

AAP Section on International Child Health (SOICH) Greetings from the Chairman

Welcome to the AAP Section on International Child Health! Formed in 1996, SOICH has grown steadily, and we now have over 1500 section members, making us one of the largest sections in the academy. More than half of our members are pediatricians from other countries; in fact, we have members from more than sixty countries around the world! We also welcome pediatric residents as members.

SOICH members share a common interest in global health issues affecting children, and recognize that as pediatricians, we are dedicated to the health of *all* children. Our **Vision** is to facilitate colleagues working on the prioritized needs of all children, to help discover ways to provide materials, hospitality, and assistance to those working to improve global health, and to strive in advocating effectively on behalf of children in need. In order to meet our Vision we try to guide AAP planning and orientation such that important international child health issues are given due consideration.

Our regular activities attempt to mirror the four **Goal** areas of Education, Service, Advocacy, and Partnership/Diplomacy and include:

- Conducting educational programs for the AAP NCE every fall
- Nominating the speaker for the annual Christopherson Lectureship
- Awarding of several International Travel Grants each year for pediatric residents wishing to pursue electives abroad during their training
- Maintaining an active Book Repository Program, which distributes medical texts to individuals and programs in developing countries
- Providing a directory of overseas opportunities for pediatricians interested in volunteer work abroad
- Award grants through the newly formed I-CATCH program to pediatricians from developing countries working to improve the lives of children in their local communities.
- Working with the newly formed AAP International Office to help coordinate some of the many international activities of the AAP

We also serve as liaisons to other AAP committees such as the Committee on Pediatric AIDS, and to other organizations working in international health such as the International Pediatric Association and Health Volunteers Overseas. Our section list serve is a useful international forum for sharing project ideas, announcements and for seeking information as well. Our Section website is quickly becoming a go-to repository of useful information for those intending to go abroad or already there!

If you are not a member of the Section on International Child Health, I invite you to join! To join, click on the “How to Join” link under “About Us.”
Help us work on improving the health of children, especially those most in need!

Cliff O’Callahan MD, PhD, FAAP
Chair, AAP Section on International Child Health