Executive Committee

The conclusion of the Fall Congress in Miami marked a transition amongst the executive committee of the SPU. Mike Ritchey is rotating off as Past-President and will be replaced by Pat McKenna for the same position. We are pleased that Elizabeth Yerkes accepted our nomination for President-Elect and will join Paul Austin Secretary/Treasurer and myself as President on the executive committee.

Miami Fall Congress 2021 Re-cap

It was certainly great to have everyone together in Miami for the first in person meeting in 18 months for many of those attending. The weather was superb and the ability to re-engage with our fellow colleagues was even better. The AAP-SOU provided this year’s Fall Congress program chairs and was successfully led by the team of Dr. Patricio Gargollo and Dr. Beth Drzewiecki who served as Chair and Associate Chair respectively. The program included 99 oral abstract presentations, 69 poster abstracts and a number of stimulating panels. The Inaugural SPU Presidential Leadership award was given to Beth Drzewiecki, for demonstrating outstanding achievement with her work with the DSD Taskforce and a well-deserved honor.

Keynote lectures included the AAPU sponsored lecture by Dr. Andrew Kirsch entitled “VUR Evaluation and Management: It’s time for an “Upgrade”, the AAP Latimer lecture was given by Dr. David Joseph entitled “Spina Bifida: Advocating for an International Approach to Prevention, Care and Treatment” and the SPU sponsored lecture was given by Ben B. Rubinowitz entitled “Medical Malpractice: Lessons From A Plaintiff’s Lawyer” which included an interactive audience participation component. The DSD Task Force update on Intersex surgery was moderated by Earl Cheng and included Pat McKenna with a year in review for 2021, Beth Drzewiecki spoke to the importance of engagement of advocacy groups and Jessica Casey gave an overview of the Nevada Panel.

As can only happen with COVID, the highlight of the program included not one but two AAP medal presentations. Dr. David Bloom, 2020 recipient, was introduced by Drs. John Park and Julian Wan. Dr. Anthony A. Caldamone, 2021 recipient, was introduced by Drs. Marc Cendron and David Diamond. Both presentations were attended by friends and family and both are well deserved of this honor. Congratulations David and Tony!!

As we experienced shortly after our highly successful Fall Congress, the ever-lingering threat of yet another surge of COVID was just around the corner. The last two years has taught us to adhere to the common colloquialism of “Plan for the worst and hope for the best”. Personally, I feel that “hope” is not a strategy but more adopt a “stoic” premise of “the obstacle becomes the way” and “what stands in the way becomes the way”!

SPU @ AUA

To that end we are very excited and look forward to the 70th Annual SPU Meeting in New Orleans on May 14th. Drs Rosalia Misseri and Gina Lockwood will serve as program Chair and Associate Chair respectively. Panel topics include: Non-spina bifida neurogenic bladder, landmark papers in Pediatric Urology, Oncology, Management of cryptorchidism, Applications of robotics and the management of primary obstructive megaureter. The Meredith Campbell lecture, entitled “Peer Review, Open Access, Predatory Journalism and the Future of Scientific Communication”, will be given by Anthony Caldamone. In addition to the SPU Saturday meeting, there will be pediatric abstracts as part of the AUA program and plenary session that will take place from May 13-15th. In addition, don’t miss “Your Essential Guide to Congenitalism and Transitional Care” presented by the AUA in collaboration with the Society of Genitourinary Reconstructive Surgeons (GURS), the Societies for Pediatric Urology (SPU) & the Society of Urodynamics, Female Pelvic Medicine & Urogenital Reconstruction (SUFU) to take place on Thursday, May 12.

FALL CONGRESS 2022

Finally, we are excited to announce the Pediatric Fall Congress venue will be at the JW Marriott in Las Vegas October 20-23. The SPU will serve as the lead society with Dr. Stacy Tanaka taking on the role as program chair. We look forward to learning more about her program over the coming months.

Respectfully,

CD Anthony Herndon, MD, President