

LAWSON WILKINS PEDIATRIC ENDOCRINE SOCIETY

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

July 2008

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As most of you know, **Tom Moshang**, who was to be President of the LWPES this year, passed away in February. Your Society's Board of Directors appointed me to succeed Tom as President for this year. I look forward to serving you and for continued exciting growth of the Society. Please welcome the new members of the Board of Directors: **Dorothy Becker**, who is your new President-Elect, and **Mitch Geffner**, your new Member-at-Large. We all thank **Bob Rosenfield** for outstanding service as President this past year and look forward to his continuing service as Past President for the coming year. At the LWPES Business Meeting in Honolulu in May, we held a brief memorial for Tom and were fortunate to be able to have Tom's wife, Mary Anne, join us to represent his family.

In this issue, items of special note for all members of LWPES include the development of the new Strategic Plan under the leadership of **David Allen**. We had another very successful year of research grant awards to five Fellows and one new and three continuing Clinical Scholar Awards. Be sure to read the announcement of research grants for clinical scholars from the Lester and Liesel Baker Foundation. Save the dates! The LWPES business meeting will be in Baltimore at the 2009 PAS meeting which will be held from May 2-5. In September 2009, LWPES will host the International Pediatric Endocrine Societies meeting in New York City. These promise to be very exciting meetings, so plan to attend both!

LWPES and the DAC (Diabetes Advocacy Consortium)

Because there is no viable economic model for diabetes care, the diabetes epidemic in every age spectrum is not matched by availability of medical care. The LWPES owes gratitude to **Bill Tamborlane** for initiating a new advocacy group directed at this problem. The Diabetes Advocacy Consortium's mission is to enable access to high-quality diabetes care and improve health outcomes by modifying the underlying economic structure of diabetes care in the United States.

This group has brought together representatives from all the major stakeholders. **Lynne Levitsky** represents the LWPES. Other patient and professional groups include the ADA, Endocrine Society, JDRF, AACE, The American Association of Diabetes Educators, ISPAD, and the Diabetes Technology Society. There was also interested participation and financial commitment from 11 pharmaceutical and device manufacturers. Superb representatives from the advocacy community, legal advisors, and members of health care policy organizations helped build a roadmap of activities.

The LWPES will have an equal contributing role in this consortium. This will help us advocate for the needs of members and of our patients with diabetes. It should serve as a template for other advocacy activities. Stay tuned for further information about the progress of this potentially powerful new coalition.

What is coming up...

The **LWPES Membership Directory** is currently in production and will be mailed shortly! If you ever need to make changes to your information, please email the LWPES office at info@lwpes.org.

Call for Nominations

This year, two positions will be elected: President-Elect and Director. The positions of Secretary and Treasurer are elected every six years and the next election for the Secretary is 2010 and Treasurer is 2011.

For the President and Director positions, each member can nominate one candidate. Nominations must be sent by email or letter to the Chair of the Nominating Committee, **Desmond Schatz**, schatda@peds.ufl.edu. The Nominating Committee will convene and select at least two candidates for each elected position. Those who receive 25 or more nominations from the membership will automatically be selected to compete for the elected office. Select additional candidates may be put forward by the Nominating Committee.

Timeline

A call for Nominations has been posted on the LWPES Website. The last day to submit names for nominations is September 12, 2008. Nominations will be considered and the final slate will be approved by Board during the Fall Board of Director's Meeting. Anonymous ballots will then be sent to the membership at the end of November. The deadline for receipt of the ballots is Wednesday, January 7, 2009.

Please keep an eye out for both the call for nominations and the ballots. Your vote is important!

2008-2009 Award Winners

Congratulations to this year's Clinical Scholarship and Research Fellowship award winners:

Genentech Clinical Scholar - second year of funding:
Brian Feldman - University of California, San Francisco

EMD Serono Clinical Scholar - second year of funding:
Sara DiVall - Johns Hopkins University
Amy Fleischman - Children's Hospital Boston

Eli Lilly and Company Clinical Scholar - first year of funding:
Maureen Su - University of California, San Francisco

Novo Nordisk Research Fellowship Awardees:
Cem Demirci - Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh
Siri Greeley - University of Chicago
Dorit Koren - Children's Hospital of Philadelphia
Ali Mohamadi - Johns Hopkins University
Rachana Shah - Children's Hospital of Philadelphia

And through the generosity of Eli Lilly and Company, LWPES was able to offer travel awards to Associate Members attending the LWPES Annual Meeting, the American Diabetes Association Annual Meeting or The Endocrine Society Annual Meeting.

Please check the www.lwpes.org for award announcements. Remember: Associate Membership in LWPES is required to be considered for awards.

LESTER and LIESEL BAKER FOUNDATION

Named after the former Division Chief at CHOP, Lester Baker, and his widow Liesel, the Baker Foundation has support for junior faculty research grants. Please contact the Baker Foundation at lbaker2@dca.net for more information.

LWPES/ESPE Joint International Meeting



Flash! The Joint Meeting of the "world's" Societies of Pediatric Endocrinology (*aka* LWPES/ESPE) is preparing a dynamite program for the September 9-12, 2009 scientific meeting in New York.

To date, the Joint Program Organizing Committee (JPOC) has chosen seven Plenary Sessions with outstanding speakers. JPOC is in the final stages of approximately 18 three-speaker Plenary Sessions with topics ranging from the very basic to the most current clinical and translational.

The subject matter will include puberty, growth, the many faces of vitamin D, diabetes of both varieties with side ventures into obesity and insulin resistance, disorders of sex development and challenges in developing countries. This last topic, concordant with a major push toward all of the societies taking part in a project initially noted as "Global Inequalities", began at the last joint meeting in Lyon. The scientific committee plans a number of formats including pro/con debate sessions and a much expanded use of the Meet-the-Expert (professor) sessions.

The social program is replete with many things to do as the venue (the New York Hilton Hotel) is right in the heart of the multiple museums that New York City has to offer.

Important Dates

Abstract submission site to open January, 2009
Abstract submission deadline: Friday, April 10, 2009

For more information, visit: www.lwpe-espe2009.org

DO NOT MISS this opportunity!

Workshop on Regulatory Issues Affecting Clinical Investigators

The Endocrine Society and Lawson Wilkins Pediatric Endocrine Society are co-hosting a workshop on regulatory burdens facing clinical researchers to take place November 5-6 in Bethesda, MD. The two-day program will feature one day of general topics and a second day focusing on pediatric-specific challenges.

The objective is to bring together experts in endocrine research that involves children and adults—ethicists, legal, institutional, and regulatory agency representatives—to promote interdisciplinary understanding. Participation by a well-balanced group of stakeholders is meant to ensure that the recommendations outlined are broadly supported by the clinical research community.

The goals are 1) to develop strategies to facilitate the approval of clinical investigation, including important scientific studies that involve children in studies with more than minimal risk and 2) to identify best practices for IRBs, institutions and regulatory agencies to streamline and facilitate this research.

Plans are currently being laid for panels on risk-benefit analyses related to human subjects research, issues and models related to multisite projects, the “407” process, and on “406” issues. The latter two are issues resulting from the specific federal regulations covering research in children: 45 CFR 46.407 concerns research in healthy children that poses more than minimal risk and 46.406 concerns research that does not directly benefit the individual child subjects involved in the research, but is likely to yield generalizable knowledge about the subject’s condition. Thus, “407” concerns the recruitment of healthy control children and “406” the study of children at risk for a disorder.

The panels are to be followed by problem-solving workshops on best practices to develop proposed solutions. The product of the workshop is anticipated to be a set of consensus-based recommendations that will represent the views of the clinical science community.

Robert L. Rosenfield, Past-President of LWPES, represents LWPES on the organizing committee, and **Myron Genel** is the LWPES representative to the scientific advisory committee. Interested parties are welcome to contact them for further information.

Robert Rosenfield, LWPES Representative, rrosenfi@peds.bsd.uchicago.edu

Strategic Plan Update

During the past year, the LWPES Strategic Planning Committee has undertaken the task of revising and updating the Strategic Plan for the Society. The goals of this project include the following: 1) to discover and respond to the interests and needs of members; 2) to expand the scope of Society initiatives to more fully represent the range of academic, clinical, and public health activities of members; 3) to more fully integrate and utilize the capabilities and expertise of our LWPES Association Manager team; and 4) to devise and implement a system of responsibility and accountability for carrying out the Strategic Plan.

With the expert consultation of **Paul Bishop** from Eli Lilly, the team has developed and conducted an on-line survey of the Society membership, and is currently holding separate focus group discussions with fellows-in-training, researcher/educators, and clinicians. Results from the survey and focus groups will serve as background as the Strategic Planning Committee and Board of Directors develop the new LWPES Strategic Plan this Fall.

David Allen, Strategic Planning Committee Chair, dallen@pediatrics.wisc.edu

LWPES Ethics Committee

The LWPES Ethics Committee was formed last year as an *ad hoc* committee charged to review topics and make recommendations to the Society regarding the ethical issues that face pediatric endocrinologists in their clinical and research practices. The Committee functions as a liaison to the Education, Drug and Therapeutics, Program, and other LWPES standing and *ad hoc* committees and serves as a consultative resource for those committees.

At the suggestion of the Disorders of Sex Development Committee, the Ethics Committee is currently reviewing the subject of disclosure their diagnosis to children with disorders of sexual differentiation. LWPES members are invited to contact any of the Committee members with suggestions for future ethical issues that would benefit from extensive review.

Be on the lookout for a survey regarding disclosure in disorders of sex development which will be emailed in the fall. Your participation in completing the survey is much appreciated. Please plan to attend the Ethics Committee workshop at LWPES/PAS 2009, in Baltimore, MD.

Wilma Rossi, Ethics Committee Chair, rossiw@email.chop.edu

Annual Meeting Highlights

The LWPES 2008 Annual Meeting was held in Honolulu, Hawaii from May 2-5, 2008. The meeting began with the Presidential Poster Session and Reception. The three day formal program began on Saturday. **Mitch Geffner** and the entire Program Committee did an outstanding job in assembling superb speakers and in collaborating with other PAS subspecialties to coordinate and integrate the programs.

The annual LWPES Business meeting was held on Sunday. The Committee Chairs gave reports of the activities that were conducted in the past year, and what members can look forward to in the future. The Committee reports can also be found on the LWPES website, www.lwpes.org, under the Committees subheading. **Charles Stanley** gave a warm and heartfelt eulogy for Tom Moshang and it was touching that Tom's wife, **Mary Anne Gazdick**, was able to attend the meeting and see how Tom truly effected so many lives in the field of Pediatric Endocrinology.

Monday's session was very well attended and most informative. **Robert Rosenfield**, right, began the session by giving the Presidential Lecture titled "PCOS: Medical and Societal Implications of Studying a Complex Trait." Bob was then thanked by the Society for his year of service as President.



Delbert Fisher, left, was the recipient of the Judson J. Van Wyk Prize. The Society is indebted to Del and his contributions to the field of Pediatric Endocrinology.

The session ended with scientific presentations from the previous year's award winners. LWPES is grateful for the continued support of our CAB Members for providing these awards. The work of these future leaders in Pediatric Endocrinology is truly outstanding. The award winners, pictured left to right are: **Sara**

Pinney, Lilly/LWPES Research Fellow, **Christine Burt-Solorzano**, Novo Nordisk Research Fellow, **Robert Rosenfield**, **Dennis Chia**, Genentech Clinical Scholar, **Anne-Marie Francisco** and **Yee-Ming Chan**, Novo Nordisk Research Fellows.



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