



# ACADEMIC PEDIATRIC ASSOCIATION

*Leadership in education, research, patient care, and advocacy*

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Dear APA SIG chairs,

I have just returned from the Fall Board meeting and have some updates. I also have some homework for you--due 11/1, --so please read down to item 5 below.

1. The APA is in a strong position financially. We are still at the end of year one of implementation of our 5 year strategic plan, and are progressing at an acceptable pace. Parts of the items below are related to the strategic plan implementation areas of membership engagement and professional networking. We are close to a comprehensive IT contract, including a new learning management system. Official announcements will be at the APA business meeting at PAS 2018.

2. Good news, as requested by you, the Board has removed the restriction that you cannot spend SIG funds on food! However, there are some practical limitations, and also some ways to spend on food that are congruent with our mission. We must follow the rules of the hotels and convention center at PAS and not have food at the SIG programs apart from what they have available from in-house catering. \$300 will not get anyone very far at those prices. However, using the \$300 for a SIG networking event out at a nearby restaurant would be fine--and \$300 in pre-paid appetizers and participants purchasing their own drinks can go quite far. The Board would be particularly pleased if such a networking event included outreach to fellows and younger faculty who could learn more about your SIG and network with more established faculty members at such an event. And especially if these folks consider joining the APA because of your SIG. Checks from your SIG funds can be requested through [laurat@academicpeds.org](mailto:laurat@academicpeds.org).

3. In completing our 2018 budget, we reviewed that only 7 of 47 SIGs spent most or all of their \$300. My challenge to you for 2018 is for fully half the SIGs to spend all of their funds-- on a networking event, on speaker honoraria, or on a SIG award for a resident or fellow. If these can be spent by the end of summer 2018, I will request an increase commensurate with 20 to 25 years of inflation-- and request that the allotment per SIG be increased to \$500 annually.

4. Please remember that SIG awards must involve a review committee of at least 3 members.

5. New initiative: SIG mentors. Please see the attachment for the description of the SIG mentor. This is an initiative to keep experienced APA members active in the organization. Applications have been limited to full professors and emeritus faculty members. In soliciting interest from such members, we successfully matched 5 SIGs with senior mentors. For those of you that have not yet been matched, here is the request: By **November 1**, please send a list of 2 or 3 ideal SIG mentors for your SIG to [laurat@academicpeds.org](mailto:laurat@academicpeds.org). Please try to be sure they are either full professors or emeritus faculty members. Laura and I will then coordinate a matching process with the additional assistance of Maryellen Gusic, former APA President. Please understand that many SIGs will request well known folks like former Board members, so think broadly, and please be patient as we try to make as many mutually agreeable matches as possible.

We heard strongly at last PAS that you as SIG chairs seek better communication with the Board and APA staff. Please let us know if this has improved any, or if there are still concerns so that we can better serve you. You can email the list, or email me personally at [alison.v.holmes@hitchcock.org](mailto:alison.v.holmes@hitchcock.org).

Sincerely,

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