



**SUMMER NEWSLETTER
THE WESTERN SOCIETY FOR PEDIATRIC RESEARCH**

Vol. 29, No. 2

September 2014



Dear WSPR Members:

Summer, soon-to-be-fall, greetings to our WSPR family, and welcome to our new members! I am honored to serve as this year's President of the Western Society for Pediatric Research and ramp-up enthusiasm for next year's meeting in Carmel.

We have three important reminders for you right off the bat. The first reminder is to think about nominees from your institution for the various awards that WSPR offers. Please take time to nominate your colleagues, especially trainees and young investigators! To help you, the list of WSPR awards is provided below. The list also identifies the awardees from the last Carmel meeting. Congratulations to them once again!

The second reminder is to nominate colleagues for membership to the WSPR, both full membership and trainee membership. One of the ways to sustain our vibrant society is to recruit new members. There is a simple application process through the WSPR Council followed by voting from the WSPR membership. Remember that there are no geographic restrictions to membership, and that PhDs are also eligible. New members will be assessed dues on a prorated basis depending on when they become official members. **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, 2015**, although nominations are accepted any time of the year. Forms for full membership and trainee membership nominations along with more information on membership nomination criteria are located on the WSPR website at:

<http://www.aps-spr.org/Regions/WSPR/membership/default.asp>

The third reminder is that the submission deadline for abstracts is October 1, 2014 (by 12:00 midnight PST). Now is a good time to organize data and draft abstracts. The URL for abstract submission is:

<http://wrm2015.abstractcentral.com>

The upcoming meeting is January 29-31, 2015. The meeting will have the combined societies of the WSPR, WSCI, WAP, WSAFMR, and WSMRF. The combined societies once again worked to have a theme at the 2015 meeting. The combined societies selected obesity as the meeting's theme. This theme is selected to complement last year's theme of personalized medicine and technology. The WSPR succeeded in having Suzanne B Cassidy, MD, FAAP, FACMG, Clinical Professor of Pediatrics, Division of Medical Genetics, UCSF be the **Stanley Wright Lecturer**. Dr. Cassidy's lecture will be part of the Plenary Session on Friday, January 30, 2015, in the main Theater of the Sunset Center. Her topic will be Prader-Willi Syndrome in the context of obesity, genetics, embryology, and development. We are thrilled and fortunate to have Dr. Cassidy's expertise on this topic to challenge our minds about the problems associated with obesity. Your participation is requested to provide nominations for the **Abbott Nutrition Awards**. The awards are summarized on our website:

<http://www.aps-spr.org/regions/WSPR/awards/default.asp>

We hope that your participation will bring an abundance of outstanding nominees from a wide variety of institutions throughout the West! Please consider nominating your deserving colleagues and trainees. Brief descriptions of the awards are:

The WSPR Abbott Nutrition Young Investigator Award: This award is conferred every year to an outstanding Pediatric Scientist in the early phase (Assistant Professor) of their career. Past recipients include Philip Sunshine, Kurt Stenmark, Alan Jobe, and last year's Stanley Wright Speaker, Robert Lane. Please share your brightest new Pediatric Researchers with WSPR! (\$1,200 plus 2 nights accommodations; nomination required; abstract submission not required.)

The David W. Smith Pediatric Trainee Research Award (Abbott): This award is conferred every year to an outstanding Pediatric Scientist in the training phase (resident or fellow) of their career. Past awardees include Steven Abman, William Benitz, Christine Burren, and Con Yost. Nominees are expected to submit an abstract to WSPR and present their work during the plenary session. (\$1,000; nomination letter and abstract submission required)

Please send your nominations (a letter detailing your nominee's accomplishments accompanied by their CV) to David Viskochil (Dave.Viskochil@hsc.utah.edu) or myself (kurt.albertine@hsc.utah.edu). Please, if you have questions about any of the awards or the nomination process, contact us.

The Lowell Glasgow Student Research Award (Abbott): This award is given to the student with the most outstanding abstract submitted to WSPR. Please be aware that a copy of the student's abstract must accompany your nomination letter. Past awardees include Richard Kelly, Ken Liechty, David A Stevenson, and Jeremy Alford. (\$750; abstract submission required; no nomination materials)

The Pediatric Resident Research Award (Abbott): This award is given to the resident-in-training 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 pediatric resident (PL1, PL2, PL3) to WSPR. (\$750; abstract required; no nomination materials).

The Mead-Johnson Travel Awards for residents who submit the highest rated abstract in their respective sessions. (\$500; abstract submission required)

The Abbott Nutrition Subspecialty Awards for students who submit the highest rated abstract in their respective sessions. (\$100; abstract submission required)

Key awardees at the 2014 meeting (supported by Abbott Labs):

Stanley Wright Memorial Lecture: **Robert Lane**, MD (Medical College of Wisconsin)
Young Investigator Research Award: **Laura Brown**, MD (U of Colorado)
David W. Smith Pediatric Trainee Research Award: **Sneha Taylor**, MD (LabBioMed)
Lowell Glasgow Medical Student Research Award: **Amanda Valdez** (U of Washington)
Pediatric Resident Research Award: **Danisha McCall**, MD (U of New Mexico)
Joseph St. Geme Education Award: **William Hay**, MD (U of Colorado)

2014 Mead Johnson Travel Awards for residents and fellows based on abstract score:

Paldeep Atwal (Stanford University)
Christina Buysse (Stanford University)
Natalia Gomez-Ospina (Stanford University)
Mona Hanouni (LA Biomed at Harbor, UCLA)
Marie Mayer (University of California, Fresno)
Monica Sondhi (University of California, Los Angeles)
Sandra Wai (University of Colorado)

2014 Abbott Nutrition Subspecialty Awards for medical students based on abstract score:

Joseph Adewumi (University of Colorado)
Peter Buolos (University of Colorado)
Vera Lyubasyuk (University of California, San Diego)
Alexander Metoxen (University of Colorado)
Sanaa Nagli (University of New Mexico)
Matthew Perez (University of Washington)
Micheal Stein (University of British Columbia)

New WSPR Members 2014:

Anita Beck, MD (University of Washington)
Kara Caulkins, MD (UCLA)
Lauren Janzie, PhD (University of New Mexico)
Leslie Lusk, MD (UCSF) Trainee
Ksenia Matlwska, PhD (University of New Mexico)
Jochen Profit, MD (Stanford University)
Maro Ramos, MD (University of New Mexico)
Stuart Winter, MD (University of New Mexico)
Craig Wong, MD (University of New Mexico)

DUES

Dues notices have been emailed to all WSPR members with current contact information. Dues for academic year 2014-2015 are due in July 2014. Payment is easy to complete through the online PayPal system. The WSPR maintains its financial vitality through continued membership renewal and dues collection. Please go to the following website to complete your membership renewal and dues payment: **right now is a great time!**

<http://www.aps-spr.org/Regions/WSPR/membership/default.asp>

NEW BUSINESS

Now that you renewed your membership and paid your dues for 2014, some **new business** is important to share... The WSPR Council has been involved in two activities that are designed to increase participation in our Society. One activity is establishing a Survey Monkey Site that will let us survey the membership on topics of interest and opportunities. Most important, the Google Voting Site will let us vote electronically, the benefit of which should be greater participation in governance. The system provides anonymous voting that is secure. Of course, your approval of electronic voting will be necessary.

The topic of your approval of electronic voting brings me to our other activity; namely, amending the Society's Bylaws. Amending is necessary because the Bylaws are decades out-of-date. For example, the Bylaws do not include electronic voting. Fortunately, the Bylaws have a

provision for amending them. The WSPR Council has proposed to implement the electronic voting mechanism by way of the Google Voting Site. Discussion regarding implementation of this mechanism will be through the Survey Monkey Site. If electronic voting is approved by at least two-thirds of membership, we will next vote to amend the Bylaws to allow direct electronic voting for new member applicants. Please watch for notification to use the Google Voting Site.

On a financial note, for those who attended the Carmel meeting last January, the transition to the new meeting format that is less costly seems to be working well, including the poster sessions. The meeting was a success, and the other societies that co-host the meeting are appreciative of the shortened venue contained at the Sunset Center. We all agree that seeing more students has been an additional positive outcome.

In case that you do not know who the members are of the WSPR Council for the upcoming year, the next table gives you their roles, names, and email addresses. Please contact us with your ideas for our Society!

WSPR Council 2014-2015

President	Kurt H. Albertine	kurt.albertine@hsc.utah.edu
Secretary/Treasurer	David Viskochil	dave.viskochil@hsc.utah.edu
President-Elect	Paul Rozance	paul.rozance@ucdenver.edu
Past President	Robin Ohls	rohls@salud.unm.edu
Of Counsel	Marilyn C. Jones	
	Bill Hay	
Council Members	Margaret Adam	mpa5@u.washington.edu
	Kathy Angkustsiri	angkuk01@gmail.com
	Laura Brown	laura.brown@ucdenver.edu
	Jean Paul Collet	jcollet@cw.bc.ca
	Josephine Encisco	jencisco@mcdnet.ucla.edu
	Echezona Ezeanolue	eezeanolue@medicine.nevada.edu
	Erika Fernandez	efernandez@salud.unm.edu
	Roberta Keller	kellerr@ucsf.edu
	Con Yost	Christian.yost@u2m2.utah.edu

For your planning purpose, details for the 2015 meeting are as follows.

Registration Hours:

Thursday, January 29, 2015 - 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Friday, January 30, 2015 - 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Hotel Accommodations:

Since there is no Hotel Headquarters, the Western societies have arranged to use a reservation service that will assist you with your hotel, motel, and inn accommodations for the "Doctors' Meeting." Please contact the following: **Resort II Me 800/449-1499 or 800/757-5646**

Thursday, January 29

9:00 am – 12:00 pm **WAP Symposium**

11:30 am-12:30 pm **Junior Investigator Workshop - (may be on Friday)**

12:30 pm - 5:30 pm **Concurrent Subspecialty Sessions**

12:30 pm - 5:30 pm **Poster Session**

5:30 pm - 7:00 pm **Reception and Poster Award Session**

7:00 pm - 8:30 pm **Club Events**

Friday, January 30

9:00 am - 12:00 pm **Joint Plenary Session** with award presentations

11:30 am-12:30 pm **(Junior Investigator Workshop)**

12:30 pm - 5:30 pm **Concurrent Subspecialty Sessions**

12:30 pm - 5:30 pm **Poster Session**

7:00 pm - 8:30 pm **Club Events**

Saturday, January 31

8:00 am - 12:00 pm **Concurrent Subspecialty Sessions**

8:00 am - 12:00 pm **Poster Session**

We look forward to seeing your abstract(s) submitted by October 1, 2014! Please stay tuned for further updates.

Best Regards,
Kurt H. Albertine, President WSPR

