Dear Colleagues

By now most of you may be aware of the FDA alert regarding post marketing reports of acute pancreatitis in patients taking Byetta. As indicated, the FDA has requested and Amylin Pharmaceuticals, the maker of Byetta, has agreed to include information about acute pancreatitis in the precautions section of the product label.

Although the FDA statement is clear and provides recommendations for physicians, there are still many unanswered questions regarding the FDA alert. We are beginning the process of reviewing the available data and formulating recommendations that will be appropriate for the information that is and will be available in the next months. We would encourage AACE members to share information that you have that you believe to be relevant, and to ask us questions you would like us to answer that will be most helpful to you in the care of your patients on exenatide (Byetta).

We expect that in the coming weeks more data will be presented, from a variety of sources, and it is appropriate to weigh and sift through the evidence carefully so as to be most useful to our members and their patients. We will be communicating with you as soon as this evidente accumulates.

Richard Hellman, MD, FACP, FACE

President