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Dear Pediatric Residency Program Director,

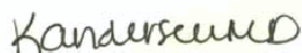
The American Academy of Pediatrics Julius B. Richmond Center of Excellence is delighted to present you with this CD, *Protecting Children from Secondhand Smoke & Tobacco: A Pediatric Curriculum Guide*, which was designed to provide practical curriculum materials on tobacco control for pediatric residents. Our national Center of Excellence is dedicated to improving child health by eliminating children's exposure to secondhand smoke (SHS) and tobacco through changing clinical pediatric practice. An important objective of the Center is to integrate tobacco and SHS exposure counseling into pediatric residency programs.

Pediatricians are uniquely positioned to intervene with families about tobacco use. We share parents' concerns for the health of their children and frequently counsel parents in ways to improve their children's health. Counseling to promote smoke free homes and cars and smoking cessation can be readily incorporated into the clinical encounter – in fact, parents expect us to address tobacco use! Yet surveys show that pediatricians are less likely than other primary care physicians to address tobacco use and SHS exposure. The reasons given include lack of time and confidence, competing priorities, concerns about efficacy and reimbursement, and lack of training. These concerns are real: a recent survey shows that most pediatric residents receive less than two hours of smoking cessation education. Residency is an ideal time to train future pediatricians in screening and counseling about tobacco use and SHS exposure. Studies have shown that such training makes residents and pediatricians more confident about incorporating screening and counseling into the pediatric visit, and more likely to do so.

The enclosed CD contains a curriculum for a multi-dimensional training program on eliminating children's SHS exposure and counseling parents in smoking cessation. The materials include noon conference talks with role playing/case discussion exercises, patient education materials, and resources for implementing tobacco control and cessation programs in hospital and office settings. You may obtain more copies of these materials and other clinical practice resources for tobacco control at [www.aap.org/RichmondCenter](http://www.aap.org/RichmondCenter).

We encourage you to share these materials with your residents and colleagues. The curriculum will enhance residents' knowledge, frequency and effectiveness of counseling patients and parents, and thus will help to engage them in actively addressing this critical public health problem throughout their careers.

Sincerely,

  
Kristen Andersen, MD.  
Pediatric Resident  
Cardinal Glennon Children's Hospital



Dana Best, MD, MPH  
Disseminating Best Practices  
AAP Smokefree Homes Project

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*Dedicated to eliminating children's exposure to tobacco and secondhand smoke*

**CLICK TO BEGIN**