



Society for Pediatric Pathology
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PERINATAL AWARD RENAMED FOR KURT BENIRSCHKE, MD

Kurt Benirschke MD (1924-2018): A Pioneer in Perinatal and Placental Pathology

Oakbrook Terrace, ILL – Kurt Benirschke is a legendary figure in perinatal pathology and was likely the first pathologist to have a genuine interest in the placenta. Along with Shirley Driscoll, he wrote the first textbook on placental pathology – “The Pathology of the Human Placenta” which was first published in 1967, and has remained in print through several editions. Dr. Benirschke was not only a noted pathologist and geneticist, but he had expertise in the reproduction of humans and many mammalian species. During his career he advanced the field of perinatal pathology, producing more than 500 scientific publications, more than 100 book chapters and more than 30 books, including the internationally acclaimed text “Pathology of the Human Placenta,” now in its sixth edition. He received numerous honors and awards, including the Virginia Apgar Award in 1998 from the American Academy of Pediatrics, and the Merlin Perkins Award in 1998 by the American Zoological society. He was a member of numerous scientific societies, including the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

With his [recent passing](#) and his major contributions to the field of perinatal and placental pathology, the Board of Directors of the Society for Pediatric Pathology (SPP) has approved the renaming of the Society’s Perinatal Award to the “[Benirschke Perinatal Pathology Award](#).” The first Benirschke Perinatal Pathology award will be presented at the SPP meeting in the spring, 2020. Donations in memory of Dr. Benirschke are gratefully accepted to the [SPP Award fund](#) to support this (and other) SPP awards over the next 15 years. The Benirschke award is given at SPP member meetings to the author of the best presentation that advances the field of perinatal pathology.

For any questions regarding this, please contact SPP headquarters at spp@kellencompany.com or via phone at +212-297-2196.

To [donate online](#) and [learn more about this award](#), please visit the [SPP website](#).

About SPP: The Society for Pediatric Pathology, founded in 1965, is an educational and scientific organization of physicians and scientists who share a common interest in this vital field. Over 700 members of the Society practice in more than 60 Children's Hospitals, Community Hospitals and University Hospitals of the United States, Canada and throughout the world. It is the aim of the Society to foster research, education, and practice as they pertain to pediatric pathology, and to provide a forum for discourse among its members.

The Mission of Society for Pediatric Pathology is to perform the following and other related functions:

- To promote expertise, effective teaching and productive research in the practice of pediatric pathology.
- To assist and promote the development and recognition of resident/fellow training programs in pediatric pathology and, through the American Board of Pathology, establish and maintain a means by which pathologists may be certified as having special competency in pediatric pathology.
- To sponsor and promote the education of physicians and others in healthcare related to pediatric pathology.
- To establish and maintain appropriate relationships with other societies and groups of physicians, and other scientists, who share professional interests with the Society.

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