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ONE MUST HAVE AN EXALTED IDEA NOT OF WHAT HE DOES, BUT OF WHAT ONE WILL SOMEDAY ACCOMPLISH, OTHERWISE THERE IS NO USE WORKING ... EVERYBODY HAS TALENT AT TWENTY-FIVE, THE DIFFICULT THING IS TO HAVE IT AT FIFTY.

Edgar Degas

Horse Races at Longchamp, 1873

This issue of the Bulletin of the Swiss Academy of Medical Sciences summarizes the conferences and lectures given during the 1st Joint Meeting of the Lawson Wilkins Pediatric Endocrine Society and the European Society for Paediatric Endocrinology.

The European Society was founded in Zurich by a group of pediatric endocrinologists in 1962, and since then has been meeting regularly every year. It has grown in terms of both the number of members and the number of European and Middle-East countries represented. The Lawson Wilkins Pediatric Endocrine Society, bearing the name of the founder of pediatric endocrinology, was established in North America in 1972 and also holds a regular annual meeting, in conjunction with the American Pediatric Society and the Society for Pediatric Research.

During the last decade, a close relationship has been maintained between these two societies, mainly on a personal basis of shared research interests and friendship. Members of the American society have trained young fellows who came back to Europe and became members of the European society; more recently, European pediatric endocrinologists have begun to train American fellows. These contacts between members have been cemented through sabbatical leaves in North America or in Europe. However, only a few members of one society could attend regularly the annual meeting of the other society. Thus, it became clear that a joint meeting of the societies would be of great benefit to both scientific communities. The first joint meeting, held in Geneva in September 9 - 11, 1981, was an overwhelming success. This was due in large part to the fact that both American and European members and their guests presented innovative insights into their current research. In addition, the invited speakers, including Dr Howard Rasmussen who presented the Lawson Wilkins Lecture, provided concise but thorough reviews of recent progress across the whole field of endocrinology. We are particularly grateful to them and are pleased that their presentations can be published in this Bulletin of the Swiss Academy of Medical Sciences.

As President of the European Society for Paediatric Endocrinology, I would like to thank Dr John F. Crigler Jr. (Past President), Dr A.M. Bongiovanni (President), and the officers of the Lawson Wilkins Society, the joint Program Committee, and Dr R. Rappaport (Secretary) and the council members of the European Society for Paediatric Endocrinology for their assistance in preparing the meeting. This complex undertaking would not have been possible without the help of the members of the Local Organizing Committee; on behalf of the members of both societies, I express my gratitude to them for their hard work. The generous help of the Swiss Academy of Medical Sciences, which has made possible the publication of the invited presentations, is acknowledged with thanks.

My hopes are that this first joint meeting will be followed by others. I am sure that the members of both societies will work with similar enthusiasm to organize the next joint meeting.

Geneva, March 1982

Pierre C. Sizonenko

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