

## The Endocrinology “Elevator Speech”

(The purpose of an elevator speech is to be able to explain to someone who is not an endocrinologist what you do quickly, clearly, and in a memorable way.)

- We are here today as members of the Endocrine Society, which is the nation’s and the world’s oldest and largest organization of endocrinologists. We have 11,000 members in the United States, have members in every state, and have 7500 more members in 121 countries.
- Endocrinologists study and treat patients with hormone disorders.
- Hormones are essential for the proper function of all the systems of the body, especially normal development, growth, puberty, reproduction and aging. If hormones are out of balance or not working properly, a person can develop diseases such as diabetes, osteoporosis, obesity, or problems with their thyroid, or infertility. Some of these can be acute life-threatening disorders like Addison’s Disease or Graves’ Disease; some of these can be chronic diseases that require treatment and monitoring. Many endocrine disorders are increasingly prevalent and are having a terrible impact on public health. For example, diabetes and obesity are shortening lifespan and cause terrible and costly complications when not adequately treated.
- As endocrinologists, we work to develop new treatments and cures for these conditions and to help patients manage their disease.
- With the increasing prevalence of so many of these diseases, including diabetes and obesity, endocrinologists are an essential part of the health care team working to prevent these diseases and the complications that result. We are often called in as the disease detective. My work, for example, involves....