



SPR Research and Education Foundation

Foundational Insights Newsletter: Distributed Up to Four Times a Year

Alternative Ways to Support the Foundation

Online Silent Auction: Brought back by popular demand, the silent auction will feature handmade wares and travel experiences to the **Virginia Vineyards, Disney World Wonder, Curaçao Shores, Bella Espana, and Memories of Mykonos!** Remember, most experiences must be booked within 12 months of purchase, with travel completed within 24 months. Experiences range from \$4,200 to \$10,000, so start thinking about where you want to go now. The online auction is scheduled to open before the end of March.

SPR REF Online Store ([Shop Here](#)): We're starting small but are confident there is something for everyone, from totes to tumblers and polo shirts to t-shirts. Additional items may be added throughout the year, so continue to check back. Whether you're looking for yourself, a colleague, or your entire department of fellows class, order today. **A portion of each order will support the Foundation, furthering its mission to fund pediatric imaging research.** General monetary donations can be made [here](#).



See what impact an SPR Foundation Research and Education grant can have on a young investigator!

"The seed grant was a significant grant for me; it was my first extramural award, but it meant much more than the funding amount. To me, it meant my colleagues believed in my ideas and research. I remember when I called to tell me that my proposal was funded, I actually cried. It really sparked my academic funding, as I have since been able to obtain federal funding from AHRQ and PCORI. It also facilitated more ideas for future research."
Shireen.Hayatghaibi?PhD?8688.SPR.REF.Seed.Grant.Recipient

Shireen Hayatghaibi, PhD, is an Assistant Professor of Radiology and Pediatrics at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center. Her research expertise spans health economics, patient-centered outcomes, and cost analysis in pediatric imaging. Through her research, Dr. Hayatghaibi aims to enhance transparency in medical imaging costs and optimize decision-making processes for pediatric healthcare providers and patients. She received an SPR REF Seed Grant to evaluate Imaging Utilization and Out-of-Pocket Patient

Costs for Vesicoureteral Reflux, which she presented on at the 2024 SPR Annual Meeting in Miami. Donations to the SPR REF aid the future of pediatric research - see how your donation can make an impact.

Project Title: Imaging Utilization and Out-of-Pocket Patient Costs for Vesicoureteral Reflux among Commercially Insured Children from 2010 to 2019

Project Summary: Patient values have the potential to impact both adherence to clinical guidelines and variation in utilization, however there is a lack of data on individual patient preference for most clinical indications for imaging. Before embarking on measuring patient preferences, we must first characterize and understand variation in both imaging utilization and associated cost sharing. Extensive variation of imaging utilization suggests that either the provider or the patient has a preference regarding a specific examination. In this study, we will analyze outpatient imaging utilization and patient specific cost sharing data from a commercial insurance claims database for a common indication for imaging in pediatrics: urinary tract infection (UTI) and vesicoureteral reflux (VUR). We characterize imaging modality use over time for children with UTI/VUR and define predictors of imaging use and characterize patient out-of-pocket (OOP) costs associated with dominant imaging strategies for UTI/VUR. Our research will achieve the necessary first step in building a disease specific guideline that accounts for both clinical evidence and individual patient preferences by describing national imaging trends for UTI/VUR and the associated patient OOP costs for a 10-year period.

Was the SPR REF symposium at the SPR annual meeting the first time you presented at a national meeting? No, I have presented at SPR previously. I attend each year, and it is one of my favorite meetings.

What specific person or experience influenced your pursuit of pediatric radiology? My initial inspiration for radiology was through Dr. Edward Singleton; I was lucky enough to get to know him when I started my career at Texas Children's Hospital. I was amazed at how he remembered each patient

What did you learn personally about how easy or difficult the project was?

Personally, this project reinforced my knowledge on the fragmentation of national pediatric data and how this contributes to the difficulties in conducting research. For research in adult imaging, we can use the Medicare database which is relatively clean data and provides national coverage. In pediatric imaging, there are separate databases depending on state and

and family he cared for over the years; he was a pioneer of patient-centered imaging.

Is this your first funded research? Yes, this was my first funded research grant.

How did you or a colleague come up with this specific idea for your project? My idea was sparked by attending sessions at previous SPR meetings, where I noticed that various institutions used different modalities to image children for vesicoureteral reflux (VUR). I became curious how the imaging utilization changed over time as well as if there was a significant difference in the amount of out-of-pocket costs to the patient across modalities.

Was implementing the project more difficult than you expected or more easier than you expected? Obtaining the dataset was challenging; we met with several companies that provided aggregated health insurance claims. However, most of these quotes exceeded our funding, and many were limited in their analysis packages. We decided to go with HCCL, a non-profit organization that aggregates the claims with researchers in mind.

insurance payor; this makes it difficult to conduct research.

Tell us a little about yourself, such as a hobby or outside pursuit of yours! I

have a love/hate relationship with long-distance running. I hate it when I am running but love the feeling of accomplishment when it is completed, especially when I am eating ice cream afterward.

Is there anything you would like to say to potential donors about the impact of the REF grants? The seed grant was a

significant grant for me; it was my first extramural funding award, but it meant much more than the funding amount. To me, it meant that my colleagues believed in my ideas and research. I remember when Dr. Darge called to tell me that my proposal was funded, I actually cried. Receiving this sparked my academic funding, as I have since been able to obtain federal funding from AHRQ and PCORI. It also facilitated more ideas for future studies