MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

The American Association of Endocrine Surgeons continues to be a vibrant and highly sought after national and international society, devoted to excellence in the care of the endocrine surgical patient and the science thereof. The American Board of Surgery trained endocrine surgeon encompasses the greatest depth and breadth of knowledge in dealing with endocrine disorders arising in the head and neck, thorax, abdomen, and pelvis. As a result of the expertise required in covering such a wide array of pathologic processes, the AAES has been and remains at the forefront of recognizing, approving, and providing oversight for formal Endocrine Surgery Fellowships. This coming year, we will make the ad hoc Fellowship Committee a standing committee of the AAES under the superb guidance of Allan Siperstein. The fellowship match, once again, was flawless. The Council and committee process have already approved a defined curriculum, modifications of which have been appraised and lauded by the American Board of Surgery with the intent of instituting portions thereof as part of the general surgery training curriculum. Future steps will likely entail site visits and eventual accreditation under the auspices of the AAES.

That having been said, the boundaries separating surgical specialties are becoming increasingly transparent. As leaders in the field, we must recognize that there are surgeons from other disciplines (Otolaryngologists, Neurosurgeons, Urologists, Gynecologic Oncologists) who make significant contributions to the surgical care of the endocrine patient. They are in need of a home and a platform on which to share their expertise and learn from our own. That home should be the AAES. At the fall council meeting, the Executive Council endorsed a proposal to create a new membership category that would recognize “Allied Specialists” in the broader field of endocrine surgery. To accomplish this important goal, a bylaws amendment requiring a two-thirds majority vote will be necessary. Voting will take place at the annual business meeting this April. I hope that you will all attend and be heard. Our international colleagues have already taken this step. We need to do the same so as to assemble the best and the brightest under one roof with the only goal being what is ultimately best for the endocrine surgical patient. If Harvey Cushing were alive today, he would be ineligible for a voting membership in the AAES. We must put aside divisive attitudes and get on with the business at hand. I hope that you will all support the Executive Council’s proposal, which was deemed to be in the best, long-term, interest of our organization.

As we continue to grow and flourish as a society, many initiatives are underway. We have joined the Sister Societies, which include over a dozen endocrine societies led by the ATA and Endocrine Society. I participated this year in our inaugural meeting and discussed our endocrine surgery fellowships, as well as the importance of preoperative ultrasound in assessing lymph node metastases in patients with thyroid cancer. I believe it is increasingly important that we join as many of the Sister Societies as is feasible in order to further strengthen our role within the medical endocrine community.

I would like to thank our immediate past President, Chris McHenry, who served us so well during his Presidency. Chris continues to serve as a liaison to the American College of Surgeons as we seek a Governor’s position for the AAES. Chris, along with Doug Evans and Sam Wells, will represent us later this year at the National Cancer Institute-sponsored FNA State of the Art Science Conference. Chris has also organized a session on endocrine malignancies to be held this spring at the Society of Surgical Oncology’s annual meeting.

We continue to strengthen our ties with AACE under the leadership of Martha Zeiger. A general session put on by AAES members entitled “Updates and Controversies in the Surgical Management of Well-Differentiated Thyroid Cancer, Primary Hyperparathyroidism and Adrenal Neoplasms” will take place in Orlando, Florida, this spring at the AACE annual meeting. Each year, a case report, selected by the AAES from the best of our poster presentations, will be published in Endocrine Practice. In addition, Endocrine University (put on each year at Mayo Clinic by AACE) will support the attendance of one of our fellowship trainees.

Our ties with the journal Surgery remain strong. In the near future, the AAES will have a monthly page devoted to our organization and endocrine surgery.

Herb Chen continues to work hard developing our website, and Alan Dackiw’s link to the American College of Surgeons’ web portal has been recognized as an excellent informatic source for endocrine surgery.

We are past the halfway mark in our $100,000 goal for the LoGerfo Fund. This will allow the fund to be self-sustaining for future educational and research needs. I encourage everyone to contribute until it hurts. Only then will we be able to truly honor Paul’s memory and his many contributions. Jack Monchik and John Chabot will continue to oversee this campaign.

At this year’s council meeting, there was also discussion regarding a future Development Committee and Foundation as well as a Heritage Series to honor our senior leaders by video recording their biographies for posterity.

Last, but certainly not least, I must thank Sally Carty, whose tireless efforts on behalf of this organization keep the wheels turning. We have reached adulthood as an organization, and Sally has spent endless hours in working with outside administrative groups and lawyers to provide us with the support necessary to function smoothly as the leading organization of endocrine surgeons in the Americas. During the coming months, the council will decide on the future direction of outside administrative support for the AAES.

I am truly grateful for the opportunity to serve this year as your President. It is the highlight of my professional career, and I am indebted to the Executive Council and the membership for your trust and ongoing support. With my best wishes for the holiday season and year ahead!

Geoffrey B. Thompson, M.D.
Dear Friends,

I want to welcome you to the 29th Annual meeting of the American Association of Endocrine Surgeons. It will be held at the Monterey Plaza Hotel & Spa from Sunday, April 6 to Tuesday, April 8, 2008. It has been twelve years since the Napa Valley meeting and we are excited that you all will be back in Northern California again. We are looking forward to an excellent scientific program and the yearly gathering of our large endocrine surgery family. Please encourage your residents and fellows to come. Bring your spouses, significant others and children. Enjoy the fellowship of your friends in the scenic setting of Monterey Bay. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or needs.

Sincerely,
Quan-Yang Duh, MD
University of California, San Francisco
Surgical Service
Veterans Affairs Medical Center
4150 Clement Street
San Francisco, CA 94121
Office phone (415) 750-2131
(Office and administrative staff)
Email: quan-yang.duh@med.va.gov

Note: please see the full text of Dr. Duh’s warm and welcoming descriptions of the Monterey area, weather, Aquarium, driving directions and more at endocrinesurgery.org.

Meeting Format and Schedule. Please register directly with ACS management using the forms online. Remember, the deadline for registration is March 3, 2008. This meeting will be in the standard format from Sunday to Tuesday noon. Activities will start at 1 pm on Sunday with a session for the Young Endocrine Surgeons organized by Nancy Perrier, and a session on Nerve Monitoring organized by Peter Angelos. These will be followed at 4 pm by the usual Presentation of Interesting Cases organized by our Vice President Terry Lairmore. The Council will meet Sunday morning and the Program Directors will meet Sunday afternoon. The Welcome Reception will take place on Sunday evening at the Monterey Bay Aquarium. The Annual Banquet will be on Monday night at the Monterey Plaza Hotel. The Scientific Session, organized by the Program Committee chaired by Julie Ann Sosa, will start on Monday morning and end Tuesday around noon. We will again have a Poster Session with short presentations and a Poster Judging Competition.

Hotel. The Monterey Plaza Hotel & Spa (http://www.montereyplazahotel.com) is a world class resort hotel located in the heart of Monterey’s famed Cannery Row. It is right on the Bay and you can walk to the piers and the Aquarium (see below). The Hotel has a wonderful spa. We have secured an excellent meeting rate for the hotel. For those who wish to spend more time, the Hotel will extend the special room rate to two days before and after the meeting. Because weekends tend to be crowded with tourists, the number of rooms on Friday and Saturday will be more limited. We believe we have reserved a sufficient number of rooms, but since we will almost take over the whole hotel, please send in your reservation form early; it may be found online at endocrinesurgery.org. For those of you who know the Monterey-Pacific Grove-Carmel area, there are also many charming bed and breakfast inns nearby that provide different kinds of accommodation.

Flying. You can fly directly into the Monterey Peninsula Airport (MRY). It is about 10 minutes from downtown Monterey and the hotel. There are 80 daily non-stop flights from Denver, Las Vegas, Los Angeles, Phoenix, Salt Lake City and San Francisco, serviced by American/American Eagle, Delta/Delta Connection, United/United Express, and US Airways.

You can also fly to San Jose International Airport (SJC) or San Francisco International Airport (SFO) and then rent a car to drive to Monterey. The Monterey Airbus is a shuttle service (http://www.montereyairbus.com/rates.html) that costs about $40-50 and takes about 2 ½ hours each way to and from SFO or SJC. If you are from the East Coast, you should plan to stay locally on Tuesday night, since flights to the East Coast are best taken in the morning, unless you choose to take red-eye flights.

Driving from San Francisco/San Jose to Monterey. Downtown San Francisco to Monterey: 2 hours (112 miles). From San Francisco International Airport: 1 hour and 45 minutes (100 miles). From San Jose International Airport: 1 hour and 15 min (74 miles).

AAES Annual Golf Tournament

Date: Saturday, April 5, 2008 1:30pm
Location: Poppy Hills Golf Course, Pebble Beach, CA

Green Fees: $237.00 per player.

The tournament will be run in the scramble format in teams of 4. All levels of players are welcome. Please register no later than March 1, 2008 using the form found online at endocrinesurgery.org and email any questions to martin@surgery.wisc.edu.

Hope to see you there!
THE 28TH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE AAES HELD IN TUCSON, ARIZONA

The 28th Annual Meeting of the AAES was held in Tucson, Arizona. The local arrangements chair, Dr. Mike Demeure, chose an exquisite venue at the Westin LaPaloma Resort and Spa in the northern foothills. The “resort” format was used for the meeting which greatly enhanced the ability of members to relax, socialize, golf, spa, and even go mountain biking together.

Dr. Chip Moore chaired the program Committee which reviewed 125 abstracts to accept 30 papers for oral presentation, producing an excellent scientific program for the meeting. Twenty of the 29 presented papers were eligible for the Resident/Fellow Research Competition and this was the highest number in AAES history. Dr. Tracy Wang received the Best Clinical Award for the paper, “How Many Endocrine Surgeons Do We Need?” from Yale University. A panel of past AAES Presidents served as judges for the Poster Competition (see photo) which was won by Dr. David Greenblatt for his poster, “Valproic Acid Activates Notch 1 Signaling and Inhibits

New Members

The AAES welcomes the following:

John Allendorf ............ New York, New York
David L. Bartlett ........... Pittsburgh, PA
Geeta Lal ................... Iowa City, Iowa
Jonathan S. Lokey ......... Greenville, SC
Randall Owen .............. Bronx, New York
Douglas E. Politz .......... Tampa, Florida
Christopher D. Raeburn ...... Denver, Colorado
David G. Sheldon .......... Danville, Pennsylvania
Cord Sturgeon ............. Chicago, Illinois
Beth H. Sutton .............. Wichita Falls, Texas
Ronald D. Wenger .......... Madison, Wisconsin
Scott M. Wilhelm ........... Cleveland, Ohio
Akira Miyauchi .............. Kobe, Japan
Pablo Moreno ................ Barcelona, Spain
Stan Sidhu—St. .......... Leonards, Australia

The AAES currently has a total of 331 members, including 187 active, 43 corresponding, 91 senior and 10 honorary members.

Growth in Medullary Thyroid Cancer Cells” from the University of Wisconsin.

As Invited Speaker, the world famous Dr. Virginia Livolsi spoke on “Thyroid Nodule FNA and Frozen Section: partners or adversaries” to standing room only. Following a fond and illuminating introduction by Vice-President Dr. John Hanks, President Dr. Chris McHenry gave a thought-provoking Presidential address on “The Illicit Use of Hormones for Enhancement of Athletic Performance” again to a packed audience including his lovely wife Stephanie.

The third annual New Members Reception was held on the sage-scented resort patio and was a great deal of collegial fun, mingling as it did with the nearby AAES Welcome Reception for registrants/guests. But the highlight of the meeting, as one new member commented on her CME evaluation form, was the breathtaking astronomy lecture at the Banquet. Through high power telescopes the moon and Saturn were very beautiful indeed. Thank you Mike, for a truly well-executed meeting.

NCI THYROID FNA STATE OF THE SCIENCE CONFERENCE
October 22–23, 2007:
Report by Christopher R. McHenry.

A two-day conference dealing with the state of the science on fine needle aspiration was convened at NIH for the purpose of information dissemination and intra-disciplinary education. This was not a consensus conference nor was the purpose to establish specific guidelines or recommendations. The AAES was well represented by myself, Sam Wells, Gerry Doherty, Doug Evans and Mira Milas. The agenda for the conference included topics that a steering committee thought should be reviewed in depth. Subject areas were assigned to one of 6 specialized committees. Each committee had a chair and members. Their charge was to review the literature on their assigned topic. Each committee then summarized their review in a “review and conclusions document” which was posted at http://thyroidfna.cancer.gov/. The agenda items were formatted as questions which were posted on a website forum that allowed for open discussion. The chairperson of each specialized committee summarized the comments posted. Literature searches, practice experiences and important general feedback from the forum were addressed and each committee also had ample time for open discussion with those attending.

The 6 specialized subcommittees dealt with following areas: (1) indications for fine needle aspiration; (2) training clinicians to perform fine needle aspiration; (3) the technique of fine needle aspiration; (4) thyroid fine needle aspiration classification; (5) utilization of ancillary studies in thyroid fine needle aspiration (molecular cytopathology) and (6) follow-up after fine needle aspiration. All of the conference presentations are available for viewing and can be downloaded from the website as a PDF file. The goal was to produce an online atlas of thyroid cytopathology images that will become a link from the website at the completion of the conference.
**ORLO CLARK CELEBRATION:**
*Announcement by Dr. Quan-Yang Duh*

Former fellows and colleagues of Dr. Orlo Clark will meet in San Francisco on April 4th, 2008 to celebrate Dr. Clark’s career and achievements. A series of invited speakers from the national and international endocrine surgery community will present their work and reflect on his many contributions to the field; the celebration will continue with a cocktail reception and dinner that evening. This will be a kick-off event for what we hope will be a regular bi-annual gathering of Dr. Clark’s former fellows and colleagues. Past fellows and colleagues who are interested in the event can contact Quan-Yang Duh for further information at quan-yang.duh@med.va.gov.

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**LEGAL UPDATE**

Bylaws: When AAES recently became incorporated in the state of Illinois, the bylaws had to be adopted in Illinois, which required text changes to conform to Roberts Rules of Order. Because AAES had not been incorporated prior, the changes were voted upon by Council rather than by a membership amendment vote. The AAES bylaws were adopted in the spring of 2007 and the bylaws you will see printed in the 2008 Monterey program book are our current legal bylaws containing the necessary text changes. These are also posted online.

Tax Status: AAES legal counsel and your Secretary-Treasurer have just completed Form 1023, a 28 page document. This, along with other supporting documents, is our petition to the Treasury Department for 501c(6) tax exempt status for AAES. Submission of the application represents considerable progress towards possible tax exempt status for future contributions to the Paul LoGerfo Educational Research Fund.

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**PAUL LOGERFO FUND:**
*Report by Dr. Jack M. Monchik*

We have received $4,620 thus far this year from only 45 AAES members. Sally Carty is in the final stages of trying to qualify the Logerfo Fund for tax free status. This has been a difficult and time consuming process and her diligence in this matter is greatly appreciated. Once this process is complete we will receive an additional $12,000 as a generous donation from the LoGerfo family. Our goal is to reach $100,000 before determining how the funding will be used. I am hopeful that all the remaining members who have not contributed this year will contribute at least $50 so that we can announce at the annual meeting that 100% of our members have contributed. The LoGerfo Fund now has $60,672. Please help us to quickly achieve our goal. The Fund can be an important source of support for future projects sponsored by AAES.

*To donate: online, click on the Fund graphic (top righthand corner of AAES home-page) or mail a check to The Paul LoGerfo Educational Research Fund to Dr. Carty’s office.*

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**WEB SITE UPDATING**

The AAES website is administered by the Endocrine Society and is now under a new webmaster, Ms. Leslie Toussaint. Posted text files are frequently updated throughout the year. When our web-savvy members felt it was time for organizational redesign and an overall new look, AAES Council agreed and Dr. Herb Chen was very effective in coordinating the redesign work over the summer. Our snazzy new website went live in September of 2007. Although the current organizational features will now be unchangeable for some time, please continue to inform us of typos, text queries, and ideas. You can browse the new website at endocrinesurgery.org. Executive Council is currently developing an official AAES policy on Links.
INTERESTING CASE PRESENTATIONS
AND ENDOCRINE PRACTICE

At the 2007 meeting in Tucson, an excellent Interesting Case Presentation session was organized and conducted by Vice-President Dr. John Hanks. Among the 7 presented cases, the winner was Dr. Jennifer Cannon, a resident at the University of Michigan who presented a case of ectopic ACTH-secreting tumor. Under a new collaborative arrangement with Endocrine Practice negotiated by Dr. Martha Zeiger, Dr. Cannon and co-authors were invited to prepare a manuscript which was submitted this summer, reviewed, and accepted. It is anticipated that the winner of the 2008 AAES Interesting Case Presentations will have the same opportunity to submit to EP.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Nominating Committee presented the following names and each was accepted by the voting membership at the recent AAES Business Meeting:

- Dr. Mike Demeure for President-Elect
- Dr. Terry Lairmore for Vice-President
- Dr. Rich Hodin for Council Member
- Dr. Brad Mitchell for Council Member

We are grateful to Drs. Chris McHenry, John Hanks, Ron Weigel and Peter Angelos who have each stepped down from Council positions after years of service to our organization.

IMPORTANT DATES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>November 30, 2007</td>
<td>Deadline for Abstract Submissions for the 2008 AAES Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 4, 2008</td>
<td>Announcement of accepted abstracts</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 7, 2008</td>
<td>Deadline for Membership Applications</td>
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<td>March 10, 2008</td>
<td>Deadline for Interesting Case Presentations: submit abstracts to <a href="mailto:Tlairmore@swmail.sw.org">Tlairmore@swmail.sw.org</a></td>
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<td>March 10, 2008</td>
<td>Manuscript deadline for Surgery</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 31, 2008</td>
<td>Deadline for manuscript reviews from AAES reviewers</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 6–8, 2008</td>
<td>AAES Annual Meeting in Monterey, CA</td>
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<td>May 5, 2008</td>
<td>Deadline for revised manuscripts requiring minor revisions</td>
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<td>May 19, 2008</td>
<td>Deadline for revised manuscripts requiring major revisions</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 2–5, 2009</td>
<td>AAES Annual Meeting in Madison, WI</td>
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<td>May 27–31, 2009</td>
<td>World Congress on Thyroid Cancer in Toronto, Canada</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 6–10, 2009</td>
<td>International Association of Endocrine Surgeons Meeting in Adelaide, Australia</td>
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OUTSOURCING REPORT

As AAES matures, its organizational and support tasks continue to increase considerably. Recognizing this, Janice Pasieka brought us into the modern era by initiating a 2005 contract with ACS Management Services for dues, annual meeting registration and limited financial services. The ACS contract expires in September, 2008. Last year the AAES Executive Council conducted thoughtful discussion and decided to solicit bids on full society management service. Therefore this summer Dr. Carty prepared a detailed business document called a Request For Proposal. Our RFP was considered by 4 organizations and was bid on by three, each of whom made a formal presentation to Council at the October 9, 2007 meeting in New Orleans (see photo of your Council hard at work). The proposals of two organizations, Lettuce Planet and the ACS, were considered to be feasible and are being further evaluated this winter. Concerning these two companies, members with comments to share are invited to please do so - email cartys@upmc.edu. We thank all AAES members and friends who gave advice and time during the process.

REPORT OF THE RECORDER

Again we are grateful to Dr. Doug Evans our Recorder who has continued to ensure an efficient and fair process for peer review of all manuscripts submitted. At the 2007 Tucson meeting 29 papers were presented, and all manuscripts have been accepted for publication. AAES papers will be published in this year’s December issue of Surgery. AAES is also indebted to Ms. Theresa Rich, senior genetic counselor at MD Anderson, for her work in coordinating manuscript submissions.

Dr. Evans steps down as our Recorder after 3 years. During his tenure he further balanced and formalized the abstract review process, enlarged the Program Committee and instituted the Program Committee Conference call. He also made efforts to involve as many AAES members as possible as reviewers for submitted manuscripts. Editors at Surgery trust AAES for high quality submissions and are proud of our work. Surgery and Elsevier have recently agreed to make a yearly contribution to the Paul LoGerfo fund in recognition of their support for the AAES and our contributions to their journal.
IN MEMORIAM: CHARLES C. PROYE

We were saddened to learn of the passing of Professor Charles Proye of Lille, France. Dr. Bruno Carnaille wrote this tribute to our colleague and friend.

He wanted to be a sailor, not a surgeon. Nevertheless, after brilliant school results, he started medical studies “without enthusiasm” because 1) he didn’t like justice studies and 2) “at that time, one had to obey his father” (who had chosen these two options for him). Aged 20, he was fascinated by a “surgical monster,” Professor Emile Delanoy, whom he decided to succeed. He always depicted himself as one of the “giants who allow us to see far forward, because we sit on their shoulders.” He trained with him and later on with Professor Georges Lagache in general surgery. He was asked to develop endocrine surgery by Professor Marc Linquette, the leader in medical endocrinology and therefore visited most well known centres involved in this emerging specialty (Zurich, Rotterdam, Malmo, London, Stockholm, Melbourne...). In 1984, his dream was realised when he became the chief of the department previously headed by Professor Delanoy. He made it the first French department of (nearly exclusively) endocrine surgery: 800 thyroidectomies, 120 parathyroidectomies, 50 adrenalectomies, 2-5 digestive endocrine tumours yearly, and quickly introduced new activities (intraoperative nuclear detection and hormone assays, laparoscopy, surgery for morbid obesity, pancreatic islet cell transplantation).

He was a tremendous worker, saying that “a day without work was a lost day”. He loved operating, which he did until the last day before retiring on September 1st, 2004. He also was a famous researcher with 315 publications. His eloquence was undisputable. Generations of medical students and residents can confirm he was an outstanding teacher. His lessons and ward rounds were religiously attended, although he was not somebody always easy to work with. He trained most francophone endocrine surgeons, and many non-European ones, working world wide (Australia, USA, Mexico, Argentina, India, Togo, Ivory Coast, Saudia Arabia.) Many of his international colleagues and friends visited the department to see the team at work. His skills were awarded in multiple ways: FRCS Ed, Professor Honoris Causa in Liège. He was a member of all surgical endocrine societies in Europe and in the world, and president and/or founder of most of them. His contact was magnetic in both senses, mostly attracting by his fascinating personality associating enthusiasm, passion, excess, rigour, methodism, but also sometimes being misunderstood. He was a real leader, with a team spirit, always asking to push altogether straight forward. This was part of the heritage of his long rugby man experience, together with unfailing friendship to those he had chosen. He never missed an occasion having a beer (or more...) anytime with them.

Beside work/endocrine surgery, he was an expert in history and had a passion for scuba diving and undersea pictures of wild sharks he had approached in all seas. He lived and died as a gentleman, his mind perfectly lucid until his end in an emaciated corporeal envelope. May the sea he loved so much that he wanted to rest in forever, be sweet to him.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

• If you did not perform a manuscript review this year and would like to do so this year, Dr. Doug Evans would really like to hear from you at tarich@mdanderson.org.

• Dr. Peter Angelos was appointed by President Geoff Thompson to Chair the ad hoc Ethics Committee of the AAES Executive Council.

• Dr. Sonia Sugg was appointed by Pres. Thompson to be the AAES’ representative to the Endocrine Section Council of the AMA.

• AACE representative Dr. Martha Zeiger announces that the American College of Endocrinology has invited AAES to sponsor one endocrine surgery fellow/year to attend Endocrine University, this year on the dates of March 8-9, 2008. Interested applicants should send a CV, cover letter, and letter of recommendation from their fellowship program director, before 1/1/08, to mzeiger@jhmi.edu.

• Looking for a position in endocrine surgery, or trying to hire an endocrine surgeon? While the online Jobs Bank is being developed by the Fellowship Committee (to be called “Allan’s List”?) our office receives enquiries from fellows and programs alike and will share information upon request at cartyse@upmc.edu.

• When they reach the age of 65, AAES members convert to senior membership status. Because in most cases we don’t know the birthdates of AAES members, if you have recently turned 65, or will do so soon, please inform the S-T’s office. And Happy Birthday.

• AAES members are entitled to send email announcements and surveys out to fellow members. If you want to send an emailing, please make a request directly to the Secretary-Treasurer. Nonmembers must apply and pay a fee to rent the mailing list, and this form is now posted online.

• At the 2008 meeting, AAES will again hold the Poster Competition. The winner will be chosen by a distinguished panel of Judges, will receive a cash prize, and also will be awarded recognition in the next Annual Meeting Program book.

The AAES Newsletter

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