

**IN THIS  
ISSUE**

- **President's Report**
- **Teaching Awards**
- **APPES Meeting Sponsors**
- **APPES Council Strategic Meeting**
- **Website Forum**

**IN EVERY  
ISSUE**

- **Council Details**
- **Future Meetings**

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# President's Report

*"To provide training and educational opportunities and to advocate in paediatric endocrinology across the Asia Pacific region in collaboration with national and international societies."*

*APPES strategic plan 2008-2014 mission statement  
APPES Council 2008*

This is my last Newsletter address to members as President and so I would like to take the opportunity to reflect back on the past two years that have flown by far too quickly and share with members exciting events and initiatives that I feel proud to have contributed to with the other members of Council.

Over the past eight years much has been achieved under the leadership of my predecessors Louis Low, Kaichi Kida and Chris Cowell. Each has brought their own style of leadership and each has made major contributions to the development of the Society. Louis and Chris continue to be strong advocates for the Society and I thank them for their wisdom and passion. We are a young society, the latest of the regional paediatric endocrinology societies, with still a lot to plan and achieve. The Society has broad geographical spread and is a representative voice for about a third of the world's children with endocrine disorders. As a young society we continue to grow rapidly with a 45% increase in membership over the past two years. While this is impressive growth, even more impressive growth is possible. If half of the paediatric endocrinologists in each of the countries represented by APPES were to join APPES, we would easily become the largest regional paediatric endocrinology society in the world. This is not an unreasonable expectation over the next decade or so. The benefits to being a large society are the greater range of opportunities we could offer members and the stronger role we could play in advocating for improving training and education to address the inequalities in paediatric endocrine care across the region.

In August this year APPES held its most important meeting to date. The APPES council held the Society's first strategic planning meeting over two days in Singapore. The meeting was a great success and after many, many revisions has led to the formulation of a six year strategic plan that contains a mission statement, six strategically important goals and 23 specific objectives that the Society will endeavour to meet. The strategic plan will be available at the biennial scientific meeting in Seoul and will then be disseminated to all members and stake holders and placed upon the APPES website. I applaud our Council members who each funded their own travel to participate in the strategic planning meeting, with all enthusiastically and proudly contributing to the strategic plan. The strategic plan sets a clear direction for the Society and will assist Council and the Executive in prioritizing activities as the Society continues to develop and grow.

Without wishing to pre-empt the contents of the strategic plan, there is one critical goal that I would like to address. In my opinion one of the most important overarching goals within the plan is to strengthen the relationship with national societies that exist in some of the member countries, so that APPES can provide real added value to the activities of these seven or so national societies. APPES has always

had relationships with these national societies but lacked regular interaction and detailed analysis of the needs of members within those national societies. Closer working relationships with these societies are vital to the future development of APPES. There are other important objectives that have already led to key actions such as a newly contracted part-time sponsorship manager to strategically arrange and coordinate sponsorship for APPES. Sponsorship will help resource a number of exciting new initiatives and activities for APPES members and the region's children.

The jewels in the APPES crown are undoubtedly the educational opportunities and experiences available to members and include the biennial scientific meeting, fellows meeting, Hormone research and Endobytes free access and the web based clinical cases forum. The biennial scientific meeting is a meeting of high international caliber that would challenge any other international pediatric endocrinology meeting for content and quality. This year's scientific programme has been crafted by the scientific programme committee superbly led and chaired by Assoc Professor Paul Hofman and promises to be yet another outstanding APPES scientific meeting. This year's meeting venue, infrastructural support and organization have been brilliantly arranged by the Korean local organizing committee who have worked hard to ensure that this will be a very memorable meeting.

Our fellows meetings are now firmly established as annual events that are highly sought after by fellows across the region. In 2007 the meeting was held in Taipei and this year will be held in Seoul. Over the years Dr Maria Craig, fellows meeting convenor, has refined the meeting in a multi-faceted interactive style with inclusion of a teaching faculty that is very highly rated by fellows following formal evaluation. The meeting is an important catalyst to regional networking for our future paediatric endocrinologists. The fellows meetings are only possible through the commitment of the pharmaceutical industry to support the education of our trainees. For the past 3 years Merck Serono alone have superbly organized and generously funded the fellows meeting, and prior to that contributed significantly to it. We need to acknowledge the invaluable role they have played in arranging and hosting the fellows meetings.

Just prior to stepping down as President Chris Cowell introduced free electronic access to the journal Hormone research for all members accessible through our website. Other educational material including free access to the electronic monogram Endobytes and previous presentations and lectures are available to members on the APPES website. Assoc Professor Geoff Ambler, website leader will continue to lead further advances and opportunities to our website.

One of the most exciting new educational initiatives for 2009 was the launch of the web based clinical cases forum. This is a wonderful opportunity to share interesting cases and seek opinion for challenging cases and for all of us, including our fellows, to learn from these collective experiences. Further refinement of the web site will provide email



**Wayne Cutfield**  
APPES President

# TEACHING AWARDS

This year sees the continuation of the APPES teaching awards, first presented in 2006. The award is in recognition for outstanding contributions to teaching of APPES fellows. The teaching award is to recognise major commitment and excellence in the organisation, innovation and quality of teaching delivered to fellows at APPES or APPES supported teaching sessions and teaching meetings.

Congratulations to the 2008 award recipients.

*The teaching award is to recognise major commitment and excellence in the organisation, innovation and quality of teaching*



Professor Kah Yin Loke, Associate Professor of Paediatrics at the National University of Singapore has participated in 6 fellows training workshops. He has been identified by APPES fellows for many years as an outstanding teacher. At every fellows meeting he has participated in he has achieved the highest scores from the participating fellows. The common theme in fellows comments about his lectures are that they are incredibly well prepared and superbly delivered state of the art interactive presentations. Associate Professor Loke's teaching award is recognition of his commitment and outstanding quality of his teaching.



Dr Maria Craig, Senior lecturer in Paediatrics and Child Health University of Sydney has coordinated and arranged the scientific programme of 7 fellows meetings since 2002. She has participated as a teacher and speaker at all of these meetings. Dr Craig's success in establishing a high quality international fellows meeting is best shown in the number of applicants to this meeting that well exceeds available positions for every meeting. This meeting epitomizes interactive teaching sessions and draws all fellows into active participation. Dr Craig is also a superb teacher who's presentations are always highly rated by fellows. Dr Craig's teaching award is recognition for her wonderful teaching organizational skills and excellent teaching

## APPES MEETING SPONSORS

### PLATINUM SPONSORS



### GOLD SPONSORS



### SILVER SPONSORS



### EXHIBITORS



## APPES COUNCIL STRATEGIC MEETING

APPES Council had a 2 day Strategic Planning Meeting, in August to discuss the future development and expansion of APPES, the work that the association does and how best to provide benefits to members.

The meeting was held in Singapore and was an intensive 2 days. Outcomes from this meeting will be discussed at the APPES General Meeting, being held on Friday at 12.30pm.

Unfortunately, due to circumstances beyond control, Wayne Cutfield was unable to attend in person, but thanks to modern technology, was able to join the 2 day meeting via teleconference.



APPES Council (above) in Singapore and Wayne Cutfield (right) via teleconference—(sustaining his energy!)

## Don't forget: APPES WEBSITE FORUM

APPES are pleased to announce a NEW member benefit which will enable easy communication throughout the region.

A website clinical forum has been established – for members to post cases, share ideas and diagnosis. The website for the forum is: [www.forum.appes.org](http://www.forum.appes.org) OR you can log on from the APPES website. For full instructions, click on the link on the APPES Homepage: [www.appes.org](http://www.appes.org)

You need to register to use this forum (this is separate to your APPES membership registration).

We encourage all members to utilise this method of easy communication throughout the region.

Please do not hesitate to contact the APPES Secretariat if you have any problems using the Forum. Your comments and feedback are invited and most welcome.

# APPES COUNCIL

The term of the following council is now ending, with a new council to be announced in the next newsletter.

## 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 Kittti 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.  
The newsletter will be published 4 times a year.

If you would like to submit articles or photos, please do so via email on [appes@willorganise.com.au](mailto:appes@willorganise.com.au)

## Future Events

### 2008:

#### Nov 8-12

13th International Congress of Endocrinology, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil  
[www.ice2008rio.com](http://www.ice2008rio.com)

#### Nov 17-19

Australasian Paediatric Endocrine Group (APEG) Annual Scientific Meeting  
Canberra, ACT, Australia  
[www.apeg.org.au](http://www.apeg.org.au)  
Email: [apegasm@willorganise.com.au](mailto:apegasm@willorganise.com.au)

### 2009:

#### June 5-9

69th Scientific Session of the American Diabetes Association  
New Orleans, Louisiana  
[http://professional.diabetes.org/Meetings\\_Generallist.aspx](http://professional.diabetes.org/Meetings_Generallist.aspx)

#### June 10-13

ENDO 2009  
Washington, DC, USA  
<http://www.endo-society.org/meetings/Annual/index.cfm>

#### Sept 9-12

8th Joint ESPE/LWPES Meeting, New York, USA  
[www.lwpes-espe2009.org](http://www.lwpes-espe2009.org)

#### Sept 16-19

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

#### Nov 15 - 18

Australasian Paediatric Endocrine Group (APEG) ASM  
Coolum, Queensland, Australia  
[www.apeg.org.au](http://www.apeg.org.au)  
Email: [apegasm@willorganise.com.au](mailto:apegasm@willorganise.com.au)

### 2010:

#### Sept 5 - 11

35th Annual Meeting of ISPAD, Buenos Aires, Argentina

#### Sept 22 - 25

49th ESPE Meeting  
Prague, Czech Republic

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

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

## President's Report (cont from page 1)

notification of new cases and opinions that will almost certainly greatly facilitate use of the clinical cases forum as a valuable resource tool. Rest assured this is not the full repertoire of APPES educational opportunities. Council will continue to seek out further opportunities for members as alluded to in the strategic plan.

I would like to acknowledge the hard work of Council whose contribution is often unwitnessed but critical to the Society and to send a heart warming thank you to the retiring Council members; Chris Cowell, Louis Low, Keiichi Ozono, Kah Yin Loke and co-opted members Kittti Angsusingha and Byung Churl Lee.

Finally and most importantly I would like to pay tribute to the engine room workers, our secretariat. Lyndell Wills and her team were brought on board by Chris Cowell, joining APPES in 2006. In two short years Lyndell Wills has transformed the management of the Society and has been at the heart of all that we have achieved. A professional secretariat like Will Organise will continue to be absolutely essential to our future success.

I look forward to working with the new incoming President Professor Xiaoping Luo from Wuhan, China and feel confident that he will continue to lead the development of the Society supported by his new Council and our secretariat. Our Society is in very good hands!