Greetings!

While I was pondering what to write in my penultimate President’s letter, I looked back at the second one I wrote for the June 2018 letter. Two things stand out – first, I wrote about a summer hike in the wildflowers with PikTo but at the moment I am looking out on 6 inches of snow on the deck. While it does get a bit old when it is still snowing here in March and April, everyone who lives in an arid climate knows that it is exactly this snow that will permit the wildflowers in June. So, a lesson in looking beyond the moment to what the circumstances of the moment might make possible. I’ll avoid making the trite analogy to some challenging circumstances in which Pediatric endocrinologists find themselves at the moment, but as my daughter would say, just saying...

The second thing I noticed was that it was on that hike that the idea of re-imagining the relationship between PES and industry first took shape. This concept led to the process that the Board undertook to develop a new model, ultimately the Mission Alliance Partnership, and set of guiding principles for this relationship. This model has been enthusiastically supported by all of the companies we’ve approached and we continue to expand the number and strength of the relationships with committed industry partners. The first consequence of this is that we have already more than replaced the grant money we previously counted on but that was becoming increasingly difficult to secure. This is wonderful news for the ability of PES to support programs of importance to our members and the future of Pediatric Endocrinology – the snow (falling grant support) leading to wildflowers (MAP)? [oops, I said I wouldn’t be trite].

But more importantly, we have the opportunity for creative relationships with eager partners and to use our respective skills and capacities to achieve aligned objectives. While still at early stages, a number of new initiatives are already taking shape with the advice and support of MAP members. These include the webinar series already underway (Thanks to Jon Nakamoto for kicking us off with a great session!), as well as an upcoming webinar series on less well-studied aspects of GH deficiency, an exciting concept for a year-round program for Fellows (unique endocrine topics, career opportunities and advice, and a strengthened opportunity for Fellows to get to know each other), the inaugural PedsENDO Discovery program (see below), new educational and engagement initiatives for Advanced Practice Providers, and more robust collaboration with the Regional Pediatric Endocrinology meetings. The Board recently established a priority for each of these initiatives and is in the process of engaging the relevant contributors. Each of these projects has the potential for early MAP involvement and will be an opportunity to challenge ourselves to rethink how, and with whom, we work.

So from Wildflowers to snow and now new wildflowers germinating – a lot of change in less than a year. I am proud to have worked with a group of Board Members and Association Staff who had sufficient commitment to the future of PES and the courage to explore creative solutions. The forecast is for lots of wildflowers this year!

Congratulations to the PES 2019 Award Winners!

We are delighted to announce the winners of the following awards:

**Judson J. Van Wyk Prize**: Perrin White MD

**Human Growth Foundation Award**: Eirene Alexandrou MD
AAP and PES Leona Cuttler Award: Catherina Pinnaro MD

PES is also proud to announce the PES Named Lectures for the 2019 Annual Meeting in Baltimore, MD:

Lawson Wilkins Lecture: Sadaf Farooqi PhD, FRCP, FMedSci

Del and Beverly Fisher Pediatric Endocrinology History Lecture: Rudolph Leibel MD

Paul Kaplowitz, MD, Endowed Lectureship: Philippe F. Backeljauw MD

Inaugural PedsENDO Discovery Program for Medical Students!
The PES Board approved an initiative to bring 4 medical students to the PES Annual meeting with PAS in Baltimore. The students have been selected and pending notification. This program will provide an introduction to Pediatric Endocrinology for promising students who will have the opportunity to meet with Fellows and Senior PES members, attend social events and educational sessions, have a special introduction to Pediatric Endocrinology, and discuss career opportunities in the field. We are excited by the program and, if successful, we would like to expand this program and potentially include pediatric residents. Many thanks to Ambika Ashraf, Selma Witchel and the Education Committee for organizing this effort and to the Training Committee for developing the Pediatric Endocrinology 101 presentation for the student attendees, as well as all who have volunteered (or will volunteer!) to spend time with the students. Please introduce yourselves to our PedsENDO Discovery Program awardees and show them how much of a heart Pediatric Endocrinology has.

Pediatric Endocrine Society Turns 50: the 2022 project – call for volunteers
The Pediatric Endocrine Society, formerly named the Lawson Wilkins Pediatric Endocrine Society turns 50 in 2022. We hope to use this milestone to spur a project to record our history and highlight the contributions of PES members to the field of Endocrinology, as well as to promote the current programs of the Society. While this effort is just getting underway, we hope that you will see a videographer at the meeting this year beginning to capture footage for an eventual presentation and archive of interviews with senior members of PES about their careers and with younger members about their hopes for Pediatric Endocrinology and the Society in the future. Other ideas for this project include development of a Pediatric Endocrinology Timeline and some special events to celebrate the occasion at the meeting in 2022. We are interested in hearing from any members with ideas and interest in working on this project. If interested contact Phil, Erica, or the staff at Degnon.

Mentor/Mentee Workshop
A Mentoring Initiative workshop is being held on Friday, April 26th between 8:30pm and 9:30pm (right after the Presidential poster reception) in the Hyatt Regency, Constellation B Ballroom. Please join your colleagues and leaders in the field for informal discussions on Networking, Negotiations, Academic Promotions, Private practice and opportunities in Industry.

Please RSVP by clicking here.

Update on PES advocacy regarding proposed state laws regulating genital surgery
In previous months, we have reported that PES has submitted letters to the CA, CT, and NV legislatures opposing legislation proposing to regulate the treatment of infants and children with a highly complex and variable set of challenges. Similar bills are appearing around the country. We are often aware of these and other bills relevant to pediatric endocrinology through our partners, but if you hear of such a bill in your state, please let us know. There are state-by-state nuances and, while we feel our position against legislative involvement in medical care is generally applicable, we can engage PES experts to help us review and make modifications to our formal submission as needed based on evolution of bills.
A warm welcome to our new members:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Institution</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Leslie Lam</td>
<td>Children's Hospital at Montefiore</td>
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<tr>
<td>Givanna Beauchamp</td>
<td>University of Alabama at Birmingham</td>
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<tr>
<td>Whitney Smith</td>
<td>University of Mississippi</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chang Lu</td>
<td>Children's Hospital at Montefiore</td>
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<td>Kimberly Clash</td>
<td>Stanford Children’s Health</td>
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<td>Emily Paprocki</td>
<td>Children’s Mercy Hospital</td>
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<td>Nourah Almutlaq</td>
<td>Riley Children Hospital</td>
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<td>Richard Roberts</td>
<td>Children’s Hospital Colorado</td>
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<td>Courtney Baraglia</td>
<td>Children’s Hospital Colorado</td>
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**Ethics corner**

Plan to attend!

**Interactive Workshop:** DSD management in 2019: Ethical considerations and shared decision making: This workshop is open to anyone including, but not limited to, pediatric endocrinologists, trainees, general pediatricians, and neonatologists who take care of children with differences of sex development and are interested in exploring ethical considerations and shared decision making with families of kids with DSD.

Time: **April 26, 2019, 4:30-6:30**. Location: Hyatt regency, Constellation B, please check PES final program for any changes.

**MOC/QI corner**

Join the MOC/QI Committee for Two Great Sessions at the Annual Meeting in Baltimore

- On **Friday, April 26 from 4:30 to 6:30 pm**, we will host an MOC Part 4 Workshop, with the goal of familiarizing PES Members with resources for identifying and developing a QI project that has relevance to pediatric endocrinology and meets ABP MOC Part 4 criteria.
- On **Saturday, April 27 from 5 to 7:30 pm**, we will have our annual MOC Part 2 Session featuring expert speakers presenting the 9 papers selected for the ABP Pediatric Endocrinology Self-Assessment MOC Part 2 activity.

Other MOC/QI resources are available on the PES website at [https://www.pedsendo.org/quality_improve/index.cfm](https://www.pedsendo.org/quality_improve/index.cfm)

**Annual Program Directors Meeting**

**Friday, April 26, 2019 from 8:00am – 10:00am** at the Hyatt Regency in the Constellation C Ballroom.

**News from the D&T**

Levothyroxine sodium oral solution (Tirosint-SOL) has now been approved by the FDA and is available for use in the US. The D and T Committee reviewed available information and prepared a summary for the membership. Please click on this [link](https://www.pedsendo.org/quality_improve/index.cfm) for details regarding the product and its dosing. Please note that this summary is for informational purposes only and is not an endorsement of the product by PES.
Fellows spotlight
Anna Neyman, MD - IU Health/Riley Hospital for Children

I am currently finishing my 3rd year of fellowship at Indiana University and Riley Children's Hospital. I completed medical school at the University of Toledo College of Medicine and then came to IU for my pediatric residency. I was excited to have the opportunity to stay at IU to complete my training in pediatric endocrinology. My exposure to both inpatient and outpatient endocrinology during residency cemented my interest in the field. I enjoyed the breadth of the different endocrinopathies and the continuity with the patients and their families. My career path was influenced by the mentorship that I received as a resident. Dr. Eugster and Dr. Fuqua have been key to guiding me through my training. Dr. Nabhan and Dr Nebesio have been indelible clinical mentors, and Dr. DiMeglio and Dr. Sims have been essential research mentors. During training, I've enjoyed all of endocrinology, with a special clinical interest in thyroid disease and diabetes and a research focus in T1D and T2D. One fellowship experience that has shaped my career path has been my involvement in a clinical research study in T1D, which involved using clamps to evaluate beta cell function in those at risk for developing diabetes. The experience has fueled my passion to continue in diabetes research with the goal of helping to improve diabetes care.

Call for Applications for PES International Scholar Award for 2020

APPLICATION DEADLINE June 30, 2019

Do you know a young pediatrician or pediatric endocrinologist in a resource-limited country who would like to gain experience or specific skills in your clinic or lab? Are you interested in hosting such a person at your institution? PES is now calling for applications for scholars to visit the US in the Spring of 2020.

PES is now accepting applications for the PES International Scholar Award. We are excited that this year PES will award two scholarships:

- In honor of our growing relationship with Central America and the Caribbean, the International Relations Committee proposed and the Board approved a Scholar award specifically for applicants from this region.
  - Eligible applicants are from Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama, Antigua and Barbuda, Aruba, Bahamas, Barbados, Cayman Islands, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Haiti, Jamaica, Saint Kitts and Nevis.
- The PES International Scholar award for applicants from the rest of the world.

The award is designed to allow pediatric colleagues from foreign countries interested in endocrinology to visit and work in the clinics and laboratories of PES members and to attend the PES annual meeting, with the goal of promoting the career of promising young individuals and increasing pediatric endocrinology capacity in resource-limited regions.

For additional details and information on the award please visit PES site: [https://www.pedsendo.org/research_awards/international_scholars/index.cfm](https://www.pedsendo.org/research_awards/international_scholars/index.cfm)

MAP What’s New Spotlight

Ascendis Pharma

Ascendis Pharma, a biopharmaceutical company that uses TransCon technology to develop new therapies, including a long-acting hGH preparation, announced results from its phase 3 heiGHt Trial earlier this month. Treatment-naive children with GH deficiency were randomized 2:1 to receive either once-weekly TransCon hGH (0.24 mg/kg/week SC) or daily Genotropin® (0.24 mg/kg/week SC) for 52 weeks. TransCon hGH was not only non-inferior, but was in fact statistically superior to daily hGH for the primary endpoint of annualized height velocity (AHV) at 52 weeks. In the primary intent-to-treat analysis, AHV was 11.2 cm/year in the TransCon hGH arm vs. 10.3 cm/year for daily hGH. The treatment difference reached statistical significance from week 26 onward. The incidence of poor responders (AHV < 8.0 cm/year) was 4% in the TransCon hGH arm vs. 11% in the daily hGH arm. TransCon hGH was generally safe and
well-tolerated, and adverse events were comparable to the daily injection. No serious adverse events related to study drug were observed in either arm. No treatment-related adverse events led to drug discontinuation in either arm. No neutralizing antibodies were detected; low-titer non-neutralizing antibodies did not differ between groups. Peak and trough IGF-1 SDS values were 1.3 and -0.5 over 52 weeks, respectively, for TransCon hGH vs. an average IGF-1 SDS of ~0.0 for daily hGH at week 52. Results will be presented formally at the upcoming PES meeting in Baltimore.

Labcorp Endocrine Sciences
Endocrine Sciences Announces the Availability of 11-Oxandrosterone Testing: Endocrine Sciences, a member of the LabCorp Specialty Testing Group, has developed clinical testing for 11-oxoandrogens using HPLC MS/MS. The origin of 11-oxoandrogens is almost entirely adrenal. These androgens - 11-ketotestosterone, 11-hydroxytestosterone, and 11-hydroxypregnenolone - may be important biomarkers for disease states such as congenital adrenal hyperplasia (CAH) and polycystic ovary syndrome (PCOS). The enzyme defect in CAH causes excess adrenal androgen production driven by ACTH and the major androgens are 11-oxygenated. Therefore, 11-oxoandrogens reflect control in CAH. In PCOS, 11-ketotestosterone levels are high and may be a better biomarker than testosterone or androstenedione for evaluating and monitoring the condition. To access test information including test codes and sample requirements, please visit our online directory of services at www.labcorp.com.

References
2. Turcu AF et al. 11-Oxygenated androgens are biomarkers of adrenal volume and testicular adrenal rest tumors in 21-hydroxylase deficiency. *J Clin Endocrinol Metab.* 2017;102:2701-2710.

To receive similar news, updates, and announcements from LabCorp related to endocrine testing: www.Labcorp.com/TheEndocrineExperience/PES.

Historic tidbit provided by Alan D. Rogol, MD, PhD:
Thomas Morgan Rotch, MD and the Genesis of Hand Radiographs for Bone Age Determination
Thomas Morgan Rotch, later Professor of Pediatrics at Harvard, observed that height and weight were poor predictors of “ability to learn” and devised a radiographic technique to “grade” children in school. Using newly discovered ‘Roentgenography’, he noted that epiphyseal maturation in the hand/wrist corresponded to other skeletal sites and matured at practical intervals [Am Phys Educ Rev 1910; 15:396], providing the basis for subsequent bone age methods. Rotch sought to determine “…the degree of mental and physical capacity and the means of preserving the necessary quality of mind and body”. Similarly, cadets at Annapolis were studied to identify those “…likely to withstand the strain, both mental and physical, through, which they would pass” [Trans Assoc Am Physi 1910; 25:200].

And the Survey Says?
Thank you to all PES survey responders! The PES Research Affairs Committee receives and reviews surveys three times per year. This allows PES members to provide expert input on educational and practice improvement initiatives and to support research projects of members and members-in-training. Throughout the year, we’d like to highlight the survey results and publications. Recently, members were surveyed regarding training strategies for diabetes technology. BE Marks and colleagues utilized their PES survey results to identify knowledge gaps in the use of diabetes technology and to guide curriculum development in this evolving field. Click here to view their publication and learn more about their online curriculum TeKnO!