

Dear SIG chairs,

It is time for the fall quarterly update, but here with the leaves down and the snow falling, it feels like we've moved on to the next season. I hope you find the enclosed useful information for you as you serve your region for the APA.

1. **Fall Board meeting:** The Board met in Memphis, TN October, 11-12. I was not able to attend in person, but attended the full meeting by phone. We accomplished quite a bit this fall, including a review of many of our core APA programs, such as the Scholars programs, and AAP sponsored grants and awards. We discussed new potential initiatives to get more residents involved in the APA and to increase resident membership. The ranks of pediatric hospitalists have been growing, as have hospitalist members of the APA. There is a new pediatric hospitalist task force that will be working on what the APA can do to better engage and serve hospitalists. We had an update from the PAS planning group on the operations of the annual meeting. We approved next year's budget, and the APA is financially healthy.
2. **Budget/spend down your accounts by December 31st:** One item at the fall Board meeting is always review and approval of the APA budget. We came close to finalizing the budget, but the annual amount per SIG is still under discussion. In the interim, please do your best to spend down your \$300 for calendar year 2018 before the end of December. If you still have these funds, you may apply them ahead to PAS 2019. For example, if you are paying some of the way of an invited speaker, some of this can be done before the end of this year. For details on this, please be in touch with me Alison.v.holmes@dartmouth.edu or Jennifer Padilla: Jennifer@academicpeds.org.
3. **SIG chair terms:** We have 100 SIG co-chairs, and I am pleased to report only 7 co-chairs are over their term limits. This is a huge improvement over two years ago, when close to half of co-chairs were serving over their term end point. Thank you so much for working hard to find new leadership for SIGs. We know that serving as a SIG chair is important for membership engagement, and it is great to see so many early and mid-career APA members involved in leading SIGs.
4. **SIG mentors:** Last year we began our SIG mentors program, in which we pair senior APA members with SIGs. 26 of 42 SIGs are now paired with mentors. If you would like to investigate pairing with a SIG mentor, please be in touch with me at Alison.v.holmes@dartmouth.edu or Laura Turner: laurat@academicpeds.org. SIG mentors can help SIGs with networking, finding funding opportunities, navigating organizational issues, and other areas that might benefit from their experience and expertise.
5. **PAS planning and networking events:** PAS program planning is underway through the PAS website. Programs are due **Wednesday, November 14th**. The Board encourages SIGs to conduct offsite networking activities at PAS. A number of SIGs last year used their funds to purchase appetizers at a local venue and then had a cash bar. The networking event was announced at the SIG program so that trainees and young faculty who may not yet be SIG members were able to attend. I attended the Newborn SIG event, and it was definitely a success.

6. **Interest in SIGs from PAS:** I had the privilege of highlighting the great work of SIGs to the PAS operating committee last week. The other PAS societies are interested in the great work that you do, and are thinking about what they can learn from how APA SIGs operate. Some of the other organizations may be interested in trying out a SIG structure as well.

7. **Board structure changes:** With the by-laws changes on the last ballot, the Board will lose a few members. My position, Chair of Regions and SIGs, will sunset at the 2019 PAS meeting when my term ends. The duties and responsibilities associated with this position will be transitioned to the President-Elect. For 2019-2020, this will be Dr. Latha Chandran.

Sincerely,

Alison Volpe Holmes, MD, MPH

APA Chair of Regions and SIGs

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