Medical Education: Take 2
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This issue of Pediatric Annals is guest-edited by Larrie Greenberg, MD, who has organized a very interesting group of timely articles related to medical education topics. The role of social media, anticipatory guidance, professionalism in medicine, relationship-centered care, and the quality improvement process are all highly relevant to the practice of pediatrics, and are covered in this issue.

I found the paper, “Advantages and Challenges of Social Media in Pediatrics,” by Drs. Kind, Greysen, and Chretien (see page 430) particularly interesting and innovative. In this era of Facebook, texting, and tweeting, it is important to recognize how our patients are using social media and how we might adapt it to our practices as well. For example, recently I attended a fascinating presentation by Dr. Rob Garofalo related to a program that targets at-risk youth (13 to 25 years old) with gender identification and alternative lifestyle issues. This program utilizes daily text message reminders regarding medication compliance, condom use, and other important issues for this high-risk group.

Since cybersafety is a concern for parents and other caregivers, I’ve chosen to illustrate this month’s column with a dark blue stamp from Morocco (see above), issued in 2009 to highlight the potential dangers of cyberspace to children; note the child grasping the finger of a shadowy figure presumably via the Internet. The large blue-purple strip of eight stamps and two labels (see above) was issued in 2011 by Indonesia, clearly to emphasize a “Healthy and Safe Internet.” The stamps symbolically demonstrate how the com-
puter plugs into the whole world via the Internet and calls for safe usage by children.

The 2011 Israeli stamp (at right) depicts a baby communicating with family members by computer. OK, this is somewhat farfetched, but kids are picking up these skills at younger and younger ages! My grandson was calling his out-of-state grandmother on his mother’s iPhone at 18 months. This stamp celebrates the 100th anniversary of Clalit, also known as Kupat Holim Clalit, a leading Israeli health service organization founded in 1911, 37 years before the State of Israel was established.

Dr. Elizabeth Rider’s piece (see page 447) includes a quote by Sir William Osler (1849-1919), the world’s most famous physician of 100 years ago. Osler was born in northern Canada and is honored on the stamp (at right) issued in 1969 by his native land. He graduated from McGill University Faculty of Medicine and served on the medical faculties at McGill (1870-1884), University of Pennsylvania (1884-1889), Johns Hopkins (1889-1905), and then was Regius Professor of Medicine at Oxford University (1905-1919). His wife, Grace Linzee Revere Gross, was the great-granddaughter of Paul Revere. Osler was the consummate medical physician, and his interests also extended to the diseases of children, with many relevant publications. He was a very close friend of Abraham Jacobi (1840-1919), who is considered the father of American Pediatrics.

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