In Memoriam – James S. Seidel, M.D., Ph.D., 1943-2003

As many of you know, we recently lost a dear member of our family. Dr. James Seidel recently passed away at the young age of sixty. Jim had a positive influence on so many people, including students, housestaff, physician colleagues, ancillary hospital personnel, and of course, all the children whom he directly and indirectly cared for. Below, I have briefly outlined some of Dr. Seidel’s accomplishments and the impact he has had on pediatrics on both a local and national level. By no means could I begin to list all of his educational and clinical responsibilities, honors, memberships, etc., but I hope that all of us will get an idea of how much he contributed to society during his lifetime.

Dr. Seidel was born on June 24, 1943, in New York. He completed his undergraduate education at Michigan State University with a B.S. degree in Zoology. His graduate studies were vast and varied, and included African Cultural and Language Studies, advanced studies in Parasitology, as well as studies in Tropical Medicine. He then entered the UCLA School of Medicine and received his medical degree in 1973. In 1976, he completed his pediatric residency training at Harbor-UCLA Medical Center while also earning a Ph.D. in the area of Parasitology.

Dr. Seidel was an amazing teacher, clinician, and administrator. Jim spent many of his years teaching and lecturing on a variety of topics. His experience ranged from teaching courses in Parasitology and Tropical Medicine, to lecturing and helping train local paramedics, as well as teaching child abuse investigation at the L.A. County Sheriff’s Training Academy. As a clinician at Harbor-UCLA Medical Center, he constantly worked with medical students, residents, and fellows and was recognized for his outstanding teaching abilities and clinical acumen.

Dr. Seidel also served on hundreds of committees during his career. Locally, he helped medical students, housestaff, and faculty at both Harbor-UCLA Medical Center and the UCLA School of Medicine by serving on advisory programs, educational taskforces, and school health programs. At the state level, he worked with our Emergency Medical Services helping establish protocols and educational curriculums. Nationally, he was involved with the AAP Committee on Pediatric Emergency Medicine, several subcommittees of the American Heart Association, working groups of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, and the research committee of the National Congress on Childhood Emergencies, just to name a few. He also served as a board member and/ or Chair on numerous professional organizations, including the Los Angeles Pediatric Society, Ambulatory Pediatric Association, and several subcommittees of the AAP California Chapter 2.

 Needless to say, with such an accomplished career, Dr. Seidel received numerous honors and awards. These included the Joseph St. Geme Memorial Award (through LAPS) in 1987, Outstanding Teaching Awards at Harbor-UCLA, Outstanding Service awards by the American Heart Association and the American Academy of Pediatrics, as well as the EMS-C National Hero Award for Lifetime Achievement in Emergency National Services for Children.

All of us know the incredible dedication Dr. Seidel had for the Gene Black Summer Medical Career Program established by the Los Angeles Pediatric Society. Jim dedicated so much of his time and effort helping hundreds of high school students expose themselves to the field of pediatrics. He spent countless hours running the program, recruiting preceptors, establishing funding sources, and working with the students themselves. In order to recognize his efforts for many years to come, the Los Angeles Pediatric Society has decided to establish the Dr. James Seidel Memorial Fund. The donations sent to this fund will help us continue to run the program for many years to come, and ensure the future of our profession.

Dr. James Seidel was an extraordinary physician and human being. We will all miss him.
We are pleased to announce that Richard G. MacKenzie, M.D., whose specialty is Adolescent Medicine, was included in the latest edition of America’s Top Doctors (Third Edition).

Leonard Apt, M.D., professor emeritus of Ophthalmology and founding chief of the Division of Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus, has established the Leonard Apt Endowed Fellowship that will be available in perpetuity and be awarded to exceptional clinical fellows in pediatric ophthalmology and strabismus at the Jules Stein Eye Institute at UCLA.
The 2003 Summer Gene Black Medical Internship mentoring program is now in the history books. With a boost from the Weingart Foundation, this year’s program was one of the largest and most productive ever.

Nevertheless, on the heels of these successes, came heartbreak. James Seidel, M.D., the Director of the Gene Black program, died unexpectedly during the third week of the program. Jim was dedicated to the summer program as no other. His passion for expanding the program, particularly by reaching out to a larger number of disadvantaged students, was well known. It was largely through his efforts that we were successful in obtaining the Weingart Grant that will allow us to accomplish many of these very goals. We will sorely miss our colleague. His focus, energy and experience will be impossible to replace.

Much can be written about this year’s program, but reading the words of some of those who participated is better.

Thomas Tsai, a student from the Harbor-UCLA program wrote: “my four weeks in July ... were an absolute eye-opening experience for me. I feel as if I’ve seen and learned more in medicine in a month than in all seventeen years of my life combined.”

Taiwo Lawal wrote, “The LAPS Medical Career Program was a great experience for me. It was a once in a lifetime opportunity and I’m glad I took the chance. The program changed my life and probably my future.”

Josselyn Gaulke, a student in the Santa Monica program wrote, “another...highlight of this program was being able to witness a cesarean section. It was phenomenal!! I did not get queasy or light-headed as I half expected myself to do. Instead, I couldn’t help but be in complete awe of what was happening before my eyes...witnessing a miracle!”

Rosemary Quintero, who participated in the Olive View program wrote, “There are not enough words in the dictionary to express my feelings about your program. I really appreciate being one of the lucky ones to be selected from this program. Thank you very, very much!”

Finally, Melinda Marshall, one of the participants from the Arrowhead Regional group wrote, “thank you for making such an enlightening experience available to high school students. This summer has been very inspirational to me...I have never felt such a vigor to get back to school and finish my senior year. It is great to have a goal to strive for instead of just wandering aimlessly through youth.”

This summer’s LAPS Gene Black program once again fulfilled the goals and aspirations of its founders. Exposing students, at a critical moment in their educational development, to the joys of pediatric medicine yields a bountiful crop of inspired and motivated youth. Challenged to excel and given the opportunity to see first-hand the world of pediatrics, our students took away from their summer experiences wonderful memories and the knowledge that they too could do it if they applied their abilities to the task.

Dr. Seidel’s vision was to see hundreds of our local students so motivated. His memory will live on with this program and the fruit of his life will be seen in those who follow his example.

Anyone interested in participating in next year’s Gene Black program can contact Dr. Hamilton at (310) 264-2100.
EARLY CHILDHOOD CARIES

Baby Bottle Tooth Decay (Nursing Caries)

John N. Groper, D.D.S., M.S. Attending Pediatric Dentist, Childrens Hospital Los Angeles
José C. Polido, D.D.S., M.S. Head, Division of Dentistry, Childrens Hospital Los Angeles

Despite recent advances on the prevention of dental caries in the general population, a recent report by the Surgeon General on Oral Health in America points out the continuing problem of dental disease in the pediatric population.

The development of early childhood caries is associated with prolonged feedings, the amount of cariogenic oral bacteria present and the parental attitude towards oral health.

It has long been found that allowing a child to nurse for extended periods of time on milk, juices, or other liquids containing sugar can have a destructive effect on the child’s teeth and starts as soon as the primary teeth begin to erupt. Primary teeth are extremely important to the normal growth and development of the jaws and permanent teeth. If the destruction by the acids released by the oral bacteria is allowed to continue, it can result in a condition so serious that many teeth will need crowns, endodontic (pulp, nerve) treatments, and often extractions. This is in addition to the obvious pain and discomfort, increased chances of facial swellings and systemic complications. If the teeth require extractions, this could have a devastating effect upon speech as well as social skills development.

It has long been found that allowing a child to nurse for extended periods of time on milk, juices, or other liquids containing sugar can have a destructive effect on the child’s teeth and starts as soon as the primary teeth begin to erupt.

Most children can fill all their nutritional requirements at mealtime. In between meals, and especially right before or during sleep times, if the child takes a bottle, the parents are urged to change the contents of the bottle, to a liquid which does not cause decay, ideally water. Since it may be difficult to switch immediately, it is suggested to gradually add water to the liquid. In a short period of time, the child will get used to drinking only water. Other dietary factors influencing caries development are the frequency of snack events and the consistency of the foods during snack time (sticky foods stay on the teeth for longer periods of time).

Keeping the oral cavity clean is important whether teeth are present or not. Aside from preventing the continuous availability of sugar for oral bacteria, this cleaning helps reduce the risk of dental caries developing as soon as the teeth start erupting. The parent should get in the habit of wiping the gums clean with a washcloth or gauze pad right after each feeding. It is not necessary to use toothpaste that contains fluoride if the teeth are not present.

The oral health habits of the parents also influences the child’s caries activity. Parents with extensive dental disease can more easily transmit oral cariogenic bacteria to the young child, and are more likely to let the child’s dietary habits go unmonitored.

The pediatric dentist is trained to detect, treat and prevent early caries from occurring. According to the American Academy of Pediatrics and the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry, “an initial oral evaluation visit should occur within six months of the eruption of the first primary tooth and no later than 12 months of age.”

MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY

LAPS is preparing a membership directory that will be posted on the organization’s Web site in pdf format. The directory will contain sections for both alphabetical and geographical listings. In addition to being a resource for members, the directory will be publicly available for referrals. At present, only members’ names and cities are listed. If you would like your full address, phone number, or subspecialty included, please fill out and return the form below. The membership directory will be updated four times a year. Deadline for additions to the first edition is October 15, 2003.

Name .................................................................................................................................................................................................................................................................
Street address ....................................................................................................................................................................................................................................................
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Subspecialty .........................................................................................................................................................................................................................
Invasive procedures in pediatrics are often events that healthcare workers, parents, and children dread. Pediatric procedures can be so unpleasant that often a “let’s just get it over with” approach is used. The usual practice is for staff to call in reinforcements to help hold a child on the table in order to prevent movement. Children often scream and panic as soon as they are placed in the supine position on the table. The child’s behavior is assumed to come from fear of the procedure. In reality, lying the child down is what is frightening and results in the loss of control.

The achievement of sitting up in infancy seems to be accompanied by a sense of control. When this developmental milestone is reached the mere act of making an infant or child lie down usually results in a struggle to get up. As more force is used to hold the child down, the child increases efforts to get up, along with loud vocal protests (Barkey, 1999). Recognizing lying down as a significant contribution to the child’s increased stress; our goal is to suggest positioning that will be comforting to the child during invasive procedures. The sitting position is critical to the comfort of a child. We must be creative in establishing successful sitting positions for various procedures. The positions shown here accomplish the following goals.

1. A secure, non threatening hold
2. Close physical contact with a parent/caregiver
3. Caregiver participates in positive assistance not negative restraining
4. Sitting position promotes sense of control
5. Immobility of desired area is enhanced
6. Fewer staff are needed to complete the procedure

Once children become more comfortable during procedures, health care providers can become more relaxed, interactive and supportive with their patients. As an added benefit, parents feel they are needed and play an integral role in supporting and comforting their child. The practice of forcefully holding children down on their backs to perform a procedure is without theoretical basis. Let us try to be institutions that welcome positive change and work to improve the experience of invasive procedures for our patients and families.

DR. JIM SEIDEL MEMORIAL FUND

The Los Angeles Pediatric Society is establishing the Dr. Jim Seidel Memorial Fund in support of the Gene Black Summer Medical Career Program. Once the goal of $25,000.00, is reached, we will issue a Dr. Jim Seidel Memorial Scholarship to one student in this program each summer. Selection of the student will be based on Hospital Counselor recommendations and the student’s essay about their experience in the program.

Please make donations payable to the Los Angeles Pediatric Society, with “Dr. Jim Seidel Memorial Fund” in the memo section of your check.

Tax ID #95-2673275
THE GENE BLACK SUMMER MEDICAL CAREER PROGRAM

The Summer Medical Career Program was established by the Los Angeles Pediatric Society in 1969. The purpose of the program is to stimulate high school students to choose careers in the health professions. This is accomplished by providing first-hand experience observing doctors, nurses and allied health professionals at work in hospitals and through career guidance provided by counselors at each participating institution. For a period of four weeks students take part in a variety of activities affording direct contact with both the medical staff and patients. They rotate through the various departments in hospital and observe the role of health-care personnel in providing medical services. The program is different at every location and is usually tailored to meet the interests of the participants.

A weekly stipend of $75.00 is given each student to cover incidental expenses and a certificate of completion at the end of the program. In addition two $500 scholarships are awarded each year from the Edward M. Rissman Scholarship Fund.

Funding is provided by contributions from individuals and groups, Medical Careers Unlimited Medical Group Members and our new Circle of Friends and Donors. To show our appreciation, contributions received this year are listed below. All are cordially invited to join. You will help students get started in the right direction just as perhaps someone helped you.

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at Davis, California

RICHARD F. JACOBS, M.D., F.A.A.P.,
Horace C. Cabe Professor of Pediatrics,
University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences;
Chief, Pediatric Infectious Diseases, Arkansas
Children’s Hospital, Little Rock, Arkansas

ROBERT F. LEMANSKE, JR., M.D.,
Professor of Pediatrics and Medicine,
University of Wisconsin Medical School,
Madison, Wisconsin

DONALD SHAUL, M.D., Associate Professor
of Clinical Surgery, Keck School of Medicine of
the University of Southern California; Childrens
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ROBERT WELLS, PhD., Associate Professor
Psychiatry, University of California, San
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in Fresno, California.

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150 rooms are available to registrants at the special rate of $140 per day single or double occupancy plus tax. Part of this fee is commissionable to LAPS. Note: Special rates will be available only until August 19, 2003 or until all 150 blocked rooms are taken. Once these rooms are taken, regular hotel rates will apply. WE RECOMMEND YOU MAKE RESERVATIONS FAR IN ADVANCE OF THE MEETING. The Los Angeles Pediatric Society disclaims any responsibility for hotel arrangements. Please make check payable and send to Bahia Hotel at address listed above. Phone Number: 1-800-288-0770.

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Recent graduate from Cedars-Sinai Medical Center is seeking employment as a part-time or locum tenens pediatrician. References available upon request. Please feel free to contact me via e-mail: hilarybowers@hotmail.com or phone: 310-963-2718.

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Locum tenens position available commencing 12/22/03 in private practice in Encino, California. Board-Certified Pediatrician with valid D.E.A. and California Licenses with minimum one years experience in General Pediatrics. Current position involves 32-36 hours/week in the office, on call approximately once weekly. Providing coverage for associate on maternity leave. Anticipated duration of six weeks work plus possibility of future per diem days. Please contact 818/783-3110.
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Ronald L. and Patricia M. Violi Professor of Child Development, Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh; Professor of Pediatrics, University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine.

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CHARLES G. PROBER, M.D., Professor of Pediatrics, Medicine, Microbiology and Immunology; Associate Chair, Department of Pediatrics; Stanford University School of Medicine; Scientific Director, Glaser Pediatric Research Network.

David L. SKAGGS, M.D., Associate Professor of Orthopedic Surgery, University of Southern California School of Medicine, Division of Orthopedic Surgery, Childrens Hospital of Los Angeles, California.

Laurie Smith, M.D., FAAP, FAAAAI, FAACI, Senior Staff Allergist, Allergy Immunology Department, Walter Reed Army Medical Center, Washington, DC.

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<td><strong>Full Name</strong>: ___________________________ <strong>Birth Year</strong>: ________</td>
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<td></td>
<td>First      Middle Last</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td><strong>Your LISTING for the Directory of Members</strong>: Listings are limited to two addresses. Academy and College members are urged to add affiliation initials after degree. Please make listing exactly as you want it published.</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Name</strong>: ___________________________</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>1. Street</strong>: ___________________________ <strong>Phone</strong>: ( ) _______________ <strong>City</strong>: ___________________________ <strong>State</strong>: ________ <strong>Zip</strong>: ___________</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>2. Street</strong>: ___________________________ <strong>Phone</strong>: ( ) _______________ <strong>City</strong>: ___________________________ <strong>State</strong>: ________ <strong>Zip</strong>: ___________</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Specialty</strong>: ___________________________ <strong>Bd. Cert.</strong> Date of Cert. Date of Re Cert. <strong>Bd. Elig.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Subspecialty</strong>: ___________________________ <strong>Bd. Cert.</strong> Date of Cert. Date of Re Cert. <strong>Bd. Elig.</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Note Board Name for Allergy Specialty</strong>: ___________________________</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Check preferred mailing address above. If different than listing, note in Item 3.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td><strong>Street</strong>: ___________________________ <strong>City</strong>: ________ <strong>State</strong>: ________ <strong>Zip</strong>: ___________</td>
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<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td><strong>Medical School</strong>: ___________________________ <strong>Year Graduated</strong>: ________</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Internship</strong>: ___________________________ <strong>Years</strong>: ________</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Residencies</strong>: ___________________________ <strong>Years</strong>: ________</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Other Professional Training</strong>: ___________________________</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Hospital Staff</strong>: ___________________________</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Private Practice</strong>: Total Years: ________ <strong>Academic Practice</strong>: Total Years: ________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td><strong>Member in good standing of other medical and scientific societies</strong>: ___________________________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td><strong>References (Name of two physicians, preferably members)</strong>:</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>1.</strong> ___________________________ <strong>2.</strong> ___________________________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td><strong>LIFE MEMBERSHIP</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td><strong>Date</strong>: ________ <strong>Signature</strong>: ___________________________</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**YOUR CHECK FOR FIRST YEAR’S DUES ($100) MUST ACCOMPANY APPLICATION**  
**LIFE MEMBERSHIP: $1000 (One-Time)**  
Make checks payable to: los angeles pediatric society • P.O. Box 2022 • Inglewood, CA 90305
IF YOU ARE NOT ON OUR MAILING LIST:

Complete the following and return to Los Angeles Pediatric Society, PO Box 2022, Inglewood, CA 90305.

Name ...........................................................................................................
Street ..........................................................................................................
City ............................................................................................................
State / Zip .................................................................................................
Email .........................................................................................................
Specialty .....................................................................................................

☐ Certified ☐ Eligible

☐ Check if interested in membership.

All pediatricians, as well as other specialists with a professional interest in the health and welfare of children are eligible. There are no geographical limits. Annual dues of $100, includes partial fees to the Annual Brennemann Lectures and Spring/Parmelee meeting.

FREE MEMBERSHIP

Free membership in LAPS until June 30, 2004 to all third-year pediatric residents graduating this June, 2003. Our gift to you. Just fill out the application on page 11 of this newsletter and return to PO Box 4128 Torrance, CA 90510-4128 or fax to (310) 543-2375 or (323) 779-3505.