Stay Informed:
August 2015

PES Members:

We hope you are enjoying your last few weeks of summer. Whether you are getting in clinic visits with all of those families just before their school year starts, working on a research grant, or getting in a little holiday of your own, you probably may not have yet solidified your 2016 conference schedule. We are hoping you are planning on attending your PES Meeting in Baltimore. Here are some other conferences you may be interested in attending.

Future Meetings in 2016
- PES New Case-Based Clinical Update Course (more information to come this winter) to precede the PES/Pediatric Academic Societies (PAS) Meeting, April 29-May 2, Baltimore, MD
- ENDO 2016, April 1-4, 2016, Boston, MA
- Pediatric Endocrine Nursing Society (PENS) Meeting, May 12-15, 2016, Denver, CO
- American Diabetes Association Scientific Sessions, June 10 - 14, 2016, New Orleans, LA
- ESPE 2016, Sept 10-12, 2016, Paris, France

Help shape the Pediatric Endocrine Society Annual Meeting. This is a last call to send your program suggestions (topics with or without specific speakers) to smarks@hsc.mb.ca.

Be sure to also check out our Calendar of Events webpage for other upcoming events or educational opportunities.

WANTED: Patient Education Fact Sheet Translators and Additional Materials

The Patient Education Subcommittee, comprised of members from the PES Education Council and the American Academy of Pediatrics Section on Endocrinology, has developed a series of patient education fact sheets for patients and families. These fact sheets cover relevant topics such as growth, thyroid, puberty, diabetes, adrenal, PCOS, and vitamin D. Fact sheets on Turner syndrome and genetic testing information are “under construction.”

We have recently established collaboration with the Latin America Society for Pediatric Endocrinology (SLEP) to translate these documents into Spanish. The ultimate goal will be to post these information sheets in multiple languages on the PES and the SLEP websites.

To help families understand pediatric endocrine disorders, we would like to add versions of these information sheets in Arabic, Hindi, and other languages. To date, a patient education sheet on acquired hypothyroidism in Arabic has been prepared. We are seeking colleagues interested and able to translate the current parent educational materials.

We are also currently looking for more education materials that we can add to the website. The Committee is seeking any non-copyrighted patient education materials that members have developed and would be willing to share with the PES membership. Submitted materials will be reviewed and approved by the education council and made available to the membership as PES-branded materials.

If you have materials you would like to share (in word document) or are interested in translating materials, please contact Selma Witchel, Chair of the Patient Education Committee, at Selma.witchel@chp.edu.

NEW: Craig’s True or False Section! (Plus bonus question! Check end of the letter for answers)

a) The Congenital Hypothyroidism PIM activity is available and features 20 hours of MOCE Part 4 credit. True/False
b) The PES 2015 Board Review Course from San Diego is available online. True/False
c) PES has a Snapchat account True/False
d) The Surgeon General in 2003-2004 was a Pediatric Endocrinologist. True/False
e) The name of the new journal which comes with your PES membership is: Hormone Research in Paediatrics. True/False
f) BONUS: In the original Star Trek series, Kirk consults an Endocrinologist. True/False

Committee Corner
PES thanks Dr. Ellen Connor, Chair of the Obesity Committee, and Dr. Radha Nandagopal, Chair of the Ethics Committee, for their update:
Obesity Committee: In early summer, several members represented the committee when PES was asked to review and comment upon the World Health Organization’s Interim Report of the Commission on Ending Childhood Obesity.

Committee members continue to develop an extensive obesity course syllabus using a case format. Ilene Fennoy has served as organizer of this multiyear project. The coursework covers the topics of genetics of obesity (including recognized syndromes), nutritional biochemistry, and management of metabolic comorbidities. With support of the Board, the committee intends to use this well-developed syllabus to develop two course products: one for general pediatricians (as part of a 2016 weekend PES course being developed by the Education Council) and one for pediatric endocrinologists (being proposed for the 2017 joint PES/ESPE meeting). Obesity Committee members have individually written and then collectively reviewed each case to be used in developing the two products.

Ethics Committee: Our major projects include ethics modules, posted on the PES website, which allow trainees to access case studies focused on ethical issues in pediatric endocrinology. The modules are specifically aimed at meeting the ACGME competencies in ethics for fellows. We have also worked to develop an annual Ethics Essay Competition (stay tuned for information this fall) open to fellows, which receives an enthusiastic response each year. We are able to award a cash prize to the winner, who also has the opportunity to present the top essay as a poster at the PES Presidential Poster Session during the annual meeting. Speaking of PES, our ethics symposium on gender verification in elite athletes at last year’s PES meeting was well attended and generated lots of great discussions. We hope to offer an ethics workshop for pediatric endocrinologists at a future meeting. Finally, we are working to survey our members on the ethical aspects of obesity (coming soon), and are planning to develop a reference library focused on the intersection between pediatric endocrinology and ethics.

Mentor Program Solicitation

The Research Affairs Council is soliciting mentors and mentees to register for the next wave of the Mentoring Initiative. The initiative did very well in the first year with 31 mentees being paired with 21 mentors, and the feedback thus far has been excellent. The RAC is now working on setting up the next round of mentor-mentee matches. Mentees could include faculty at various stages of their careers as well as fellows. We hope to recruit mentors who are willing to advise on careers in research, clinical practice, administration, industry and government, on career advancement, as well as work-life balance. Please click here to register as a mentor or a mentee.

Reminders
- The American Diabetes Association Consensus Conference is October 20, 2015, in Alexandria, VA. Click here for more information. Type “PES” when registering to receive the discounted registration price for being a PES Member.
- Nominations for Blizzard Lecture are due October 16, 2015.

Historical Tidbit of the Month

The correct determination of the human diploid chromosome number as 46 occurred 60 years ago at the University of Lund, Sweden with the historic photograph by Tjio that he labeled “Human cell with 46 chromosomes observed 1955 on December 22nd at 2.00 am”; the finding was published in April 1956 (Tjio J-H, Levan A. The chromosome number of man. Hereditas 42:1–6); ending a period of more than 30 years when the number had been thought to be 48. Their methods laid the foundation for the analysis of chromosome disorders beginning with trisomy 21 and sex chromosomal abnormalities in 1959. [Harper PS. The discovery of the human chromosome number in Lund, 1955-1956. Hum Genet 2006;119:226-32]

If you have an interesting brief historical tidbit to share, please send it to Arlan Rosenbloom (Chairman of the History Committee) at rosenal@peds.ufl.edu.

Sincerely,

Sally Radovich, MD
PES President

Craig Alter, MD
PES Board Member

True or False Answers: a) True! Register here for PIM for free when you enter the PES access code, “thyroid”; b) True! Click here for BRC access; c) False. But follow us @PedsEndoSociety on Twitter and “Like” Pediatric Endocrine Society on Facebook!; d) False. This was true in 1993-1994, when PES member, Dr. Joycelyn Elders, was the Surgeon general under President Clinton. She also was the first person in the state of Arkansas to become board certified in Pediatric Endocrinology; e) True! Access directly from the Members Only Section; f/BONUS) True! In an episode where several were aging rapidly, they just happened to have an Endocrinologist on board (1967).