Communications Director’s Message

This issue of the APA Focus is focused on information about the PAS Annual Meeting. In this issue, you will find a breadth of wonderful learning and networking opportunities through the Workshops, SIGs, Region and Committee meetings, in addition to the all the other fantastic science that will be presented. The PAS is a smorgasbord of the best in academic pediatrics.

As the Communications Director, I have been thinking about the meeting relative to communication. Communication all begins with introductions and the PAS meeting is a wonderful place for introductions. If you are a senior APA member and see someone with a NEW MEMBER ribbon, please introduce yourself and welcome him/her to the APA. Someone did this for you once upon a time. If you are a new member, don’t be afraid to introduce yourself to the more senior members. They are very nice people who truly want to encourage your involvement with the APA and encourage your academic career. From these introductions, collaborations, networks and academic careers are launched and sustained.

Remember, all the Committee, SIG and Region meetings are open and you are encouraged to come to any and all meetings. Don’t be shy. If you show up, you are a member of that group. Feel free to introduce yourself and volunteer to work on the special projects of these groups; these projects are often deeply rewarding personally and professionally.
While you are at the meeting please come and introduce (or reintroduce) yourself to me. I’m looking forward to making (or remaking) your acquaintance.

Yours,

Donna D'Alessandro  
Communications Director  
Academic Pediatric Association

President’s Message

It is hard for me to believe that this is my last APA Newsletter as President. It has certainly been an eventful year! Amid a tumultuous economic time, APA remains strong as an organization and in our commitment to children and families.

The upcoming Pediatric Academic Societies Meeting in Baltimore will highlight many of APA’s core activities and I hope you are able to join us. There are so many special events it is hard to mention them all. A few highlights:

- A special session on Care of Children with Special Healthcare Needs: Best Practices and Best Policies will be held Saturday, May 2, 3:15-5:15 dedicated to Dr. James Perrin for his 10 years of editorship of our journal, Academic Pediatrics, and his devotion to children with chronic conditions. Please come to honor him.
- The APS/SPR Joint Plenary session on Sunday morning, May 3 includes many wonderful talks including the awarding of the 2009 Joseph W. St. Geme, Junior Leadership Award to APA Past President Ken Roberts with introduction by Evan Charney. Go and be inspired.
- The APA debate is back! Joel Alpert will be moderating the debate: Resolved: A Uniform National Health Insurance Program Is Not In the Best Interests of Children. Sure to be informative and entertaining, Carol Berkowitz, Lisa Simpson, Stephen Berman and Lisa Chamberlain are the great debaters. The APA Business meeting and debate are Sunday, May 3, 3:30-5:30.
- An APA Distinguished Career Award will be given to Robert Haggerty at the APA Presidential Plenary, Monday, May 4. This is a special award honoring a special person.
- APA’s Armstrong Lecture will be given by Doctors Without Borders/Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF) representative Dr. Susan Shepherd. This year’s Armstrong Lecture recognizes the importance of global health issues for children and families and honors this amazing international medical humanitarian organization created by doctors and journalists in France in 1971. The lecture will be at the APA Presidential Plenary, Monday, May 4.

In my address at the APA Presidential Plenary I will outline a couple of my presidential projects. One project has been the convening of a conference and development of a research agenda on child health disparities. Though there is much talk about health disparities, the discussion rarely focuses on children and the life course and intergenerational aspects of health disparities. AAP Past President Renee Jenkins and I thus organized a conference in November 2008 entitled “Starting Early- A Life Course Perspective on Child Health Disparities: Recommendations for a Research Agenda.” A multidisciplinary group of 70 researchers, practitioners, and funders gathered in Washington, DC, to conceptualize child health disparities and develop a research agenda for
eliminating child health disparities. Outcomes of this exciting conference include a supplement submitted for publication and presentation of the research recommendations at various venues including a PAS workshop “Research on Child Health Disparities: A Life Course Perspective” on Saturday, 8-11am and presentation in the Race and Medicine SIG, Saturday, 3-5pm. The conference was sponsored by the National Center on Minority Health and Health Disparities, Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, American Academy of Pediatrics, Agency for Healthcare Quality and Research, Commonwealth Fund, Lucile Packard Foundation for Children’s Health, and Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

My second project has been the APA Oral History Project. 2010 marks the 50th anniversary of the APA! In 1952 a group of outpatient clinic directors began gathering in Dr. Barbara Korsch’s hotel room at the American Pediatric Society and Society for Pediatric Research meeting to discuss issues of generalist physicians. A survey of outpatient clinic directors was published in 1959. In 1960 a constitution for the Association for Ambulatory Pediatric Services (later changed to Ambulatory Pediatric Association and now Academic Pediatric Association) was drafted and 56 individuals joined as charter members with $5 annual dues. A lot has changed in 50 years!

As we think about the next 50 years for children and families and our profession, it is important to reflect on our history as an organization. The goals of the APA Oral History Project are to:

- To document APA’s history by interviewing founders of the organization
- To assess the views of APA founders regarding the lessons learned and future challenges and opportunities in the development of APA and in the field of academic general pediatrics
- To present excerpts of interviews at APA’s 50th anniversary celebration in 2010 in Vancouver

It has been an honor to interview some of the APA founders and first presidents this past year and I plan to present a brief sneak preview in my presidential address in Baltimore. APA President-Elect Danielle Laraque has been leading a committee to celebrate the 50th at PAS 2010 with further viewing of video from the APA Oral History Project.

I am sure I have forgotten to highlight many other important PAS Baltimore happenings...of course these highlights are in addition to the many excellent scientific sessions, plenaries, symposia, workshops, SIG meetings, etc. Please join us in Baltimore and bring a colleague, trainee, friend…

President
Tina Cheng
President-Elect’s Message

Welcome Spring!

It’s been a long winter, but spring is finally here! The APA is as active as ever and I want to update you on three main areas. Please note in parenthesis the strategic priority that the topic area addresses:

♦ Mental Health and Mental Health Parity
  o (Championing an Equitable Children’s Agenda)

As reported in my previous column of the newsletter on November 20-21, 2008 I represented our organization at the Twenty-fourth Annual Rosalynn Carter Symposium on Mental Health Policy. The topic of the symposium was the national release of Unclaimed Children Revisited: Fostering a Climate to Improve Children’s Mental Health. This work has led to key policy recommendations in the following areas:

♦ Family-centered Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Services
♦ Comprehensive Financing Strategy
♦ Applying a Public Health Approach to Children’s Mental Health
♦ Enhancing Service Delivery to Transition Age Youth
♦ Eliminating Disparities in Mental Health Status and Mental Health Care
♦ Investing in Health Professions Training and Education

On March 11, 2009 we were among the 71 organizations that signed onto a letter addressed to President Obama which outlined these basic principles. The letter was delivered at the start of the deliberations on health care reform headed by Senator Kennedy on March 13. You can access the full letter by clicking here.

♦ Efforts Around Diversity
  o (Champion an Equitable Children’s Agenda, Meet Membership Needs)

The APA has embarked on a number of efforts regarding workforce diversity. Here is one:
Leadership Conference, Diversity Panel: For the second year in a row the leadership conference embedded the issues of diversity in the fabric of the leadership conference. Dr. Bonnie Stanton, in her eloquent remarks, clearly identified the demographic diversity of the children of our country, the urgent health needs and disparities in care, and the corresponding workforce issues that we must tackle head on to improve the health status of all children. The diversity panel, as noted in Drs. Keller’s and Bostwick’s article in this newsletter, engaged participants in a discussion of key issues of diversity. Notably, prior to the conference, the participants were asked to respond to the following question:
The IOM reports on disparities and quality of health have highlighted the importance of a diverse healthcare workforce. What role will you play as a pediatric leader in that needed change? (Check all that apply.)

The responses of the attendees are graphically displayed.

The percent of attendees endorsing that their leadership role spanned the categories of mentorship, organizational improvement and personal efforts surrounding diversity.
We invite you to respond to these same questions by

- Inform the APA of your role in achieving a diverse workforce and partner with us in achieving that goal.

♦ The 50th Anniversary Planning Efforts
  o (Core Enhancements)

At the heart of the 50th anniversary is the celebration of our efforts as an academic association over the past 50 years and a careful, thoughtful process of launching our concerted efforts on behalf of children for the next 50 years. The members of our task force are:

Berkowitz, Carol  Cheng, Tina
Crain, Ellen  Degnon, Marge
DeWitt, Tom  Ronald Barr
Dumont-Driscoll, Marilyn  Dungy, Claibourne
Keller, David  Laraque, Danielle (Chair)
Mackay, Connie  McCormick, Marie
Pascoe, Jack  Roberts, Kenneth
Shelov, Steve  Stein, Ruth

These Special Activities are in the planning stages:

♦ Presidential plenary with a distinguished speaker focusing on the accomplishments of the APA and the next decade’s challenges, peer-reviewed abstracts that relate to the four legs of the APA (education, research, health care delivery, advocacy/policy), the Armstrong Lecture and more…
♦ A tribute book
♦ 50th Anniversary Reception following the plenary
♦ Targeted invited science
♦ APA 50th Fundraising Drive – $50 for the 50th!

Stay tuned for how you can help with the celebration. Please send us all of your good ideas for the 50th and SAVE the DATE!

PAS: May 1 – 4, 2010  Vancouver, Canada

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Debra & Leon Black Professor of Pediatrics
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Treasurer’s Message

Treasury Matters: Charitable Giving in the Great Recession

“Whan that Aprill, with his shoures soote
The droghte of March hath perced to the roote
…Thanne longen folk to goon on pilgrimages
And specially from every shires ende
Of Maryland, to Baltimore they wende,
The hooly blisful martir for to seke
That hem hath holpen, whan that they were seeke.”

With apologies to G Chaucer

It is April, and, recession or not, many of us will be in Baltimore next month to eat, greet, present, lament, discuss, make a fuss and in general celebrate the Spring, our work and the work of our Association. We will enjoy the company of people who understand what Academic Pediatrics is all about and return home energized and ready to take the field to the next level. In addition, we will be readying ourselves for Vancouver, and the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the founding of the APA.

What a long way we have come.

Whether you call it the Association for Ambulatory Pediatric Services, the Ambulatory Pediatric Association or the Academic Pediatric Association, our Association has a long and glorious history. We have relied on our members to provide us with ideas, energy and financial support, and they have always come through. This year has been tough on us as an organization. As I said in the Winter Newsletter, we have survived through a combination of luck, good planning and frugal management. As the impact of the Great Recession is beginning to be felt on the non-profit sector, we have taken steps to trim costs without suppressing our indomitable spirit. Last month, the Board curtailed some of the traditional activities of the Spring meeting, in order to assure our financial security. This year, we will make our own fun just a little more.

Still, even as we move to contain costs in this fiscal emergency, it is important to acknowledge the generosity of spirit and purse that makes the APA possible. I particularly want to thank those among us who have regularly contributed to the APA Development Fund. This fund, which has grown steadily over the last 5 years, took a loss this year along with the rest of the world. Despite the losses in the value of our investment instruments, however, APA members donated more than $27,000 to the fund, which almost offset the market losses of the last 6 months. This fund will allow the APA
to support the New Century Scholars Program, the Young Investigator Awards and other core functions of the APA. Our hope is that, for the coming Anniversary year, we will see more generosity from our members. For such a young organization just entering its middle age, we must all take responsibility to make the next 50 years as full and vibrant as the last 50 years have been.

Treasurer
David Keller

Past President Message

We have successfully made the transition for the journal from Ambulatory Pediatrics to Academic Pediatrics. This transition will not affect indexing. We continue to receive a very large number of submissions, most of which are excellent articles. We also continue to have tremendous support by APA membership for the peer review process! Thanks to all of you who have submitted articles and who have served as reviewers.

In April the journal editors will have a retreat to review the progress of the journal and to plan for the next 10 years. By now you may have received an online survey, asking for your input and advice. Please complete the survey and send us your suggestions for how to improve the journal!

Nominating Committee
I have the pleasure of chairing the nominating committee which will provide the slate for election for President-elect, Education Committee Chair, Membership/Regions Chair and Nominating Committee members (two members). You will be receiving an email soon for suggestions, and you will be able to send nominations directly to the nominating committee or you can work with your APA region chair to submit nominations. We are performing a thorough search for possible nominees for these critical leadership positions, and we will review individuals’ contributions to the APA as well as their leadership positions and overall contributions to children’s health. We are making special efforts to consider a diverse leadership team for the future, with diversity being defined in many ways including disciplines, training (e.g., MDs, PhDs), geography, race/ethnicity, and gender.
Personal thoughts on the economic crisis
Economic crises force all of us to reevaluate our mission, vision, core values, core activities, and of course our finances. It is the strength of our mission, vision, core values, and the collective strength of the APA membership that will enable us to weather this crisis. While we need to tighten our belts, and find every possible opportunity to both save money and generate income for the APA, we also need to stay true to our focused strategic plan and to our effective activities. We need to support each other in every possible way.

See you at PAS!

Peter G. Szilagyi, MD, MPH
Professor of Pediatrics
Chief, Division of General Pediatrics
University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry
Phone: 585-275-5798   Fax: 585-276-2595

Academic Pediatric Association
Development Fund Campaign

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Upcoming Conference

2009 Pediatric Hospital Medicine 2009 Meeting
July 23-26
Tampa Marriott Waterside
Hotel and Marina, Tampa, FL

Pediatric Educational Excellence Across the Continuum (PEEAC) Conference
September 11 and 12, 2009
The Westin Arlington Gateway, Arlington, VA

New APA Members
Welcome to Our New APA Members

Adriana Bialostozky  
Amy Kryder  
Andrea Hauser  
Andrew Mutnick  
Bernard Eskridge  
Bryan Fine  
David E. Hall  
Denise Fitzsimon  
Dmitri De La Cruz  
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Shirley Kathryn Woods  
Tanya Becker  
V. Jill Kempthorne
Education Committee Report

Please join leaders from APPD, COMSEP and CoPS at the Education Committee PAS meeting on Sunday May 3rd from 11:00-12:30. A major focus for discussion will be how we can best share expertise and resources across the continuum of pediatric education. We need your input as we revise the Education Guidelines for Pediatric Residency to keep abreast of new ACGME initiatives. Issues to discuss:

- Content areas that are missing or need significant upgrading from the current version of the APA Guidelines
- Determining competency based upon year of training= Milestone project
- Linking competencies to learning and evaluation resources
- Broadening the scope of the project to include 4th year medical student and fellow education

APA Educational Guidelines
URL: http://www.ambpeds.org/egweb/

Additions: The website is being updated to simplify the process of adding and editing content. This process has been slower than anticipated but will be worth the wait – by summer we will be able to start adding curricula that several SIGs have submitted. Let us know if your SIG is writing curricular goals, objectives and/or competencies, so we can discuss posting your material on our website. You will need to plan formatting carefully in advance for us to integrate your material into the website. Please contact Diane Kittredge [Diane.Kittredge@Hitchcock.ORG].

Scholarly Products: Two papers have been accepted for publication by Academic Medicine: one describing the collaborative process used in the development of the 2004 Guidelines and the other reporting on how faculty use the website. The Faculty Development Tutorial System of the Guidelines has recently been accepted for posting on the MedEdPORTAL website. MedPortal review of the entire Guidelines site is pending.

Future Directions: Teri Turner has agreed to lead a transition team to help the Education Committee plan the next revision and future directions for the Guidelines. The current EG team will provide guidance and consultation, but will gradually step out of the leadership role. Some key questions include: What processes should be used for the next revision? How much will it cost and where can we find support? Should we expand our target audience to fellowship directors and add curricular tools for them as well as residency directors? What kinds of supplemental resources belong on our site? As the ACGME moves into the Milestones Project, benchmarks for evaluation will become even more important – how can we help program directors with this transition?

If you are interested in helping with these questions and/or joining the transition team, contact Teri Turner [tturner@bcm.edu] or Mary Ottolini (Ed. Committee Chair, mottolin@cnmc.org).

Ray Helfer Award
Congratulation to: Dorene Balmer, PhD, Christina Master, MD, PhD and Angelo Giardino, MD for their qualitative study entitled: “Implicit Versus Explicit Curricula in General Pediatrics: Is There a Convergence?”

Educational Scholars Program
Approximately 20 Scholars from the first cohort will be graduating this year at PAS- Congratulations to the scholars, as well as mentors, faculty advisors and to the ESP Executive Committee (Connie Baldwin, Latha Chandra, David Keller and Maryellen Gusic). The current scholars and new cohort of 24 pediatric hospitalists, generalists and specialists will participate in a day long educational seminar at PAS on Tuesday May 5th. The quality and variety of scholar projects is amazing. Many will be presenting their work at PAS.

Don’t Forget PEEAC is the Answer…
For learning to: 1) Incorporate efficient and effective teaching strategies into daily practice; 2) Apply a sound framework in creating curricula for learners; 3) Choose valid assessment methods and tools to evaluate learners;
4) Provide effective feedback to enhance learner performance; and 5) Disseminate your educational work. Join us at the “Pediatric Educational Excellence Across the Continuum” or “PEEAC” September 11 and 12, 2009 at the Westin Arlington Gateway, Arlington, VA. The conference is sponsored and endorsed by the APA, APPD, COMSEP and CoPS.

**Pediatric Hospital Medicine Strategic Planning Roundtable**

The Society of Hospital Medicine, American Academy of Pediatrics, and the Academic Pediatric Association sponsored a strategic planning meeting in February 2009 that brought 22 experts in pediatric hospital medicine together to discuss the future of pediatric hospital medicine. The meeting began with a brief review of the events leading to this Roundtable and overview of basic organizational strategic planning processes. Using health care strategic planning methods, the goals of the meeting were to:

- Develop a strategic vision for the role of Pediatric Hospital Medicine (PHM) in the future of child health care;
- Describe the current gaps between the vision and today’s reality;
- Develop a common understanding on current initiatives in pediatric hospital medicine domains of quality, practice, workforce and research;
- Determine the method(s) by which participants can be organized to accomplish additional initiatives to implement (achieve?) the vision;
- Identify and prioritize key strategic initiatives, and
- Assign accountability and determine next steps and timeline to implement the selected initiatives.

The vision that came out of pre-work and brainstorming at this planning session was wide ranging and ambitious.

**“Pediatric hospitalists will transform the delivery of hospital care for children”**

- We will ensure that care for hospitalized children is fully integrated and includes the medical home.
- We will design and support systems for children that eliminate harm associated with hospital care.
- We will develop a skilled and stable workforce that is the preferred providers of care for most hospitalized children.
- We will use collaborative research models to answer questions of clinical efficacy, comparative effectiveness, and quality improvement, and we will deliver care based on that knowledge.
- We will provide the expertise that supports continuing education in the care of the hospitalized child for pediatric hospitalists, trainees, midlevel providers, and hospital staff.
- We will create value for our patients and organizations in which we work based on our unique expertise in PHM clinical care, research, and education.
- We will be leaders and influential agents in national health care policies that impact hospital care.

Following development of a vision, the members then undertook an analysis of the gaps between the current state and vision, organizing around four topics - clinical practice, research, workforce issues, and quality. Prior to the meeting, members assigned to each of the 4 workgroups collated and assessed available data relevant to their domain area. The current state of affairs and draft set of distinct goals were presented in a focused, brief, 15 minute summary by each previously designated group leader. Presentations were reviewed by the members jointly as well as in small groups during a gallery walk. These groups were purposefully chosen to include members of each workgroup to enhance diversity and encourage cross-domain interactive discussion and assessments. From this, all concluded that despite our best intentions, harm is still common and as a group of physicians we do not consistently provide evidence based care. We also found that while our workforce has many strengths it is not yet stable. Quality and safety activities are currently dispersed throughout multiple national entities working in silos. The predominant focus is on meeting National Patient Safety Goals with limited work on inpatient clinical quality. A review of current research activities showed that much of our PHM research is fragmented, with a lack of effective research networks and collaborative efforts to ask and answer the questions needed to provide optimal care.
Collectively, the members made recommendations to each workgroup and then identified which elements of the vision were to be addressed by one or more workgroups. Then each of the original four content based workgroups used their own work product and input from the above sessions to create 3-4 strategic initiatives. The members then used these to identify a series of initiatives designed to address the gaps between our current state and the vision. We identified the need to merge clinical practice and workforce, given the overlay of initiatives. Members identified 10 initiatives, developing specific deliverables and identifying leaders within the three core workgroups for each project.

Initiatives included the following:

1. Undertake environmental assessment of PHM participation on key quality and safety committees, societies, and agencies to ensure appropriate PHM representation in liaison and/or leadership positions.
2. Create a plan for a QI collaborative by assessing the needs and resources available; draft plans for 2 projects (one safety and one quality) which will improve care for children hospitalized with common conditions treated by PHM physicians.
3. Develop an educational plan supporting the PHM Core Competencies addressing both hospitalist training needs and the role as formal educators.
4. Create a clinical practice monitoring dashboard template for use at PHM hospitals and practices.
5. Develop a descriptive statement which can be used by any PHM which defines the field of PHM and answers the question “who are we”?
6. Develop a communications tool describing “value added” of PHM.
7. Develop a tool to assess career satisfaction among PHM physicians, with links to current SHM work in this area.
8. Create a collaborative research entity by re-structuring the existing research network and formalizing relationships with affiliated networks.
9. Create a pipeline/mentorship system to increase the number of PHM researchers.
10. Formalize an organizational infrastructure for oversight and guidance of PHM Strategic Planning Roundtable efforts with clear delineation of the relationships with the AAP, APA, and SHM.

The next steps of the planning project will include recruitment of PHM physicians around the country to participate in the above Strategic Initiative projects over approximately 16-18 months under the guidance of work group leaders. This summary of the Roundtable events and the preliminary results of the Strategic Initiatives will be reported at the 2009 PHM meeting in Tampa this summer, with a more detailed presentation at the 2010 PHM meeting. Further development of these initiatives is anticipated and longer term planning (2-5 years) will be evaluated by the PHM Strategic Planning Roundtable Members.

Attachment 1. PHM Strategic Planning Roundtable
Planning Committee
Mary Ottolini, MD
Jack Percelay, MD
Dan Rauch, MD
Erin Stucky, MD
David Zipes, MD

Members
Doug Carlson, MD
Jennifer Daru, MD
Vincent Chiang, MD
Patrick Conway, MD
Matt Garber, MD
Christopher Landrigan, MD, MPH
Pat Lye, MD
Jennifer Maniscalco, MD
Sanjay Mahant, MD, FRCPC
Steve Narang, MD
Mario Reyes, MD
Beth Robbins, MD
Jeff Sperring, MD
Raj Srivastava, MD, FRCPC, MSCE
Lisa Zaoutis, MD

**Facilitator**
Sanford Melzer, MD, MBA

Definition of “participant” or “Strategic Planning participant”: Any PHM who engages in work on the Strategic Planning Initiatives exclusive of the PHM Strategic Planning Committee or Planning Members.

Mary C. Ottolini
APA Education Committee Chair

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**Research Committee Report**

Membership of the Executive Committee of the Research Committee now includes: **Benard Dreyer** (Chair), **Peter Szilagyi**, **Debra Bogen**, **Iris Borowsky**, **Dimitri Christakis**, **Bill Cooper**, **Ruth Etzel**, **Glenn Flores**, **Jim Guevera**, **Donna Halloran**, **Larry Kleinman**, **Chris Landrigan**, **Iris Mabry**, **Cynthia Minkovitz**, **Shirley Russ**, **Janet Serwint**, **Samir Shah**, **Adam Spanier**, **Raj Srivastava**, **Christopher Stille**, **Karen Wilson**, and **Whitney Witt**. The Executive Committee typically has monthly conference calls as well as subcommittees that work on individual activities throughout the year. **Connie Mackay**, the Associate Director of the National Office of the APA, has provided a great deal of support to the Executive Committee. Thanks Connie!

Please join us at our Annual Research Committee Meeting at PAS in Baltimore, Sunday, May 3, 2009. The meeting will be from 11:00 am to 12:30 pm.

Here are some of the present activities of the Research Committee:

**Young Investigators Awards (YIA)**

This year the APA is delighted that it offers several different YIAs for young investigators to choose from:

1. **The APA/AHRQ YIAs:** These awards are given out yearly, 3-4 “general” awards funded by the APA that focus on all types of clinical and health services research, and 3-4 funded by AHRQ that focus more specifically on health service research projects using large national datasets or studying quality improvement. The awards are for up to $10,000. We are now adding a career-mentoring component to these awards and are in the process of choosing national facilitators for each of the awardees. This year’s awardees are:

   **APA YIAs 2009**
   - Grace Lee, CHOP: Incidence of Pneumonia-Related Complications in US Children Hospitalized with Community-Acquired Pneumonia in the Post-Heptavalent Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine Era
   - Shonna Yin, NYU: Use of Plain-language, Pictogram-based Medication Instruction Sheets to Improve Parent Understanding of Medication Instructions and Prevent Medication Errors in Children
   - Anisha Patel, UCLA: Hydrate for a Healthy Start: A Qualitative Study Exploring the Availability and Consumption of Beverages in Child Care Facilities

   **APA/AHRQ YIAs 2009:**
   - Patricia Li, Hospital for Sick Children: A population-based study on the effect of clinical practice guidelines in the emergency department on childhood asthma admissions and bouncebacks in Ontario, Canada
2. Commonwealth Fund YIAs focusing on developmental and preventive outcomes of 0-5 year-olds: The Commonwealth Fund is funding a second round of YIAs this year in conjunction with the APA for projects that focus on developmental and preventive outcomes for 0-5 year olds as part of pediatric primary and "well-child" care. The program has a career development-mentoring component as well as support for research. The awards are for up to $15,000 of funding, and there is also a budget for a yearly meeting of the awardees, the leadership of the program, and their mentors (This year the meeting was held at the Commonwealth Fund offices in NYC on January 26, 2009). Cynthia Minkovitz is leading this effort in conjunction with the chair of the research committee. This year’s (2009) awardees are:

- Aasma Khandekar, Boston Medical Center: A Quality Improvement Initiative for Reach Out and Read
- Michael Leu, Seattle Children’s: Feasibility study of an online, family-focused developmental screening instrument based on Bright Futures
- Alma Guerrero, UCLA: Quality of Preventive Care for Young Latino Children: Assessment of Disparities and Impact

3. MCHB-funded Bright Futures YIAs 2009: The APA has received funding under the leadership of Judy Shaw for YIAs focusing on implementation of the Bright Futures guidelines. The first round of funding led to the following folks receiving awards this year:

- Darcy Thompson, Johns Hopkins: Providing nutritional anticipatory guidance to low-income Spanish-speaking parents via touch screen computer kiosks
- Allison Gorman, NYU: Obesity Prevention in Toddler and Preschool Children: Parental and Practitioner Knowledge Attitudes and Behavior
- Kristina Gustafson, MUSC: Safety First: Implementing Bright Futures Evidence Based Curriculum In a Pediatric Residency Continuity Clinic

New Research Committee Chair Elected: Three years go by very quickly and it is now time for a new Chair of the Research Committee. Glenn Flores, Professor of Pediatrics and Chief of the Division of General Pediatrics at UT Southwestern has been elected to be the new Chair. Congratulations and welcome to Glenn!

APA Research Award: This year’s APA Research Award will be given to Mark Schuster. Mark is the Chief of General Pediatrics at the Children's Hospital Boston and the William Berenberg Professor of Pediatrics at Harvard Medical School. He is well known to the APA membership in his present role as the Chair of the APA Public Policy and Advocacy Committee. The award will be presented to Mark at the PAS meeting in Baltimore. Congratulations to Mark!

Evaluation of the YIA Program: Karen Wilson is heading up that evaluation, and Cynthia Minkovitz, Donna Halloran and Benard Dreyer are collaborating with the effort. We are in the process of surveying previous awardees and unsuccessful applicants to determine the impact of the YIA program on their careers. Since the major goal of the YIA program is to support and promote the careers of young investigators, we think this evaluation will help assess how successful it has been, and hopefully encourage additional funding. In addition to the survey, there is a planned Medline search for publications of the applications to determine that component of academic productivity. Connie Mackay has been extremely helpful in this project as well.

Research Networks
The Research Committee continues to work with Janet Serwint, who directs CORNET (Continuity Research Network), and Chris Landrigan, who directs PRIS (Pediatric Research in Inpatient Settings) to help support their important efforts. PRIS is looking to reevaluate its efforts and administrative structure and Chris is in the process of leading that effort. So stay tuned to hear more after the PAS meetings.

Membership
If you have an interest in joining our committee, please contact me! All APA members are invited, from trainees to senior faculty. We have a monthly conference call during the year for our Executive Committee which is open to anyone interested in year long involvement, as well as subcommittees working on specific projects! If you are interested, or have any questions, contact me at bpd1@nyu.edu.

APA Research Committee Chair
Benard P. Dreyer, MD

Public Policy and Advocacy

Join us for the Public Policy & Advocacy Committee Meeting at PAS!
Everyone is welcome!!

PPA Committee Meeting
Sunday May 3, 2009
11:00AM - 12:30PM
Baltimore Convention Center - Stone

Our meeting will review recent activities and feature two exciting presenters who will share strategies for navigating today’s changing political landscape.
Please contact PPA Committee Chair, Mark Schuster, with any questions at mark.schuster@childrens.harvard.edu. We hope you can join us!

Featured Presentations

Strategies for the new government:
How to advocate for children in the era of health reform
by Karen Hendricks, JD
Governmental Affairs Coordinator
Academic Pediatric Association

Notes from the trenches:
An inside view of life at DHHS during an era of reform
by Patrick Conway, MD, MSc
Chief Medical Officer, Department of Health and Human Services, OS/ASPE
Executive Director, Federal Coordinating Council on Comparative Effectiveness Research
Academic General Pediatrics Accreditation Program (AGPAP)

The Academic General Pediatric Accreditation Committee (AGPAC) is looking forward to the 2009 PAS meeting in Baltimore.

As you recall, the Committee is responsible for administering the voluntary accreditation of academic general pediatric fellowship programs, including programs that focus on health services research, clinical effectiveness, quality and safety, community pediatrics, environmental health, hospital medicine and academic general pediatrics. In addition to accreditation, there is a consultation service of these fellowship programs that are thinking of starting a fellowship training program or wish to have an evaluation and site visit prior to applying for accreditation.

After the fellowship accreditation program was designated an APA ‘core activity’ in May 2008, AGPAC was pleased to receive six applications for accreditation and one application for consultation in the first application cycle which ended in January 2009. The Committee is currently reviewing the applications and planning the site visits.

Information concerning the accreditation program and all documents required for an application can be found on the website (www.academicpeds.org) under the ‘education’ section. In addition, there will be **two information sessions on the accreditation process and curriculum design at the PAS meetings**. The first is on Saturday, May 2, 2009 from 1:30-2:15 PM at the Division Director’s Special Interest Group (SIG) meeting, and the second at the Fellowship Director’s SIG on Sunday, May 3rd at 8:00 AM. Please check on meeting locations.

All those in the APA family with fellowship programs are encouraged to apply. By participating in the program we hope to strengthen fellowship training in Academic General Pediatrics.

Members of the AGPAC are:

- Constance Baldwin
- **Louis M. Bell** (Chairperson)
- Tina Cheng
- Dan Coury
- Paul Darden
- Marge Degnon
- Tom DeWitt
- Benard Dreyer
- Anne Duggan
- Steve Ludwig
- Peter Szilagyi
- Teri Turner

Please call or email **Lou Bell**, MD, Division of General of General Pediatrics, The Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia (215-590-1964 or bell@email.chop.edu) or Marge Degnon, Executive Director, Academic Pediatric Association (703-556-9222 or marge@academicpeds.org) for more information.

Louis M. Bell, MD
March 31, 2009
**Council of Academic Societies**

The Council of Academic Societies (CAS) is the part of the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) that represents faculty views and issues. The CAS held its annual meeting in Charleston, South Carolina in early March. The theme was “Assessing the Forces of Change: Finding Allies in Troubled Times” and it was well attended. Major discussion included the recent IOM report on resident duty hours. Dr. Jordan Cohen, former AAMC President and CEO, was a member of the IOM panel and presented the information and led the discussion. Many of the participants at the CAS were very invested in resident education and had lots to say about the recommendations. **I would like to hear from the APA members about their support or concerns as I believe that the AAMC may prepare some communication in response to the recommendations.** There was much discussion as well during the Business Meeting of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) and the new and relatively short turn around time funding for research, IT and equipment/renovation. The opportunities can be found at [http://grants.nih.gov/recovery/](http://grants.nih.gov/recovery/). The AAMC is now operating under a new governance structure that includes 2 members of the CAS (Chair, Chair-elect) as permanent designees in the 17-member Board but actually 2 additional CAS members are on the Board as at large elected member and the immediate past-chair of the AAMC as well. I am happy to serve the APA as a member of the Administrative Board of the CAS. Please let me know if you have additional questions or concerns about issues that may be brought to the CAS for discussion. I can be reached most easily at knelson@uab.edu.

Kathleen Nelson, MD, APA  
Liaison to the CAS

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**Council on Pediatric Subspecialties (COPS)**

The Council on Pediatric Subspecialties (COPS) is the organization allowing pediatric subspecialties to communicate with each other and to provide a common response to issues in the medical community more broadly. The creation of COPS was sponsored by the Association of Medical School Pediatric Department Chairs (AMSPDC) and the Association of Pediatric Program Directors (APPD). The impetus for its creation was around issues related to fellowship training (Sectish, 2007). The APA was asked to participate both as an ex-officio non-voting member (similar to the American Board of Pediatrics and AMSPDC) and as an academic discipline. Each pediatric subspecialty (or discipline) is asked to provide two representatives, one of which should be a fellowship director. As the APA works on its own pipeline issues and the certification of fellowship programs, the issues of COPS are relevant to our organization. The initial issue addressed by COPS was to rationalize the application process for fellowship application. There was a strong push for a single application deadline. The final decision, which the APA participated in, resulted in the agreement to have an early and late application deadline and to work toward a more coherent process. Over the last few months there has been much discussion about work hours and how this should apply to fellows. This resulted from the IOM report “Resident Duty Hours: Enhancing Sleep, Supervision, and Safety” ([http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record_id=12508](http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record_id=12508)). There is concern that further restrictions in work hours would be harmful to education. The concern expressed by the report is that over-tired trainees are making mistakes. There is a statement lead by the neonatologist that will soon be published in the Journal of Pediatrics. The Advocacy and Workforce Taskforce - During the recent passage of the CHIP legislation, a legislator inserted a paragraph into the bill requesting that the Government Accountability Office (GAO) conduct a survey of pediatric subspecialty needs in this country. While the request may only apply to CHIP- and Medicaid-eligible eligible children, the data could be the best yet and helpful in buttressing our subsequent efforts to support our ability to improve our workforce situation.
The Taskforce on Relationship with Regulatory Agencies is writing a guide for fellowship directors based on the current ABP guide for residency program directors. For further information and to participate in discussion related to the above issues and other refer to the website (http://www.pedsubs.org/).


James Perrin and Paul Darden
APA Liaison to CoPS

Federation of Pediatrics Organizations  Meeting Minutes

Federation of Pediatric Organizations
February 2, 2009 meeting
7:30 am — 1:00 pm
AAP Department of Federal Affairs Office, Washington D.C.

PRESENT:
   Theodore C. Sectish, MD, Executive Director
   Susan Guralnick, MD, Chair, APPD
   Jean Bartholomew, Administrator

AAP:
   Errol R. Alden, MD
   David Tayloe, MD

ABP:
   James A. Stockman, MD
   M. Douglas Jones, Jr., MD

AMSPDC:
   Marianne E. Felice, MD
   Aaron L. Friedman, MD

APA:
   Tina Cheng, MD

APPD:
   Robert McGregor, MD

APS:
   Alan Jobe, MD
   George Lister, MD

SPR:
   Mark R. Schleiss, MD
   Tom Schanley, MD

AAP Staff:
   Karen Hendricks, JD
   Robert Hall, Assistant Director, AAP

NACHRI:
   Larry McAndrews
1. Call to order

Dr. Guralnick called the meeting to order at 8:00 am and asked for introductions. All member organizations of FOPO were represented.

2. Executive Director's report

Dr. Sectish, the Executive Director of FOPO, included in the agenda a summary of his activities since the September 2008 FOPO meeting. He encouraged members to make use of the FOPO Web site for informational purposes and possibly for use by the working groups to discuss their issues and ideas. He noted that various working groups have generated publications. At today's meeting, there are two proposals coming forth for discussion and action. They are the entity for post R³P and a Task Force on Diversity.

Report on Residency Review and Redesign in Pediatrics (R³P) Follow-up Entity

Dr. D. Jones was present. He and Dr. Sectish described how this entity could/should operate

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**Region II**

Region II had its second combined regional meeting with Region III at the Jefferson Medical College on March 27, 2009. Approximately 60 APA members and trainees traveled to Philadelphia. The keynote address was delivered by APA immediate Past President and Editor of Academic Pediatrics, Peter Szilagyi. Peter inspired all of us with stories of how he has been able to use his research on insurance for children to advocate for better health insurance coverage for children. We offered three morning workshops: The morning workshops included: "Writing Manuscripts" (facilitated by Peter Szilagyi), “Survey Design” (facilitated by Benard Dreyer) and "Giving Feedback to Promote Self Assessment and Reflective Practice" (facilitated by Lyuba Konopasek and a group of wonderful co-facilitators). During our business meeting, APA President Elect Danielle Laraque updated us on the activities of the APA at the national level.

The afternoon program consisted of original research presentations. Both Region 2 and 3 members heeded our call for abstracts – with a resulting 38 abstracts submitted to our team. Following a peer review process, 18 of the abstracts were chosen: 10 for poster presentations and 8 for platform presentations. This year’s best presentation award co-winners were Sara Eleoff, from University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry, for her original research, “Prevalence of Adverse Childhood Experiences Among Children in Kinship Care and Foster Care” and Oluwakemi Badaki, from Children's National Medical Center, for her original research “CPR Rescuer Fatigue: Oxygen Consumption (VO2) Is Static While Chest Compression Quality Deteriorates Over Time” done while at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. Of note, almost all of the presenters were chosen to present their research either as a poster or platform presentation at the Pediatric Academic Societies annual meeting in Baltimore, Maryland. Congratulations, everyone!

We’d like to officially thank everyone who helped us with the regional meeting: workshop facilitators, keynote speaker, poster presenters and platform presenters. In addition, a big thanks to Judy Turow for graciously offering her home institution, Jefferson, to host the meeting – and to Sybil Fullard for helping with endless
details like ordering food, confirming audiovisual equipment, putting up signs, etc. We received wonderful feedback about the meeting – because of all of you! Thanks so much.

Our regional breakfast in Baltimore will be held on Monday, May 4th. We look forward to seeing you there bright and early at 7AM.

If you are interested in hosting next year’s regional meeting, please let us know. It is an easy way to get involved in the organization – and we do most of the work! Please contact either of us if you have other ideas or want to get involved.

Region Co-Chairs:
Cindy Osman cynthia.osman@nyumc.org
Suzy Tomopoulos tomops01@nyumc.org

Region III

We had our Annual Regional Meeting in conjunction with Region II at Jefferson Medical College, Friday, March 27, in Philadelphia, PA. There was an excellent keynote address on Immunization and Working with the Uninsured and Marginalized Children and Families by our very own Region III member Peter Szilagyi, Past-President of the APA, and now Editor of Academic Pediatrics. There were three excellent workshops on (1) Survey Design and Methodology - Benard Dreyer, (2) Preparing a Manuscript for Publication - Peter Szilagyi and (3) Giving Feedback to Promote Self-Assessment and Reflective Practice- Lyuba Konopasek.

There were also posters and seven abstract presentations. The co-winner of the abstract presentations was Sara Eleoff from University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry, Rochester, NY. Her presentation was on the Prevalence of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) Among Children in Kinship Care and Foster Care.

We hope to see you all in Baltimore for the 2009 PAS meeting. The APA Region III Breakfast will be held on Monday May 4th from 7:00-8:00 am. The breakfast will be held in Room Key 4, at the Hilton Hotel. We will be discussing plans for the coming year, as well as get any feedback on the Regional Meeting. Please be sure to join us!

Region III Co-Chairs:
Bob Hilliard robert.hilliard@sickkids.ca
Carrin Schottler-Thal schottc@mail.amc.edu

Region IV

We recently held our 44th annual Region IV Academic Pediatric Association meeting in Charlottesville, Virginia on February 21-22, 2009. It was a great success, and we especially enjoyed seeing so many new members from around the region. The 49 attendees came from all over the region, with 12 institutions represented. There were 12 abstract presentations, as well as three workshops to choose from. We were honored to have APA President Tina Cheng, Johns Hopkins University, give the keynote presentation “The Future of Pediatric Primary Care”, as well as an update from the National APA.

We had two new activities this year at our regional meeting. One was our Sunday morning “Breakfast with the Professors,” at which several senior members of our region met with small groups to discuss specific career paths. A big “thank you” to Tina Cheng (JHU), Barbara Howard (JHU), Ken Roberts (Moses Cone), Greg
Hayden (UVA) and Anne Duggan (JHU) for agreeing to participate in this very successful event. Another innovation at the meeting was the resident QI/QA poster symposium on Saturday evening. Three excellent posters were presented by Samantha Fish (Inova Fairfax), Suna Seo (Georgetown University) and Jeffrey Zampi (CNMC). A special thanks goes out to Rachel Dodge (JHU), Jenny Tender (CNMC), John Olsson (ECU), and Karin Hillenbrand (ECU), who did another spectacular job of organizing the meeting. We all appreciate their hard work and dedication.

Membership in the region continues to grow. To encourage increased participation and membership, please invite colleagues, faculty members, fellows, and residents to consider applying for membership. If you are interested in serving as a recruiter for Region IV at your home institution, let us know.

We look forward to seeing many of the members of the region at the Region IV breakfast on Monday, May 4, 2009 at 7-8am at the PAS meeting in Baltimore! We will be meeting at the Baltimore Hilton Hotel, in Room Key 6. Save the date for next year’s regional meeting: February 20-21, 2010 in Charlottesville, Virginia.

Region Chairs:
Ivor Horn ihorn@cnmc.org
Gail Cohen gcohen@wfubmc.edu

Region V

We thank all of those who participated on our December teleconference on Family Centered Rounds. Our next teleconferences will be in April and June; look for more information via email. Our Region V abstract competition went well this year.

Please attend our Region V breakfast to see presentations and posters from entrants. We will also give an update on the status of the upcoming Region Conference planned for September 24, 2009 in Cincinnati, OH. Please save the date! If you are interested in assisting with Region V conference planning, please email Adam Spanier.

Region V will have an opening for Region Co-Chair in May 2009; this is a three year term. Unfortunately, co-chair elect Adam Spanier will be moving out of the region! We thank him for his leadership and enthusiasm and wish him well as he joins a new region. Please contact either Shalini or Bill if you would like more information about this opportunity, and/or are interested in the position!

We look forward to seeing you in Baltimore.

Sincerely,
Region Co-Chairs:
Shalini Forbis shalini.forbis@wright.edu
Adam Spanier adam.spanier@cchmc.org
Bill Stratbucker wstratbucker@aol.com

Region VII and VIII Combined Meeting

Regions VII and VIII co-hosted their regional meetings on Saturday, February 14, 2009 in New Orleans as part of the Southern Societies for Pediatric Research meeting. Our agenda included discussion of increasing attendance at this meeting, which is geared toward trainees. We also brainstormed means of attainment of funding for the meeting in an era of increased scrutiny by industry and the government.
The APA meeting was also highlighted by a workshop entitled “A Practical Approach to End of Life Discussions: How to Speak When You Don’t Know What To Say,” by Carrie M. Brown from the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences – Little Rock, Arkansas. The two regions also organized platform and poster sessions for the areas of Medical Education/Medical Ethics, Adolescent Medicine and Pediatrics, and assisted with Health Care Research and Clinical Epidemiology and Preventive Medicine sessions. APA members from both regions act as abstract and workshop reviewers and preside over platform sessions at SSPR. In addition, 23 trainees received SSPR/APA Trainee Travel Awards and at least 2 APA members received Young Faculty Awards (Donna Halloran and Dennis Kuo).

Finally, we would like to thank APA President-elect, Danielle Laraque, for taking time away from the Leadership Meeting to speak with our regional members, and joining us for a delicious dinner at Mr. B’s. We appreciated the opportunity to discuss issues important to us regionally and nationally, as well as enjoy some great food!

Our next regional meetings will be held at the Pediatric Academic Societies meeting in Baltimore on Monday, May 4 from 7-8 am. We will be introducing new co-chairs for the regions, thanking outgoing co-chairs for their service, and discussing items of importance for all of us in academic pediatrics. Please make a point of joining us.

Sincerely,

Region Chairs:
Charles Kantrow (Region VII) ckantrow@ochsner.org
Jennifer Takagishi (Region VIII) jtakagis@hsc.usf.edu

Region IX and X Combined Meeting

Our Joint Region IX and X Meeting, the Pediatric CARE (Community, Advocacy, Research and Education) Conference, was on January 31, 2009 in Monterey, California at the Naval Post Graduate School. Four residents and fellows won travel stipend awards to the national PAS conference in Baltimore to present at our Regional Breakfast meeting: Naomi Bardach, MD, UCSF, “Changes Associated with Incorporating ‘Present on Admission’ Indicators into Risk-Adjusted Inpatient Pediatric Performance Measures”; Anisha Patel, UCLA, “Increasing the Availability and Consumption of Drinking Water in Schools: A Pilot Intervention”; John Peoples, MD, Stanford “Health Beliefs, Status and Access amongst Adolescent Migrant Farmworkers”; and Angie Valdez, MD, Utah, “Proteja La Cabeza: Bicycle Helmet Use in a Low-Income Latino Population.”

We look forward to seeing everyone at our Region Breakfast at the PAS meeting on Monday, May 4th from 7-8 am in the Key 12 Room at the Baltimore Hilton Hotel. At this meeting, Greg Blaschke, will step down as Region IX co-chair and a new co-chair will be announced. Thanks so much, Greg, for your many years of service to the Region!!

We welcome any feedback or ideas for APA regional activities, either locally or at the national meeting. Please feel free to contact your Region Co-Chairs.

Region IX Co-Chairs
Greg Blaschke gregory.blaschke@med.navy.mil
Alice Kuo akuo@mednet.ucla.edu

Region X Co-Chairs:
Patricia Barreto pbarreto@mednet.ucla.edu
Elizabeth Miller elizabeth.miller@ucdmc.ucdavis.edu
Advocacy Training SIG

The Advocacy Training SIG is looking forward to an energetic and informative meeting in Baltimore! Please join us Saturday, May 2, 2009 from 8am to 11am in Convention Center Room 342. In response to your requests, this year, our SIG focus will be on developing careers as physician advocates. We will feature Dr. **Josh Sharfstein**, MD, Commissioner of Public Health, City of Baltimore and recently appointed Deputy Commissioner of the FDA speaking on, "What is the Role of a Physician Advocate?" In addition, Dr. Cathy Jordan from Community Campus Partnerships for Health will lead an interactive workshop using their toolkit to help faculty and residents capture their community engaged scholarship. Finally, we will feature a spotlight on resident community health and advocacy projects - the highlight of our annual SIG! Hope to see you in Baltimore!

**SIG Chair:**
**Allison Brindle**  brindla@ccf.org

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Continuity SIG

We plan on having another great meeting for the Continuity SIG this year in Baltimore. Please note that we will meet on Saturday, May 2, from 11:30 to 2:30 in Room 306 at the Baltimore Convention Center.

Forget your hula skirts, this year we have bigger fish to fry! We will open with introductions and an update on SIG business. Thanks to the important contributions of many SIG members, our updated Continuity Clinic Director’s Manual will be presented by **Jan Drutz**. We hope to enhance our ability to communicate with the membership through more effective use of our APA website. **Janet Serwint** will share how CORNET continues to experience growth, accomplishments, and opportunities. Our Task Force has taken information garnered from the small group activities in Hawaii and presented a summary statement with concrete suggestions to the Pediatric RRC of the ACGME. The timing for working with the RRC is perfect as the next revision of the guidelines is under way. We hope to work in small groups again at this meeting to trial tools and get feedback as we continue the process of finding ways for the ACGME to more appropriately measure the continuity experience. Don’t clam up; we want to hear from you. As always, we expect the networking and friendships to be a very rewarding part of our meeting. We “shore” look forward to seeing you!

**SIG Chair:**
**John Olsson**  olssonj@mail.ecu.edu
**Developmental-Behavioral Pediatrics SIG**

The dramatic increase in identification of children and adolescents with autism spectrum disorders has had significant effects on the clinical practices of child health care providers. The demand for specialized evaluations for these disorders has overloaded developmental pediatricians and psychologists, resulting in lengthy waits for assessment. Once diagnosed, the short list of proven effective treatments has led to increasing family questions and requests for complementary and alternative medicine (CAM) treatments. Pediatricians are having a difficult time keeping up with what treatments are proven ineffective, dangerous, or simply unproven.

This year’s Developmental-Behavioral Pediatrics SIG will address these issues in a pair of presentations. Patty Manning, of Cincinnati Children’s Medical Center, will discuss the changes her program has implemented in order to increase access for families seeking new evaluations, while continuing to provide care to established patients. **Susan Hyman** will address a variety of CAM treatments, some of the data supporting or refuting their use, and suggestions for working with families as they seek advice on these regimens.

**SIG Chair:**
Dan Coury  
dcoury@chi.osu.edu

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**Division Directors in General Pediatrics SIG**

The Division Directors in General Pediatrics Special Interest Group has planned an exciting and informative meeting for the 2009 PAS Meeting in Baltimore. The SIG meeting will be held Saturday May 2, 2009 from 11:30am – 2:30pm. The meeting will feature two presentations on relevant topics for SIG members as well as for all academic and clinical health professionals.

The first presentation: “Community Health Centers/FQHC’s: Opportunities for Academic Pediatrics,” will feature Dr. Robert Jacobs, Professor of Clinical Pediatrics, USC School of Medicine, **John Meurer**, Professor and Division Chief of General Pediatrics, Medical College of Wisconsin in Milwaukee and Dr. Eyal Ben-Isaac, Director of Resident Training at the Children’s Hospital of Los Angeles. The discussion will present advantages and disadvantages, planning, implementation and educational opportunities for academic and clinical partnerships with Community Health Centers and Federally Qualified Health Centers.

Our second presentation: “Academic General Pediatric Fellowship Accreditation,” will feature **Louis Bell**, Division Chief of General Pediatrics at the Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia. The discussion will present an update on fellowship accreditation, goals and objectives for fellowship curriculum development, policies and procedures for consultation, and establishing an accredited fellowship program.

The SIG meeting will conclude with a discussion of SIG business, including updates on the 2009 APA Leadership Conference in General Pediatrics and last year’s presentation on workforce diversity. Please join us for a robust discussion and meet fellow colleagues in general pediatrics.

**SIG Co-Chairs**
Susan Bostwick  
sbostwi@med.cornell.edu
Juan Parra  
parraj@uthscsa.edu

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**Ethics SIG**
The Ethics SIG will be meeting Monday morning, May 4, 2009 from 8:30-11:30 am. Dr. Joel Frader will speak on the topic, "Clinician Refusal of Care Based on Claims of Conscience." Those attending may want to read his article in the American Journal of Medical Genetics Part C (Seminars in Medical Genetics) 151C: 62-67 (2009) entitled, The Personal Is Political, the Professional Is Not: Conscientious Objection to Obtaining/Providing/Acting On Genetic Information. Dr. John Lantos will provide a response to Dr. Frader's presentation followed by open discussion. We will be exploring the boundaries/intersections of patient autonomy, professional integrity, and professional power. There will be time towards the end of the session to discuss future goals/topics for the SIG.

We will adjourn by 11:30 so that all who wish may attend a lecture by David Michaels, PhD, MPH, who will discuss the topic of his book, Doubt is Their Product: How Industry's Assault on Science Threatens Your Health. Drs. Joel Frader and Robert Nelson will respond to the speaker's presentation and facilitate a general discussion of research ethics and conflicts of interest in pediatric research.

SIG Chair:

Ernest F. Krug efkrug@beaumont.edu

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Evidence-Based Pediatrics SIG

The Evidence-Based Pediatrics Special Interest Group looks forward to its upcoming meeting at PAS in Baltimore. The meeting takes place Tuesday, May 5, 2009 from 8:45 a.m. to 10:45 a.m., Baltimore Convention Center, Room 306.

Our working agenda includes three items. First, we will review our progress with the goals and objectives we set for ourselves at our meeting in Honolulu the previous year. We sought to engage the APPD, PAS and AAP in a discussion of what we want our medical students to learn about EBM, how we should train different levels of learners including residents, fellows, and staff, and how we should expect general pediatric residents to use EBM once they go into practice. Additionally, we sought to continue to compile educational resources for our members. Furthermore, we sought to look for more EBM evaluation tools to measure our learners’ proficiency in EBM. Second on the agenda, we will discuss membership activity with regard to our SIG, our listserv, and our wiki site. Third on the agenda, we will further refine our goals and objectives based for the coming year and identify action items.

All members of the APA are invited to participate on our listserv. Ask to join the list-serv through the APA web site at http://www.ambpeds.org/site/index.htm. Once you've joined, just send your question to apa-EBP@listserv.ambpeds.org.

Also, everyone may access our efforts on the APA EBP SIG Wiki Site at http://apaebmsig.wetpaint.com. The site includes useful information and links on a variety of EBM topics including: upcoming conferences and events, our SIG activities, online EBM resources and web sites of note, EBM evaluation tools, EBM calculators, EBM reviews, glossaries of common EBM terms and abbreviations, pediatric EBM CAT sites, proposed goals and objectives for general pediatric residency, search engines and indexed medical literature.

SIG Co-Chairs:
Hans Kersten hk39@drexel.edu
Robert M. Jacobson jacobson.robert@mayo.edu
Faculty Development SIG

We are looking forward to a productive SIG meeting in Baltimore on Sunday, May 3, 12:30, room 303 in the Baltimore Convention Center (Course #3382). We plan to present a workshop on mishaps, errors, wardrobe malfunctions, and other comedic moments during faculty development workshops: “This can’t be happening to me”: Critical Incidents in Faculty Development Workshops. The workshop will be led by Joe Lopreiato Lyuba Konopasek and Mimi Bar-on. We’ll be sharing stories and working together to develop solutions. Faculty Development Journal Club


Our APA colleagues report on the development of an analysis tool to assist in the evaluation of educator portfolios. Using a consensus building process among 10 medical educators, they defined terms usually found in portfolios and rated them for use in evaluating portfolios. The tool was tested by several raters on sample portfolios before submission to MedEdPortal for peer review. The goal was to produce a valid and reliable tool to measure the impact or a body of work as reported in an educational portfolio. This article is worth a look, especially if you are preparing your portfolio or are sitting on a promotions committee.


These authors report on what characteristics make a good clinical teacher from a review of the literature. It is another in a series of these articles published over the last 25 years. Not surprisingly, the most common traits for good clinical teachers were: 1. Medical knowledge and sound clinical reasoning skills, 2. Positive relationships with students and creating a supportive learning environment and 3. Good communication skills. What this article adds are ideas for future research: Which of these items most influences student learning? What factors influence a student and teachers’ abilities to teach and learn? How can these teaching behaviors be taught, if at all? This article is worth reading for ideas before your next teaching assignment.

SIG Co-Chairs:
Bob Hilliard robert.hilliard@sickkids.ca
Joe Lopreiato llopreiato@usuhs.mil
Lyuba Konopasek lyk2003@med.cornell.edu

Fellowship Training SIG

Please join us on Sunday, May 3rd, 8:00 - 11:00 AM, for an exciting program at the SIG meeting in Baltimore (Baltimore Convention Center, Room 346). We welcome and encourage all fellowship faculty, fellows, graduates of fellowship programs, and anyone passionate about fellowship training to attend.

The meeting will begin with a workshop led by Lou Bell, APA Accreditation Project Committee Chair, and Connie Baldwin, Committee Member, on the Academic General Pediatric (AGP) fellowship accreditation program. The workshop will include an overview of the program, details of the application process, and challenges faced in curriculum development and evaluation for fellowship programs. Next, we are seeking a representative from the Medicine and Dentistry, Bureau of Health Professions, DHHS/HRSA, to talk about
Title VII funding of faculty development programs and take questions from the group. Finally, Paul Darden will discuss setting up a unified application and match system for AGP fellowship programs.

These discussions promise to be tremendously informative and lively. We look forward to seeing you there.

SIG Chair:
Iris Borowsky borow004@umn.edu
Paul M. Darden dardenpm@musc.edu

Hospital Medicine SIG

Plan to come join us Sunday morning, May 3rd from 8-11am in Baltimore Convention Center Room 302 for the annual Hospital Medicine SIG meeting. We’re expecting this year’s meeting to be incredibly informative and will provide several updates on key initiatives in the field of Pediatric Hospital Medicine. You won’t want to miss it.

Our preliminary agenda includes:
- Update on the Pediatric Hospital Medicine Roundtable
- Update on Pediatric Hospital Medicine 2009 conference in Tampa this Summer
- Update on the Pediatric Hospital Medicine Core Curriculum
- Update on the PRIS network
- Poster Session

Please check the program schedule for the multiple Hospital Medicine platform and poster sessions during the PAS meeting. A suggested hospitalist track will be available at the SIG meeting.

Residents and medical students who are interested in learning more about becoming a hospitalist are strongly encouraged to join us.

The SIG co-chairs are also asking for nominations from members who would be interested in a leadership role in the future as a co-chair. Further details will be available at the SIG meeting.

If you have any questions regarding this year’s meeting or activities involved in the Hospital Medicine SIG, please contact Daniel Rauch or Jeff Sperring.

SAVE THE DATE!
Pediatric Hospital Medicine 2009
July 23-26
Tampa, Florida

SIG Co-Chairs:
Daniel Rauch daniel.rauch@med.nyu.edu
Jeff Sperring jsperrin@iupui.edu
Integrative Medicine SIG

The APA Integrative Medicine SIG will hold its annual workshop on Sunday, May 3rd, from 8 am to 11 am in room 345 at the Baltimore Convention Center. This year’s Integrative Medicine SIG presentation will consist of two interactive presentations:

1) Yoga for children with a demonstration and discussion by school-age participants and their instructor including what the experience has been like for them and what the indications for referring children for Yoga training are.

2) A physician-surgeon-healer who has developed a second career as a highly successful teacher of Mindfullness - Based Stress Reduction.

In addition, we will have a brief review of osteopathic manipulative medicine for children by a leading authority in the field, Jane Carreiro, DO, and paper and poster presentations of current research in a variety of CAM areas.

All PAS attendees are welcome to attend.

For additional information, please contact the co-chairs:

SIG Co-Chairs:
O.J. Sahler  OJ_Sahler@urmc.rochester.edu
David Steinhorn  d-steinhorn@northwestern.edu

International Health SIG

The International Health SIG will meet on Saturday, May 2nd from 11:30 am till 2:30 pm at the Baltimore Convention Center – Room 346 (Session # 2455). The theme chosen for this meeting is GLOBAL NEWBORN SURVIVAL. Our distinguished speakers are world renowned leaders in the international child health field. They will address innovative approaches to decrease neonatal morbidity and mortality worldwide. Dr. Zulfiqar Bhutta from Pakistan will focus on the latest achievements in nutrition that improve newborn survival. Dr. Shoo Lee from Canada will talk about successful international collaboration targeting improvement of rural health in China.

The audience will also have an opportunity to hear Dr. Yeshiwas Amsalu form Ethiopia, who will speak about health services, and the infants and young children feeding initiative in his country. Dr. Amsalu is the 2009 APA International Research Award Recipient. He will present his winning abstract “Microbiologic Safety of Cup Feeding vs. Bottle Feeding” on Tuesday, May 5th at 2:30 pm at Baltimore Convention Center – Room 317, at the General Pediatrics: Potpourri II Platform Session (Session # 5730).

All PAS attendees are cordially invited to attend these events. If you are interested in international health, and want to contribute to the discussion on future directions of the International Health SIG, please stay for the business meeting at the conclusion of Saturday’s session. Please contact SIG Chairs if you would like to join our LISTSERV. Looking forward to seeing you all in Baltimore.

SIG Co-Chairs:
Mirzada Kurbasic  mirzada.kurbasic@louisville.ed
Yvonne Vaucher  yvaucher@ucsd.edu
Cindy Howard  drcindy@umn.edu
Medical Informatics SIG

The Medical Informatics SIG will present a panel discussion on "Careers in Medical Informatics" on Saturday May 2nd from 8-11 am.

Nationally recognized informaticians, representing a breadth of careers and jobs in medical informatics, will discuss a variety of topics including how they got to be in their present career and jobs, what a typical day is like, what knowledge and skills are needed to be successful in the job, etc. Panelists will include:

Steven Downs, MD - Medical Informatics Fellowship Director, Indiana University
George Kim, MD - Medical Informatics Researcher, Johns Hopkins University
Michael Leu, MD - Medical Director for Clinical Effectiveness, Seattle Children's Hospital
Daniel Nigrin, MD - Chief Information Office, Children's Hospital Boston

Come learn more about medical informatics and how it can be a part of your career. Anyone who is interested in using computers and technology in medicine may join the discussion. If you have any questions or comments please contact:

SIG Chair:
Donna D’Alessandro donna-dalessandro@uiowa.edu

Newborn Nursery SIG

We are looking forward to an exciting Newborn Nursery SIG meeting in Baltimore on Saturday, May 2nd from 11:30-2:30. Our focus this year is on discharge issues and follow-up care. We will have a keynote address by creators of the AAP's Safe and Healthy Beginnings Toolkit. Tony Burgos will share discharge packets and guidelines he collected from the listserv, and lead a discussion on how best to utilize the collected information. Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome research will be reviewed as well, with a focus on discharge planning and follow-up care of the drug-exposed infant. Please join us for what will certainly be an afternoon of active discussion and sharing of ideas.

SIG Co-Chairs:
Tony Burgos Tony.Burgos@stanford.edu
Mark Vining Mark.Vining@umassmemorial.org

Nutrition SIG

This note is for senior and chief residents as well as attendees of PAS who plan for student and resident education in pediatrics. The session is designed to show our APA Nutrition SIG’s Teacher’s Guide to Pediatric Nutrition action. We are scheduled to meet Monday morning, May 4th at 8:15AM. Please pass this on to your new Chiefs.

The model to be demonstrated in our session will engage attendees in interactions that meet the three criteria for learning. First, there is a context for understanding created where learners can place specific bits of newly acquired knowledge. Second, the teaching is both interactive (e.g. experiential) and effective. As Jerome Brunner tells us, we need to touch the consciousness of students so that the material presented stays with them. The third criterion is that teaching be structured to meet the basic learners’ objective of doing well on whatever formal tests are before them.
This session is a lot of fun, and has been well received by pediatric residents and medical students at SUNY-Downstate. There will be a continental breakfast, and we need to know who is coming. Participants will receive preparatory information, and we need a head count for the commissary.

You can check out the Teacher’s Guide by typing teaching pediatric nutrition into the Google search bar, it will come up as first, as it has since its release in October, 2007.

Looking forward to meeting with you.

SIG Chair:
Bob Karp robert.karp@downstate.edu

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Pediatric Emergency Medicine

Please join us for the PEM SIG at PAS
May 2nd, 2009
11:30 – 2:30

A Tribute to Dr. Michael Shannon
(20-30 minutes)
Dr. Gary Fleisher

The Ludwig/Seidel Award Presentation
(5-10 minutes)
Rapid Opt-Out HIV Screening: “Translation into Practice in Pediatric Emergency Medicine”
Presented to: Dr. Jon F. McGreevy. Washington University School of Medicine.
Presented by: Dr. Stephen Ludwig.

SIG Presentation
Meeting the Needs of the Evolving Workforce in Pediatric Emergency Medicine

Premise/Conceptual Framework: Pediatric Emergency Medicine began as a small subspecialty of general pediatrics at tertiary care children’s hospitals and has grown into an independent subspecialty of clinicians with clinical, research, education, administration, and advocacy skills and responsibilities. During this SIG session we will explore the growing diversity of PEM practice environments in order to gain a better understanding of the challenges and opportunities that exist in the PEM community. As we all know, 90% of pediatric emergency visits occur in hospital settings other than tertiary care children’s hospitals. The growing recognition and expectations of the public for high quality pediatric emergency care in all settings has increased the demand for PEM clinicians in a large variety of practice environments.

Part 1: The History and Evolution of PEM: Steve Ludwig
(30 minutes)
Dr. Ludwig will provide an overview of the birth of PEM as well as their thoughts on the evolution and growth of the field.

Break
(15 minutes)
Part 2: Exploring Key Practice Environments in PEM
(30 minutes)
Representatives/leaders from each of these models will describe their practice setting, focusing on work environment, expectations, recruitment and challenges. Ultimately, they will let us know where and how you must excel to succeed in each of these environments!
Part 3: Preparing the Workforce to Meet Innovative and Evolving Needs in PEM
(45 minutes)
Panel discussion led by the SIG chairs.

How do we prepare PEM clinicians to lead and succeed in the various evolving practice environments? This portion of the session will be devoted to achieving a greater understanding of the training and educational challenges in current PEM settings. For example, are there new models/tracts of training that should be developed? Are there different needs based on training background (EM vs. Peds)?

SIG Co-Chairs:
Lalit Bajaj bajaj.lalit@tchden.org
Evie Alessandrini alessandrini@email.chop.edu

Pediatric Resident
Voicing Your Opinion: A Resident’s Perspective On Competing Interests in Patient Care
APA Pediatric Resident Special Interest Group
Saturday, May 2, 2009
3:00 – 5:00 pm
Baltimore Convention Center, Room 350

Calling all residents! Have you ever been caught in the middle of conflicting attendings? Have you struggled to find common ground between teens and parents with opposing goals of care? What do you do when parents and medical staff feel differently about continuing or withdrawing support? Please join us for a dynamic, case-based discussion informed by an exceptional panel of ethicists.

This session will provide residents with a forum to contemplate conflicting medical opinions with medical ethics experts. Seminar attendees will discuss:

- Navigating the medical hierarchy
- Negotiating management plans with teenage patients and their families
- Discovering differing opinions in medical futility

The focus will be on examples in which residents are found between the wishes of attendings, parents, patients or even the medical system itself. Our esteemed panel of ethicists will include:

John Lantos, MD
Professor of Pediatrics
Associate Director, MacLean Center for Clinical Medical Ethics
Co-Director, Robert Wood Johnson Clinical Scholars Program
Section Chief, General Pediatrics
University of Chicago

Lainie Friedman Ross, MD, PhD
Carolyn and Matthew Bucksbaum Professor of Clinical Ethics
Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Medicine, and Surgery
Associate Director, MacLean Center for Clinical Medical Ethics
University of Chicago

Margaret Moon, MD, MPH
Assistant Professor, Division of General Pediatrics and Adolescent Medicine, Department of Pediatrics
Freeman Family Scholar in Clinical Medical Ethics
Johns Hopkins University
Yoram Unguru, MD, MS, MA  
Associate Faculty  
Division of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology  
The Herman and Walter Samuelson Children's Hospital at Sinai and Berman Bioethics Institute  

We look forward to hearing your opinions about these important topics. Please join us! There will be a scheduled happy hour for residents attending the PAS meeting to follow. Information will be provided at the meeting.

SIG Chair:  
Nicole D. Marsico nmarsico@stanford.edu

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**Pediatrics for Family Medicine SIG**

The Pediatrics for Family Medicine SIG is meeting the morning of Monday, May 4th. Please join us to review our newly revised curricular guidelines that we developed in collaboration with a group of family physicians from the Society of Teachers of Family Medicine (STFM). The resident curriculum guidelines were jointly developed in 1998 and have not been significantly updated since. We will have a working document ready for review and input. Anyone who teaches pediatrics to family medicine residents in any setting is welcome to participate.

The other main SIG activity between meetings this past year has been a formal, comprehensive effort to identify pediatricians on Family Medicine faculties to join the APA and our SIG - if you know someone out there please pass on our contact information or send them to our SIG. We will announce the findings of our national survey and update attendees on our newly expanded membership.

If you have any questions or are interested in participating in our SIG contact Scott Krugman.

SIG Co-Chairs:  
Scott Krugman scott.krugman@medstar.net  
Alison Holmes aholmes@crhc.org

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**Race in Medicine SIG**

APA Race in Medicine SIG will hold its annual session on Saturday May 2, 2009 from 3:00 -5:00PM during the upcoming PAS meeting in Baltimore, Maryland

The Obama administration has pledged to invest significantly in electronic health information technology over the next 5 years. Significant health disparities exist among vulnerable populations in the US. Health Care for underserved populations is often concentrated geographically in safety-net institutions. The anticipated diffusion of health information technology to hospitals and community based health centers raises the question about the potential impact on health disparities.

This year’s session will focus on the role of health information technology on reducing health disparities in the US.
The panelists for the session are:

- **Renee Jenkins**, Immediate Past-President of the AAP and Professor, Department of Pediatrics and Child Health, Howard University College of Medicine
- **Tina L. Cheng**, President, Academic Pediatrics Association
- **Gerry Fairbrother**, Associate Director, Child Policy Research Center, Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center
- **Gary Kreps**, PhD, Professor and Chair of Department of Communication at George Mason University
- **Susannah Fox**, Associate Director, Digital Strategy, Pew Internet & American Life Project

Our panelists will discuss the recommendations from the recent Child Health Disparities Conference “Starting Early: A Life Course Perspective on Child Health Disparities: Developing a Research Action Agenda;” the use of technology among vulnerable populations and critically examines the role of health information technology and the potential impact on health disparities.

Please join us for a lively discussion. We also plan to have a brief business meeting after the panel discussion to discuss ideas for future Race in Medicine SIG activities.

We look forward to a great session at the PAS meeting in Baltimore!

For information contact:

**SIG Co-Chairs**

Iris Mabry-Hernandez Iris.Mabry@ahrq.hhs.gov
Suzette Oyeku soyeku@montefiore.org

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**In Memory of Michael Shannon**

We are incredibly saddened to announce that Michael Shannon, MD, MPH, Chief Emeritus of Emergency Medicine at Children’s Hospital Boston, and Professor of Pediatrics at Harvard Medical School, suddenly passed away while returning from a trip to Argentina on March 10, 2009. He was 55 years old.

The Pediatric community has lost one of its most esteemed and cherished researchers and educators. Dr. Shannon received his undergraduate degree from Washington University, St. Louis, MO, and his MD from Duke University School of Medicine in Durham, NC. He served as chief resident in Pediatrics at Children’s Hospital in Boston, where he then completed a combined Pediatric Emergency Medicine- Medical Toxicology Fellowship. He subsequently joined the Harvard Medical School faculty and began a meteoric rise in academics. In 2004, Michael Shannon became the first African-American to be named a full professor of Pediatrics at Harvard Medical School. Dr. Shannon was considered the preeminent pediatric toxicologist in the world. Consultants from countries as far away as Russia and Japan have called the Children’s Hospital, Boston emergency department at odd hours looking for Dr. Shannon’s advice on diagnosing or managing a difficult poisoning case. He was a prolific writer, having published more than 200 peer-reviewed articles in major scientific journals. He was lead editor of one of the world’s authoritative texts of medical Toxicology, *Haddad, and Winchester’s Clinical Management of Poisoning and Drug Overdose, 4th Edition* and former president of the American College of Medical Toxicology. Dr. Shannon was also a long time member of the board of
directors for the American Board of Pediatrics. Lastly, he was a pioneer in the field of Children’s Environmental Health, former chair of the American Academy of Pediatrics Committee on Environmental Health, and co-editor of the AAP Pediatric Environmental Health Green Book. His many academic accomplishments are far too numerous to list in this article.

“Dr. Shannon was a true Renaissance man, both in the field of medicine and in his personal life,” noted Gary Fleisher, chairman of Pediatrics at Harvard Medical School. “He regularly broke ground in a vast range of specialties, especially in the areas of substance abuse, pediatric environmental health and drug interactions.” His wide-ranging talents extended to his life outside medicine, too. A modern dancer and performer for more than 30 years, Dr. Shannon first began dancing during his undergraduate days at Washington University in St. Louis, and he continued dancing during medical school and even in recent years as faculty. In recent years, he danced professionally in two local Boston area holiday productions, "Black Nativity" and "Urban Nutcracker."

Finally, Dr. Shannon was an untiring advocate for children. He testified about the safety of cold medicine for children, regularly spoke to news outlets about topics such as the hazards of lead poisoning and unsafe toys, and worked to educate others about the dangers of giving children unsafe therapeutic drugs and dietary supplements. Dr. Shannon constantly advanced new models of pediatric care that emphasize the impact of environmental factors on the health of children, especially in schools. The field of Pediatric Environmental Health owes him a great debt, as it exists today largely due to his efforts.

Dr. Shannon is survived by his loving wife Elaine, and their two children: a son, Evan, 21, and daughter, Lila, 20; both students at Stanford University.

The loss to the pediatric community is enormous. His quiet, gentlemanly ways will be greatly missed, and his tireless voice of children’s advocacy difficult to replace.

For those wishing to celebrate Michael Shannon's life, please consider making a contribution to one of the following charities in his honor:

Kids Clothes Club
120 Cypress Street
Brookline, MA 02445

Barro Sinplomo
C/o Ellen Carno
16 Auburndale, MA 02466

Dr. Michael Shannon Fund for Dance
C/o Boston Dance Alliance, Attn: Ruth Bimberg
19 Clarendon St
Boston, MA 02116
www.bostondancealliance.org

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**President Testifies to Congress**

**APA President Testifies to Congress on Title VII and VIII**

On behalf of the APA and the Health Professions and Nursing Education Coalition (HPNEC), **Tina Cheng** testified before the House Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations Subcommittee recommending that the subcommittee provide $550 million for Title VII and VIII health
professions and nursing education programs in FY 2010. Title VII and VIII health professions
and nursing programs are essential components of the nation’s health care safety net, bringing
health care services to our underserved communities. These programs support the training and
education of health care providers to enhance the supply, diversity, and distribution of the health
care workforce. Title VII 747 programs support primary care residency and fellowship training.
The testimony can be found at

2009 Election Results

Congratulations to All!

President Elect: Janet Serwint
Research Committee Chair: Glenn Flores
Workshops/SIGs: Judy Shaw
Secretary: Steve Selbst
Nominating Committee: Sue Fuchs, Richard Juien-Dah Pan

2009 Award Winners

Health Care Delivery Award
Goldberg Center for Community Pediatric Health (Goldberg CNMC)
Children's National Medical Center of Washington D.C.
Denice Cora-Bramble, MD, MBA

Research Award
Mark A. Schuster, MD, PhD

Miller-Sarkin Award
Nathan Kuppermann, MD, MPH

Teaching Award
Division of General Academic Pediatrics (GAP)
Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh (CHP) of the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center (UPMC)
Alejandro Hoberman, MD

Public Policy and Advocacy
Lisa Chamberlain, MD, MPH

National Pediatric Community Teaching Award
Ronald Angoff

International Health Award
Yeshiwas Amsalu, MD

**Ludwig-Seidel Award**
Jon F. McGreevy, MD

**Distinguished Career Award**
Robert Haggerty, MD

**Helfer Award**
Dorene Balmer, PhD

**St. Geme Award**
Kenneth B. Roberts, MD

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**AAP RFA Tobacco Control Research**

American Academy of Pediatrics Julius B. Richmond Center announces an open call for preliminary proposals.

The American Academy of Pediatrics Julius B. Richmond Center, funded by the Flight Attendant Medical Research Institute (FAMRI), is a national center of excellence dedicated to the elimination of children's exposure to tobacco and second-hand smoke. The AAP plans to submit a 5-year renewal application for continued support for the Richmond Center to FAMRI in 2010. This announcement lets professionals in child health and second hand tobacco smoke know of an opportunity for researchers to participate in AAP's work to address this critical public health problem.

The overall theme for the Richmond Center's work is translation of research into practice to eliminate children's exposure to secondhand smoke and tobacco. Practice is defined as both patient care and community pediatrics. The Center's core activities include administrative support, communication and professional and public awareness, building the field of pediatric tobacco control capacity, dissemination of best clinical and community health practices to clinicians, and data and surveillance to support partnerships, evaluation, and visibility of children and secondhand smoke.

This announcement let's researchers know that we will seek investigator initiated projects for potential inclusion in the renewal proposal. The Richmond Center’s Advisory Committee has identified the following themes and priorities for investigator initiated projects:

1. Disparities - helping populations that are most affected
2. Pediatrics and community medicine and/or public health partnerships
3. Biomarkers for exposure and for secondhand smoke effects on children
4. Dissemination of tobacco and secondhand smoke interventions
   - Evaluation of the core work to disseminate best practices
   - Quality improvement projects
   - International
   - Special populations (including families in military service)
5. Point of care studies
   - Effectiveness of systems of care
   - Rapid exposure measurement devices
6. Media issues
7. Other project consistent /w RCE goals

Timeline and process

Interested scientists are required to submit a short (two page) concept paper for potential projects to AAP by June 15th, 2009. These will be reviewed and projects invited to develop a concept into a project proposal will be notified by September, 2009, with full project proposals due early in 2010. Site visits and a final proposal will be incorporated into the AAP Richmond Center's FAMRI submission in mid-2010. FAMRI will also conduct reviews for a July, 2011 start date.

Projects should demonstrate a high likelihood of leading to future NIH or other funding; and/or, direct implications for practice and policy. Higher risk and higher return, and/or exploratory or innovative projects are encouraged. Annual budgets may range between 50-150K/year and may be between 2 and 4 years in length. Projects of longer or shorter length and with higher budgets may be proposed with clear justification for the scope of work. Projects with collaborative links to other FAMRI Centers or priorities and that focus on T2 and T3 translational research (as described by the NIH Roadmap) are also encouraged. Investigators should also show strong evidence for ability to collaborate, as the overall function of the AAP Richmond Center depends on project PIs group identity and their cohesion.

For more information about this RFA or about the Richmond Center see www.aap.org/richmondcenter or contact Jon Klein, Director, AAP Richmond Center at 585-275-7760, or visit the Richmond Center at the AAP’s PAS Booth.

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PAS 2010 Abstract Deadline

Please be aware - -The PAS Abstract Deadline will be earlier this year, it will be in November.

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Special Report

APA hosts National Leadership Conference on Academic Pediatrics

The APA hosted the 2009 National Leadership Conference on Academic Pediatrics in New Orleans, LA on February 11-13, 2009. Like the successful conferences held the past 2 years, this conference focused on helping leaders and future leaders to develop the skills needed to assume leadership roles within their divisions, programs and departments through lectures, workshops and networking.

The meeting opened on Wednesday evening with “Leadership in the Age of Change,” by former APA president Steven Shelov, who reflected on leadership as he developed a new Children’s Hospital within a hospital. He also identified eight principles of leadership which were a foundation for his presentation.
In the morning, the 99 conference participants, nominated and largely funded by their Chairs, were welcomed by APA President Tina Cheng, who congratulated them on being chosen as leaders, and defined leadership. They heard AMSPDC president-elect Bonnie Stanton, speak on “An Exciting Era in Which to be a Leader in Pediatrics.” Bonnie presented many of the challenges she faced over the years as opportunities for leadership, and she interspersed this with sound advice for participants to reflect on. This was followed by a discussion with a panel of Department Chairs including Drs. Bonnie Stanton, Marianne Felice and Steve Shelov, and was moderated by Ken Roberts with the usual musical accompaniment. The discussion addressed issues of mission, vision, promotion, mentorship and balance. Ken solicited questions from the conference participants, which formed the gist for the discussion.

Another panel was convened the following morning and was led by Peter Szylagi focusing on the need to foster diversity within our departments. Danielle Laraque, President-Elect of the APA, was joined by Fernando Mendoza and Denice Cora-Bramble on the panel. The panel discussed the need for caring and sensitivity, including beyond our own background, and the need to support diversity through recruitment and mentorship. The panel was outstanding and Denice reprised her thought provoking and inspirational free verse poem describing her perseverance and defiance, and reflecting on the added nuances and complexities faced by minority faculty members in academia.

Besides the panels, there was a structured breakout session on discipline specific issues and workshops on everything from “Knowing your Own Leadership Style” to “Developing Research Capacity”, all led by an extraordinary faculty including APA past and present Board members Tina Cheng, Ruth Stein, Peter Szilagy, Danielle Laraque, Tom DeWitt, Ken Roberts, Bernard Dreyer, David Keller, Denice Cora-Bramble. Also included were SIG co-chairs Susan Bostwick, Dan Rauch and Latha Chandran and Fernando Mendoza, Maryellen Gusic and Fred McCurdy. The participants were challenged to use the workshops to plan action steps for their return, and we intend to check in with them in three months to see how they are doing. The conference closed with Marianne Felice reflecting on her personal path to leadership, and the mentors who had influenced and inspired her.

We will know more once we have analyzed the feedback from the workshop participants, but the initial data collected from the conference suggests that the APA will be sponsoring another Leadership Conference in the future. Conference materials will be available on the new APA Website which will launch later this month.

Leadership Conference Planning Committee Co-Chairs:
David Keller
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Book Reviews


This book purports to be an expose on how the industrial toxins produced by corporate America are “directly and definitively linked” to the current rise in childhood disease and death. The authors, nationally known journalists, channel and frequently refer to Rachel Carson’s oft-cited work, Silent Spring, credited with helping launch the environmental movement. Although their painstaking research, clinical stories, and interviews raise many valid questions as to the link between industrial chemicals and childhood disease, they fall short of establishing causation.

In the introduction, the author’s state, “We have cast our book as a crime story and adopted the voice of a prosecutor presenting a case to a jury.” To that end, they have organized the chapters with titles including:
Indictment, Victims, Evidence, Scene of the Crime, and Witnesses for the Defense. They present their case, leaving the reader to make up their mind regarding the verdict. This mechanism makes for interesting reading that flows well from chapter to chapter. However, it promotes the main shortcoming of the book: the presented argument is mainly one-sided.

The book starts in Dickson, Tennessee, a small town with a population of 13,000. Over a two-year period, 19 infants were born with a cleft lip and palate. Most of these infants were born to families that lived near a landfill that had accepted industrial liquid wastes. The chapter follows the attempts of the grandmother of one of the affected infants to alert authorities, the failure of the authorities to take definitive action, and the evasive actions of a chemical company attempting to avoid responsibility for their actions.

The authors then present extensive interviews, case reports and scientific studies to bolster their case. Although footnotes for these are well-documented, these notes are at the end of the book, after the appendices. The line between fact and opinion is often blurred. They often use alarmist figures and phrases: 21 million of America’s 73 million children suffer from “one chronic disease or another”, baby boomers “cavorted in the mists of DDT sprayed over their neighborhoods”, and a baby’s bedroom is described as “arguably the most toxic room in the home”. They occasionally acknowledge that there are differences of opinion as to children’s vulnerability to these chemicals. Rather than responding to the critics’ questions, however, they state that the critics are in “pathological denial,” and often discount critics’ opinions by labeling them as co-conspirators.

I read this book from two vantage points: first, as a parent of two young children with autism-spectrum disorders; and second, as a physician. As a parent, my eyes were opened to the possibility of the many potential links between chemicals and disease. I found the appendices, which detailed ways to reduce the risk of environmental chemical exposure, and resources for more information to be extremely useful.

As a physician, I applaud the investigation and comprehensiveness of the authors, but wish that their writing style was more balanced and less biased and prosecutorial. Important issues and possible links between industry and childhood disease were postulated and explored. Although the authors ultimately did not definitively prove these links, this work succeeds in informing people, raising awareness, and signaling important areas for future research.

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Philip and Alice Shabecoff, authors of Poisoned Profits: The Toxic Assault on Our Children have written a manifesto, a call to arms, for the children’s environmental health movement. They have organized their book as a prosecuting attorney might organize the presentation of a criminal case before a jury with chapter titles that include “Inquest”, “Indictment”, “Victims”, “Evidence”, “Scene of the Crime” and others. This approach may be a bit off-putting for the scientist and health professional, but is a useful approach for engaging the general public. It is precisely the general public who must become engaged if the environment is to be improved to protect the health of children.
This book will be useful for members of the lay public who want a comprehensive introduction to the topic of children’s environmental health. There is good coverage of scientific topics, policy issues, and ethical considerations, all enlivened by poignant descriptions of some of the environmental catastrophes of the last few decades that involved children.

The Shabecoff’s do a particularly good job of wrestling with the complexities of the issues involved in children’s environmental health. They point out that in most cases, “[n]obody deliberately set out to [harm] children…or to cause their families grief and economic hardship.” They go on to note that “[g]overnment agencies and medical institutions can say with accuracy that there is no absolute proof that the poisons in the water and air were responsible for what happened to children. It is rarely possible to determine with the certainty required by the standards of science that a specific pollutant caused a specific illness is a specific person of group of people. The factors surrounding the illness – the chemistry, genetics, multiplicity of exposures to toxic substances, lifestyles, social contexts, and other factors – are so complex as to defy definitive proof…”

Like many manifestos, the rhetoric in Poisoned Profits gets a little over-heated at some points. On the one hand, the Shabecoff’s point out that the language used by groups which minimize the health impacts of chemicals, groups that are often surreptitiously funded by the chemical industry, are “often hysterical and venomous”. However, the Shabecoffs sometime fall into the same or similar problems when, for example, they refer to “…malignant manufacturing processes…” In another example, they write a sentence which, depending on how one would read it, might link exposure to mercury with autism and Alzheimer’s disease; but which really does not make that link: “Globally, the load of mercury in heavily industrialized countries is increasing over time, in parallel with increases in neurodegenerative diseases such as autism and Alzheimer’s disease.”

For someone new to the field of children’s environmental health, the list of people interviewed by the authors is a virtual “Who’s Who” of the leaders in the field. That information, in conjunction with the Resource list in Appendix B should help someone become oriented to the field.

The material on “How to Reduce Your Child’s Risk and Change the Future,” Appendix A, is an important update of guidance for those who want to do things in their own home, their community, and finally, at the national and global levels.

Poisoned Profits: The Toxic Assault on Our Children, by Philip and Alice Shabecoff, should serve as a rallying cry and, hopefully, will incite parents, grandparents and others who care about children and the future of this planet to make changes in the way chemicals and the companies that manufacture and use them are managed in this country.

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