

Annual Report of the LPWES Public Policy Committee (PPC) May 2009

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.

Francine Kaufman, M.D.
Childrens Hosp LA

Alan Rice, M.D.
Univ. Nevada, Los Vegas

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 Diabetes Association,

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.

1. In September 2009, Scott Rivkees alerted the FDA and NICHD about potential safety problems with propylthiouracil (PTU). On October 28, 2008, a workshop was held at NICHD on “Hepatic Toxicity Following Treatment for Pediatric Graves’ Disease Meeting”. This conference resulted in the uncovering of a serious problem related to PTU safety (<http://bpca.nichd.nih.gov/outreach/upload/Hepatic-Toxicity-10-28-08-final-final-01-09-09.pdf>) and the recommendation that PTU not be used in children (NEJM 350:1574-5). The Endocrine Society formally endorsed this position (<http://www.endo-society.org/media/press/2008/SocietyEndorsesRecommendationtoCurtailUseofCommonlyUsedAntithyroidDrug.cfm>)

LWPES has been notified by the FDA that they will be formally reviewing this issue.

2. Dr. Myron Genel, on February 12, and members of The Endocrine Society, in collaboration with Research!America, briefed congressional health policy staff about the prevention and treatment of obesity and engaged in discussions about possible legislative solutions to the problem. (<http://www.endo-society.org/advocacy/insider/SocietyExpertsBriefCapitolHillStaffonObesity.cfm>).

3. Considering that the “Medical Home” may be a concept that will become a cornerstone of health care reform, members of the PPC have begun to work with the American Academy of Pediatrics and the Endocrine Society to help develop suggestions for the role of Pediatric Endocrinology sub-specialty care in the medical home model.

4. We have been in discussion with the Best Pharmaceuticals for Children Act (BPCA) Program, Obstetric and Pediatric Pharmacology Branch (OPPB) of the *Eunice Kennedy Shriver* National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD), about developing a workshop related to pediatric endocrine-specific drug issues.

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