

The Irish and American Paediatric Society



Newsletter

December 2011

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Dear Members:

We hope this letter finds you in good health and looking forward to celebrating the upcoming holidays with family and friends. It's hard to believe another year is about to become history. We extend to you our Best Wishes as we enter into this special time of year.

As you know, in late September we held our annual meeting in Chicago, hosted by Court and Kathy Anthony. Informative scientific papers combined with a great social program again made the meeting interesting and enjoyable. As always, it was wonderful to see old friends and make new ones and we extend our sincere thanks to Court and Kathy for hosting their third meeting. Dean commented on the scientific program in his letter; following is a recap of the social program written by Kathy Anthony.

Chicago was a good place to have the annual IAPS meeting and a bad place to have the IAPS meeting. Good in that there were a million places to tour and bad that it was hard to choose where to go and what to leave out.

We started out Thursday afternoon with a city tour of the downtown and near north side of Chicago. What a great tour guide we had – both funny and knowledgeable and we got a great overview of just one small part of the city and then it was on to board the boat for the Architecture Tour and skyline from the water. Learned facts that even native Chicagoans don't always know and because we were late in boarding the boat we got an extra treat with the fabulous water show on the river. From the river cruise we "strolled" Navy Pier for dinner at Riva Restaurant. My apologies to those who thought it was just going to be a short stroll but I think they will agree with me that the dinner more than made up for it and the views from the restaurant window was absolutely outstanding.

Tops on the choice list of course, was the Chicago Art Institute. You can't go to Chicago and not go to the Art Institute and then I found out we could have lunch there in their new dining room and that their chefs and restaurant have been written up with great reviews in their dining out columns – It was exciting. The lunch itself couldn't have been more delicious – we could have just lunched on the soup and dessert alone. Then the docent tour of the Impressionist Paintings was absolutely superb. The Chicago Art Institute is known world-wide for its Impressionists. Only sorry we didn't have more time to stay and browse on our own.

Saturday began with a tour to what I still call Marshall Field's to have another architectural tour along with the history of the fabulous old "Emporium". The tour guides were fantastic and interesting in themselves. Then it was on to have lunch in the Walnut Room – one of Chicago's old traditions. I think everyone thought the lunch terrific, the wait staff couldn't have been nicer and the dessert blew some of us away. (By the way, I have obtained the recipe for the Frango Mint Chocolate Ice Cream Pie and will be mailing it out to those that were at the lunch and if anyone would like the recipe just contact me and I'll mail it on.)

The afternoon was a choice of the Museum of Science and Industry or the Field Museum or whatever on your own. I somehow created a logistical nightmare trying to send people from Macy's in three different directions and those at the Double Tree in two directions but it eventually all worked out and I do hope everyone was happy with their choice of venue. I hadn't been to the Museum of Science and Industry since whenever so found it a whole new world and our grandson who joined us that afternoon loved it.

As usual the three days that took a summer to plan and were over before we knew it and it was soon time to say goodbye's and "God Willing we'll see you in Belfast". I hope everyone enjoyed themselves. I was a little sorry we didn't put out critique sheets but I would still love to hear your feedback, good or bad, as that will help us plan future meetings. Joe and I worked very closely together planning out the social events and trying to keep the costs as low as possible. One cost cutter was the taxi's which was a big saver over tour buses and we really only had one huge snafu but overall I hope most everyone was satisfied. Please do not hesitate to let us know your thoughts, etc. You can reach me at canthony1@juno.com and I welcome any of your comments.

Thank you, Kathy. One of the most memorable and long overdue parts of the program was the recognition of Len Fries' many contributions to our society. His stewardship as Executive Director from the early 80's through 1999 will be remembered as years of significant growth in membership and for some of the best and largest meetings we've ever had. His untiring devotion to our group has made him special to all of us. We also recognized Ann Gulesian for her years as our secretary. She resigned two years ago after many years of service to our organization. Thank you, Len and Ann.

We concluded our meeting after our gala dinner Saturday night with Eleanor Molloy transferring the presidential medal to Dean Wilcox. Thank you Eleanor for your sound leadership during the last two years and Dean, we look forward to all the positive things your term will bring to our society.

Council Report

During our council meeting we discussed a number of topics critical to the future of the society. In 2012 we will implement plans to increase membership including placing an advertisement in **Pediatrics** and perhaps another journal. This spring, we'll email members a survey designed to increase meeting attendance and gather other valuable information to help us better serve you. It is vital you include your current email address on the dues form and mail it to me so we can survey as many members as possible.

We also made some changes to our council. Bill O'Dwyer resigned as a council member due to his responsibilities as President of the Board of Hudson Headwaters Health Network in upstate New York. We will miss Bill's counsel and insight and thank him for all the time and support he has provided.

Replacing Bill is Rita Ryan, Professor and Chair, Department of Pediatrics, at Medical University of South Carolina in Charleston. Rita hosted our 2009 meeting in Buffalo and has agreed to host the 2013 meeting in Charleston. She will be a great addition to the council. We also asked Court Anthony to extend his term on the council and are grateful he agreed to do so.

Future Meetings

2012	Belfast, N. Ireland	September 26 - 30
2013	North America	Charleston, SC Dates TBA
2014	Ireland	Location and Dates TBA

2012 Dues

Enclosed find the 2012 dues statement. Please fill it out and send it to me with your check for \$55. Be sure to include your current email address so we can send you the survey mentioned earlier.

Foundation News

Your generous contributions enabled us to sponsor six registrars from Ireland to attend the Chicago meeting. The 2011 Travel Award Winners were:

Thomas Bourke	Lisa McCarthy
Stranmillis, Belfast, N. Ireland	Dun Laoghaire, Co. Dublin, Ireland
Colin Hawkes	Elaine Neary
Bishopstown, Cork, Ireland	Celbridge, Co. Clare, Ireland
Emily Kieran	Fiona O'Hare
Blackrock, Co. Dublin Ireland	Co. Kildare, Ireland

We enjoyed their well prepared and well presented abstracts and their company. They were an outstanding group of professionals and we hope to see them at future meetings.

New Members

Please join me in welcoming the following new members:

Keith Cavanaugh (Shoreview, MN) sponsored by Neil Mulrooney.

Marylee Mundell (Huntingdon Valley, PA) sponsored by Russ Reiss.

We extend a hearty welcome to Keith and Marylee and our thanks to Neil and Russ for sponsoring them. We look forward to seeing them at future meetings.

In Memoriam

George F. Thiers (Clearwater, FL) passed away on June 9. George and his wife Mary were members for many years and Mary wanted us to know how much they enjoyed attending our meetings and the friends they made.

This concludes our December letter. Please don't hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns. On behalf of the council, I extend to all, our Best Wishes for a Very Merry Christmas and a Safe and Happy 2012.

May you never forget
What is worth remembering,
Or remember what is
Best forgotten.

An Irish Blessing

Best regards,



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