



SUMMER NEWSLETTER THE WESTERN SOCIETY FOR PEDIATRIC RESEARCH

Vol. 23, No. 2
August 2009

ANNUAL MEETING – CARMEL, CALIFORNIA
WEDNESDAY, January 27, 2010 THROUGH
SATURDAY, January 30, 2010



THE WESTERN SOCIETY FOR PEDIATRIC RESEARCH

C/O Robin K. Ohls, M.D.

Secretary/Treasurer

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

De-Ann Pillers, MD, PhD

Greetings from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. I am both delighted and honored to serve WSPR and to partner with our members in the Midwest in sharing the traditions of our organization. The WSPR has been an important part of so many of our careers, especially during our 'infancy' as trainees and faculty members. My first encounter with WSPR was as a fellow in Neonatology with an abstract presentation and receipt of the David Smith trainee award - that was back in 1991. WSPR has been

such a treasured part of my academic life that I have missed only one meeting since - in 1996 due to the birth of my son. There are so many of you who have similar stories to tell and whose efforts have made this society the wonderful treasure that it is. We are indebted to you for keeping the future of the WSPR alive - by recruiting new members and encouraging our most junior colleagues and trainees to develop their own sense of affection and gratitude for WSPR.

I am particularly pleased to assume the presidency at a time of relative fiscal health and membership stability for WSPR. I am encouraged that, despite all the competition for our limited time and resources, all of the regional societies continue to thrive, especially the WSPR. I believe it is a continuing testament to our special venue for nurturing the emerging careers of young investigators.

Our 2010 annual meeting will again utilize the highly successful format of a joint plenary session co-sponsored by the four principal participating organizations, i.e. the Western Society for Pediatric Research, the Western Society for Clinical Investigation, the Western Association of Physicians, and the Western Section of the American Federation for Medical Research. The theme for the day will be to focus on novel insights into infections or "**The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly in Microorganisms**", and will include these intriguing topics: "How Bacteria Look at the World", "The Microbiome and Why You Should Care", and "Host & Viral Factors that Influence Progression of Hepatitis C and Response to Interferon". The main WSPR component of the plenary session, the Stanley Wright Memorial Lecture, will be delivered by Dr. Mark R. Schleiss from the University of Minnesota, and is entitled "Forty Years is Long Enough: At Last, Good News About Prospects for a Cytomegalovirus Vaccine." The plenary session will be held in the Pacific Repertory Theater--Golden Bough on Thursday, January 28, 2010.

The specialty sessions on Friday and Saturday will feature more than 20 excellent "State-of-the-Art" presentations covering a broad array of topics. New this year will be the dedication of one of the Neonatology State of the Art presentations to the memory of our long-time friend and colleague in WSPR, Dr. Joan Hodgman.

It is my pleasure to thank my fellow officers, President-Elect Bill Hay, Past-President Curt Bennett and particularly Secretary-Treasurer Robin Ohls, and also the Council members for their continued service and dedication to the WSPR. Finally, special thanks to Dr. Ohls' administrative assistant, Green Carlson, for keeping us all on task and holding the organization together!

So, start planning for the 2010 WSPR annual meeting in Carmel, and take a moment to think about how you can contribute to the society in the process: energize your department chairs and division heads, recruit new members, nominate your colleagues and trainees for the yearly WSPR Research Awards. Most importantly, encourage your medical students, residents, fellows and faculty colleagues to submit their best work for presentation (abstract deadline Thursday, October 1) and then be sure to attend. We are looking forward to seeing you in beautiful Carmel!

Best regards,

De-Ann M. Pillers, MD, PhD

Abstract Submission

Please plan to submit an abstract and encourage your colleagues, especially students, residents, fellows and junior faculty, to submit abstracts. **The abstract deadline is Thursday, October 1, 2009.** Cost is \$75 and **NO CHECKS OR PURCHASE ORDERS WILL BE ACCEPTED.** This year again electronic abstract submission is the **REQUIRED MODE.** Full instructions are on the website at:

Nominations for New WSPR Members

Don't forget to nominate **New Members!** Remember that there are no longer any geographic restrictions to membership and that PhDs are also eligible.

A new trainee membership category now exists at the \$25.00 level.

Note: Trainee members do not automatically progress to regular members, as they must go through an official nomination process.

The deadline for nominations is **January 15, 2010.** A form for both faculty and trainees is enclosed. The growth and life of our Society depends on the inclusion of young investigators as well as established academicians in all the subspecialties.

For more information on membership nomination criteria, please refer to the WSPR website at: www.aps-spr.org/Regional_Societies/WSPR/2008/membership.htm

Complete nomination packets should be transmitted electronically to wspr@salud.unm.edu.

Annual Dues Reminder

You are encouraged to promptly pay your July 2009-June 2010, \$80.00 dues as well as any unpaid dues from previous years. Your Society is vitally dependent on dues.

A form is enclosed for WSPR members who wish to pay by check.

The cost of registration for non-members is **MORE** than your annual dues!

Remember, you will **NOT** receive the abstract journal (Journal of Investigative Medicine) if your dues are not paid by October 31, 2009.

You can now easily pay on line using PayPal. Please take a moment to get caught up on your dues for WSPR. Visit our website at:

www.aps-spr.org/Regional_Societies/WSPR/2008/default.htm and click on "PAY NOW". If you are one of our recent distinguished Emeritus members (age 70 and above), your membership dues are just \$20 per year. Please make sure your past dues are paid. Your Society depends on you!

2010 Abbott Nutrition Awards

We are delighted to announce that the 2010 Abbott Nutrition Awards will be presented during the plenary sessions. The awards include the **Abbott Nutrition Award in Research by a Young Investigator**, the **David W. Smith Pediatric Trainee Research Award**, and the **Lowell Glasgow Student Research Award**.

Please visit our website at: www.aps-spr.org/Regional_Societies/WSPR/2010/awards.htm for instructions on nominating

deserving faculty and trainees. Information is also included in this newsletter (see below).

You are again encouraged to arrive in Carmel Wednesday afternoon, January 27th, in order to meet members of our affiliated organizations at the annual Intersociety Welcoming Reception from 5:30-7:30 p.m. There will again be a special Student Poster Session featuring the top student abstracts on Thursday, January 28th, 2009 from 4:00-6:00 p.m. at the Monterey Beach Resort, 2600 Sand Dunes Drive, Monterey, CA off Highway One. All attendees for the Carmel Meetings are welcome and encouraged to attend and participate.

Please note that we will be again meeting the last week in January, 2009, BEFORE the AT&T Pro-Am Annual golf tournament. For more information call (831) 649-1533. Website: www.attpbgolf.com.

We hope the combination of an outstanding scientific meeting and an awesome venue will convince you and your students, residents, and fellows to prioritize this increasingly unique event.

Abbott Nutrition Award in Research by a Young Investigator: *Deadline October 1, 2009*

The WSPR confers this award on a chosen nominee in recognition of outstanding research in a field related to pediatrics. The nominee must have a **junior faculty** (Assistant Professor, Instructor) academic appointment. There is no age restriction. The work need not have been published. Abbott Nutrition will provide \$1,250 and a suitably engraved plaque to be presented to the awardee at the annual meeting. The award winner will be asked to present some aspects of his/her work, or a summary of it, at one of the two combined plenary sessions. Nominations may be tendered by an active or Emeritus member of the WSPR. Electronically submitted nominations are the preferred mode of submission. Nominations should be in the form of a narrative letter which includes a clear statement of the reasons for nomination of the candidate. Nominations should also include a copy of the nominee's CV, and copies of reprints, preprints, or other documents, if considered applicable. The award may be given to more than one nominee at the discretion of the Committee, or it may be omitted if the Committee considers that an outstanding candidate has not been nominated. **Completed electronic nominations are preferred, and can be sent via e-mail to WSPR@salud.unm.edu.**

Alternatively, written nominations (one original and two copies) should be sent to:

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David W. Smith Pediatric Trainee Research Award: *Deadline October 1, 2009*

This award is sponsored by Abbott Nutrition Laboratories and will be accompanied by a plaque and a \$1000 honorarium. The recipient will present his/her paper at one of the subspecialty sessions of the WSPR. The award is based upon an abstract submitted for presentation at the annual meeting. The criteria for this award include: original, unpublished research by a Pediatric Resident or Fellow, under the auspices of a WSPR member or in a WSPR-affiliated program, during house staff training or within the first three years of the applicant's pediatric fellowship training program. The award is given during or within one year following the above-described period of training.

Nominations may be submitted by any active or Emeritus member of the Society. The application should be in the form of a narrative letter describing the work, its significance, the background of the nominee and an assurance (signature) that the nominee will be available to present the work. **A copy of the abstract must accompany the letter.** A CV of the nominee and any supporting documents, research summaries, etc., may accompany the nomination. Again, the preferred mode of submission is in electronic format. **Completed electronic nominations can be sent via e-mail to WSPR@salud.unm.edu.** Alternatively, completed written nominations (one original and two copies) should be sent to:

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Lowell Glasgow Student Research Award:

This award is given to the student submitting the most outstanding abstract to this year's WSPR meeting. The research may be in any area of pediatrics. Abbott Nutrition Laboratories is sponsoring this award, which includes a generous \$750 honorarium. The student will be asked to present the abstract at a subspecialty session. This award will be presented to the top scoring abstract submitted by a student to WSPR. No nomination materials are required.

Mead Johnson Travel Awards:

A generous gift amount for travel money will be available for travel awards for the 2010 meeting, and is provided by a grant from Mead Johnson Nutrition. The purpose of these awards is to facilitate participation in the WSPR by those least able to afford the meeting (i.e., medical students, residents and fellows).

Abstracts will be selected by the WSPR officers on the basis of merit and ranking by subspecialty reviewers. Specific letters of nomination from mentors are helpful, but not required. We will give as many awards as funding allows.

2009 NEW MEMBERS

The WSPR again had a good recruitment year with 7 new applicants approved for full membership. In addition, 2 new trainee members were approved. We are pleased to welcome the following new faculty members and congratulate all who helped recruit them.

2009 New Faculty Members:

Robert Dimand, MD
Chief, Department of Pediatrics
UCSF Fresno

Ophir Klein, MD, PhD, FAAP
Assistant Professor of Pediatrics
UC San Francisco

Ulfat Shikh, MD, MPH
Assistant Professor of Pediatrics
UC Davis

Jonathan Bernstein, MD, PhD
Assistant Professor of Pediatrics
Stanford University

Jason Gein, MD
Assistant Professor of Pediatrics
University of Colorado

Cora Breuner, MD
Professor of Pediatrics
University of Washington

Leslie Walker, MD
Chief, Adolescent Medicine
University of Washington

2009 New Trainee Members:

David Buchbinder, MD - UCLA

Travis Carroll, MD - U. of Utah

REMINDER: ABSTRACT DEADLINE OCTOBER 1, 2009
