May 8, 1992 Baltimore, MD

Raymond L. Hintz, MD
Outgoing President, LWPES

It is a great honor to have served as president of the Lawson Wilkins Pediatric Endocrine Society.

In the United States, we trace the origins of our society to Lawson Wilkins, who was a pediatrician at The Johns Hopkins University and is considered the founder of pediatric endocrinology in North America. The first slide shows Lawson Wilkins with his post doctoral fellows including Jud Van Wyk and Mel Grumbach.

The next slide shows the number of LWPES members beginning in 1972 with 160 members. Since that time the number of members has grown to 659 in 1991. It is projected we will have at least one thousand members by 2000.

Along with growth in membership over the past 20 years, there has been an increase in the number of patients being treated with growth hormone from a total of 633 in 1972, according to the records of the National Pituitary Agency, to 1991 where there is an estimated 18,000 patients in the United States being treated with GH. The number of GH treated patients per LWPES member over the same period of time went from <4 to >25.

The break in the slide, showing number of patients being treated, represents the time many of you remember as the period when the association of treatment with GH and Creutzfeld-Jacob disease was reported and consequently the treatment with GH was halted. Fortunately, synthetic GH treatment was approved by the FDA within a few months. Almost immediately the number of patients being treated in the United States doubled and has continued to increase until in 1990 a reported 20,000 patients were receiving synthetic GH. If this trend continues more than 40,000 patients will receive treatment by the end of this century.

NOTE.....I did not speak from a prepared text. Consequently, this was reconstructed from Slides and notes and does not represent the proper ambience of the affair.