One of the most important missions of the PES is to support the training of our next generation of pediatric endocrinologists. The PES offers two fellow research awards—the PES Research Fellowship Award (RFA) and the PES Clinical Scholar Award (CSA). The PES RFA supports fellows in their final year of training while the PES CSA funds junior faculty in mentored research career development.

These awards are particularly critical since the physician-scientist workforce is shrinking and aging, raising concerns that the effectiveness of performing research benefiting patients is being endangered. [My definition of physician-scientist is an M.D. or M.D./Ph.D. who is caring for patients and is therefore uniquely positioned to perform research that benefits patients.] With the stagnating NIH budget, the desire for career-lifestyle balance, and rising medical school debt combined with flat-line starting salaries, many young physicians become discouraged and have chosen not to pursue a research career. These awards will contribute to sustaining the pipeline to ensure the survival and growth of the physician-scientist workforce in pediatric endocrinology.

In addition to their role in academic centers, physician scientists play key roles in guiding drug development are key players in industry’s mission. The awards are sponsored by unrestricted funds from the pharmaceutical industry. We are grateful for their continued support.

CSA and RFA applications are now open! Apply by December 14, 2015.

Travel Grants
PES is pleased to offer Travel Grants to Fellows attending the PES/PAS Annual Meeting in Baltimore, Maryland, April 29-May 2, 2016. Apply by February 11, 2016.

Discussion Board – Talk amongst yourselves!
PES has brought the discussion board back! This new and improved board (found in the Members Only Section) is broken up into separate areas of interest. Be sure to subscribe to the Weekly Digest for your particular area of interest so that you don’t miss any interesting or important discussions! If you’re a member of a committee or council, you will also see a private discussion board listed under the “Member-Specific Groups” section of that page, where only members of that particular committee or council can see and participate in the discussion.

Craig’s True or False (You be the Judge)
a) There was a Supreme Court Justice with type 1 Diabetes Mellitus that served for over 10 years.
b) Supreme Judge William Rehnquist died of complications related to anaplastic thyroid cancer.
c) Charles Evans Hughes, the Supreme Court Judge who lost to Woodrow Wilson in the 1916 presidential election, had a child who died from type 1 diabetes.
d) Sweetbreads refers to a culinary name for eating pancreas.
e) There is a professional cycling team exclusively made of cyclists with type 1 diabetes mellitus.

SIGs
What does SIG SIGnify? Special Interest Groups. The Pediatric Endocrine Society invites members to form Special Interest Groups (SIGs). SIGs provide a venue for members to network with other colleagues sharing similar interests, to provide a forum to discuss issues concerning topics relevant to the SIGs, and to work towards goals that will benefit our patients and the membership of the Pediatric Endocrine Society at large. The SIG policy is intended to provide a framework for the organization and management of these groups. If you are interested in one of these SIGs, or feel we should have one for another topic, please contact the Board of Directors (see instructions in the SIG Policy).

The Transgender SIG is the first official SIG of PES, having recently been approved by the Board of Directors.

Ethics Essay Competition
The Ethics Committee is holding its annual pediatric endocrinology Ethics Essay Competition, open to pediatric endocrinology fellows and all pediatric residents. The winner will receive a $250 prize award and the chance to present the winning essay as a poster at the Presidential Poster Session. Click here for more information.
Elections and Bylaws
All those eligible to vote have recently been emailed a link to vote on elections (President-Elect, Treasurer, and Director) and Bylaws changes. Submit your votes by November 26th!

Membership Dues Renewal
Be on the lookout next month for your emailed dues renewal notice! Be sure to also fill out the important demographic questionnaire with your renewal. We have recently made updates to this questionnaire, as it is imperative for us to know who our members are so that we can make the most informed decisions when developing new programs and resources. We thank you for your cooperation, and we highly value your feedback!

Reminders….
- PAS Abstract Submission deadline is November 10, 2015.
- Nominations for the Van Wyk Prize are due November 17, 2015.
- Nominations for the Fisher History Lecture are due November 19, 2015.
- PER Journal Free and Discounted Access: Editor-in-Chief of Pediatric Endocrine Reviews (PER) has offered PES members a free year’s worth of electronic access to Volume 12 of the journal, published between September 2014 and August 2015. If you choose to continue your subscription, those members who accept this offer will also receive electronic access to volume 13 at a discounted rate of $99 per year (regularly $180). For more details on this journal and how to access the offer, click here and enter the password, PESPERPROMO.

…And Updates
- On 10/19/15, the American Diabetes Association convened a meeting entitled: “Youth-Onset Type 2 Diabetes: Current Status, Challenges, and Priorities” in Alexandria, VA. The meeting was also supported by PES and NovoNordisk. Attendees represented academia, industry, funding agencies (NIH), advocacy groups, and regulators (CDC and EMA) with the primary goal to collectively evaluate both current and future research, treatment, and prevention approaches. This meeting served as a venue to have all stakeholders in the same room at the same time to initiate conversations about how best to move forward to get more medications approved for our patients. A meeting review will be published in Diabetes Care in the near future.
- We’re now accepting applications for the Spring Fellows Retreat! Apply by January 11th!
- Save the Date! PES will hold a new and redesigned Interactive Pediatric Endocrinology Clinical Update and Case Discussion Course, April 28-29, 2016, in Baltimore, MD. More information to come!

Historical Tidbit of the Month
The initial appreciation of the disadvantageous Ca/P ratio and buffering capacity in cows milk formulas contributing to neonatal tetany in non-breast-fed infants, which led to recommending adding calcium gluconate supplementation was by a pioneering pediatric endocrinologist Lytt Gardner when he was a research fellow with Allan Butler. His superb study published 65 years ago led to changes in formulas and the disappearance of the problem. (Gardner LI, McLachlan EA, Pick W, Terry ML, Butler AM. Etiologic factors in tetany of newly born infants. Pediatrics 1950;5;228-240)

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.

Have a safe and happy Halloween!

Sincerely,

Sally Radovick, MD
PES President

Craig Alter, MD
PES Board Member

True or False Answers:
- a) False, actually Sonia Sotomayor is currently a Supreme Court Justice who was nominated by President Obama in 2009. She was diagnosed with type 1 Diabetes Mellitus at age 7 years; b) True; c) False. Elizabeth Hughes Gossett indeed was diagnosed with diabetes in 1919 at age 11. However, she lived until age 73 being one of the first to receive insulin; d) True, Sweetbreads are culinary names for the thymus or the pancreas; e) True, Team Novo Nordisk is the first professional cycling team to be comprised completely of riders living with type 1 diabetes.