



2022 Spring Newsletter

Volume 27, Issue 2

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Editor's Note

As Bob Dylan so aptly sang, “The times they are a’changin’”, and it strikes me that this particular issue of the SPP Newsletter profoundly illustrates that observation:

- For one thing, we welcome a new SPP President, **Laura Finn**, who kindly favored me with the pleasure of the interview that follows, highlighting her past and the new issues confronting future meetings.
- Next, the historical section notes that 25 years ago, **Paul Dickman** had just begun the conversations and work that would lead to our first presence on the World Wide Web – how far we have come since that date!
- **Gino Somers** then outlines the rationale behind another big change for the SPP, the abolishment of the Talking Stick as our talisman for the changing of SPP Presidents.
- Next, we have our usual array of Committee reports, which show the hard work and dedication that characterize our committee chairs and members. Of special note are more transitions, as some committee members finish their terms and others are added.
- Finally, I want to thank and congratulate the organizers for the recent virtual Spring SPP meeting, which highlighted the usual virtuoso performances of our platform and poster presenters, an inspiring historical Farber-Landing lecture by past President **Cynthia Kaplan**, and a stirring clarion call from **Mike Arnold** and his co-speakers on the use of social media to “spread the word” in pediatric pathology. Talk about a contrast between the old and the new!

To wrap it up, I look forward to the future, with its promise of face-to-face meetings in Rochester, Egmond-an-Zee, Rome, and Budapest. Hopefully, “herd immunity” will give us all a chance to “join the herd” and to see each other again soon. To finish with a David Crosby song, “It’s been a long time comin’”!



David Parham, MD
Newsletter Editor

President's Letter

Interview with SPP President Dr. Laura Finn, April 12, 2022

David Parham, Newsletter Editor

First Laura, let me congratulate you for your election to the post of SPP President for 2022-3. What do you hope to get accomplished this year?

Thank you for your comments - I am honored to take on the role. First and foremost, I would like to be an ambassador for our Society. I think that it is very important to influence younger pathologists and to forge new ground in mentorship. Also, I think we need to learn how to navigate the "new normal" that has been forced upon us as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. We will need to capitalize on the talents of our membership to increase our visibility, engage new learners, and energize established members. Mainly, I would like to learn how to best welcome new members into our community of pediatric pathologists.

Those are great ideas, Laura. Can you enlighten us by reviewing the events that led up to your present position? First, where did you find inspiration prior to your residency?

I found that I most enjoyed mathematics and science while attending college at Penn State University. This led to my decision to go to medical school, even though I have no family background in medicine. I attended medical school at Penn State College of Medicine in Hershey, Pennsylvania, where I preferred classroom learning to clinical rounds, except for surgery, which was my initial career choice. However, I was inspired by a pathology professor, Dr. David Brigati, whose interest in teaching and enthusiasm for pathology inspired me to also consider it as a specialty. Under his tutelage, I discovered that I have an "eye" for microscopy and could see things that my classmates did not.

How were you led into pediatric pathology as a subspecialty?

I did my pathology residency at University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, which had an excellent group of specialties including ENT, OB/GYN, Transplant Surgery, among others, so that I had a great exposure to a wide field of diseases. At this time, five years of post-doctoral training were a prerequisite for taking the Pathology Boards. During my second and third years, I was exposed to the excellent teaching of Drs. **Ed Yunis** and **Ron Jaffe**, who inspired me to learn more about pediatrics. Of note, their pediatric pathology fellow, Dr. **Mouied Alashari** [now at University of Utah School of Medicine], particularly influenced me because he shared his joy in and enthusiasm for our subspecialty. This fact illustrates the point that fellows can be just as important as faculty in recruiting.

After you finished your fellowship at Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh, how did your career develop?

After a brief stint at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP), I was recruited by **Denis Benjamin**, the Lab Director at Seattle Children's Hospital (SCH) to join the faculty. **Raj Kapur** had returned to the University of

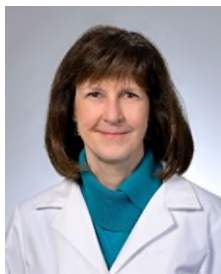
Washington to focus on his basic research, and I was hired to fill the void. A few years after, Denis left for Fort Worth, and the hospital chose **Joe Rutledge** to be the Lab Director. A bit later, Joe was able to lure Raj back to SCH, and the four of us, **Kathy Patterson**, Joe, Raj, and me, comprised a group of synergistic, enthusiastic individuals who had a great working relationship that nourished my growth as a pathologist.

After Kathy and Joe retired, and life happened, I decided it was time for a change, so strangely enough, I returned to CHOP, rejoining one of my initial colleagues, **Eduardo Ruchelli**, as well as a former collaborator, **Pierre Russo**, who has recently stepped down as AP Director. Pierre has been an enjoyable and admirable colleague, mentor, and friend, and CHOP has great pathology material for study and growth. I think my other new colleagues are learning to tolerate me! My regret is that because of the restrictions imposed by the pandemic, I have not made the connections with my surgical and clinical colleagues that I would have liked. I have come to realize how important and rewarding these connections are, and I look forward to the end of the COVID era when I will be better poised to engage with clinicians. I cannot stress too much to younger pathologists just how important it is to interact with your clinical colleagues as part of a team-oriented approach. Plus, I always learn something from them while conversing around a microscope.

That's a great personal history, Laura, and it highlights good lessons about mentorship and collegiality. Let's discuss some things that you consider to be challenges for the coming year.

First, virtual learning has been a big success for the SPP, but it will be costly for a society of our size to offer combined virtual and in-person meetings. The dynamics have been changing for a number of reasons, such as the expense of travel and the opportunities and expectations of a virtual platform. However, I feel that our members are desperate to re-engage, and for new graduates, in-person conferences offer comradery, a supportive community, and the possibility of meeting future mentors who are leaders in the field and have the ability to inspire and to teach us for years to come. These "off-line" interactions and discussions have such a strong potential to mold careers that it would be a great loss not to offer both opportunities. I think that many SPP committees will be working hard to meet the dual needs of our membership.

Secondly, the word "cheerleader" comes to mind, and I think that's what we must be in order to sustain our subspecialty. My own career is replete with examples of folks who modelled the exceptional qualities of pediatric pathology, and I pose that word to all members as a goal for navigating a new millennium.



Laura Finn, MD
SPP President

SPP History – 25 Years Ago

SPP Newsletter Editor **Edwina Popek** hailed the achievements of the Annual Spring meeting for 1997, held in the Orlando World Center in Florida, which included a seminar on the value of the perinatal autopsy. She also welcomed the new President **Jim Dimmick**, who was featured in a cover photo receiving the "Talking Stick" from the outgoing President **John Buchino**. Dr. Dimmick's President's Address featured a vignette of his observation that most pediatric pathologists had inherited a "bow-tie" gene that encouraged use of this ornament as a neck decoration. Dr. Popek lamented the fact that she had not received her full allotment of this gene, but that she was grateful not to have inherited the facial hair gene so strongly expressed by Dr.

Dimmick! She noted however that Dr. Dimmick also possessed ample allotments of the intelligence and humor which makes the SPP unique.

On a more serious note, in his Presidential Message Dr. Dimmick called attention to the important ventures set in motion by the Houston Strategic Planning Retreat, including the Founders' Endowment Fund, membership growth (particular among general practitioners), and new efforts by the Education Committee, Practice Committee, and an ad hoc committee [chaired by **Paul Dickman**] exploring an internet presence for the Society.

SPP Update

Tradition and Change – Striking the Right Balance

Traditions can be wonderful things. They provide a link with the past and remind us of our origins and cherished values. However, at times we need to reappraise our traditions in light of changed values and renewed insight. This recently happened with our incoming President's welcoming ceremony.

In 1979, the SPP President, Dr. David Hardwick from University of British Columbia (UBC) in Vancouver, BC, commissioned an indigenous Canadian artist of the Salish peoples of British Columbia to carve a "talking stick". The talking stick would be given to the newly-appointed SPP President at each Spring meeting, and it would provide a continual physical link for Presidents over the history of the SPP. The stick was designed with several motifs reflective of the SPP's values, including the Serpent (symbol of wisdom), the Frog (symbol of Life), and a Bear mother holding her child (healer and protector). Dr. Hardwick put much thought and sensitivity into choosing the motifs, and it soon became an integral part of SPP's history.

In May of 2021, Canada's history underwent a reckoning. Two-hundred and fifteen bodies of indigenous Canadian children, some as young as three years old, were discovered on the site of a former residential school in British Columbia. More soon followed. In light of this tragedy, one of our Canadian members, **Dr. David Gynspan**, called into question the propriety of the SPP's use of the talking stick for ceremonial purposes. This was brought to the SPP Executive Committee and immediately recognized as a priority. Together with **Sarah Ryan** from AOE, I examined the talking stick tradition in light of renewed cultural awareness.

Sarah and I sought expert opinions regarding the SPP's use of the talking stick. We reached out to several experts in Native American traditions, including an indigenous knowledge keeper, an academic historian, and an executive with Association on American Indian Affairs [<https://www.indian-affairs.org>]. All agreed that the use of the talking stick for a medical society in a non-indigenous ceremony was an inappropriate form of cultural appropriation. One quote from a particular conversation with the Anishinaabe knowledge keeper has stayed with me: *"The talking stick embodies the spirits of elders, and it needs nourishment and comfort in the appropriate community setting. It is not an object to be handed from person to person."* This both enlightened and humbled me, and it was clear that we needed to change our practices.

Armed with the experts' opinions, we changed our practice. We have replaced the talking stick with a more appropriate gift, a wooden desk plate containing the SPP emblem carved in its surface, which will be given to each incoming President as a keepsake. In addition, the current iteration of the talking stick has been returned to its land of origin, where it resides in the David Hardwick Museum of Learning at UBC with a small explanatory note.

The talking stick is part of SPP's history and was designed with sensitivity and the very best of intentions. It highlights the importance of questioning our traditions, and it emphasizes the values of compassion, learning, and change as the SPP moves forward to a new chapter in our shared history.



Gino Somers
Past President, SPP, 2020-21

Important Items



Reminders

- Save the date: Fall Meeting
 - October 6-9, 2022 – University of Rochester Medical Center, Rochester, NY
- Slide Survey 2022
 - Registration has launched, and release of Case Set 1 is currently planned for May.

Committee Reports



Education Committee

Highlights from Last Quarter

- The 2022 Spring Annual Meeting occurred March 19th – 20th, 2022. There was a total of 232 attendees.
- The SPP received “Accreditation” status from the ACCME in March 2022.
- 2021 Annual Reporting is complete and has been submitted to the ACCME accreditation board.

Announcements and Upcoming Initiatives

- Planning for the 2022 Fall Annual Meeting is underway. Plan to join us in Rochester, NY from October 5th- October 9th.
- The committee is looking forward to expanding educational offerings and exploring new educational initiatives.



Laura Parsons, MD
Chair, Education Committee

Fellowship Committee

Highlights from Last Quarter

- Fellowship Committee met during the SPP Spring Meeting:
 - Thank you to departing committee members committee for your service:
 - **Nicoleta Arva, MD, PhD**
 - **Heather Rytting, MD**
 - **Nick Shillingford, MD**
 - Welcome to new members:
 - **Nahir Cortes Santiago, MD, PhD**
 - **Maria Queenan, MD**
 - **Daniel Leino, MD, MPH**
- A Pediatric Pathology Fellow Survey is under development and will be shared with the Fellowship Committee once completed. The goal will be to help everyone in the society understand trends to help with future improvement efforts.
- **Cristina Pacheco** gave an overview of the House of Representatives – HR 5487 bill and explained the impact to pediatric pathology and the details of the bill.
- American Boards of Pathology reported a passing rate of 91% (20/22) for the past fellowship exam.

Announcements and Upcoming Initiatives

- The Fellowship Committee will initiate recruitment efforts and a “Call for Committee Interest” to slate Junior membership for 2022 in June/July 2022.
- The Committee will be liaising with the I&C Committee to discuss Slide Survey advertisement opportunities.
- The Committee would also like to pursue the development of a 1-hour lecture to comprehensively talk about the pediatric pathology fellowship and the SPP.



Amer Heider, MD
Chair, Fellowship Committee

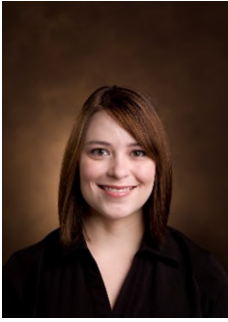
Finance Committee

Highlights from Last Quarter

- The committee completed their review of the SPP’s 2022 operational budget. Finance leadership provided feedback and insight to AOE throughout the budgeting process.
- The SPP financial portfolio continues to demonstrate significant growth.
- AOE’s financial management has allowed for increased transparency of the Society’s financial processes and necessary updates to streamline bookkeeping processes.
- At the Spring Meeting, the Board of Directors approved the Finance committee’s proposal to increase the awards amount from \$75,000 to \$100,000 for 2022.

Announcements and Upcoming Initiatives

- The committee will continue to strategize ways to implement key initiatives and member requests from the data collected in the Fall Meeting Evaluation Survey, including future SPP meeting formats (Spring and Fall), online educational offerings, outreach, and related financial implications.
- The committee will continue active management of award funds and distribution.



Jennifer Black, MD
Chair, Finance Committee

Membership Committee

Highlights from Last Quarter

- The Membership application and transition request process was completed in January 2022. The SPP transitioned 2 members to Emeritus and welcomed 2 new affiliate, 2 new junior, and 7 new regular members.
- An attendee ribbons feature was again added to the virtual Spring Meeting, in order to help attendees to identify others with similar experience and to recognize SPP leadership.
- The committee welcomed 2 new members for the 2022-2026 term:
 - **Dr. Alex Feldman**
 - **Dr. Kudakwashe Chikwava**
- With help from AOE new association management company and with additions to the new website, the membership renewal for 2022 concluded on March 31, 2022.
- The committee finalized the “New Member Benefit Packet” that in the future will be sent to all new members of the Society, in order for these individuals to understand what they get with SPP membership. This will also be posted on the SPP website under “Publications.”

Announcements and Upcoming Initiatives

- The next membership application and transition request review is underway for April 2022.
- Liaising with the Information and Communications Committee, the Membership Committee would like to expand the SPP’s outreach for attracting new members.
- The committee is working to identify new project and focus areas for 2022.



Erin Rudzinski, MD
Chair, Membership Committee

Publications Committee

Highlights from Last Quarter

- The Publications Committee met at the Spring 2022 meeting and recognized the new and departing members of the committee.
 - Thank you to departing members:
 - **Dr. Anita Sengupta**
 - **Dr. Luis Velasquez Zarate**
 - **Dr. Monique De Paepe**
 - Welcome to the new member:

▪ **Dr. Amelia Sybenga**

- **Dr. Bruce Pawel** was recognized as the new Chair of the Committee, taking over from the superb work of **Dr. Monique De Paepe**.
- The SAGE publishers report was given at the Publications Committee meeting, and it noted the overall health of the journal and areas for improvement.
- The *PDP* transitioned to a fully virtual Journal as of January 2022.
 - The first issue was the *Perspectives* issue, which was published as a Nxtbook [<https://www.nxtbookmedia.com>].

Announcements and Upcoming Initiatives

- In conjunction with the Editorial Board, the committee presented and approved its preference to move all issues of the *PDP* to the Nxtbook format. Steps are now in progress to ensure that future issues are provided to SPP members in this format.
- We will continue to pursue the following goals of the *PDP*:
 - maintaining publishing standards
 - expanding journal discoverability
 - lowering the review turnaround time
 - maintaining article submission flow
 - increasing the impact factor
 - expanding diversification of the editorial board.



Bruce Pawel, MD
Chair, Publications Committee

Informatics & Communication Committee

Highlights from Last Quarter

- The Twitter account has 2,432 followers (130 new since October 2021), and we are now using TweetDeck for scheduling posts [<https://help.twitter.com/en/using-twitter/tweetdeck>]. The most popular posts have been around meeting announcements and job postings.
- The committee has been working with the Education and Slide Survey Chairs to engage in LMS [learning management system] demos and to draft a recommendation to Executive Committee. This will be a central, streamlined place to host all SPP educational activities.

Announcements and Upcoming Initiatives

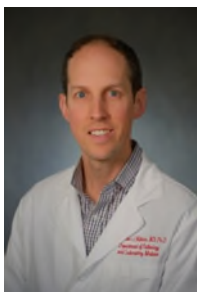
- The committee is planning to increase the online presence of the SPP under the leadership of **Mike Arnold** by working with PDP to post open access articles and interviews with authors.
- The committee will finish revision of the pediatric pathology Wikipedia page (started by **Hal Hawkins**).
- The committee will continue to assist in the selection and building of online platforms for future meetings, if necessary.



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

Research & Awards Committee

- Spring 2022 Awards:
 - The **Gordon F. Vawter** Pathologist-in-Training Award recognizes the meritorious work of medical students, residents and fellows.
 - **Catherine Gestrich**, DO Boston Children's Hospital
 - *Papillary Hemangiomas Harbor GNA11 and GNAQ Mutations*
 - The **Harry B. Neustein** Award recognizes abstracts presenting meritorious work involving electron microscopy or novel technology in the study of disorders of children.
 - **Takato Yamasaki**, MD Boston Children's Hospital & Mie University Graduate School of Medicine
 - *Online Atlas of High-Resolution 3D Reconstructions of Congenital Heart Defects Generated by Microfocus Computed Tomography*
 - The **Kurt Benirschke** Perinatal Pathology Award recognizes the best presentation that advances the field of perinatal pathology.
 - **Jefferson Terry**, MD, PhD BC Children's Hospital
 - *Placental Interferon Signaling is Involved in Chronic Intervillositis of Unknown Etiology*
 - The **Lotte Strauss** Prize recognizes the meritorious work by an individual 40 years of age or younger in a subject germane to pediatric pathology, published or accepted for publication.
 - **Jennifer Picarsic**, MD Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center
 - *ALK-positive histiocytosis: a new clinicopathologic spectrum highlighting neurologic involvement and responses to ALK inhibition*
 - [Ed. Note: Published in *Blood* 2022 Jan 13;139(2):256-280, <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC8759533/>]
 - The **Enid Gilbert Barnes** Prize recognizes the impact of an outstanding pediatric pathology paper on anatomic pathology, clinical practice, research or public health and to encourage excellence and relevance in pediatric pathology practice.
 - **Vinodh Pillai**, MD, PhD Children's Hospital of Philadelphia
 - *Kikuchi-Fujimoto disease is mediated by an aberrant type I interferon response*
 - [Ed. Note: Published in *Mod Pathol* 35, 462–469 (2022). <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41379-021-00992-7>]



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

Practice Committee

Highlights from Last Quarter

- We welcome 3 new committee members: **Dr. Matthew Keisling**, **Dr. Randall Craver**, and **Dr. Bonnie Cole**.
- The article, *Recommendations on Placental Triage*, **Dr. Drucilla Roberts**, is in the final stages of writing.
- **Dr. Mika Warren** presented her abstract, *Electron Microscopy in Pediatric Pathology Practice Survey*, at the Spring Meeting.

Announcements and Upcoming Initiatives

- The Practice and Perinatal committees are combining efforts to write a response to an important article published in the Green Journal.
- **Dr. Robyn Reed** and Practice committee members are collaborating with local surgeons on creating a set of questions to include in an Appendectomy Survey.
- The committee is drafting a survey regarding Genetic and Genomic Test Stewardship Initiatives in Pediatric Pathology.



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

Perinatal Committee

Highlights from Last Quarter

- We welcome one new committee member: **Dr. Alysa Poulin**.
- [The Curbside Perinatal Consultation sessions](#) continue to be well received with lots of enthusiasm. It is an avenue to help pathologists solve difficult and unique perinatal cases. Live interactions and collaborations provide those that join with an opportunity to build their confidence, and they are open to anyone. You may submit a case to be shared at [this link](#). Sessions occur on the first and third Monday of the month at 5-5:30 PM EST.
- The committee continues to address relevant issues, such as placentophagy and perinatal pathology reporting.
- The Perinatal and Practice committees are collaborating on a response to the article, *Pathologic Assessment of the Placenta* [Ed. note – published on line in *Obstet Gynecol* Mar 10, 2022, https://journals.lww.com/greenjournal/Citation/9900/Pathologic_Assessment_of_the_Placenta_Evidence.412.aspx].

Announcements and Upcoming Initiatives

- Upcoming Perinatal Symposiums
 - 2022: Rochester: 10/5/2022 – 10/9/2022
 - Perinatal: Evaluation of Birth Defects Due to Teratogenic versus Genetic Effects in Perinatal Pathology
 - 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>
International Paediatric Pathology Association (IPPA) Advanced Course	May 7-13, 2022 – Egmond aan Zee, Netherlands
American Association of Neuropathologists 98 th Annual Meeting	June 9-12, 2022 – Bonita Springs, FL
International Paediatric Pathology Association (IPPA) Update	June 18-21, 2022 – Crowne Plaza, Rome, Italy
Paediatric Pathology Society 2022 Meeting	September 8-9, 2022 – Budapest, Hungary
SPP Fall 2022 Meeting	October 6-9, 2022 – University of Rochester Medical Center, Rochester, NY

SPP Organization

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