NEWS

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FROM THE PRESIDENT



Paula J. Whiteman, MD, FACEP, FAAP

As my tenure as President comes to a close, I have a chance to look back and reflect. I feel truly honored to have had the opportunity to serve this wonderful organization in this capacity. So much has happened during my time with the executive board. It is just about two years ago that my daughter, Dana, was diagnosed with a Wilms tumor, giving me a view of our profession from the other side of the examining room curtain—the worried parent's perspective. It has been a long road that was made much easier with the caring support of my fellow LAPS members. In particular, I would like to recognize the exceptional talents of two of our LAPS members, Dr. Steve Chen, Director of Pediatric Surgery, and Dr. Carole Hurvitz, Director, Division of Pediatric Hematology-Oncology, both at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center. I will be forever grateful to their dedication.

In May of this year, we had our annual spring meeting and Parmelee lectures. This event was a huge success with close to 100 participants. It was wonderful to see so many of you. I look forward to these meetings as a chance to catch up with colleagues that I haven't seen in a long time, put names to faces, and meet new people. If you attended, I'm sure you'll agree that it was a very special night, not to be missed.

As the result of our elections that evening, we welcome Dr. Derek Wong to the executive board as member-at-large elect. Derek Wong, MD graduated from UCSD Medical School in 1990, and did his pediatric residency training at CHLA. He subsequently joined Gary Smithson and LAPS member Richard Feuille at Glendale Pediatrics, where he worked for nine years. Dr. Wong returned to academics in 2002, completing a fellowship in clinical and biochemical genetics at Harbor-UCLA. He spent three years at Harbor as a faculty member and two years as pediatric residency program director. In July, he will relocate closer to his home and will join the CHLA genetics department. He is married to Michelle Pietzak, MD, a well known pediatric gastroenterologist in the Los Angeles area, and has one seven year old daughter, Olivia.

It was great to listen to such informative lectures geared specifically for us. As we all know, medicine is constantly changing, but sometimes the pace of it can be disconcerting. Although I studied hard and took my board recertification exam just two years

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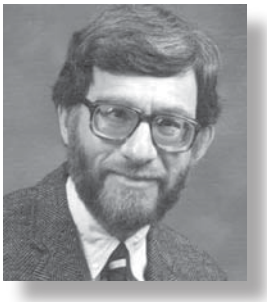
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FUTURE MEETINGS

September 11-14, 2008
65th Brennemann Lectures
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See page 14.

THE BRENEMANN LECTURES TURNS 65!



We are now officially senior citizens and eligible for Medicare! But, in reality we are 65 years young and ready to host the spectacular vibrant 65th Brennemann Lectures! When? September 11-14, 2008. Where? Disney's Paradise Pier Hotel. Great speakers include: Marvin E. Ament, MD, (Chief Division of Pediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition, UCLA); Rena E. Falk, MD, (Co-Director Prenatal Diagnosis Program, Associate Director Cytogenetics Laboratory, Cedars Sinai, Professor of Pediatrics, David Geffen School of Medicine, UCLA); Stanley J. Szefler, MD, (Director of Pediatric Clinical Pharmacology, Director Weinberg Clinical Research Unit-Pediatrics Section, National Jewish Center for Immunology and Respiratory Medicine, Professor of Pediatrics and Pharmacology, University of Colorado); Beverly P. Wood, MD, MSED, PhD, (Professor of Radiology and Pediatrics, Keck School of Medicine, USC and Professor of Clinical Radiology, Loma Linda Medical Center); and last but hardly least, Richard G. MacKenzie, MD, (Director Division of Adolescent Medicine, Childrens Hospital Los Angeles, Associate Professor, USC).

Once again, we have an outstanding faculty ready to address a wide variety of issues important to practicing physicians and allied health personnel.

Once again, we have an outstanding faculty ready to address a wide variety of issues important to practicing physicians and allied health personnel. We deal with entities that are in a constant state of flux and our speakers are superbly equipped to bring us up to date with regard to their various fields of interest; genetics, allergy and asthma, radiology with its dynamic technical advances, gastroenterology and adolescent problems.

We have changed the format this year. Based on previous experience we have decided to try four speakers rather than five. In the past, nearly all the speakers overran the allotted times given to them. Instead of the 30 minute presentations of the past, this year each speaker will have 40 minutes. The Round Table Sessions remain unchanged. The number of CME hours remains unchanged.

We have the privilege of once again honoring the memory of Clifford Rubin MD, a past president and long-time program chairman of LAPS. Dick Mackenzie, MD has graciously consented to deliver the Clifford Rubin Lecture and Keynote address. His topic: Forty Years of Adolescent Medicine-Lessons Learned. Many of us have been privileged to hear and work with Dr. Mackenzie. This presentation promises to be a real treat!

Frosting on the cake! Location! Our third time at the Magic Kingdoms of Disneyland and Disney's California Adventure Parks. The allure never diminishes so bring yourselves, your families and grandchildren for what will be a wonderful weekend. Education is at its best and in a joyous location.

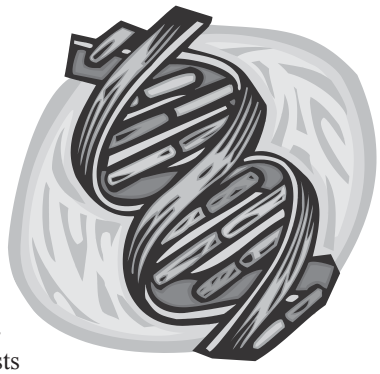
I look forward to seeing everyone in September.

Marshall G. Goldberg, MD, FAAP, FAAAA&I
Program Chairman

GENES-R-US—OR ARE THEY?



Derek Alan Wong, MD, FAAP, FACMG
Member at Large Elect



During a routine 8-year-old physical for Clara, her parents hand you a lab printout and ask for help with interpretation. But this is no standard lab test—Clara's parents sent her saliva to a genetic analysis laboratory and wish to discuss her obesity gene results. If you think this is 20 years in the future, wake up—it could happen today! Rapid advances in gene sequencing technology and the recent passage of the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act have cleared the way for several companies to market direct-to-consumer genetic testing. This article will discuss some unique challenges that pediatricians face as we encounter these new tests.

Pediatricians are accustomed to being at the forefront of genetic testing through the newborn screening programs, where genotyping is used to diagnose rare disorders. The new tests differ from the traditional ones in that alterations in individual DNA base pairs (known as single nucleotide polymorphisms, or SNPs) are used to calculate how an individual's genetic risk for various common diseases differs from the general population risk. Companies such as Navigenics, Decode, and 23andme promise to analyze over a million SNPs for between $1000 and $2500, with varying levels of updates and genetic counseling included.

Clara's mother hands you a report that states that Clara carries one copy of a SNP in the FTO gene that "increases the risk of obesity by 1.32 fold in patients of European descent." Even though Clara has a normal BMI for age, she now feels that she will be overweight in the future. What should you do now—wait until she shows signs of obesity, or put her on an exercise and diet regimen in anticipation of weight gain? The analysis is complicated by the fact that Clara is of mixed European and Asian descent.

Genetic testing is in its infancy. Current gene chips test approximately 10% of the known human SNPs, and at present, meaningful biological information can only be extracted from a tiny fraction of the tested SNPs. For every gene that is tested, there are dozens more that affect the same phenotype yet lie undiscovered. Even when testing reveals a relevant piece of information, it is difficult to know which course of action may help ameliorate the phenotype that that our genetic programming pushes us toward. Finally, genetic testing is woefully under-regulated.

Pediatricians face additional ethical issues when testing children for adult onset diseases (see references). Many pediatricians feel uncomfortable with genetic counseling, especially about adult onset disorders that they have not seen since medical school. While the melting pot of ethnicities is one of Los Angeles' greatest assets, tests on patients of mixed or non-European descent are less informative, because most genetic studies are done in European populations. In Clara's case, the "European" FTO SNPs have unclear effects in Asians. While there are FTO polymorphisms that have recently been shown to increase obesity in Asians, these "Asian" SNPs may or may not be analyzed in the current iteration of tests.

While it is easy to dismiss the current genetic tests as novelties with low sensitivity and specificity, we must not underestimate the inherent fascination many people feel toward understanding their own genes. The first time I logged into the genetic testing company's educational portion of their websites, I spent hours reading about new developments in genetic risk assessment that have come about within the last few years. Are any of you curious whether you carry a "longevity" gene, even though only preliminary results are available in limited populations? Would adopted patients want to know more about their ethnic ancestry?

The future will be upon us quickly, as the price of completely sequencing one genome has fallen from $3 billion in 2003, to $350,000 now (a company named Knome is doing this for 20 individuals). There is a tech company that promises a machine that sequences an entire human genome for $5,000 by the end of 2008; even if they fail, the Holy Grail of the $1,000 genome is not far off. Beyond that, we know that there is much more to humans than DNA sequencing. Copy number variations (multiple copies of one gene) account for at least twice as much variation between humans as do SNPs. Genetic regulation, through RNA or imprinting, is exceptionally important. Gene-environment interactions are notoriously hard to study. Finally, analyses of the actual products of genes, proteins and metabolites, are already underway and may become even more important than the DNA sequence.

What is the busy pediatrician to do? Within the next 10 years, you will not be able to refer all questions to genetics professional, because the approximately 2,000 US board certified genetic counselors and MD geneticists will be quickly overrun in trying to counsel everyone. Basic genetics practice, like asthma and obesity management, must become a part of a primary care physician's arsenal, with referrals done for complex cases. My suggestion is to learn genetics in small pieces. There have been several efforts to educate pediatricians, the latest being the ACMG Basics program that is downloadable from the American College of Medical Genetics website. While testing company websites are subject to bias, their education sections are written by genetics professionals and are easy to understand. The Medscape website devotes an entire section to genomic medicine. Genomics and personalized medicine should become a regular part of CME conferences in the future.

Continued on page 4

Genes-R-Us
Continued from page 3

By the time Clara is ready for college, there will be a myriad of tests available, and her report may read "Consult for increased genetic risk of miscarriage, slightly above average athletic genes, with exceptional genetic potential for language acquisition." Her parents want her to major in English, but she wants to be a scientist…

Note: The scenarios in this paper are completely fictitious. Dr. Wong has no financial interest in any company that offers genetic testing.

Articles about genetic testing of adult diseases in children:

www.acmg.net (under Publications, Practice Guidelines, Genetic Testing)

www.ama-assn.org/ama1/pub/upload/mm/369/66b.pdf

www.mssm.edu/msjournal/73/73_3_pages_605_608.pdf

Policy Statement on Direct-to-Consumer Genetic Testing

www.acmg.net (under Publications, Policy Statements, Genetic Testing)

Genetics Education

www.acmg.net (under Education, CME Activities)

www.medscape.com/resource/genomic-medicine

JAMA Volume 299, Issue 11 (Genetics/Genomics issue, adult oriented but useful)

Genetic Testing Services:

www.23andme.com/

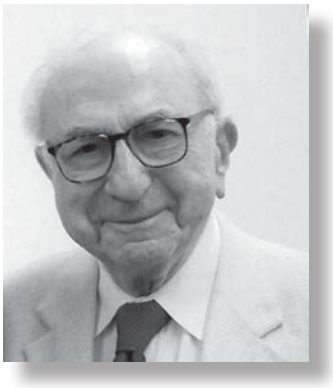
www.decodeme.com/

www.navigenics.com/

ONE HUNDRED YEARS YOUNG

Marshall G. Goldberg, MD, FAAP, FAAAA&I,
Program Chairman

If it is true that the practice of pediatrics keeps us young, then Eugene Gettelman, MD is a living example supporting that adage. He is a true testimony to the benefits of maintaining an unceasing interest in medicine and sustaining an academically curious mind. Gene just turned one hundred and you'd never know it. He continues to attend medical education conferences on a regular basis. I know. I've seen him at UCLA Pediatric Grand Rounds on numerous Friday mornings. He's as sharp as the proverbial tack and remains keenly interested in a variety of topics.



He continued to devote time to the Cedars-Sinai teaching program and many residents were fortunate to be the recipients of Gene's wise counsel.

His contributions to the field of community pediatrics were and are remarkable. He delivered consummate care to generations of children and was highly respected for his conscientiousness and integrity. His most recent associates, Dr. Arnold "Buddy" Zukow and Dr. Kenneth Keer have continued to carry on that fine tradition.

As a tribute to Dr. Gettelman's many contributions to the care of children, the PICU at the Medical Center of Tarzana was dedicated to and aptly named the Dr. Eugene Gettelman Pediatric Intensive Care Unit.

Gene is an Oregonian by birth and is a graduate of the University of Oregon's fine medical school. He obtained his pediatric training in Chicago and after serving in the U.S. Navy during World War II he became one of the first pediatricians in the San Fernando Valley, starting a practice in 1946. He stayed in continual practice until his retirement in 1994. However "retirement" in Gene's case is a misnomer.

As a tribute to Dr. Gettelman's many contributions to the care of children, the PICU at the Medical Center of Tarzana was dedicated to and aptly named the Dr. Eugene Gettelman Pediatric Intensive Care Unit. Gene has been a loyal member of LAPS for many years and we all hope that he will continue in good health so that we may benefit from his wise advice for many more years to come.

From the President
Continued from page 1

ago, I was amazed at how much new information was presented during our lecture series. The exceptional work of our program committee in choosing excellent topics and speakers made this possible.

Our next CME event is our 65th Brennemann Memorial lectures, which will be held from September 11-14, 2008. This will be another spectacular meeting and again held at the happiest place on earth, Disneyland's Paradise Pier Hotel in Anaheim. The hotel is located adjacent to Downtown Disney, close enough for those of you who want to commute. If you haven't been to Disneyland lately, there is a huge variety of things to see and do, including restaurants, and shops without even entering the main parks. If you choose to stay overnight, you will be able to take advantage of our competitively priced block of rooms, which we have reserved. We recommend that you make your reservations well in advance, however, since the rooms tend to go fast.

We look forward to seeing you there.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE—BECOME INVOLVED IN SHAPING THE FUTURE OF MEDICINE

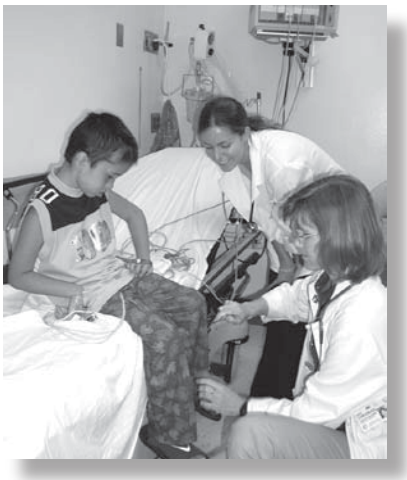
Robert Hamilton, MD, Summer Program Chair

The Los Angeles Pediatric Society does many things right, but one of the "Best of the Picks" is the Eve and Gene Black Summer Medical Career Program that runs during the month of July. This internship program targets current juniors and seniors in high school and provides them with the unique opportunity to see first hand what a career in the medical field is all about. Few programs exist in the entire country for this age of students and those who graduate from our program always remember their experiences. Many use it as a springboard to a future in medicine and several of our past recipients are involved with our current program.

> The same message is transmitted to every student: Medicine in general and pediatrics in particular is hard work, but the joys of watching families and children grow and mature is without match!

This year we have an enrollment of 43 students. Participating students are divided into a total of 12 programs involving 15 hospitals as well as several private offices and medical clinics. Each individual experience is different, but the same message is transmitted to every student: Medicine in general and pediatrics in particular is hard work, but the joys of watching families and children grow and mature is without match!

If you are private pediatric practice in the community or a faculty member in one of the teaching programs in the area and you are interested in making a tangible contribution to the next generation of physicians and medical healthcare professionals, call us! Opportunities exist for teachers and volunteers.







Membership Dues

LAPS membership dues notices will be out soon.

Yearly dues: $125

Emeritus: $25

Life membership: $1250

Pay your dues online with a credit card or PayPal account at www.lapedsoc.org



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THE EVE AND GENE BLACK SUMMER MEDICAL CAREER PROGRAM

The Summer Medical Career Program was established by the Los Angeles Pediatric Society in 1969. The purpose of the program is to stimulate high school students to choose careers in the health professions. This is accomplished by providing first hand experience observing doctors, nurses and allied health professionals at work in hospitals and through career guidance provided by counselors at each participating institution. For a period of four weeks students take part in a variety of activities affording direct contact with both the medical staff and patients. They rotate through the various departments in hospital and observe the role of health-care personnel in providing medical services. The program is different at every location and is usually tailored to meet the interests of the participants.

A weekly stipend of $75.00 is given each student to cover incidental expenses and a certificate of completion at the end of the program. In addition two $500 scholarships are awarded each year from the Rissman/Seidel Scholarship Fund.

Funding is provided by contributions from individuals and groups, Medical Careers Unlimited Medical Group Members and our new Circle of Friends and Donors. To show our appreciation, contributions received this year are listed below. All are cordially invited to join. You will help students get started in the right direction, just as perhaps someone helped you.

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Jim Seidel, MD, PhD Memorial Fund and Eve Black Memorial Fund

on page 8

We regret the omission of any names. please call our office with any errors and we will print a correction in the next issue.

2008 Hospitals

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The Los Angeles Pediatric Society has established the Eve Black Memorial Fund in support of the Gene Black Summer Medical Career Program. Eve Black was Executive Director of LAPS for over 40 years and she was instrumental in establishing and administering the program.

You may make donations online with your credit card at www.lapedsoc.org or with a check made payable to the Los Angeles Pediatric Society, with "Eve Black Memorial Fund" in the memo section. Mail to P.O. Box 4198 Torrance, CA 90510-4198. *LAPS is a private, tax-exempt, not-for-profit organization pursuant to Section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.*

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2008 Parmelee Lecture—Office Orthopedics for the Pediatrician

Back Pain and Scoliosis, David Skaggs, MD; Sports Medicine, Jennifer Weiss, MD and
Hip Problems for Infants and Children, Paul Choi, MD

If you attended this meeting, please help us track what your learned by filling out the questionnaire below. Please fax to (310) 533-1315, email meosborne@lapedsoc.org or mail to LAPS, PO Box 4198 Torrance CA 90510-4198, the following information.

1. Please list three or more specific things that you learned from the above listed letures.. . . . . .

   . . . . . .

   . . . . . .

2. Since you attended the Parmalee, have you used any of the information that you acquired in your practice? ❑ Yes ❑ No

3. Please give an example(s) of how you have used or intend to use the information that you listed in question #1 in your practice.

   . . . . . .

   . . . . . .

4. Several of the lectures touched upon the incidence, diagnoses, management, or prognosis as it applied to different cultures, and/or male vs. female populations. Have you found any of that information helpful in your practice? ❑ Yes ❑ No

5. If yes, what specific information did you find most helpful

   . . . . . .

   . . . . . .

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Los Angeles Pediatric Society

65TH Brennemann Lectures

September 11-14, 2008

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The Los Angeles Pediatric Society is accredited by the Institute for Medical Quality/California Medical Association (IMQ/CMA) to provide continuing medical education for physicians. The Los Angeles Pediatric Society takes responsibility for the content, quality and scientific integrity of this CME activity.

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The California Board of Registered Nursing has approved 15 hours of continuing medical education. Provider number is CEP11121.

MEETING INFORMATION

meosborne@lapedsoc.org
Phone: (310) 328-2036 or (310) 540-6240
FAX: (310) 533-1315

Disney Paradise Pier ® Hotel
1717 S. Disneyland Dr.
Anaheim, CA 92802
(714) 956-6425

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Address .....

City ..... State ..... Zip .....

Phone ( ) ..... Fax ( ) .....

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Tuition Fee	Before 8/8	After 8/8	
Physicians: Members of LAPS	$500	$550	$_____
Physician Non-members	$550	$600	$_____
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Number in Party .....

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