



The Irish and American Paediatric Society

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Greetings All:

As our year draws to a close and nature begins its annual retreat into hibernation I am drawn to fond thoughts of dear friends. At the top of my list are the members and friends of the Irish and American Paediatric Society. I think Billy Andrews said it very well as he began his talk at our meeting in Chicago that it made him happy to look out and see the faces of so many friends he had made through the Society, but at the same time sad that the faces of many were not with us. One of the unique features of the Society is the warm regard we have for one another, and that is a priceless legacy.

What a great meeting Kathy and Courtney Anthony organized for us in Chicago, after having dazzled us all with their 1999 meeting in San Francisco and their 2007 meeting in Memphis. To complement the wonderful social program they orchestrated for us, the scientific program featured an outstanding array of abstracts. In addition to those given by members, we had superb presentations by a brilliant cast of registrars from Ireland and Northern Ireland, rounded out by three exemplary Founders Lectures.

The comments I received from the presenters are most encouraging, even exciting. The members who presented, and many of the registrars, are looking forward to submitting abstracts for our upcoming Belfast meeting. Responses of the Founders Lecturers were exceptional. Dr. Peter Whittington, who presented the Dr Frederick Burke Founders Lecture , “Gestational alloimmune liver disease”, wrote: “Never have I spoken to a more interested and engaged audience.” Dr. Mark Wainwright, who presented the Dr. Thomas Cone Founders Lecture, “The role of albumin in pediatric neurocritical care”, has become a new member of the Society. And Dr. Afif EL-Khuffash, who presented the Dr. William Kidney Founders Lecture, “Targeted neonatal echocardiography”, is applying for membership in the Society.

What a special treat it was to have dear friends Len Fries and Tom and Jean McNerny with us at the meeting. For that, our deepest gratitude to Len’s son and daughter-in-law, Ken and Carol Fries, and to Tom and Jean’s daughter and son-in-law, Debbie and Tom Sullivan, for making it possible.

In 2012 the Society returns to lovely, vibrant Belfast where Henry and Marjorie Halliday are planning yet another wonderful meeting, their third, for the Society. We look forward to a grand reunion there; to the incomparable beauty of coastal County Antrim; to the rugged grandeur of Giant’s Causeway; to the soothing amber of Bushmill’s.

In closing I wish you blessings of this joyous season and a peaceful new year.

Dean Wilcox