The 14th Annual Meeting Receives Accolades as Best Meeting Ever

The Annual meeting of the ESPR was held for the first time at the Hyatt Regency in Greenwich, Connecticut from 3/8-3/10/02. This location was very much appreciated by all members in the region, because it is of easy access by train, road or airplane. In addition, all meeting rooms were contiguous, thereby facilitating interactions among participants. There were 11 platform sessions, 2 poster sessions and 3 plenary sessions.

There were 94 abstracts submitted to the 14th Annual Meeting of the ESPR. Abstracts represented both basic and clinical science in a broad range of areas, including Cardiology, Developmental Biology, Endocrinology/Genetics, Gastroenterology, General and Behavioral Pediatrics, Immunology/Infectious Diseases, Neonatology, Nephrology, Neurology, and Pulmonary. Because of the large number of abstracts two poster sessions were held and were very well received. These sessions encouraged interaction among attendees and allowed presentation of all abstracts during the meeting. Featured speakers during the abstract sessions added to the educational component of the meeting, helped to tie together themes within a given session, and encouraged participants to attend the entire session.

Plenary talks

The Highlights of the meeting included the plenary talks. Joanna Floros, PhD, Professor of Cellular and Molecular Physiology, The Pennsylvania State University College of Medicine presented an excellent overview on “Surfactant Protein A genetic variants: A model in the study of pulmonary disease”. Marshall S. Horwitz, M.D., Professor of Pediatrics, Cell Biology, Microbiology and Immunology, Albert Einstein College of Medicine presented a outstanding discussion on: “Adenoviruses, apoptosis and autoimmune diabetes. Carol Weitzman, M.D., Assistant Professor of Pediatrics and Child Study, Yale University School of Medicine presented an informative discussion on: “Developmental and behavioral outcomes of internationally adopted children.”

Lunch with the Professors Educational Program

The 4th Annual Lunch with the Professors Educational Program was lead by Ruth Stein, M.D., Professor and Vice-Chairman of Pediatrics, Albert Einstein College of Medicine-Children’s Hospital at Montefiore and by Gabriel Haddad, M.D., Professor of Pediatrics, Chief, Division of Pediatric Pulmonology, Yale University School of Medicine.

Feature Talks

The following Feature Talks were presented at the subspecialty sessions:

“The immunodeficiency of chromosome 22q11.2 deletion” by Kathleen E. Sullivan, M.D., Associate Professor of Pediatrics, Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia;
“Myo-inositol and the control of breathing” by Gerald Berry, M.D., Professor of Pediatrics, Children’s National Medical Center;

“Evidence-based therapy of childhood hypertension: Lessons from industry-sponsored clinical trials” by Joseph Flynn, M.D., Associate Professor of Pediatrics, Albert Einstein College of Medicine;

“Angiogenesis” by Horace DeLisser, M.D., Associate Professor of Pediatrics, University of Pennsylvania.

“Kernicterus: can it be prevented?” by Vinod K. Bhutani, M.D., Professor of Pediatrics, University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine;

“Pharmacologic Repair of mutant CFTR: Does eNaC matter?” by Ron Rubenstein, M.D., PhD, Assistant Professor of Pediatrics, Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia.

**Young Investigator Award**

Four abstracts were selected as finalists for the Young Investigator Award and were presented at the Saturday afternoon plenary session. The winner was Dr. M. Tartaglia, Dept. of Pediatrics & Human Genetics, Mount Sinai School of Medicine, New York for his presentation:

“Protein Tyrosine Phosphatase Non-Receptor Type II (PTPN11) Gene Defects Cause Noonan’s Syndrome and Correlate with Pulmonic Stenosis”.

**Ira Greifer, MD Receives ESPR’s 4th Annual Mentor Award**

The 4th Annual ESPR Mentor Award was presented to Ira Greifer, M.D., Professor of Pediatrics at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine, for his outstanding contributions to pediatric nephrology. Dr. Greifer has devoted his life to understanding kidney disease in children, and to improving the outcomes and lives of children with renal disease throughout the world. He has been a mentor to many internationally renowned Pediatric Nephrologists, and Dr. Greifer is considered to be one of the most influential and key physicians responsible for the specialty of pediatric nephrology. His leadership in Pediatric Nephrology is evidenced by numerous accomplishments. He is Secretary General of the International Pediatric Nephrology Association and President of the National Kidney Foundation of New York/New Jersey. He is Past Chairman of the National Kidney and Urologic Disease Advisory Board of the National Institutes of Health and Past President of the American Society of Pediatric Nephrology.

Dr. Greifer’s leadership in clinical care is well documented as he established the first “Mothering in Hospital Program” in 1966, he established the first Pediatric Hemodialysis Program for Children in 1967, and he established the first One Day Surgery Program for pediatrics in the United States in 1968. Dr. Greifer was instrumental in establishing Pediatric Nephrology care and education in 60 countries around the world. Frederick Kaskel, M.D., accepted the Award on behalf of Dr. Greifer who was at a Nephrology meeting on the West Coast.

**Thanks, Mitch—Great Job!**

We wish to thank and congratulate Mitchell Kresch, MD, Chairman of the Department of Pediatrics at Norwalk Hospital, CT, on an outstanding job as President of the Eastern Society for Pediatric Society over the past three years. During his presidency, he has substantially increased the membership, the number of abstracts and the attendance to the meeting, and has introduced several changes into the program of the Annual meeting, including poster sessions and Featured Speakers during the subspecialty sessions. He also created the planning committee, which has been instrumental in evaluating the abstracts and in selecting Invited Speakers. In addition, the bylaws of the ESPR have been reviewed and approved this year at the Annual Meeting. His leadership has been and continues to be greatly appreciated.

**Planning Ahead**

The Eastern Society for Pediatric Research has had another productive year with a steady membership and a highly successful annual meeting. The Society has more than 450 members, who are from the northeastern region of the North American Continent, from Washington, DC to Nova Scotia, Ontario and Quebec, Canada. More than 90% of the membership comes from 6 states: New York, Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, New Jersey, Maryland and Connecticut. There is an ongoing effort to encourage membership from upstate New York, as well.

For the coming year we plan to continue to increase membership and active participation, including abstract submission to the Annual Meeting, as well as to identify and pursue areas of common interest with the other regional societies and with the Society for Pediatric Research which will benefit all. We welcome new members of the Council, including Anthony Alario, MD, Philip Larussa, MD, Daniel Notterman, MD, and
Rashmin C. Savani, MBChB, the new Chair of the Planning Committee. We also welcome new members of the Planning Committee, namely Clifford W. Bogue, MD, Philip Ozuah, MD and Linda J. Van Marter, MD, MPH.

We are very thankful to Debbie Atwood who runs the SPR website and helped us upgrade the ESPR website, located at http://www.aps-spr.org/Regional_Societies/ESPR. The website displays the bylaws, governance, membership application and dues, abstract submission form, awards, information about the meeting, the program, hotel information, and meeting registration form.


The 15th Annual Meeting of the ESPR will take place at the Hyatt Regency in Old Greenwich, Connecticut on March 21-23, 2003. **Please note the change in date.** The meeting will overlap with the Meeting of the American Academy of Pediatrics Perinatal Section, Districts I, II and III, which will be held on the afternoon of March 21.

We look forward to hearing and seeing you present your research at the upcoming Annual Meeting. The meeting will provide a wonderful forum for presentation of investigative work in a supportive and less formal environment. This year for the first time, we will use electronic abstract submission. While the preferred mode of submission will be by email, we will accept a diskette, at least for this year. The abstract deadline will be December 10, 2002 and abstracts from students, residents, fellows and faculty are encouraged. Abstracts will be published in the Journal of Investigative Medicine, as previously. This Journal, now published by Decker Inc, will be available both on paper and on the Internet. The program of the meeting will be posted on the website as soon as it is available.

Although the list of speakers has not been finalized yet, we have already started to invite outstanding Faculty and are looking forward to hearing excellent talks this year. Roger Soll, MD, University of Vermont College of Medicine, has agreed to lead the Lunch with the Professors Educational Program. We have invited Cliff Bogue, MD, Yale University School of Medicine, to give a Feature Talk at the Developmental Biology session. Sherry Courtney, MD, Schneider Children's Hospital, Long Island Jewish Medical Center will give a Feature Talk entitled “Waiting for Godot – What to do in the meantime” at the Neonatology session. Waldemar A. (Wally) Carlo, MD, University of Alabama at Birmingham, AL, will chair the Neonatology I Session and will give a Feature Talk at that session.

For information or comments, write webmaster@aps-spr.org