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President's Report

It has been a great two months for the Society with several positive developments that will help further lift the profile of our Society more widely internationally and also provide ongoing educational support for trainees. Professor Wayne Cutfield and Associate Professor Kah Yin Loke were nominated by council to serve on the Editorial Board of Hormone research. In our contract with Hormone Research we were invited to nominate two Board members to Hormone Research and in addition Associate Professor Chris Cowell was invited to become an associate editor of the journal. I am pleased to announce that both Professor Cutfield and Associate Professor Loke have been offered formal invitations to join the editorial board of Hormone Research. These three appointments will help to elevate the profile of the Society internationally.

I am pleased to announce that Merck Serono have committed to funding the annual APPES Fellows Workshop for a further three years, i.e. from 2007 through to 2009. The Fellows meetings are our Society's leading educational initiative which are enthusiastically received by fellows. These meetings extend beyond education to establishing collegial networks amongst our future paediatric endocrinologists from across the Asia Pacific region. Without pharmaceutical industry support these workshops would not be possible, thus we are very appreciative of the commitment Merck Serono has shown to education of our trainees. There will be 42 APPES fellows attending the 2007 Fellows Workshop in Taipei, Taiwan. This meeting will be jointly hosted by the Taiwan Paediatric Association (represented by the President Professor Lin and the Chairman of the Society of Endocrinology within the Association Prof Tsai) and APPES. We are appreciative of the following faculty members who will contribute to this meeting, Dr Sei Won Yang (South Korea), Dr Ho Seong Kim (South Korea), Professor Xiaoping Luo (China), Professor Louis Low (Hong Kong), Professor Wayne Cutfield (New Zealand), Dr Maria Craig (Australia), Dr Shu San-ging (Taiwan) and Dr Lo Fu-Sung (Taiwan)

The APPES Scientific Programme Committee (SPC) is well underway in planning the scientific meeting. Several teleconferences have been held and several plenary speakers have already accepted invitations to speak at the meeting. Symposia themes have been developed and committee members are seeking speakers for these symposia. If you are aware of excel-

lent speakers within your country please forward their areas of research interest and contact details to Associate Professor Paul Hofman (p.hofman@auckland.ac.nz), SPC Chair. It is essential to showcase excellent research and speakers with our region at the meeting. A website has been established for the meeting: www.appes2008seoul.org and very soon the preliminary programme will be available on the website. The 2008 Scientific meeting will see the introduction of an exciting new relationship between ESPE and APPES. At every biennial scientific meeting we will have an APPES - ESPE symposium as part of the scientific meeting with two speakers from ESPE and an APPES speaker. ESPE will fund the two ESPE speakers. The choice of the ESPE speakers will be determined by the chairs of the SPCs of both societies. Importantly ESPE will reciprocate this arrangement and every two years will host and ESPE - APPES symposium at the ESPE scientific meeting, in which APPES will fund two APPES speakers for the symposium. This is a great opportunity to showcase APPES and our researchers across Europe at the largest paediatric endocrinology annual scientific meeting held.

A small working group consisting of Associate professor Geoff Ambler, Lyndell Wills (secretariat) and Professor Wayne Cutfield are exploring the feasibility and interest in a web based APPES clinical cases forum in which members will be able to raise clinical issues for discussion or seek opinion on case management. Some initial website design and costings have been obtained by Lyndell Wills. However, before further exploring this new initiative we will poll members to determine whether they would participate in such a new initiative by placing cases or questions for comment or providing comment on cases. The success of a clinical cases forum is dependent upon a desire by many members to participate. The results of our email poll to members in the near future about the enthusiasm for this initiative will determine the whether we proceed or not in developing the clinical cases web forum, therefore I would ask all of you to reply to the email poll.



Wayne Cutfield
APPES President

Wayne Cutfield

THE UN RESOLUTION 61/225 ON DIABETES

The International Diabetes Federation led the successful campaign for a United Nations Resolution on diabetes because it recognized that solutions to the diabetes epidemic would require whole of government actions. The People’s Republic of Bangladesh sponsored the campaign at the UN and fought a resolute diplomatic battle which see-sawed but in the end resulted in the unanimous adoption by the General Assembly of UN Resolution 61/225 on December 20th 2006.

The Resolution does not differentiate between type 1 and type 2 diabetes. It recognizes diabetes as “a chronic, costly and debilitating disease” which “poses risks to families, Member States and the entire world” and that it “poses challenges to the achievement of international development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals”. It declares November 14 to be UN World Diabetes Day and “encourages all Member States to develop national programmes for the prevention, care and treatment of diabetes in line with sustainable development of their healthcare systems”.

Diabetes joins AIDS as being the only other disease with a specific UN Resolution and a designated UN observed world day. Yet, significant as this is, the diabetes world should not expect that there will be a sudden increase in funding. However, the Resolution does provide significantly more legitimacy to diabetes advocacy and gives the diabetes world greater confidence in demanding a place at the planning table.

There are two main challenges in addressing the diabetes epidemic: primary prevention of

diabetes itself and secondary prevention of the diabetes complications in the 246 million people who have the disease. The reality that the majority of the diabetes burden falls in the developing and transitional countries cannot be ignored. Of the estimated 440,000 children under the age of 15 years in the world with type 1 diabetes, half live in the developing world and many simply die because of lack of access to insulin. In many countries, medications for the control of hyperglycaemia (insulin or oral hypoglycaemic agents), hypertension and dyslipidaemia are inaccessible or unaffordable. Novel funding mechanisms, involving various combinations of private-public partnerships between governments, industry, philanthropic organizations and World Bank, will need to be negotiated as has occurred for immunization of children, AIDS, TB and malaria.

Diabetes still struggles for a share of the world’s attention which in the health area is largely occupied by the communicable diseases. However, the Resolution provides the diabetes world with an enormous political tool for responsible activism. World Diabetes Day will raise global awareness of the diabetes epidemic and the need for action. The blue circle, which was the symbol of the “unite for diabetes” campaign which secured the UN Resolution 61/225 last year, has now become the symbol of diabetes itself and for the next phase in the fight against diabetes. The success in securing the UN Resolution is best viewed as simply the end of the beginning in the fight against diabetes.



Professor Martin Silink
President, International Diabetes Federation

Seoul, Host City for 5th APPES 2008



Seoul is one of the world’s most fascinating cities located at the foot of the Han River. A unique Confucianism and Buddhism heritage flourished over 6 centuries offering visitors a distinct charm of Asian traditions. There are numerous historic relics and sites around the city and it boasts of being an industrial, technological, and financial modern city, too. The downtown core is broadly demarcated by the course of the old city wall. Seoul is known to be a charming historical



point with its 6,000 years of prehistoric residential spots along the Han River traversing the city, and also with its modern skyscrapers the newly developed southern part during the past 40 years or so. Today, Seoul is the center of the nation’s government, education, business, finance, entertainment, art, industry and administration. It is also a major international convention venue. Undoubtedly, Seoul is one of the world’s most charming and fascinating cities.



IMPORTANT DATES

1. Online Registration Open	April 1, 2008
2. Deadline for Pre-registration	July 31, 2008
3. Deadline for Abstracts Submission	May 31, 2008

Participants are encouraged to submit abstracts no later than May 31, 2008. Further details will be provided in the 2nd Announcement or on the official website. (www.appes2008seoul.org)

FOCUS ON.....INDIA

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

Pediatric and Adolescent Endocrinology Chapter of Indian Academy of Pediatrics



Efforts to establish Pediatric Endocrinology as a separate discipline in India began in late 1960s. The first pediatric endocrine service in India was established in Bombay (now renamed Mumbai) in 1969 January, through the pioneering efforts of Professor Meena Desai at the Bai Jerbai Wadia Hospital for Children & Institute of Child Health. Subsequently another pediatric Endocrine service was established in New Delhi at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) by Professor P S N Menon in 1979. Later similar facilities were set up in a number of institutions including Christian Medical College, Vellore, Sanjay Gandhi Postgraduate Institute of Medical Sciences (SGPGIMS), Lucknow and King Edward Memorial Hospital, Mumbai.



Dr. Anju Virmani, President PAEC and Dr. Vijayalakshmi Bhatia, Secretary PAEC

"Pediatric and Adolescent Endocrinology Chapter (PAEC)," a sub-specialty chapter of the Indian Academy of Pediatrics (IAP) was established in 1987 and has been active for the past two decades. Presently it has membership strength of about 300 members. The founder president of this society was Dr Meena Desai, subsequent presidents were Dr P S N Menon and Dr P Raghupathy, and secretaries included Dr Prisca Colaco, Dr Anju Virmani and Dr Nalini Shah. The current president is Dr Anju Virmani and secretary, Dr Vijayalakshmi Bhatia. Over the past twenty years, it has been the endeavor of this organization to educate, create awareness and spread information about early diagnosis and optimal management of endocrine and metabolic disorders in childhood. PAEC has organized several national and international scientific conferences, CME and guest lectures with the help of its own national faculty as well as international experts. Holding symposia, workshops, seminars with interactive discussion, is also a regular feature during the annual national conferences of IAP, attended by nearly 4,000 pediatricians. A newsletter titled CAPENEWS is published by PAEC every alternate month.

There are about 8-10 centers in the country providing exclusive pediatric endocrine service and more than 40 well established departments providing endocrine and diabetes care for adults and children. These are still

inadequate for the needs of the population. In spite of socio-economic, scientific and other constraints, the academic standard of the clinicians providing care in this specialized field is good. Some of the pediatric endocrinologists in India have acquired their skills by undergoing short- or long-term formal training programs overseas mostly in UK, USA and Australia. Within India, pediatricians can enroll in the 3-year formal training programs in adult and pediatric endocrinology, which have been in existence for the last 15 to 18 years. There are now a dozen such programs in the country. Three of them have specifically pediatric endocrine faculty in addition to adult background faculty. At present, there is one program, in Lucknow, which offers a 1 year formal training program in pediatric endocrinology, separate from the adult endocrinology program.

Leading pediatric endocrinologists from Asia Pacific region, UK, Europe and India are invited to be on the faculty for the forthcoming International Update in Pediatric Endocrinology to be held on 14-17 February, 2008. The state of the art will be reviewed and latest information on 'Current Trends in Diagnosis and Management of Pediatric Endocrine Disorders' will be discussed at the meeting. Subjects for guest lectures and sessions are chosen carefully to highlight recent developments in the field of molecular genetics as applicable to endocrinology and also discuss the impact of maternal endocrine disorders on the fetus and newborn, neonatal and adolescent endocrinology, management issues where monitoring and therapy is problematic and other topics of current interest and recent therapeutic advances. To increase the educational value of this event, interactive and mini-poster sessions are also planned to discuss subjects of interest for practicing pediatricians.



Happy Birthday to Dr. Annette Gruters during the International Update at Bangalore
From left: Dr. P Raghupathy, Dr. Shaila Bhattacharya, Dr. Meena Desai and Dr. Annette Gruters



Felicitations to Prof. Meena Desai on her 70th Birthday
From left: Dr. Vijayalakshmi Bhatia, Dr. Anju Virmani, Dr. Meena Desai and Dr. Nalini Shah

Major centers with well-established pediatric endocrine services



Bai Jerbai Wadia Hospital for Children, Mumbai



All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), New Delhi



Christian Medical College Hospital, Vellore



Sanjay Gandhi Postgraduate Institute of Medical Sciences, Lucknow



King Edward Memorial Hospital, Mumbai

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:

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

2008:

Feb 14-17

International Update in Paediatric Endocrinology
Current Trends in Diagnosis and Management
Mumbai, India
www.pedendoupdate2008.org

March 1-2

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

June 6 -10

Annual Scientific Meeting of American Diabetes Association,
San Francisco, USA
<http://diabetes.org/for-health-professionals-and-scientists/profed.jsp>

June 15 -18

Annual Scientific Meeting of The Endocrine Society,
San Francisco
<http://www.endo-society.org/endo/>

Aug 12-16

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

2008 (cont)

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

Nov 17-19

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

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

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