PES Members:

Your Board of Directors is pleased to keep you informed of the following developments and opportunities for our membership:

New Initiatives: You have received notices over the last month or so of new Society initiatives, and we wanted to encourage your involvement in these activities:

1. The Research Affairs Committee (RAC) has developed a mentoring program for the membership. If you are interested in participating as a mentee or mentor, please sign up by logging in here with your membership user id and password on the following site. The RAC will review the requests at 4-month intervals and facilitate the initial mentor-mentee matches starting November 2014.

2. The Del and Beverly Fisher Pediatric Endocrinology History Lectureship was established through a generous donation by the Fishers to generate ongoing interest in the history of Pediatric Endocrinology. The lecture will take place yearly at the PAS/PES annual meeting. The inaugural lecture is scheduled for the 2015 PAS/PES meeting in San Diego. This is a wonderful gift and the lecture will be an exciting addition to the annual meeting. Nominations for the Fisher lectureship should be sent by e-mail to the PES Central Office (info@pedsendo.org), which will forward them to the History Committee for review. When submitting a nomination or self-nomination, please include the following: Name, Address, E-mail, Phone, Title/topic of presentation, and Outline/Summary of presentation.

3. Finally, the RAC has also been working to generate a page on the website that includes a listing of available endocrinology-related grants, with links to the funding agencies’ or companies’ website. This list is not exhaustive but the webpage is a great resource for those looking for research funding and represents a new member benefit. Check it out here! Please note that this list is provided for informational purposes only and does not represent an endorsement by PES.

Growth Hormone Safety: Some of you may have seen the article and editorial related to the publication of data from a subset of the Safety and Appropriateness of Growth hormone treatments in Europe (SAGhE) cohort in Neurology. The publication reports an increased risk of hemorrhagic stroke in young adults who received growth hormone therapy as children. This is an important and controversial publication that we encourage you to read. The Board of Directors and the Drugs and Therapeutics Committee are preparing a response to this study urging caution when interpreting data and responding to the reported results because the study has many limitations. We will circulate that response to all members once it is finalized.
Public Policy Corner: We are happy to pass along news that Senate FY2015 Labor-HHS bill was released in July with three major diabetes achievements. First, the Report includes $15 million in FY 2015 for the National Diabetes Prevention Program (NDPP), an increase of $5 million over last year. Second, the bill includes language to strengthen the National Diabetes Report Card and a recommendation to establish a National Diabetes Clinical Care Commission. Third, there is also language urging the National Institutes of Health to work more on the NDPP.

Historical Tidbit of the Month: The monthly Tidbit continues to be facilitated by Arlan Rosenbloom. If you have an interesting brief historical tidbit to share, please send it to Arlan (Chairman of the History Committee) at rosenal@peds.ufl.edu. This month’s tidbit comes from Del Fisher: “The last paper describing the outcome of children with congenital hypothyroidism before the introduction of newborn screening in 1975, was by Salvatore Raiti and George Newns (Early diagnosis and its relation to mental prognosis, Arch Dis Childhood 1971; 46:692-694). They were able to measure IQ in 56 of 141 cases. Three fourths of those treated before 3 months of age, but only ~40% of those treated later had IQ’s above 90, consistent with the report from Hopkins in 1957 in the largest series up to that time (Smith DW, Blizzard RM, Wilkins L. The mental prognosis of hypothyroidism of infancy and childhood. A review of 128 cases. Pediatrics 1957; 19:1011-22).”

We would like to end with A SPECIAL thank you to PES Members. We continue to get an enormous response to our emails inviting members to participate on committees and councils of PES. The numbers are such that we know that we will not be able to engage all of you, but we have your names and committees of interest and greatly appreciate your willingness to work on behalf of PES and our patients and families. Those members who are serving on committees and councils donate many volunteer hours to help move the Society’s mission forward. Thanks to you too!

Sincerely,

Mitchell E. Geffner, MD
PES President

Mark Palmert, MD, PhD
PES Board Member