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THE GROWTH HORMONE GENE CLUSTER: PHYSIOLOGICAL ACTIONS AND REGULATION DURING PREGNANCY

STUART HANDWERGER, M.D.

*Departments of Pediatrics and
Cancer and Cell Biology*

*University of Cincinnati, College of
Medicine and Division of Endocrinology
Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical
Center
Cincinnati, Ohio*

given to the roles for these hormones in the regulation of fetal growth and metabolism and to the hormonal and other factors that regulate their expression. Particular attention is given to studies from the author's laboratory. Several excellent comprehensive reviews have been published over the past few years that focus on the biology of the individual genes of the cluster.^{1,2}

INTRODUCTION

This manuscript reviews selective aspects of the molecular biology and physiology of the human growth hormone cluster genes during pregnancy. Special emphasis is

THE HUMAN GROWTH HORMONE CLUSTER

The human growth hormone gene cluster consists of the genes that code for placental lactogen (PL; also known as chorionic

From The Editor's Desk 2009

"You cannot build a house for last year's summer." This Ethiopian proverb may be applicable to the state of *GGH* on its 25th anniversary. Since 1984, when the journal was conceived, the editorial board has worked tirelessly to produce a journal of high scientific value, publishing original lead articles and reviews of the most important publications in the field with erudite editorial comments. We have pushed against our deadlines and provided our readers a high quality publication—without commercial bias. It has been gratifying, and *GGH* has become a very well appreciated source of information to pediatric endocrinologists and other specialists interested in the field. We have remained on top of the medical specialty and have been innovative—8 years ago we launched the journal on line. We now reach more than 11,000 subscribers worldwide and almost 500 readers every single day! We have told ourselves, and our readers have acknowledged, it has been *GGH* at its best; and, since its inception it has been treasured.

However, in the new world of endless headlines and multiple sources of information an educational journal like ours has become difficult to fund. Scientific breakthroughs are published in *The New York Times* and repeated endlessly on cable news. Most scientific journals now contain editorials and review articles and derive strength from the members of the society that funds the journal. They often publish targeted supplements supported by industry. Pharmaceutical companies utilize multiple means to market their products directly to physicians and have turned away from supporting an educational journal like *GGH*, or fallen on hard times themselves. We have made major efforts to continue publishing the journal and have sought support from multiple sources including the pediatric endocrine societies, and industry—to no avail.

We believe that while there is no shortage of information, there is a scarcity of objective, unbiased insight into specific issues in pediatric endocrinology. This has been *GGH's* niche and this is why it should continue informing our very large audience. But our strategy is no longer sustainable as sponsors utilize direct means of reaching and targeting their prospects. Therefore, this *GGH* issue will be the last one of the series that you have enjoyed for 25 years. You will be hearing from us if we are able to obtain the funding necessary to provide you with a valuable unbiased educational resource.

Your thoughts will be welcome at FimaLifshitz@GGHjournal.com.

Respectfully,
Fima Lifshitz, MD
Editor-in-Chief