One of the rewards pediatricians enjoy is the confidence that children and parents have in our professional judgment. I never mind a question from parents, and certainly one of my main roles is to help parents understand what it means to care for and love their children. But I am disturbed by the anti-medical bias that sometimes attends the issue of vaccinations. Many parents are too quick to believe irresponsible press reports purporting to show dangerous side effects to certain vaccines. A 1998 article in Lancet aroused much interest when it suggested a possible relation between MMR vaccine and both autism and a syndrome of bowel disease. Sixty Minutes covered the controversy, and what ensued amounted to a collapse in confidence in the MMR vaccine and a lowering of vaccination rates.

What brings this to mind is that the March 6, 2004 Lancet prints a retraction of the original article signed by all but two authors, following a lengthy investigation of the circumstances of the publication of the original work. A link was never established, and there is now convincing evidence that MMR vaccine does not cause autism or any particular subtypes of autistic spectrum disorder. Buried deep in the NY Times was an article about the retraction . . . but I was sorry to see that no local news outlet covered these developments. I’d like to think that a correction of widely held misinformation, particularly when acting on the misinformation may have avoidable consequences, would generate efforts to undo the impact of earlier stories. I recommend an excellent website that discusses these issues responsibly: www.mmrthefacts.nhs.uk.

I know there have always been patients who act against medical advice, and occasionally they have been right. But permitting a parent to refuse to vaccinate a child seems professionally derelict.
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FUTURE MEETINGS

September 30-October 3, 2004
61st Annual Brennemann Lectures,
Bahia Hotel, San Diego, California
Sponsored by Los Angeles Pediatric Society
(310) 540-6240/fax (310) 543-2375
e-mail: bcarr@lapedsoc.org www.lapedsoc.org
See page 10.

November 6, 2004
Thirty-sixth Annual Cleft Palate & Craniofacial Anomalies Symposium:
Cleft Care: Something to Talk About
Special workshop: “The Speech Pathologist Meets the Cleft Palate Team.”
Sponsored by Saint John’s Cleft Palate Center
(310) 829-8150 or nancy.hsenmayer@stjohns.org.

November 18-21, 2004
Pediatric Update, 26th Annual Las Vegas Seminars
Hosted by American Academy of Pediatrics, California Chapters, 1, 2, 3 & 4
Site: Venetian Hotel, Las Vegas Nevada
(310) 540-6240 or email aapcach2@aol.com

March 3-6, 2005 (NEW DATES!)
California Chapter 2, AAP Cosponsored by:
Los Angeles Pediatric Society
Combined Southern California Pediatric
Postgraduate Meeting
Clinical Pediatrics
Hilton Palm Springs Resort,
Palm Springs, CA
(310) 540-6240 or email aapcach2@aol.com
Now that temperatures are soaring and picnics and cookouts are popular, it is time to again inform our patients about the havoc that can occur if undercooked, non-refrigerated or imported fruits and vegetables are part of the menu.

Just imagine the great barbecue combo, a hot dog, hamburger, or chicken accompanied by that tasty potato salad. Undercooked or poorly refrigerated hot dogs can cause Listeriosis, which can range in symptoms from a “flu like” illness to progression to sepsis or an aseptic meningitis syndrome. Undercooked beef is a source for E coli-0157, associated with hemolytic uremic syndrome. Some contaminated beef harbors the prions responsible for mad cow disease or Creutzfeld Jacob.

In addition, inadequately prepared chicken can harbor Salmonella, which manifest with symptoms of moderately severe gastroenteritis or colitis. Potato salad left out can serve as a source for Salmonella or Staph aureus toxin.

As we know, fish is considered a great source of protein, great for the heart conscious diet. However, there has been a recent discovery, which has set off a new alarm. There are certain fish species that contain high levels of mercury, which can be neurotoxic. This can cross the blood-brain barrier and can be secreted in breast milk. Long-lived predatory fish from both fresh and saltwater have the highest concentration of methyl mercury Hg in their muscles.

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued an advisory in December 2003, with the following recommendations:
1. Avoid shark, swordfish, and tilefish, as they contain high levels of Hg (1.0 ppm)
2. Levels of Hg vary. You may consume up to 12 ounces (2-3 meals) per week of other purchased fish, including shellfish. Limit albacore to 6-12 ounces a week. (0.32 ppm medium methyl Hg fish). Canned tuna is considered a low methyl mercury fish (0.13 ppm).

If a fresh fruit or green salad sound more attractive, beware of the imported fruits and vegetables from Chile, Brazil, Guatemala, and Mexico. Such imports supply our health conscious salad and fruit consumers with a perennial abundance of non-seasonal items, but often harbor food borne pathogens such as Cyclospora a sporulating parasite, which causes acute watery diarrhea, bloating, nausea, and discomfort. In 1996, raspberries affected 1,465 people in North America. In 1999, mangos from Brazil served as a nidus for Salmonella infection. Green onions and strawberries from Mexico have been associated with Hepatitis A cases in an outbreak in 2003.

There are a myriad of other food borne diseases that cannot be encompassed in this short review. But one might wonder if maybe our safest bet is to drink filtered water with a dry cracker, but what enjoyment can one attain from such a bland boring meal… just food for thought.

For more information on food borne pathogens, contact www.cdc.gov or www.foodborneillness.com.

“The Producers” Present Falltime for the Brennemanns

Marshall G. Goldberg, M.D., FAAP, FAAAAI, Program Chairman

The Brennemann Lectures will once again convene at the Bahia on San Diego’s mission Bay. Save the dates of September 30-October 3, 2004. We once again have an all-star cast of speakers, including James Garrick, nationally recognized in sports medicine, Ronald Hansen, a true expert in pediatric dermatology, Michael Pichichero, an entertaining and most informative authority in infectious diseases and David Feinberg from UCLA’s NPI who will tackle issues regarding behavioral problems including the controversies surrounding the use of SSRIs. Quite a group! To add to an already attractive program the night dinner-tour event will be held at Sea World. This is a first for us and should be great fun, especially for the kids. Don’t miss it!
COPEM Report

Paula Whiteman, MD and Judith Brill, MD Co-chairs

The Committee on Pediatric Emergency Medicine (COPEM) welcomes summer; however, we would like to encourage all our patients to stay well and out of the Emergency Department (ED).

Swimming is integral to summer in Southern California and pool safety is essential since the second leading cause of unintentional injury-related death is drowning for children ages one to 14. In fact, for every child who drowns another four will be hospitalized and 16 will be seen in the ED for near-drowning.

Parents need to devote their full attention to the supervision of children, which means they should not be reading, mowing the lawn, or running to the bathroom. Children should not be left with the responsibility of watching other children, such as when parents run to the phone assuming swimming teenagers will watch a poolside toddler. A child can slip noiselessly into a pool.

There should be layers of protection, such as self-closing self-latching gates, a four-sided isolation pool-fence at least four feet tall, or a pool cover. A time of special concern is when everyone is done swimming and moving back inside the house before the pool is recovered. This is when a child may run back out for that favorite toy, even using a chair or planter to scale the fence.

A child thought to be sleeping may get up and crawl through a doggie door or outside through a door left open for the breeze on a hot summer night or by visiting guests at an evening party.

Even a child thought to be pool-safe may be caught off guard by falling in with clothes on and forget what they have learned.

Please take a moment to remind your parents about pool safety. Start by asking if their children swim and where. It only takes a second...

ON BEING A CHAMPION

Mattie Stepanek died on June 22, 2004 of complications from dysautonomic mitochondrial myopathy, a disease that had already claimed his three siblings. Mattie was 13. During his short life, Mattie was an advocate of peace and goodwill and a poet of extraordinary and precocious talent. Here is one of his poems, written when he was 8.

“On Being a Champion”

A champion is a winner,
   A hero …
Someone who never gives up
   Even though the going gets rough.
A champion is a member of
   A winning team…
Someone who overcomes challenges
   Even when it requires creative Solutions.
A champion is an optimist,
   A hopeful spirit…
Someone who plays the game,
   Even when the game is called life…
Especially when the game is called life.

There can be a champion in each of us,
If we live as a winner,
If we live as a member of the team,
If we live with a hopeful spirit,
For life …

By Mattie J.T. Stepanek
INSTITUTE OF MATERNAL AND FETAL HEALTH
Childrens Hospital Los Angeles and the University of Southern California

Istvan Seri, M.D., PhD, Medical Director, Institute of Maternal and Fetal Health

Editor’s Note: I asked Istvan Seri MD PhD to pass along a brief overview of the new Institute of Child and Fetal Health at Childrens Hospital Los Angeles. This is indeed a cutting edge approach and resource to deal with the perinatal and postnatal risks to the fetus and newborn. Istvan is the Medical Director of the Institute. RGM

Some pregnancies have potentially serious or life-threatening complications affecting the fetus and, although less frequently, the mother. Early diagnosis of these fetal conditions and/or maternal complications is of great importance especially if the fetal condition is treatable in utero or postnatally. However, providing comprehensive care for high-risk pregnancies with fetal and/or maternal complications requires coordination of health care delivery across a wide variety of medical subspecialties. In turn, effective coordination of health care delivery requires establishment of an infrastructure where medical, psychosocial, case management and other health care delivery services can be provided in an integrated manner at a time of enormous stress to the mother and her family.

The Childrens Hospital Los Angeles (CHLA) had long recognized the need for such services in the Southern California region and, as CHLA and the University of Southern California (USC) health care system had the most important components of the required infrastructure already in place, CHLA, in collaboration with USC, established the Institute of Maternal Fetal Health (IMFH) in February, 2003.

Since the opening, the Institute has provided integrated, comprehensive and multi-disciplinary maternal and fetal healthcare to a large number of families, from pre-conception through pregnancy and has provided delivery and neonatal care services when appropriate. Coordination of healthcare services at the Institute includes the integration of a large array of medical and surgical disciplines including subspecialties in adult, obstetrical and pediatric medicine. Accordingly, diagnostic and therapeutic services to the maternal-fetal pair have been provided by maternal-fetal medicine specialists, general pediatric surgeons, pediatric neurosurgeons, pediatric urologists, plastic surgeons, craniofacial specialists, pediatric otolaryngologists, pediatric ophthalmologists and pediatric cardiologists, endocrinologists, hematologists, gastroenterologists, geneticists and neonatologists. In cases with pre-existing or pregnancy-induced maternal conditions affecting the mother, the fetus or both, adult specialists including endocrinologists, cardiologists and oncologists provide care in a system tightly integrated with the pediatric subspecialists involved. It is important to emphasize that, although many of the above-mentioned subspecialty services are also available elsewhere in the Southern California region, the comprehensive integration of such broad spectrum of services and the provision of prenatal and postnatal care at a single location are the unique and distinguishing features of the Institute of Maternal and Fetal Care at CHLA.

Prenatal diagnostic and genetic services are provided at the Institute’s outpatient offices in the Doctor’s Tower of the Hollywood Presbyterian Medical Center, adjacent to CHLA. The Perinatal-Neonatal Manager at CHLA provides the oversight of the daily operations and functioning of the Institute. The Case Coordinator ensures seamless integration of patients into the system, providing information and arranging case conferences and diagnostic studies such as state-of-the-art genetic testing and fetal ultrasonography, echocardiography and MRI as well case conferences with the appropriate subspecialists. The CHLA and USC Medical Directors are responsible for ensuring the timely involvement of all necessary subspecialists. The CHLA-USC Prenatal Diagnosis Center provides additional coordination for some of the prenatal diagnostic and, if necessary, genetic services. Once the diagnostic work-up is completed, pregnant women and their family are counseled, preferably on the same day, by the subspecialists involved in their care. Most cases are then followed by the mother’s primary obstetrician and maternal-fetal medicine specialist in consultation with the Institute’s maternal-fetal medicine specialists and the mothers usually deliver at the referring institution. The neonate is then transferred to CHLA, if appropriate. Less frequently, in cases with more complex and severe fetal anomalies likely requiring interventions immediately following delivery, the..

...effective coordination of health care delivery requires establishment of an infrastructure where medical, psychosocial, case management and other health care delivery services can be provided in an integrated manner at a time of enormous stress to the mother and her family.

mothers deliver at Hollywood Presbyterian Medical Center where the Institute’s maternal-fetal medicine specialists and neonatologists provide the services. These neonates are then immediately transported to CHLA for further management. Indications for delivery at Hollywood Presbyterian Medical Center include fetuses with anomalies associated with severe pulmonary hypoplasia (such as congenital diaphragmatic hernia, giant omphalocele, the rare case with large cystic adenomatoid malformation of the lung or bronchopulmonary sequestration, etc), with cardiac conditions requiring emergent interventional or surgical procedures and with large arteriovenous malformations or other conditions resulting in impending or established fetal hydrops. Description of a complete list of the type and complexity of conditions that may lead to immediate compromise following delivery and thus...
THE 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 Edward M. Rissman 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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Olive View Medical Center, Sylmar
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The Institute of Maternal Fetal Health at CHLA considers the mother and the fetus and, following delivery, the mother and the child to be its patients. The Institute provides services using a tightly integrated and multidisciplinary care model with the primary goal of improving health outcomes.

The Institute’s mission includes to engage in rigorous scientific investigation on a wide range of complex maternal and fetal genetic, metabolic and developmental abnormalities.

In summary, the Institute of Maternal Fetal Health at CHLA considers the mother and the fetus and, following delivery, the mother and the child to be its patients. The Institute provides services using a tightly integrated and multidisciplinary care model with the primary goal of improving health outcomes. Targeted health outcomes include decreases in maternal and infant death and disability as well as a reduction in the years of productive life lost from high-risk pregnancies. Indeed, establishment of the comprehensive follow-up and research programs will enable us to critically examine whether these goals have been achieved. For further information or to make a referral contact Istvan Seri MD, PhD, Head, USC Division of Neonatology and Medical Director, Institute for Maternal and Fetal Health, Children’s Hospital Los Angeles 1-800-OUR-BABY.

**An Invitation to LAPS Members**

The mission of the Los Angeles Pediatric Society (LAPS) is to improve the health and well-being in children and adolescents through collective efforts of its memberships. It promotes professional communication, education, and fellowship.

The executive members of the LAPS extend an invitation for active participation by LAPS members to submit articles, analysis of controversial areas and commentaries concerning areas of relevance in pediatrics. Our members encompass a wide background of experience and expertise and sharing thoughts with peers sometimes is best conveyed through written words.

For those interested in entering into this forum, please submit an article for review to www.lapedsoc.org. Publication deadline for review for the next newsletter is September 1, 2004.

**CLASSIFIED ADS**

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Pediatrician to Join Practice Long Beach/Los Alamitos Area Full Time: Leading to Partnership Practice at Miller’s Children Hospital of Long Beach Fax # 562 420-9092

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Large pediatric office immediately available to sub-let on the campus at Valley Presbyterian Hospital in Van Nuys – includes private consult office and three exam rooms. Inquire at (818) 988-3373.

**DR. JIM SEIDEL MEMORIAL FUND**

The Los Angeles Pediatric Society has established the Dr. Jim Seidel Memorial Fund in support of the Gene Black Summer Medical Career Program. Once the goal of $25,000.00 is reached, we will issue a Dr. Jim Seidel Memorial Scholarship to one student in this program each summer. Selection of the student will be based on Hospital Counselor recommendations and the student’s essay about their experience in the program.

Please make donations payable to the Los Angeles Pediatric Society, with “Dr. Jim Seidel Memorial Fund” in the memo section of your check and mail to P.O. Box 4198 Torrance, CA 90510-4198. Tax ID #95-2673275.

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International Volunteer Opportunity

How would you like to help change this little girl’s life?

Pediatricians are needed as an integral part of Rotaplast medical teams working in underserved areas throughout the world.

Rotaplast was founded as a humanitarian outreach of Rotary International. The concept is a partnership between Rotary clubs in the U.S. and the host country. This enables the visiting medical team to work side by side with local providers creating a spirit of cooperation and providing continuity of care for patients.

Medical missions are approximately 12 days long. Volunteers’ airfare, lodging and some meals are provided. Rotary membership is not required.

For additional information on upcoming trips and to obtain an application please contact: www.rotaplast.org

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SEPTEMBER 30-OCTOBER 3, 2004

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Executive Vice Chair and Professor, Department of Pediatrics, Harbor-UCLA Medical Center, David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA.

DAVID FEINBERG, M.D., M.B.A., Medical Director, UCLA Neuropsychiatric and Behavioral Health Services; Associate Professor of Clinical Psychiatry, David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, Los Angeles, California.

RONALD C. HANSEN, M.D., Chief, Pediatric Dermatology, Phoenix Children’s Hospital; Professor, Dermatology and Pediatrics, University of Arizona College of Medicine.

JAMES GARRICK, M.D., Director, Center for Sports Medicine, Saint Francis Memorial Hospital, San Francisco, California.

ORA H. PESCOVITZ, M.D., Edwin Letzter Professor of Pediatrics, Executive Associate Dean for Research Affairs; Professor of Cellular and Integrative Physiology; Director, Pediatric Endocrinology and Diabetology, Indiana University School of Medicine, Indianapolis, Indiana.

MICHAEL E. PICHICHERO, M.D., Professor, Microbiology and Immunology, Pediatrics and Medicine, University of Rochester, Rochester, New York.

Accreditation

This activity is offered by a CMA-accredited provider, the Los Angeles Pediatric Society. Physicians attending this course may report up to 15 hours of Category 1 credits toward the California Board of Registered Nursing approved 15 hours of continuing medical education. Provider number CEP11121.

61st Brennemann Lectures
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Includes: All-day admission ticket, special tour, dinner. Limited to first 125.
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Please make checks payable to: Los Angeles Pediatric Society and return to:
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Phone (Please include area code). ..............................................................
Number in Party ......................................................................................
Hotel Accommodations Requested: __ Double __ Single
Arrival: Time................................. Date..................................................
Departure: Time................................. Date..................................................
Your check or credit card is acceptable in payment.
MasterCard VISA American Express (circle one)
#.......................................................... Exp. Date ..................................

Signature .................................................................................................

Note: Special rates will be available only until August 15, 2004 or until all 150 blocked rooms are taken. Once these rooms are taken, regular hotel rates will apply. WE RECOMMEND YOU MAKE RESERVATIONS FAR IN ADVANCE OF THE MEETING. The Los Angeles Pediatric Society disclaims any responsibility for hotel arrangements. Please make check payable and send to Bahia Hotel at address listed above. Phone Number: 1-800-288-0770.

MEETING INFORMATION
(310) 540-6240 or e-mail: bcarr@lapedsoc.org
fax: (310) 543-2375

BAHIA HOTEL
on San Diego’s Mission Bay
998 W. Mission Bay Dr.
San Diego, CA 92109
All pediatricians, as well as other specialists having a professional interest and concern with the health and welfare of infants, children, and adolescents, are eligible for membership. Members residing outside of California will be classified as affiliate members. Membership for all categories is $100 a year. Please complete each of the following items as applicable.

*Life membership is available at a one-time fee of $1000.

Please Print or Type

1. Full Name: _______________________________ Birth Year: __________
   First   Middle   Last

2. Your Listing for the Directory of Members: Listings are limited to two addresses. Academy and College members are urged to add affiliation initials after degree. Please make listing exactly as you want it published.
   Name:
   ☐ 1. Street: ___________________________ Phone: (______) ______________ State: __________ Zip: __________
   City: ___________________________ Phone: (______) ______________
   ☐ 2. Street: ___________________________ City: ___________________________
   Phone: (______) ______________ State: __________ Zip: __________
   Specialty: ___________________________ ☐ Bd. Cert. Date of Cert._______ Date of Re Cert._______ ☐ Bd. Elig.
   Subspecialty: ___________________________ ☐ Bd. Cert. Date of Cert._______ Date of Re Cert._______ ☐ Bd. Elig.
   Note Board Name for Allergy Specialty:
   Check preferred mailing address above. If different than listing, note in Item 3.

3. Street: ___________________________ City: __________ State: __________ Zip: __________

4. Medical School: ___________________________ Year Graduated: __________
   Internship: ___________________________ Years: __________
   Residencies: ___________________________ Years: __________
   Other Professional Training: ___________________________
   Hospital Staff: ___________________________
   ☐ Private Practice: Total Years: __________ ☐ Academic Practice: Total Years: __________

5. Member in good standing of other medical and scientific societies: ___________________________

6. References (Name of two physicians, preferably members):
   1. ___________________________________________ 2. ___________________________________________

7. ☐ *LIFE MEMBERSHIP

8. Date: __________ Signature: ___________________________

Your check for first year’s dues ($100) must accompany application
LIFE MEMBERSHIP: $1000 (One-Time)
Make checks payable to: Los Angeles Pediatric Society • P.O. Box 4198 • Torrance, CA 90510-4198
IF YOU ARE NOT ON OUR MAILING LIST:

Complete the following and return to Los Angeles Pediatric Society, PO Box 4198, Torrance, CA 90510-4198.

Name

Street

City

State / Zip

Email

Specialty

☐ Certified  ☐ Eligible

☐ Check if interested in membership.

All pediatricians, as well as other specialists with a professional interest in the health and welfare of children are eligible. There are no geographical limits. Annual dues of $100, includes partial fees to the Annual Brennemann Lectures and Spring/Parmelee meeting.

FREE MEMBERSHIP

Free membership in LAPS until June 30, 2005 to all third-year pediatric residents graduating this June, 2004. Our gift to you. Just fill out the application on page 11 of this newsletter and return to PO Box 4128 Torrance, CA 90510-4198 or fax to (310) 543-2375.

Los Angeles Pediatric Society

PO Box 4198
Torrance CA 90510-4198