PES Members:

There is a tremendous amount of exciting activity happening within PES! We cannot cover it all, but we have touched on many activities in this newsletter. So please read all the way to the end! Other important topics will be highlighted in upcoming letters and/or e-blasts.

**Please vote:** The Nominating Committee has put forth a spectacular slate of candidates for President-elect and Director. If you are a voting member, please take an active role in our Society and help select next year’s incoming Board members.

**Annual Meeting:** Please plan to present your most interesting original science at the upcoming PES Annual Meeting (to be held April 25-28, 2015 in San Diego). Abstract submissions close November 11, 2014 at 5 pm CST; visit the PAS Website for more details regarding electronic submission.

The schedule for this year’s meeting is full of superb sessions, so please plan to stay for all 3 days. The lineup of scientific symposia can be accessed [here](#). We also request that members help us prepare for a symposium entitled "Case Discussions with the Experts: Management of Differentiated Thyroid Cancer in the Pediatric Patient, Highlighting the New Pediatric Thyroid Cancer Guidelines." We ask members to submit a one-page summary of difficult/interesting pediatric thyroid cancer cases to the chairs of the symposia, Gary Francis (glfrancis@vcu.edu) and Don Zimmerman (dzimmerman@luriechildrens.org), with a copy to Dorothy Shulman, program chair (dshulman@health.usf.edu), as soon as possible. Three to four cases will be selected for presentation to the chairs.

**Awards:** Online applications are now being accepted for the PES [Research Fellowship Awards](#) (RFAs) and the [Clinical Scholar Awards](#) (CSAs). The deadline is **December 12, 2014** at noon EST.

**Education:** A Patient Education Subcommittee comprised of members from the PES Education Council and AAP Section on Endocrinology has been working together since 2010 to develop a series of patient education fact sheets covering topics such as growth, thyroid, puberty, diabetes, adrenal, PCOS, and vitamin D. The topics were selected and written jointly by members of each group and then edited by a PES education group headed by Lynne Levitsky. They were then formatted and reviewed by various groups within the AAP. We are pleased to announce that, at long last, 19 fact sheets are available at no charge as downloadable pdf files on both the PES and AAP websites. On behalf of both organizations, we thank the contributors of these very important resources.
Rare Diseases: We have two exciting initiatives to tell you about. First, PES has been awarded a grant from AstraZeneca to develop and maintain content on our website regarding the diagnosis and management of lipodystrophy. We hope that this content will include input from patients/families, too. This exciting project will be an important resource for families and for those who care for children with this rare disorder. It is our plan that this is a prototype that will be expanded to other rare diseases in the future. In a separate but related initiative, AstraZeneca has also awarded PES a grant to fund the development of a "PES Consensus Statement on the Management of Lipodystrophy in Children, Adolescents, and Adults."

Ethics: The PES Ethics Committee is hosting the third annual Ethics Essay Competition for fellows. This is a great opportunity for pediatric endocrinology fellows to share their thoughts on an ethical issue related to pediatric endocrinology and possibly be rewarded for it! Deadline for submission is January 16, 2015. Essays may be up to 1000 words. The first-place winner will receive $250 and will present the essay at the PES Presidential Poster Session at the PES Annual Meeting. Please contact ayanna.butler-cephas@chkd.org for further information.

Public Policy Corner: There are two issues of particular importance this month.

1.) As you may know, many pediatricians and pediatric subspecialists across the US currently receive Medicaid payment rates equal to Medicare rates for some services. These payments are part of a 2-year provision included in current law to raise Medicaid payments to 100% of Medicare. Unfortunately, the provision expires on December 31, 2014. Please urge Congress to extend the Medicaid payment increase for at least 2 more years. Details of how you can help with these efforts can be found here.

2.) It is imperative that we help ensure that the National Institutes of Health (NIH) is appropriately including children in research studies. The NIH requires the inclusion of children in research studies. However, while the NIH tracks inclusion of women and minorities in research, the agency does not systematically track the ages of those enrolled in studies. Currently, a bipartisan letter is being circulated to the House of Representatives, calling on the NIH to track whether children are included in clinical research studies pertinent to their health. The goal is to garner a significant number of signatures from US representatives before sending the letter to NIH leadership. Please click here for information regarding how you can help.

Finally, the Historical Tidbit of the Month: 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. This month’s tidbit comes from Alan Rogol: “The 1947 Nobel prizes in physiology and medicine went to Carl and Gerty Cori (née Radnitz) “for their discovery of the course of the catalytic conversion of glycogen” [Cori cycle] and to Bernardo Houssay, an Argentinian physician who began his studies in various combinations of pancreatectomized, hypophysectomized, adrenalectomized, and hormone-treated dogs in 1924 ‘for his discovery of the part played by the hormones of the anterior pituitary lobe in the metabolism of sugar.”

Sincerely,

Mitchell E. Geffner, MD
PES President

Mark Palmert, MD, PhD
PES Board Member