Midwest Society for Pediatric Research

50th Anniversary
1959 - 2009

Drake Hotel
Chicago, Illinois
This booklet was developed to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Midwest Society for Pediatric Research (MWSPR). The MWSPR has been important to careers of many academic pediatricians regionally and nationally over the past 5 decades, and we thought it was appropriate to take this time to reflect, celebrate, and hopefully position the society to continue supporting young investigators for the next 50 years and beyond.

The purpose of this society, which has not changed since its inception, is to provide a forum for promotion of pediatric research in this region. Clinical scientists, developmental biologists, and particularly, junior faculty and trainees, are offered opportunity to present original research in a nonthreatening, collaborative environment. The society was initially a freestanding organization for investigators in designated Midwestern states and Canadian provinces, with limited geographic area to facilitate travel and to keep the meetings small and informal. Subsequently, the MWSPR became one of a number of regional societies which have been linked to and supported by the national Society for Pediatric Research.

Over the years, the MWSPR has developed awards for outstanding presentations. The Founder Award, initiated in 1986, is a prestigious award to recognize career contributions of a senior investigator, reflecting individual research contributions, as well as success in fostering pediatric research in the Midwest. The Sutherland Award, recognizing the best investigative work by a junior faculty member, was first provided in 1991. This award was named after a neonatologist from the University of Cincinnati, James Sutherland, who was active in the MWSPR and a renowned teacher, clinical investigator, and role model for trainees. Since the early 1990s, the society has also annually provided two trainee awards (either resident or fellow), the Frederic M. Kenny Memorial Award or the Jack Metcoff Award, both of which include not only recognition but also a small honorarium.

We have names of presidents for the society back to 1965, although the records are incomplete. Currently, officers include the president, past president, president-elect, and the secretary-treasurer. All serve one-year terms except the secretary-treasurer, who is in office for 5 years.

Leadership of the society also includes a council, made up of 9 members (expanded from 6 council members in 2004); the 4 officers serve as ex officio members of the council. The structure of the society is detailed in bylaws and the MWSPR constitution, both of which are available on the web site.

The first MWSPR meeting was in Iowa. Subsequently, meetings were moved between regional academic institutions, until early in the 1980s, when a
decision was made to hold the meetings in Chicago, in conjunction with the Central Society for Pediatric Research. Meetings were held annually at the Drake Hotel, and attendees enjoyed not only professional interactions with the adult society, but also the ambiance of Michigan Avenue in late fall. Since 2003, the MWSPR meetings have moved locations, again hosted by regional institutions. For the 2009 meeting, we thought it was appropriate to return to Chicago and to the Drake Hotel for the Anniversary celebration.

We hope that the thoughtful reflections and pictures offered in this booklet will be useful for each attendee, reminding long-standing members of the importance of the society in their career, and offering insights about the excitement and rewards of academic pursuits for those just entering the profession.

Howard W. Kilbride, MD
2009 President MWSPR
Professor of Pediatrics, University of Missouri Kansas City
Chief, Section of Neonatal Medicine, Children’s Mercy Hospitals & Clinics

October 8, 2009
www.aps-spr.org/Regional_Societies/Cover.htm
Acknowledgment

The success of the MWSPR would not have been possible without the long-standing support of Mead Johnson Nutritionals and Ross Products Division, Abbott Laboratories, each of which provided an educational grant to the Society annually.

The Society would like to acknowledge the service of all former officers and council members for their contributions, without which this organization would not be as strong as it is today. Thank you to those that submitted documents and historic information.

The Society would also like to thank Betsi Anderson, Marge Ellgen, and Darian Younger for their hard work and dedication in producing this anniversary booklet.
Formation of the Midwest Society for Pediatric Research
Notes by J. C. Peterson, MD

The Midwest Society for Pediatric Research came into being by the following path:

In 1955, conversations with Dr. Charles Mays, then Professor of Pediatrics at Iowa, indicated agreement in thinking that there existed a need for a Pediatric Research Society for the Central Area of the continent. This thought was pursued in conversations during the next few years with Drs. John Anderson, Herbert Miller, Nathan Smith, and their associates, and others as we met for various reasons. All seemed agreed that such a society would be desirable although there were already too many societies.

Some thought was given to the idea of developing a research section for pediatrics in one of the existing societies but this met with little favor and was not seriously considered, although some explorations of the idea were carried on and the idea was not entirely abandoned until the Society was organized.

In June 1958, I wrote a letter to one or more pediatric representatives of each of the midcontinental area medical schools from Canada to the Gulf of Mexico testing their reactions to a proposal to set up a research society. Generally, favorable responses were obtained from all groups except those in Ontario and in the deep south. In the area composed by Ohio, Michigan, Indiana, Illinois, Missouri, Kansas, Nebraska, North and South Dakota, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Manitoba, and Saskatchewan the majority in favor was quite substantial.

In September 1958, those replies and the ideas were discussed with the group attending the regional educational meeting of the American Academy of Pediatrics at Madison, Wisconsin. At this time sentiment for the formation of the society was highly favorable.

That the society should be for the young and should be run by them for the purpose of stimulating research scholarship and free communication was a constant thought in all planning.

Several new thoughts were brought out at the Madison meeting. First, that it would be desirable to have the geographic area limited to facilitate travel; second, that such limitation would help to keep the society relatively small and informal, a highly desirable feature; third, that it would be desirable to hold meetings at various places in the area, and finally a target date for the first meeting was set for the Fall of 1959 to be held at Iowa City, again in conjunction with the educational meeting of the American Academy of Pediatrics.
Doctors Wallace McCrory and Samuel Fomon agreed to assume the responsibilities associated with organizing a program, meeting date, etc. for this first meeting.

In October 1958, letters of explanation were sent to all respondents from area outside of that noted above. This action informed them of the desire to set relative geographic limits in the formation of the proposed society.

In November, letters were again sent to the group in the central area informing them of the deliberation at Madison also of the results of the replies to the letters sent in June.

In March 1959, letters were again sent to representatives of the various schools scheduling a meeting of representatives at Buck Hills Falls, Pennsylvania in May.

At the Buck Hills Falls meeting, held in conjunction with the meeting of the Society for Pediatric Research, additional steps were taken. The initial membership was established to include those of the central area who were members of either the American Pediatric Society or the Society for Pediatric Research or who were heads of teaching departments. A nominating committee for the first slate of officers was set up.

The nominations committee met immediately and selected a slate of officers to be presented at the meeting at Iowa City which had by this time been set for October 26-27, 1959.

The response to letters sent by J. C. Peterson and Samuel Fomon calling for abstracts was very gratifying, enabling Drs. Fomon and McCrory to select a very good program for the first meeting.

The first meeting was begun under the chairmanship of Dr. Fomon on October 27, 1959. He set a fine precedent for the manner in which the program was conducted, holding the essayists to the line with a degree of firmness which kept the meeting in good order, though allowing ample time for the generally excellent discussion which followed.

The other arrangements for the first meeting were also of such excellence as to set a high goal for future program organizers to follow.

The first business meeting was called to order by J. C. Peterson. Thirty-eight members were in attendance. The chairman ruled that this would constitute a quorum for the purposes of the meeting.
The proposed constitution and bylaws were presented for consideration. Their adoption was duly moved and seconded. There followed extensive discussion about any points involved. By the process of amendments to the motion for adoption, the constitution and bylaws were re-written to a point where article and rule were acceptable.

The name of the Society was changed from the proposed Central Society for Pediatric Research to the Midwest Society for Pediatric Research.

The area of the society was made less exact, normally the midcontinental area of North America. Though the area as defined parenthetically in the bylaws remains Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Minnesota, Wisconsin, North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Missouri, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, and Ohio.

The question of holding some or all of the meetings at a fixed location and in conjunction with some other society; i.e., the Central Society for Clinical Research was moved and although there was discussion, it failed for a lack of a second.

The question of dropping member for non-attendance was discussed and removed from the bylaws.

Termination of membership automatically with removal from the area was also removed from the bylaws.

Transfer from active membership to emeritus state by virtue of age was left unspecified, a meter to be decided at some future meeting.

After the various amendments were considered, adopted, modified, or rejected, the constitution and bylaws were adopted by unanimous vote.

Following the adoption of constitution, thus establishing the Society, the chairman reported for the nomination committee set up at the Buck Hills Falls meeting. The slate of officers and the proposed central council were elected by unanimous vote:

Dr. Nathan – President
Dr. Lewis Wannamaker – President-elect
Dr. William Weil – Secretary
Council representatives: One Year – Hary Medovy

No other business was entertained and the meeting was adjourned.

The group met again that evening for more festive activities, an hour or so of conviviality followed by an excellent dinner.
The first scientific session of the Society ended after a second day of excellent presentation.

The enthusiasm of the first meeting, the quality of the presentations, and the attendance all seemed to justify the hopes of those who first envisioned the Society and lent substance to their thoughts that the Society would fill a needed role in the development of the pediatrics in the area.
Past Presidents

The first president of the MWSPR was elected in 1965. Historic records do not include every past president but all information available is provided for this publishing. Several of the past presidents were also Founder’s Awardees. The following information includes names with years of service, photos, and comments.

1965 William E. Segar, MD
1975 Ralph D. Feigin, MD
1983 Robert Strauss, MD
1984 Robert P. Kelch, MD
1985 Russell W. Chesney, MD
1986 Dorothy J. Becker, MD
1987 Allen P. Erenberg, MD
1988 Jess G. Thoene, MD
1989 Edward S. Ogata, MD
1991 Richard Schreiner, MD
1992 Edward F. Bell, MD
1993 Donald M. Mock, MD
1994 Frank R. Greer, MD
1995 Craig G. Langman, MD
1996 Uri Alon, MD
1997 F. Sessions Cole, MD
1998 Sherin Devaskar, MD
1999 John M. Lorenz, MD
2000 Scott C. Denne, MD
2001 Patricia Donohoue, MD
2002 Roger G. Faix, MD
2003 Jon F. Watchko, MD
2004 Aaron Hamvas, MD
2005 Thomas D. Scholz, MD
2006 Steven W. Pipe, MD
2007 Brenda B. Poindexter, MD
2008 Jalal Abu-Shaweesh, MD
2009 Howard W. Kilbride, MD
2010 Matthew Goldsmith, MD
The first meeting was held in Iowa City, Iowa. Probably only 12-20 were in attendance, including Gunnar Stickler, Bill Weidman (both mayo), Juan Sotos (Columbus) Dr. Peterson (Marquette), Dr. Dunphy (Iowa City), Sam Fomon (Iowa City), Charles Witten (Detroit), Bill Krivit (Minnesota), some other nephrologists from MN and someone from Michigan, Bill Oliver (MI or OSU).

Schools that were a part of the early meeting were: Michigan; OSU; Pittsburgh; Mayo; Northwestern; MN; (Bob Ulrich, early member) University of Chicago; Indiana; Kansas; Cincinnati; St. Louis.

Indiana University Medical School Graduation Picture 1946
1992
Submitter: Edward F. Bell, MD
Role in MWSPR: Past President & Founder's Award Recipient

Jack Widness and Edward Bell
1995
Submitter: Craig B. Langman, MD  
Role in MWSPR: Past President

The January of the year I was the MWSPR President, we held a planning meeting at O’Hare airport Hilton with the adult societies, as our spring meeting was a joint one in those days. The particular day of the meeting was the coldest wind chill factor day EVER in Chicago, well below -10C, although that seems humanly impossible. No one took off their coats in the hotel conference room, but everyone was able to attend and stay till the meeting’s end at around 3PM. My own feet were frozen despite two layers of socks and “insulated” boots, and my diesel car was plugged in all day at the airport parking lot and started miraculously when I got to it as darkness set in at 4PM that day. I could NOT go home on the expressway as the oil was so viscous as to limit the speed to only about 35-40 mph. As they say in texting, OMG!

1998
Submitter: Sherin Devaskar, MD  
Role in MWSPR: Past President & Founder’s Award Recipient

I have very fond memories of the MWSPR. It was the academic home that nurtured me as a fellow and became my academic home where I enjoyed networking as a junior faculty member. I later was honored to serve on the Council and was elected to be the secretary-treasurer and subsequently the President. In my official roles I was privileged to give back to the society in nurturing our younger colleagues with their careers as I had received in the past. I always looked forward to our meetings at the Drake, which were in conjunction with the adult societies at that time, and we always had a rather strong attendance at our plenary sessions. I always encouraged fellows and junior faculty to make presentations in this rather friendly yet scientifically helpful forum. I still have many friends who are part of the MWSPR, and MWSPR will always be a part of me.
2001
Submitter: Patricia Donohoue, MD
Role in MWSPR: Past President

I personally and professionally benefitted from my involvement with the MWSPR, both as an attendee and an officer. During the years when the meetings could be held in conjunction with the "adult" societies, there was a lot of opportunity to be educated across disciplines. I very much enjoyed the role that fellows and other trainees played in the success of the meetings.

I also made a lot of good friends, especially on the council.

2002
Submitter: Roger Faix, MD
Role in MWSPR: Past President

My best wishes to all of my friends and colleagues in the Midwest. Although I’ve been in the Intermountain West for 8 years now, I spent enough time in the Midwest (25 years or so) that that will always seem like home.
2003
Submitter: Jon F. Watchko, MD
Role in MWSPR: Past President

During my tenure as MWSPR President, the Central Society for Clinical Research (CSCR), with which we annually participated in a joint gathering at the Drake Hotel in Chicago, moved their meeting from the fall to the spring. In light of the annual spring Pediatric Academic Societies meeting, it was clear we would have to make different meeting arrangements going forward. The MWSPR Council which included Howard Kilbride, Roger Faix, Aaron Hamvas, Lilly Immergluck, Robert Hoffman, Kathleen Weatherstone, Steven Pipe, and I were unanimous in our opinion that there was tremendous educational and training value in maintaining the MWSPR meeting, and we developed an alternative approach that utilized institution-based sites for the annual meeting. Steve Pipe from the University of Michigan with the support of his Chair, Valerie Castle, volunteered their site for the fall 2003 meeting which was a tremendous success. The institution-based site approach has maintained a forum for trainees and junior faculty to present their clinical and basic research findings, while showcasing the host institution’s clinical and research facilities; an approach that has been successful far beyond our expectations in maintaining the vitality and mission of the MWSPR.

2004 - 2007
Role in MWSPR: Past Presidents

Pictured are (left to right): Dr. Thomas Scholz, 2005 MWSPR President; Aaron Hamvas, MWSPR Past President; Brenda Pindexter, MWSPR President-Elect; and Steven Pipe, incoming MWSPR President for 2006.
Did you submit an abstract as a trainee?
I presented abstracts during my 2\textsuperscript{nd} and 3\textsuperscript{rd} year of fellowship and won the Kenny Award as a third-year fellow.

Did your interactions with the Society offer mentorship opportunities?
As a fellow, the individuals listed below who I met through the MWSPR took an active interest in my career. They always made an effort to also attend my presentations at the National SPR and have each provided me ongoing encouragement and friendship over the years.

Please indicate pediatric leaders you have met through the MWSPR:
Sherin Devaskar, Michael Georgiott, Roger Faix, and Frank Greer

MWSPR experiences which have enhanced your career:
I had the privilege of serving on the MWSPR council and also as President of the Society from 2006-2007.

The Kenny Award was presented to Dr. Rinku Mehra (center) by Arch Curran from Ross Products and Dr. Brenda Poindexter, MWSPR president.
2010
Dr. Matthew Goldsmith
Role in MWSPR: President

Mr. Carroll, Dr. Matthew Goldsmith, and Dr. Pipe
Founder Awardees

The first Founder Award was presented in 1986. The following information are quotes, photos, and historic information about the MWSPR awardee recipients. We asked past awardees for information on how this society affected their career. The responses ranged from papers presented, weather encountered during meetings, meeting locations, and the impact of the MWSPR.

1986    Samuel J. Fomon, MD
1987    William E. Segar, MD
1988    Orville C. Green, MD
1989    Ira M. Rosenthal, MD
1990    Jean Holowach-Thurston, MD
1991    William Weidman, MD
1992    Reginald C. Tsang, MD
1993    Rosita Pildes, MD
1994    Dharmapuri Vidyasagar, MD
1995    Fred G. Smith, MD
1996    Gunnar B. Stickler, MD
1997    Dorothy J. Becker, MBBCh
1998    Laurence A. Boxer, MD
1999    Robert T. Hall, MD
2000    Sherin U. Devaskar, MD
2001    Edward S. Ogata, MD
2002    Jean E. Robillard, MD
2003    Frank R. Greer, MD
2004    Robert P. Kelch, MD
2005    John A. Widness, MD
2006    James J. Heubi, MD
2007    Edward F. Bell, MD
2008    William E. Truog, MD
2009    Avroy A. Fanaroff, MD
In 1944, Dr. Fomon graduated cum laude from Harvard and in 1947 received his medical degree from the University of Pennsylvania. After residency training in pediatrics at the Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia, he completed a fellowship in renal physiology at the Children’s Hospital of Cincinnati. He served as captain with the US Army for two years before joining the Department of Pediatrics at the University of Iowa in 1954. Although he became Professor Emeritus in 1993, he continued to be quite active in research for another decade. The many important positions he held included the chairmanship of the Committee on Nutrition of the American Academy of Pediatrics (1960–63), Councilor, Editorial Board Member and eventually President (1981–82) of the American Society of Clinical Nutrition, and Editorial Board Member, Councilor and eventually President of the American Institute of Nutrition. Of the many honors bestowed on him, the Bristol-Meyers Squibb/Mead Johnson Award (1992) was probably the most prestigious. He attracted dozens of fellows and postdoctorates from all over the world and trained many doctoral students. Most left changed, some more, some less, but all left carrying an implant, a compass to sound infant nutrition.

In 1988, the US Food and Drug Administration sought advice from the American Academy of Pediatrics on the clinical testing of infant formulas. The response of the Academy was prepared by Dr. Fomon. It recommended, among other measures, standardized growth studies as the ultimate test of the nutritional suitability of infant formulas. The FDA adopted the recommendations in their entirety and to this day, follows the rules laid out in 1988 by Dr. Fomon.
1987
Submitter: William E. Segar, MD
Role in MWSPR: Founder’s Award Recipient

Dr. William E. Segar at Riley Children’s Hospital circa 1962
Thank you for the invitation to join in the celebration of the 50th anniversary of MWSPR. I am sorry I will not be able to be present. Nevertheless, I would like to express my best wishes to the Society for many continuing years of good work in the future.

I came to Columbus Children’s Hospital from Johns Hopkins in 1960 as Associate Professor at OSU and Head of Endocrinology Clinics & Laboratory. Some time later, probably 1961, I joined a very new group of subspecialists who had started meeting annually to present their research to each other and I assume that was the MWSPR. Bill Newton was the most active in organizing the group at Children’s.

There was a strong feeling of interaction between the pediatric faculty, and many papers had joint authorship with each other and some with the Department of Medicine as well.

In 1963, the chairman of pediatrics retired and when OSU did not make Warren Wheeler chairman, many of the academic staff, including me, left. I took my NIH grants and moved to The Children’s Memorial Hospital in Chicago in 1963 and remained there until I retired in 1989. My interactions with other members of the MWSPR continued from that location.

The most important event in the times of my generation? After the NIH began taking grant applications from outside their own campus, the response was the biggest stimulus for future medical research in the USA. (I believe that was in 1954 but memory is no longer reliable.) This was followed by the Hill-Burton Act which provided funds to build laboratory space and the boom in academic research was on.
1989
Ira M. Rosenthal, MD
Role in MWSPR: Founder’s Award Recipient

After completing an internship at Lincoln Hospital, New York, Dr. Rosenthal joined the army in 1944. While in the army, he served as an orthopedic surgeon and psychiatrist and reached the rank of battalion surgeon. After discharge from the army, he took a year of training in pathology. Ultimately, he made Pediatrics his career and did his residency at Fordham Hospital and New York Medical College followed by a year of residency in contagious diseases. With this background, he entered into a private pediatric practice. But his inherent interest in academics led him to accept a faculty position in the Department of Pediatrics at the University of Illinois at Chicago in 1953, under the chairmanship of Dr. Hayward Sanford.

Dr. Rosenthal was widely published in prestigious journals describing several new findings and syndromes. The subjects varied from infectious disease to metabolism, genetics to immunology, calcium metabolism to infantile spasm, renal diseases to abruption of teeth. Dr. Rosenthal finally focused his interests in genetics and endocrinology. In 1963, he was appointed Professor of Pediatrics. In 1967, Dr. Rosenthal was appointed Director of Pediatrics at Cook County Hospital, where he made many improvements in patient care and in the residency program. During 1973-1983, he served as the Head of the Department of Pediatrics at the University of Illinois at Chicago. He retired in August 1990.

During his four decades of service at the University of Illinois at Chicago, Dr. Rosenthal made numerous contributions to the City of Chicago and State of Illinois. He was the founding member of the Advisory Committee on Genetics and Metabolic Diseases for the state. He served on local and national chapters of the March of Dimes and many other prestigious organizations, including serving as President of the Chicago Pediatric Society. He was recognized with many awards: the Raymond Allen Award, the Brenneman Award, the Albert Pisani Award, and the Fomon-Peterson Award.
As the Midwest Society for Pediatric Research (MWSPR) is celebrating its 50th anniversary I started to think what to write. I was scratching my layers of memory for some time. It is amazing to realize that I have been associated with the society for over three decades and it had indeed played a major role in my academic life.

I was inducted into MWSPR in 1971, right at the beginning of my academic career at the then Cook County Hospital and University of Illinois at Chicago. Prior to that I had the benefit of attending MWSPR from Winnipeg where I did my last years of Fellowship in Neonatology. After moving to Chicago and becoming a member of the Society, it was the forum that helped me to expand my networking with peers and seniors in the Midwest. MWSPR also became the springboard for me and my Fellow Trainees. It was here many of my new ideas and research concepts were presented to a friendly group in cozy atmosphere. Presentations at MWSPR were like making a test flight before going to national meetings. The participation and presentations at the meetings immensely benefited me and my fellows and colleagues in the division. Another good part of MWSPR was the rotation of meeting venue that allowed us to visit new cities and centers on alternate years.

I and my colleagues and Fellows have been beneficiaries and contributors to the activities of the Society. It was the place to incubate ideas, a place to meet peers and leaders in an unintimidating atmosphere. It was the testing ground for the new and novice in research fellows and young faculty pursuing career in academic medicine. It was also place to look for jobs!

A review of divisional abstracts reveals that most of my team members actively participated and presented their best papers which evolved into presentations at SPR and full-length papers. I recognize other colleagues with better memories and record keeping will write their stories. Here is what I can best remember.

The paper on "Acid base and blood gas tension changes in meconium aspiration syndrome" (Vidyasagar, Yeh, Pilides) was first presented in October meetings in 1974 which was later published in Pediatrics. Several papers on "Non Invasive measurement of Intracranial Pressure" in variety hypoxic conditions (Vidyasagar, Raju) were also presented in 1975. This was before the Cranial Ultrasound Techniques were available, hence received quite a bit of attention. Another important paper presented at the MWSPR was "A controlled study of
surfactant (Fuji-Surf) in premature Baboons (Maeta, Raju, Vidyasagar) 1984. Thanks to serendipitous meeting with Dr. Fujiwara and generous collaboration, this was one of the first studies of Exogenous Surfactant in Non Human Primates conducted in the laboratories at UIC, Chicago. These studies led us to conduct and publish the randomized double-blind clinical study of surfactant, the second study in the literature (Raju, Vidyasagar Maeta et al, Lancet 1987). Other studies of seminal importance that were presented include TcPo2 and Tissue Ph Monitoring (Bhat, Vidyasagar), Renal functions after indomethacin treatment (John, Bhat Vidyasagar 1979).

I am proud to say that for my fellows, who became colleagues and now standing tall on their own right, the MWSPR was the spring board for their academic career. I also owe it to them who made me look good. They include: Dr. Yeh, Dr. Raju, Dr. Bhat, Dr. Jain, and many others whose names are not mentioned in here.

Of course, I cannot forget to mention the thrill of my life to be bestowed with the prestigious Founder Award by the society in 1994. I am ever grateful to my peers and colleagues for the award. It will remain as one my finest academic moment in my life!

All in all, it has been a good journey in the company of the Society over the last four decades. I am lucky and proud to be around to celebrate the occasion.
Which year did you join?
1974(?)

Which years were you active?
1974 - 1988

Did you submit an abstract as a trainee?
When I joined, I was Chairman of the Department of Pediatrics at the University of Iowa.

Did your interactions with the Society offer mentorship opportunities?
I enjoyed having the opportunity to meet with other chairpersons and listen to young investigators present new information in the field of pediatrics.

Please indicate pediatric leaders you have met through the MWSPR:
Sam Fomon, William Balistreri, Reginald Tsang, Joseph Garfunkel, Orville Green.

MWSPR experiences which have enhanced your career:
I enjoyed recruiting young investigators who presented their research at the MWSPR meetings.

Please provide recollections of meetings which could be of interest to others:
I believe the MWSRP served as wonderful medium for the young investigators to present their ongoing research. It also provided them with an opportunity to talk with more senior investigators.
1998
Submitter: Lawrence A. Boxer, MD
Role in MWSPR: Founder’s Award Recipient

Which year did you join?
1976

Which years were you active?
1976 - 2001

Did your interactions with the Society offer mentorship opportunities?
I encouraged fellows in the division to present at the Society meetings. This included Steve Pipe, who later became president of the Society.

Please indicate pediatric leaders you have met through the MWSPR:
Reginald Tsang, Tom Kisker, Frank Morriss, Sue O’Dorisio, Ronald Strauss, Ray Tannous, Robert Daum, Todd Davis, Pedro de Alarcon, Michael Sherman, William Balistreri, Pam Davis, Bea Kambkin, and Bill Zipf.

MWSPR experiences which have enhanced your career:
In 2004 I was an invited speaker at the Midwest meeting and gave pediatric grand rounds at St. Louis Children’s Hospital. Over a number of years I have presented papers at the central society meetings held in conjunction with MWSPR.

Please provide recollections of meetings which could be of interest to others:
Throughout the latter part of the 70s going into the 80s and 90s, MWSPR met in conjunction with the central society at the Drake Hotel. Those meetings were always very enjoyable because there was sufficient numbers of attendees at the specialty sections of hematology/oncology. It was a wonderful opportunity to present papers in front of others and obtain criticism in preparation for a national meeting. Additionally, in those years I was an active member of the Midwest Blood
Club, a group which met in Chicago in conjunction with the Midwest regional meetings. It was comprised of leaders in both pediatrics and internal medicine interested in hematology/oncology. Those meetings provided wonderful fellowship and always an enjoyable dinner and camaraderie.

1999
Submitter: Robert T. Hall, MD
Role in MWSPR: Founder’s Award Recipient

Which year did you join?
1974

Which years were you active?
1974 – 2001

Did your interactions with the Society offer mentorship opportunities?
Indirectly – in preparing fellows abstracts and presentations

Please indicate pediatric leaders you have met through the MWSPR:
Reginald Tsang, Bill Segar, Fritz Kenny, Frank Gier, Paul Perlstein, and Tim Sutherland.

MWSPR experiences which have enhanced your career;
Interpersonal relationships, presentation of abstracts, and listening to abstracts.
**2001**
Submitter: Edward S. Ogata, MD
Role in MWSPR: Past President & Founder’s Award Recipient

I remember being a newly minted assistant professor at Northwestern and having an abstract accepted for presentation at a MWSPR meeting in Cincinnati. This was my first presentation as a real faculty member (with a new lab, a piece of an NIH Center grant, a lot of enthusiasm) and I was nervous! Never did 15 minutes seem so much like an eternity. This was so long ago, and yet, it was only yesterday.

**2002**
Submitter: Jean E. Robillard, MD
Role in MWSPR: Founder’s Award Recipient

I am delighted to lend my voice to the chorus of congratulations on the occasion of the 50th Anniversary of the Midwest Society for Pediatric Research.

The MWSPR is a vital organization that has developed and fostered a culture of innovation and collaboration among pediatric investigators in the nation’s heartland. Early in my career, the society gave me the opportunity to present my work and connect with other researchers in ways that would not have been possible without the society’s existence and support. Later, the MWSPR offered a superb forum for my fellows and post-doctoral students to engage with the regional pediatric research community and develop professionally.

It is an honor and a privilege to be a member of a body that has played a key role in stimulating collaboration among pediatric departments in the Midwest. I anticipate that MWSPR’s next half-century will be equally productive and august.

Jean E. Robillard, MD
Which year did you join?
1980

Which years were you active?
1980 – 2006

Did you submit an abstract as a trainee?
Gann rads and hyperbilirubinemia therapy at Cleveland 1979. Made contact with Chairman of Pediatrics at University of Wisconsin over the poster, and have been at the University of Wisconsin for 29 years.

Did your interactions with the Society offer mentorship opportunities?
Many of our fellows presented there over the years.

Please indicate pediatric leaders you have met through the MWSPR:
Ed Ogata, Sherin Devaskar, Rebecca Simmons, Ed Bell, Scott Denne.

MWSPR experiences which have enhanced your career:
Ability to serve on council and serve as secretary-treasurer and president.

Please provide recollections of meetings:
Meeting in Detroit early 1980s at the Renaissance Center – only about 20 attendees showed up. After that, meeting was held in Chicago for the next 20 years with mainly wonderful memories at the Drake Hotel.

October 2009 will mark the 30th year since my first attendance at a MWSPR meeting. My first meeting was at Cincinnati Children’s Hospital where I met Bill Segar (former MSWPR president), chairman of Pediatrics at the University of Wisconsin. This ultimately led to the faculty position where I have spent the subsequent 30 years of my academic career and the long-term association with the society.
2004
Founder: Robert Kelch, MD

Dr. and Mrs. Robert Kelch (second from left and center) by Dr. Larry Boxer (left), supported by Aaron Hamvas, MWSPR President (second from right), and Mike Carroll from Mead Johnson (far right).

2005
Founder: John Widness, MD

Dr. Jack Widness (second from right), presented by Dr. Thomas Scholz, MWSPR President (left), with Dr. Michael Georgieff (second left), and Mike Carroll from Mead Johnson (far right).
2006
Founder: James E. Heubi, MD

Dr. James Heubi (right), Dr. Steven Pipe, MWSPR president (left), and Mike Carroll from Mead Johnson
Which year did you join?
1983

Which years were you active?
1980s and 1990s, less so since 2000

Did your interactions with the Society offer mentorship opportunities?
Yes, I have helped a number of my fellow, resident, and student trainees submit and present their research to the Midwest SPR. In addition, I have encouraged members of my department at the University of Iowa to join the MWSPR and participate actively. The University of Iowa has always had a large group of members, usually the largest or second largest group of any institution. I have worked to identify potential MWSPR members from my department and to nominate them or arrange for someone else to do so. This has helped maintain the Society’s membership rolls, but has also helped to promote the academic careers of junior faculty members by giving them a friendly forum for presentation, good opportunities to compete for research awards, and a great chance to meet colleagues from other institutions throughout the Midwest.

Please indicate pediatric leaders you have met through the MWSPR:
I met Jack Metcoff, Bill Segar, Ira Rosenthal, Jean Holowach-Thurston, Bill Weidman, Dorothy Becker, Bob Hall, Sherin Devaskar, Ed Ogata, Howard Kilbride, and many others. Others, such as Reggie Tsang, Dharmapuri Vidyasagar, and Frank Greer, I already knew from other venues; but the MWSPR meetings allowed us to get better acquainted.

MWSPR experiences which have enhanced your career:
Two highlights were serving as MWSPR president from 1991 to 1992 and receiving the Founder’s Award in 2007.

Please provide recollections of meetings which could be of interest to others:
When I joined the faculty at Iowa in 1979, my faculty mentor Sam Fomon, department chair Fred Smith, and division chief Allen Erenberg all encouraged me to attend the meetings of the MWSPR and submit my research to the Society. My first MWSPR presentation was “Maturation of body temperature control of prematurely born infants,” in the Drake Hotel on October 31, 1984. In the early years, the MWSPR moved from city to city
and was hosted each fall by a different institution, as is again the case. By the time I joined the Society in 1983, the annual meeting had settled permanently in Chicago. For years, the MWSPR meetings were held jointly with the Central Society for Clinical Research and the Midwest Region of the American Federation for Clinical Research (the adult regional clinical research organizations) at the Drake Hotel, where the CSCR had been meeting every fall since 1935. I remember the Drake as a grand place to assemble each fall, resounding with the echoes of tradition, the beautiful views of Lake Michigan, the harpist at tea time in the beautiful Palm Court, and the great chowder at the Oyster Bar in the Cape Cod Room. The location just off North Michigan Avenue offered fine opportunities for evening exploration and dining and for daytime shopping excursions by accompanying spouses. When the meeting was moved from November to September, I discovered that the Oak Street Beach, just north of the Drake, was a great place to catch the sun in the late afternoon before the shorter, colder days of winter. It may sound as though I didn’t spend much time in the meetings, but the MWSPR plenary session was a half-day morning session with subspecialty sessions in the afternoon. The Developmental Biology subspecialty session was dominated by neonatologists, but there was little else in the afternoon that could compete with the attractions of Chicago.
I first heard of subtelomeric deletions as a partial explanation for idiopathic mental retardation at a talk at one of my first MWSPR meetings at the Drake. This lecture was superb and it has stuck with me as an example of how science works to help families understand the terrible burden of struggling with unknown fears about their children’s disabilities.

Second, much as I love Chicago as a meeting location, I have also enjoyed the visits to other cities/campuses: especially St. Louis and Cleveland. I come away inspired by both and want even more to make the UMKC Health Sciences Center on Hospital Hill a 21st century model of integrated research/teaching/care, as has occurred on the other campuses. Those visits showed me how crucial a welcoming educational center can contribute to lifelong learning.

Third, I continue to feel honored to have been one of the Founder’s Awardees of the Society. The respect of one’s peers, acknowledged with this award, stays with one for a lifetime.

Finally, on behalf of the membership who benefit from this unique yearly meeting, thank you to the presidents, vice presidents, and secretary-treasurers, current and past, who do so much behind-the-scenes work to make each year’s meeting happen and happen very smoothly. So, thank you.
The James Sutherland Award

The James Sutherland Award was named after a neonatologist from the University of Cincinnati, who was instrumental in establishing their neonatal unit. Dr. Sutherland was a renowned teacher, clinical investigator, and role model for trainees. He was active in the Midwest Society for Pediatric Research, and encouraged trainees to submit work at the annual meeting. The award, which recognizes the best investigative work presented by a junior faculty member, was first given in 1991. To be eligible for this award, the junior faculty candidate must be no more than five years out of fellowship training.

The award is accompanied by a $1,000 honorarium and plaque. The recipient is announced and honored each year at the Founder and Sutherland Awards Luncheon held during the MWSPR annual meeting.

1994 Thomas Scholz, MD
1995 Edward N. Guillery, MD
1996 Michael R. Uhing, MD
1997 Carol Gilmour, MD
1998 Robert H. Lane, MD
1999 I. I. Ekekezie, MD
2000 D. Balkundi, MD
2001 Janine Y. Khan, MD
2002 Steven Pipe, MD
2003 Shruti M. Phadke, MD
2004 J. Carter Ralphe, MD
2005 Michael Blake, MD, PhD
2006 Matthew I. Goldsmith, MD
2007 Jayme D. Allen, MD
2008 Alex Huang, MD and Mara Becker, MD, MSCE
The Jack Metcoff Award

The Jack Metcoff Award is given for outstanding research presentation by a resident or fellow at the MWSPR. The recipient receives a plaque and honorarium.

Jack Metcoff made a major impact on the field of pediatric nephrology and body fluid physiology. Throughout his career, Dr. Metcoff was the consummate teacher of clinical pediatrics and pediatric nephrology, of a problem-oriented approach to patient care, of the use of computers in medicine, and of investigative attitudes and techniques.

The Annual Conference on the Kidney, which he edited from 1950 to 1967, reflected the best of basic and clinical research progress in those years and remains a hallmark of journalistic excellence. As a leader and catalyst in the development of the Nephrosis Foundation, which evolved into the National Kidney Foundation and the American Society of Nephrology, he helped to lay the foundation for current professional and patient education.

1994  Bindya S. Singh
1995  Genie E. Roosevelt
1996  Raghavendra Rao
1997  Howard M. Katzenstein
1998  Rajeev Dixit
1999  Jennifer L. Kloesz
2000  Gregory Dalshaug
2001  Lisa K. Kelly
2002  Nancy B. Aspey
2003  Gerhard C. Hildebrandt
2004  Aaron K. Olson
2005  Christopher Linblade
2006  Todd D. Nebesio
2007  Nicholas Von Bergen
2008  Sundan Rajan
The Frederic M. Kenny Memorial Award

Frederic M. Kenny was instrumental in establishing the Pediatric Endocrinology Clinical and Fellowship Program at the Children's Hospital in Pittsburgh. Dr. Kenny was a scholarship student at Princeton University, then a medical school student at The Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, where he received his medical degree in 1955. He completed his general pediatric residency at The Johns Hopkins Hospital in 1958 and then spent two years in the U.S. Navy. He then returned to The Johns Hopkins Hospital where he completed a pediatric endocrine fellowship.

In 1962, Dr. Kenny accepted an invitation to move to Pittsburgh and assume the position of director of the Pediatric Endocrine Division. He developed an outstanding clinical program in pediatric endocrinology and laboratory research focused primarily on normal adrenal function ranges for children and adolescents. He was intensely interested in the pathophysiology of all of the endocrinopathies, and his work led to the description of the course of endocrine diseases. He co-authored approximately 100 papers and made more than 40 presentations at scientific meetings around the world.

The Kenny Award is given for outstanding research presentation by a fellow at the MWSPR, and includes an honorarium and plaque.

1989  Michael S. (Mickey) Caplan, MD
1996  Brenda B. Poindexter, MD
2002  Indra D. Chandrasekar, MD
2003  Heather Bartlett, MD
2004  Eyal Shteyer, MD
2005  Peter DeYoung, MD
2006  Rinku Mehra, MD
2007  Wendy Luce, MD
2008  Melissa Agoudemous, MD