It is with great personal pleasure that I introduce Dr. Robert M. Blizzard as the second recipient of the Judson J. Van Wyk, MD Prize for career achievement in pediatric endocrinology. Bob is the quintessential pediatric endocrinologist, melding the talents of a superb clinician with the deep understanding of the biological processes involved in the integrative aspects of the endocrine system.

The usual course of events for introducing someone for a “career” or “lifetime achievement” Prize would be to review his education, training and practice; however, since this is the 35\textsuperscript{th} re-union of the Lawson Wilkins Pediatric Endocrine Society, whose theme has been our history, I shall refer you to the multi-media presentations about our original founding members, including Bob Blizzard.

In brief, Bob trained in pediatric endocrinology, as did Drs. Van Wyk and Grumbach under the tutelage of Lawson Wilkins at the Johns Hopkins Medical Institutions. He began his major investigative career after hearing a lecture from Dr. Deborah Doniach who studying thyroid autoimmunity, thought at that time
to be extremely uncommon in children. Another of the early investigators was Dr. Blizzard’s friend, Dr. GianFranco Bottazzo, a colleague and co-investigator with Dr. Doniach, who delivered the Blizzard lecture on autoimmunity at our meeting last year. A twist in his career path began with the possibility of using human pituitary growth hormone as therapy for severe GH deficiency. He not only performed some of the early, seminal experiments in children, but he also had enough insight to realize that an effective system had to be devised to collect and process human pituitaries for their GH (and other hormonal) content, rather than permit the haphazard system of local collection and a possible cornering of the market. Although he was sternly advised against undertaking this project because it would delay and hamper his research career, Bob nevertheless pursued it with his usual dedication and vigor. He was rewarded several years later with the formation of the National Pituitary Agency, since renamed the National Hormone and Pituitary Program. For years this governmental agency has been instrumental to thousands of
endocrinologists and other scientists, both in the clinical and basic science spheres.

I have not yet mentioned his most important talent—at least in my personal opinion—that of a teacher and mentor to fellows and junior faculty members. His legacy is more than 50 full professors around the world who have had the privilege to train under him—learning the basics (and nuances) of clinical endocrinology, biological insights that permitted him to consider and then design important studies in children, and to interpret seemingly irreconcilable data.

His inquisitive mind is backed by a true love of children and a strong sense of moral values. In fact, as Chair of the Department of Pediatrics at The University of Virginia, Bob had a second career as a strong advocate for children at the state and national levels and for the betterment of physicians who care for children.

In retirement, Bob has chased a bunch of grandchildren around the various parts of North America and the United Kingdom; in fact, many of you have already noticed that Bob was not at the 35th
Anniversary Reception on Friday night nor at the Blizzard lecture yesterday—it was because he was doing his grandfatherly duties—attending the college graduation of one of his granddaughters. He has however found other things to do in retirement as noted in the following slides from one of his new businesses:

On a more serious note—It is for the reasons enumerated above and for a host of personal ones that I am privileged to introduce my teacher, my mentor (I believe that my 23 year fellowship with Dr. Blizzard is a record, but I am not sure for what), but most of all my cherished friend and colleague, Robert M. Blizzard, MD as the second Judson J. Van Wyk Prize winner in recognition of a career devoted to the ideals exemplified by Dr. Van Wyk: scientific excellence, integrity and dedication to the health of children.

Dr. Blizzard.