

## **Las Vegas Seminar Brings Inspiration**

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Just 5 months into intern year I got to opportunity to be the AAP California District IX, Chapter 1's resident representative at the annual Las Vegas seminars. This was an exciting weekend for me because it meant that for the first time in my short medical career I would be surrounded by hundreds of pediatricians passionate and committed to the health of all the children of this nation. I was also nervous because I knew I'd be surrounded by hundreds with many more years of clinical experience than my own, and I was not sure if I would be able to contribute in a meaningful way.

The seminars provided a potpourri of updates in several areas of subspecialty including Dermatology, Urology, Infectious Diseases, Sports Medicine, Allergy and Immunology, and Media and Child Health. In a lecture style symposium, hundreds gathered to learn eagerly from the invited clinical faculty. At lunch time, I attended 2 separate lunch seminars during the weekend and this was a great chance to hear more from the individual faculty but to also meet other attendees, pediatricians from all around the United States.

The lunch seminars were the most special part of the weekend as I got to speak with several practicing pediatricians mostly from California about our shared backgrounds, experiences, and struggles. As one of three residents attending the Las Vegas seminars, I soon did not feel so detached from the other health providers and realized the commonalities we all had despite different years of clinical practice. I heard patient stories that inspired and excited me to continue seeking knowledge at any stage of my career.

At the end of the weekend I was reenergized and motivated to delve back into residency, eager to learn and even more excited to become more involved with the AAP and its advocacy efforts.