The 26th Annual Meeting of the ESPR was held on March 21-23, 2014 at the Doubletree Hotel, Philadelphia, PA. There were 572 abstracts submitted and 458 were chosen for presentation. Attendees enjoyed:

- Three outstanding plenary sessions from Drs. Robin Steinhorn, MD (University of California Davis School of Medicine), James Padbury, MD (Women & Infants Hospital) and Robert Wood, MD (John Hopkins University School of Medicine)
- Fellows Interesting Clinical Case Contest, along with
- Faculty and Trainee Young Investigator Award competitions, plus
- Twenty-eight excellent subspecialty platform sessions and four expanded poster sessions.

The ESPR would like to thank staff in the APS/SPR office for their continued help and support. Their efforts and assistance have fully integrated the ESPR with the PAS.

We particularly wish to thank our Academic and Corporate Sponsors for making the Annual Meeting possible. Their contributions are acknowledged on the ESPR website at https://www.aps-spr.org/ESPR.

The ESPR welcomes investigators in all pediatric disciplines from within our region to apply for membership! As a young investigator engaged in clinical or laboratory research in pediatrics, you will have the opportunity to join a regional organization whose mission is to encourage your research endeavors. Through our annual meeting, we provide a forum for the presentation and dissemination of your innovative ideas and research, an opportunity to network with more senior investigators, and special topics of particular interest to those early in their investigative careers. The Eastern region spans from New England south to Northern Virginia and the D.C suburbs, west through New York State, Pennsylvania and West Virginia, including Toronto and Eastern Canada. Please see our website for details on applying for membership.

**Eastern SPR Faculty Young Investigator Award Finalists**
Tiffani Johnson (Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia)
Hamid Bassiri (Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia)
*Jayasree Nair (State University of New York at Buffalo)

**Eastern SPR Trainee Young Investigator Award Finalists**
Praveen Chandrasekharan (Women and Children Hospital of Buffalo)
Elizabeth Enlow (Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia)
*Samarth Shukla (Cohen Children’s Medical Center of New York)

* Indicates Award Winner

**2015 ESPR Annual Meeting:**

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https://www.aps-spr.org/ESPR/2013/default.htm
Our next 2014 55th MWSPR Annual Meeting will be in October 30-31 2014, Cleveland Clinic, Cleveland, OH. The 2013 54th MWSPR Annual Meeting was held October 10-11, 2013 in Minneapolis, MN, hosted by the Department of Pediatrics and Amplatz Children’s Hospital. 90 abstracts were presented in oral (30) or poster (60) presentations and the following award recipients were honored.

Career Contributions Founders Award: was given to Howard Kilbride, MD, from the University of Missouri-Kansas City and Children’s Mercy Hospital, sponsored by Mead Johnson Nutrition. Several Outstanding Abstract Presentations were awarded. Undergraduate or Medical Student was given by Richard C. Godby, Medical Student, from University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati from the Cleveland Clinic. Resident or Fellow Trainee Awards included Brittany L. Knipstein, MD, Fellow from Washington University, St. Louis was awarded the Frederick M. Kenny Memorial Award, sponsored by Abbott Nutrition and Lauritz Meyer, MD, Fellow from University of Iowa, Iowa City who was awarded the Jack Metcalf Memorial Award, sponsored by MWSPR. In addition, Shawna S. Shafer, MD, Fellow from University of Michigan, Ann Arbor was awarded the William Segar Trainee Award for Clinical Research Impact, sponsored by Friends of William Segar. Stanley Phillips Trainee Award for Best Posters, sponsored by University of Wisconsin Neonatology were given to Frances A. Boyle, Student, Indiana University and BreAnn Sheehan, Fellow Indiana University. Junior Faculty Member James Sutherland Award was awarded to Craig A. Byersdorfer, from the University of Michigan, sponsored by Mead Johnson Nutrition.

State-of-the-Art Keynote speakers included: Jerry R. Mendell, MD, PhD, Professor and Director of the Center for Gene Therapy, The Ohio State University presented on Gene therapy in muscular dystrophy. Christopher L. Coe, PhD, W.B. Cannon Professor, University of Wisconsin presented on Iron Deficiency and Neonatal Development. Lynda Polgreen, MD, Assistant Professor, The University of Minnesota, Amplatz Children’s Hospital presented on Vitamin D and Immunity. Stephen D. Simon, PhD., University of Missouri-Kansas City presented the Trainee Breakfast on Statistics.

Nominations for membership in the MWSPR are encouraged. To be eligible, an individual should be pursuing an active career in academic pediatrics as a faculty member at a teaching institution in Ohio, Michigan, Indiana, Illinois, Missouri, Kansas, Iowa, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, Western Pennsylvania (including Pittsburgh), Manitoba, or Saskatchewan. Full Members must have made a scientific contribution, as documented by first authorship of at least one published paper in a refereed scientific journal. Case reports and review articles are not generally considered to satisfy this requirement. Members of the parent society (SPR) living in the Midwest are automatically accepted. Affiliate Members are for those with at least a master’s degree, but don’t hold faculty positions. Provisional Members are for junior faculty without a record of independent publications or funding. http://www.aps-spr.org/Regional_Societies/MWSPR/2013/default.htm

Officers for the MWSPR are President David Kershaw, Michigan; President-Elect Raghu Rao, Minnesota, Past-President Robert Hoffman. Council Members are Heather Bartlett, Iowa; Wendy Luce, Ohio State; Michael Wilhelm, Wisconsin; Robert (Bing) Hinton, Cincinnati; Akhil Maheswari, U of Illinois-Chicago; Judith Groner, Ohio State; Deepa Chand, Rush; Naim Alkhouri, Cleveland Clinic; Noah Hillman, St. Louis University.

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http://www.aps-spr.org/Regional_Societies/MWSPR/default.htm
The 2014 SSPR Annual Meeting took place in New Orleans at the InterContinental Hotel on February 20-22, as a component of the Southern Regional Meetings. Abstracts were presented by poster or oral presentation. The SSPR sponsored a workshop in manuscript preparation and review, an APA/SSPR pediatric clinical case symposium and a mentored poster-walk for trainees. The joint plenary session examined “Transition from Pediatric to Adult Care.” At the SSPR Red Hot “Chili” Symposium, Dr. Robert Castro from Stanford spoke about Perinatal/Neonatal Malpractice Review. In addition to 22 Trainee Travel Awards, the following were honored:

**2014 Clinical Science Young Investigator Award**
Holli Bagwell, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences
“Improving Disaster Awareness and Preparedness among Families of Children with Special Healthcare Needs”
**Finalists:**
Courtney Jacobs, Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center
Alexandra Maxted, University of Tennessee Health Science Center

**2014 Basic Science Young Investigator Award**
Athis Arunachalam, Baylor College of Medicine
“P2Y2 Purinergic Receptor Function is Essential for the Pathogenesis of Polymicrobial Sepsis”
**Finalists:**
C. Vivek Lal, University of Texas Southwestern
Kirtikumar Upadhyay, University of Tennessee Health Science Center

**2014 Young Faculty Awards**
Faizah Bhatti, University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center
Mimily Harsano, University of Tennessee Health Sciences Center
Pinki Prasad, Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center
Binoy Shivanna, Baylor College of Medicine

**2014 Abbott Pediatric Educator Award**
Lucky Jain, Emory University

**2014 SSPR Founders’ Award**
Robert Castro, Stanford University

**SSPR Officer and Council Elections**
Reed Dimmitt (UAB) (past president) was honored and thanked for his service, particularly for his role in planning the joint plenary session on transitions for the Southern Regional meetings this year. Heidi Karpen (Emory), Sunil Jain (UTMB), Margarita Vasquez (UTHSCSA) and Donna Halloran (SLU) were thanked for their service to Council over the last 2 years. Cynthia Blanco (UTHSCSA) took the gavel as President. Donna Halloran (SLU) was selected to be President-Elect. Eric Eichenwald (UT-Houston), Doug Dannaway (OUHSC), Sunil Jain (UTMB) and Margarita Vasquez (UTHSCSA) were elected to Council.

**2015 SSPR Annual Meeting**
February 26-28, 2015 ~ New Orleans, LA
Abstract Deadline: October, 2014 (TBA)
Check the Website: [http://www.aps-spr.org/Regional_Societies/SSPR/2013/default.htm](http://www.aps-spr.org/Regional_Societies/SSPR/2013/default.htm)

**Membership Information**
Background—The Southern Society for Pediatric Research (SSPR) was organized in 1960 to provide a forum for pediatric investigators from the South to present their work and includes approximately 400 active members.
How To Apply—All applications must be proposed and seconded by 2 members of SSPR with accompanying letters supporting your application. Complete the Membership Application (found on SSPR website), attach accompanying letters, and mail, along with check for $65 to the address on the application. New Memberships are voted on at the winter and Spring Councils.

Contact for Information about Meeting or Membership:
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