



WSPR SPRING NEWSLETTER

May 2023

**2024 Annual Meeting - Carmel-by-the-Sea, California
Thursday, January 18th, 2024 - Saturday, January 20th, 2024**



THE WESTERN SOCIETY FOR PEDIATRIC RESEARCH

c/o Shanlee Davis, MD, PhD
Secretary/Treasurer
Children's Hospital Colorado
13123 East 16th Ave B265
Aurora, CO 80045

Phone: (720) 777-7063 Fax: (720) 777-7301

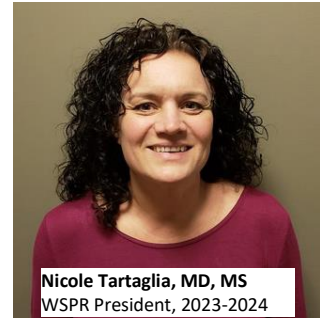
E-mail: wsprcouncil@cuanschutz.edu

Website: <https://www.westernspr.org>

President's Message

Dear WSPR Members,

Happy Spring! It was great to see everyone who attended the Western Medical Research meeting in January. WSPR is my favorite conference of the year for so many reasons. As it was for many WSPR members, this meeting was one of the first opportunities to present my research as a trainee and continues to be such an important place for research career development and mentoring for students, trainees, and junior faculty across so many disciplines. I also appreciate the opportunity to attend sessions outside of my subspecialty, allowing me to hear research updates from other fields of pediatrics that aren't at the other subspecialty conferences I attend. The annual meeting is also filled with opportunities for catching up with friends and colleagues, for building new collaborations in our region, and for receiving ongoing mentoring from the more distinguished scientists who attend and continue to teach and inspire the next generation each year. And, of course, it is in the beautiful Carmel-by-the-Sea filled with delicious restaurants, beautiful coastal hiking and nature, quaint bakeries, unique art, a bustling farmer's market, great shopping, expansive wine selection, and amazing beach sunsets. The weather is also always a nice break in the middle of winter, even if it rains. Hopefully, I am enticing members who haven't attended the conference for awhile to come again and inspiring those who attended in 2023 to come back for 2024!



In 2023, for all the societies at the WMR conference, there were more abstract submissions than ever before, with a total of 534 abstracts accepted for poster or oral presentations. The 2 poster sessions showcased 102 posters and were very well attended and lively.

The WSPR sessions in 2023 included 8 Neonatology sessions, 2 Adolescent Medicine & General Pediatrics sessions, 2 Behavior, Development & Psychology sessions and 4 Genetics sessions. Sponsorship from Abbott Nutrition, Mead Johnson Nutrition and Prolacta allowed us to feature outstanding State-of-the Art-Speakers, along with sponsored lectureships donated from UC Davis, University of Colorado, University of Southern California, UCLA, Stanford, and University of Utah. The WSPR Stanley Wright Speaker sponsored by Abbott Nutrition was Dr. Grace Lee from Stanford speaking about the COVID-19 vaccine. We continued the tradition of recognizing the top abstracts submitted by medical students, trainees, and junior faculty with awards from our generous sponsor. All the awards and winners are listed this newsletter!

I would like to thank all the abstract reviewers, session moderators, WSPR Council members, and Past Presidents Henry Lee and Laura Brown. A very special thank you to Secretary-Treasurer Mariana Baserga who has completed her term and will now serve as President-Elect. A special thanks to our amazing meeting organizers Lori Ennis and Bonnie Adams, as well as Niki Whitaker who is the new administrative support coordinator for WSPR. Niki also helped to modernize our conference by facilitating the transition to an electronic program on a conference app. It was a bit of a transition for some of us older distinguished faculty who have piled those little WSPR booklets on our desks for years, but a very welcome change for the students and trainees.

I would also like to highlight a small change made at the 2023 conference that is very important to me as a Developmental-Behavioral Pediatrician. We have changed the name of our sessions to “Behavior, Development, and Child Psychology” to invite our academic psychology colleagues and trainees whose important work in psychology and mental health contributes so much to neurodevelopmental and pediatric research. So, for those who know academic psychologists and psychology trainees involved in pediatric research of any field or specialty, please encourage them to submit abstracts and nominate them for WSPR membership.

The dates for the next Western Regional Medical Conference are set for January 18-20, 2024. Mark your calendar! Abstracts are due September 22 - details to follow! I look forward to seeing everyone for some great science, mentoring, collaborations and celebrations at WSPR 2024.

Sincerely,
Nicole Tartaglia, MD, MS
President, WSPR 2023

2023 WSPR Award Winners

WSPR Abbott Nutrition David W. Smith Pediatric Trainee Research Award

Michael Cookson, University of Colorado

WSPR Abbott Nutrition Lowell Glasgow Student Research Award

Ellese Lupori, Western University of Health Sciences, The Center for Orthopedic and Neurosurgical Care & Research

WSPR Abbott Nutrition Outstanding Resident Research Award

Elizabeth McGinn, University of Colorado

WSPR Abbott Nutrition Subspecialty Award

Joshua DeJong, Madigan Army Medical Center
Esther Kim, University of California, Los Angeles
Jillian Kirk, University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus, Children’s Hospital Colorado
Sydney Martin, Children's Hospital Colorado
Ana Starcevich, UC Davis School of Medicine
Zoë Vordos, University of Utah
Hui Zhao, Stanford University School of Medicine

WSPR Abbott Nutrition Young Investigator Research Award

Timothy Bahr, University of Utah, Intermountain Healthcare

WSPR Reckitt/Mead Johnson Nutrition Junior Faculty Award

Jill Chang, University of Colorado Denver
Erik Frandsen, Rady's Children's Hospital
Kathleen Hannan, University of Colorado

WSPR Reckitt/Mead Johnson Nutrition Travel Award

Adriana Gomes, University of California San Diego
Caroline Harrison, University of Colorado Denver, University of Colorado School of Medicine
Ishani Jhamb, University of California San Diego, Rady Children's Hospital
Sheila Razdan, Stanford University School of Medicine
Eniko Sajti, University of California San Diego
Dayna Stout, Rady Children's Hospital San Diego
Jeremy Woods, Valley Children's Hospital, Stanford University

WSPR Prolacta Research Travel Award

Mia Dobbin, Rocky Vista University
Carolyn Fall, UC San Diego, Rady Children's Hospital
Maya Grayck, University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus
Sophie Hochhauser, University of Utah
Van Ma, University of California Davis
Manas Tetarbe, University of Southern California
Christopher Torsitano, University of Utah

Congratulations to **Laura Forero, MD**, winner of the
2023 WSPR/SPR Award to Enhance Diversity in the Research Workforce Recipient

Secretary/Treasurer Notes

I am truly honored to be taking the reins as the WSPR Secretary/Treasurer. As a brief introduction, I am a pediatric endocrinologist at Children's Hospital Colorado / University of Colorado, where I have the privilege of working on an interdisciplinary clinic and NIH-funded research team for children with sex chromosome aneuploidies. As a junior faculty clinician scientist in a pediatric subspecialty that is struggling to maintain the academic workforce, I am passionate about serving in WSPR as I have witnessed how the Western meeting can both inspire trainees to pursue this career path and bring joy to those already in this field. To be honest, I know very little about being the WSPR Secretary/Treasurer, but thankfully for us all, Mariana Baserga is continuing to serve in a leadership role as the Incoming President, so hopefully I will not steer us too far off track ;).



2023 WSPR Abstract Submissions	#
Adolescent Med/Gen Peds	23
Behavior and Development	18
Genetics	38
Morphogenesis and Malformations	9
Neonatal Pulmonary	16
Neonatology - General	69
Neonatology - Perinatal Biology	15
Total	188

On to business -- thank you to those that participated in our 2023 conference! It was a record year for number of abstract submissions (up 25% from the year prior) and registrations – and by all measures a huge success. Financially, we are ecstatic that WSPR is in the black, and we are confident we have a promising future for continue to provide a venue to share pediatric research with our colleagues and foster the next generation of pediatric clinician scientists.

I have a few “asks” for our WSPR members:

1. **Nominate your colleagues and trainees** for both membership and awards! WSPR has a lot to offer, particularly our sponsored awards at all academic levels from student to Professor. Start thinking about who you know that is contributing to pediatric research and connect them to WSPR today.

Nominate New Members!

Do you have colleagues who are making contributions to pediatric research?

Nominate them for WSPR Full Membership!

Do you know a fellow who is rocking their scholarly project?

Encourage them to apply for WSPR Trainee Membership!

Applications are evaluated on a rolling basis, quarter by quarter, and no deadline is set. Details regarding the nomination application for full, emeritus, and trainee membership are available on the [WSPR website](#)

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2. **Volunteer!** We are in need of abstract reviewers and session moderators. If you want to help in either capacity for the 2024 meeting, please email us at wsprcouncil@cuanschutz.edu and note what your interests are.
 3. **Lead** – we are seeking Council Members that represent diverse institutions and specialties. Council members serve a 3-year term with the role of promoting the WSPR mission within your own institutions, reviewing abstracts, and attending two virtual meetings per year. Email us if you would like to be considered for this leadership role.
 4. **Pay your annual dues.** Dues will remain the same for the 2023-2024 academic year. Dues will be invoiced on 7/1/23 and are considered past due as of 10/1/23. Active paid dues are required to receive a discounted registration fee to the annual meeting.

Sincerely,
Shanlee Davis, MD, PhD
WSPR Secretary/Treasurer 2023 - 2027

We would like to thank the following companies for their generous support:



2023 WSPR Leadership

President: Nicole Tartaglia, M.D., M.S. – University of Colorado

Secretary – Treasurer: Shanlee Davis, M.D., PhD. – University of Colorado

President – Elect: Mariana Baserga, M.D. – University of Utah

Past President: Henry Lee, M.D. – University of California San Diego

Of Council:

Marilyn C. Jones, M.D. – University of California San Diego

Robin Ohls, M.D. – University of New Mexico

Council Members:

Bianca Russell, MD – University of California Los Angeles

Timothy Bahr, MD – University of Utah

Meera Sankar, MD – Stanford University

Allison Dempsey, MD – University of Colorado

Alison Chu, MD - University of California Los Angeles

Camille Fung, MD - University of Utah

Anita Beck, MD - University of Washington

Cassidy Delaney, MD - University of Colorado

Eniko Sajti, MD, PhD - University of California San Diego

Diane Stafford - Stanford University

Rowena Cayabyab, MD – University of Southern California

Save The Date for the 2024 Western Regional Medical Conference January 18-20, 2024 Carmel by the Sea, CA

