



ACADEMIC
PEDIATRIC
ASSOCIATION

APA Focus

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Communications Director's Message

This month the *APA Focus* high is on Health Care Delivery. Inside you'll find a variety of articles from the Regions, SIGs, officers and APA core programs and activities.



The website homepage will always keep you current with upcoming important dates and deadlines such as the Pediatric Academic Societies Early Bird Registration deadline which is March 4. Register early and save some money.

(http://www.pas-meeting.org/2010Vancouver/Reg_Housing/Registration.asp)

Just a reminder to **SUBMIT YOUR LINKS FOR THE BEST PEDIATRIC INTERNET INFORMATION.** Links that are relevant to APA members' professional work whether it's your own or others, are encouraged to be submitted. I'm sure other members will find it as helpful as you do.
http://www.academicpeds.org/aboutUs/about_links.cfm

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Respectfully,
Donna D'Alessandro
Communications Director
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Academic Pediatric Association

President's Message

APA and Haiti Relief Efforts: Consistent with our Broad Mission for Children

Since the devastating earthquake hit Haiti on January 12, 2010 the world's peoples and communities have responded to this humanitarian disaster. Medical institutions, national organizations, NGOs, entertainers, individuals – all have responded with open hearts to the needs of the Haitian people. I've received countless emails from friends. The AMA and the AAP have reached out to the APA and to me personally to tell me of their support. I thank you all. Summarized for you below are the efforts that the APA has been involved in, in support of Haiti relief efforts. I also take a moment to review with you how our response to this disaster is not only in line with our mission to serve children and our strategic plan, but challenges all of us to review how our organizational processes are best leveraged to truly advocate for all children here in the United States and in the world at large.



APA Mission, Strategic Plan and link to global efforts and advocacy:

Mission: *"The APA is dedicated to improving the health of ALL children and adolescents through leadership in education of child health professionals, research and dissemination of knowledge,*

patient care, and advocacy, in partnership with children, families and communities." The corollary vision of the APA is to be a leader among child health professional organizations in optimizing the health of all children, adolescents, and young adults through:

- Education of a diverse group of child health professionals
- Research and dissemination of new knowledge
- Patient care, with measurable improvements in quality and health outcomes
- Advocacy for an equitable children's health agenda

Our core values lead us to embrace the principles of scholarship, interdisciplinary collaboration, diversity, professional development of members, focus on the whole child and to aim for optimal health of all children. Likewise, our strategic plan leads us to the domains of organizational action steps which include support of the APA infrastructure, membership needs, professional development and lastly championing an equitable children's agenda. It is to this last domain that the events of the past two weeks in Haiti most firmly relate. In this domain of our action agenda for equity for all children our strategic plan states most specifically we will intensify our efforts in setting the course to achieving equity from a national and global perspective.

Now is the opportunity to show if our organization will in fact rise to the challenge of its mission and strategic plan on behalf of all children. The specific activities listed below relate to concrete steps that your organization is taking in response to this particular humanitarian disaster, but it also outlines plans for continued collaboration and structural means for addressing equity for the world's children in times of peace, war and upheaval such as natural disasters. As a reminder 50% of Haiti's population is under the age of 18 years and this disaster –an earthquake of this magnitude centered in a densely populated area - is among the most catastrophic in decades. The current estimates are that the death toll is going to exceed 200,000, hundreds of thousands are left disabled and maimed, all are psychologically traumatized, nearly 2 million people are homeless and the challenges to for this small nation will persist for years. Yet, if we are to succeed our vision of the future must not be grim, but hopeful.

APA Activities in support of Haiti Relief and Global Health Strategies for Children:



Photo courtesy of the United Nations Development Programme

The State of the Art Plenary at the Pediatric Academic Societies Meeting in Vancouver, Canada (May 1-4, 2010) will be held on May 2nd 8am-10am entitled: **Global Child Health: Exploring Effective Models to Guide Cross-National Collaborations in Research, Training and Clinical Care.** The objectives of this session are: To understand the key elements of effective cross-national programs to reduce child mortality and morbidity; To outline and understand the methods for establishing international research centers of excellence; To understand the role of national and international organizations in promoting effective clinical, training and research collaborations; To outline the components of sustainability of established programs addressing global child health.

The Chairs are **Danielle Laraque**, Mount Sinai School of Medicine, New York, NY and **Judith S. Palfrey**, Children's Hospital, Boston, MA; and the speakers are: Helping Babies Breathe: Improving Basic Child Survival William J. Keenan, St. Louis University School of Medicine, St Louis, MO; The GHESKIO Centers in Haiti: A Model of National and International Collaboration of Integrated Research, Training and Patient Care. William Jean Pape, Weill Medical College of Cornell University, Les Centres GHESKIO, New York, NY. Note that Dr. Pape is currently in Haiti. The GHESKIO Center was partially destroyed and the center lost 4 staff members, but the vision of this research center to bring state of the art research to address the leading causes of morbidity and mortality in Haiti remains firm. Effective Training Models: View of the Federation of Pediatric Organizations, Bonita F. Stanton Wayne State University and the Children's Hospital of Michigan, Detroit, MI; and Tobacco Control Worldwide: Advocacy and Policy Implications for the World's Children, **Jonathan D. Klein**, American Academy of Pediatrics, Elk Grove Village, IL.

2010 Internal Health SIG Program: Focus program on Haiti
TOPIC: Post-Disaster Physical and Psychological Disabilities and Rehabilitation: How Can We Help? Monday May 3, 8:30-11:30.

Collaboration with the AAP Friends of Children Fund for Disaster Relief. AAP Members and non-members, who have donated to Friends of Children Fund for Disaster Relief, **have raised more than \$95,000 in response to the disaster in Haiti.** In the first days of the disaster I reached out to **Errol Alden** (Executive Director of the AAP) and **Judith Palfrey** (AAP President) and their response was brisk in support of Haiti and collaborative efforts with the APA. Other organizational collaborations have extended to

the National Association of Children's Hospitals and Related Institutions (NACHRI) to be ready in the event that specific assistance regarding pediatric care is requested. I would like to personally thank Drs. Marisa Herran and Marlene Goodfriend for collaborating with me and the APA in our efforts to bring assistance to



Photo courtesy of the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Haiti via the coordinated efforts of the AAP and the Haitian Pediatric Society. APA members have responded by donating to the list of organizations on the APA website. Please note that recently, the **US Congress passed legislation that allows donors who make a gift for disaster relief to benefit Haiti before March 1, 2010 to deduct such contributions on their 2009 federal taxes.**

Collaboration with the **AMHE** (Associations des Medecins Haitien a l'Etranger –the Association of Haitian Physicians Abroad). AMHE has asked me to serve as liaison to help coordinate the pediatric efforts with the APA and the AAP.

Membership in the **International Pediatric Association** which is an organization of organizations involving countries who are in pursuit of improvement of the health status of children all over the world. The 26th IPA Congress of Pediatrics will take place in South Africa August 4-9, 2010 and the APA board voted in November 2009 to send a representative.

Our efforts in global health are just beginning. My post presidential year will be devoted to creating a broad global child health agenda for the APA, one that is linked to our commitment to underserved populations here in the United States. I ask that you join with me by sharing your ideas, attending the International Health SIG session at the PAS meeting and the State of the Art Plenary.

Danielle Laraque

President

Academic Pediatric Association

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Secretary's Message

Many years ago when Vancouver was selected by the PAS Executive Committee for the 2010 meeting, there was discussion concerning the travel distance and costs, but also enthusiasm for this new location. One thing is certain: Vancouver, following its hosting of the Winter Olympics, should be at its best and provide a beautiful backdrop for our meeting.

Once again this year, the number of abstracts submitted exceeded all previous years' records. Due to this we were able to secure an additional platform for General Pediatrics. This is both a blessing and a curse as we realize this increases your own individual challenge in scheduling your session attendance. Hopefully you will view this as an opportunity of "abundance" of choice rather than an "obstacle" to session attendance.



The Program Committee is also very grateful to all of you who served as reviewers. Without your efforts, the process could not have been accomplished!

This year at the Research Committee's suggestion to enhance scoring reliability, changes were made in the abstract review process for General Pediatrics. The goal was for reviewers to focus on fewer topics rather than face the usual challenge of a potpourri of abstracts in unrelated areas. Submitting authors were asked to self-assign themselves to a topic area within general pediatrics and reviewers indicated topic review preference.

As with any new process, unintended consequences occurred. Reviewer team assignments were required by the contracted IT company, in advance of our knowing how many abstracts would even be submitted in each topic area. This resulted in a mal-distribution of abstract number per review team. There was no flexibility in the computer system to permit either the movement of reviewers or abstracts to achieve a reasonable balance in number. Nor could additional reviewers be newly assigned.

As a result, our only 2 options were to either 1) beg some reviewers to evaluate an inordinate number of abstracts or 2) break the “overwhelmed” teams in half and assign them either the top or bottom half of the abstracts in their topic area. We elected to do both to maximize as fair a review of the abstracts as possible. Planning in future years will benefit from this year’s experience but we apologize for the stress placed on so many of you!

We look forward to seeing all of you in Vancouver at the APA’s 50th Anniversary Celebration! And don’t forget many of you will need updated and official documentation regarding citizenship due to exiting and re-entering the United States. More information regarding travel and carry-on restrictions will be posted on the PAS website as we approach the meeting dates.

May you continue having a wonderful New Year!

Marilyn Dumont-Driscoll

Secretary

Academic Pediatric Association

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Upcoming Conferences



**ACADEMIC
PEDIATRIC
ASSOCIATION**

*Celebrate in Vancouver
at the May 2-5, 2010 PAS Meeting!*

Pediatric Academic Societies (PAS) Meeting 2010

APA's 50th Anniversary

1960 - 2010

Save the date for PAS in Vancouver to celebrate!

May 1 - 4, 2010

pas-meeting.org

[Registration](#)

Early Bird Deadline: March 4, 2010

Early Bird Registration Deadline Forms must be received by 11:59pm, CST (fees increase after this date)

Late Advance Deadline: April 1, 2010

On-site Fee: After April 1

[Program Information](#)

[Preliminary Program Guide](#)

Valid passport is required for travel to Canada.

For information please visit www.travel.state.gov/passport

New APA Members

Welcome to Our New APA Members

Alex Blum
Andrea Hahn
Angela Hartsell
Ann Behrmann
April Mattingly
Benjamin Heilbrunn
Carolyn Delaney
Caryn Rodgers
Chris Stone

Christine Yeh
Daisha Seyfer
Denise Aronzon
Erin Schnepf
Jane Hull
Jason Woodward
Jennifer Crotty
Julie Marx
Kami Larsen

Katherine Potter
Kristi Williams
Michael Smith
Michelle Kelly
Sheila Hofert
Sherri Thomas
Stefan Hagmann
Thomas Pham

Committee Reports

Health Care Delivery Committee Activity

Family-Centered Care White Paper

One focus of the Health Care Delivery Committee is the Applications of Family-Centered Care. The Committee is spearheading the writing of a White Paper on the current state of Family-Centered Care (FCC) in child health care. The paper evolved from the symposium on Family-Centered Care that the HCD sponsored at the 2009 PAS. The paper will serve as a review of advances in family-centered care, and provide specific recommendations on further implementing family-centered care across different clinical settings. The objectives of the paper are to (1) Enumerate core principles of family-centered care, (2) Describe current applications of family-centered care within child health care, and (3) Define an agenda for translating family-centered care into effective health care delivery and changes. The paper is being readied for submission in the spring of 2010.

The FCC paper is being lead by **Dennis Kuo**, (University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences) and **Amy Houtrow** (University of California, San Francisco). Additional collaborators are John Neff, MD (University of Washington), **Karen Kuhlthau**, (Harvard Medical School), **Jeffrey Simmons**, (Cincinnati Children's Hospital), and Polly Arango (Family Voices). The collaborators represent a range of academic and clinical experiences with family-centered care across different settings.

Family-Centered Care **Chair**

Dennis Kuo

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Region Reports

Region I

Various illustrious members of Region I met on October 23rd in Sturbridge, MA. The Publick House hosted our group and gave us the usual excellent treatment. The cozy setting gave us license to ask questions and have discussions through many of the excellent presentations we heard.

Allen Hsaio, MD, an Assistant Professor and Chief Medical Information Officer at Yale was the first to speak. He shared his expertise on electronic health records, guiding us through the alphabet soup of the government's plans. The room was abuzz with a spirited discussion around the implications of EHRs, particularly outcomes, education, and ethics. This set the tone for the rest of the day.

Danielle Laraque, APA president, gave an inspiring talk about the state of the APA. She noted that the 50th Anniversary of the APA gives us a chance to reflect on its role in "The House of Pediatrics." She spoke of the APA's desire to meet the needs of its members, and the ways in which it is going about trying to accomplish these goals. Our rowdy discussion for this hour got under way with her question: Do our visions/core values somehow differentiate us from other pediatric groups? If so, how?

We then had some research discussions. Roxanne Almas, from UMass Worcester spoke to us about her research with Project STRIVE: Support and Train Refugees and Immigrants in Vaccine Education. This program gives HPV vaccine education for refugee women, who are mandated to receive this vaccine in order to receive a green card. She has led 5 informational sessions about this vaccination, and reported to us about the questions that were asked of the leaders.

Chris Stille gave us an update on the on goings at UMass, where there are 12 general peds, two of whom do a significant amount of academic work. Chris himself does a lot of work on CSHCN, and in July 2009 attended a joint APA-SGIM-STFM conference in Washington DC to discuss the policy-relevant research agenda for the Patient and Family Centered Medical Home with many national APA luminaries. The meeting served as a catalyst for an APA Medical Home Policy Statement, currently under construction. **Katie Walsh** is doing a lot of work on outpatient patient safety/medication errors, currently focusing on kids with complex medical conditions. **David Keller** is currently having the time of his life as an RWJ health policy fellow in DC. From a residency education standpoint, **Bev Nazarian**, a clinician-educator, recently published the results of a survey about resident education about medical home in MA. **Trish McQuilkin** is leading UMass's involvement in teaching pediatrics to residents and medical students in Liberia. And a postscript--Roxanne Almas, PL2, was just accepted as an APA New Century Scholar.

David Link from MGH spoke about his work on the ADHD registry. He noted that guidelines have been around for ADHD since 2001/2004, but it doesn't seem that they've had a dramatic impact on management. Thus, the question is: does an ADHD registry promote guideline adherence? He'll be getting data from the medical record, and looks forward to getting survey data and outcomes from the schools as well in the next phase.

Our Keynote speaker was **Lynda Young**, a practicing pediatrician in Worcester, MA, a Professor of Clinical Pediatrics and Chief of the Division of Community Pediatrics at the University of Massachusetts Medical Center, and currently the Vice-President of the Massachusetts Medical Society. Dr. Young guided us through Massachusetts' health care scene, and gave us detail about the current national health care reform legislation before congress. The details about pediatric issues were impeccable, and we were riveted! Discussion was again vibrant and interesting.

Following this, we had a short discussion by **Judy Shaw**, including, among a number of items, review of the state of Bright Futures.

WELCOME TO THE FOLLOWING NEW MEMBERS

By State:

Connecticut : **Lindsay Johnston**, MD, (Yale)

Massachusetts: **Tamara Chang**, MD (UMASS), **Katharine Garvey**, MD (Harvard), **Sarah Goff**, MD (Baystate), **Mary Beth Gordon**, MD (Harvard), **Julie Myers**, MD (UMASS), **Mayra Tisminetzky**, PhD, MPH (UMASS),

Rhode Island: **Carol Baum**, MD (Brown), **Diane DerMarderosian**, MD (Brown), **Ana Catarina Garnecho**, MD (Brown), **Christopher Merritt**, MD, MPH (Brown)

Vermont: **Linda Hazard**, MS (UVM), **Elizabeth Lambert**, MD (UVM)

Canada: **Evelyn Constantin**, MD (McGill)

Region I Co-Chair

Bruce Bernstein

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Region IX & X

Our Joint Region IX and X Meeting, the **Pediatric CARE (Community, Advocacy, Research and Education) Conference**, was held on January 30, 2010 in Monterey, California at the Naval Post Graduate School. Two trainees were awarded travel stipend awards to the national PAS conference in Vancouver to present at our Regional Breakfast meeting: Kirk Mulgrew, PGY1, Children's Hospital of Orange County, with a presentation entitled, "Comparison of parent satisfaction with pediatric obesity care delivered face-to-face and by telemedicine," and Rachel Bensen, PGY-3, Lucile Packard Children's Hospital, with a presentation entitled, "Physician Advocacy on Legislative Issues Affecting Children's Health." Congratulations!

We look forward to seeing everyone at our Region Breakfast at the PAS meeting in Vancouver. At this meeting, **Alice Kuo** will step down as Region IX co-chair and **Patricia Barreto** will step down as Region X co-chair. We are currently soliciting nominations for co-chairs in both Regions. If you are interested in nominating someone or yourself, please contact **Christine Johnson** in Region IX and **Liz Miller** in Region X by March 15, 2010. We will hold an on-line election in April and introduce the new co-chairs at the Region Breakfast in Vancouver.

We welcome any feedback or ideas for APA regional activities, either locally or at the national meeting. Please feel free to contact in Region IX: Christine Johnson or Alice Kuo and in Region X: Patricia Barreto or Elizabeth Miller.

Region IX Co Chairs

Christine Johnson

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Alice Kuo

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Region X Co Chairs

Patricia Barreto

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Elizabeth Miller

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Special Interest Group Reports

Child Abuse

The Child Abuse SIG meeting will be held on Sunday, May 2nd, from 8-11 a.m., and we are excited to be taking over the SIG leadership after the excellent direction of **Cindy Christian** who stepped down last year (and necessitated the two of us to fill her shoes!). We have planned a continuation of the prevention theme that Cindy began last year in Baltimore. Vancouver's own **Ron Barr** will kick off the session with a presentation of his data on infant crying and the Period of Purple Crying prevention program. Heather Keenan, from Salt Lake City, will follow with a review of her research on the effectiveness of nursery-based abusive head trauma prevention. Finally, **Megan Bair-Merritt**, from Baltimore, will discuss the challenges of intimate partner violence in the context of child abuse prevention.

After a brief break, we'll spend the latter part of the SIG in a discussion of the future of Child Abuse Pediatrics...beyond the board exam. This session will be led by Bob Block, chair of the Child Abuse Pediatrics sub-board, and will be an interactive discussion about funding, training, and the role of child abuse pediatricians within the field of pediatrics.

We look forward to seeing you in Vancouver!

Regards,

SIG CoChairs

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Wendy Lane

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Culture, Ethnicity and Healthcare

The Culture, Ethnicity, and Healthcare SIG announce its new co-chairs: **Darcy Thompson** and **Rashmi Shetgiri**. Join us in Vancouver at the Pediatric Academic Societies meeting on Tuesday, May 4th from 8:45-11:45am, for a discussion on children's bilingual language development, led by a national expert in bilingualism. We will address such questions as:

- What is the impact of bilingualism on a child's development?
- How should we respond when a child from a bilingual home has language delay?
- How can parents and pediatricians support bilingualism?

SIG CoChairs

Darcy Thompson

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Rashmi Shetgiri

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E-Learning in Medical Education SIG

As mentioned in the previous newsletter, we conducted a needs assessment survey for eLearning SIG Webinars to garner the group members' interest and consensus. We had a response rate of 26% (n=70). Most of the group members (83%) think quarterly Webinars will be useful for our e-Learning initiatives and their future projects. Seventeen percent (17%) of the group members had expressed a concern regarding their schedule (clinical commitment) and time pressures that may prevent their participation for these Webinars. While the responses were mixed related to time and days to attend these meetings, most of the respondents were in favor of Thursdays at lunch time. Mondays and Fridays were the second alternatives. A few respondents brought up the time zone issues.

Respondents indicated that the following topics should be covered to gain knowledge, skills, and insights from the Webinars:

- Innovation in eLearning using new technologies in education - virtual environments, distance learning in residency programs
- Designing and developing effective Web-based instructional materials.
- Copyright and intellectual property issues in online course materials
- Online Pedagogy: Theories and Best Practices (Instructional strategies for Web-based courses; interaction approaches, synchronous vs. non-synchronous; getting started, learner engagement)
- Assessment through the e-Learning process
- Methods of research and evaluation in eLearning arena
- Multi-center education trials
- Web resources for medical learners and other institutions' practices in technologies
- Use of Adobe Acrobat Pro tools and other tools that can be used in delivering e-content to residents and medical students
- The employment of reflective thinking as a teaching tool in education, clinical medicine, and research.
- Demonstrating learning impact and broad understanding of the best ways to utilize online learning
- Instructional design models and module/e-curriculum development
- Open source software and using Web 2.0 tools in medical education (RSS, Blogs, PodCasts, Wikis, Mashups)
- Group collaborations in online environment and networking for collaborative projects
- Funding sources for novel e-learning for patients as well as clinicians and how to fund a website if the institution does not support Blackboard or some other off the shelf program.

Finally, the survey also collected information regarding the members' willingness to present these Webinars. We had some positive responses with the possible topics to be presented. At this point, we will launch our e-Learning SIG sponsored Webinars in the coming months. Knowing the preferred times by our audience will help us accommodate their schedule as long as the presenters are available at those times. These Quarterly Webinars will be announced through the APA Listserv and will be open to all APA members who want to take advantage of this valuable network collaboration.

News from the e-Learning SIG Members

1. We will have our annual meeting on Monday, May 3 from 8:30 am to 11:30 am at the 2010 PAS meeting in Vancouver. This will be a highly interactive meeting environment with its six different presentations including an hour e-Learning SIG sponsored workshop. The meeting agenda and the further details will be delivered to the group soon.
2. SIG members, **Virginia Niebuhr**, (vniebuhr@utmb.edu) and **Donna D'Alessandro**, (donna-dalessandro@uiowa.edu), will be presenting a workshop in Vancouver - "Successful Planning for Online Teaching-Learning Activities." The focus will be on how best to plan for teaching in the online environment.

3. SIG members, Virginia Niebuhr and **Marney Gundlach** from the University of Texas Medical Branch, are on the Leadership team for an innovative faculty development program. ADAPT (AnyDay AnyPlace Teaching) is an inter-professional faculty learning community through which faculty are learning to create and use online teaching materials in order to meet the anytime-anyplace needs of their learners. Online methods are used to teach the online skills and the program is designed so the faculty, too, can learn anytime anyplace. Through Blackboard, ADAPTers (participants) have anytime-anyplace access to online modules and with assignments for practicing new skills. Modules include Instructional Design in the Online Environment; Peer Review of Online Materials; Wimba Create (transforming Word); Copyright; Adobe Presenter (transforming PowerPoint), Use of Video in online Learning Objects. Over 12-months, ADAPTers are expected to produce two online learning objects. The leadership team offers nearly round-the clock (i.e. anytime- anyplace) consultation. The program is funded through an Innovations in Education grant from the University of Texas System's Office of Health Affairs. For more information, go to www.utmb.edu/adapt

SIG Co-Chairs

Kadriye Lewis

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Ethics SIG

The Ethics SIG will meet on Saturday, May 1, 2010 from 8-11 a.m. The session will be divided into two parts. The first will be a panel presentation addressing "The Ethics of Withdrawing/Withholding Nutrition in the Newborn." The American Academy of Pediatrics Committee on Bioethics (COB) published its clinical report on this issue in the August 2009 issue of *Pediatrics*. Two of the members of that committee, Drs. **Douglas Diekema** and Steven Leuthner, will present the position of the COB and illustrate the application of its principles in some specific cases. Dr. Kevin Donovan will present some concerns and cautions about withdrawing/withholding nutrition from a newborn. As mentioned in the October Newsletter, it is hoped that cases of particular interest and complexity will be submitted to the SIG co-chairs for discussion by the panel and those attending this session. Please forward your cases to **Ernest Krug** (efkrug@beaumont.edu) or **Diane Plantz** (dmplantz@cmh.edu).

The second half of the SIG meeting will be led by **Douglas Diekema**. Dr. Diekema will present strategies for the effective teaching of ethics to pediatric residents and fellows. He developed a case-based curriculum at Seattle Children's Hospital and will discuss barriers commonly faced by those attempting to implement a structured curriculum and resources available to those who teach ethics. Those attending this session will be encouraged to share their own successes and frustrations in developing and implementing an ethics curriculum for residents and fellows at their institutions. The session will end with some discussion of topics for the 2011 SIG meeting. We look forward to seeing you in Vancouver, B.C.

SIG Co Chairs

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Faculty Development SIG

The Faculty Development SIG will be partnering with the Division Directors in General Pediatrics SIG to present a joint program during the 2010 PAS meeting in Vancouver. The program details are being discussed now, but stay tuned for more details about this exciting collaboration between two great SIGs. Hope you make plans to join us!

SIG CoChair

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Mimi Bar-on

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Lyuba Konopasek

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Hospital Medicine SIG

The annual PAS meeting on May 1- 4, 2010 in Vancouver, British Columbia is fast approaching! Once again, the planning committee has put together an exciting program that offers a spectrum of educational sessions to engage all learners regardless of their professional interests or career stage. For those planning to attend, there are some important deadlines to remember. March 4th is the deadline for Early Bird Registration, while April 1st is the Late Advance Registration deadline. The housing deadline is April 2nd. Links for meeting registration and housing can be accessed through the APA's website or directly on the PAS website

The Preliminary Program Guide for the meeting is posted on the PAS website. In addition to the sessions highlighted for the Hospital Medicine Track in the guide, here are a few sessions that are essential for all Hospitalists:

- Hospital Medicine I Abstract Platform Session: Saturday, May 1, 8-10 AM
- Hospital Medicine SIG meeting: Monday, May 3, 8:30-11:30 AM
- Hospital Medicine II Abstract Platform Session: Tuesday, May 4, 8-10 AM

The agenda for the SIG meeting looks to be busy. There will be updates on a variety of ongoing activities including reports from the Pediatric Hospital Medicine Roundtable Workgroups, the PRIS network, and SHM's Pediatric Core Curriculum Project. In addition, **Lisa M. Moscoso** from Washington University will lead a workshop entitled "It Takes a Village: How to develop a sustainable peer mentoring program." A poster session will allow for an interactive discussion on some of the academic work being done by members of the SIG.

As the APA looks to celebrate its 50th anniversary at this year's PAS meeting, it allows us to reflect on the opportunities that individuals have within the organization. There are four committees that assist the APA in meeting its mission to provide "Leadership in Education, Research, Patient Care and Advocacy." Inquiries on participation in the Education, Research, Health Care Delivery or Public Policy & Advocacy Committees should be directed to their respective chairs, who welcome your participation. In addition, the APA has regional activities coordinated by the Regional Chairs. Many regional meetings recently happened or shortly will occur, and these are a great way to network with other academic pediatricians in your region. Resources for professional growth include the Educational Scholars Program – the fourth cohort (2010-2013) was

recently announced and includes several hospitalists- as well as the Young Investigator Awards – here again, several hospitalists submitted applications. The APA’s website nicely outlines these and other opportunities. We encourage everyone to explore the website and learn how they can actively participate in the organization.

Other upcoming meetings of interest include the following:

- Various Academic Pediatric Association Regional meetings, January through March, 2010
- Society of Hospital Medicine Conference, April 8-11, Washington DC
- Pediatric Hospital Medicine Conference 2010, July 22-25, Minneapolis, MN
- AAP National Conference & Exhibition, October 2-5, San Francisco, CA

Be on the lookout for details on the listserv on how to submit your original scientific abstracts to the Pediatric Hospital Medicine conference. The website will open in early February, and deadline is March 12, 2010!

These are very exciting times in Pediatric Hospital Medicine and we hope everyone will become actively involved. See you in Vancouver!

SIG Co Chairs

Tamara Simon

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Jeff Sperring

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Doug Thompson

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Obesity SIG

We look forward to seeing you at PAS 2010 at the APA Obesity Special Interest Group meeting on Monday, May 3, 8:30 AM-11:30 AM.

Quality Improvement in Pediatric Obesity

A gap exists between recommended care for the assessment, prevention and treatment of pediatric overweight and obesity and the current clinical practice. Leaders of quality improvement initiatives from Envision New Mexico, Greater Rochester Obesity Collaborative, and the Delaware Primary Care Initiative on Childhood Overweight will discuss how they employed a systems approach to enhance the efficient and effective incorporation of obesity recommendations into clinical practice. Key principles of effective practice change in pediatric obesity prevention and treatment, as well as basic concepts of process improvement relevant to planning quality improvement projects for obesity care (such as setting goals for improvement, designing interventions, measuring change, building teams, and implementing P-D-S-A cycles), will be demonstrated using examples from their initiatives.

Presenters: Jane McGrath, MD (Envision New Mexico), Sanford Mayer, MD and Corinne Ulrich, MPH (Greater Rochester Obesity Collaborative), Karen Stolle, RN (Nemours Health & Prevention Services)

SIG Co Chairs

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Ulfat Shaikh, MD, MPH

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Announcements

APA Call for Systematic Reviews on Health Care Delivery Topics

The APA journal, *Academic Pediatrics*, is announcing a new, recurring section entitled "Systematic Reviews" and is calling for submissions of systematic reviews concerning health care delivery. The section also seeks to publish other topic-areas pertinent to academic pediatrics including research, education/professional development, and health policy. These four topic areas form the four pillars of the journal and our organization.

The new section creates a home for this form of scientific investigation. We expect submissions to be highly structured, rigorous reviews that follow the latest methodology for systematic reviews. Nonetheless, junior investigators can master the methods of systematic review and use a systematic review to launch longitudinal efforts in a direction of inquiry.

Those interested in pursuing such an investigation with the intention to publish in *Academic Pediatrics* may contact the section editor, **Robert M Jacobson**, Mayo Clinic, ph: 507-266-4598, fax: 507-284-0160, and email: jacobson.robert@mayo.edu.

Section Editor
Robert M Jacobson

IPA Congress 2010

26th International Pediatric Association Congress of Pediatrics 2010

Johannesburg, South Africa | August 4-9, 2010

You are invited to submit an abstract for the 26th International Pediatric Association (IPA) Congress of Pediatrics meeting in Johannesburg. The abstract deadline is March 1, 2010.

More than 5,000 participants are expected to attend this landmark event, the first IPA Congress to be held in Sub-Saharan Africa. Just five years before the due date of the Millennium Development Goals, International Pediatric Association Congress 2010 will unite pediatricians and health professionals working towards the Millennium Development Goal target to reduce child mortality by two thirds before 2015.

Scientific Program

The scientific program is designed to meet the needs of general pediatricians from both the developed and the developing world. The International Pediatric Association advocates for child health in the global context promoting awareness to the major issues affecting children worldwide.

[Click here for the scientific program topics](#)

Plenary Sessions will include:

- The Millennium Development Goals and Global Child Health – the current state of health of children in the world and progress towards the MDGs

- The State of the World's Newborns - major issues determining maternal and newborn health in developing & developed countries
- Determinants of Health - genetics, nutrition and the environment
- Disasters and Trauma affecting Child Health - children's needs in disasters and crises and the worldwide epidemic of trauma
- Winning the War against the "Bugs" - the global burden of infectious diseases affecting children and the challenge of emerging infections

Workshops will include:

- Child development for the general pediatrician
- Child health and the environment: August 4
- Interpreting pediatric chest radiographs
- Implementing Pediatric HAART
- An approach to the dysmorphic child

www.ipa-world.org/ipacongress

If you are interested in participating in the Workshop on Child Health and the Environment, please contact Ruth Etzel at RETZEL@EARTHLINK.NET.

Special Reports

CORNET

This has been an exciting year for CORNET with the election of **Janet Serwint**, the CORNET Network Director, as the President-elect of APA. Her enthusiastic leadership over the years has been the driving force in establishing and nurturing CORNET into a strong, productive national network; moreover Jan has been instrumental in energizing it and the Continuity SIG out of which CORNET developed. With her assuming increasing responsibilities in her APA Board leadership role, Jan's primary concerns were to maintain transparency in her 2 roles, eliminate any conflicts of interest and ensure that there was no diminished productivity for CORNET.

As a consequence the CORNET Steering Committee has temporarily re-distributed many of Jan's Network Director responsibilities. We have been very fortunate to have an active Executive Committee of regional Chairs to assist over the years with program development and assessment. In particular, **Bill Stratbucker** has been stellar through the years in consistent CORNET study participation, development of the CORNET logo in conjunction with his residents and dedicated evaluation of research proposals. In addition he has spearheaded yearly CORNET workshops at PAS which have not only been accepted but enthusiastically attended. His leadership in these areas has been invaluable and it is with CORNET's great appreciation for his ongoing service that he was asked to do even more! Bill has graciously agreed to join the Steering Committee and assume additional tasks with our grateful thanks.

As Janet described in the past newsletter, there are several projects in various phases of development and completion. The Bright Futures Project on Oral Health is coming to a close in the near future as is the collaborative study with the PROS network on pubertal development in males.

New study opportunities abound and we hope that you will consider enrolling your site and participating in as many of these as possible:

- Health Care of Pediatric Residents and their Families is a cross-sectional study developed by **Kristina Simeonsson** and **John Olsson** with feedback from the CORNET Executive Committee. This study will

examine their access to health care and the role of peer and self-prescribing. Enrollment is ongoing, so please contact Nui at CORNET@academicpeds.org for further information.

- Integrating Mental Health Services in Pediatric Continuity Clinics is a dual-phase project whose PI is **Maya Bunik**. The first phase is a survey of continuity clinic directors to assess resident educational opportunities and patient access to services. No individual IRB approval is needed by the respondents to the survey due to its nature; it has received the necessary approval for distribution by the University of Colorado. Please contact Nui at CORNET@academicpeds.org if you are willing to complete the first phase which only entails one person from a continuity program completing the survey.
- News will soon be forthcoming on the project assessing Adolescent Immunization within the Medical Home. **Peter Szilagyi** is the principal investigator who has offered a collaborative study for CORNET with the Greater Rochester Practice Based Research Network. This should be an exciting quality improvement initiative for which enrollment will soon open.
- Strategies to assess the true continuity of care in our clinics have always generated considerable interest at the Continuity SIG. A study is in the development stages to address this important longitudinal aspect of resident education. Given past interest, we hope many of you will be excited about participating in this project in the near future.

As you can see, CORNET continues to thrive because of your enthusiasm and participation. We hope that you will continue to suggest projects as well as participate in ongoing ones. Our goal continues not only to foster research in the area of medical education, healthcare in underserved populations and healthcare disparities but also foster collaboration and provide mentorship for research.

We hope you are having a successful year in your Continuity Clinics and look forward to hearing from you!

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Pediatric Environmental Health Scholars Meeting

The 8th Annual Pediatric Environmental Health Scholars meeting was held on December 4-6, 2009 in Reston, Virginia, and was hosted by the APA. **Danielle Laraque**, APA President, opened the meeting with a welcoming speech. Jerry Heindel of NIEHS, who delivered the keynote address, described a new paradigm for children's diseases: developmental origins and environmental influences. Each Fellow; Ari Bernstein, Joe Braun, Abby Fleisch, Todd Jusko, Molly Kile, Michele La Merrill, Amir Miodovnik, **Angkana Roy**, **Perry Sheffield**, and Megan Williams, gave short oral presentations of their current work followed by brief critiques from faculty. Guest speakers included David Bellinger, who described the developmental neurotoxicology of lead, Ken Cook, who spoke about how to be an effective advocate, Peter Grevatt, who outlined priorities for children's environmental health at the US Environmental Protection Agency, and Edwin Kilbourne, who discussed epidemiologic investigation of unknowns, using the example of toxic oil syndrome in Spain. **Ruth Etzel**, Fernando Holguin, **Catherine Karr**, **Philip Landrigan**, **Alan Woolf**, and **Robert Wright** served as faculty. The topics of Fellows' research are listed below:

Ari Bernstein: Public health and political realities: Making the case for carbon legislation based on health effects of climate change.

Joe Braun: Prenatal tobacco smoke exposure and early childhood growth.

Abby Fleisch: Impact of bisphenol A derivatives in dental materials.

Todd Jusko: Blood lead concentrations during infancy, and changes in child IQ over time.

Molly Kile: Arsenic exposure and DNA methylation in a prospective birth cohort.

Michelle La Merrill: Effect of chronic exposure to polyhalogenated persistent pollutants on metabolic syndrome and cardiovascular disease.

Amir Miodovnik: Prenatal exposure to endocrine disruptors and autistic social impairment.

Angkana Roy: Breathing easy: The economics behind controlling air pollution.

Perry Sheffield: Evaluation of the pollen count variability around New York City neighborhoods, and exploration of relationships between pollen and childhood asthma.

Megan Williams: The impact of prenatal chlorpyrifos exposure on child neurodevelopment.

Submitted by:

Ruth Etzel

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Reform of Health Care Health Insurance Reform

A mother with four children comes to a primary care clinic. Two children under 4 years are at risk for long term health problems because their weights are above standards. The mother knows she, the father, and their otherwise healthy children need to change their diets and exercise. However, the child's primary care provider knows that to improve the health issues of this family, the discussion on health care reform needs to go farther than it has so far. Because the family is low-income, Medicaid will cover the children's care, but finding a dietician for them to see means waiting three months or more. The parents, low paid employees without health insurance, must pay out of pocket to see doctors for their own chronic problems of overeating, high blood pressure, and prediabetes. Given the needs of their children, the parents cannot afford the added expense to see doctors themselves.

In the legislation, currently moving through the US Congress, there is bipartisan agreement on three principles:

1. Remove financial barriers to preventive or early care in order to manage a medical condition before that condition becomes a serious illness.
2. Prevent financial devastation of families by medical bills.
3. Constrain future growth in national health spending below the currently projected growth of 2.5% annually.

A key part to gaining control over escalating health care costs is the need to prevent and provide early treatment for health conditions – and their complications – that are caused by individual health behaviors: smoking, physical inactivity, overweight/obesity, drug use and addiction, and others. These behaviorally related disease processes represent the leading causes of poor health outcomes and excessive morbidity leading to higher health costs. One example is the epidemic of obesity, with its complications of heart attacks, diabetes, hypertension, stroke, and certain cancers. Twelve percent of high school students in New Mexico are already obese, raising the chances that future health care needs and costs could accelerate even faster if we don't off

the epidemic and its complications. In New Mexico, an estimated \$324 million dollars in health care expenditures per year are spent on obesity. This includes \$51 million per year of Medicare expenditures and \$84 million per year of Medicaid expenditures.

Therefore to reduce costs, people with chronic and behaviorally determined health conditions, including obesity, need affordable, accessible health care coupled to preventive care. This coupling creates opportunities to support people to reduce their risk for developing these conditions, to help reverse those conditions if they develop, or to prevent their complications. Better prevention and management of behaviorally-related condition will in most individuals lower their lifetime risk for serious and high-cost illnesses. Failure to create affordable insurance coverage for all family members reduces access to health care and means some members might become sicker despite health education prevention of complications, and coordinated care.

Current proposals to improve access include the idea of a “medical home.” Under this “medical home,” primary care providers would agree, in exchange for modest bonus payments from insurance companies, to provide comprehensive care to their patients, placing an emphasis on prevention, health education, and early access to needed care. For patients with behaviorally-related conditions, this would shift the emphasis from treatment of late complications of these conditions to prevention and early management. In the case of obesity, for example, the medical home would identify family members of all ages with weight problems and work with the patients to reduce risk of health problems. Early identification of health risks, such as overweight in childhood, and assistance with reducing those risks, increases the number of years that effective medical management and behavioral support can help a patient achieve lower risks of, in the overweight patient example, stroke and heart attacks. However, assisting the patient with reducing those risks, such as eating and exercise habits, requires resources not currently present in most primary care practices. The “medical home” plans will allow an office practice to employ counselors, dieticians, and case managers, who would work with families to improve health through a continuing partnership. The resources of the medical home focused on prevention can reduce the need for expensive care for health problems resulting from untreated health risks.

The stabilization of an individual’s health by reduction of health risks should help slow the rate of health care cost increases. Real reform improvements in management of health risks will increase the individual’s well being, productivity in the work force, and attainment of health goals.

Andrew Hsi, M.D., M.P.H., is a general pediatrician who cares for children from birth to 19 years. He is a Professor at the University of New Mexico, and a member of RIOSNet (Research Involving Outpatient Settings).