

# **PES** **PEDIATRIC ENDOCRINE SOCIETY**

*Formerly named in honor of Lawson Wilkins*

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**PES Annual Meeting**  
**April 30 – May 3, 2011**  
**Denver, Colorado**

December 4, 2010

Scientific Management Review Board  
ATTN: Lyric Jorgenson, PhD  
Office of Science Policy, Office of the Director  
National Institutes of Health  
6705 Rockledge Drive, Suite 750  
Bethesda, MD 20892

Dear Scientific Management Review Board:

The Pediatric Endocrine Society is the largest U.S. organization dedicated to advancing the care of children and adolescents with endocrine disorders – including diabetes, obesity, growth disorders, and many other conditions. Translational research is critical to achieving this goal. We are writing to offer comments to the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and its Scientific Management Review Board (SMRB) on recommendations for integrating translational research at NIH.

On November 10, 2010, the Translational Medicine and Therapeutics (TMAT) Working Group of the SMRB outlined its proposal for a new institute or center (IC) to be formed to promote translational research across the NIH. The full board intends to vote on specific working group recommendations on December 7, 2010. We applaud the NIH for its dedication to furthering the translation of basic scientific advances into meaningful therapeutics for patients, and we urge the board seriously consider the needs of children as it considers recommendations for reorganization.

We believe that a specific focus on children's needs in the proposed reorganization is needed since (1) many pivotal issues in translational research are unique to children and adolescents and (2) data from adult trials and comparative research studies generally cannot be applied to children.

Therefore, we support the NIH's efforts to promote translational research. We also support the suggestions of the American Academy of Pediatrics, The Society for Pediatric Research, and other Pediatrics organizations urging the board affirm its commitment to child health by including following recommendations in any reorganization contemplated by the board: (1) any new structure should specifically establish child health research as a key priority; (2) a new IC for translational research should support and promote the important role of NICHD and the CTSA Child Health Oversight Committee in advancing child health

research; (3) the new structure should be cognizant of ongoing child health research conducted at NICHD and in other institutes and should work to facilitate translational research relevant to children across the institutes; and (4) recognizing the clear need for training the next generation of clinical and translational research professionals with expertise in children, a reorganized translational research infrastructure should maintain its commitment to research training and career development programs.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments. We look forward to working with you to improve child health. Please do not hesitate to reach out to us as you move forward with your plans.

Sincerely,

David B. Allen, MD  
President, Pediatric Endocrine Society  
Professor of Pediatrics  
University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health  
Madison, WI, USA

Leona Cuttler, MD  
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Chief, Div of Endocrinology, Diabetes & Metabolism  
Rainbow Babies & Children's Hospital  
Department of Pediatrics; Case Western  
Cleveland, OH 44106

Alan Rice, MD  
Co-Chair, PES Public Policy Council  
Associate Professor  
TTUHSC/Texas Tech Physicians of Lubbock  
Department of Pediatrics  
Lubbock, TX 79430

Myron Genel, MD  
PES Public Policy Council  
Professor Emeritus of Pediatrics  
Yale University School of Medicine  
New Haven, CT 06520