



SOCIETY FOR PEDIATRIC PATHOLOGY

NEWSLETTER



SPP Quarterly Newsletter | Winter 2025

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Editor's Note

Hello to all SPP members with this winter edition of the SPP Newsletter. The past season has wrought several transitions: a new administration, deadly fires in LA, winter storms in the east, and a change to spring guardianship of our Society by the USCAP. That said, I hope to see all of you at the USCAP Spring meeting, where a number of SPP-related events are detailed by our president Christina Pacheco.

A sad transition has also occurred with yet another of our esteemed former leaders: Bruce Beckwith recently left us, as detailed in this issue by his widow and long term companion Nancy. Bruce exerted such a strong and positive influence in the three hospitals that he served, Seattle Children's Hospital, Denver Children's Hospital, and Loma Linda University Hospital. His work with the National Wilms' Tumor Study Group is legendary, with personal letters that he sent out for each tumor he examined. His methods were the ideal for every pathology reviewer that ever worked in childhood cancer study groups, and he also made strong inroads into fetal and forensic pathology. Bruce was a good personal friend of mine and took time to mentor me at critical moments in my own career.

For the past several issues, it feels that I am the perennial bearer to bad news like the deaths of Bruce, Kevin, Paul, and others. However, in reviewing this issue's historical column, I am cheered by all of the positive changes that have occurred in the SPP, and I look forward to our upcoming groundbreaking meeting.

David Parham, MD

SPP Newsletter Editor

President's Letter

Dear SPP Members,

I hope all of you are having a good New Year! I always am glad to get through January and to see the days slowly start to lengthen.

In March, I am looking forward to seeing fellow SPP members and to becoming an official Companion Society at the USCAP. On March 22, we hope you will come to a private reception for SPP members, generously hosted by Boston Children's--many thanks to them! Details & RSVP available [here](#). On Monday, March 24th, we are hoping that you plan to stay for the Pediatric Evening Specialty Session and to join us for a preceding reception from 5:30pm - 6:30pm. The Monday reception is hosted by SPP and open to those interested in pediatric pathology. Please bring your trainees! On Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, the SPP will have a booth at the USCAP expo, and on Tuesday around noon we will announce the winner of the first SPP USCAP Pathologist-in-Training Award for the best pediatric pathology abstract submitted to the USCAP Meeting. We are hoping that you will encourage all your trainees to come by, especially the residents. Special thanks to Dr. Jennifer Picarsic and the USCAP Booth Task Force for all their work on the design and planning. We hope these efforts will pay off with more trainees entering our fellowships and more pediatric pathologists!

Once again, we are pleased to see that the annual workshops were a tremendous success. If you missed the live streaming events, you may still register and watch the recorded versions throughout this year. As usual, the topics provided a nice variety, with Drs. Chandra Krishnan and Amy Coffey presenting two sessions on Pediatric Lymphadenopathy, Drs. Robyn Reed and Juan Putra presenting on Pediatric Liver and Kidney Pathology, and Drs. Mariko Sushi and Tricia Bhatti presenting on Pediatric Pancreatic Disease. Thank you to all the presenters and moderators of the four sessions.

Currently we have four active task forces: the USCAP Booth Task Force, the Mentoring Task Force, the Placenta Reporting Task Force, and the Joint Meeting Task Force. A Fetopsy Task Force is currently being planned. We will have reports posted from each of the active task forces this spring. Thank you to all the members who put their names in for consideration. More opportunities to serve the SPP will be forthcoming.

It is hard to believe that we will soon begin planning the SPP Fall 2027 Meeting. If your group would like to consider hosting, please complete the [Fall Host Site Proposal](#). We have changed the process, and potential hosts can submit a proposal with or without educational symposia. If the host institution does not propose a pediatric or perinatal symposium, a call for a symposium will go to membership. We hope this will allow more opportunities for people to participate in the planning and production of meetings. Please consider showing off your city and the expertise of your group. The fall 2025 meeting will be in Philadelphia, PA, and hosted by Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, and the fall 2026 meeting will be in Columbus, OH, and hosted by Nationwide Children's Hospital.

Finally, I would like to thank Rachael Lowery, our Executive Director, and the entire AMI team for their collaboration over the past year. We were able to successfully transition our management, and it has been a pleasure working together.

I hope to see you in Boston!

Cristina Pacheco

SPP President

Donation Campaign Highlight

Thank you to those who participated in our end-of-year matching campaign! **A total of \$6,350 was donated.** Funds will be distributed between the awards and general operating funds. All funds donated to SPP are 100% tax deductible!

Thank You
for your support

USCAP Preview

We are looking forward to seeing many of you at USCAP 2025, where SPP is an official companion society. The USCAP meeting will replace the SPP Spring Meetings held in the past. There are many opportunities to engage throughout the meetings-- see happenings outlined below, and look for our members presenting at other courses throughout the week!

Date: March 22nd - 27th, 2025

Location: Boston Convention & Exhibition Center, Boston, MA

See more information [here](#) & to register.

Highlights of USCAP Pediatric Pathology Offerings

Full schedule available [here](#). To see all Pediatric & Perinatal sessions, select "Search/Filter Program" and under Track, click "Pediatric and Perinatal Pathology," then Submit.

- Stowell-Orbison | Pediatric & Perinatal Poster Session: Monday, 9:30AM - 12:00PM, Exhibit Hall
- Stowell-Orbison | Pediatric & Perinatal Poster Session II: Monday, 1:00PM - 4:30PM, Exhibit Hall
- Evening Specialty Conference | Pediatric Pathology: Monday, 7:00PM - 8:30PM; BCEC Room 210A
- Platform | Pediatric & Perinatal Pathology: Tuesday, 8:00AM - 9:30AM, BCEC Room 205A

SPP at USCAP

- Expo Booth
 - We look forward to welcoming you all to the SPP USCAP booth! Stop by for some new #SPP swag, snap a selfie, and meet and greet with new and old friends. For those wanting a more in-depth experience, feel free to sign-up [HERE](https://ami.jotform.com/243254967486067) (<https://ami.jotform.com/243254967486067>) as an official booth volunteer. SPP booth volunteers are asked to stay the entire time of their designated slot and may use that time to interact with booth visitors to highlight a first-hand experience about the wonderful world of Pediatric Pathology - a specialty where you can "grow your career in any direction."
 - Expo Hall, Booth #1023

- Monday, March 24th | 9:30AM – 5:00PM Tuesday, March 25th | 9:30AM – 5:00PM
Wednesday, March 26th | 9:00AM – 4:00PM
- Society for Pediatric Pathology USCAP Pathology-in-Training Award
 - To be given to the best trainee presentation, poster or platform
 - Will be announced at the expo booth on Tuesday
- Private Reception for SPP Members
 - Hosted by Boston Children's, RSVP required
 - Saturday, March 22nd, 7:30:00PM - 9:00PM
 - Appetizers & beverages available
 - [RSVP by March 17th here](#)
- Open Reception
 - Monday, 5:30PM - 6:30PM
 - Omni Hotel, Momentum Ballroom Section D South
 - All are welcome to attend; hors d' oeuvres and bar available
- SPP Symposium: *Congenital Tumors Encountered in Surgical and Autopsy Pathology*
 - Sunday, March 23rd, 2025, 8:00AM - 10:00AM
 - Session Chair: Lauren Parsons, MD, Medical College of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, WI

Symposium Lineup:

Speaker One:

Introduction to Congenital Tumors and Their Potential in Utero Effects

Linda Ernst, MD, MHS

NorthShore University Health System, Evanston, IL

Speaker Two:

Congenital Neuroblastic Tumors

Jason Jarzembowski, MD, PhD

Medical College of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, WI

Speaker Three:

Congenital Germ Cell Tumors

Miguel Reyes-Mugica, MD

University of Miami Miller School of Medicine, Miami, FL

Speaker Four:

Congenital Myeloproliferative Disorders/Leukemias

Karen Chisholm, MD, PhD

Seattle Children's Hospital, Seattle, WA

SPP 2025 Fall Meeting



The meeting hotel block is available for discounted room reservations [here](#).

Abstract timelines will be released soon, along with a starting program.

The SPP is open to exhibitors and sponsors! Details, prospectus, and sign ups available [here](#).

January Workshops



Call for future workshops! The SPP Education Committee is currently accepting proposals for 2026 and 2027 workshops. To submit a proposal, [click here](#).

The 2025 January Workshops were a success; thank you to all our speakers and those who attended live! All workshop recordings are posted and available for credit claiming through January 2026.

Part I & II: Pediatric Lymphadenopathy: A Systematic and Pattern-Based Review of Benign and Malignant Lymph Node Pathology

Chandra Krishan, MD; Dell Children's Medical Center and the University of Texas – Dell Medical School

Amy Coffey, MD; Dell Children's Medical Center and the University of Texas – Dell Medical School

Workshop Overview:

This workshop will review benign and malignant lymph node pathology, focused on entities seen frequently in the pediatric and young adult setting. Many practicing pediatric pathologists are increasingly finding their practice being segmented into subspecialty based case triage. Nevertheless,

lymph node biopsies and excisions continue to represent a regular part of general pediatric surgical pathology.

Depending on the level of exposure within an individual member, we will provide a focused and methodical review of how to approach pediatric lymphadenopathies. We will explore thoughtful use of immunohistochemistry based on best practices from a hematopathology perspective to help separate benign from malignant mimics. Within the area of malignant lymphomas, we will introduce and explain new WHO / ICC nomenclature in the setting of high grade B-cell lymphomas, along with the appropriate ancillary testing for specific lymphomas. Finally, we will review and explain the approach to adenopathies in the context of post-transplant settings. Specifically, we will review the criteria within the new WHO Pediatric tumors PTLID chapter with case examples to contrast with benign mimics.

Pediatric Liver and Kidney Transplant Pathology

Robyn C. Reed, MD, PhD; Seattle Children's Hospital

Juan Putra, MD; Boston Children's Hospital

Workshop Overview

The Education Committee has identified transplant pathology as an educational priority for SPP members. Kidney and liver are the most commonly transplanted organs in pediatric patients, and transplant biopsies are frequent specimens in many pediatric pathology practices. This workshop will provide pathologists and trainees with essential education and updates on the fundamentals of kidney and liver transplant biopsy interpretation. The workshop will emphasize recognizing and classifying acute and chronic cellular and antibody-mediated graft rejection. It will also cover common histologic mimics of rejection in transplant biopsies, including drug toxicities, ischemia, infection, and (for liver) biliary obstruction. The presentation will incorporate case presentations using virtual slides.

Surgical Pathology of Pediatric Pancreatic Diseases

Mariko Suchi, MD, PhD; Medical College of Wisconsin

Tricia Bhatti, MD; Children's Hospital and Philadelphia and Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania

Workshop Overview

Specimens from the pancreas are generally rarely seen within a typical pediatric surgical pathology setting; however, the range of potential etiologies for pancreatic disease is wide including developmental and neoplastic processes. Furthermore, there are a subset of pancreatic biopsies/resection specimens received from patients with rare genetic causes of hyperinsulinism that are treated only in a few centers worldwide. The goal of the workshop is to familiarize practicing pediatric pathologists with the histology of the entities more commonly seen in surgical specimens including those secondary to trauma, pancreatic tumors (exocrine and endocrine) as well as the less commonly seen disorders of congenital hyperinsulinism. The workshop aims to be not only the starting point but also the source of reference for practicing pediatric pathologists to optimize understanding and handling of pancreatic surgical specimens.

The SPP 25 Years Ago

After four years of service, Edwina Popek signed off as the Newsletter editor, to be replaced by Art Weinberg. Outgoing President Joe Rutledge offered post-millennial reflections on issues facing the SPP. These included the need for volunteerism, the difficulties with time management facing volunteers, the effective use of national outreach to extend the influence of the SPP, opportunities for broader participation in health care, and the need for pediatric pathology to include molecular pathology

in its all-encompassing approach. The Long-Range Planning Committee, chaired by Derek deSa, identified seven items for follow-up, including:

1. Define and measure pediatric pathology's unique value
2. Develop and foster effective leaders
3. Create a "broad tent-easy entry" approach for membership
4. Promote pediatric pathology research
5. Strengthen influence on the practice of pathology
6. Apply new communication technologies to education
7. Improve revenue with endowments, advertising, and sponsorships

Bruce Beckwith, MD: A Memoriam

Bruce was born on September 18th, 1933 to parents who provided the perfect foundation for a happy and successful life. Growing up in St. Ignatius, a town then more attractive than in recent years, he had greater affection for books and animals than for other more typical boyhood interests. His father, growing up during the period when the automobile was becoming popular, developed a love for cars that led to his career as owner of a gas station that was often occupied by men playing cards and enjoying friendly conversation.



Bruce's parents allowed him to pursue his own path through boyhood, without pressuring him to become involved in athletics or other typical social activities.

Bruce enjoyed school classes, and always stood at or near the top of the class, but had scant interest in athletics or other social activities. His younger sister, Sue, spent her high school years school in Walla Walla, and during a visit to that town, Bruce discovered Whitman College, which proved to be the perfect place to pursue his college education. He joined a fraternity composed mostly of scholars instead of social and athletic leaders, and had a happy and successful college career. He soon discovered that the heavier his course work, the better were his grades. One of his professors, Arthur Rempel, professor of Biology, was particularly inspirational, and was a major factor in his decision to seek a career in medicine.

At Whitman he developed a relationship with a classmate from California, Lorna Gurlay, and by taking a few courses at the University of California during the summer after the second year was able to graduate in three years, ranked second in the class. Accepted by the University of Washington School of Medicine, he married Lorna in September, 1954, shortly after graduation from Whitman. She was primarily responsible for their support, but soon became pregnant with their first daughter, who was born in September, 1956. This required Bruce to be the primary income provider. Working during the academic year was frowned upon by the school, but local hospitals employed a few medical students to record histories and physical examinations for patients admitted for surgery. After his second year this made it possible for him to earn enough to sustain the family, living in Yesler terrace, a housing project for low-income families in Seattle. During his third year the school discovered that he was violating their restriction concerning working during the academic year. When called to the Dean's office, he explained that he had no alternative due to family responsibilities. Students were not informed about their academic performance unless they were experiencing difficulties, but the

Dean indicated that since he was doing quite well, he could continue working evenings as long as he continued to succeed in his studies. In 1957, his second daughter was born.

During his second year Bruce developed an interest in the field of pathology. During his final year Bruce indicated during a conversation with Dr. Bob Aldrich, Chair of Pediatrics, that he had originally been interested in pathology, but was finding pediatrics to be equally interesting. Bob' response made Bruce's career decision an easy one. "Did you know there is a field called "pediatric pathology?" Hearing those two words together, his career decision was an easy one.

Specialized internships were just being introduced. and Aldrich had for several years been developing an internship in clinical pediatrics. He indicated that Bruce, and a classmate planning to become a pediatric radiologist, would be perfect "test pilots" for that internship. This suggestion, which provided a unique foundation for their careers, was followed by another unique opportunity for Bruce. The new head of pathology at Los Angeles Children's Hospital (LACH), Dr. Daniel Stowens, had ended the tradition of employing interns from other institutions for a brief exposure to pediatric pathology, replacing them with two trainees who would spend an entire year in pediatric pathology. Bruce and his fellow intern, who would later become head of Pediatric Pathology at the University of British Columbia, had a spectacular year at LACH. During that year, Bruce discovered cases in the older files that had some unique features that would later be designated the "Beckwith-Wiedemann Syndrome (BWS)".

Following the year at LACH Bruce served as Resident in Pathology at Cedars of Lebanon Hospital in LA from 1962-'64, and two subsequent years at LACH. The birth of a second daughter had created the need for more income, and Bruce obtained a position as deputy with the Los Angeles Coroner's Office, going to funeral homes throughout the county to examine and when necessary perform autopsies on patients reported to that office. Because of his unusual pediatric experience, Phillip Lieberman, the person responsible for assigning cases to deputies, made a point of selecting pediatric cases for Bruce whenever possible. This unique opportunity to investigate cases of sudden infant death from one of the most populous counties in the nation enabled his recognition of what would later be termed the Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS). The discovery of BWS and SIDS during his training years, became his most important contributions to knowledge.

In 1966, Bruce and his family returned to Seattle Children's Hospital, where he would serve for many years as head of Anatomical Pathology under Dr. Allison Creighton, Director of Laboratories and head of the Clinical Pathology laboratories. During his Seattle years, Bruce wrote numerous articles and several books, and became increasingly well known in his field.

He was designated the pathology reviewer for a national multicenter study of Wilms' Tumor, the most common malignant tumor of the pediatric kidney. This provided a unique opportunity to discover several neoplasms formerly considered as Wilms tumor, and to further explore the pathogenesis of pediatric renal neoplasia.

Despite increasing national and international stature in his profession, family life was less happy. His wife was entirely focused upon raising and training three fine daughters in the domestic arts, and allowed no discussion of his work at home. When he brought home a newly published book or monograph he had written, she might scan the cover, but rarely even riffled the pages.

In 1983, he decided to live a separate life. Not long thereafter the accidental administration of the wrong medications by a hospital nurse prior to a planned surgical procedure led to Lorna's sudden death.

In 1984 Nancy Browning who, despite having a master's degree in wildlife biology, applied for a secretarial position in Bruce's laboratory. The interviewer indicated that this position would involve

typing Dr. Beckwith's correspondence, drafts of his publications, etc. His notoriously poor handwriting had led to the departure of several previous secretaries, and when shown an example of that, instead of reacting with horror like previous applicants for this position, she laughed loudly. Hearing the laughter, he would later suggest that his love for Nancy may have begun at that moment. A happy relationship soon developed, leading to an exceptionally happy marriage. Nancy not only typed his papers, but her background in biology enabled her to make substantial improvements in them. This happy relationship led to a wonderful marriage that endured from 1984 until his death.

Following several years at Children's Hospital in Seattle, Bruce was recruited by Children's Hospital in Denver, where he served for several years. Several of his resident trainees in Denver were from Loma Linda University (LLU), an institution whose student body was largely limited to members of the Seventh Day Adventist (SDA) Church. Those residents convinced LLU to offer a faculty position to Bruce, which would provide the same salary as at Denver, but without the administrative load that position typically entailed. He was required only to give a few lectures a year and was available to institutions from around the world who invited him to serve as visiting professor for varying lengths of time. This unique opportunity enabled Bruce and Nancy to spend time in many countries during the remaining years of his career. He authored or co-authored several textbooks and approximately 300 articles in scientific journals. Among numerous awards and distinctions, he served a term as President of the Society for Pediatric Pathology, was named an Honorary Fellow of the Royal College of Pathologists in England, and was the 2006 recipient of the Distinguished Pathologist award of the U.S. and Canadian Academy of Pathology.

By the time Bruce had reached retirement age, he and Nancy found that Missoula Montana, not far from his boyhood home, was the ideal place to live. They built a home in Brookside, a development in that city, enjoying happy lives surrounded by cats, birds and books.

Connect with SPP

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