15th Annual Meeting – Outstanding Scientific Meeting

The Annual Meeting of the ESPR was held for the second time at the Hyatt Regency in Old Greenwich, Connecticut from March 21 to March 23, 2003. This location was very much appreciated by all members in the region, because it is an attractive location that is easily accessible by train, car, or airplane. In addition to the elegant surroundings, an advantage of the venue is that all meeting rooms are contiguous, thereby facilitating interaction among the participants. At ESPR 2003, there were twelve platform sessions, two poster sessions, three plenary sessions as well as a trainee-oriented “Lunch with the Professors.” Other highlights included the Mentor of the Year and Young Investigator Awards.

One hundred twenty abstracts were submitted to the 15th 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 Pulmonology. Because of the large number of abstracts, we held two poster sessions, which were very well attended. The sessions encouraged interaction among attendees and allowed presentation of all abstracts during the meeting. Featured speakers during the subspecialty 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.

The success of the meeting was in large part due to the Planning Committee led by Rashmin Savani, MBChB. The group did an excellent job of recruiting outstanding plenary and subspecialty speakers, developing the program, and running the meeting.

Plenary Talks

Highlights of the meeting included three plenary talks:

- “Molecular Physiology of Weight Regulation in Mice and Humans” by Rudolph Leibel, M.D., Professor of Pediatrics and Medicine, Head, Division of Molecular Genetics, Co-Director, Naomi Berrie Diabetes Center, College of Physicians and Surgeons, Columbia University

- “Adenosine...The Missing Link in Neonatal White Matter Injury?” by Scott Rivkees, M.D., Associate Professor, Director, Yale Child Health Research Center, Yale University School of Medicine, New Haven, CT
The Eastern Society for Pediatric Research

“Exploring the Ethical Basis of Pediatric Research Regulations” by Robert “Skip” Nelson, M.D., Ph.D., Associate Professor of Anesthesia and Pediatrics, Chair, Committees for the Protection of Human Subjects, The Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia, PA

Lunch with the Professors Educational Program

The 4th Annual Lunch with the Professors Educational Program was led by Roger F. Soll, M.D., Professor of Pediatrics, University of Vermont College of Medicine/FAHC, Burlington, VT, and by Frederick Suchy, M.D., Herbert H. Lehman Professor of Pediatrics, Chairman, Jack & Luch Clark Department of Pediatrics, Physician-in-Chief, Mt. Sinai School of Medicine, New York, NY

Featured Talks

Thirteen Feature Talks were presented at the subspecialty sessions:

- “Pediatric AIDS—A Global View” by David Pugatch, M.D., Assistant Professor of Pediatrics and Medicine, Brown University, Providence, RI
- “Optimizing Assisted Ventilation: Permissive Hypercapnia and Permissive Hypoxemia” by Waldemar A. (Wally) Carlo, M.D., Professor of Pediatrics, University of Alabama at Birmingham, AL
- “Mechanoregulation of Potassium Transport in the Maturing Collecting Duct” by Lisa M. Satlin, M.D., Professor of Pediatrics, Mount Sinai School of Medicine, New York, NY
- “Neurotoxicity, Neuroprotection and Folate Transport” by Jan B. Wollack, M.D., Ph.D., Associate Professor of Pediatrics, University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey (UMDNJ), New Brunswick, NJ
- “The Homeobox Gene Hex Plays Multiple Roles During Organogenesis” by Cliff W. Bogue, M.D., Associate Research Scientist, Department of Pediatrics, Yale University School of Medicine, New Haven, CT
- “Jagged1 in Alagille Syndrome and Related Disorders” by Nancy B. Spinner, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Pediatrics, Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA
- “Mercury: A New Look at an Old Metal” by Philip O. Ozuah, M.D., Ph.D., Associate Professor of Clinical Pediatrics, Albert Einstein College of Medicine, Vice Chairman for Clinical and Educational Affairs, Children’s Hospital at Montefiore, Bronx, NY
- “Biology of Neuroblastoma in Neonates and Infants” by Christopher N. Frantz, M.D., Chief, Pediatric Hematology/Oncology, Alfred I. DuPont Hospital for Children. Wilmington, DE
- “Pediatric Cardiomyopathy” by Steven E. Lipshultz, M.D., Professor of Pediatrics and Oncology, Chief of Pediatric Cardiology, University of Rochester Medical Center and Golisano Children's Hospital at Strong, Rochester, NY
- “The Genetics of Hearing Loss” by Ian Krantz, M.D., Assistant Professor of Pediatrics, Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA
- “Structural and Functional Studies of the Bone Protein Osteocalcin: Under Normal and Lead Toxicant Conditions” by Terry Dowd, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Pediatrics, Albert Einstein College of Medicine, Children’s Hospital at Montefiore, Bronx, NY
- “Waiting for Godot—What to do in the Meantime” by Sherry E. Courtney, M.D., Professor of Pediatrics, Schneider Children’s Hospital, North Shore Long Island Jewish Health System, New Hyde Park, NY
- “Treating Diabetes with Aerosolized Insulin” by Beth L. Laube Ph.D., Associate Professor of Pediatrics, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD

Young Investigator Award

Four outstanding abstracts were selected as finalists for the Young Investigator Award and were presented at the Saturday afternoon plenary session.
The winner was J. M. Gray, M.D., Division of Neonatology, Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia and Institute of Environmental Medicine, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA.

**Joseph B. Warshaw, M.D. Receives ESPR’s 5th Annual Mentor Award**

The 5th Annual ESPR Mentor Award was presented to Joseph B. Warshaw, M.D., Dean and Professor of Pediatrics, University of Vermont College of Medicine, for his outstanding contributions to Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine and Developmental Biology. Dr. Warshaw has devoted his research career to understanding the developmental biology of perinatal growth in normal and diabetic pregnancy and of lung and surfactant development and maturation. From 1995 until 2000 he was appointed Deputy Dean for Clinical Affairs, Yale University School of Medicine. From 1993 to 2000 he was Physician-in-Chief at The Children's Hospital at Yale-New Haven, and from 1987 until 2000 he was Professor and Chairman, Department of Pediatrics, Yale University School of Medicine. He has been the mentor of several nationally and internationally recognized trainees and has fostered an enormous number of academic careers. He has received numerous awards during his career, including nomination to the Institute of Medicine and National Academy of Science, Distinguished Alumnus for Duke University Medical Center, and Children’s Health and Well-Being Award—Special Recognition for Lifetime Career Accomplishment.

**Thanks Again, Mitch!**

This meeting provided an opportunity to thank and congratulate Mitchell Kresch, M.D., Chairman of the Department of Pediatrics at Norwalk Hospital, CT, on his outstanding work as President of the Eastern Society for Pediatric Research, 1999–2002. During his presidency, Mitch substantially increased ESPR membership, the number of abstracts, and the attendance at the annual meeting. He also introduced several changes into the program of the Annual Meeting, including poster sessions and featured speakers during the subspecialty sessions. He further created the Planning Committee, which has been instrumental in evaluating the abstracts and in selecting Invited Speakers. A plaque was presented to thank Mitch for his outstanding leadership that has been and continues to be greatly appreciated.

**Thanks, Susan and Laticia —Great Job!**

We wish to thank and congratulate M. Susan Moyer, M.D., for an outstanding job as Secretary-Treasurer of the ESPR, 1999–2003. Susan is leaving the East Coast to go back to Cincinnati, where she will be the Director of the Schubert-Martin Inflammatory Bowel Disease Center, Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center. During her four-year tenure, Susan has developed and consolidated the membership and the finances of the society. Susan has played an instrumental role in improving various aspects of the society and the meeting, and she was awarded a plaque outlining the Society’s appreciation for her many contributions. Many thanks also to Laticia Mewborn, who has been running the database, payments, mailing and registration to the meeting. Her productive work to organize and maintain ESPR’s business affairs and her many years of engaging and efficient presence at the meeting has been greatly appreciated.

**Congratulations**

We wish to congratulate Linda J. Van Marter, M.D., M.P.H., who was elected Secretary-Treasurer, and Clifford W. Bogue, M.D., member of the Planning Committee, who was elected member of the Council. We wish to welcome two new members of the Planning Committee: Bruce Gelb, M.D. (who is already a member of the Council), and Heber Nielsen, M.D.

**Acknowledgments and Sponsors**
Many tasks essential for the Society and the annual meeting are being performed by Laticia Mewborn (Yale), Rita Gray (Montefiore), and Cheryn Jarvis (CHOP/PENN). We wish to thank the sponsors of the meeting, including Ross Products Division of Abbott Laboratories, Mead-Johnson Nutritional, MedImmune, and Philips Medical Systems. We also wish to thank Bob Dahms, from Ross Products, for organizing the meeting site, refreshments and accommodations.

We are also very thankful to Debbie Atwood, who runs the SPR website and helped us upgrade and regularly update 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 registration, and meeting registration form. This year we plan to upgrade to on-line abstract submission and payments.

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. These collaborations will benefit both ESPR members and the Society. In addition, we aim to upgrade the electronic presentation formats for the 2004 meeting.

2004 ESPR Meeting, Old Greenwich, CT

The 16th Annual Meeting of the Eastern Society for Pediatric Research will take place at the same location, The Hyatt Regency in Old Greenwich, Connecticut from March 26th to March 28th, 2004. The meeting will provide a wonderful forum for presentation of investigative work in a supportive and less formal environment.

Diana W. Bianchi, M.D., Chief, Division of Genetics, Tufts-New England Medical Center, Natalie V. Zucker Professor of Pediatrics, Obstetrics and Gynecology, Tufts University School of Medicine, has agreed to give a Plenary Talk at the Meeting.

The ESPR meeting will be preceded on the afternoon of March 26th by a joint meeting of the American Academy of Pediatrics Districts I, II, and III neonatologists. We look forward to your attendance and to hearing and seeing you present your research at next year's annual meeting.

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