

Annual Report of the LPWES Public Policy Committee (PPC) May 2010

A. Organization of the PPC

The PPC was developed to provide interaction and information exchange among endocrine and pediatric organizations. The following LWPES members make up the PPC.

LPWES

Scott A. Rivkees, M.D., Chair.
Yale Univ.

Henry Anhalt, D.O.

Lauire Cohen, M.D.
Harvard Univ

Leona Cutler, M.D.
Case Western Res.

Myron Genel, M.D.
Yale Univ.

Alan Rice, M.D.
Texas Tech Univ.

Paul Kaplowitz, M.D.
Children's National Medical Center

Surendra Varma, M.D.
Texas Tech Univ.

Other Organization Committee

American Thyroid Association,
Government Affairs

Endocrine Society,
Advocacy and Public
Outreach Committee

Endocrine Society,
Clinical Affairs Committee

LWPES,
Board of Directors (liaison)

Academic Pediatric Societies,
Chair, Public Policy Council

American Clinical Endocrine
Society

American Academy of Pediatrics,
Chair, Section on Endocrinology

American Academy of Pediatrics,
Past Chair, Section on
Endocrinology

B. PPC Action Items

Over the past 12 months, the PPC and/or members of the PPC have been involved in the following public policy and legislative issues. The issues that were addressed were prioritized by the PPC Council comprised of Scott Rivkees and Leona Cutler.

1. We addressed the CMS billing changes for Medicaid and Medicare that are scheduled to go into effect January 1st 2010. The Committee stated opposition to the proposed changes and completed a letter of opposition sent to the LWPES Board for communication to Kathleen Sebelius, Secretary of Health and Human Services. We worked with Dr. Paul Thornton of the LPWES Clinical Affairs Committee and members of the CoPS on this issue.
2. The Committee was asked to deliberate at “warp speed” as to whether LWPES should become involved with issuing a response to the so-called “negative press” related to the use of growth hormone in idiopathic short stature. The Committee addressed this issue. The Committee felt it unwise and inadvisable for the Society or Society leadership to become involved in a public debate over this issue.
- 3.. Scott Rivkees represented LWPES and the PPC at the Best Pharmaceuticals for Children Act Annual Prioritization Meeting on November 19, 2009 to begin to develop liaisons between LWPES, the BPCA and the FDA in areas of drug safety and use. In response, Dr. Rivkees has been invited to participate in the development of the BPCA Endocrine Therapeutics Working Group. As this interaction moves forward, the LPWES Drugs and Therapeutics Committee will be engaged.
4. The PPC is interacting with the LPWES Obesity Committee, as obesity related federal policy issues are evolving.
5. The PPC is contacting other LPWES committees to assess potential areas where the PPC can interact with the work and actions of other committees as related to policy.
6. A subset of the PPC (Scott Rivkees, Paul Kaplowitz, Leona Cutler) were appointed members of the LWPES Conflict of Interest (COI) Task Force and participated in the drafting of proposed COI guidelines that will be presented to LPWES leadership.

Respectively Submitted by
Scott A. Rivkees,
Chairperson for the LWPES PPC