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JULY 2007
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President's Report

Planning for the 5th biennial scientific meeting of the Asia Pacific Paediatric Endocrine Society to be held in Seoul, South Korea from October 29 to November 1 2008 is well underway. Council has established that the scientific programme committee will consist of the president, the immediate past president, a member of the local organizing committee, and two APPES members elected by council, one of whom will be chair of this committee. The scientific programme committee (SPC) will consist of Associate Prof Paul Hofman (chair), Dr Aman Pulungan, Associate Prof Chris Cowell, Prof Wayne Cutfield and Prof Ho-Seong Kim. The SPC have begun planning the structure and themes of the meeting. The local organizing committee have set up a website (www.appes2008.seoul.org) upon which future announcements about the details of the meeting can be found. The venues of the scientific and fellows meetings will be finalized before the middle of August.

The APPES goal to provide high quality international teaching to trainees in the field is exemplified with two fellows meetings for our fellows in 2007. This year eight APPES fellows have received invitations to attend the Australasian Paediatric Endocrine Group's fellows meeting on the 13th and 14th of October in Broome, Western Australia. We are very appreciative of the generosity shown by Pfizer who have funded the participation of these eight fellows at the meeting. In addition Kah Yin Loke, one of APPES's most successful teachers, has been invited to join the faculty for the APEG Fellows meeting.

This years APPES fellow's meeting will be held in Taiwan in early December. Merck Serono continue to show strong commitment to post-graduate education by funding the meeting that will allow 35 fellows and 8 faculty to participate in the meeting. Merck Serono funded last year's extremely popular and successful fellows meeting in

Thailand. Actual dates and venues for this year's fellows meeting will be announced within two weeks on the APPES website. APPES members in the countries in which fellows will be selected will then be contacted to identify fellows who will be invited to attend the meeting.

The APPES commitment to education is also seen in the launch of free access to the journal Hormone Research which is available for members on the APPES website in the members only section. Associate Prof Chris Cowell has been appointed as Associate Editor of the journal and our society has nominated two further members to the editorial board.

From 17th to 20th October 2007 a joint international consensus group under the auspices of the combined international paediatric endocrine societies will meet to establish guidelines for the management of children with short stature. APPES has been invited to join representatives from ESPE, LWPE, ESPE, GRS, SLEP, APEG and JPES who will meet in Los Angeles, USA. APPES will be represented at the meeting by president elect Professor Xiaoping Luo and our inaugural president Professor Louis Low.

APPES will continue to explore new education and clinical interactive opportunities across the region. I hope that in my next report I will be able to bring some of these exciting new initiatives to you as they become established.

Wayne Cutfield



Wayne Cutfield
APPES President

COUNCIL NEWS

APPES Council last met via teleconference on Friday 8 June.

At this meeting, a number of initiatives were discussed:

HORMONE RESEARCH JOURNAL

As part of the arrangements made with Hormone Research Journal, APPES have an opportunity to nominate members to serve on the editorial board.

A/Prof Chris Cowell has been appointed Associate Editor, and 3 other positions are available to council on the board. We will advise of those persons nominated to fill these roles in the next newsletter.

2007 FELLOWS MEETINGS

The APPES 2007 Meeting will be held in Taiwan in early December. The exact dates and venue are yet to be determined, and all APPES members will be kept up to

date with this information as it becomes available.

APEG 2007 FELLOWS MEETING

As explained in the last newsletter, due to the financial support from Pfizer, APPES and APEG have invited 8 AP-PES members to attend the APEG 2007 Fellows Meeting and Annual Scientific Meetings as guests of the association. These persons are listed on page 4 of this newsletter.

APPES CONFERENCE 2008 SEOUL, KOREA

Council are being kept up to date with developments for the 2008 Conference, and this newsletter will include more detail in the next issue.

The conference website is now open for viewing, and you can keep up to date with conference information at the site www.appes2008seoul.org

HORMONE RESEARCH JOURNAL

Don't forget - as a member of APPES, you have access to Hormone Journal On-line for all APPES Members.

To utilise this service, you need to log onto the members area of the APPES website, and then, under RESOURCES, you will find the link to the journal.

NOTE TO ALL MEMBERS



INTERNATIONAL UPDATE IN PEDIATRIC ENDOCRINOLOGY

Current Trends in Diagnosis and Management

14-17 February, 2008

Under the joint auspices of

Indian Society for Pediatric & Adolescent Endocrinology (ISPAE)

(Indian Academy of Pediatrics - Pediatric & Adolescent Endocrinology Chapter)

Asia Pacific Paediatric Endocrine Society (APPES)

Supported by

European Society of Pediatric Endocrinology (ESPE)

CHAIRPERSON :

Meena P. Desai • meena_desai@vsnl.net

SECRETARY GENERAL :

Nalini S. Shah • secretariatpedendo@gmail.com / nalinishah@gmail.com

www.pedendoupdate2008.org

Venue : R. D. Choksi Auditorium, Tata Memorial Hospital, Parel, Mumbai 400012, INDIA



SCIENTIFIC HIGHLIGHTS

- Molecular basis of pediatric endocrine disorders: Clinical lessons from genetic mutations (GH deficiency, puberty, thyroid disorders, disorders of sexual differentiation, persistent hyperinsulinemic hypoglycemia of infancy)
- Endocrine Disorders in Pregnancy: Impact on fetus and newborn: Optimal care for successful outcome
- Growth, endocrine and metabolic consequences of IUGR
- Decision making in Neonatal Endocrinology
- Pharmacogenomics of Growth Hormone treatment
- Management issues: Problems in Therapy and Monitoring
- Diabetes type 1 & 2 (Pathogenesis and preventive strategies, current trends in optimal management, molecular basis of micro- and macro-angiopathies), Neonatal Diabetes
- Spectrum of thyroid disorders in childhood
- Evaluation and treatment of pediatric osteoporosis and rickets
- Endocrine neoplasia
- **MINI POSTER SESSION**

INTERNATIONAL FACULTY

Wayne Cutfield, New Zealand
Francesco Chiarelli, Italy
Peter Clayton, UK

Chris Cowell, Australia
Annette Gruters, Germany
Ze'ev Hochberg, Israel

Khalid Hussain, UK
Yoo HW, South Korea
Xiaoping Luo, China

Charles Sultan, France
Garry Warne, Australia

FOCUS ON.....AUSTRALIA

Each Newsletter, we plan to bring you news from one of the Member Countries.

The Australasian Paediatric Endocrine Group (APEG)

The Australasian Paediatric Endocrine Group was founded 25 years ago when 12 Australian and New Zealand Paediatric endocrinologists met in Leura, NSW in March 1982. The term 'Australasian' was specifically chosen to indicate the inclusion of New Zealand colleagues. APEG now has 154 members including endocrine nurses, medical scientists, psychologists and dieticians. We will celebrate our 25th Annual Scientific Meeting (ASM) in Broome, Western Australia in October this year.

For the first time, APPES Fellows have been invited to join APEG Fellows at their meeting. Dr Phil Bergman started this initiative 5 years ago with the inaugural meeting in Melbourne at the Zoological Gardens in 2003.

The program committee for the ASM, headed by Andrew Cotterill, has put together an informative program for the conference. The two eminent international speakers are Dr Joseph Wolfsdorf from Boston Children's Hospital and Dr John Pettifor from Chris Hani Baragwanath Hospital and the University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa.

The local committee, chaired by Dr Elizabeth Davis, has arranged an exciting social program that reflects the unique environment and history of Broome.

Many APEG members are keen ornithologists and the number of species of migratory birds in Broome is astounding. Both the 'founding fathers' of APEG, Robert Vines from Sydney and Norman Wettenhall from Melbourne were dedicated naturalists and would have been thrilled at the prospect of visiting the mud flats in Roebuck Bay. The vibrant colours of Broome are seen on one of our website pages, and are also a photographers dream.

Australia and New Zealand are fortunate in having universal health care systems funded by their respective governments. Essential medications such as hydrocortisone, thyroxine and other hormonal replacements are subsidized. In



From Left to Right: Mike Thomsett presenting Jim Penfold and Geoff Byrne with their Life Memberships at the APEG ASM 2006 in Hobart, with Catherine Choong, APEG President

both countries growth hormone is available by application to advisory committees or paediatric endocrinologists. A database, called OZGROW monitors therapy and outcomes of all children treated in both countries. The current dilemma for APEG is the lack of availability of funded growth hormones for older adolescents and young adults.



September 1987: From left to right: Geoff Byrne, Martin Silink, Garry Warne, George Werther, Hugo Gold, Chris Cowell, Mike Thomsett

On the diabetes scene, the president of APEG, Dr Cathy Choong and Council have taken a very active role in patient advocacy. In the last few years, APEG has lobbied the Australian and New Zealand governments, together with other societies and consumer groups, to achieve government subsidies for insulin pump consumables, new insulins and carers' payment for children with Type 1 Diabetes.

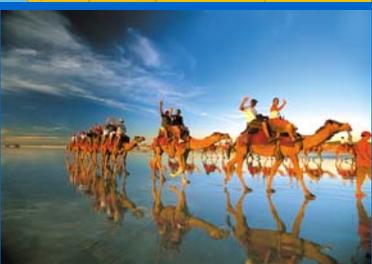
Members of APEG have contributed in several ways to the development of Paediatric Endocrinology in the Asia Pacific region. Several members of APPES have visited centres in Australia as part of their Paediatric Endocrine training. APEG members have played leading roles in the formulation and growth of APPES during the past 11 years and continue to be actively involved in the APPES Executive and continuing education. Other APEG members have ongoing projects in specific countries to assist families and health professionals improve outcomes in paediatric endocrinology and diabetes.

Since APEG appointed a professional secretariat, our society has been able to expand its horizons. Our website has been completely renovated and the new website is fast and interactive. We are keen to foster multi-centre research collaborations, not only locally but internationally. We aim to strengthen our ties with APPES as well as their sister societies such as SLEP, ESPE and Lawson Wilkens PES.

We hope that this year's invited APPES Fellows will be joined by other APPES Members in Broome. A warm welcome to our beautiful Western Australian coast.

For more information on APEG and the Conference, please log onto our new website at www.apeg.org.au.

PATRICIA CROCK



CONGRATULATIONS

Due to generous funding from Pfizer, an opportunity arose for fellows from 8 APPE countries to attend the APEG Fellows meeting that is sponsored by Merck Serono. They will also be attending the APEG annual scientific meeting to be held in Broome, Western Australia from Saturday 13th October to Thursday 18th October 2007.

Congratulations to the following Fellows who were nominated to attend the meeting:

- | | |
|-------------|---------------------------------|
| Korea | So Eun Park |
| Indonesia | Eka Agustia Rini Suhadi |
| Thailand | Nattakarn Wongjirat |
| Singapore | Andrea Yeo |
| Philippines | Cynthia Feliciano |
| Vietnam | Bich Phuong Nguyen |
| Malaysia | Raja Aimee Raja Abdullah |
| India | Vimal M V Nambiar |



Paediatric Endocrinology in Western China

Xianjing Autonomous Region is the most western province of China approximately 4-5 hours by air from Beijing and Shanghai. It borders Pakistan and Afghanistan in the south, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan in the west and Russia and Mongolia in the north. The population is predominantly central Asian, Uyguir and several other local indigenous groups with Han Chinese approximately 20% of the province population.

I was fortunate to be invited by Dr Mireguli and Professor Zhao to participate in a Paediatric Update at the First Teaching Hospital at Urumqi, Xianjing. Dr Mireguli attended the APPE fellows meeting held in Rayong Resort, Thailand, in October 2006. She is currently training with Professor Kenji Fujieda in Japan and hopes to return to Xianjing province to develop academic paediatric endocrinology. Facilities within their hospital were excellent being only two to three years old. Additionally the hospital has built a nine story research building allowing plenty of opportunity for academic research teams to develop during the next few years in Urumqi. The standard of medicine was very high, the major challenge being the availability of medications and their affordability. Surprisingly, China does not have a safety net for family and individuals who are not covered either by their state or private organisations.



Neonatal nursery in Kashgar with Dr Mireguli and Paediatrician (male) and Head nurse

In Xianjing, many families who live in rural areas are significantly disadvantaged and may not be able to receive continuing medication for chronic disease such as diabetes. Type 1 diabetes in Xianjing province has a much higher incidence than the rest of China. This may in part relate to the different ethnic mix but may in part relate to other environmental factors. Dr Mireguli will be setting up a prospective register for type 1 diabetes in Xianjing province so that further interesting data should become available in the future.

Dr Mireguli accompanied us to the old Silk Road trading town, Kashgar, the most western city in China perched on the Asian steppe. It remains a thriving trading town with a bustling animal market place that is a must see for tourists. The opportunity to visit a paediatric ward of the major local teaching hospital, assist with a few clinical cases and discuss management of diabetes with the local endocrinologists were highlights.

Dr Mireguli and her colleagues were wonderful hosts providing us (Cathie and myself) with many opportunities to enjoy their culture and geography in addition to understanding some of the challenges to the management of paediatric endocrinology and diabetes in western China.

Chris Cowell



Cathie Cowell and Mireguli with spectacular 7,500 metre mountains in background

APPES COUNCIL

The following council were elected into their position at the APPES Biennial Meeting in Thailand.

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

| | | |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|-------------|
| President: | A/Prof Wayne Cutfield | New Zealand |
| Secretary: | Dr Suttipong Wacharasindhu | Thailand |
| Treasurer: | Dr Craig Munns | Australia |
| President Elect: | Prof Xiaoping Luo | PR China |
| Immediate Past President: | A/Prof Christopher Cowell | Australia |

COUNCIL

| | |
|------------------------|-------------|
| Dr Aman Pulungan | Indonesia |
| Prof Louis Low | Hong Kong |
| Prof Keiichi Ozono | Japan |
| Dr Sioksoan Chan-Cua | Philippines |
| Prof Sei Won Yang | Korea |
| Prof Byung Churl Lee | Korea |
| Prof Kitti Angsusingha | Thailand |
| A/Prof Kah Yin Loke | Singapore |
| Dr Geoffrey Ambler | Australia |
| Dr PS Menon | India |
| Dr Chunxiu Gong | PR China |

An invitation is extended to all APPES members to submit news for the newsletter. Each year, the newsletter will be published in March, June, September and December, with an additional 'conference issue' each year of the APPES Scientific Meeting.

If you would like to submit articles or photos, please do so via email on appes@willorganise.com.au

Future Events

2007:

Sept 2 - 5

ESA ASM, Christchurch Convention Centre, New Zealand

Sept 26-29

ISPAD: Berlin, Germany
www.ispad2007.com
Email: kordonouri@hka.de

Oct 13-17

19th Annual SLEP Meeting, Mar del Plata, Argentina
www.slep.com.br

Oct 13 - 14

APEG Fellows Meeting
Broome, WA, Australia
www.apeg.org.au

Oct 15 - 18

APEG Annual Scientific Meeting
Broome, WA, Australia
Email: apegasm@willorganise.com.au
www.willorganise.com.au/apeg07

If you have a meeting you would like to add to this listing, please email the APPES Secretariat on appes@willorganise.com.au with the following details:

- Name of Conference, City/Country where being held, Website Address and Contact Email Address

2008:

March 1-2

Prader Willi Syndrome Scientific Workshop & Conference
Wellington, NZ
www.pws.org.au/conference.html
Email: conference@pws.org.au

Aug 12-16

34th Annual Meeting of ISPAD Durban, South Africa
www.ispad2008.com

Sept 20 - 23

47th ESPE Meeting: Istanbul, Turkey
www.espe2008.org/
Email: espe2008@congrex.se

Oct 29 - Nov 1

5th Biennial APPES Scientific Meeting Seoul, Korea
Email: appes@willorganise.com.au
Web: www.appes2008seoul.org

Nov 8-12

13th International Congress of Endocrinology, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
www.ice2008rio.com

2009:

Sept 9-12

8th Joint ESPE/LWPES Meeting, New York, USA
www.lwpes-espe2009.org

Sept 16-19

34th Annual Meeting of ISPAD Ljubljana, Slovenia
E-mail: tadej.battelino@mf.uni-lj.si