Welcome to the February issue and watch your email for details on the following SPU activities:
- SPU Annual Meeting, September 11, 2021
- SPU Fall Congress, December 2-5 2021 in Miami – Abstract Deadline: June 6, 2021

SOCIETY FOR FETAL UROLOGY

It may be hard to believe but the Society for Fetal Urology (SFU) turns 34 this year. It began as an informal gathering of 7 pediatric urologists tasked with improving the care of infants diagnosed with antenatal hydronephrosis. Over the years, the SFU has promoted research, education, and interdisciplinary communications to achieve its mission. Through the dedication and perseverance of its many past leaders (too numerous to list in this short communication), the SFU has been able to achieve many significant milestones in support of its mission. From the creation of the initial SFU grading system for infant hydronephrosis in 1988 to the Consensus statement on the evaluation and management of antenatal hydronephrosis in 2010, the SFU has established its position as leaders in the clinical care of infants with hydronephrosis.

Furthermore, the SFU has been instrumental in promoting research to improve the care of infants with antenatal hydronephrosis. The Society sponsored a multicenter prospective randomized trial on pyeloplasty versus observation for infants with unilateral grade 3-4 hydronephrosis, resulting in the publication by Palmer, et. al. in 1998. In 2005, the Society incorporated the Hydronephrosis registry that continues to enroll patients. This registry was recently highlighted in the latest issue of the Dialogues of Pediatric Urology with a wonderful interview with its founder, Tony Herndon. For those with interest in participating in this registry, please contact Tony (claude.herndon@vcuhealth.org).

From the beginning, the SFU has remained committed to serving as a liaison with other professional societies of specialties involved in the care of prenatal and postnatal hydronephrosis. This commitment has been evidenced by being a major stakeholder at the consensus conference in 2014 along with the representatives from the major societies in radiology, nephrology, and maternal-fetal medicine that resulted in the new Urinary Tract Dilation (UTD) grading system. We continue to look forward to actively promoting its use in both research and clinical practice.

More recently, the SFU has become known for our biannual case presentations, offering opportunities for trainees and members to present interesting perinatal urology cases in an informal and casual setting. Even Covid-19 was unable to derail our tradition as thanks to the hard work and dedication of Douglas Storm, the SFU was able to successfully host a “Cases and Cocktails” webinar as part of the SPU Live event in 2020 with over 160 participants. Given the success of our virtual conference, we are planning on hosting another virtual “Cases and Cocktails” during the upcoming AUA meeting. We also look forward to hosting a highly informative morning session at the upcoming SPU 2021 Fall Congress, which is currently being planned by Dr. Marcos Machado.

In an effort to broaden our outreach, the SFU is proud to have recently established a social media presence with the launch of our twitter handle (@fetalurology) in addition to our newly re-designed website (sfu-urology.org). If you are not currently a follower of our twitter account, please consider adding us.

The SFU has certainly grown from its humble beginnings. We now have over 300 members, with international representation from Canada, Europe, the Middle East, and Asia. We look forward to increasing our domestic and international membership. If you are not yet a member, please consider joining our society. More information and an application for membership may be found on our website or feel free to email us at societyforfetalurology@gmail.com.

Dennis B. Liu, President
Dana Giel, Secretary-Treasurer