

News Update
January 15, 2008



News Update

Chapter Advocacy Summit By Charles J. Wibbelsman, MD

The Academy's *Chapter Advocacy Summit* was held in Williamsburg, Virginia, November 9th through the 11th. This Summit is convened every two years to inform representatives from chapters throughout the country of the current status of advocacy within the Academy of Pediatrics. This year, using a format of formal presentations from Academy and Chapter leadership and workshops, as well as an opening dinner with a state senator from Virginia, there was much information for chapter representatives to learn and also to share with colleagues. Although there was a very good gathering of over 60 representatives from chapters all over the country, there was definitely a better representation from the Midwest, South, and Northeast than from the West.

There were excellent presentations on SCHIP (The State Children's Health Insurance Program): the history, current status, and the challenges ahead in December. An excellent analysis of all of the factors that are now on the table, and the complex chess game that this has now become, was very

well presented. **Cindy Mann**, Executive Director of Georgetown University's Health Policy Institute Center for Children and Families presented the issues succinctly and poignantly. The Academy has looked at every aspect of getting this bill through Congress and has placed an immense amount of time and efforts on every level to muster enough votes in the House of Representatives to override another Presidential veto. If there is no additional funding in December, then beginning with January, almost 60, 000 children will begin to lose insurance each month.

There was another superb presentation on Retail Based Clinics by **Robert Corwin, MD**, and the Academy's stalwart stand on, and opposition to, these clinics, which often offer less than quality care and usually with non-physician staffing all as part of a "Super Store."

Another concept which was presented in the form of a workshop was the evolution and promotion of "The Open Chapter Forum" in which advocacy for a particular topic is promulgated by a Chapter with community support and often local political leadership participating. The advantage of such a forum is that it increases the visibility of the Chapter in the state or community as well as

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Chapter Web Site:

www.aapca1.org

often can gain support from elected officials who are often invited to speak at such a forum.

The next Summit will be in two years, possibly in New Mexico which may allow for better representation from chapters in the West.

This indeed was a wonderful opportunity for a Chapter member to really see how the AAP works so well both in legislative and advocacy issues on behalf of the 60,000 Pediatricians which the Academy represents.

President's Column By James Crawford, MD

As you read this, the events of the holiday season may seem, for better or worse, like a somewhat distant memory. As I write this, they are unfolding around me in all their chaotic glory. Our lives as pediatricians allow us to see the best, as well as the worst, of the world. The holidays in particular have a way of reminding us that all of it, the good and the bad, happen every day, all mixed together. Recently I met an amazingly bright and happy five-year-old, who told me in great detail about what she thought she might get for Christmas. She was particularly excited because she had been assigned the job of unwrapping her baby brother's presents. "I can't keep them, but I get to see them before he does." She was full of joy. She was the embodiment of how childhood is supposed to be a wonderful time. She was in my office for a medical evaluation because she had recently disclosed to her mom that a trusted member of the family was sexually

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abusing her. In the face of hearing every parent's worst fear articulated out loud, this child's mom did everything we hope the parents of our patients would do in such a situation. She listened to her child. She believed her child. She protected her child. She advocated for her child. This mom, on the worst day of her life, had the strength to give her child back a sense of protection, order and safety. Despite the betrayal this child had experienced, her mom was able to help her know that there was still much joy in the world. And that despite the monsters that sometimes are all too real, childhood **is** a wonderful time. Despite what had happened, this child still saw the world as a good and wondrous place.

This child, and this mom, reminded me of the crucial role we as pediatricians play in the daily lives of the children and families we care for. They look to us to help them successfully fight the daily battles of their children's lives. Some of their fights are big, some small. "What exactly is the best way for me to teach my son how to poop in a

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toilet?” “How will you treat my daughter’s leukemia?” “I think my daughter’s using drugs”. For each of these families, the questions are huge. In addition to fighting for our patients and their families in our offices, we do so in Sacramento and Washington as well. This year saw a bitter and protracted battle, supported by pediatricians and the Academy, to expand the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP). Unfortunately, President George W. Bush vetoed the legislation twice. Just a few days ago, the House passed and sent to President Bush a bill that will essentially continue the program in its current form until 2009. Unfortunately, this doesn't mean that every child now enrolled in SCHIP can stay on the program; the bill doesn't cancel controversial Bush administration eligibility rules issued last August. The fight for SCHIP is far from over; we will be revisiting it all too soon. This coming year there will be many other issues in Sacramento and Washington that we as pediatricians and as a Chapter will be fighting for. We do all of this because it is how we can best ensure the health and welfare of all the children we care for.

With all this in mind, I want to say thank you to all of the pediatricians in our chapter who work tirelessly for the kids and families in our communities. The battles are worth fighting. I wish you and your families a New Year filled with joy and wonder, with as few monsters as possible. (Dr Crawford can be reached at JCrawford@mail.cho.org)

Committee on Child Health Financing (COCHF)

By Tom Long, MD

The following is a summary of the COCHF held at the AAP Office in Elk Grove, September 15-16, 2007.

The Committee on Child Health Financing meets twice yearly at the AAP headquarters in Elk Grove Village near Chicago. The Committee meets both in conjunction with the Private Payer Advocacy Advisory Committee (PPAAC) and independently.

The PPAAC voiced continuing concern about the Retail Based Clinics. It appears that across the country there are more than 700 such facilities operating out of Wal-Mart, CVS, Walgreens and other retail chains. There seems to be less of a presence in California at the present time. States are evaluating these sites with respect to their business relationship, their oversight, physician involvement etc. We do know the RBCs disrupt continuity of care, the Medical Home concept, and quality of care. The AAP practice management online, <http://practice.aap.org> has great suggestions as to what an AAP Member can do to counter the threat of these new clinics.

This is a time to get political. You are all aware that despite the congressional support for S-CHIP the support was not strong enough to withstand a presidential veto.

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As I compose this Congress is poised to vote on another S-CHIP extension bill. It is important to let your representatives know how strongly you feel about this bill. To steal a quote from the NCE meeting in the Community Pediatrics section “The lifetime wellbeing of children needs to be the highest public and private priority in this country.” Is that the focus of every representative? With this background you can understand that health care reform is the hot topic. Reform will come. Stay involved and if nothing more, keep informed.

COCHF met independently in two subsequent sessions. The Medical Home is an important issue that the AAP has been advancing for many years. It is a concept in sync with this electronic era. We understand that access and communication are important issues as are e-prescribing, test tracking, etc. Attention needs to be given to reimbursement for on line communication along with other issues. Case management fees will also need to be developed further. The AAP believes that the Medical Home will achieve marked improvement in access and continuity, family-centered and culturally competent care, integration and coordination of care, quality of care and cost efficiencies.

We had a report from the State Government Affairs and an update from the Federal Affairs department. Suffice it to say those report describe the S-CHIP status as well as the progress of efforts to provide health insurance for children in other states. A bill to watch out for is the

MediKids Health Insurance Act of 2007 introduced by Stark as HR 2357. This bill will amend the Social Security Act to guarantee comprehensive healthcare coverage for all children born after 2008. It may take some time but you will hear more about it.

Committee members also have the opportunity to review Policy Statements of the Academy and in some cases draft new statements. Watch for the release of the Policy statements. They are updated regularly, and guide us in our care and advocacy for children.

Committee on Environmental Health Activities 2007

By Alice Brock-Utne, MD,
Co-Chair

Pediatric Environmental Health Toolkit

A. Continued to expand use and interest in environmental health. The kit was highlighted at the Santa Clara County Medical Association month on Environmental Health in April. It was also included in several grand rounds as well as a large training in Sacramento sponsored by the regional CHDP office and Kaiser Permanente. **Mark Miller** is working with colleagues at PSR and the CDC to develop an online CME program introducing the Toolkit.

Activity at the national level

A. Ongoing participation by Mark Miller, MD and **Janice Kim, MD** on the National AAP Committee on Environmental Health.

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B. Mark Miller continues to serve on the US EPA Scientific Advisory Panel's Integrated Human Exposure Committee.

C. Janice Kim and Mark Miller presented a two hour program on "Health Homes" at the AAP NCE in San Francisco this fall.

Promoting environmental health

A. Promote interest among younger pediatricians in environmental health through talks to residents and invites to committee meetings.

B. Plan for built environment policy statement: broadening the audience, developing slideshows for community, and for professionals

Other activities of committee members

A. **Eliza Humphrey's** published a paper in Environmental Health Perspectives on the effects of California's ban on lindane.

B. Mark Miller published a paper in the Pediatric Clinics of North America on persistent organic pollutants.

C. Alice Brock-Utne published a paper in the Pediatric Clinics of North America on pesticides.

Goals for 2008

1. Increase activity at community level. Try to support projects to link providers with communities working on improving children's environmental health.

2. Continue to promote health in the built environment through resident education, provider education, and support of community groups promoting a healthy built environment.

3. Increase activity at state level. Try to promote environmental

Instructions for Submitting Articles to the Newsletter

- Average length 200-500 words
- Submission method is attached Word file
- format – **preferred** (*.doc), rich text format (*.rtf), or text (*.txt)
- Please do not submit articles as part of an e-mail message – they will be returned to you for formatting as a Word file or text

Deadline dates:
March 15,
June 15,
September 15,
and December 15

National Committee & Section Board Members

Committees:

Tonya Chaffee: Resident Scholarships
Greg Enns, Genetics
Lawrence Hammer: Practice and Ambulatory Medicine
Melvin Heyman: Nutrition
Janice Kim: Environmental Health
Tom Long: Child Health Care Financing
Mary Ann Shafer: Pediatric Education
Mark M Simonian: Chair, Committee on Clinical Information Technology
J. Lane Tanner: Psychosocial Aspects of Child & Family Health
Charles Wibbelsman: Adolescence

Section Executive Committees:

Ronald Bachman: Genetics
Laurence Baskin: Urology
John Bolton: Seniors
June Brady: International Child Health
Emily Chen: Genetics
Lucy Crain: Seniors
Bill Hennrikus: Orthopaedics
Michael Henrickson: Rheumatology
Melvin Heyman: Gastroenterology and Nutrition
William Hoffman: Plastic Surgery
Laura Hufford: Residents
Jane Morton: Breastfeeding
Richard Oken: Administration and Practice Management
James Ruben: Ophthalmology

health advocacy by the chapter and district by weighing in on issues that might affect environmental health of children.

Advocacy Committee By Lisa Chamberlain, MD

At the recent Advocacy Committee meeting the following topics were addressed:

SCHIP: Recent activities included “Stand for SCHIP” events held in 20 states across the country in 37 different pediatric training programs. Local coverage included stories on FOX news, ABC, NCBC, Telemundo and numerous radio stations and newspapers. These contacts will be used in future advocacy efforts. Congratulations to Lisa Chamberlain and her committee for creating this important liaison with the training programs and the media.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE: The Governor’s budget was discussed, focusing on the 10% cut across many areas, including child health in the form of reimbursement for physicians and CCSF services. Residents from UCSF and LPCH visited Senator Alquist and the staffs of many Assembly and Senate members to present the AAP concerns over such budget cuts.

SCHOOL SITING: Chapter 1 has signed on to the proposed changes in California’s Title 5 to address the importance of where schools are built and how the school sites can significantly impact community

structure, cohesiveness, and traffic patterns. This was first brought to the attention of the chapter by former Environmental Health Chair, **DICK JACKSON**, also of the CDC.

PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY:

The committee will send emails to committee members and the resident coalition providing web links to candidates and how to register to vote.

This is an active, dedicated and creative committee. If you would like join in their advocacy efforts, please contact Lisa at lchamberlain@stanford.edu.

Pediatrics Head To Toe: May 24-26, 2008

Program Agenda:

Saturday, May 24, 2008

Recent Advances in Diagnosing Autism Spectrum Disorders
Linda Lotspeich, MD

Wake Up! Update on Pediatric Snoring
Kristina Rosbe, MD

Hip To Toe: The Lower Extremity Exam in Your Office
Brian Shaw, MD

Case Based Approach to the Treatment of Autism: Finding the Appropriate Referrals and Therapies for Your Families
Linda Lotspeich, MD

Hearing Loss in Children: From the Nursery to the School Yard
Kristina Rosbe, MD

The Most Common Orthopedic Problems Seen in the Pediatric Office

Brian Shaw, MD

Dinner Party:

Libations, Buffet Dinner and Entertainment. Special children's menu and activity tables in addition to music by Kool Inc.

Sunday, May 25, 2008

Traditional and Alternative Treatments for Autism Spectrum Disorders

Linda Lotspeich, MD

Neck Masses Big and Small

Kristina Rosbe, MD

Don't let Your Kids Grow Up to be Cowboys or Will They Really Outgrow that Bowleggedness?

Brian Shaw, MD

Political Advocacy: How to Make A Difference

Lisa Chamberlain, MD,

Advocacy Committee

Shannon Udovic-Constant, MD

SGA Representative

Febrile Seizures: Are They All Benign?

Eileen Vining, MD

UTIs: More Questions Than Answers

Margaret Fisher, MD

Monday, May 26, 2008

Epilepsy Evaluation and Management: An Update

Eileen Vining, MD

Immunizations: Myths and Misconceptions

Margaret Fisher, MD

Murmurs: Do You Hear What I Hear? A Sound Based Approach

Ziad Saba, MD

Falling, Shaking, Dropping: Is It Really A Seizure?

Eileen Vining, MD

Pets and Their Pests

Margaret Fisher, MD

Pediatric Hypertension: State of the Art Management for General Office Practice

Ziad Saba, MD

For complete conference and hotel information, please visit the Chapter 1

Website at: www.aapca1.org and look at Coming Events

On-line registration is also available on the website.

Hotel accommodations are at the Portola Hotel & Spa at Monterey Bay (formerly the Portola Plaza Hotel) 100 rooms are available at the special group rate, so please register early.

For conference questions call: 415/479-9200

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Coming Events:

**Annual Legislative Day and
Chapter 1 Board Meeting
April 15, 2008**

Join your pediatric colleague for a day of legislative advocacy in Sacramento. Learn how to be more effective in your advocacy efforts, visit with your local legislators and network with your colleagues. Contact aapmarianne@aol.com for more information.

The Chapter 1 Board of Directors meeting will also be held in Sacramento on April 15th. If you are interested in seeing your Board in action, please contact Beverly at aapbev@sbcglobal.net for more details.

**Pediatrics Head to Toe
Conference
May 24-26, 2008**
See information on Page 5.

**District AAP Las Vegas
Conference
Nov 20-23, 2008**
Caesar's Palace Hotel

To register on-line or obtain more information, visit the District website at www.aap-ca.org

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