

# **PES** PEDIATRIC ENDOCRINE SOCIETY

It is with great sadness that we share that Dr. Raymond L. Hintz, longtime member and former secretary and president of the Pediatric Endocrine Society (then known as Lawson Wilkins Pediatric Endocrine Society), passed away on September 12, 2014. He was an internationally recognized force in pediatric endocrinology, and an extraordinary clinician, prolific investigator, and dedicated teacher, mentor, and leader.

Hintz was born and raised in the small town of Clyde, Ohio. He received his undergraduate education at California Institute of Technology and The Ohio State University, and his M.D. from Western Reserve University. He was a pediatric intern at the University of Wisconsin, and was a pediatric resident and chief resident at Columbus Children's Hospital at The Ohio State University. During his year as chief resident in 1968, Hintz authored one of the first descriptions in the literature of familial holoprosencephaly complicated by endocrine dysgenesis, putting him firmly on his path to a career in pediatric endocrinology.



After two years of military service in the Air Force, he moved to the University of North Carolina for fellowship training under the mentorship of Judson J. Van Wyk. Hintz took his first faculty position in 1972 at the University of Connecticut, before being recruited to Stanford University in 1975 as Chief of the Division of Pediatric Endocrinology. He built pediatric endocrinology and metabolism at Stanford from essentially a one-person unit to a large, diverse, academically robust, and thriving division. Hintz retired as Professor Emeritus in 2005.

Hintz was a pioneer and one of the giants in the field of growth and growth hormones. He was responsible for much of the seminal work that served as a critical catalyst for the future of the field, including purification and characterization of what was then called "sulfation factor" (later somatomedin C, then IGF-1), and investigation of its cellular mechanisms. His successes in

characterizing what were referred to as “the family of somatomedins,” IGF receptor sites and binding proteins were innovative advances and led to an enhanced understanding of insulin receptors and insulin resistance. Hintz’s influential contributions encompassed both basic and clinical research, including creation of diagnosis and treatment algorithms for growth failure, and recognition of derangements of growth hormone and insulin-like growth factors in a range of clinical conditions and patient populations. Hintz’s body of work includes more than 350 scientific publications in journals including *The New England Journal of Medicine*, *PNAS*, *Science*, and *Nature*, as well as books, book chapters, and editorials. In addition to numerous major invited lectureships and presentations, Hintz was honored for his outstanding work by awards including the Alexander von Humboldt Prize (1989), the Human Growth Foundation Award (2007), and the Judson J. Van Wyk Prize (2013). His expertise, productivity, and ability in team building led to his many national and international leadership roles, including as chair of numerous symposia and meeting organizing committees, editorial boards including the *Journal of Pediatric Endocrinology* and *Growth Hormone and IGF Research*, chairman for the sub-board of Pediatric Endocrinology, and advisor to the *NIH* and *US Food and Drug Administration*. Hintz served both as president (1991-92) and secretary (1998-2004) of the Pediatric Endocrine Society, president of the Growth Hormone Research Society (1998-2000), and was a member of the board of directors for the Genentech Foundation for Growth and Development (1993-2001).

Hintz was deeply dedicated to the care of his patients and they were devoted to him, maintaining connections with him even after they transitioned out of pediatric care or treatment ended. His guiding principle was always to provide extraordinary care to his patients and families, which often meant tenaciously pursuing multiple lines of inquiry to ascertain the best diagnostic and therapeutic approach. It was this determination that led Hintz to recognize connections between the unusual and rapidly progressing symptoms of ataxia in a former patient, and treatment with human growth hormone. This would lead to a challenging chapter in pediatric endocrinology, during which Hintz and others quickly alerted the community to the risks for a rare degenerative neurologic disease, Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease. Hintz’s dedicated work to protecting patients led to his being awarded a Commissioner's Special Citation, by the US Food and Drug Administration, in 1988.

Hintz trained countless medical students and residents, and mentored more than 30 fellows and post-doctoral fellows in his laboratory throughout the many years of his career. He shared his own excitement in the discovery of new scientific knowledge with his students and fellows, infusing them

with the momentum and energy to sustain them through their careers. The majority of his trainees went on to academic careers, many continuing to develop leading-edge research, becoming division chiefs, department chairs, and achieving other leadership positions. But it was equally important to Hintz to instill in his trainees a deep understanding of their responsibility to the patient and family while caring for the disease. He is remembered by his mentees as a role model, not only for his passion for research, but for his kindness, gentleness, and compassion. His own journey of expanding scholarship and thirst for learning led him to visiting professorships, including at the Karolinska Institute in Stockholm in 1983, and in Munich in 1989 and 1990. He also developed and led comprehensive courses focusing on comparative international medicine, clinical research, and research design for the Stanford University Overseas Studies Programs in Berlin in 1996, and in Oxford in 2005.

Although Hintz is recognized for his enormous contributions to pediatric endocrinology, he considered his roles as husband and father as his most important. He is survived by the partner of his life and wife for 53 years, Carol, his four children, and six grandchildren. Memorial contributions in honor of Dr. Raymond L. Hintz may be directed to the Clyde Public Library (222 W Buckeye St, Clyde, OH 43410 (419) 547-7174), where his pursuit of learning and intellectual excellence was first sparked and encouraged.

PES thanks Dr. Susan R. Hintz, daughter of Dr. Raymond Hintz, for preparing this obituary.

Thank you,

Mitchell E. Geffner, MD  
PES President

**Pediatric Endocrine Society**  
6728 Old McLean Village Drive, McLean VA, 22101  
Telephone: 703-556-9222 ~ Email: [info@pedsendo.org](mailto:info@pedsendo.org)  
[www.pedsendo.org](http://www.pedsendo.org)