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*Presidential Address*

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## **A Developmental History of the Society of Pediatric Psychology<sup>1</sup>**

**Sue White<sup>2</sup>**

*Case Western Reserve University*

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*Presented history of the field of pediatric psychology in general and, more specifically, the development of the Society of Pediatric Psychology. Review began with 1896 concepts of Lightner Witmer and followed with 1960 activities by Logan Wright which led to the formation of the Society. The developmental phases of the Society are described with respect to goals, publications, financial status, training issues, and awards established. Present activities of liaisons with numerous outside organizations and agencies and regional conferences are detailed.*

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**KEY WORDS:** Society of Pediatric Psychology; pediatric psychology; historical aspects of APA.

On the occasion of the Society of Pediatric Psychology's 21st birthday celebration, which was held at the American Psychological Association Convention in New Orleans in August 1989, as President I had the privilege of reflecting on the Society's history as SPP prepared to move into its adulthood. As there has certainly been a parallel of the Society's growth with that of the normal developmental lines of the human being, I elected to follow this developmental approach in delineating the Society's struggles and successes over the years.

<sup>1</sup>Based on a presentation of the Society of Pediatric Psychology's Presidential Address, August 10, 1989, at the American Psychological Association Convention, New Orleans. The author gives special thanks to Dorothea Ross, Donald Routh, and Michael Roberts for their input to this historical account of the Society. She apologizes in advance if the information presented differs from how others may remember it. Sources included Executive Committee Minutes, Newsletters, Journals, and personal communications.

<sup>2</sup>All correspondence should be sent to Sue White, Child Psychiatry, Cleveland MetroHealth Medical Center, 3395 Scranton Road, Cleveland, Ohio 44109.

## PARENTAGE: COURTSHIP AND MARRIAGE OF CHILD PSYCHOLOGY AND PEDIATRICS (1896–Mid 1960s)

It was not long after the emergence of psychology as a discipline in the late 1800s that Lightner Witmer discussed the merits of the courtship between child psychology and pediatrics. Witmer (1896a) proposed that the psychologist might learn from the physician "the morbid and abnormal conditions that are frequently met with in childhood, and to acquire some knowledge. . . . towards their amelioration" (p. 391). The physician was thought to be able to learn from psychologists "what normal, mental, and physical conditions manifest themselves in and out of the school-room" and the methods to "modify developmental and physical power" (p. 391). Witmer himself was interested in the psychology of physical defects, mental retardation, and other learning problems (1896b). The courtship lasted over half a century in spite of a second attempt at matchmaking by Anderson in 1930. The marriage was finally announced by Jerome Kagan in 1965, and the generic family of pediatric psychology was created. In defining this newly formed family, Logan Wright proposed (a) a delineation of the role of the pediatric psychologist, (b) an outline of a more specific training model, and (c) the construction of a new body of knowledge which contained an empirical basis for making clinical decisions (Wright, 1967b). To achieve these goals, he called for the organization of "card-carrying members of a militant group [who would] set out to destroy inappropriateness and inefficiency in psychological services, as well as the dearth of behavioral information, in pediatric settings" (p. 325). As is the process in new marriages, specific roles and responsibilities needed to be developed. Thus practical aspects of this marriage were delineated in 1967, as Smith, Rome, and Freedheim described the clinical psychologist's role in a pediatrician's office.

## CONCEPTION OF SPP (MID 1960s–1967)

Now that there was a pediatric psychology family consisting of psychologists who worked in pediatric settings, the idea of a specific offspring in the form of an organization to support their interests and needs was conceived. Thus, during the mid-1960s George Albee, President of Division 12, suggested that the Clinical Child Section begin study of the needs of these psychologists relative to communication and affiliation among themselves. Section 1 Presidents Sebastiano Santostefano (outgoing) and Zanwil Sperber (incoming) appointed Wright (chair), Lee Salk, and Dorothea Ross to consider the matter. Although these three individuals were selected based on their demonstrated interest and competence in child development *and* child clinical areas, their particular geographical bases were important so that the entire country would be represented to some extent

(D. Ross, personal communication, 1989). Wright served as troubleshooter for this committee as he responded to complaints of "Why do you need to be doing this anyway?" and financier as he solicited funds to keep the operation afloat. On the East coast, Salk was doing his part in spreading the gospel by appearing on television shows (e.g., Dick Cavett), getting publicity for pediatric psychology through the written media (e.g., *Time* magazine), and obtaining operational funds. Ross assumed the job of identifying psychologists working in pediatric settings and assessing their interests and needs. In the mailing of over 300 such surveys to heads of pediatric departments, Ross recalls receiving an overwhelming response rate of 96% (personal communication, 1989). The results of this survey revealed that pediatric psychologists were in about 70% of medical school pediatric departments in the United States.

### THE BIRTH (1968)

This gang of three is said to have had only periodic contact among themselves during the Society's gestational period, but did finally meet for the first time in August 1968 at APA in San Francisco. As they had received an overwhelmingly positive response indicating an interest in forming a society, these three established the formal structure of the "Society *FOR* Pediatric Psychology," and SPP was born, with dues set at \$5. The publication of a journal was recommended to enhance rapid communication among the members. Gail Gardner, then of Cornell (where Salk was affiliated), was selected as the first Newsletter editor, the first product appearing in March 1969. Listed as members in this Newsletter were 75 full members and 22 affiliates (non-APA). At least 25 of these original 97 are still on the roll.

### INFANCY (1968-1972)

Other early tasks of the committee were centered on developmental tasks to provide a structured environment in which to rear this offspring. Such duties included planning APA symposia, holding business meetings for the election of officers, and establishing a committee to write the constitution and bylaws. On the first slate of officers, Wright was designated as the presidential nominee, Salk as president-elect, and Ross as secretary-treasurer. According to the verbal history, Salk was then selected as the second president because most of the survey responses had been from males and the committee felt that a female president might alienate these potential members (D. Ross, personal communication, 1989).

At the 1969 APA Convention, SPP held its first banquet at which Senator

George McGovern spoke and following which the first set of elected officers was installed and a bylaws committee was formed (Kathryn West, David Rigler, Zanwil Sperber). September 1970 saw SPP's first APA symposium. "Malnutrition and Mental Retardation," presented at the Miami APA with participants Salk, Wright, Myron Winick, Elizabeth Boggs, and Lillian Harvey. At the business meeting following, the bylaws and constitution were adopted, and the first full slate of officers was elected (David Rigler, President-Elect; Don Routh, Secretary-Treasurer; three council members: Arthur Wiens, Marilyn Erickson, Allen Barclay).

At the following year's APA convention in Washington, DC, over 100 were counted in attendance at the SPP symposium "Current Trends in Pediatric Psychology," which included Salk, Joe Weaver, Wright, Wiens, Erwin Friedman, and Routh. Due to the resignations of Rigler (as President-Elect) and Erickson, Salk was asked to continue as President for a second year, and Rigler was then appointed to complete Erickson's term as council member. Thus by its third birthday, the Society had a constitution and set of bylaws, a method for electing officers, a newsletter for communication, and educational plans. The infant had succeeded in surviving these critical early years and was ready to address more substantive issues which lay ahead in childhood.

### CHILDHOOD (1972-1980)

On December 11 and 12, 1972, the first midyear Executive Committee meeting was held in Oklahoma City. By this time, the executive committee had outlined more organizational objectives, including communication of information, maintenance of liaison activities, utilization of an employment exchange, survey of research and training programs, public relations activities, and lobbying activities.

Just as young children begin to ask themselves, "Who am I?" and "What do I want to be when I grow up?", the Society began asking "What constitutes a pediatric psychologist" and "What directions should the Society take?" At the midyear Executive Committee Meeting in December 1974, a statement was formulated which defined the society as:

a professionally oriented group of psychologists who deal with children in interdisciplinary settings such as hospitals, pediatric practices, and developmental centers. The purpose of the group is to exchange information on clinical procedures and research and to define training standards for the pediatric psychologist (Executive Committee Minutes [ECM] December 1974).

In addition, the Executive Committee (EC) set the goals of defining the professional skills of the pediatric psychologist and in providing advocacy for children at the professional levels through APA.

In his presidential message in the Fall 1975 Newsletter, Thomas Kenny found pediatric psychology to be "in a vigorous, healthy position" with over 400 members, an excellent and regular publication, and increasing visibility at APA. He cited his predecessors for influencing his perceptions of pediatric psychology. In particular, he noted Wiens' emphasis on the need to train psychologists in issues of normal development, Salk's sensitivity to the importance of pediatric psychologists' teaching parents regarding their role in preventive mental health, Wright's emphasis on the effects of physical illness on the child's development, Vore's focus on the hospitalized child, and Routh's defense of the developmental psychologist who "retreaded" to become a clinical psychologist [Newsletter 3(4), Fall 1975]. Feeling that the "growth . . . of the Society tells us clearly that we are doing something right" (p. 8), Kenny challenged the Society to define roles and training models and to work for peer recognition and professional accreditations.

*Sectionhood.* Although Division 12 is clearly SPP's official parent, the Society became a somewhat independent child as it considered formal sectionhood with other divisions. The topic of possible divisional status or sectionhood officially began in 1972 at which time it was decided to wait a year so as to see how other groups were going to be organized (ECM, December 11, 1972). Section 1 was reiterating its desire for the Society to remain an integral part of their organization (ECM, August 30, 1974) and to consider moving with it to a newly forming division which was being entitled "Children and Adolescence" (later to become Division 37, Child, Youth, and Family Services). By 1978, SPP membership had expressed its desire to pursue affiliation with Division 37 although Division 38 (Health Psychology) had been added to the list of suitors. It was subsequently learned that Division 37 would require that 100% of SPP membership would have to join their division whereas the SPP EC was asking for no more than 40%. By the APA Convention of 1979 (ECM, September 3, 1979), neither Division 37 or 38 wanted the Society to affiliate as a section, but Division 12 was quite happy to have SPP. Thus the prodigal Section returned to its natural parent. The sectionhood was then pursued from Division 12 while formal liaisons with Divisions 37 and 38 were established and presently maintained. On October 1, 1980, sectionhood was granted.

With this major developmental milestone having been achieved, new responsibilities emerged as were delineated by President Magrab. She emphasized that SPP now had the responsibility to look at ways to impact on national health policies and legislation that affect the comprehensive care to children with pediatric problems. In addition, it was noted that pediatric psychologists were also faced with the task of developing and sharing new and more effective clinical methodologies (à la Wright, 1967b). To accomplish these goals, Magrab reinstated the defunct Newsletter, appointing Council Member Michael Roberts as editor and challenging SPP to involve more members with the actual business of the Society [Newsletter, 4(1), November 14, 1980].

## ADOLESCENCE (1980–1989)

With adolescence being a time to begin setting one's life's goals and addressing techniques for doing so, SPP continued to confront the developmental tasks initially suggested by Wright. In an 1984 review of SPP, as a good parent, Wright found reason to commend the group for its continued growth, membership increases, opening of numerous positions, and a high-quality Journal while urging the organization to not be so complacent in facing the developmental tasks [Newsletter 8(2), May 15, 1984]. Adolescence continued with several important developmental areas receiving attention.

### *Financial Status*

As with most teenagers, the financial history of the Society certainly had its downs and ups. In the very early days, there was absolutely no funds except what each interested individual contributed out of personal accounts, much being written off by the original steering committee members. The meager amount of membership dues collected were utilized primarily for the early issues of the Newsletter. By the APA meeting in 1971, the Society had a balance of \$33.55 and a debt of \$438 to Dorothea Ross. Income for the previous 12 months had been \$45 with an expenditure of \$11.45 for mailing lists from APA. CIBA had donated \$1,000 for the Winter 1970 Newsletter. Because of the financial predicament, the Newsletter was suspended between 1970 and 1972. By the Winter 1973 issue of the Newsletter, there was a balance of \$28.55 with \$18.15 spent on the printing of membership cards and a \$0.24 for a bank charge.

With a bylaws change in 1973 that allowed the Society to collect its own dues, the Society began inching its way to solvency. It was noted at the APA meeting in New Orleans on August 30, 1974 that "the long standing financial debt to Dorothea Ross was finally paid" (ECM). Not quite stable, though, donations (\$1,825) had to be solicited by Newsletter Editor Willis to publish the newly created Journal (ECM, September 5, 1976). The financial condition of the Society continued to be tenuous as evidenced by Secretary-Treasurer Larry Raskin's letter to President Willis on March 21, 1977, which indicated the following: "I have just sent Don Routh a check for \$1,750 for two issues of the journal. This leaves balance of less than \$500. What do I do?". President Willis' sage reply was a simple "Pray." Such was the treasury status that the August 26, 1977 APA social hour, Carolyn Schroeder donated the funds for dry snacks. In addition, Raskin had provided an interest-free loan of \$1,000 for publication of the most recent Journal issue.

The dreary financial status continued to plague the Society in ways other than the lack of communication (newsletters, journals). Because the EC members

were expected to pay their own expenses to meetings, there were times that the EC meetings were sparsely attended. For instance, at the 1978 midwinter EC meeting (February 10, 1978), only about half of the board was present.

The financial crisis continued into 1978 as it was noted that the Journal expenses for the remainder of the year would exceed the amount in the treasury (\$1,050). Strangely, this financial condition changed as the minutes of the September 3, 1979 meeting indicated that the "treasury crisis of 1978 has been resolved." Simultaneous with this resolution, the EC began consideration of providing EC members with some travel funds to the midwinter meetings. Akin to the U.S. Congress not wishing to vote itself a raise while simultaneously desperately needing it, it was not until February 3, 1983, that the EC finally gathered the courage to authorize travel funds for such.

*Magrab Rules.* 1982 saw the beginning of what is historically known as "Magrab Rules" when she suggested that the EC maintain a "reserve fund of 20% of the operating budget to cover unforeseen expenses and possible unanticipated needs of the Society." "After considerable discussion" (so say the minutes), the EC's acceptance of this guideline was finally approved in connection with the travel funds. It was noted at the following year's meeting that the Society seemed to be approaching a very real fiscal responsibility and stability. Magrab Rules continued to be in effect until August 1987 when it became quite evident that the Society had an extremely good cash flow and adding funds beyond a \$20,000 reserve was unnecessary. The dawn of an even better financial condition in 1989 appeared as Treasurer Koocher renegotiated an extremely favorable contract with the Journal publisher Plenum Press such that the membership was asked to approve a *dues decrease* in 1990.

#### *Publications: Newsletter*

As noted in Wright's earliest letters (1967a) and in the published organizational objectives, one of the primary tasks of the initial EC was to establish a product for the potential membership to develop "effective communication among pediatric psychologists and between psychologists and pediatricians." The first issue of the *Pediatric Psychology Newsletter* was published in March 1969 with goals of providing a forum for descriptions of pediatric psychology programs around the country, for addressing problems and relevant issues, for reviewing books, for listing of available positions and/or individuals, and for listing the membership.

Due to the Society's financial problems, no formal communication occurred from the Winter of 1970 until 1972 other than "An Open Letter to the Members of the Society of Pediatric Psychology" from Wright. In late 1972, however, Allan Barclay was appointed Newsletter editor. After publishing one issue

through his own efforts at finding the financial means and without administrative support, Willis was subsequently appointed as associate editor and an editorial board was created to help generate materials. After one more issue, Barclay resigned, and President Wiens appointed Willis as editor and Arlene Schaefer as associate. Under Willis's leadership, the Newsletter grew from four very strong issues a year (beginning in the fall of 1973) into a formal journal. Looking at her Newsletter issues, however, one is impressed with the journal-like quality of even the early ones. There were numerous topic-oriented issues (e.g., Summer 1974: "Psychological Management of Diabetes"). Such was the strength of the Newsletter that by 1975, manuscripts were being submitted without her begging for them. Throughout this time, however, there continued to be the ever-present wolf at the door in the clothing of the bill collector. Willis and others on the EC frequently sought (and received) publishing funds from friends, relatives, and colleagues.

The question of moving to journal status was raised at the 1975 APA meeting. With President Thomas Kenny strongly encouraging, Willis was instructed to layout the next issue in journal format in an effort to attract advertisers. With the transition of the newsletter into a journal on December 4, 1975, there was no newsletter until 1980 when President Magrab appointed EC Member-At-Large Michael Roberts as editor.

Roberts certainly added his own personal touch to the Newsletter which he edited from the fall of 1980 until May 1983. On a shoestring budget of \$300 per issue, Roberts resorted to selling advertising space to keep the presses rolling. Overall he was notably effective in meeting his assigned task of bringing the membership to a more active role. My own active history with the Society was a direct result of Roberts' Newsletters as they made me want to have more contact and involvement with SPP. Some of Roberts' touches included (a) threatening to give a quiz at the end of the Newsletter [5(1), March 9, 1983]; (b) instituting a Logo contest [5(1), March 9, 1981]; (c) extending the contest deadline twice (1981); (d) preparing us for a Jeopardy appearance against Section 1 by informing us that (i) "A quetzal is a Central American trogon with brilliant plumage" [5(1), March 9, 1981]; (ii) "The Iznak is a 14-mile long lake in northwest Turkey" [5(1), March 9, 1981]; (iii) "A machicolation is an opening between the corbels of a projecting parapet" [5(2), June 25, 1981]; (e) allegedly making "errors to generate some correspondence" [5(2), June 25, 1981]; and (f) explaining the geographical distinction between Tuscaloosa and Birmingham. The fourth Newsletter editor, Council Member-At-Large Stabler established the first "Anglo-American" edition, 7(2), May 15, 1983.

Following Stabler, the EC created a Newsletter Editor position which was to be separate from the Member-at-Large responsibilities. The first appointed editor was Elizabeth Robinson (1985-1986), followed by Ron Blount (1986-1989). Blount was noted to return the Newsletter to the Willis-style (i.e., topic-oriented



issues with original manuscripts. The Newsletter entered the desk-top publishing age in 1990 under the editorship of Larry Siegel.

### *Publications: Journal*

As noted above, the *Journal of Pediatric Psychology* was born on December 4, 1975, with the first issue appearing as the "Winter 1976" issue with C. Eugene Walker serving as Guest Editor on the topic of "Enuresis and Encopresis" [Journal 1(1)]. This "pee and poop" issue was so popular that a second printing was required. Shortly thereafter Willis resigned to assume the Presidency of the Society and the Editorship of a sister journal. Routh was then appointed as Editor and Gary Mesibov as Associate. A major change in the appearance of the journal was seen as it began sporting the famous Carolina Blue (selected by Tarheel Mesibov). Routh and Mesibov continued service until the end of 1982, each serving a double term.

As a Society, we must recognize how difficult times were for these four editors, Willis, Schaefer, Routh, and Mesibov, as the money rarely was enough, time deadlines were interfered with by authors who refused to return manuscripts in due time, and help was not easy to find, and so forth. As an example, the 2,000 copies of the second issue of 1976 ("Abuse and Neglect") was officially printed on a budget of \$750, but in reality, Willis had solicited an additional \$1,825 from her friends and colleagues. Routh did not have much success at publishing within a positive financial balance either as it was noted in the February 10, 1977 Executive Committee minutes that Routh had managed to spend \$4,000 on publishing the last two issues. After some comments were made, like "We can't go on like this," it was decided to raise the dues to \$10 in an effort to cover about half the cost of each issue with the remaining monies coming from selling the Journal to outsiders. It was also decreed that the issues should be kept to 30 pages rather than the 50 pages that had been appearing. In an attempt to help satisfy the financial wolf on a regular basis, financier Magrab was appointed as "Advertising and Financial Representative" of the publication in 1978. She raised at least \$1,000 which was clearly not enough because the minutes of the December 6, 1978 meeting indicated that the two special issues ("Infancy" and "Hyperactivity") cost between \$4,000 and \$4,500.

Several Journal milestones occurred under the editorships of Willis and Routh. First, *Psychological Abstracts* began abstracting the Journal in January 1976. Second, the Journal began receiving foreign subscriptions. Third, in 1977 it was noted that the Journal had received divisional journal status with APA. Fourth, in 1978, Plenum Press was awarded the first contract to publish the journal, continuing the Carolina Blue covers.

In 1982, Koocher was appointed as the third editor with Roberts as associ-

ate. In December 1986, Roberts was announced as the fourth editor to head this journal. He selected Annette La Greca and Dennis Harper as associates, later adding Jan Wallander to the staff in 1989. During Roberts' editorship, one of the hardest decisions the EC had faced in years was complying with Plenum's request to change the Carolina blue cover.

Additional milestones for the Journal now include the first software review in Volume 10, Issue 1 (March 1985). Periodic page increases have been realized, and beginning with Volume 15, Roberts became responsible for six issues a year rather than four.

#### *Publications: Other Projects*

The Society has been involved with publication projects other than the Newsletter and Journal. Routh served as editor for the *Handbook of Pediatric Psychology* (1988). Presently La Greca is chairing a committee on the Society's publishing a series of edited volumes which will offer more depth on topics than the handbook was able to offer and will allow for the periodic updating of subjects.

#### *Publications: Audio- and Video-Recordings*

With the addition of Brian (Mr. Media) Stabler to the Executive Committee in 1982, he suggested recording the presidential addresses on audiotape for sale. A total of two presentations was recorded: Drotar's and Mesibov's Presidential addresses. Due to the purchase of only three audiocassettes, this program was discontinued. Undaunted, a series of pediatric psychology videotapes of interviews with distinguished contributors to the field (Koocher, Drotar, Schroeder, Routh, Mesibov) has now been created by Stabler at the University of North Carolina for use in training.

#### *Training*

Since its inception, one of SPP's primary goals has continually centered on training. The topic can be found entwined through just about every Newsletter, Journal, and set of Executive Committee Minutes. Over the years, there have been numerous descriptions of specific training programs for pediatric psychologists: University of Iowa (Routh, 1969), Oklahoma (1988), Case Western Reserve (1988), University of Alabama at Birmingham (1989). Additionally there have been some excellent writings concerning pertinent issues involved in training as well as general professional development.

*Vail Model.* In one particular article, Routh outlines his argument for the

"Vail Model Pediatric Psychologist" [Newsletter 2(2), Fall 1973]. While still arguing that the field continued to need Boulder model pediatric psychologists whose activities included research, clinical service, and teaching, Routh described the need for "a new kind of pediatric psychologist to serve in the small hospital, the county health department, and most of all in the office of the pediatrician or family physician." Admitting that the doctoral level psychologist might not find enough financial resources to stay in such a setting, he argued that a M.A. level person trained appropriately would be a suitable answer, thus the "Vail Model pediatric psychologist." He suggested this person could well (a) answer new parents' questions about infant issues, (b) provide anticipatory guidance about problems of behavior and development, (c) screen preschool children for cognitive and language problems, (d) monitor school age academic progress, and (e) make referrals to more appropriate services. Routh then discussed Schroeder's work in training M.A. level nurses and psychologists for such roles.

*The Argument for "Retreads."* Shortly after his proposal for the Vail model pediatric psychologist, Routh also argued for the acceptance of the "retread post-doc," especially those who were well trained in developmental psychology. Such a stance reflected Wright's comments to Routh in the letter of 1967 (1967a) in which he was pleased that the originally appointed committee to serve as Section 1's study group on pediatric psychology included those with "child clinical and child developmental aspects."

*Training Surveys.* In Kenny's 1975 Presidential message [Newsletter, 3(4), Fall 1975] he urged the Society to make a serious study of the training possibilities, both predoctoral internships and postdoctoral fellowships and to use them as a "step to professional identification." He announced plans for the Society to conduct a survey of training programs, the result being June Tuma's "Practicum, Internship, Postdoctoral Training in Pediatric Psychology: A Survey" and subsequent directory (now into its 10th edition) (Tuma, 1990). A second training survey was conducted by La Greca who then published a training guide to be given to students interested in pursuing a pediatric psychology career.

Other significant training activities have included the Society's providing financial support to the National Conference on Training Clinical Child Psychologists which was held at Hilton Head in May 1985, and creating a Task Force on Curriculum. Chaired by Eyberg and Debra Bendell, they collected academic materials and have made it available to those wishing to see what others have been doing.

#### *Awards*

The Society has developed a number of awards it presents on either an annual or biennial basis. These include Student Research Award, Distinguished Service Award, Distinguished Research Contribution Award, and Student Research Scholar Grant.

*Student Research Award.* As befits three of the purposes of this organization (training, professional development, research), the Student Research Award was initially established on December 4, 1975, for the student who submitted the most outstanding research paper. The award was \$50, two years membership in the Society, and the option to publish the manuscript in the newly established Journal. The first award was given to Barry Galenko on August 26, 1977. Due to the financial crises, the award was then discontinued until 1982 when it was awarded to Sandra Shaheen, the prize having been increased to \$250. Since then, the award has been regularly given on a biennial basis. Other awardees include Ann Deaton (1984), David O'Grady (1986), Karen Smith (1988), and Leilani Greening and Lenora Knapp (1990).

*Distinguished Contribution (or Service) Award.* The second award created by the Society was the Distinguished Contribution Award which is meant to honor individuals who have provided outstanding service to the Society. The name of the award was inadvertently changed by one Secretary who mislabeled it "Distinguished Service Award," by which name it is known today. As the only money involved in this award is that necessary for purchase of the plaque, this award has been continuously given since its inception in 1976-1977. The list of awardees is long and distinguished: Salk, Wright, Ross, Wiens, Routh, Willis, Kenny, Schroeder, Magrab, Tuma, Koocher, Drotar, Mesibov, La Greca.

*Significant Research Contributions in Pediatric Psychology.* At Roberts' initiation, this biennial award was established in 1985 to recognize an individual's notable work in developing the field of pediatric psychology and health care of children from a research perspective. Recipients include John Spinetta (1987) and Lizette Peterson (1989). In 1991, the Significant Research Contribution Award will be presented to Barbara Melamed.

*Student Research Scholar Grant.* Initiated in 1988, this annual award was created by Harper to assist students in obtaining financial support for their work. Recipients of this \$500 award have included Mary Ann Timmis and Laura Basili (1988), Jacqueline Hutcherson and Arlene Gerson (1989), and Ann M. DiGirolamo (1990).

*Special Awards.* Over the years, there have been several special awards presented. The first was to Wiens on August 26, 1977, as a "Certificate of Appreciation" for serving as a special resource person during SPP infancy. The second, awarded in 1986 to Koocher as he retired from editor of the Journal, was the "Special Award for Scholarly Contributions to the Society of Pediatric Psychology". On the occasion of the 21st birthday celebration in August 1989, the Society's Founders (Wright, Salk, Ross) were recognized for their early contributions. In addition, three Presidential citations were presented. Willis was cited for her scholarly contributions to the early work on the Newsletter and Journal, Magrab received recognition for providing financial guidance which stabilized the Society's finances, and Routh was recognized for his early and continuing

support of the Society in so many roles. Among many significant aspects of Routh's contributions is his having attended over 84% of all EC meetings ever held.

### *Membership*

Over the first few years of the Society's existence, there were relatively high numbers of members listed, but rarely was a member dropped for not paying his/her dues, even as late as December 8, 1980. In the mid-1970s, membership began to grow at a steady pace. The improved quality of the *Journal* and an advertisement in the *APA Monitor* were given credit for increasing the membership. Magrab initiated the first of several "Bring A Friend" contests into the Society on August 27, 1981. Another contest was won in 1985 by Eyberg. Other efforts to stimulate membership included the proposal for a "serious social hour" at APA. In reflecting that the earlier efforts of Magrab to activate the masses of pediatric psychologists in America were still not as effective as the Executive Committee had hoped, one of Drotar's presidential proposals to achieve this goal was to have a social hour separate from Section 1 and to make it somewhat structured with round table discussions. As might be expected with this gregarious group, such a serious social hour never emerged.

Today the membership is steady at close to 1,000 members.

For historical completeness, one specific individual should be singled out as being the first actual dues-paying member, Dr. Ida B. Kelley of Frankton, Indiana. According to the March 1969 issue of the *Newsletter*, thinking that the Society was already in existence, she sent her \$5 check on June 7, 1968. Little did she know that the first applications were not to be mailed for another 7 weeks. According to her application, she was born in 1889 and had received her A.B., M.S., and Ph.D. from Purdue. After having served for 27 years as a staff member at Purdue, she retired in 1959 as professor emeritus. Unable to remain retired, she became a consultant to Children's Hospital in St. Paul in 1967 to help outline a program in pediatric psychology. Her interests included child development, personality issues, and school psychology.

### *Regional Activities*

As part of Magrab's presidential mandate, the EC began considering how to reach out to the membership and provide regional and/or local programming. Davidson volunteered to find individuals in the various regional associations who would be interested in submitting symposia to their conventions. Presently each regional psychological association has some SPP-sponsored presentation on the program.

A different approach was taken by some renegade Society members in 1987 when they decided to organize a regional pediatric psychology conference. Under the leadership of Terry Stancin, Dennis Drotar, Donald Freedheim, and myself, the North Coast Regional Pediatric Psychology conference was held in May 1987 in the Cleveland area. Included in the programming were workshops and paper sessions on research, professional issues, and training. The second such conference was held in Columbus in 1988 and the third in Detroit (1990). In addition there was a Western Regional (San Diego) in 1990, chaired by Scott Henggeler, and others are now following suit. Since then, other areas have demonstrated interest in creating their own regional conferences. These very focused conferences are proving to be a popular means of getting to know other practitioners and students in one's general geographical area while not having to fight the APA crowds.

In addition to these regional meetings, the University of Florida at Gainesville is now planning its Third Conference on Child Health Psychology which is cosponsored by the Society. In 1989, its 130 participants were drawn from 24 states and served as a national meeting of pediatric psychologists. The present plan is to continue encouragement of both types of meetings, regional and national, in alternate years so as to avoid burnout. SPP may have finally achieved what Magrab and many others were hoping for over the years: a very vibrant and locally interested set of individuals who are advancing the goals of the Society on a day-to-day basis on the homefront.

### *Liaisons*

The first liaison was established in 1969, albeit somewhat informal and without financial support. At a request of the Association for the Care of Children in Hospitals (now the Association for the Care of Children's Health), Salk and then Bill Rae were successively appointed to attend ACCH's executive meetings to assist in communication between the two groups. The Society also had representation to Orthopsychiatry, the Society for Research in Child Development (SRCDD), and the American Academic of Pediatrics (Kenny, Rae) at various times, but these connections were all very loosely held with no informal direction from the EC.

It was decided in 1979 that SPP needed someone with a legislative bent to keep up with government issues affecting the children and families served by pediatric psychologists. Presidents Magrab and Drotar continued to emphasize this activity [Newsletter 6(1), February 1, 1982] yet nothing formal was done until 1989 when the EC created the position of Public Policy Advisor. Responsibilities of this person include monitoring the affairs in Washington and APA and providing input to pending legislation and regulations. Other formal liaisons

now include representation to Divisions 37, 38, and 22, and Section 1 of Division 12. SPP also has representation to other groups (ACCH, SRCD, Society for Behavioral Pediatrics).

### *Logo*

When Gardner published the initial newsletter, a masthead was created which contained a combination of symbols: the caduceus, symbolizing physicians, and psi for psychology. When Roberts reinitiated the Newsletter in 1980, he immediately began a heavily contested competition for submission of the best logo for our Society. After two deadline extensions and a total of two submissions, Schroeder's contribution was finally accepted as the winner. The 1982 logo submission was somewhat like the original one and allegedly borrowed from a copy of the Fall 1975 issue of the *Journal of Clinical Child Psychology* (a special issue on pediatric psychology).

### EARLY ADULTHOOD (1989-PRESENT)

SPP has certainly reached adulthood. The primary goals originally proposed by Wright continue as goals today. These include the defining the pediatric psychologist, training, developing better and more efficient treatment modalities, and in providing advocacy for children at the professional levels. Progress has been made, but there are still many steps to be taken until we reach full maturity. SPP has turned the corner from being a rather egocentric child and somewhat self-serving group of adolescents attempting to survive to becoming a more outwardly looking young adult who is peddling its particular expertise and influences in relevant areas. The continued influx of new leadership with fresh ideas and a desire to achieve even higher goals is quite encouraging. Thank you Section 1, Division 12, and the many individuals who have worked so hard in all these years to provide this wonderful organization the fiscal soundness to pursue those issues of training, research, service, and professional growth which each of us need on a daily basis as we serve the children and their families who are in particular need of our expertise.

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