

# INVOLVEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

## **ADVOCACY**

[www.aap.org/advocacy.html](http://www.aap.org/advocacy.html)

When it comes to keeping children healthy and safe, some of the most effective advocates are pediatricians. The AAP and its members work everyday at the community, state and federal level to protect and promote the well-being of children, as well as the profession and practice of pediatrics. Success is achieved through the efforts of dedicated members, chapters, and staff working with state and federal legislators and regulators. Policymakers depend on the expert advice of pediatricians regarding children's healthcare issues. At the community level, pediatricians advocate for services for their individual patients and work to change policies in hospitals, clinics and community agencies to assure that children receive needed services.

With support and resources from the AAP, pediatricians communicate with legislators, testify, and coordinate media events. Advocacy training is offered to AAP members through the Legislative Conference, Chapter Advocacy Summit, and Resident Advocacy Days in the AAP Washington DC office. The staff also provides strategic legislative advice, issue sheets, data, and background information.

## **CHAPTERS**

[www.aap.org/member/chapters/chapserv.htm](http://www.aap.org/member/chapters/chapserv.htm)

Numerous opportunities for involvement and leadership development abound in the 66 AAP chapters. AAP members have a unique opportunity to shape the development and implementation of child health policy and advocate at the state and local levels through one of our 59 US chapters. Each chapter establishes its own legislative priorities and accomplishes them through the volunteer efforts of its members. Chapters also build coalitions by partnering with other organizations in the state to advance children's health and well-being.

Leadership opportunities are available through the participation in chapter committees in areas of interest, special chapter projects, and by becoming a "chapter champion" for a particular child health issue. Additionally, chapters provide a forum to network with other pediatricians who hold similar interests and offer opportunities to advance knowledge through sponsorship of numerous CME activities. To jump-start your involvement, most chapters send a welcome packet to new members, containing a letter of introduction with contact information, a copy of the most recent chapter newsletter, and information on upcoming meetings. You also can visit [www.aap.org/member/chapters/chapserv.htm](http://www.aap.org/member/chapters/chapserv.htm) to find out details about your chapter along with contact information for the chapter's executive director.

## **COMMITTEES**

[www.aap.org/visit/aapcomm.htm](http://www.aap.org/visit/aapcomm.htm)

National Committees also provide a valuable venue for involvement. Committees are responsible for developing the majority of policy statements that are published by the AAP. In addition to working on policy statements, Committees commonly author books based on the topic area of the respective Committee. Once a year the membership is notified of any Committee vacancies and given the opportunity to nominate Fellows (FAAPs) for the positions. Nominees are then reviewed by the appropriate district chairperson and submitted to the appropriate standing board committee that will recommend specific appointments to the Board of Directors. All committee members are board appointed.



## SPECIALTY AND SUBSPECIALTY PEDIATRICS

The AAP has long recognized that to successfully carry out its mission, it must reach out to all board-certified pediatricians and pediatric subspecialists (Fellows), as well as physicians in other specialties that spend over 50% of their practice, research or teaching with pediatric-aged patients (Specialty Fellows). The AAP has always felt it important to offer the same robust benefits and privileges to both groups because when it comes to advocating for children, and the need for an effective health care delivery system for them, all members, regardless of specialty, are united.

To harness the energy in these various groups, and to help them organize, the AAP has established a "home" for each in the form of Sections and Councils. Sections, Councils and their oversight bodies discuss numerous issues from standards of care and new diseases to treatments and workforce. Actions are then taken through advocacy, education, research, service, and policy, to improve the care of children and meet the needs of specialty and subspecialty physicians.

For subspecialty and specialty physicians, Sections and Councils offer a unique opportunity to become involved.

### SECTIONS

[www.aap.org/sections/intro.htm](http://www.aap.org/sections/intro.htm)

Sections are membership sub-organizations chartered by the AAP to present educational activities for its members and/or the AAP membership at large, and to advance their respective specialties/special interests through policy development, public education, and advocacy for children. The membership within each Section constitutes a valuable reservoir of specialty and subspecialty expertise to be drawn upon for guidance in the development of AAP policies, clinical reports, and practice standards, and to act as representatives of the AAP to other organizations.

Each Section has an Executive Committee and many sub-committees, so leadership opportunities are bountiful. Members are eligible to join multiple Sections that are of interest to them based on their member type and the membership criteria established by each Section.

### COUNCILS

Councils represent one of the newer opportunities within the AAP.

They represent the evolution of Sections and Committees working in the same field into a new, integrated, structure. Each Council is the primary source of expertise in a given field within the AAP. An executive committee of elected leaders governs each Council. Although Councils fulfill the functions traditionally held separately by national Committees and Sections, their scope, as a single entity, is expanded to encompass a broader vision and a wider array of activities. Councils generate policy, create educational programming and resources, develop and promote advocacy initiatives, support translation of policy and education into practice, and they integrate and evaluate these efforts to maximize impact. The Council structure is designed to give members a strong voice in policy development and in other Council activities.

### PROS

[www.aap.org/pros](http://www.aap.org/pros)

PROS (Pediatric Research in Office Settings) is the AAP's practice-based research network. Approximately 1,700 PROS practitioners all across the country collaborate to design and conduct national primary-care research to improve the health of children and enhance pediatric practice. Since its inception in 1986, PROS has conducted more than 20 large-scale studies, several of which have changed policy and practice. For their efforts, the network's practitioners have been honored with three national awards, most recently the 2005 Ambulatory Pediatric Association Research Award. PROS continues to seek practitioners interested in becoming involved with its research. For more information, please contact the Division of Primary Care Research at 800/433-9016, extension 7623.

### **COMMUNITY PEDIATRICS AND FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES**

[www.aap.org/commpeds/](http://www.aap.org/commpeds/)

[www.aap.org/commpeds/cpti](http://www.aap.org/commpeds/cpti)

Increasingly, the major threats to the health of America's children arise from problems that cannot be addressed adequately within the practice setting alone. It is the goal of Community Pediatrics to improve child health within the context of family, school, and community, and to reduce health disparities, through collaborative use of community resources and synthesis of clinical practice and public health principles. The Academy's Community Pediatrics Training Initiative supports pediatric training programs to equip pediatricians with the skills and knowledge needed to improve the health of all children in the community and offers several opportunities to those involved in training.

To assist pediatricians in their professional role to address child health within the community, the Academy provides resources, technical assistance, and funding opportunities.

### **CATCH**

[www.aap.org/catch/](http://www.aap.org/catch/)

Community Access To Child Health (CATCH) grants assist pediatricians in using resources in their own communities to remove barriers to child health care. In addition to planning and implementation grants, the program provides training and technical assistance.

### **HEALTHY TOMORROWS**

[www.aap.org/commpeds/htpcp/](http://www.aap.org/commpeds/htpcp/)

The Healthy Tomorrows Partnership for Children Program (HTPCP) is a collaborative effort between the Maternal and Child Health Bureau (MCHB) and the AAP. The MCHB funds individual grantees for a 5-year period, while the AAP provides technical assistance to the grantees. Healthy Tomorrows aims to improve the health status of mothers, infants, children, and adolescents by increasing their access to a medical home. Healthy Tomorrows projects address 4 key areas—access to a medical home, community-based health care, preventive health care, and service coordination. All projects target low-income populations.

EVERY PEDIATRICIAN *CAN* MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

