

Looking Back, Looking Ahead
By John I. Takayama, MD, MPH, FAAP

2017 has been eventful for our nation, our state and our chapter! With changes in leadership for the federal government, the AAP has been working harder than ever before to protect the rights of children, to promote policies of inclusion to place children and their families on paths to achieving their greatest potentials. Hurricanes have battered regions in the southeast; in California, wildfires destroyed hundreds of homes and livelihoods. While it's easy to become demoralized by human behaviors and events out of our control, there is plenty to be thankful for and there is also hope. People, including pediatricians, have banded together to help. In California, AB-1520, Lifting Children and Families Out of Poverty Act of 2017, has been passed and signed into law. Northern California pediatricians organized "All are Welcome," a conference to equip participants with skills to welcome and support immigrant families. While wildfires have finally begun to subside, we are busy working together to organize our communities to become more resilient and pro-active.

Chapter Accomplishments

- **336** new members in 2017!
- leadership transition with new executive director, president and vice president
- profit instead of deficit in chapter finances
- first interdisciplinary conference in April focusing on special education
- most participants in a December medical education conference
- successful completion of HPV immunization QI project with 10 participating practices
- formation of an ad hoc committee on mental health access and distribution of member survey
- establishment of a new foundation board with vision and financial support

Chapter Next Steps

- organize a disaster preparedness curriculum and plan (we received a recent grant from the Academy and the CDC)
- welcome and meet Dr. David Schonfeld in Santa Rosa in early January to discuss the mental health impact of disasters on children and families
- analyze responses to the mental health access survey, understand key barriers and develop methods to improve access
- spring conference in April focusing on pediatric skin problems
- support chapter committees and communicate their needs and accomplishments
- town hall meetings with pediatricians in different parts of Northern California
- leadership will attend the Annual Leadership Forum in March 2018

Thank you very much for everything that you have done, especially for children in Northern California, and we are looking forward to working with you in 2018.
Happy Holidays and Happy New Year!

John I. Takayama, MD, MPH, FAAP – Chapter President
Raelene Walker, MD, FAAP – Chapter Vice President
Zoey Goore, MD, MPH, FAAP – Chapter Past President
Maria Sperber, JD – Chapter Executive Director