

## ***How can I join the Indian Health Special Interest Group?***

If you are already a member of the Council on Community Pediatrics (COCP), simply send an email to [indianhealth@aap.org](mailto:indianhealth@aap.org) and request your complimentary membership

If you are an AAP member in good standing, the cost of membership to the COCP is \$35. To apply for membership to the COCP online, follow the steps below:

- 1) Go to [www.aap.org](http://www.aap.org).
- 2) Click on Members Only Channel.
- 3) Enter your AAP ID number and birth date or password.
- 4) Scroll down and look left – click on Member Services.
- 5) Click On-line Section Membership Application.
- 6) Complete and submit.
- 7) Send an e-mail to [indianhealth@aap.org](mailto:indianhealth@aap.org) to request Indian Health SIG membership upon completion.

If you are not eligible for AAP membership, you can become an Affiliate Member at a cost of \$60. To apply for membership online, follow the steps below:

- 1) Go to [www.aap.org](http://www.aap.org).
- 2) Click on Member Center.
- 3) Under "Join AAP, click on Member Categories and Applications.
- 4) Click on Section Affiliate/Section Member.
- 5) Choose Section Affiliate/Section Membership Information/Application and print the necessary forms (Application & Sponsor Form)
- 6) Complete and submit the Application & 1 Sponsor Form.
- 7) Send an e-mail to [indianhealth@aap.org](mailto:indianhealth@aap.org) to request Indian Health SIG membership upon completion

## ***Additional Council on Community Pediatrics Membership Benefits:***

- The COCP newsletter, which includes important announcements about funding opportunities, conferences, etc.
- The COCP e-mail list, which is used as a forum to ask questions and provide feedback on articles and other documents.
- Funding opportunities through the Mentorship and Technical Assistance Program (MTAP). MTAP can provide COCP members up to \$2,000 in funding to assist them in improving their community pediatrics skills and/or develop innovative programs within their community.



American Academy of Pediatrics  
DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN™



141 Northwest Point Blvd  
P.O. Box 927  
Elk Grove Village, IL 60009-0927

Phone: 847/434-4000  
Fax: 847/434-8000  
E-mail: [indianhealth.aap.org](mailto:indianhealth.aap.org)  
Web site: [www.aap.org/nach](http://www.aap.org/nach)

## ***Native American Child Health:***

### ***Activities and Involvement***



***What does the AAP do to promote the health of American Indian and Alaska Native children?***

***How can I get involved?***

American Academy of Pediatrics  
DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN™



## **Indian Health Special Interest Group**



The Indian Health Special Interest Group (IH-SIG) offers pediatricians and other licensed health professionals the opportunity to become involved in Native American Child Health initiatives at the AAP.

The IH-SIG provides a forum for pediatricians and other health providers serving American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) children to share successes and strategies, sponsor educational programs that highlight aspects of providing care to AI/AN children, support the work of the CONACH by disseminating information, and link members to address problems specific to local or regional care of AI/AN children.

One of the activities of the IH-SIG is a discussion forum facilitated through an electronic mailing list. Topics discussed include oral health, childhood asthma, ADHD, and injury prevention. The IH-SIG also produces a monthly newsletter, *Child Health Notes*, which highlights information and research that is relevant to caring for AI/AN children.

To become a member of the IH-SIG, you must be a member of the Council on Community Pediatrics (COCP). Members of the COCP can join the IH-SIG free of charge and will be able to access the IH-SIG Web pages on the Members Only Channel of the AAP Web site.

## **Committee on Native American Child Health**

In 1965, the AAP responded to a request from the Indian Health Service (IHS) for review and consultation of its child health programs and services. The partnership between the AAP and IHS that emerged from this initial request continues today and involves many AAP members who are committed to strong advocacy and elimination of disparities experienced by AI/AN children.

Through the Committee on Native American Child Health (CONACH), the AAP offers its expertise to individuals and groups concerned about the issues facing Native American children. Comprised of 7 members appointed by the AAP Board of Directors, CONACH is largely responsible for developing AAP policy regarding AI/AN child health and serving as the AAP experts on this topic.

Members of the CONACH are selected for their willingness to work hard and without compensation on behalf of AI/AN children, and for their previous experience in working directly with Native American children. Committee members maintain contact with tribal, urban, and Indian Health Service (IHS) programs, and keep up with important changes, legislation, and regulations that affect AI/AN health in general (eg, the Indian Health Care Improvement Act) and AI/AN child health in particular.

The committee meets twice a year - once for a meeting in Washington DC, and once for a consultation site visit to an IHS Area. Each meeting addresses the major problems that affect Native American children and youth and how committee members and pediatricians can deal with these problems.

## **AAP Native American Child Health Activities**

The IH-SIG and the CONACH collaborate on numerous activities including:

- Sponsorship and planning of the International Meeting on Inuit and Native American Child Health.
- Development/review of policy statements relevant to AI/AN child health. Recent policy statements include:
  - Prevention and Treatment of Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus in Children, with Special Emphasis on AI/AN Children
  - Ethical Considerations for Research in Socially Identifiable Populations
- Advocacy for AI/AN child health issues:
  - Change in recommendation for some AI/AN populations to receive pneumococcal conjugate vaccine in times of shortage.
  - Working toward improved health care to students who attend off-reservation boarding schools.
- Recruitment and mentorship of AI/AN students who are interested in pediatric careers

