Founding director, Pediatric Academic Societies meeting

Debbie L. Anagnostelis, of Conroe, Texas, died of breast cancer March 19 at age 56.

The founding director of the Pediatric Academic Societies (PAS) annual meeting, Anagnostelis was executive director of the American Pediatric Society (APS) and Society for Pediatric Research (SPR).

Her commitment to the pediatric profession began in 1979 as a secretary in the Department of Neonatology at the University of New Mexico. There, she became involved with the SPR by assisting then-SPR secretary/treasurer John Johnson, M.D. Her work evolved, and she soon became the first APS-SPR executive director. She has led the growth of the PAS annual meeting over more than 20 years from a small-scale operation to an internationally attended event. In 2002, SPR honored her with the Thomas A. Hazinski Distinguished Service Award for exceptional service to the society over an extended period of time.

Anagnostelis is survived by her wife, Vickie Long, her parents and two brothers.