

APA Focus

The Official Newsletter of the Academic Pediatric Association

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Communications Director's Message

Happy start of the summer! We are very excited about enhancing our website and embarking on some new directions for communicating with all of you. The APA Twitter-members who attended the PAS meeting in Denver received a few daily Tweets with reminders about exciting events like the 2011 APA Debate and the Presidential Plenary session. We'd love to hear your feedback about the Tweets and we welcome your ideas for future PAS meetings.



As some of you know, the APA is on Facebook. We currently have over 80 members who "Like" us. If you are a Facebook member, the process is very simple. Just log into your account (www.facebook.com) and enter

Academic Pediatric Association in the search box at the top of your screen. Click on our site and click "Like" – that's it! It's just that simple! Liking the APA on Facebook will not allow others to see your profile, but you will be able to see which of your Facebook friends also like the APA. Feel free to post a message on the wall. We will be updating the Facebook site regularly and in the next few weeks we will also have a Wikipedia page!

We hope these strategies will help increase our visibility to individuals and groups who share our mission and provide additional mechanisms for members to exchange ideas and stay connected with the APA. As always,

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we welcome your feedback and suggestions for improving the newsletter, the APA website and our Facebook page. Please email me with any ideas at bsolomon@jhmi.edu. TAFN (that's all for now) - trying to stay hip in the text message generation.

Barry Solomon

Communications Director

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Academic Pediatric Association

President's Message

Let's Start a Conversation.....

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

Each year I return from the Pediatric Academic Societies (PAS) meetings energized, with scores of ideas, projects, and contacts to follow-up on, and each year I have to prevent myself from getting so quickly re-involved with the work at my home base that I lose sight of the excitement I brought back with me and get dragged down by my regular every-day responsibilities. This year, I promise I won't let that happen! As President of the APA, I want to start two discussions with you, one about the use of social media, and one about the strategic planning process that will be occurring this year.

My enthusiasm this year is tempered, however, by tragic events that preceded and followed the PAS meeting: the earthquake in Japan and the tornados in Southern US, especially the terribly destructive tornado in Joplin, Missouri. Let us take a moment to think about and open our hearts to those who lost their lives, their loved ones, their homes or their memories in those disasters. **Dave Jaffe**, President-Elect of the APA, writes about the experience in Missouri in his article in this newsletter, and my colleague **John Takayama** shares information and insights about children and families in Japan in this newsletter as well. I encourage you to read their reports.



1. Starting a conversation: The APA Board, (including Barry Solomon, our new Communications Director, and Donna D'Alessandro, who has just stepped down as Communications Director) has been wanting to communicate with you, the APA members, in an interactive way for quite a while, and trying to figure this out is on the top of our "to do" list. We need to tell you what is happening in the APA, in real-time, and we need to hear from you about important issues. We want to have a place where members can discuss issues that are important to children and families. We could do this with discussion boards or blogs on our website, but then you would all have to frequent our website on a regular or daily basis (not likely). Besides, blogs are so 2004! So we are going *to try* to use social media, specifically Facebook, as a communication platform. In part, we are

Special Interest Groups

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responding to your wishes. What we heard from you in your responses to the “Value of the APA Survey” that over 625 APA members filled out was:

- You thought we should use social networking tools such as Facebook
- You wanted us to have places for interactive discussions
- You wanted us to use the email listserv for announcements and alerts, *not* for discussions

In response, the APA is now on Facebook! See Barry Solomon's article in this newsletter to find out more.

2. Strategic Planning: Five years ago, in 2006, we had a strategic planning process which dramatically changed our organization. Out of that process, which you, our members participated in through comments and voting, some of the changes we made were:

- We changed our name to the Academic Pediatric Association to reflect our broader mission.
- We developed a plan for national leadership conferences, which have been extraordinarily helpful to our members. We have had 4 successful leadership conferences and we are now planning our 5th.
- We strengthened our commitment and activities for all our constituents, including emerging “branches” of general pediatrics like pediatric hospital medicine and child abuse pediatrics.
- We implemented an Academic General Pediatric Fellowship Accreditation Program.
- We greatly expanded our Young Investigator Awards. This year we gave 17 young investigators between \$10,000 and

\$15,000 to enhance their research careers, as well as matching them with nationally known researchers as facilitators/mentors. And all but four of these awards are supported by funding from external organizations.

- We collaborated with other pediatric organizations focusing on pediatric education to create educational “summits”. This fall, we will be hosting the 2nd Pediatric Education Excellence Across the Continuum Conference (PEEAC), jointly with APPD, COMSEP, and CoPS.
- We continued and strengthened the Educational Scholars Program that was just starting in 2006. We have already enrolled over 80 scholars in four different cohorts.
- We revitalized our committees, turning them into engines of activity year round.
- We supported and expanded research networks: CORNET (Continuity Research Network), PRIS (Pediatric Research in Inpatient Settings), and in 2010, BORN (Better Outcomes through Research for Newborns).
- We continued to advance the quality and impact of our journal, *Academic Pediatrics*.
- We intensified our advocacy activities through an expanded and invigorated Public Policy and Advocacy Committee, and with active collaboration with all the other national pediatric organizations. In just the last few weeks we strongly advocated for reauthorization of graduate medical education funding for children’s hospitals (CHGME) and for continued appropriation of funds for the National Children’s Study.

Announcements

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However, there is more work to do, and the best is yet to come! We are now in the planning phase of a new strategic plan for the next five years. We will be holding a retreat this fall involving board members, and “thought leaders”, but we want *your* direct involvement in the process both before the retreat and after the retreat. We will be using your input from the “Value of the APA Survey” as a guide. We hope to use interactive social media to get your comments and ideas. You will be hearing more about our strategic planning process over the next few months. So stay tuned! Feel free to email me directly at bpd1@nyumc.org with your thoughts. All the best.

Benard P. Dreyer

President

Academic Pediatric Association

bpd1@nyumc.org

Past President's Message

The 2011 PAS Meeting was very special to me both professionally and personally. It was full of wonderful events ranging from our APA Board meeting which preceded the meeting to the numerous activities during the meeting. I found the meeting to be quite



exciting and I thought the content was exceptionally good this year. I attended sessions that exposed me to new ideas, augmented knowledge in areas of already established interest and challenged me in new ways. That is the beauty of this meeting; to have exposure to many different activities and disciplines. The high quality of the meeting was due both to the work of the PAS Program Committee, but also the input from so many of you as our APA Members. Hundreds of our members reviewed abstracts to determine the platform and poster presentations, reviewed workshops in order to select the highest quality to meet the needs of our members, and hundreds of members presented their research, workshops or invited science at the meeting. Finally, so many of you helped in selecting APA award winners and the awardees of the Young Investigator Award. The success of the PAS meeting depends on all of you and you rose to the occasion. And now this cycle begins again. New submissions for Invited Science for the 2012 PAS meeting are due June 30. Hope you will consider submitting.

Personally the meeting was a real highlight of my career. It followed my year as APA President that was busy, but full of fun and extraordinary opportunities in representing the APA in many venues. From serving on the PAS Program Committee, meeting with the Young Investigator Award winners, attending the Environmental Scholars meeting, participating with other organizations in FOPO, PCOC, health care reform and redesigning the Public Policy Council, and attending some of the APA Regional meetings, I was continuously reminded of the depth and breadth of our organization. At the PAS meeting I also had the opportunity to chat with both the new and past New Century Scholars, attend the Young Investigator Award breakfast and hear about the new exciting projects of our future researchers, meet with past APA officers, thank members of the Education, Health Care Delivery, Research and Public Policy Committee, attend some of the regional breakfasts, the new membership meeting and so many other activities.

The APA Board works very hard throughout the year and volunteers their time to make our organization so successful. What a wonderful group of board members and their contributions exceeded expectations. Numerous new programs and activities were introduced this year including:

- BORN Network (Better Outcomes through Research in Newborns) as a core APA Function
- Reach Out and Read Young Investigator Award
- APA Research Awards for Medical Students, Residents and Fellows
- PAS Fellowship Curriculum
- Value of APA Survey to assist our strategic planning
- Establishment this coming year of the Resident Investigator Award (RIA)
- APA Meet and Greet for New Members at the Meeting
- APA Mentorship Task Force
- Further development of APA Global Health Task Force
- Continuation of the APA Oral History Project
- 3 new SIGs including Academic Fellows, HealthCare Transition and Disease Self Management and Teaching in Community Settings
- Creation and approval of the APA Industry Policy Statement
- APA Public Policy and Advocacy Committee endorsed 31 letters, campaigns and coalitions
- APA joined the Public Policy Council with AAP, AMSPDC, APS and SPR to advocate nationally for equitable health care for children.

I kept a journal during my year as President. In reviewing it, I was most struck by the amazing versatility of our organization, the breadth and depth of activities, the talents of our members, and the amazing resilience of our organization. So thanks to all of you for helping to make my year so wonderful and memorable. As we celebrated the first 50 years of the APA, let's look forward to creating, planning and living the next 50. All of you have such an important role so please get involved. I am looking forward to working with **Benard Dreyer** as President and the new board members (**David Jaffe, Denice Cora-Bramble, Paul Chung, Barry Solomon**) who will uphold the high standards of our organization. And in closing, I would like to thank **Danielle Laraque** and **Benard Dreyer** for their incredible mentorship and insights, in addition to **Marge Degnon, Connie Mackay, Nui Dhepyasuwan, Jennifer Padilla and Usha Misra** for their wisdom, patience and contributions in carrying out our APA mission.

Janet Serwint

Immediate Past President
Academic Pediatric Association
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President Elect's Message

One of the most poignant moments for me at the PAS meeting occurred when we received a briefing by **John Takayama** about the earthquake/tsunami disaster in Japan. This natural disaster left many children homeless or orphaned. Dr. Takayama stressed the likelihood of the enduring need for social and psychological support for these children. Victor Frankl wrote about the ability of people to survive and adapt to the most extreme circumstances. Children will adapt, but the expertise of our finest minds in helping to mitigate the long term psychological impact has been requested,



and will be needed to optimize psychological adaptation to this disaster.

Since the PAS meeting, another natural disaster occurred much closer to home: killer tornadoes in Alabama and, most recently, Joplin, Missouri, which is located only a bit over 200 miles from my home in St. Louis. President Obama talked about unexpected heroism during his recent visit to Joplin. I received a first-hand account written by a heroic emergency physician, Dr. Kevin Kitka, who was in the St. John's Hospital in Joplin when it was hit by the tornado. "We heard a loud horrifying sound like a large locomotive ripping through the hospital. The whole hospital shook and vibrated as we heard glass shattering, light bulbs popping, walls collapsing, people screaming, the ceiling caving in above us, and water pipes breaking. We suffered this in complete darkness. The whole process took about 45 seconds, but seemed like an eternity." Dr. Kitka described the work he did subsequently. He put in chest tubes, intubated people on the brink of death with no drugs, and described this child he treated: He was 3-years-old, and "had a large avulsion of skin to his neck and spine. The gaping wound revealed his cervical spine and upper thoracic spine bones. I could actually count his vertebrae with my fingers. His eyes pleaded with me to help him. We could not find any pediatric collars in the darkness, and water from the shattered main pipes was showering down upon all of us. We were able to get him immobilized with towels, start an IV with fluids and pain meds before shipping him out."

These events remind me of the importance of disaster planning and my responsibility as a pediatrician to ensure that the needs of children are not forgotten. Trucks filled with blankets, new underwear, flip-flop shoes, nonperishable canned food and commercial cash cards collected in our St. Louis community are being dispatched to Joplin as I write this column. Knowing that the hospital in Joplin was destroyed in 45 seconds of tornadic fury, I think about what that would be like at my children's hospital. Have I done what I can to make us prepared? Would I be ready to respond as Dr. Kitka and the many other heroes did in Joplin?

Electronic and social media have made communication of needs and ways to help in response to disaster more precise and rapid than in the past, although my experience is that communication is still a major challenge in disaster response. As the days pass, needs may change, but I remind myself to find ways to reach out, to fill in the spaces between us and to help, even in small ways, to ease the burden of the children and families affected by disaster.

David Jaffe

President-Elect

Academic Pediatric Association

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Secretary's Message

We had a great meeting of the Pediatric Academic Societies in Denver last month. Believe it or not, it is already time to begin thinking about the **next PAS meeting in Boston, MA from April 28-May 1, 2012!** We hope members of The APA will submit proposals for the *invited science components* of the PAS meeting. These include State of the Art Plenary Sessions, Topic Symposia, Hot Topics and Mini-Courses (not workshops, which will be solicited later this summer and due mid-August). These sessions are excellent opportunities for APA members to get involved and have fun sharing knowledge with others at the meeting. The deadline for submission of proposals is June 30, 2011. The descriptions below will give you an idea of the focus for each of these scientific sessions. There is some overlap in their descriptions, so do not focus too much on how your proposal fits into one of these categories. If you have an interesting concept that



would be relevant to our members, submit the proposal!! Please propose your best ideas toward a state of the art plenary, topic symposia, hot topic, or mini-course. Proposals should be submitted electronically using the web-based 2012 Official PAS Program Submission program found on the PAS meeting website at www.pas-meeting.org. The submission deadline is June 30. After you have formally submitted a proposal, please send me a copy at sselbst@nemours.org. While the APA cannot guarantee acceptance of any proposal, we can offer support at the Program Committee meeting for sessions that are particularly relevant to the APA. Good luck!! We hope to see you in Boston.

For questions, please contact **Marge** or **Connie** at the APA office or by email at info@academicpedis.org.
Steven M. Selbst

Secretary
Academic Pediatric Association
sselbst@nemours.org

State of the Art Plenary: Type of Invited Science Sessions. These sessions update and solidify understanding in interdisciplinary areas of pediatric medicine. They are commonly forums for the presentation of new developments and seminal advances in biomedical research and involve invited lectures from international leaders in the field. They are designed to be of interest to a broad range of attendees.

Topic Symposia: These sessions address issues and controversies around topics of interest to a particular audience. They are generally focused on a more specific topic than the State of the Art Plenary sessions and often allow time for active audience discussion.

Hot Topics: These sessions focus on areas of rapid clinical discovery and excitement and address new or controversial issues. They seek to stimulate new areas of research or interactions for participants in targeted areas. Time should be allowed for active audience participation.

Treasurer's Message

At the recent PAS meetings in Denver, **David Keller** passed the treasurer's baton to me. We all owe a debt of gratitude to David for having served in this role with diligence, dedication and knowledge. The symbolic baton I received embodies an Academic Pediatric Association that is financially stable, fiscally responsible, transparent and accountable. I consider three financial issues to be essential during this next leg of the treasurer's relay race: (1) ongoing turbulence in the financial markets, (2) fundraising opportunities and, (3) strategic investments in APA priority areas. I will share my thoughts regarding each of these issues:



Ongoing turbulence in the financial markets – While there have been some signs of recovery, the US financial markets continue to sputter without consistent and sustained improvement. The financial strength of the APA is in part due to a portfolio wisely invested in the financial markets. During my tenure as treasurer, I will collaborate with others in making sure that we mitigate the risks and sustain the financial growth of the investment portfolio.

Fundraising opportunities – Options to grow the APA's financial base include securing new external grants and contracts as well as strengthening membership fundraising. Both external and internal strategies offer opportunities for growth, which I plan to jointly explore with my fellow board members.

Strategic investment in APA priority areas – In October, 2011 the APA’s leadership will embark on developing a new strategic plan. The APA’s solid financial platform will support and hopefully increase investments in areas identified as organizational priorities.

As the new treasurer, I unequivocally have large shoes to fill. I welcome the opportunity to join forces with the APA board and members to strategically grow and invest in APA programmatic priorities.

Denice Cora-Bramble

Treasurer

Academic Pediatric Association

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Annual Meeting Highlights

Annual Meeting Photo Highlights

The PAS 2011 Meeting in Denver was a great success. The sessions enhanced the knowledge and skills of the participants in areas of leadership, clinical medicine, education, policy, advocacy and research which specifically related to academic medicine.

Please enjoy some photo highlights of the meeting!



Janet Serwint at APA Membership Meeting and debate



Glenn Flores giving APA Research Award to Allison Kempe



Jane Knapp giving APA Health Care Delivery Award to Susan Fisher-Owens



John M. Leventhal - Miller Sarkin Mentoring Award



APA Past President Janet Serwint and President Benard Dreyer



Joseph Gilhooly, Ann Burke, David Keller, Stephen Ludwig and Franklin Trimm during the APA Debate



APA President-Elect Benard Dreyer giving the APA Teaching Award to Anda Kuo



Mark Schuster giving the APA Public Policy and Advocacy Award to Jonathan Winickoff



APA Past President Janet Serwint giving APA George Armstrong Lecture award to Carol Berkowitz



APA Past President Janet Serwint calling the business meeting to order



APA Board singing

[APA Membership Meeting and Debate Photo Slideshow](#)

[Denver 2011 Posters Slideshow](#)

[PAS Opening Session Photo Slideshow](#)

Upcoming Conferences

Pediatric Educational Excellence Across the Continuum (PEEAC) 2011

PEEAC 2011

September, 9-10, 2011

Arlington, VA

Registration coming soon!



Pediatric Hospital Medicine (PHM) 2011

PHM 2011

July 27-31, 2011

Kansas City, MO

Register Now!



Committee Reports

Education Committee

This year, at the Education Committee meeting, we received updates about the APA's core educational activities (see below to note important dates) and heard from our colleagues about potential ways to participate in activities and projects being sponsored by COMSEP and APPD. With the Presidents of these organizations in attendance, we discussed a continuing interest in, and commitment to, collaboration. During the meeting, we also participated in a strategic planning exercise to define priority projects for the committee over the next few years. Opportunities for members to participate in projects and results of the planning exercise will be distributed via the Education Committee list-serve. In addition, we presented The Ray E. Helfer award for Innovation in Pediatric Education to **Amy Starmer, Ted Sectish, Dennis Simon** and Christopher Landrigan for their work entitled, "Impact of a Resident Handoff Bundle on the Medical Error Rates and Written Handoff Miscommunications."

Please note the following:

*Online application opens on **July 1** for the next cohort of scholars in the Educational Scholars Program

*The 2nd Pediatric Educational Excellence Across the Continuum (**PEEAC**) meeting is scheduled for **September 9-10, 2011**. Registration coming soon.

If you do not currently participate as a member of the Education Committee List-Serve, sign up today on the members only section of the website so that you receive important information and updates.

Maryellen E. Gusic
Education Committee Chair
mgusic@iupui.edu

Health Care Delivery

The Health Care Delivery Committee met during the annual PAS meeting in Denver. **Michael Cabana**, the outgoing committee chair, reported on the success of the Quality Improvement Symposium held on the Friday before the meeting. Attended by over 100 persons, the program was funded by an AHRQ R13 award. Based on feedback and the interest generated, the committee is pursuing a preconference for 2012.

The committee will be working on developing an agenda for the next year or two. We chose the topic From Health Care Fragmentation to Integration. APA members are directed to **Steve Ludwig's** commentary in the May issue of *Academic Pediatrics* as the inspiration for our topic. The first phase of our agenda will be to plan and submit a session on the topic for the 2012 PAS Conference in Boston. Another topic we plan to explore for development is international models in health care delivery.

The Health Care Delivery Committee is forming an executive committee from the group of attendees at the Denver meeting. We welcome additional committee members. E-mail your interest to **Jane Knapp** at jknapp@cmh.edu.

The Health Care Delivery Award was presented to the **Primary Teeth Program** at the University of California-San Francisco School of Medicine. It was accepted by Susan Fisher-Owens, the Program Director. The purpose of this award is to recognize an innovative and effective program that provides health care in the context of a teaching setting. The program must include residents and/or medical students. It may provide general pediatric care, care to children with special needs (e.g., children with lead poisoning, teenage mothers and their children, or children with chronic illnesses), or a system of care (e.g., an immunization tracking system). The award recognizes an outstanding program or system of health care. APA members are encouraged to consider submitting nominees for 2012. The winning program could be in your own backyard.

Jane F. Knapp
Health Care Delivery Chair
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Core Activities

CORNET

CORNET was well represented at the 2011 meeting in Denver – the mile high city of Colorado. Due to all of our members' dedication and contributions to the network, CORNET had a broad array of abstracts and a workshop that were presented at this meeting. We had presentations on various topics such as:

- Is continuity measured in continuity clinics?
- Strategies physicians use for increasing adolescent immunization rates in primary care
- Resident health care utilization for themselves and their families

- Whether practice sites have integrated mental health models at their sites.
- Continuity Clinic and QI

Furthermore, the data collection for the *Bright Futures* study has been completed. This study is a randomized controlled trial of incorporation of preventive health strategies comparing a more intensive web-based educational module on oral health to a streamlined web-based module on iron deficiency prevention. We had two platform presentations presented at the 2011 PAS meeting. Results show that residents receiving the Bright Futures curriculum improved in confidence and knowledge around BF concepts, as well as improvement in oral health confidence and exam.

Thank you Bright Futures participants!

Patrick Brown and **Cheryl Tierney** - Baystate Medical Center, MA

Kathleen Previll and **John Olsson** - Brody School of Medicine at East Carolina University, NC

Roberto Rodriguez, **Michelle Gallas** and **Marilyn Doyle** - Children's Hospital of Austin, TX

Sandy Sanguino and **Bob Tanz** - Children's Memorial Hospital / Northwestern University, IL

Maria Dycoco and **Nasreen Talib** - Children's Mercy Hospitals & Clinics, MO

Diane Kittredge and **Susanne Tanski** - Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center, NH

Mort Wasserman and **Jerry Larrabee** - Fletcher Allen Healthcare/University of Vermont College of Medicine, VT

Bill Stratbucker and **Ben Sarver** - Helen Devos Children's Hospital, MI

Joe Evans, **James Lewis** and Joe Binder - Joan C Edwards School of Medicine at Marshall University, WV

Denisse Mueller, **Robert Dudas** and **Mike Crocetti** - Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, MD

Kristina Gustafson - Medical University of South Carolina, SC

Susan Post and Abdulla Gori - Metrohealth Medical Center, OH

Cindy Osman, Cynthia Cutler and **Arthur Fierman** - New York University, NY

Angeles Pena, Marlo McIlraith, **Cindy Ferrell** and **Arthur Jaffe** - Oregon Health & Science University, OR
Jaffe

Robert Bonner and **Shareen Kelly** - St. Christopher's Hospital for Children, PA

Heidi Sallee and **Sue Heaney** - St. Louis University School of Medicine, MO

Robyn Blair and Susan Guralnick - Stony Brook University Medical Center, NY

Karla L Garcia, Joani Jack and **Annamaria Church** - T.C. Thompson's Children's Hospital, TN

Shelly Baldwin and **Lanessa Bass** - University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences / Arkansas Children's Hospital, AR

Grael O'Brien - University of Connecticut School of Medicine, CT

Don Fillipps and Lindsay Thompson - University of Florida, FL

Susan Feigelman - University of Maryland, MD

Lee Sanders, Andrea Assantes and Lourdes Forster - University of Miami/Jackson Memorial Hospital, FL

Sheilah Snyder - University of Nebraska Medical Center, NE

Lou Ludwig and **Marny Dunlap** - University of Oklahoma, OK

Sharon Dabrow and **Rani Gereige** - University of South Florida, FL

Madeleine Bruning, **Roni Vasan** and Jennifer Saenz - University of Southern California, LAC and USC Medical Center, CA

Renee Kottenhahn and **Shirley Klein** - Wilmington Hospital Health Center, DE

Also complete is the data collection for The Health Care of Pediatric Residents and their Families study. The study design was a cross sectional survey examining pediatric residents' access to medical, mental health and dental care in addition to practices of self-prescribing and prescribing for colleagues. Results were presented in 2 posters at the PAS meeting. The results from this study will help to inform the Residency Review Committee (RRC) and the ACGME.

Thank you to the Resident Healthcare study participants!

William Stratbucker - Devos Children's Hospital
Maria Nanagas - Dayton Children's Medical Center
Daniel Neuspiel - Levine Children's Hospital
Cynthia Ferrell - Oregon Health & Science University
Terry Hetzler - NY Medical College/Westchester Medical Center
Janet Serwint - Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine
Mike Steiner - University of North Carolina Children's Hospital
Michelle Barratt - University of Texas
Sharon Dabrow - University of South Florida
Judith Groner and Melissa Meyer - Nationwide Children's Hospital
Jacques Benun - Rhode Island Hospital/Hasbro Children's Hospital
Sandra Sanguino - Children's Memorial Hospital/Northwestern University
Cheryl Tierney - Baystate Medical Center
Melissa Brinn - Brody School of Medicine at East Carolina University
Christelle Iboudo and **Donna Halloran** - St. Louis University School of Medicine
Susan Feigelman - University of Maryland
Betty Staples - Duke University Medical Center
Jan Drutz - Baylor College of Medicine/Texas Children's Hospital
Heather Burrows - University of Michigan

The 7th Annual CORNET Executive Committee Meeting took place immediately following the PAS meeting in Denver on May 3-4, 2011. During this meeting, we continued our momentum from PAS and discussed plans for revision of the enrollment survey, strategic planning, project dissemination, the Value of CORNET survey and also exploring different funding streams for infrastructure support.

*Thanks to all of the CORNET members, Steering Committee and Regional Research Chairs
for your hard work this year!*

Have an idea for a project?

CORNET is interested in embarking on new ones. If you have been contemplating an idea for a research project that addresses CORNET's goals of focusing on health care issues of minority and underserved children, pediatric health care disparities and/or resident education in the continuity clinical settings, we encourage you to act on it. Contact us at CORNET@academicped.org

Nui Dhepyasuwan

Research Associate, Network Coordinator
nui@academicped.org

Educational Scholars Program

THE APA EDUCATIONAL SCHOLARS PROGRAM IS NOW RECRUITING A NEW COHORT OF SCHOLARS

The APA's Educational Scholars Program (ESP) is **recruiting both scholars and faculty** for Cohort 5, which will begin in May 2012. To download a recruitment flyer, [click here](#). Since 2006, 31 scholars have earned Certificates of Excellence in Educational Scholarship, and 39 scholars are currently active in the program.

Previous scholars have made the following comments about the impact of program participation on their careers:

“The Educational Scholars Program has been incredibly valuable to me. I have participated in several faculty development activities over the last 10 years and the ESP stands out as a highlight.”

“The ESP faculty and program leaders are outstanding educators. They are committed to providing a top notch educational and mentoring experience for faculty who are passionate about educational scholarship. I’ve made many strong professional connections with other scholars in the program which has now developed into an important peer mentoring network for all of us.”

“I believe the ESP was instrumental in providing me the tools to showcase my educational work and contributed significantly to my academic promotion last year.”

What do Scholars do in the Educational Scholars Program? Scholars complete an application, as described below. The ESP curriculum includes **3 full-day teaching sessions**, which scholars attend over 3 years at the PAS meetings, and educational **modules** that are to be completed between PAS meetings. Each scholar develops an **educator portfolio** and receives expert feedback on it. Finally, scholars must plan and conduct a **mentored, scholarly project in education**. To receive a Certificate of Excellence in Educational Scholarship, each must provide evidence of a successfully **peer reviewed presentation or publication** related to the project. For more information on the ESP curriculum and other program activities, go to http://www.academicpeds.org/education/education_scholars_program.cfm.

What do ESP Faculty do in the program? The ESP is an ideal way for mid-level and senior academic pediatricians to build their educational mentoring and leadership skills by working one-on-one with future stars in the world of pediatric education, and enjoying fine networking opportunities with other dedicated educators. Our current group of 34 faculty serve as Faculty Advisors (2 scholars each), Cohort Leaders, PAS Instructors, Intersession Module Leaders, and ESP Administrators. Several faculty advisors are needed for the incoming group of scholars.

ESP faculty are well positioned for future leadership positions in the APA. If you are interested, please contact Program Director **Connie Baldwin** at constance_baldwin@urmc.rochester.edu or Cohort 5 Leader, **Lindsey Lane** at lane.lindsey@tchden.org.

Scholar Application Process: The ESP application website will open on July 1, 2011, and the deadline for online submissions is October 1. Scholars must complete an application, including a 2-page project proposal, and undergo a rigorous selection process. **Those interested in applying must choose a mentor and begin planning a project for inclusion in their application without delay.** You can access the application website at: http://www.ambpeds.org/certificationProgram/workshops/main_application_menu.cfm?admin=true Applicants must submit letters of support from their mentor and another faculty member who knows their work well. They must also provide a statement from their supervisor that commits to payment of an **enrollment fee of \$5,000** and permission for the scholar to **devote 10% FTE to the program over 3 years (May 2012 – May 2015)**. All scholars are expected to be or become members of the Academic Pediatric Association by the time of enrollment in the ESP. For more information, contact **Connie Mackay** at connie@academicpeds.org.

Constance Baldwin

Program Chair

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Region Reports

Region I

Denver proved to be an excellent location for this year's PAS, with a fresh dusting of snow to cover the mountain tops...sure beats the rain in spring or mud season in New England. There are too many participants from the region to mention them all but we did want to recap the Region Breakfast and give recognition to award winners from the region.

The breakfast started with a "parlor game" of introductions and "what do I want to get from the APA" in 6 words or less. This generated a long list with a few clear themes of collaboration, mentorship and networking. Then a review of the "The Six Sources Strategy Matrix" from Vital Smarts eventually led us to an active and productive discussion on how to increase region participation. Suggestions included presenting region wide awards similar to those presented on the national level, further developing the region meeting, increasing membership with trainee involvement, and local institutional leadership. Questions about the timing of the region meeting in the fall were addressed as we are hoping to have members present their works at the meeting to gather feedback from our regional experts in time to submit abstracts for presentation which are due on November 17, 2011.

The benefits of being a region chair were reviewed as we actively recruited members to serve a three year term as region Co-Chair. If you are interested please let us know.

And last, but certainly not least, the following APA Region I members were recognized for their achievements at this year's PAS meeting. We are truly proud of their accomplishments.

Miller Sarkin Mentoring Award (APA)

John Leventhal

Yale University School of Medicine
New Haven, CT

Ludwig-Seidel Award (APA)

Raina Mitelia Paul, MD
Boston Medical Center
Boston, MA

Public Policy & Advocacy Award (APA)

Jonathan Winickoff

Harvard Medical School / Massachusetts General Hospital
Boston, MA

Ray E. Helfer Award (APA)

Amy Jost Starmer

Children's Hospital Boston
Boston, MA

Resident Research Award (APA) for The Impact of Improved Housing and Non-Agricultural Land Ownership on Child Malnutrition in Rural Guatemala.

Asya Agulnik
Children's Hospital Boston
Boston, MA

Resident Research Award (APA) for HIV Risk and Perceptions of Masculinity among Adolescent and Young Adult Black Males Who Have Sex with Males

Errol L. Fields, MD, PhD, MPH
Children's Hospital Boston and Boston Medical Center
Boston, MA

Fellows Research Award (APA) for Trends in Pediatric Exposures and Ingestions Related to Adult Pharmacotherapy

Lindsey C. Burghardt
Children's Hospital Boston
Boston, MA

Region Co- Chairs:

Ada Fenick
ada.fenick@yale.edu

Marcia VanVleet
mvanvleet@WIHRI.org

Region II

Thank you to those who attended the Region II breakfast at PAS in Denver. We had a great turnout and it was so nice to see everyone and discuss upcoming events. **Cindy Osman** and **Suzy Tomopoulos** opened up their final breakfast as region chairs giving us a brief review of our Regional Meeting which was held on March 11, 2011 at NYU. They then gave us an update regarding some of the discussions which occurred at the APA Board Meeting which included such topics as having a regional research network and the increasing popularity of hospital medicine. **Benard Dreyer** also addressed the group, welcoming us to PAS and expressing his excitement to work with us in the coming year as the President of the APA.

We would like to thank Sylvia Lim for her hard work and dedication as our Young Investigator Coordinator. **Ellen Silver** took over the position at our Regional Breakfast in Denver. This program will award a grant for up to \$1,500 for research related to child health promotion, teaching, or patient care. We are looking forward to reviewing proposals and announcing the recipient. We will need volunteers to help with this process. If interested, please e-mail **Ellen** (Ellen.Silver@einstein.yu.edu) or any of us.

Please look in your email for our needs assessment for our upcoming regional meeting. If you already completed one at the PAS regional breakfast, you need not complete another one. So far it seems that the following topics are quite popular: Teaching in the Clinical Setting, Handoff Communication, Survey Design, Grant Writing, Work-Life Balance, Bullying Prevention, Legislative Work, and Health Care Reform and its impact on residency education. We are planning for the meeting to again take place in New York City, location and date to be determined. Based on our conversations at the regional breakfast, we all agreed to continue the tradition of having our spring meeting with Region III. Please let us know if you want to help us put the meeting together.

Finally, we would like to take this opportunity to once again thank **Suzy Tomopoulos** and **Cindy Osman**, our outgoing regional chairs. They are true role models and we hope to emulate the enthusiasm, leadership, and dedication they exhibited.

If you have any comments, suggestions, or questions, please feel free to e-mail us.

Region Co-Chairs:

Jennifer DiPace

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Allison Gorman

agg9003@med.cornell.edu

Brian Lurie

Brian.Lurie@atlantichhealth.org

Region III

Individuals from Region III had many outstanding platforms and posters at PAS. Great job everyone! Thanks to those of you who joined us for our regional breakfast; it was a small but enthusiastic group. There we reminded everyone about the PEEAC conference taking place in the fall and about deadlines for the Educational Scholars Program. Individuals introduced themselves and discussed their areas of interest. We were particularly happy to see some new members from Syracuse. After a brief discussion, we decided to again hold next year's regional meeting jointly with Region II. Please send us any news you would like highlighted in this newsletter—publications, lectures, workshops, or general announcements from members in our region, and have a great summer!

Region Co-Chairs:

Cynthia Rand

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Carrin Schottler-Thal

schottc@mail.amc.edu

Region IV

For all who attended the PAS meeting in Denver- we hope you had a great time! Thanks to everyone who made it to the Region IV breakfast on Monday morning.

We have a great region- always with some wonderful leaders! Congratulations to **Janet Serwint** on a successful term as APA President, to Hanna Kim on receiving the Resident Research Award, and to **Barry Solomon** on his election as the APA Communications Director.

After 3 great years of service from **Ivor Horn**, we are excited to announce that **Mike Steiner** is the new regional Co-chair.

Planning for our Annual Region IV meeting is already underway. Mark your calendars- the meeting will take place in Charlottesville, VA, on February 25th-26th. It is always a great meeting with platform presentations, interactive workshops, a “Meet the Professors” Breakfast, and a Resident QI/QA Project Poster Session. This meeting provides a perfect opportunity to network and exchange ideas with colleagues in a relaxed and engaging setting. Planning committee chairs this year are **Colleen Kraft** and **Martha Hellems**.

Watch your in-boxes for more information coming very soon, and encourage your colleagues, trainees and students to attend!

We hope to see you in Charlottesville in February!

Region Co-Chairs:

Rachel Dodge

rdodge3@jhmi.edu

Mike Steiner

msteiner@med.unc.edu

Region V

Welcome back from Denver and another great PAS! Hopefully everyone has gotten back into the swing of things and is ready for the summer heat.

Here in Region V we have a lot of activity going on. After taking time off for the Regional Meeting, our Regional Teleconferences are back on! The next one will be with our own **Bill Stratbucker**, talking about issues surrounding pediatric obesity on June 22nd at noon EDT. As usual, we will be using Perfect Meetings (Meeting PIN is 9145). Check your email for updated instructions on connecting to the teleconference for the website has undergone some changes.

We are also very excited to announce the naming of a new Region V co-chair! **Allison Brindle** is from Children’s Hospital, Cleveland Clinic. She is an Associate Program Director there and is also in the APA’s Educational Scholar’s Program. We are so glad to have **Allison** on board and are looking forward to working with her to make Region V and the APA your academic home. We also would like to wish **Bill Stratbucker** well as he moves on to other responsibilities at his home program as well as doing some behind the scenes work here in Region V. He has done an excellent job serving as co-chair and it would be nice to give him a big sendoff by attending his presentation on June 22nd!

Remember to stay in touch with the news of the region as well as interact with other members by becoming a member of the Region V group on Facebook.

Region Co-Chairs:

Allison Brindle

brindla@ccf.org

Michael McKenna

mpmckenn@iupui.edu

Region VI

Region VI members had a busy breakfast at PAS. Jordan Jones, DO, our 2011 Trainee Travel Award winner, was presented his \$330.00 travel award and then provided our members with a 10 minute presentation on his winning project: *Physician Willingness to Implement a Text Messaging Immunization Reminder System*.

Sharon Wilkerson from Kansas City Mercy's Children Hospital was installed as our new region Co-Chair. Exiting Co-Chair, **Lorraine Brewer** of Kansas City Mercy's Children Hospital received a thank you gift card for her 3 years of service. It was decided to continue completing the Co-Chair election prior to PAS. Nominations will occur in mid-January via the listserv, but elections will now occur via survey monkey instead of the listserv in order to ensure anonymity for those casting ballots.

This year the Co-Chairs are encouraging members to share news of promotions, accepting new positions, or receiving grants via our region VI newsletter column. Send this information to any of the Co-Chairs: **Bernie Eskridge**, **Charlie Gaebler** or **Sharon Wilkerson**.

Members were encouraged to recruit new members at their home institutions because our budget is determined by the number of members in the region. Each region is given a base grant of \$600 and an additional \$10 per member. Since we experienced an increase in our membership over the past year, we have \$2,590 in our region VI 2011-12 budget. After covering our PAS breakfast expenses the Region should be left with around \$1,000 for our regional meeting and 2012 Trainee Travel Award.

The remaining portion of the breakfast was devoted to discussing our regional meeting. Although the fall 2010 meeting had presenters or workshop leaders from five different institutions, only 18 individuals attended the meeting. The Co-Chairs all agreed the amount of time and effort spent arranging the meeting was difficult to justify for such low attendance.

Results of the recent region VI regional meeting survey were reviewed to inform the group on the issues that drove attendance and non-attendance. 35 members completed the survey, 18 had attended meetings and 17 had never attended meetings. Those individuals who attend regional meetings did so because of location, date and ease of travel; those individuals who didn't attend did so because of time constraints and family obligations. Since we can't provide individuals with more time or decreased family responsibilities the group decided to minimize cost and need to travel by offering a virtual meeting for this year's regional meeting. **Marlene Meltzer**, Children's Hospital of Wisconsin, offered to develop a workshop for this new mode of meeting. Tentative date of the meeting was set for February.

As we move forward with the meeting, members will be kept informed on dates and topics via the region listserv and newsletter column. The virtual meeting was considered an attractive idea since it is low cost and will free up more resources for the 2012 Trainee Travel Awards for the PAS meeting in Boston.

Region Co- Chairs:

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Sharon Wilkerson

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Region VII

- Region VII welcomes its newest co-chair, **Melissa Nass**. Melissa is originally from Boston, Massachusetts. She received her MD/MPH from Tulane Medical School in New Orleans, Louisiana and completed her residency training in Pediatrics at Brown University in Providence, Rhode Island. She returned to her husband's native city of New Orleans where she is currently an Assistant Professor of Clinical Pediatrics at Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center and is on staff at Children's Hospital of New Orleans. She has a strong interest in Adolescent Medicine and is the Medical Director of LSU's three School Based Health Centers. Her other interests include underserved patient populations, reproductive health, public health, and advocacy. Memberships include the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) and the Society of Adolescent Health and Medicine (SAHM). She is a new member of the APA and recently attended the Southern Regional Meeting hosted in New Orleans. Melissa will bring enthusiasm and support for academic pediatrics in our region. She looks forward to a role as an organizer, moderator, and delegate in Region VII and at the national level.
- The PAS meeting was held April 29th – May 3rd, in Denver, Colorado and was again a great meeting and a time to network with colleagues from coast to coast. Our regional breakfast was held Monday morning and was attended by 40 people, one of our largest groups! A brief overview from the 4 APA committees was presented and is summarized below.

HEALTH CARE DELIVERY COMMITTEE

The QI Symposium was held on Friday April 29th, and was attended by 116 people (double what was expected!). Methodology was the focus of the discussion, however next year; more primary research is likely to be presented to appeal to a wider audience. The timeframe for the next symposium is uncertain, there is discussion about having it in conjunction with PAS again or as a separate meeting altogether, or perhaps in conjunction with a leadership meeting.

Three ideas that were explored for the topic symposium for next year at PAS: 1) international/global health, 2) fragmentation to integration – Accountable Care Organizations (ACOs), and 3) re-exploring well child care and work force issues

There was discussion about reorganizing the SIGs and creating a Board Position to oversee the running and documentation of and for the SIGs. There are now 37 SIGs, but not everyone knows of or completes the necessary documentation.

APA members were encouraged to submit innovative programs for consideration for the Health Care Delivery Award. There was discussion that the APA needs to advertise more to encourage submissions that demonstrate improvement in Health Care delivery and involve students/residents/medical education.

RESEARCH COMMITTEE

A 5 year strategic plan will be developed. If anyone has input, now is the time to offer any suggestions. There are increased numbers of research awards available as there is additional funding from other sources. There is a new research network, Better Outcomes for Research in Newborns (BORN). This will be a core project of the APA and 40 newborn nurseries around the country are participating to date. The link can be found on the APA Website. BORN is set up similarly to CORNET. A current project is "The Clinical Utility of Transcutaneous Bilirubin Levels."

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Connie Baldwin spoke about the Educational Scholars Program and encouraged applications. This is a recruitment year. The website opens July 1, 2011, and the deadline for the application is October 1, 2011. This is a 3 year program. Each person completes a mentored project and develops a peer reviewed publication or a presentation (required for graduation). This program also facilitates development of an educator portfolio (great for promotion, etc). There is a \$5,000 investment, but completion of the program is a significant scholarly accomplishment and many graduates of the program move into positions such as Fellowship Directors or Program Directors—a win-win situation for all.

Pediatric Educational Excellence across the Continuum (PEEAC) meeting will be September 9-10, 2011 in Arlington, VA (just outside Washington, DC) and is co-sponsored with APA, APPD, CoPS, and COMSEP. This will focus on education across the continuum from medical students to senior faculty development. The target will be “Teachers in the Trenches” (junior faculty). Interactive workshops and discussion groups will facilitate networking. There will also be a poster session this year focusing on Innovations in Education. This meeting is open to everyone.

The APA gives multiple awards such as the Teaching Award. This is a great opportunity to recognize the accomplishments of an educational program. **John Leventhal**, of Yale, was this year’s winner of The Miller-Sarkin Mentoring Award.

Our journal, *Academic Pediatrics*, is asking for article submissions. Although getting published can be difficult, the feedback is very helpful to the author. There is also a call for journal reviewers. New reviewers are frequently paired with a senior reviewer which provides a great learning experience for a new reviewer.

There is a new task force being formed to enhance our website. The task force will focus on making improvements for APA members, providing opportunities to collaborate and network, and encouraging collaboration with APPD and COMSEP. The Education Committee of the APA may align with other task forces of these organizations such as Faculty Development, Learning and Technology, Research and Scholarship, etc.

Janet Serwint spoke briefly about encouraging a platform of collaboration to create synergy among the organizations and promote educational scholarship, enhance research potential, and address global health issues. She also spoke of the new Mentorship Task Force being developed for APA members, targeting young faculty members and now trying to generate ideas for mentors/mentees.

The Educational Guidelines are in a holding pattern pending the new residency program specifications that will be published in June. This is a great time to get involved. Please contact **Teri Turner** at ttturner@bcm.edu if you are interested in working on the guidelines.

ADVOCACY AND PUBLIC POLICY COMMITTEE

The AAP has just hired a new advocacy specialist, Becca Davison, who will be assisting academic pediatricians at the APA. Her email is rdavison@aap.org.

There will be a new AAP Pediatric Advocacy Newsletter for anyone interested.

Carol Hedges of the Colorado Fiscal Policy Institute spoke about the role of taxes and budget on children’s health services. She talked some about Colorado-specific legislature (Tax Payor Bill of Rights, 1992) that limits government revenue using a formula including rate of inflation and population

growth. Because government revenue (taxes) is limited, and since education takes the largest piece of the budget, money available to be spent on health care is decreased. Other states have considered this piece of legislation also.

There was a lot of discussion about possible strategies or talking points we should use concerning the support of child health services including 1) issue of fairness and our values as a country, 2) return on investment (money spent on children's health saves dollars in the end), 3) growing discrepancy between those with financial means and those without can ultimately lead to the deterioration of a society.

It was emphasized that it is crucial that physicians speak out and contact their legislators concerning funding of children's health services regardless of the legislator's views or political affiliation. Legislators who do not support an issue related to children's health need to hear from physicians about why they should support the issue. Similarly, legislators who already support an issue need our letters and stories to help them make their arguments in fighting for the health care issue.

Some good resources were suggested for those interested in getting more information.

-Szilagyi PG, Schuster MA, Cheng TL. The scientific evidence for child health insurance. *Academic Pediatrics* 2009;9:4-6.

-Herndon Alliance website at <http://herndonalliance.org/> has talking points concerning support of child health services.

-“Health Reform Hits Main Street” – a 9 minute cartoon video on health care reform, by The Kaiser Family Foundation at <http://www.kff.org/healthreform/Health-Reform-Explained-Video.cfm>.

Finally, some urged physicians who have not already done so to join the AMA. The AMA is currently “under fire” for supporting the Affordable Care Act. It was suggested that if you haven't joined the AMA, you should consider doing so now and when you join, state that your reason for joining is because the AMA supports the Affordable Care Act.

- Pediatric Residency Programs across the country participated in “Stand for Kids” April 25-29, 2011. Pediatricians coast to coast participated in letter writing campaigns, rallies, and other events to ask their legislators to support continued funding for the Children's Hospital Graduate Medical Education (CHGME) program. CHGME provides crucial funding to support the training of pediatric residents and fellows, and was eliminated from the 2012 federal budget. Region VII had great representation with events at Arkansas Children's Hospital (Little Rock), Texas Children's Hospital (Houston) and Children's Medical Center (Dallas). Visit the website at www.standforkids.us to see photos of residents and a map showing participating programs.

Please let us know if you have any news or other items you would like posted on our next newsletter! Happy summer everyone!

Region Co-Chairs:

Shelly Baldwin

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Nancy Kelly

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Melissa Nass

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Region VIII

Please join me in welcoming **Michelle Stevenson**, our newly elected co-chair for region VIII. Some of you may have had the opportunity to meet her. For those of you who didn't, here is a little bit about her. She went to the University of Kentucky College of Medicine for medical school and is board certified in pediatrics and pediatric emergency medicine. She is currently the Director of Research for the Division of Pediatric Emergency Medicine as well as Assistant Pediatric Residency Program Director at the University of Louisville.

The PAS meeting was once again exciting and invigorating. Several of you were able to attend the Monday morning regional breakfast. Although less than 20 members attended, it was a lovely way to meet and learn a bit about our Region VIII colleagues. We had reports from the APA committees and our outgoing and incoming APA presidents stopped by. The co-chairs have talked about enhancing the breakfast by having posters or presentations. Let us know what you think or any other ideas you may have.

It's not too early to begin planning for our Southern Regional Meeting scheduled for February 9-11, 2012 in New Orleans. Watch for calls for abstracts, workshops, etc. We are also in need of reviewers of abstracts. Let us know if you are interested in assisting in the review process.

Finally, we are now more than a month beyond the Denver meeting. Do you remember all the exciting ideas you heard about and planned to explore further when you got home? Did you, like I, wind up getting thrown back into the reality of your responsibilities? Take a few minutes to review your PAS notes and return to the excitement of PAS. So many wonderful ideas and plans need to be moved forward! As you welcome your new residents and students, have a wonderful summer!

Region Co- Chairs:

Annamaria Church

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Michelle Stevenson

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Judy Theriot

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Special Interest Group Reports

Academic Fellows

We had a successful inaugural Academic Fellows SIG Meeting at PAS this year. The session included networking among fellows and APA leadership, an informative Finding Your First Job panel discussion and strategic planning for the upcoming year. Lots of great ideas were generated. Suggestions centered on expanding online resources to include updated information on fellowship programs to facilitate networking, research collaboration and outreach to pediatric residents. In addition, there was an extensive discussion regarding the need to increase opportunities for mentorship at outside institutions for additional guidance on career development, research and leadership. The possibility of utilizing an online database to link potential mentees and mentors was discussed as well.

As a first step toward developing online resources, materials from the inaugural Fellows Core Curriculum session highlighting successful manuscript preparation and innovative teaching strategies as well as the introduction to the job search process presented at the SIG meeting have been posted on our SIG's website. Many thanks to **Lewis First**, Howard Bauchner and **Tom DeWitt** for sharing these!

We are in the process of establishing a work group of fellows and young faculty to set these ideas in motion. If you have any interest in serving on the work group, increasing your involvement in the APA or holding a leadership role- please contact us! Engaging academically oriented fellows of all disciplines in the APA, while enhancing a multitude of learning opportunities remains our goal. Please do not hesitate to share your comments to ensure our SIG continues to develop and grow over the upcoming year!

SIG Co-Chairs:

Sara Slovin

sslovin@jhsph.edu

Tracey Wilkinson

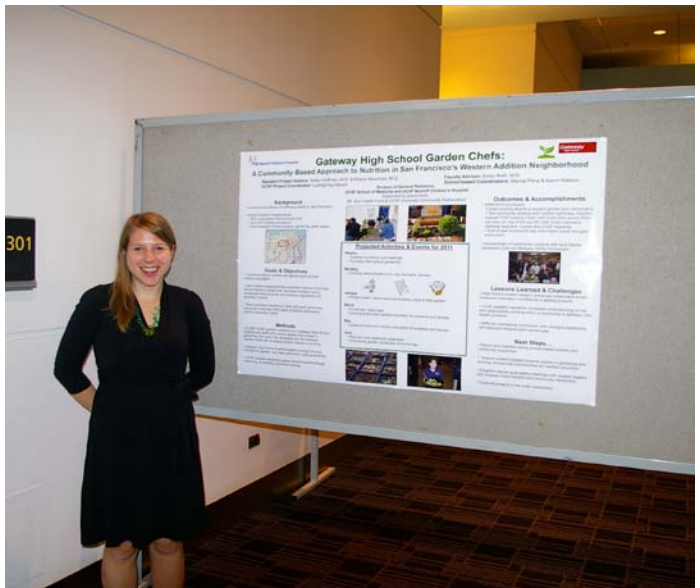
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Advocacy Training

The APA Advocacy Training SIG had a productive and thought provoking meeting at PAS in May. **Karen Sheehan, Lisa Chamberlain,** and Jeff Kaczorowski composed our expert panel to discuss “Advocacy and Research Careers.” They discussed their own paths to becoming community and health policy advocates while in turn teaching residents and expanding the evidence base in advocacy through research. The panel concluded researchers may have certain situations in which they may need to “hand off” their findings to other advocates to complete the process. In many cases, specifically in community based participatory research, the researcher may seamlessly and effectively move between roles from data gathering to implementation.

The meeting highlighted the advocacy works in progress of many residents, with fourteen poster presentations and three plenary sessions. The plenary presentations included, “Pediatricians Against Secondhand Smoke,” “The Vermont Diabetes Mentoring Project,” and “Legislative Advocacy Training in Residency.” The quality and creativity of these resident projects demonstrates that residency training in advocacy is alive and well.

An open mike discussion concluded the meeting with many programs highlighting their institutions’ advocacy curriculum and ongoing resident projects. It was suggested that a central repository of curricula would benefit programs that are just beginning and create a collective experience for the enhancement of an advocacy skill set among pediatric residents.



*Poster Session, APA Advocacy in Training SIG
Allison Moorman, UCSF presenting*

We look forward to highlighting the new pediatric residency public health curriculum at next year's meeting in Boston. Stay tuned for more news and ways to get involved.

SIG Co-Chairs:

Jennifer Walthall

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Barbara Bayldon

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Elizabeth Miller

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E-Learning in Medical Education

What an exciting meeting we had at the 2011 PAS! The e-Learning SIG enjoyed nearly-full attendance, with highly positive reviews and helpful suggestions from attendees. We'd like to thank our presenters, who provided timely, insightful materials for the advancement of online education. Specifically, the Co-Chair **Kadriye Lewis** along with John Mahan, **Lee R. Atkinson-McEvoy**, Amy E. Whittle, and Anda Kuo covered topics from online nutrition curricula and developing an electronic, portfolio-based plan for career development to the creation of multimedia modules for 21st-century learners. Special thanks is extended also to those who attended and for your contributions to the discussion. These are the elements of a successful meeting and we look forward to planning and pursuing our ideas together.

Collaboration Opportunity

The leader of the Faculty Development SIG approached **Dr. Lewis** at the PAS, asking if we would be interested in joining forces next year for a joint meeting. What are your thoughts on this? What opportunities might we explore, and what logistical and other considerations do we need to talk about? Please send your ideas and feedback either to the group via the [Wiki](#) or to either/both of the co-chairs listed below. This may be an idea worth discussing.



Dr. Lee R. Atkinson-McEvoy presents her talk, "Establishing an Electronic Portfolio-Based Individual Development Plan for Career Development" at the 2011 e-Learning SIG meeting in Denver.

Invitation for Webinar Proposals

Do you have a special topic that might be of interest to our e-Learning SIG? Would you like to have it considered for the summer or fall session? Please send a brief outline and summary of your topic and how it relates to the interests of SIG members. For consideration for the summer webinar, please submit your proposals by June 23 for presentation in mid to late July.

SIG Co-Chairs:

Kadriye Lewis

Kadriye.Lewis@cchmc.org

Heidi Saliba

hsaliba@peds.ufl.edu

Emergency Medicine

Title: Collaborative Pediatric Emergency Research: The Power of Big Numbers

Summary: The 2011 SIG was attended by over 200 participants and focused on collaborative networks and large databases for use in research in pediatric emergency medicine.

OBJECTIVES

1. Introduce current PEM collaborative research networks
2. Highlight recent publications, challenges, and on-going work
3. Discuss future directions of networks and explore participation by PEM researchers
4. Answer your questions

Part 1:

Existing PEM Research Networks: Pediatric Emergency Medicine Collaborative Research Committee of the AAP (PEM CRC), Pediatric Emergency Research Canada (PERC), Pediatric Emergency Care Applied Research Network (PECARN) and Pediatric Emergency Research Networks (PERN) were presented. Speakers introduced their network and affiliations. They described how the network was formed, identified their sponsors and discussed the Goals and Objectives of their networks. The speakers also described their most significant challenges to date and identified recent successes of their networks. And finally the speakers described their network's most important recent study and discussed why it was the most important study.

During the presentation of PERN, international PEM research networks were acknowledged: REPEM: Research in European Paediatric Emergency Medicine PREDICT: Paediatric Research in Emergency Departments International Collaborative and RISEuP-SPERG: Red de Investigación de la SEUP-Spanish Pediatric Emergency Research Group.

A. Part I Speakers:

- a. PEM CRC: *Charles Macias*
- b. PERC: *Martin Osmond MD, CM*
- c. PECARN: *Peter Dayan MD, MSc*
- d. PERN: *Terry Klassen MD, MSc, FRCPC*

Part 2:

Announcements

Ludwig-Seidel Award presented to Dr. Raina Paul, fellow at Children's Hospital Boston, by **Dr. Steven Ludwig**
Pediatric Educational Excellence Across the Continuum (PEEAC) Conference information presented
Educational Scholars Program of APA presented

Part 2:

Began with a presentation about using existing large databases to answer questions that require big numbers. Established databases that were mentioned were: PHIS: Pediatric Health Information System, NHAMCS:

National Hospital Ambulatory Medical Care Survey and NACHRI: National Association of Children's Hospitals and Related Institutions.

Speakers spoke about upcoming changes and future directions of their networks.

They discussed how non-members might get involved in the networks. They also spoke about whether or not this has occurred, or if it is a goal. For the existing networks they spoke about where they are going and how others can get involved.

Collaborative efforts with other networks planned/possible?

A. Part 2 Speakers

- a. Large database research without the network: *Florence Bourgeois MD, MPH*
- b. PEM CRC: *David Schnadower MD, MPH*
- c. PERC: *David Johnson MD*
- d. PERCARN: *Rachel Stanley MD, MHSA*

B. Q&A Sessions occurred at the end of Part 1 and Part 2 and included all 4 speakers from each part

Questions addressed included:

- a. The 2011 PECARN competitive renewal grant application was discussed. Clarity regarding selection criteria and body responsible for choosing sites (federal funding agency) was provided
- b. Role of young faculty and fellows in large research networks
- c. Funding challenges
- d. How networks plan to work together and avoid redundancies in topics studied
- e. Described how non-members may participate

SIG Co-Chairs:

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Mark Roback

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Evidence-Based Pediatrics

The Evidence-Based Pediatrics Special interest group met for its annual meeting at the Pediatric Academic Societies Meeting in Denver on May 1, 2011. This meeting was a return to the meeting after a hiatus. We had an exciting session that was well attended and included eight presentations of EBM educational curricula and research efforts. The session was attended by 31 faculty/fellows, and was highlighted by some great presentations. **James Campbell**, of the University of Rochester, discussed errors by pediatric residents when critically appraising medical studies using submitted educational prescriptions. Dr. Roberto Jodorkovsky, of St Joseph's in Paterson, spoke on using the PICO tool to teach practice-based learning and improvement, and how teaching medical students can educate their faculty. **Martha Wright**, of Case Western Reserve, presented a study on the effectiveness of her pediatric on-line tutorial to replace the internal medicine oriented University of Michigan Info Mastery in teaching EBM. She used an adoption of the Fresno Test of EBM. She then presented the effectiveness of her 3-year longitudinal curriculum when incorporating the tutorial, journal club, journal-watch summarizing articles of interest, and CATs. **Dawn Ebach**, of the University of Iowa, presented her survey of EBM practice and teaching of her residents and faculty. **Rachel Boykan**, of Stony Brook Children's, presented a new approach to an EBM longitudinal curriculum replacing her previous program of critical appraisal in a monthly journal club. **Hans Kersten**, EBP SIG co-chair, of Drexel University, spoke on the evaluation of a CAT presentation evaluation tool. David Cooperberg, of Drexel University, presented work on a

vision for integrating evidence-based medicine into quality improvement education. The presentations concluded with a special presentation by **Tom Newman**, of UCSF, who gave a special 30 minute presentation on having fun with teaching evidence based medicine. The walking man exercise using height and gender, the Kappa Game, and the LR Slide Rule were featured. We ended the program with a brief business meeting.

The group reached a consensus to design a similarly constructed meeting next spring, incorporate the attendees into the EBP SIG list-serv, move the WetPaint wiki to the APA web site, and develop a network-style study of learner evaluations or assessments among members across sites. Participants will be getting shortly in their email inboxes pdf files of the presentations from that session as well as reminders on accessing the current WetPaint wiki.

SIG Co-Chairs:

Hans Kersten

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Bob Jacobson

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Faculty Development

At the 2011 PAS meeting in Denver, the SIG participated in two workshops on faculty development that could be adapted at one's home institution. Dr. Lynn Thoreson from Dell Children's Hospital in Austin, Texas presented a workshop on the development of a 24 hour curriculum for night teams focusing on learning after dark. Dr. Kimmie Gilford from Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center and her team presented the Doctor Coach which is a method of teaching residents and coaching them to progress forward. After participating in these two exciting workshops, the SIG regrouped for a few minutes for a few announcements. We will be seeking a third member of the leadership team as Joe will be rotating off the team in another year. Also, we are interested in thoughts for next year's program for PAS in Boston. We are looking forward to hearing from the group. Don't hesitate to email either Mimi or Joe.

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Health Care Transition and Disease Self- Management

Over 50 people attended the inaugural meeting of the SIG on Health Care Transition and Disease Self-management. Attendees included physician and nurse clinicians, researchers, family members from the Denver chapter of Family Voices and self-advocates. The mission of the SIG is to provide a forum for discussion, collaboration, research and innovation among scientists, clinicians, advocates, policy makers, as well as youth and families who are interested in improving the health and healthcare of adolescents and emerging adults as they transition to adulthood and from child- to adult-focused health systems.

The meeting started with the viewing of 14 posters, followed by oral presentations of four selected abstracts by an independent panel of national and international judges in a de-identified format. All of the posters and presentations were excellent and led to vigorous individual and group discussions. The following are the authors and titles for the four oral presentations;

- “Health Characteristics and Health Care Needs of Youth with Special Health Care Needs Attending a Transition Support Program” by **Jason Woodward** of the University of Indiana
- “Psychosocial Functioning and Transition Readiness Predict Adherence and Health Care Utilization” by Nicole Fenton of the University of North Carolina
- “Assessing Resident Preferences for a Curriculum in Transition Medicine” by **Sarah Mennito** of the Medical University of South Carolina
- “Better knowledge and increased self-management of one’s health care condition are associated with a better perception of overall independence in young adults with chronic conditions” by Parag Shah from Children’s Memorial Hospital in Chicago.

During the second half of the meeting we conducted a Brain-Mapping session, led by Mary Ciccarelli and **Patience White**, during which we identified three areas of potential collaboration based on attendee interest areas. The three areas were advocacy/systems of care, research, and education. We divided into the three groups by content area allowing each group to then develop a list of potential activities that were ultimately prioritized for action in the coming year.

The advocacy/systems of care subgroup had a wide-ranging discussion on the life course approach, practice improvement, models of care, and demonstrating value. They agreed to hold regular conference calls to continue to share ideas. The first conference call will continue the discussion on the life course approach. The second call will cover sharing models of care allowing for the validation of metrics and evidence-based intervention.

The research subgroup agreed to work on the following priorities in the coming year: develop a manuscript that describes an integrated, transtheoretical model for transition that can be used for future research on HCT, develop a repository of the growing literature on HCT by contributing to the bibliography maintained by Dr. Parag Shah at Memorial Children’s Hospital, and to conduct regular phone calls to collaborate on potential research initiatives. All members were invited to join an ongoing study by Drs. **Wood, Ferris** and Sawicki to refine a transition readiness assessment questionnaire utilizing an online format.

The education subgroup agreed to work on the following priorities in the coming year: reach out to develop a larger list of stakeholders and participants and share HCT-oriented educational activities across institutions, develop a repository of existing curricula and post it via the web, and plan a conference call in a month – using a web-based engine to set up.

For more information on the Special Interest Group (SIG) on Health Care Transition and Disease Self-management please contact either **Maria Ferris** (maria_ferris@med.unc.edu) or **David Wood** (david.wood@jax.ufl.edu).

SIG Co-Chairs:

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Hospital Medicine

We are very excited about a hugely successful SIG meeting at the PAS meeting this past spring. For those of you who missed it, there was great input from a multitude of individuals representing a number of great group efforts within the field of Pediatric Hospital Medicine. As a special guest, APA President **Benard Dreyer** discussed the potential development of an Inpatient Research Scholars Program modeled after the APA Educational Scholars Program that was well received. Dr. Dreyer would be happy to receive suggestions or comments related to this idea. In addition, updates on the VIP Network, the PRIS Network, the STP Committee and the PHM Roundtable Education Work Group were presented.

Mark Shen, representing the VIP Network, highlighted the purpose of the organization as promoting grass roots quality improvement initiatives in a collaborative fashion. Current efforts include discharge communication to primary care physicians, bronchiolitis and patient identification band errors. The steering committee is working to establish resources to support the growing needs of the network including discussions with the AAP's Quality Improvement Innovation Network. A small group breakout discussion led to an action item to investigate the potential for these QI projects to be tied to the maintenance of certification process. For more information, you can visit their website at vipnetworks.webs.com or email Mark Shen at mshen@seton.org.

Jennifer Maniscalco, representing the PHM Education Work Group, highlighted the publication of the PHM Core Competencies in the Journal of Hospital Medicine in 2010 and the establishment of an educational resources website at <http://sites.google.com/site/phmeducationresources/>. She also introduced the Nighttime Curriculum Project which is a collaborative effort between the work group and the APPD. The project has developed 30 curricular modules that will be undergoing field tests during the upcoming academic year at multiple institutions. The deadline for registering has already passed, but questions can be directed to Jennifer at jmaniscalcomd@gmail.com or **Becky Blankenburg** at rblanke@stanford.edu. A small group breakout discussed many future avenues to pursue including faculty development, the effect of duty hour restrictions on education and quality improvement curricular ideas. The Work Group will further discuss to vet these options.

Raj Srivastava gave an update on the PRIS Network restructuring, their activities and highlighted their website at http://www.academicpeds.org/research/research_pris.cfm. **Karen Wilson** summarized what membership in PRIS entails and how to enroll. Interested parties can access the new member survey through the website.

Chris Maloney updated the group on the Strategic Planning Committee's activities. To date, the committee has broken into smaller working groups considering different potential future pathways including maintaining the status quo, hospital medicine residency tracks, the ABIM's model of Recognition of Focused Practice, additional training without board certification and formal fellowship training with board certification. The groups are developing lists of the benefits and challenges and performing SWOT analyses on each option. A full report will be given at PHM in Kansas City this summer.

Other important discussions included:

- PHM Abstract Selection Process
- Presentations for service recognition to **Jeff Sperring** as a past Co-Chair of the SIG and **Nui Dhepyasuwan** for her administrative support to the PRIS network.
- Group decision to move the SIG Co-Chair selection process to an election. Stay tuned for more details on this process.

As a final note, don't forget that Pediatric Hospital Medicine 2011 will be held in Kansas City on July 28, 2011 through July 31, 2011. If you are planning on attending, register now as last year registration closed by early July. The planning committee has developed another great program. For further details, access the website at <http://www.hospitalmedicine.org/Content/NavigationMenu/Education/PediatricHospitalMedicine/home.htm> . Hope to see you in Kansas City!

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International Health

The APA International Health SIG held a very successful session in Denver on Saturday, April 30, 2011. This very dynamic program started with **Stephen Berman's** keynote address on respiratory disease in the developing world. Dr. Berman, the Director of the Center for Global Health at the University of Colorado in Denver, offered an overview of the acute respiratory infections (ARI) with a unique historical perspective of the development of the WHO case management of ARI.



2011 APA International Health Research Award winner, Neema Kayange, MD, and 2010 winner Sajid Soofi, PhD with International Health SIG members and SIG chairs at PAS in Denver

In the follow up to last year's session dedicated to Haiti, Dr. Judith Palfrey, the Immediate Past President of the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), gave an overview of the relief efforts, including, but not limited to early and sustained collaboration between AAP and the Haiti Pediatrics Society (HPS). This collaboration included volunteer recruitment and participation in hospital care and teaching, as well as the efforts in providing supplies for the local hospitals, and support for the pediatric residents. The collaboration with WHO, UNICEF

and Ministry of Health was emphasized. **Bronwen Anders**, the AAP Section on International Child Health (SOICH) Executive Committee member, spoke about the exciting initiative “Ti MounAnnou Li” based on the proven successful domestic Reach out and Read program. Jessy Colimon Adrien, representing HSP commented on the successful collaboration between HPS and several US universities.

Danielle Laraque, a past President of the APA spoke on the new APA global health initiative that would involve close partnership with, among others, the AAP and SOICH in particular, the International Pediatric Association (IPA), the Programme for Global Paediatric Research (PGPR), and the Canadian Pediatric Society.

Dr. Sajid Soofi, from Karachi, Pakistan, the 2010 Winner of the APA International Health Research Award, presented the data on the successful community based management of severe pneumonia with oral antibiotics through Lady Health Workers in rural Pakistan.

After the 2011 APA International Health Research Award presentation to Dr. Neema Kayange, she spoke on birth asphyxia in Tanzania. Dr. Kayange’s winning abstract presentation took place in the Global Health Platform Session on May 1, 2011 before an animated audience, and was followed by vigorous discussion.

The APA International Health SIG meeting with the ambitious program, attended by a larger than expected audience who participated in lively discussion that was often needed to be shortened by moderators, was a testimony to the increased interest for global health issues. All the presentations from this session would be posted at the [APA IH SIG website](#).

SIG Co-Chairs:

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Newborn Nursery

The Newborn Nursery SIG was held on Tuesday May 3rd 2011. The keynote address was delivered by Celeste Milton from The Joint Commission. The Perinatal Core Measures, in particular the 80% exclusive breastfeeding measure, was discussed in detail. The SIG would like to thank Stanford University School of Medicine, Lucile Packard Children's Foundation for their sponsorship of Ms. Milton’s presentation. Much discussion followed.

Our second speaker was **Bill Stratbucker**, from Michigan State University, who discussed the Safe & Healthy Beginnings program available through the Bright Futures website and tools. Discussion regarding the timing and place of the 2 day follow up visit followed. Nursery follow up provider information sharing was discussed.

The BORN Network was introduced to the SIG by **Jim Taylor** and **Tony Burgos**, Executive Directors. This exciting new research network hopes to have several projects and presentations by next spring's PAS meeting. All SIG members are invited to join and become champions for this network. This is a great opportunity to develop a better evidence base for newborn nursery care.

The SIG enjoyed excellent guidance the last 3 years from **Mark Vining**, of the University of Massachusetts and **Tony Burgos**, of Stanford. They performed exemplary service to the SIG for which we are very grateful. **Terry Wall** from the University of Alabama- Birmingham and **Beth Simpson** from the University of Missouri-Kansas City were introduced as the incoming Co-Chairs.

SIG Co-Chairs:

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Race in Medicine & Women in Medicine

The Race in Medicine and Women in Medicine SIGs co-sponsored a joint session on Sunday, May 1, 2011, 8:00-11:00am in room 505 of the Colorado Convention Center during the 2011 PAS meeting in Denver, CO. The session examined the barriers to academic success faced by men of color. The session opened with a networking exercise and panel presentations followed by a lively discussion among the panelists and 26 participants. Topics of discussion included mentoring, the status of diversity in academia and career advancement.



Panelists Dee Hodges III, MD; Denice Cora Bramble, MD, MBA; Danielle Laraque, MD; and Paul Young, MD at co-sponsored a joint session by Race in Medicine and Women in Medicine SIGs at PAS in Denver

The panelists for this session were:

Dee Hodge Associate Professor of Pediatrics, Department of Pediatrics
Associate Director, Clinical Affairs for Emergency Services at St. Louis Children's Hospital
Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis School of Medicine

Denice Cora Bramble

Executive Director, Goldberg Center for Community and Pediatric Health, Children's National Medical Center
Professor of Pediatrics
George Washington University
School of Medicine and Health Sciences

Danielle Laraque

Chair, Department of Pediatrics
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Paul Young

Professor of Pediatrics, Division of General Pediatrics
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Teaching in Community Settings

The first meeting of the new Teaching in Community Settings SIG occurred at the PAS meeting in Denver on May 1, 2011. The SIG was formed by combining the former Community Pediatrics and Pediatrics in Family Medicine SIGs. The meeting was very successful. The afternoon began with a presentation by **Paula Duncan** on teaching Bright Futures in the community to residents and students. Strategies for incorporating Bright Futures and quality improvement into community clinical practice were discussed. The second half of the meeting was a strategic planning session. Some history of the former SIGs was presented, along with some highlights of the SIG's accomplishments. Most notably were the endorsement by the AAFP and APA of revised curricular guidelines for the pediatric training of Family Medicine residents this year. The guidelines can be found on the APA website at: http://www.ambpeds.org/education/education_Curricula.cfm

The history of the National Community Teaching Award, co-sponsored by the Resident Education and Training Special Interest Group of the Council of Community Pediatrics in the AAP was also briefly discussed. Finally, the membership discussed ways to grow the SIG and attract members of the APA who teach in community settings. In the upcoming year we plan to reach out to the Resident Education and Training SIG in the COCP/AAP to better integrate members of the AAP who would benefit from joining the APA and our SIG.

If you teach residents, medical students or nurse practitioners in a community setting (community health centers, private practices, family medicine residency programs, etc.) we encourage you to join our SIG. We look forward to collaborating with you.

SIG Co-Chairs:

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Announcements

Academic Pediatric Call For Submission

The APA journal, *Academic Pediatrics*, is calling for submissions to its new, recurring section entitled "Systematic Reviews." The journal seeks systematic reviews concerning health care delivery, public policy, education and professional development, and research methodology. The new section creates a home for this form of scientific investigation. We expect submissions to be highly structured, rigorous reviews that follow the latest methodology for systematic reviews. Submissions for the Systematic Reviews section of the journal will undergo the same level of rigorous peer-review as other submissions to the journal. Nonetheless, junior investigators can master the methods of systematic review and use a systematic review to launch their longitudinal efforts in a direction of inquiry.

Those interested in pursuing such an investigation with the intention to publish in *Academic Pediatrics* should contact the section editor, **Robert Jacobson**, Mayo Clinic, ph: 507-538-1642, fax: 507-284-9744, and email: jacobson.robort@mayo.edu. Examples and detailed instructions to authors are available on request.

Submitted by

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Award Winners Award

George Armstrong Lecture Award

Carol Berkowitz, MD

Health Care Delivery Award

Susan Fisher-Owens, MD

Primary Teeth Program, UCSF, Program Director

International Health Award

Neema Kayange, MD

Ludwig-Seidel Award

Raina Paul, MD

Miller Sarkin Mentoring Award

John Leventhal, MD

Teaching Award

Anda Kuo, MD

Public Policy and Advocacy Award

Jonathan Winickoff, MD

Michael Shannon Research Award

Adam Spanier, MD, PhD, MPH

Ray E. Helfer Award for Innovation in Pediatric Education

Amy Starmer, MD

Research Award

Allison Kempe, MD

Resident Research Awards

Errol L. Fields, MD, PhD, MPH

Hanna Kim, MD, MS

Paul K. Sue, MD

Asya Agulnik, MD, MPH

Malinda N. Harris, MD

Student Research Awards

David G. Rosenthal, BA

Shreena Patel, BA

Lauren E. Wisk, BS

Maria H. Dugan

Fellows Research Awards

Indi Trehan, MD

Nina Burtchen, MD

Mateusz P. Karwowski, MD

Ashley E. Weedn, MD

Lindsey C. Burghardt, MD



Children's Exposures to Mercury Compounds

NEW Publication from the World Health Organization

To inform public health professionals about the sources of children's exposure to mercury the World Health Organization has published a new book on *Children's Exposures to Mercury Compounds*. It can be accessed on the WHO website:

http://www.who.int/ceh/publications/children_exposure/en/index.html

Submitted by

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Earthquake in Japan

Nearly 3 months have passed since the devastating 2011 Tohoku Earthquake struck northeastern Japan on Friday, March 11. Related to the magnitude 9.0 earthquake and the massive (up to 50 feet high) tsunami that followed, over 15,000 have died with an additional 8,000 still missing (June 2, National Police Agency). Over 100,000 homes have been completely destroyed. Nearly 250,000 survivors initially required shelters. Aftershocks have continued as far as Tokyo (population 13 million), 250 miles from the epicenter. Over 100,000 have been evacuated from the vicinity of the damaged Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant. In spite of the continuing uncertainty about radiation exposure, however, life has slowly begun to normalize in most of Japan.

In contrast to the constant airing of tsunami videos and nightmarish images on front pages of newspapers in March, there is hardly a newspaper article or any television coverage in June. What has happened to all the victims? What is going on? In Tokyo, the rolling blackouts, gasoline shortages and scares about contaminated dairy and vegetables have receded. According to NHK (government sponsored) news, lifelines (i.e., electricity, water) have been reestablished in nearly all affected communities; and more permanent and private housing have been identified or constructed. Businesses in Japan have slowly begun to recover. In April and May, the new school year started, bringing at least a semblance of normalcy to children and adolescents.

For the people of Tohoku, however, the nightmares continue. The most affected areas of Iwate, Miyagi and Fukushima prefectures are rural and impoverished, far from large urban centers. Most of the population is elderly and their remaining lives have been changed forever. While those with means have quickly relocated, those who are left have no homes to return to, nor permanent places to live. Classes have commenced, yet adjustments have been necessary for students; with over 7,000 schools destroyed or damaged, many have had to use borrowed space in other schools. Fear of radiation is haunting residents of the nuclear evacuation zone; some communities have refused to accept evacuees, fearing their community might somehow become contaminated.

Many Japanese are facing the most difficult stages of response to a complex disaster. The natural grieving process has been continually interrupted by stressors, initially food and water shortages, later aftershocks and radiation fears. The public and international support, almost overwhelming in the beginning, have now waned. As sporadic photographs illustrate, scattered debris have not yet been removed nor reconstruction started. Those who live in or near affected sites are beginning to fear that they are being abandoned. Their patience as they wait for long term support and direction is wearing thin. Addressing the mental health of survivors has become a key issue.

Physicians in the U.S. are continuing to play important roles in ensuring recovery for survivors. **David J. Schonfeld**, Director of the National Center for School Crisis and Bereavement at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center (www.cincinnatichildrens.org/school-crisis) has been collaborating with the National Center for Neurology and Psychiatry in Japan to provide written and translated resources to assist parents, teachers and pediatricians to address bereavement issues. Dr. Craig Van Dyke, Director of the Global Mental Health Program at the University of California San Francisco, has been invited to Tokyo to train pediatricians in identifying and addressing stress reactions and PTSD. As disaster relief continues, professional and nongovernmental organizations in Japan recommend collaboration, especially with pediatric and mental health experts, as natural and effective steps to meet critical needs.

Submitted by

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Improving Environmental Management of Pediatric Asthma

By: **James Roberts, Joel Forman, Catherine Karr, Lisa De Ybarrondo, MD**

Environmental exposures, such as dust mites, tobacco smoke, and animal allergens, can exacerbate asthma. Control of these triggers has a beneficial effect on asthma patients. A study evaluating the effects of an educational intervention to improve environmental management of pediatric asthma was presented at the 2011 PAS Annual Conference. As part of the National Environmental Education Foundation's Pediatric Asthma Initiative, four academic pediatricians delivered the same evidence-based presentation on environmental trigger management in different regions of the country. This one hour presentation was delivered to pediatricians and pediatric residents. In order to measure a change in physician knowledge, participants were asked to complete a pre- and post-survey about their knowledge and behavior in relations to environmental triggers and environmental history taking. Analysis of paired-survey responses indicated a highly significant increase in knowledge of environmental asthma triggers among the participants after training. These results suggest that pediatricians' knowledge and management of environmental asthma triggers can be improved with a structured

intervention based on environmental trigger management. Our next step is to evaluate the influence of such training on long term practice and patient outcomes.

Submitted by

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Persistent Organic Pollutants - Impact on Children

WHO releases publication: Persistent Organic Pollutants - Impact on Children

Persistent organic pollutants (POPs) include pesticides and industrial chemicals that were manufactured in great quantities during the 20th century. Accumulating scientific information in humans has led to concerns about the effects of chronic low level POPs exposure in humans. There is particular concern that fetuses, infants and children may be at especially high risk. Humans at these early life stages generally have increased exposures compared to exposures of adults. There is rapid growth and differentiation of organ systems during these early periods, resulting in heightened vulnerability to harm. Effects on health are often subtle. Effects of these chemical exposures during "critical windows of vulnerability" of children's development may not manifest until later in their lives. Although the international community has called for global action to reduce and eliminate releases of POPs, children continue to be exposed to these chemicals, especially in food. This booklet [Persistent Organic Pollutants: Impacts on Child Health](#) summarizes current knowledge about POPs and how to reduce children's exposures to these persistent chemicals.

Submitted by

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Reviews

Environmental Health Reviews

PAH/Aromatic DNA Adducts in Cord Blood and Behavior Scores in New York City Children

PAH/Aromatic DNA Adducts in Cord Blood and Behavior Scores in New York City Children

Authors: Frederica P. Perera, Shuang Wang, Julia Vishnevetsky, Bingzhi Zhang, Kathleen J. Cole, Deliang Tang, Virginia Rauh, David H. Phillips

Journal: Environmental Health Perspectives. doi:10.1289/ehp.1002705

Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAH) are a group of pollutants commonly found in urban environments. They are formed as a product of incomplete combustion of fossil fuels and are also present in tobacco smoke. PAH consist of known carcinogens and can bind to DNA to form adducts, an indication of

DNA damage. The authors have previously reported that prenatal exposure to PAH, as measured by air monitoring near the mother during pregnancy, is associated with developmental delay at age 3 and reduced IQ at age 5 among the Columbia Center for Children's Environmental Health New York City (CCCEH NYC) cohort. The authors have also shown that higher levels of cord PAH-DNA adducts are associated with reduced scores on neurocognitive tests, alone or in combination with environmental tobacco smoke (ETS). In this study, the authors evaluate the associations between umbilical cord blood DNA adducts and child behavior, an area which has not been previously studied. They have assessed the relationship between cord PAH/bulky-DNA adducts and behavior problems in early childhood using the age appropriate Child Behavior Check List (CBCL).

The Columbia Center for Children's Environmental Health New York City (CCCEH NYC) cohort recruited African-American and Dominican women who lived in Washington Heights, Harlem, or the South Bronx in New York City between 1998 and 2003 into a prospective cohort study. The enrollment was limited to women who were in the age range of 18-35, non-cigarette smokers, non-users of other tobacco products or illicit drugs, free of diabetes, hypertension, or known HIV. In addition, the women needed to have initiated prenatal care by the 20th week of pregnancy. A questionnaire was administered by a trained bilingual interviewer during the last trimester of pregnancy to obtain demographic and socioeconomic information, residential history, and health and environmental data (including information on dietary PAH from consumption of broiled, fried, grilled or smoked meat). Postnatal interviews were administered at 6 months and then annually to assess any changes in health or environmental conditions. Validated scales were used to determine the quality of the home caretaking environment, self-reported maternal demoralization, and maternal non-verbal intelligence. Biological specimens analyzed included umbilical cord blood to assess both DNA adducts and lead. Urinary PAH metabolites were quantified in a subset of children at age 5 to adjust for postnatal exposure to PAH. Child outcomes were measured by using a 99-item CBCL for children less than 6 years and a 118 item CBCL for children 6 years and older. The two domains of interest were "Anxious/Depressed" and "Attention Problems". Cord DNA adducts were dichotomized at the upper quartile of the 461 children with data. Among the 215 children in this current study, 58 were in the category of "high exposed" and 157 were "low exposed".

The statistical analysis included evaluation of the continuous CBCL raw scores using Poisson regression as well as the dichotomized T-scores using a logistic model. Covariates in the models included ethnicity, ETS exposure during pregnancy, gender of child, gestational age of the child, mother's intelligence, maternal education, child's age in months, the quality of the home caretaking environment at 3 years of age, and season of the last trimester. They also fit a separate model with children's CBCL scores at 7 years adjusting for child urinary PAH collected at 5 years of age.

The subset of children included in the current study consisted of 215, of these mother/child pairs with available data on all exposure, outcome, or potential confounding variables of interest, including data on DNA adducts in cord blood, prenatal questionnaire data, and CBCL data obtained at least once at ages 4.8 years or 7 years (ranges: 3.75 to 5.9; 6 to 8 years). Children in this subset were more likely to be female and African American than those not included from the same cohort. Poisson models without adjustment for covariates found that children with higher levels of cord DNA adducts had scores consistent with increased Anxious/Depressed and Attention Problems at an average of 4.8 years and at average of 7 years, in comparison to children with lower cord DNA adduct levels. After adjusting for possible confounders, higher cord adducts were associated with the syndrome score of Anxious/Depressed ($\beta = 0.34$, 95% CI= 0.04 to 0.64, $p=0.026$) and Attention Problems ($\beta = 0.38$, 95% CI= 0.06 to 0.69, $p=0.018$) at an average of 4.8 years and with Attention Problems at an average of 7 years ($\beta = 0.22$, 95% CI= 0.06 to 0.38, $p=0.009$). The authors point out that the beta coefficient 0.34 for anxious/depressed outcome suggests that subjects in the upper quartile of adducts have about a 40% increase in symptom scores compared to subjects with adduct levels below the 75th percentile. After Bonferroni correction, the associations between cord DNA adducts and CBCL outcomes did not remain significant but the authors discuss that the Bonferroni correction is considered to be overly conservative.

After adjusting for postnatal exposure to ETS at 24 months, the associations between DNA adducts and the syndrome score of Attention Problems grew more significant at 4.8 years ($\beta = 0.45$, $p = 0.012$, $n = 85$) and at age 7 ($\beta = 0.25$, $p = 0.006$, $n = 182$), and continued to be significant for the syndrome score of Anxious/Depressed ($\beta = 0.37$, $p = 0.031$, $n = 85$) at age 4.8. In addition, after adjusting for child urinary PAH metabolites collected at 5 years of age, higher cord adducts were significantly associated with the syndrome score of Attention Problems at 7 years ($\beta = 0.28$, $p = 0.028$, $n = 100$). Logistic regression on dichotomized T-scores for the syndrome scales found the results to be significant for the syndromes of Attention Problems at 7 years (OR=3.30, 95% CI= 1.21 to 12.54) and Anxious/Depressed at 4.8 years (OR= 8.14, 95% CI= 1.21 to 54.94). The limitations of the study are the small sample size as well as a possible selection bias in that there is a difference in the gender and ethnicity in the included and excluded subjects. One of the strengths of the study is the ability to account for multiple factors that play a role in child behavior.

These findings suggest that higher cord adducts – a marker of DNA damage by PAH - were associated with increased likelihood of borderline or clinical classification on Anxious/Depressed and Attention Problems.

Submitted by

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June 1, 2011