 990 form is due November 15, 2022.
- The committee will review budget request forms in order to compile the 2023 operating budget, including adoption of the new learning management system, EthosCE.
- The committee will be working on a recommendation for pricing of online content access, starting with workshops planned for 2023.



Jennifer Black, MD
Chair, Finance Committee



Membership Committee

Highlights from Last Quarter

- Welcome to Lauren Kroll-Wheeler, the Membership Committee's new junior member.
- The July Membership Committee review of applications and status transition requests resulted in the following:
 - New Affiliate Members: 3

- New Regular Members: 6
- New Junior Members: 9
- Junior to Regular Transitions: 1
- Junior to Affiliate Transitions: 1

Announcements and Upcoming Initiatives

- Retention Efforts:
 - We started a program to contact “In Arrears” members, inquiring why membership wasn’t renewed and if SPP can provide a more meaningful experience. A handful of responses were received, with a few paying their dues.
 - As part of this process, it was noted that some email addresses may no longer be valid. The committee is therefore updating the membership application, as well as the membership renewal form, in order to request that members provide a back-up email address.
- Recruitment Efforts:
 - Dr. Kroll-Wheeler is drafting an email to send to residency programs to advertise future SPP meetings and encourage virtual or in-person attendance for trainees.
- Recognition Efforts:
 - The committee is working on doing a newsletter member highlight.
- The fall membership application and transition request review are happening now, October 2022. The winter review will occur in January 2023.
- The Membership Committee is still interested in a “Mentor Program”, and is liaising with the I&C and R&A Committees to discuss options.



Erin Rudzinski, MD
Chair, Membership Committee



Publications Committee

Highlights from Last Quarter

- Welcome to our new junior member, Dr. Karl Grenier.
- The committee reviewed a statement from the Perinatal Committee on releasing placentas to families. Suggested revisions are being sent back to the Perinatal Committee.
- We revised the *PDP's* description on the SPP website.
- We made recommendations for the new podcast being created by the Informatics & Communication Committee's.
- *PDP* report:
 - There has been a decline in total submissions.
 - There has been an increase in full text downloads.
 - The review to first decision turnaround time is around 18 days.
 - The average acceptance rate is between 35-40%.
 - The majority of articles relate to fetal, perinatal, and pediatric pathology.
 - There has been a dramatic increase in the impact factor to 2.266.

Announcements and Upcoming Initiatives

- The committee would like to be more involved in determining the effect of the PDP on the readership.
- A role of the Publications Committee is to regularly review the SPP website. Members will be paying careful attention to items needing updated.
- The committee will collaborate more frequently with the Informatics & Communications Committee in order to advertise happenings of the *PDP*.



Bruce Pawel, MD
Chair, Publications Committee



Informatics & Communication Committee

Highlights from Last Quarter

- Welcome to our new junior member, **Dr. Beth Doughty**.
- The Informatics & Communication Committee has worked hard to create a strong Social Media presence:
 - We created an SPP Facebook Page.
 - We have almost 2,500 followers on Twitter.
 - We have gained approval for an SPP Podcast
- Archives are up to date; all documents have been converted to Optimal Character Recognition (OCR).
- The committee assisted with the planning of the first hybrid Fall Meeting.

Announcements and Upcoming Initiatives

- The committee will continue to manage social media accounts.
- Drs. **Michael Arnold** and **Jason Wang** will collaborate with the PDP to start creating content for the SPP Podcast.
- Committee members are interested in creating more resources for the SPP Website:
 - Informatics library
 - Atlas sections
 - Collaborations with COG



Michael Arnold, MD, PhD
Chair, Informatics & Communication Committee

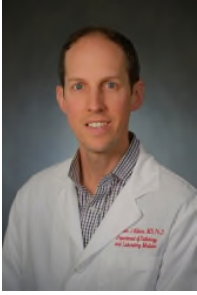


Research & Awards Committee

Highlights from Last Quarter

- Welcome to new junior member, **Dr. Chris Sande**.
- Congratulations to the following award recipients presented at the 2021 SPP Fall Meeting:
 - The Gordon F. Vawter Pathologist-in-Training Award recognizes the meritorious work of medical students, residents and fellows.
 - Ariana Pape – University of Washington
“FOXF1 Mutations in Three Fetuses with Patchy Distribution of Intrapulmonary Shunt Vessels: Insight into Progression of Alveolar Capillary Dysplasia with Misalignment of the Pulmonary Veins (ACDMPV)”
 - The Harry B. Neustein Award recognizes abstracts presenting meritorious work involving electron microscopy in the study of disorders of children.
 - Tess Ceronsky – Women and Infants Hospital/Warren Alpert Medical, School of Brown University
“Placental Lesions Associated with Stillbirth by Gestational Age, According to Feature Importance: Results from The Stillbirth Collaborative Research Network”
 - The Benirschke Perinatal Pathology Award recognizes the best presentation that advances the field of perinatal pathology.
 - **Linda Ernst** – Northshore University HealthSystem
“Tapering of the Ductus Arteriosus in Stillbirth: Correlations with Placental Pathology and Cause of Death”
 - The Case Report Award recognizes the best case report presentation.
 - Chaehwa Kim – University of Michigan
“Rare Case of Malignant Transformation in Recurrent Lipoblastomatosis”
 - The A. James McAdams Short-Term Study Stipend provides monies to a pediatric pathologist or pathology resident with interest in pediatric pathology in order to offset expenses while gaining experience.
 - Isabel Colmenero – Hospital Nino Jesus in Madrid, Spain
 - The Resident Recruitment Award is provided to three residents to encourage consideration of a career in pediatric pathology. Our 2022 recipients are:
 - Karl Grenier – McGill University Health Centre
“A Case Of Apert Syndrome with Tracheal Cartilaginous Sleeve: Demonstration of Wintergreen Oil Tissue Clearing Technique for Tracheal Malformation Visualization”
 - Madeleine Pinne Opsahl – University of Missouri School of Medicine
“Histiocytic Sarcoma with NF-Kb Pathway Alterations in a 13-Year-Old Female”
 - “Emily” Ling-Lin Pai – Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania
“Diffuse Glioneuronal Tumor with Oligodendroglioma-like Features and Nuclear Clusters (DGONC) – A Novel Pediatric Brain Tumor Entity”
- Along with the Finance Committee and the BOD, the R&A Committee agreed to award some new and enhanced grants in 2023, as follows:
 - Young Investigator Award increased by \$10,000
 - New Study Stipend for International Pathologists for \$10,000
 - New Open Research Grant for \$35,000

Application information is forthcoming and will be available on the SPP website.



Benjamin Wilkins, MD, PhD
Chair, Research & Awards Committee



Practice Committee

Highlights from Last Quarter

- The Practice Committee welcomed Dr. James Roberts as a new junior member.
- Dr. **Mika Warren**'s manuscript based on the data collected from the Electron Microscopy in Pediatric Pathology Practice Survey is in the process of revision and close to being submitted to the PDP.
- Dr. **Robyn Reed**'s Appendectomy Survey was submitted to the Executive Committee for review.
- Drs. **Sanda Alexandrescu, Veena Rajaram, and Bonnie Cole** have begun working on creating a set of guidelines for brain tumor molecular testing. In order to further understand how molecular testing for pediatric CNS tumors is ordered and how results are integrated into reporting, they have drafted two surveys, one for pathologists and one for oncologists. The committee is currently in the process of reviewing the surveys.
- Drs. **Dolores Lopez-Terrada** and **Portia Kreiger** contacted the College of American Pathologists (CAP) to request changes in the current requirements for cytopathology data collection and reporting for pediatric pathologists. The CAP suggested reaching out to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), as CAP only enforces the requirements that CMS has created. Drs. Lopez-Terrada and Kreiger are drafting a letter to CMS that will be sent to the SPP Executive Committee for review.
- The Practice Committee is interested in whether the SPP membership has a strong representation in other societies. They are drafting a question to include in the next Membership Survey.



Dolores Lopez-Terrada, M.D., Ph.D.
Chair, Practice Committee



Perinatal Committee

Highlights from Last Quarter

- 2022 Fall Annual Meeting – Perinatal Committee Meeting:
 - Dr. **Amy McKenney** provided a presentation titled, “Perinatal Pathology in the Era of Abortion Prohibition
 - Dr. **Mike Caplan** provided a presentation titled, “Forensic Definitions of Live Birth”
 - Lauren Paulk and Farah Diaz-Tello, representatives from If When How, provided a presentation titled, “Criminalization of Abortion Seekers in Post-Roe America”

- For the second year in a row, the Perinatal Slide Session was accredited for CME credit at the Fall Annual Meeting. Seven cases were presented.
- Perinatal Curbside Consultations have been occurring. These are online and open to anyone. They serve as an avenue to help pathologists solve the perinatal problems they encounter. The live interactions and collaborations provide those that join an opportunity to build their confidence. Those that would like to submit a case should do so ahead of time. These interactions have been well received with lots of enthusiasm. If anyone from the SPP wants to show a case for an unofficial second opinion or just share an interesting case, they need to submit the case to Dr. **Jason Jarzembowski** using the link: https://mcwisc.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_0PNy4a3gbygc15g

Announcements and Upcoming Initiatives

- The Perinatal Committee will look at ways to make the Perinatal Business Meeting more accessible and engaging.
- The committee is exploring the idea of assigning a Director and junior Co-Director for upcoming Perinatal Pathology Courses.
- The committee is looking forward to collaborating with the Education Committee regarding options for enduring material, based on the capabilities of the new learning management system.
- Upcoming Perinatal Symposiums
 - 2023: Portland: 10/3/2023 – 10/8/2023
 - Perinatal: New Insights into the Early Detection and Long-term Health Consequences of Pregnancy Complications



Eumenia Castro, MD, PhD
Chair, Perinatal Committee

Upcoming Meetings of Interest

<i>Meeting</i>	<i>Meeting Dates and Location</i>
French Society of Foetopathology Meeting	December 7, 2022 Institute Imagine Hôpital Necker, Paris, and virtual
SPP Spring Meeting 2023	March 10-11, 2023, New Orleans, LA
USCAP Annual Meeting	March 11-16, 2023 – New Orleans Convention Center and Hilton New Orleans Riverside – New Orleans, LA
American Association of Neuropathologists 99th Annual Meeting	June 8-11, 2023 – The Regency Monterey – Monterey, CA
IPPA Advanced Course	September 23-29, 2023, Split, Croatia
European Society of Pathology Meeting	September 9-13, 2023, Convention Center, Dublin
PPS Meeting 2023	September 2023, Madrid, final arrangements pending,
SPP Fall Meeting 2023	October 6-8, 2023, Portland, OR
SPP Spring Meeting 2024	March 22-23, 2024, Baltimore, MD

SPP Organization

Society for Pediatric Pathology

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