

## Chairperson's Report

I became a Fellow of the American Academy of Pediatrics in 1980 and was elected to serve on the Pediatric Pulmonology Section Executive Committee in 2002. In November 2004, I succeeded Michelle Howenstine as Chairperson.

The section is involved in a variety of activities including collaborating with the American College of Chest Physicians to co-sponsor the "Celebration of Pediatric Pulmonology 2005," offering the Edwin L. Kendig, Jr Award, and sponsoring travel grants for a few pediatric pulmonary fellows to attend the CME course. Also, section executive committee elections are currently underway. The electronic ballot will be available on the AAP Member Center from March 1 - April 29th. All those eligible to vote will be receiving a postcard and e-mail notification containing a pre-assigned log in idea and password. See page six for more information.

There are a number of issues that the section executive committee is working on, including the intent to develop a policy statement on bronchopulmonary dysplasia and section member, Harold Farber, is representing the section to develop an online learning module for asthma gadgets. The module will be available on [www.pedialink.org](http://www.pedialink.org) in the near future.

There are additional proposals that the Executive Committee is currently considering and I would like to request feedback from the membership regarding the merit of two of these proposals.

### Executive Committee 2004 - 2005

#### Chairperson

Michael Light, MD

#### Executive Committee:

Steven Boas, MD

Albert Faro, MD

Andrew Gelfand, MD

David Gozal, MD

Christopher Harris, MD

Julie Katkin, MD

Jeffrey Wagener, MD

#### Immediate Past Chairperson

Michelle Howenstine, MD

#### AAP Staff:

Laura Laskosz, MPH

The first issue is pulmonary function testing in the primary care office. The American Thoracic Society developed a Task Force on Spirometry that defined three key areas for analysis and addressed each through a working group. The key areas included: 1) are suitable devices available 2) What are the obstacles to spirometry in the primary care setting 3) What is the evidence that the information from spirometry can lead to interventions that alter important outcomes. The questions raised during Task Force meetings lead to the development of an evidence report through the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) on the Use of Spirometry for Case Finding, Diagnosis, and Management of COPD. The scope of the spirometry project was expanded to include the pediatric patient, however as the resultant evidence report focuses on an adult population, there is a need to define the questions as they relate to the pediatric patient. The section executive committee is contemplating developing a proposal to develop a clinical practice guideline on spirometry in the primary care office as it relates to the pediatric patient. I would like to receive your feedback regarding the pros and cons of developing a spirometry guideline.

The second issue under consideration by the section executive committee is the development of an international register (or registry) of pediatric pulmonologists. There are many problems with this including legal, logistical, privacy concerns etc. Again, I would appreciate different viewpoints from the section membership.

One of the important roles of this section is to foster communication. Any members on the section executive committee would welcome your input. The best method to contact me is via e-mail either [milight@med.miami.edu](mailto:milight@med.miami.edu) or [milight39@yahoo.com](mailto:milight39@yahoo.com)

*Thank you,  
Michael Light, MD, FAAP*

*Statements and opinions  
expressed in this publication  
are those of the authors and  
not necessarily those of the  
American Academy of Pediatrics*

American Academy  
of Pediatrics



DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN®

**American Academy of Pediatrics  
2006 Edwin L. Kendig, Jr Award  
Call for Nominations  
Deadline: June 1, 2005**

The Edwin L. Kendig, Jr Award recognizes an individual for lifetime achievement in the field of pediatric pulmonology. The award recipient will be selected based upon one or more of the following qualifications:

- distinguished clinical service and dedication to patient care
- significant contribution to clinical or basic science research in the field of pediatric pulmonology
- dedication to the education of pediatric pulmonary fellows or students.

Any pulmonologist (or related specialty) can be nominated for the award. Current members of the Executive Committee are not eligible. Nominations must be in writing and should be limited to one per nominator. The letter of nomination should contain a description of the nominee's achievements and clearly state the basis for the recommendation and should include the nominee's Curriculum Vitae. ***Please note: previous nominations can be resubmitted with a brief letter indicating nominator and the name of nominee.*** Please forward recommendations to:

Barbara Drelicharz  
Division of Technical and Medical Services  
American Academy of Pediatrics  
141 Northwest Point Boulevard  
PO Box 927  
Elk Grove Village, IL 60009-0927

**Nominations may be submitted via fax at: 847/434-8000 (attn: Barbara Drelicharz)  
or e-mail: [bdrelicharz@aap.org](mailto:bdrelicharz@aap.org).**

The award will be presented in conjunction with the American Academy of Pediatrics and American College of Chest Physicians co-sponsored 2006 CME Course. The recipient will receive a \$2000 honorarium in addition to registration and expenses to attend the course.

**Please share this announcement with your colleagues.**

**Previous Award Recipients**  
2005 – Hugh O’Brodivich, MD  
2004 – William W. Waring, MD, FAAP  
2003 – Robert B. Mellins, MD, FAAP  
2002 – Mary Ellen Wohl, MD, FAAP  
2001 – Edwin L. Kendig, Jr, MD, FAAP

**“Celebration of Pediatric Pulmonology 2005”  
March 18 - 20, 2005**

**Register Now!!**

Join us at the Rancho Las Palmas Marriott Resort and Spa located in sunny California for the CME course, “Celebration of Pediatric Pulmonology 2005” that will be held March 18 - 20, 2005. This CME program is intended to provide a state-of-the-art update in clinical pediatric pulmonology. The course will feature audience response case discussions, plenary-style lectures, question and answer sessions, and interactive small group workshops.

Co-sponsored by the American College of Chest Physicians and the American Academy of Pediatrics, course participants can earn up to 19 AMA APRA category 1 credit hours.

**Course topics include:**

Infectious Diseases  
Radiology  
Pediatric Surgery  
Asthma  
Cystic fibrosis  
Sleep medicine  
Impact of lung disease on a child’s well being

**Space is limited - Register today**  
**Call 800/343-2227 or 847/498-1400**  
[www.chestnet.org](http://www.chestnet.org)



## We would like to welcome the following new members into the section!

Elizabeth Adams  
Faria Ajamian  
Fawaz Alrefaee  
Haydi Al-Wassia  
Rana Ammoury  
Jacqueline Bogatz  
Toby Bond  
Kimberly Briedenstein  
Ashaki Brown  
Archana Chander  
Rama Chandrashekaran  
Amandeep Cheema  
Eulalia Cheng  
Catherine Chung  
Stephanie Davis  
Joshua Freedman  
Jacqueline Freyre  
Jeanette Gonzalez  
Nilfur Goyal  
S Yamuna Gunawardena  
Sabeen Habib  
Nabil Hassan  
Albert Ho  
Heather Hodgson-Viden  
Hao Hsu  
Valera Hudson  
Nike Iyamu-Osagie  
Marissa Joseph  
Pradip Kamat  
Kevin Kathrotia  
Rukmini Komarlu  
Faye Susan Lundergan

Tejal Majmuder  
Nikeey Malcolm  
Caroline McLaughlin  
Mona Megahed  
Sejal Mehta  
Susan Millard  
Elizabeth Murray  
Sajay Nair  
Anuranjita Nayak  
Omoniyi Omotoso  
Anil Pathak  
Amanda Pierzchala  
Tracy Pitt  
Brian Policano  
Anur Praveen  
Shazia Riaz  
Christopher Ryder  
Christopher Saenz  
Tania Samanta  
Stephen Scully Jr.  
Mohamed Shahabuddin  
Cynthia Skelly  
Ben Song  
Joanna Swinburne  
Bryan Thibodeau  
Benjamin Tippets  
Dannette Torres  
Khandra Tyler  
Nachman Ullman  
Jason Waterman  
David Williams

## Update your Profile on the AAP Member Center

An important service is available on the AAP Member Center. A Personal Profile has been added to provide you with an opportunity to view your address, demographic, and subspecialty information and update it at your own convenience. Simply enter the changes into the form and our database will be updated the following day. This way, there will be no delay in receiving your member benefits.

The AAP online Member Directory, available through the AAP Member Center at [www.aap.org](http://www.aap.org), has recently been improved. The online Directory should be your primary resource to locate colleagues. Quite simply, it has the most accurate, up-to-the-minute contact information available.

With these new changes and enhancements, we believe we can further improve service to members and the public. However, it is also an important time for our members to check their address and demographic information for accuracy. Please take the time to visit the Member Center and click on "Update my Personal Profile." If you prefer to contact us by phone or e-mail, you can call 877/THE-AAP1, or send an e-mail to [csc@aap.org](mailto:csc@aap.org).

## Travel Grant Award

Congratulations to the following fellows-in -training for receiving a \$1200 travel grant to attend "Celebration of Pediatric Pulmonology 2005"

Minh Doan  
Amy Harrison  
Gary McPhail  
Esmeralda Morales



## Upcoming Meetings

### **Celebration of Pediatric Pulmonology 2005**

March 18 - 20, 2005

Rancho Las Palmas Marriott

Rancho Mirage, CA

[www.chestnet.org](http://www.chestnet.org)

### **ATS 2005**

May 20 - 25, 2005

San Diego, CA

[www.thoracic.org](http://www.thoracic.org)

### **National Conference and Exhibition**

October 8 - 11, 2005

Washington, DC

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

### **CHEST 2005**

October 29 - November 3, 2005

Montréal, Québec, Canada

[www.chestnet.org](http://www.chestnet.org)

## Academy Reaches Out to Countries Affected by Tsunami

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) is reaching out to pediatric societies in India, Indonesia, Sri Lanka and Thailand, providing financial support and other resources to help them assess children's needs in the aftermath of the deadly tsunami. In an e-mail to the AAP, the President of the Sri Lanka College of Pediatricians, Manouri P. Senanayake, MD, thanked the AAP for its "prompt offer to help mitigate the effects of this disaster."

Dr. Senanayake noted, "Immunization against hepatitis A, chicken pox and typhoid are NOT included in the (Sri Lanka) National Schedule. Hence, the estimated 80,000 displaced children currently in make-shift refugee camps are vulnerable to these infections." If vaccines become available, he said the college's pediatricians would work with the national ministry of health on distribution and vaccination.

AAP President, Carol D. Berkowitz, MD, FAAP said, "The pediatric societies in the areas affected have experts on hand to determine the priorities. They've already told us that vaccines are needed. The donations we receive through the AAP Friends of Children Fund that are designated to the tsunami relief efforts will go to help our colleagues and children overseas."

**To donate to the AAP Friends of Children Fund for tsunami relief click here.**

The AAP is collaborating with the International Pediatric Association (IPA), of which it is a member, to address immediate needs. IPA Executive Director Jane Schaller, MD, FAAP, joined two other IPA officers in Calcutta for the annual meeting of the Indian Academy of Pediatrics for extensive discussions on conditions in southern Asia in the aftermath of the disaster. Also there was the IAP disaster group chairperson, Swati Bhawe, MD, of India. The Indian disaster relief group, in conjunction with UNICEF and the Indian government, is preparing a plan for meeting the needs of children caught up in the disaster.

The IPA, guided by Karen Olness, MD, FAAP, and in conjunction with the AAP's Section on International Child Health and Johnson & Johnson Pediatric Institute LLC, has provided emergency response training to pediatricians from India, Malaysia and Thailand. These trained pediatricians are now participating in relief efforts in their own countries in collaboration with government and UN agencies.

Dr. Schaller said that Sriveng Pairjokul, MD, co-chair of the IPA child health and humanitarian emergency committee and a university professor from Thailand, and colleagues were forming a team with the UN relief agencies and the Thai government. "They have been part of an early needs assessment for children and people in Thailand, and they will also define their role in the emergency assistance, with attention not just to the acute problems, which are very real, but to the long-term problems that children may be traumatized by, seeing death and destruction, losing their homes and so on." Dr. Schaller added, "There is a huge need for advocacy with governments, with agencies, and with the public for the needs of children in disaster situations, and there is a need for written materials."

The AAP Section on International Child Health has sent copies of "Helping the Children," the Academy-endorsed handbook for complex humanitarian emergencies, to Thailand for use in hospitals and clinics. The AAP is prepared to consider additional ways the Helping the Children program can help pediatric societies.

Interested in writing an article  
for the newsletter?



Submit your suggestions to  
Laura Laskosz at  
[llaskosz@aap.org](mailto:llaskosz@aap.org)

**National Conference and Exhibition  
October 8 - 11, 2005  
Washington, DC**

The 2005 AAP National Conference & Exhibition (NCE) is October 8-11, in Washington DC! At the 2005 NCE, general pediatricians and sub-specialists can explore the latest trends in pediatric medicine, brush up on their technical skills, interact with peers, and see the latest in pediatric products.

The educational program includes over 300 sessions in almost 50 content areas, with offerings in quality improvement, practice management, and advocacy, as well as other topics that impact the practicing pediatrician. Attendees can also visit the technical exhibits and learn about the latest products and technology at the largest exhibition of its kind. Get the latest on the NCE at [www.aap.org/nce](http://www.aap.org/nce), and make your plans today!



**2005 Section  
Election Update**

**Online Voting!!**

In 2005, voting section members of the Academy will vote for open positions on Section Executive Committees using an electronic ballot system.

The on-line ballot, as well as the candidates' biographical information, will be available beginning March 1 at a dedicated election URL; [www.aap.org/elections](http://www.aap.org/elections). Because not all members have computer access or capability, and because voting is a right and a privilege, paper ballots are available (by request only) by contacting the AAP Department of Committees and Sections at 800/433-9016, extension 4079. Affiliate members are not eligible to vote in section elections.

Ballots, whether paper or on-line, must be received by the AAP no later than Friday, April 30, 2005, in order to be counted. If Section Members inadvertently vote both by paper ballot and on-line, only the on-line ballot will be counted. It is hoped that the Web-based ballot is found to be an efficient and enjoyable means by which to vote for the candidate(s) of your choice.

For the Web-based election, Section Members will receive an e-mail notification when the on-line ballot is available, which will contain the link to the ballot site. There will also be a link to the ballot site from the Members Only Channel of the AAP Web site. In order to enter the ballot, Section Members will need to enter the pre-assigned Login number and password, which will be provided on the broadcast e-mail notification. For those who are unable to locate their Login number and password, instructions will be provided on the election Web site. In addition, a technical support e-mail address also will be provided.

Those elected in the election will take office in November 2005 at the AAP National Conference & Exhibition.

Any questions may be directed to Carolyn Mensching, Manager, Section Administration, AAP, 847/434-4079 or [cmensching@aap.org](mailto:cmensching@aap.org)

**CDC Web site for  
Childhood Development**

A new web page for pediatric health care providers has been added to the CDC Child Development web site. The new page provides tips for primary care practitioners on integrating developmental screening into their practices efficiently, at low cost, and while ensuring coordination of care. A sample flowchart of clinical screening activities and an example of how physician and non-physician staff roles may be delineated to make routine screening feasible are provided as well (these can be printed from the web site).

**The web page can be found at:**

[http://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/child/screen\\_provider.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/child/screen_provider.htm)

**If you have any questions, please contact  
Carla White, MPH, Health Scientist,  
National Center on Birth Defects &  
Developmental Disabilities - CDC  
404/498-3556 or [carlawhite@cdc.gov](mailto:carlawhite@cdc.gov)**

## Annual Leadership Forum

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AAP leaders discuss pediatric issues at first leadership forum

The inaugural AAP Annual Leadership Forum (ALF) was deemed an enormous success, bringing together leaders of chapters, committees and sections for the first time.

Approximately 480 individuals attended the ALF Aug. 26-29 in Chicago, including chapter and district officers representing all 50 states and the Canadian provinces, committee and section chairpersons, and national and chapter staff. Chapter officers adopted 53 resolutions, and committee and section chairpersons approved 13 recommendations.

The meeting had five aims:

- to promote communication among chapter, committee and section leaders;
- to incorporate diverse perspectives in the discussion and debate of leading pediatric issues;
- to better integrate the Academy's policy development, education and advocacy functions;
- to draw on multiple areas of expertise within the Academy in the formation of advice and recommendations to the Board of Directors; and
- to provide uniform leadership orientation for AAP volunteer leaders.

One of the highlights of the 2004 ALF was the reference committee hearings. The hearings provided an opportunity for clarification of resolutions by proponents and opponents, allowed for the synthesis of members' thoughts on various issues and improved the presentation of resolutions on the floor. In the past, only chapter officers and staff were present at these hearings. This year, committee and section chairpersons also participated in the discussions of resolutions.

"The reference committee hearings succeeded beyond our expectations," said Walter M. Fierson, M.D., FAAP, chair of the AAP Council on Sections, adding "this can only get better in the future."

Douglas B. Gregory, M.D., FAAP, chair of the AAP Chapter Forum Management Committee, agreed. "The contribution of the committee and section attendees to the discussions added a dimension that had been lacking. Chapter leaders were able to hear directly how committees and sections were dealing with or might deal with a membership/chapter concern. On the flip side, committee and section leaders were able to hear and understand chapter concerns."

Dr. Gregory, Dr. Fierson and O. Marion Burton, M.D., FAAP, past chair of the Council on Committees, were committed to selecting a topic of interest and issued a call to action to all pediatricians to serve as the "keynote address."

The result was engaging and thought-provoking presentations by Francine Cournos, M.D., an author and psychiatrist who is a former foster child and is very familiar with the problems with foster care; Shay Bilchik J.D., CEO of the Child Welfare League of America; and Sarah H. Springer, M.D., FAAP, member of the AAP Section on Adoption and Foster Care executive committee.

Following the presentations, a workshop on foster care was held for chapter, committee and section leaders to discuss the issue and brainstorm activities in which the Academy could engage.

"Improving the health and well-being of children in foster care is a most worthy cause for the Academy to assume, and these sessions gave us a jump start," Dr. Fierson said.

During separate, concurrent sessions, chapter officers and committee/section chairpersons held meetings and voted on resolutions (chapters) and recommendations (committee/sections). Issues such as

electronic medical records (EMRs) and two- vs. three-year pediatric subspecialty fellowships were areas of overlap between the groups.

Chapter leaders considered 65 resolutions and adopted 53. Chapter officers later prioritized their "Top 10" resolutions (see sidebar, page 240).

Committee and section leaders proposed 19 recommendations and approved 13. Topics included recommending that the Academy place a high priority on the development of a formal system for accumulating and analyzing data related to ongoing trends in pediatric inpatient care and recommending that the Academy take all possible steps to ensure a clear return on the cost of implementing EMRs by pediatric practitioners.

The ALF also featured seminars to build chapter officers' and staff's management/leadership skills. Topics included strategic planning, human resource management, non-dues revenue, legal issues, and membership recruitment and retention.

Joint discussion groups/workshops were held for all attendees on obesity, foster care, medical malpractice crisis, quality, health literacy, electronic health record, mental health and media training. A stimulating lecture on quality also was delivered to committee and section chairs by Paul V. Miles, M.D., FAAP, and Carole M. Lannon, M.D., M.P.H., FAAP.

Committees and sections held action group meetings where topics of interest to their respective groups were discussed and recommendations drafted. The committees have five action groups (child and adolescent health, community pediatrics, practice, research/education/organization and technical) and sections

*continued on page 8*



## Washington Report

From the AAP Department of Federal Affairs

have four (medical 1, medical 2, multidisciplinary and surgical). The Board of Directors also held separate sessions with the medical and surgical section chairpersons to address their policy, educational and operational needs.

Also part of the inaugural ALF were an orientation session for all attendees, sessions for new officers/chairpersons, AAP exhibits to foster networking and a conference for chapter executive directors.

"I was very impressed with the 'fusion' of chapter, committee and section leaders during the entire weekend," Dr. Burton said, adding that participation from all three volunteer leadership groups will move the Academy forward on a number of different levels and topics.

Ultimately, as affirmed at the conclusion of the ALF by AAP President Carol D. Berkowitz, M.D., FAAP, the resolutions and recommendations will serve as advice to the Board of Directors on the future direction of AAP policies and programs.

"Much networking and communication has continued via phone and e-mail even after the meeting," noted Jan E. Berger, M.D., M.J., FAAP, chair of the Council on Committees. "These types of building blocks will allow for a much richer, thoughtful output from all parties involved."

The management committees for chapters, committees and sections met during the National Conference & Exhibition to begin crafting a plan for next year's ALF, which will be held Aug. 11-14 in Chicago. "The challenge for the ALF Planning Committee," according to Dr. Gregory, "will be to build on this framework (from 2004) and capture this initial energy for the 2005 ALF."

The 109<sup>th</sup> Congress convened Jan. 5 in Washington and critical AAP issues such as Medicaid reform and payment will be hot topics throughout this year. The Academy will be looking for AAP members to get involved in lobbying their members of Congress as key issues arise. There are two ways that AAP members can get involved. The Federal Advocacy Action Network (FAAN) sends periodic

Federal Advocacy Action



A network of Academy members who help support federal legislative and regulatory activities from their positions as constituents

email action alerts to AAP members with an email address asking AAP members to fax, phone or email their members of Congress using a sample personalized letter. Pediatricians who are interested in taking their advocacy to the next level can join AAP Key Contacts. AAP Key Contacts are advocates who have committed to develop a relationship with their member of Congress including following up with them by phone after key votes and meeting with their congressional member when they are home in the district.

The 109<sup>th</sup> Congress will have periodic recesses throughout the year, during which they meet with constituents. There will be a short recess this month, Feb. 21-25, when legislators will return to their home districts. This is an excellent time for AAP members to invite members of Congress to tour a clinic or hospital to gain a better understanding

of how pediatricians give care. AAP members can discuss Medicaid reform or any other AAP legislative priorities. For more information on other AAP legislative priorities, go to the federal affairs section of the AAP Member Center at [www.aap.org/moc](http://www.aap.org/moc).

### Opportunities to meet with legislators:

March 21 – April 1  
Spring recess

May 30 – June 3  
Memorial Day recess

July 4- July 8  
Independence Day recess

Aug. 1 – Sept. 5  
August recess

Sept. 30  
Target adjournment

For guidance on how to meet with members of Congress or for more information about joining AAP Key Contacts, contact Taryn Rosenkranz, AAP Department of Federal Affairs, (800) 336-5475, ext. 3004, or [trosenkranz@aap.org](mailto:trosenkranz@aap.org).

### Silent Auction Items Needed

At the 2005 AAP National Conference and Exhibition, Oct. 8-10+ in Washington, DC, the Academy will hold a special silent auction in celebration of the Academy's 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with proceeds benefiting the Friends of Children Fund. Pediatricians nationwide can donate items such as timeshares, vacation home rentals, quilts and books. Items can be donated by individual AAP members, committees, sections, chapters or group practices. Minimum suggested donation is \$75. Pediatricians interested in donating an item for the auction should fill out the following form: <http://www.aap.org/75/SilentAuctionDonationForm.pdf>.