How wonderful it was to see all our friends and colleagues from literally around the world in New Orleans for the Societies for Pediatric Urology Annual Meeting. Many of us have not seen each other in close to three years! Drs. Lockwood and Misseri put together an amazing SPU program that included a number of provocative sessions with ample time for discussion in between.

It is with a heavy heart that, for many of us, this would be the last meeting that we had the fortune of working with our colleague Doug Canning. Doug was his ever-present, incredibly kind and humble self at the meeting and his panel reflected on the work of his mentor John Duckett. Doug will always be present in our thoughts and he will be dearly missed as we continue down this journey of education and service. We can take comfort in knowing that Doug would not want us to take our foot off the pedal for one minute and would want us to continue full at speed ahead.

The entire AUA experience is highlighted below. Please enjoy.

CD Anthony Herndon, MD, FAAP
President, Society for Pediatric Urology

Title: 70th Annual Meeting of the SPU: A Recap

The SPU, in conjunction with the AUA, offered a scientific program of over 80 outstanding podium and poster abstract presentations. All abstracts are available for review at https://app.swapcard.com/event/2022-aua-annual-meeting-new-orleans.

The Society for Fetal Urology kicked off the meeting with case presentations ranging from an intraperitoneal perforation in an infant during voiding cystourethrogram to a large prostatic utricle being confused for the bladder itself. A new collaborative course entitled “Your Essential Guide to Congenitalism and Transitional Care” was presented by the AUA in collaboration with GURS, SPU and SUFU, focusing on the issues associated with neuropathic bladder in adolescents and adults.

The full-day SPU program began with our colleagues in adult and pediatric urology discussing the less frequent diagnoses leading to neurogenic bladder, including spinal cord injury, transverse myelitis, and cerebral palsy. Hearing viewpoints on the natural history of these entities throughout childhood, adolescence and adulthood helped us to examine how we treat these patients throughout childhood. We then heard from giants in pediatric urology Drs. Douglas Canning, Stephen Koff and Paul Mitrofanoff by way of Dr. Matthieu Peycelon on their landmark articles in pediatric urology, with retrospection on the impact on urology at the time and how these have aged and influenced the field today.

We heard from the Pediatric Urology Oncology Working Group under the direction of Dr. Cost regarding updates in contemporary management of Wilms tumor. Following this, both adult and pediatric urology experts weighed in on current evidence regarding optimal timing for orchiopexy in the setting of cryptorchidism and ultimate impacts on fertility and malignant transformation.

Dr. Tony Caldamone gave the distinguished Meredith Campbell lecture on a timely topic regarding the future of scientific publication and integrity in research and publishing.

The afternoon included panels on updates on management of megaureter, the evolution of pediatric robotic surgery and thoughts on non-hypospadias penile anomalies. A “How I Would Do It” debate included case presentations and interactive audience participation on the topics of bladder neck reconstruction, intra-abdominal testicles and techniques for UTI prevention in neurogenic bladder. There was also a healthy dose of competitiveness between all involved!

Plenary sessions rounded out the meeting, including cutting-edge discussions regarding regenerative medicine in Pediatrics. The John Duckett Memorial Lecture was presented by the esteemed Dr. David Joseph, honoring his exceptional contributions to pediatric urology.

We left the meeting feeling exciting and rejuvenated. We look forward to seeing everyone again in October in Las Vegas, as well as continued innovation and creativity from our peers and new leaders in pediatric urology!

Program Chairwomen
Gina Lockwood MD, MS, FAAP
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