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# LAWSON WILKINS PEDIATRIC ENDOCRINE SOCIETY

## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

February 2008

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Christy McGinty  
Association Manager

Nicole Ritchey  
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I hope that you all had a wonderful winter holiday break. I expect that this letter will find that your holiday is in the distant past and you are up to your neck in busy-ness again. At least we are. The Society has made progress on our initiatives and is embarking on a number of new ones. Here is where we stand shortly after the January 2008 Board of Directors meeting.

On a personal note, I must say that it has been an educational year for me, with many interesting things going on, as you can see from the above. In addition, since many of you always ask about the status of my own program at The University of Chicago, I will mention that we have combined our Sections of Pediatric and Adult Endocrinology under the leadership of Roy Weiss, MD, PhD, Professor of Medicine and Pediatrics; this is a move that allows us to immediately enlarge our fellowship program and begin a search for a mid- to senior-level faculty member who is engaged in translational research. And Sandy and I are no longer the world's oldest living non-grandparents: Sofia Zraick Rosenfield arrived October 26, 2007.

All the Best,  
Bob

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## **Resignation of President-Elect Tom Moshang, MD**

We were all saddened by the news of Tom's malignancy that forced him to resign last month. This has been particularly difficult for me personally because Tom has not only given wise counsel during his tenure on the Board of Directors, even contributing while under treatment for the initial phase of his illness, but he has been an old friend, collaborator, and colleague. He has been touched by your notes, emails, letters and cards wishing him well and praying for his health to be restored, as he notes in his LWPES website posting. He is soldiering on, working part-time through his chemotherapy.

## **Reconstitution of the Board of Directors**

**Charlie Stanley** has succeeded to the position of President-Elect from the senior Director position, in keeping with the by-laws. He has been very gracious in accepting this responsibility, and as you might imagine, he realizes both the honor and the difficulty of stepping into the position vacated by Tom, his friend and colleague, as well.

**Lynne Levitsky** has been appointed by the Board to fill the Director position vacated by Charlie, in accord with the by-laws. This has made for a relatively seamless transition since she has only missed one Board meeting (but bushels of e-mails) since stepping down as Past-President.

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## **Announcements**

**Society affairs.** The Degnon management team has now adopted a routine of sending monthly e-mails to members to update them on Society affairs and call their attention to new website postings. Our thanks to **George Degnon**, our Executive Director, **Christy McGinty**, Association Manager, and **Nicole Ritchey**, Associate, for managing the affairs of the Society smoothly.

**LWPES** will be represented by **Roz Brown** in developing an ESPE consensus conference on congenital hypothyroidism.

**LWPES** will be represented by **Steven Willi** and **Joe Wolfsdorf** in developing a consensus conference on "Hypoglycemia in Children and Teens with diabetes," which is sponsored by the International Society of Pediatric and Adolescent Diabetes.

**Norm Spack** will represent LWPES in the development of an Endocrine Society "Clinical Practice Guideline on Transsexualism and Other Gender Disorders."

**Ken Copeland** will represent LWPES in joining the AAP and ADA in developing a joint "Clinical Practice Guideline on the Diagnosis and Treatment of Type 2 Diabetes in Children and Adolescents."

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## Progress Reports

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### 2007-2008 Initiatives

**Maintenance of Certification in Endocrinology (MOCE).** Perhaps of most immediate personal interest to most members are new developments on the MOCE front. In order to reassure the public about the continued competency of board-certified general pediatricians and subspecialists, the American Board of Pediatrics (ABP) is transitioning away from the traditional recertification process to a flexible maintenance of certification process that includes the reinforcement of lifelong learning and quality improvement. The requirement for a recertification examination every 7 years will be replaced in 2010 by a requirement for maintenance of certification, which will involve an open-book MOCE examination every 5 years (Part 2 MOCE), a proctored closed-book examination every 10 years (Part 3), and on-going documentation of quality improvement (QI) activity (Part 4). (Part 1 MOCE will simply be verification that the individual has a valid, active license and has not been disciplined by a state board.)

You will remember that last Fall we announced formation of the Committee on Maintenance of Certification in Endocrinology (MOCE) to partner with both the ABP and the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) to help our members meet the Part 4 MOCE requirement. This committee, co-chaired by **Janet Silverstein** and **Bob Schwartz**, will be developing ABP-acceptable tools in the areas of type 1 diabetes mellitus and congenital hypothyroidism, topics chosen as the result of a member survey. The national QI collaborative that they will set up is expected to impact patient outcomes by creating systems that support evidence-based practice, shared data, shared learning, and systematic improvement.

The membership survey will soon be concluded that we conducted with the AAP to ascertain the need for and interest in an AAP-generated online program for a comprehensive, case-based review (open book examination) that would satisfy the part 2 MOCE requirement and serve as preparation for the part 3 MOCE closed book examination. If the need exists, implementation of the program will need to be worked out. Meanwhile, the ABP is developing an alternative way to satisfy the Part 2 requirement that will involve reviewing selected “best” recent subspecialty articles. Members and former members of the pediatric endocrine sub-board are developing this self-assessment, which is expected to be available this summer.

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**Study Network of Pediatric Endocrinology (SNoPE).** **Morey Haymond’s** committee has made great progress. They are a long way toward fleshing out the details for three pilot studies using the Child’s Oncology Group (COG) model and have begun to develop standard operating procedures and a publication policy.

They have identified an immediate project in which we can begin to collaborate with our COG colleagues—their Rare Tumor Registry and Repository. Using this mechanism, LWPES members can systematically contribute all (benign and malignant) endocrine tumors to a tissue and data bank. In response to a request for information from Morey to COG administrators, some 30 centers expressed interest, but we know that there are many more LWPES colleagues at COG centers who were not notified of his request. We suspect that most LWPES members do not know of this Registry, even if their oncology colleagues are participating. If your institution is a COG site that participates in the Rare Tumor Registry and Repository, we request that you contact both Morey ([mhaymond@bcm.edu](mailto:mhaymond@bcm.edu)) and your COG coordinator if you are interested in becoming involved.

We also are planning to develop a SNoPE sector of the LWPES website that will facilitate ad hoc collaborations and serve as a members-only chat room for the discussion of therapies and problems.

The possibility that SNoPE might provide a model by which a national registry could be developed for tracking the use and outcome of growth hormone (GH) and other rare drugs use was presented to the LWPES Corporate Advisory Board. There would seem to be many benefits to both LWPES members and industry. All the major GH producers were represented, and it is our impression that they were on board with the concept. However, major logistical, legal, and financial hurdles exist to implementing this proposal.

The Board recognizes that SNoPE is a unique initiative with an overwhelming mandate. Modest funding has been budgeted for the pilot projects, and Morey and I plan to update NICHD in the near future on our progress toward a public-private partnership.

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**Strategic Planning.** We have begun a new strategic planning initiative, thanks to the vision of **George Degnon**, our Executive Director. The Strategic Planning Committee is chaired by **David Allen**, who has the benefit of a consultant on loan from Eli Lilly, **Paul Bishop**. The goal of this process is to update our planning on the basis of input from membership and to develop mechanisms of monitoring the progress of the implementation of the goals set by this process. You will soon see a questionnaire in survey form that is professionally designed to assess the needs of members as individuals. This will be followed up by invitations to participate in focus groups that will commence at our Spring meeting.

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Improving balance between the need for clinical research in children and the regulation of it has been of particular interest to the Board and to me. The LWPES Board and The Endocrine Society Council have agreed to partner in sponsoring a two-day workshop to identify solutions to the unnecessary bureaucracy in the regulatory sphere. This workshop will probably be held in early November. Meanwhile, I organized and led a panel on the obstacles to clinical research in adolescents at an October NICHD conference on “The Menstrual Cycle and Adolescent Health”. The resultant paper will be featured in the proceedings, which will appear in a volume of the Annals of the New York Academy of Science scheduled for publication in June. A panelist was Dr. **Robert Levine**, co-author of a recent article on “The dysregulation of human subjects research” (JAMA 2007; 298:2196-2198).

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## Committee Reports

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**Nominating Committee.** **Michael Freemark's** committee nominated four excellent candidates. **Dorothy Becker** won the election for President-Elect, and **Mitch Geffner** won the Director position. Congratulations to them.

**Program Directors Committee.** LWPES will be joining the Electronic Residency Application System (ERAS) because eighty percent of the directors of pediatric endocrine training programs voted to do so. The first applicants will begin to use this system in November 2009, with interviews beginning January 2010 for a start date of July 2011. This also means that the systems we currently use will remain operational for all fellows with start dates through 2010. If more than 75% of Program Directors vote "yes" each year, ERAS will continue to be utilized. Note that the commitment to ERAS does NOT obligate us to a match system for pediatric endocrine fellow selection, but it is a necessary step toward that process. The Program Directors will take up this discussion at the Honolulu meeting. **Sharon Oberfield**, the Chair of this committee, did a yeoman's job of shepherding us through this process and in getting out the votes of all the program directors. We all owe Sharon great thanks.

**Education Committee.** This committee, chaired by **John Fuqua**, has been tasked with developing an educational seminar for pediatric endocrine fellows in the "off" years between the Biosymposia review courses. The inaugural program will occur at the Fellows and Students Day prior to the annual meeting of The Endocrine Society, with whom we are partnering in this endeavor. Three tracks will be available: an LWPES Pediatric Clinical track, an Adult Clinical track, and a Basic Research track. Cross-over among tracks will be possible. Travel awards and registration will be available for 50 pediatric endocrine fellows.

**International Scholars Committee.** **Alfonso Vargas'** committee recommended three awardees for 2008, and the Board approved them. 1) **Alvaro Aguirre-Villafan**, MD, Universidad San Francisco Xavier de Chuquisaca, Bolivia; North American Sponsor **Silva Arslanian**, MD. 2) Dr. **Vandana Jain**, All-India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi, India; North American Sponsor **Ram K. Menon**, MD. 3) **Marisela Medina**, MD, Hospital de Clinicas Caracas, Venezuela; North American Sponsor **Nelly Mauras**, MD.

**Public Policy Committee.** **Scott Rivkees'** committee now has been chosen: Drs. **Henry Anhalt**, **Myron Genel**, **Francine Kaufmann**, and **Alan Rice**, with **Leona Cuttler** *ex officio*. The committee is now well-positioned to link around common interests with the other major related organizations, such as The Endocrine Society, the American Association of Clinical Endocrinologists, and AAP.

**Professional and Clinical Affairs Committee.** This committee, co-chaired by **Jay Cohen** and **Larry Deeb**, has begun to tackle reimbursement issues in the management of type 1 diabetes and in the therapeutic use of GH. **Stu Brink** heads a subcommittee that is drafting documents as the basis for forming a common position with the American Association of Clinical Endocrinologists (AACE), the AAP, and the American Diabetes Association (ADA). **Lynne Levitsky** heads a writing subcommittee that is beginning to write an LWPES position statement on "Programmatic Requirements for Delivering Effective Pediatric Diabetes Care."

The **Drug and Therapeutics Committee** has undergone a small change of membership: **Leanne Ward** resigned because of pressing commitments, and **Catherine Gordon** was appointed in her place.

New FDA imposed class label changes for GH therapy have been posted on the LWPES website for the committee by **Paulo Collett-Solberg** and **Anna Petryk**. This posting has examined the new (uniform for all companies) and old (company-specific, but with much similarity) GH labels. This is a good resource for the definition of adult GHD, GH indications and contraindications, precautions in the areas of diabetes, hypothyroidism and secondary malignancies, need for a higher dose of glucocorticoid replacement in patients with adrenal insufficiency, and the potential of unmasking the latter when GH is started.

The committee published a review on "The role of recombinant human insulin-like growth factor-I in treating children with short stature" (**Collett-Solberg** PF, **Misra M**. 2008. *J Clin Endocrinol Metab* 93:10-18). Reviews of vitamin D deficiency in children and its management and of the use of aromatase inhibitors are in press in *Pediatrics*. Several other reviews are in various stages of development.

The **Membership Committee** recommended, and the Board accepted, 25 new applicants for Regular Membership and 27 for Associate Membership. The Society now has over 975 members.

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## LWPES Sponsored Conferences

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A consensus conference to draft guidelines for the diagnosis and treatment of children with idiopathic short stature was organized under Growth Hormone Research Society policy and held in Santa Monica in mid-October. A draft document is in its late stages of preparation at this time.

A consensus conference on the use of gonadotropin releasing hormone agonists was organized in collaboration with ESPE and held outside of Milan in early November. This was the first such conference held under the LWPES sponsorship and endorsement policies that went into effect in 2006-07. A draft document is in an early stage of preparation.

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## Looking Ahead

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Bylaws changes are in the offing. You will soon be seeing recommendations from the Board of Directors for some minor changes in bylaw wording. Some have to do with clarifying the wording for succession to the President-Elect position. Others have to do with aligning the wording for Associate Membership and the wording for the nominations procedures with procedural changes.

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## Future Meetings

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### Annual Meeting, Honolulu Hawaii

The 2008 LWPES Annual Meeting in Honolulu, Hawaii. **Mitch Geffner** and his **Program Committee** have finalized our program, which will be held in conjunction with the annual meeting of the Pediatric Academic Societies (PAS) and will be a joint meeting with the Asian Society for Pediatric Research. Topic choice was based in part on recommendations solicited from the LWPES constituency.

The three-day program and the general format of recent years were maintained with a few specific changes, including earlier start times every day, which seemed reasonable in view of the time-zone change for the great majority of us, and introduction of a session in which the recent consensus meeting reports will be delivered.

The program will start with the LWPES Presidential Citation Poster Reception at 6:30 PM on Friday May 2, 2008, and it will run through Monday May 5. On Saturday morning, the first Plenary Session commences with our major sponsored invited lectureships: (1) The **Lawson Wilkins Lecture (Martha McClintock, PhD: "Beyond Endocrinology: The Role of Pheromones in Human Sexual Behavior and Function")**; (2) The **Robert Blizzard Lecture (William Crowley, MD: "New Genes that Control Puberty")**; and (3) The Esoterix Lecture (**Len Harrison, MD: "An Overview of Approaches to the Prevention of Type 1 Diabetes - From Forbidden Clones to Regulatory Cells"**). There will be two Platform Sessions, two Poster Sessions, Joint Topic Symposia and Plenary Sessions held in conjunction with the PAS and various subspecialty groups, a mini-course on anti-hypertensive medicines, and a Meet the Professor Session on Turner syndrome (**Judy Ross**). The LWPES business meeting will be held Sunday morning, and the Presidential Lecture will be delivered Monday morning ("PCOS: Medical and Societal Implications of Studying a Complex Trait"). The program can now be viewed in full at our web-site. Registration is now open at [www.pas-meeting.org](http://www.pas-meeting.org), and I urge you to promptly lay your plans to attend if you have not already done so.

### Joint Meeting of LWPES/ESPE - 2009

**LWPES** will have two meetings in 2009. The Joint Meeting of LWPES/ESPE will be held in New York, New York September 9-12, 2009. Hold the date for this special opportunity to meet with pediatric endocrine colleagues from around the world. The first LWPES meeting of 2009 will be a smaller scale one held the first weekend in May in Baltimore in conjunction with the PAS meeting. The Baltimore meeting will have the theme "Endocrinology for Non-Endocrinologists", and the business of the Society will be conducted at that time.

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