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Dear SIG Chairs,

There is a soft, quiet, beautifully white blanket of snow—a foot high, accumulating outside today. I hope this winter day finds you enjoying the season. Some updates as the region meeting season is underway for most of you, and PAS planning comes quickly this time of year, with abstract notifications arriving shortly.

Start thinking about new co-chair selection process before PAS. Some SIGs kick it off on their listservs. Laura Turner in the APA office (laurat@academicpeds.org) can set up a secure online ballot for you, and send this out over your SIG listserv, if you'd like to have a selection before PAS. Other SIGs choose to wait until the SIG meeting at PAS. Please let us know as soon as a new co-chair is identified, so we can update our central database, and be certain the new co-chairs have all the needed information for PAS, including the SIG Chairs luncheon, and the new SIG co-chair orientation Monday at 11am.

The new fiscal year for the APA began January 1st. All SIGs got a new allotment of \$300. It must be spent in 2018, or it is lost. I would like to ask for \$500 per SIG going forward, but more SIGs need to spend their funds for this to be considered for next year.

New this year—SIG funds can be spent on food. \$300 won't get you much for your meeting given hotel and convention center catering rates, but could purchase group appetizers at an offsite networking event. Many SIGs use their funding for trainee awards.

Winter updates: Please send an update (one page or less) to Laura by February 28th. This will populate your webpage, the newsletter, and other media. We are moving to only asking for a winter and a summer each year, and use the content to population multiple information sources. If you recently sent in to the newsletter, we can use that update. It should feature your plans for the SIG meeting at PAS.

At the SIG luncheon, we will spend some time on SIG meeting best practices. Please bring ideas for session planning, and how you select SIG awardees.

Thank you all for your terrific participation in the SIG mentors initiative. Your mentors will soon be added to your listservs (if they are not on already). They will have ribbons at the PAS meeting identifying them as SIG mentors. Please let us know how things go with this new effort.

As always—"reply to all" on this listserv. It is an untapped way to keep you all in touch with each other throughout the year.

Winter is my favorite season. I hope you are enjoying it. As we say up here—stay warm, and ski fast.

Sincerely,

Alison Volpe Holmes, MD, MPH

APA Chair of Regions and SIGs

Vice-chair for Education, Department of Pediatrics

Associate Professor of Pediatrics and of The Dartmouth Institute

Section of Pediatric Hospital Medicine

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