



# 2023

## Winter Newsletter

Volume 28, Issue 1

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### Editor's Note

As of the day I write this column, our region has just experienced a massive ice storm, reminding me that we are still in the winter season. And thus, I begin this Winter Newsletter with best wishes to all who have experienced the vicissitudes of power outages, icy roads, and yet more isolation.

The promise of Spring keeps us going, and this promise is reflected in the Newsletter's promotion of our Spring meeting in New Orleans, where as the Cajuns say, "*Laissez the bons temps rouler*", or "Let the good times roll"! As outgoing President **Laura Finn** mentions below, we will be having a hybrid meeting. If you choose to stay at home and watch from your computer monitor, I recommend that you brush up on your Hurricane mixology and put on some zydeco music in order to get the proper atmosphere. A crawdad Po'-Boy recipe wouldn't hurt, either!

While we're on the topic of our outgoing President, I would like to thank Laura and her leadership team for her/their service and for bringing us back in the post-pandemic era. Although the threat of new diseases and COVID strains still lingers, at the last meeting it was great to see everyone face to face again. This was no small accomplishment, and **Leon Metlay**, **Phil Katzman**, and their team of course also played a large role in it.

On the subject of SPP Presidents, we sadly lost another one recently with the passing of **Ron Jaffe**, who passed away on November 23. To quote from his on-line obituary, "Ron held a deep and unwavering passion for pediatric pathology throughout five decades of his life. Beyond his immense contributions in the field, he will be remembered as a generous mentor, a world-renowned scientist and a quiet yet wickedly funny colleague." [<https://jewishchronicle.timesofisrael.com/ronald-jaffe-md/>]. Ron was SPP President in 2001, when I served as Research Chair, and I remember him as a softly-spoken, effective leader.

Another SPP President who passed last year was **Derek deSa**, and I apologize for not noting this earlier. Derek was President in 2003, and he died on February 27. I have already noted last year's loss of a third President,

Enid Gilbert-Barness, in 2022; she served in 1986. To find a listing of both Past SPP Presidents and recent obituaries, check out the submenu of “About SPP”, under the “About” tab on our website.

As a final note, I would like to call attention to a recent article entitled “Why Choose a Pathology Career?” that appeared in the July 2022 issue of Archives of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine (Arch Pathology Lab Med 16:903-910, 2022). This article reviewed the results of an online survey of 609 Australian medical students, 119 prevocational [junior] doctors, 175 residents, and 355 pathologists. Traits associated with choosing pathology included desiring research opportunities, having children, and identifying oneself as introverted. The most common characteristic of those NOT choosing pathology was valuing patient exposure. Lack of exposure to pathology was cited as the most common reason for rejecting it, and there was poor general understanding of our role and low confidence in being able to interpret our reports. The authors concluded that active intervention to increase the pathology exposure of medical students was needed; this probably comes as no surprise to most of you. I wonder if a similar survey among pathologists regarding pediatric pathology would be helpful? I may be “re-inventing the wheel” here; has this been done already?

Thanks to all Newsletter contributors; see you in New Orleans!



David Parham, MD  
Newsletter Editor

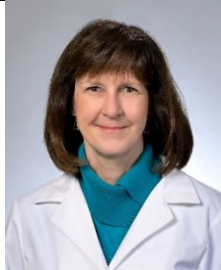
## President's Letter

As we transition into a new year, the SPP is transitioning to a new meeting format. Successful first hybrid meeting – check. Successful second hybrid meeting – here we come! The Spring Meeting will be compressed to one day, avoiding interference with the USCAP meeting and bringing to fruition the recommendations of the taskforce created by President Gino Somers in response to a membership survey. But an action-packed day it will be, filled with 3 platform sessions, a boxed-lunch business meeting, the installment of a new President and 2 Board members, the Farber-Landing Lecture, an illuminating symposium on vascular lesions, and the rousing poster blitz.

To say that COVID has changed the landscape is an understatement. But through it all the Executive Committee and Board of Directors have strived to advance the Mission of the Society. In addition, we continue to explore meeting options in a fiscally responsible fashion. Should SPP in the Spring become a companion meeting at USCAP? This is a serious consideration and one that deserves critical deliberation as meeting expenses continue to soar. Thanks to efforts of the I&C, Finance and Education committees, and our AOE partners, a newly implemented Learning Management System will allow us to more readily support virtual education options – stay tuned for Workshops coming your way this summer and novel offerings in the future.

While institutional loyalties may be buffeted by the current climate, it is gratifying to see the abiding loyalty to our profession. SPP membership is at an all-time high, powered by juniors who have fallen under the spell of pediatric and perinatal pathology. The Society continues to support and to reward pediatric pathology research activities, to provide educational opportunities, to enhance the development of our trainees, and to foster the convivial interactions that stem from our origin as a club. Hopefully, that legacy will endure.

It has been an honor and a privilege to serve the SPP as President and to gain new perspectives into its governance, to appreciate the dedication of its chairpersons and committee members, and to marvel at the collective knowledge and passion of its members. A special thanks to the Executive Committee for providing wisdom and momentum. I look forward to supporting our next president, Dr. Linda Ernst, and without challenge, will happily concede the helm. Hope to see you in New Orleans.



**Laura Finn, MD**  
SPP President

## SPP History – 25 Years Ago

President **Jim Dimmick** gave the final Message of his tenure, in which he thanked the members who tackled the agenda of the Society. He noted that the presidency had given him opportunities to see pediatric pathology as it is practiced on a global scale, and he felt confident that the SPP was pursuing the right course for research, education, and promotion of our specialty. He called for the need to continue to bring new knowledge to the field and to impress others with its value, becoming less reliant on common knowledge and protecting our mandate to study pathology from conception to adolescence. In order to do so effectively, he compared pediatric pathology to a unique specialty shop, for which remaining in business requires innovation and marketing of special products. President Dimmick finished his message by noting that intellectual “retooling” was occurring in the form of electronic information, which he foresaw as one means of meeting the challenges of marketing.

As an aside, Newsletter Editor **Edwina Popek** gave a parting jab at Dr. Dimmick’s initial Presidential address, in which he jokingly implied that a “real” pediatric pathologist wears bow-ties. In her note, she referenced a column by John T. Malloy, who implied that the bow-tie wearer sees him/herself as a rebel and that these items are traditionally worn by professions outside the mainstream, including clowns, college professors, and social and art critics. A nice send-off for the jovial Dr. Dimmick!

## Important Items



### Reminders

- Registration is open for the 2023 Spring Meeting! Visit the SPP Website for more information: <https://www.spponline.org/spring-meeting>.
- Interested in hosting a future SPP Fall Meeting?
  - Visit the SPP website at Fall Meeting Host Submissions ([spponline.org](https://www.spponline.org)) to complete an application.
- Endocrine Pathology has created a special online collection about pediatric endocrine pathology which can be found [here](#). If you have quality original articles to advance the knowledge in pediatric endocrine pathology, please consider submission to Endocrine Pathology.

### For your information

- The **Digital Pathology Association (DPA)**, with which the SPP is an Allied Society, is offering [complementary memberships](https://digitalpathologyassociation.org/digital-pathology-association-resident-fellow) to trainees and students [see <https://digitalpathologyassociation.org/digital-pathology-association-resident-fellow>]. Benefits include access to the Digital Anatomic Pathology Academy (DAPA), DAPA Grand Rounds and DPA webinars.
- **Gift from a Child (GFAC)**, a national initiative created to increase post-mortem pediatric brain tissue donation, is supported by families who have lost children to brain cancer, private foundations, researchers and medical professionals. GFAC has created a strategic infrastructure that enables participation from any family interested in the program and ensures that donated tissues are easily accessible to researchers through the Children’s Brain Tumor Network (CBTN). GFAC also works with COG to help increase the number of post-mortem donations through their centers.

GFAC invites the pathology community to join in building awareness of its program, which helps to provide families with the option to donate post-mortem tissues and to expand research for better treatments and cures. Learn more at [Gift from a Child](https://www.giftfromachild.org) and email [ginny@swiftyfoundation.org](mailto:ginny@swiftyfoundation.org) to find out how you can become a GFAC champion.



## Committee Reports



### Education Committee

#### Highlights from Last Quarter

- 2022 Slide Survey Online: Due to a later release of Case Set 3, the deadline for completion was extended to January 31, 2023.
- 2022 Fall Annual Meeting: The 2022 Fall Annual Meeting in Rochester, NY was the SPP's first-ever hybrid meeting. It offered 16.50 *AMA PRA Category 1 Credits*<sup>™</sup> and garnered 229 registered attendees. Attendees rated the meeting positively and felt that the hybrid format allowed them to attend more sessions.

#### Announcements and Upcoming Initiatives

- 2023 Spring Annual Meeting: The 2023 Spring Annual Meeting is set to occur in New Orleans, LA from March 10<sup>th</sup> – March 11<sup>th</sup>. The meeting will be a hybrid format with select recorded content available to registered attendees for 30-days post meeting until April 20, 2023.
- Workshops: Moving forward, workshops will be offered separately from the Spring Annual Meeting as live virtual presentations with live Q&A and an interactive slide review. Each workshop will be recorded and available for one year to registrants. Year 2 and 3 Workshops will be offered in August 2023 and Year 1 Workshops will be offered in January 2024. More information is forthcoming.
- The SPP is currently soliciting proposals for symposia at its Spring Annual Meetings and for workshops (for 2024 and beyond). Based on educational needs identified by the Education Committee, we are specifically seeking proposals for the following topics (please note that symposium and workshop proposals on any topic are always welcome):

##### Symposium Topics of Particular Interest:

- Pediatric liver tumors with emphasis on updates since the Spring 2018 meeting
- Pediatric skin lesions/pediatric dermatopathology (both neoplastic and non-neoplastic topics are welcomed)
- Pediatric thyroid nodules with emphasis on updates in cytologic and pathologic classification, molecular diagnostics, and management guidelines.

##### Workshop Topics of Particular Interest:

- Transplant Pathology



**Lauren Parsons, MD**  
Chair, Education Committee



### **Fellowship Committee**

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

- The Fellowship committee collaborated with the Informatics & Communications Committee to develop ways to recruit more fellows to the profession, utilize social media platforms, and educate trainees about pediatric pathology.

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

- The committee will be working directly with the Informatics & Communications Committee to create a “Day in the Life of a Pediatric Pathologist” video.



**Amer Heider, MD**  
Chair, Fellowship Committee



### **Finance Committee**

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

- In its first-ever hybrid meeting format, the SPP Fall 2022 meeting showed a net profit.
- The SPP’s 2021 annual audit was finalized with an opinion that the statement of activities, functional expenses, and cash flows for the year were presented fairly, in all material respects, and are in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.
- In order to build the draft 2023 Operations Budget, the committee collected budget forms from each committee/division within the SPP.
- The committee collaborated with the Education Committee to work on a recommendation for pricing for the new workshops format planned for 2023.

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

- The committee will continue to methodically move money over to the operating reserve account to meet the recommended \$250,000 goal.
- The committee will monitor the Spring 2023 meeting budget leading up to the meeting in March 2023.



**Jennifer Black, MD**  
Chair, Finance Committee



### Membership Committee

#### Highlights from Last Quarter

- The October Membership Committee review of applications and status transition requests resulted in the following:
  - New Regular Members: 6
  - New Junior Members: 7
  - Regular to Emeritus Transitions: 1
- The 2023 membership renewal campaign occurred last quarter. If you have not done so already, please take the time to renew your membership and remain part of our society.

#### Announcements and Upcoming Initiatives

- The most recent membership application and transition request review was recently completed in January 2023. The next review will occur in April 2023.



**Erin Rudzinski, MD**  
Chair, Membership Committee



### Publications Committee

#### Highlights from Last Quarter

- The Publications Committee has been collaborating with the Informatics & Communication Committee on the SPP's podcast.
- The Committee reviewed a manuscript presented by the Practice Committee for submission to the *PDP*.

#### Announcements and Upcoming Initiatives

- The SPP will not be renewing the *PDP* Digital Flipbook subscription at this time. This will **not** disrupt member access to the *Pediatric and Developmental Pathology* online journal.
- The committee will be hosting an Editorial Luncheon for the Editorial Board at the 2023 Spring Meeting.



**Bruce Pawel, MD**  
Chair, Publications Committee



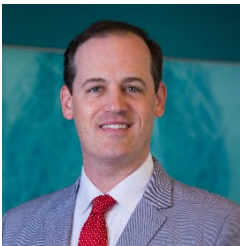
### Informatics & Communication Committee (ICC)

#### Highlights from Last Quarter

- The ICC collaborated with the Fellowship Committee to plan the development of video content reflecting a day in the life of pediatric pathologists.
- The ICC continues to manage the SPP website and is working to add additional resources. We received Executive Committee approval to develop proposals for additional atlases.
- The ICC posted weekly Job Board highlights to LinkedIn.
- Drs. Arnold and Wang began recording episodes for the podcast.
- In order to keep up with all the exciting new initiatives we are interested in pursuing, the ICC moved to monthly meetings.

#### Announcements and Upcoming Initiatives

- We will follow the SPP on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), and [LinkedIn](#) for updates.
- In order to implement the new learning management system, Ethos, the ICC will collaborate with the Education Committee.



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



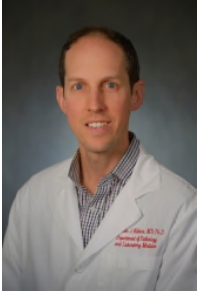
### Research & Awards Committee

#### Highlights from Last Quarter

- **Nominations for the Lotte Strauss Prize and the Enid Gilbert Barnes Prize were collected.**
- **The SPP utilized Cadmium as their new abstract submission website.**
  - We received 75 submissions.
  - The platform and poster presentation formats are being developed for a live, in-person meeting. Presenters will be required to be on-site in New Orleans, LA for the 2023 Spring Meeting.

#### Announcements and Upcoming Initiatives

- **The application window for the A. James McAdams Short-Term Study Stipend and the NEW SPP International Study Stipend will open in March.**



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

## Upcoming Meetings of Interest

| <b><i>Meeting</i></b>                                         | <b><i>Meeting Dates and Location</i></b>                                                             |
|---------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 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                                                      |
| Paediatric Pathology Society 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



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