

Pediatric Electrophysiology Society Minutes
Washington, DC
15 May 2003

The meeting was held at the Grand Hyatt Hotel, H St. Attendance was excellent, with more than 75 members attending.

Minutes from the Fall meeting were approved unanimously.

Opening comments –

Ed Walsh, President, introduced the agenda for the meeting. He spoke briefly on several topics relating to the future of the Pediatric EP Society, including the increase in Society enrollment and the uncertain future of the Pediatric Subcommittee in the administration of NASPE / HRS as it enters a period of change. He noted the recent activities of the Society in attempting to establish appropriate standards for centers offering fellowship training in pediatric electrophysiology, and speculated on the need for increased activity by the Society in similar activities, such as sponsorship of scientific programs and fundraising.

Treasurer's report –

George Van Hare, Treasurer, provided an informal report of Society finances. Payment of membership dues has increased, and the Society remains solvent with a current balance of ~\$11,000. At present, ~160 active members and 25 allied professionals are counted as members. The question of what types of activities the Society should support with a larger budget was again raised. Suggestions included the sponsorship of pediatric-specific symposia, traveling fellowships and research prizes.

Society Website –

The Pediatric EP Society website currently holds a complete membership list. A glitch apparently resulted in several members being removed from this list – this has been corrected. Uses of the website were again discussed. While the membership list provides rapid access to the entire Society, there was general consensus that free use of that facility (e.g. PediHeart) was neither desired by members nor appropriate for the Society. The executive committee of the Society will continue to oversee utilization of the listserv for such projects as membership surveys and Web-based data collection.

Effects of NASPE / HRS restructuring –

A brief, open discussion was had regarding the role of the Society in relation to NASPE / HRS. It was noted that the agenda of the Society was different in many ways from the Pediatric Subcommittee / Special Interest Group of NASPE / HRS, and that the Society structure was also very different, in that membership is open and the executive committee is elected. Several possible potential future relations between the Society and NASPE /

HRS were entertained, as well as possible alliances with European societies and adult congenital societies. There was general consensus that a clear sense of the pediatric mission of this Society was important, and that continued clear and focused advocacy for our patient group was a strongly desired.

Training program guidelines –

Vicki Vetter presented a refined version of a document for training of EP fellows, which incorporates many of the suggestions made by Society members attending the Fall meeting. The presentation of these guidelines (PCCEP – Guidelines for Training in Pediatric Clinical Cardiac Electrophysiology) are patterned on similar sets of criteria used by the American Board of Internal Medicine to certify EP subspecialty competency and to ensure adequate training of cardiology fellows not specializing in EP. The American Board of Pediatrics still has no known plans to develop certification in pediatric electrophysiology. The Powerpoint file with this presentation is attached to these minutes.

HOPE Foundation presentation –

Ms. Christine Badame, mother of a child deceased from syndactyly / LQTS, founded HOPE in 1999 to address the special needs of children with complex arrhythmia problems and to raise funds to support those activities and others relevant to the management and therapy of pediatric arrhythmia. She presented an introduction to her foundation, which has sponsored a video on ICD's for kids and teens made by kids, a website for communication and support between patients and families (www.heartbeatsofhope.org), and a weekend event for young ICD patients in Michigan. She indicated that the HOPE Foundation would like to establish a working relation with the Pediatric EP Society to help direct the Foundation in its charitable activities.

Research activities –

George Van Hare provided a PAPCA update, and Ed Walsh again updated members on the collaborative study of risk factors for cardiac arrest in TOF and appealed to members to help this effort by submitting cases of sustained VT, VF or sudden death in tetralogy, noting that only 9 additional patients are now needed to allow a statistically useful study to be drawn from those data. The Powerpoint files with George and Ed's presentations are also attached to these minutes.

Richard Friedman reported that an AICD registry pilot project has been initiated with support from all three major U.S. device companies. IRB protocol approval is complete or in process at the initial, high-volume pilot centers. An update on this project will be presented at the Fall meeting in Orlando at the AHA, with discussion of possible sources of bridge funding in anticipation of a future submission of this project as an NIH clinical research proposal.

Andy Blaufox reported that his proposal for study of fetal SVT therapy was currently on hold, due to lack of funding and the higher priority of other projects with which he is currently involved. He continues to welcome interest in this project from other members, describing it as suspended and not dropped. Jeanette Strasburger noted recent data from her group on the utility of amiodarone in this group and suggested that that may be useful in study planning.

Anne Dubin has made little progress on collection of new cases of congenital JET, and there were some discussion regarding the number of those cases that were available for study and whether the Registry might be of some use in identifying more of them. She reported that Jill Buyon's laboratory was supporting her study by providing serologic testing for these cases as they are gradually collected.

Nomination of members to the Executive Committee –

Members were nominated to the position of Treasurer. A list of candidates will be submitted to the membership for election in the coming month. The new Treasurer will begin a two-year term in November, 2003, with George Van Hare assuming the office of Secretary, John Triedman the office of Vice-President and Jim Perry the office of President.

The meeting was adjourned by Ed Walsh.

The members of the Pediatric EP Society express their sincere appreciation to Dr. Ed Walsh for his leadership and efforts on behalf of the Society over the past eight years! To acknowledge his work over that time, I will again note that **only 9 more patients** remain to be collected for the TOF / SCD project that Ed has been working on. I can't think of a better way to thank Ed than by providing him with those cases to complete our study.

Next meeting will be in association with AHA in November 2003, Orlando, FL. See you there!!!

Minutes transcribed by John Triedman, Secretary

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