From the Desk of the Secretary SPU: This issue is devoted to the UTI Task Force led by Dr. Jennifer Singer. The work this group has done is phenomenal. The SPU is indebted to the hard work this group has accomplished.

As you know, the AUA has changed the Annual Meeting to the beginning of September 2021. The SPU membership voted to change the date to December 2-5, 2021. Because of the AUA proximity to our fall meeting and the logistics of these changes, SPU will now host a one day meeting during the AUA on Saturday, September 11, 2021 with panels and invited lecturers and without abstracts. The AUA will keep the same format with the pediatric plenary session and abstract sessions.

UPDATES FROM THE SPU UTI TASK FORCE

Greetings from the SPU UTI Task Force! The SPU UTI Task Force has been hard at work since inception in May, 2018. The Task Force hit the ground running, energetic to contribute to the body of research and clinical work surrounding pediatric urinary tract infection. Early Task Force activities included electing our Chair, Jennifer Singer, and our Vice Chair, Daryl McLeod, organizing ourselves around a Mission Statement intended to help inform and drive our work, and in posting an SPU UTI Task Force webpage housed on the Society for Pediatric Urology Website. Our webpage lists upcoming UTI meetings of interest, provides a list of national and international society as well as existing Children’s Hospital UTI guidelines, lists current SPU UTI Task Force projects, provides a list of our Task Force members, and includes a link for you, the SPU members, to contact us!

SPU UTI Task Force Mission Statement: To provide expert opinion and guidance to, and to collaborate with, the pediatric urology and broader pediatric communities regarding issues related to the diagnosis, evaluation, and management of pediatric UTIs; and To propose and support the scientific study of pediatric UTIs.

SPU UTI Task Force Webpage (https://spuonline.org/UTI/):

SPU UTI Task Force Scientific Studies:

The Task Force’s most notable work to date has been our work on a Systematic Review, entitled, Variations in Definitions of Urinary Tract Infections in the Pediatric Population. In early meetings, the Task Force was eager to contribute meaningful and substantive work to the community of academicians studying pediatric urinary tract infections (UTIs) and clinicians treating children with UTI. We were aware that a topic as conceptually broad as pediatric UTI lent enormous opportunity for contributions by a body of experts in this area. Our initial brainstorming efforts focused our interest on perhaps the most fundamental questions in this topic area: “what is a pediatric urinary tract infection,” “what is the definition of pediatric UTI,” and “how do we diagnose pediatric UTI?” Knowing that great variation exists in simply defining urinary tract infection in children, the Task Force felt a need existed to provide a better understanding of how the pediatric and urologic communities define pediatric urinary tract infection. An early identified goal for the Task Force was to provide not only an understanding of the widely varying definitions of UTI in children, but also, if possible, to propose a unifying and accepted definition. This fundamental question serves as the basis of our systematic review.

Systematic Review Regarding Variations in Definitions of Urinary Tract Infections in the Pediatric Population:

This is a large systematic review, published in the international systematic review database, PROSPERO, looking at variations in the published definitions of pediatric urinary tract infection between 2000 and 2019. With the assistance of an academic medical center librarian, the SPU UTI Task Force iteratively worked to define inclusion and exclusion criteria for the search terms serving as the basis for our systematic review. Searching PubMed and EMBASE, over 20,000 results returned that met systematic review criteria. The SPU UTI Task Force members have been hard at work utilizing a Systematic Review web-based software platform to comb through various review phases, ultimately identifying over 2500 articles meeting inclusion criteria. Now, in our final phase of the systematic review, that of full text review, we will be abstracting data from these more than 2500 results into a web-based software database platform, from which we will analyze and interpret the results of this review. The SPU UTI Task Force plans to publish the results of this systematic review, with goals of endorsing a singular definition, group of applicable definitions, or set of guiding definition principles, that can be used to unify approaches to both clinical care for children with urinary tract infections and research endeavors in pediatric urinary tract infections grounded in consistent definitions.

The SPU UTI Task Force remains energetic and eager to contribute to national and international efforts toward the improvement of care of children with UTIs and we look forward to collaborating with our SPU membership colleagues in research and clinical care projects going forward. Please contact us at spu.utitaskforce@gmail.com or via the “Contact the SPU UTI Task Force!” link on our webpage to share your ideas, to collaborate on projects, or just to say “hello” from other SPU members. We look forward to hearing from you and seeing you all just as soon as in-person meetings resume.

Warm regards from the SPU UTI Task Force,