Welcome to the February issue and watch your email for details on the following SPU activities:

- **SPU Annual Meeting, September 11, 2021**
- **AUA Abstract Submission Deadline: March 1, 2021**
- **SPU Fall Congress, December 2-5 2021 in Miami – Abstract Deadline: June 6, 2021**
- **Zoom Networking Social in MARCH - Stay tuned for details**

**Update on the Pediatric Urologic Oncology Working Group (PUOWG)**

We very much appreciate the opportunity to highlight the current state and past accomplishments of the PUOWG of the SPU. Our work is a continuation of the progress made in this area by titans in our field over the past few generations! Historically, pediatric urology has played an important role in the study of genitourinary malignancies and the current generation of pediatric urologists is left to fill the enormous shoes of those who have laid the foundation for our current involvement. It is thanks to them that we have a formalized group (PUOWG) within the SPU where pediatric and adolescent urologic oncology exists as a recognized sub-specialty. The future appears bright with ongoing clinical and translational research being spearheaded by pediatric urologists in the areas of adrenal tumors, renal tumors, pelvic and para-testicular rhabdomyosarcoma, and testicular tumors. Additionally, pediatric urology is an integral part of the growing wave of emphasis on pediatric cancer survivorship in areas such as fertility preservation, long-term side effects of cancer treatment on renal function, pelvic health, and gonadal function.

It is important to highlight the aims of the organization in the context of its by-laws:

1. Involvement in the cooperative oncology groups, such as the Children’s Oncology Group (COG), which lead large-scale, prospective, pediatric oncology research
2. Developing and fostering sub-specialty oncology interest amongst pediatric urologists via our existing professional organizations such as the American Urological Association (AUA) and the Society of Pediatric Urology (SPU)
3. Continuing education of the pediatric urology community on oncology-related issues
4. Conducting and leading high-impact clinical and translational research in a multi-institutional and collaborative manner amongst interested pediatric urologists
5. Focusing on quality improvement to ensure that as pediatric urologists we are providing safe, reliable, and state-of-the-art oncology care to this patient population.

Currently, multiple pediatric urologists are actively involved in COG. While this is encouraging, we encourage every pediatric urologist interested in oncologic care to become a member in COG, which is free and can be done via support of the local institutional COG principal investigator. Additionally, PUOWG has had great success in increasing interest in the community about issues related to oncology. This is evidenced by over 5 years of bi-annual meetings, in conjunction with our Spring and Fall pediatric urology meetings, with exciting and well attended PUOWG sessions. During these meetings, we have seen great success with our case presentation sessions and an existing relationship with the Urology – Gold Journal to publish our presentations in the form of Pediatric Case Reports. To date, over 20 such cases have been published. This recognition via publication has encouraged strong rates of participation in our meetings by fellows and trainees.

In terms of education, PUOWG conducted a needs-assessment survey of SPU members and plans to implement future educational efforts for SPU members and Pediatric Urology Fellows. This includes tumor-specific “handbooks” which can guide pediatric urologists about standards of care in managing the full breadth of pediatric and adolescent urologic malignancies (Adrenal, Renal, Testis/Paratestis, Bladder/Prostate, Gynecologic, Late Effects, and Fertility Preservation). We plan for these to be published in 2021. There are also plans to conduct an annual course for pediatric urology fellows and interested faculty focused on urologic oncology.

As for our fourth goal, PUOWG is also active in conducting multi-institutional research by connecting interested investigators and providing the necessary support to make such studies a reality. There have been two PUOWG studies already published and we currently have three active, open studies in which we encourage all SPU member to participate.1,2 We are proud to have entered the social media era and have worked to actively promote our progress, educational efforts, and open studies both via Twitter (@PedsUroOnc) and our website: https://puowg.spuonline.org/. Lastly, we cannot overstate that as a community of pediatric urologists we must strive to provide safe and reliable care to both our patients and the referring pediatric oncology providers. If we are successful in achieving the first four goals, this fifth aim will come as a matter of course.

In conclusion, as we look toward a bright future, we must thank the SPU for their outstanding support for the PUOWG over the last 5 years! Additionally, it is important for us to thank our prior PUOWG Executive Committee members by name, as without them, any current or future success would be impossible: Michael Ritchey, Jonathan Ross, Fernando Ferrer, Margarett Shnorhavorian, Kristina Suson, and Armando Lorenzo.

Authors: Executive Committee of the SPU - Jonathan Routh (President), Kathleen Kieran (President Elect), Nicholas Cost (Secretary), Candace Granberg, Patricio Gargollo, Amanda Saltzman and Rodrigo Romao (At-large Executive Committee Members)

References: