

# American Academy of Pediatrics

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Dear Colleagues and Fellow Members of the Section for Senior Members of the American Academy of Pediatrics:

I am honored to assume the position of chair of our Section following this year's National Conference in Boston. I'm sure we all agree that Dr. Avrum Katcher is a hard act to follow! We appreciate his dedication to our Section, to the Academy, and to child health. Av concluded his final duties as section chair by presenting the well deserved Section Advocacy Award to Dr. Tom Metcalf, whose commentary will be found on-line and in the winter issue of the Senior Bulletin.

The newest addition to the Section Executive Committee is Dr. Allen D. "Buzz" Harlor of Eugene, Oregon. Buzz brings a wealth of experience with State and Federal Government Affairs, legislative advocacy, and unparalleled fishing expertise. Other continuing members of our Section Executive Committee in addition to me are Dr. Arthur Maron of Verona, New Jersey, Dr. Michael O'Halloran, of Wisconsin, who continues to serve as vice-chairman of the Section, and Dr. George Cohen of Rockville, Maryland, who serves as Section Membership Chairperson. Av Katcher will remain on the executive committee, assuming the position of immediate past chair. Dr. Jerold Aronson of Penn Valley, Pennsylvania is an ex-officio member of the section executive committee and our section web master ([www.aap.org/seniors](http://www.aap.org/seniors)). It is really exceptional.

George Cohen and I also have had the privilege of serving as the Education Committee for our section's annual program at the NCE. In all modesty, we've had some extraordinary section CME programs for the past several years, and this year's program was no exception! Mike O'Halloran has agreed to join George and me on the Education Committee. All CME suggestions are welcome!

There are several other changes in the Section Executive Committee, the saddest of which is the loss of our **Senior Bulletin** Editor-in-Chief, Dr. Joan Hodgman, who died in August. She leaves a remarkable legacy, and we were blessed to have known her. We are fortunate that Dr. Arthur Maron formally agreed to assume position of Editor-in-Chief of the Bulletin. Arthur has served with Joan as co-editor for a number of years and brings his experience and expertise to our deservedly praised section Bulletin.

Dr. John Bolton of Mill Valley, CA, chose not to serve a second term on the executive committee and is devoting increasing time to environmental advocacy. We'll miss him and his tales of fly fishing and child health advocacy

We also bid a fond farewell on our executive committee to immediate past section chair, Dr. David Annunziato of Amityville, New York. Dave promoted the importance of establishing senior member committees in AAP chapters and developed the first issue of the COORDINATOR'S GUIDE to such establishment while he was section chair. Av continued the promotion of such senior committees, and we now have 15 chapters with committees for senior members. The second edition (2007-2008) of the Coordinator's Guide was distributed to every chapter executive director and president last year and is available on our website ([www.aap.org/seniors](http://www.aap.org/seniors), Click on Chapters). We hope to see more chapters establish committees devoted to senior member interests.

We have some exciting and challenging times ahead. Change is everywhere in the air, and our section needs to more actively recruit new members lest we fade away. Change brings opportunities, as well, and we welcome Buzz's expertise in the area of legislative advocacy, an interest which many of us in the SFSM share. We worry about finances, as does everyone. We devise new, better, and more accessible modes of communication and continuing education for our membership and plan to record the educational session at the 2009 NCE for section member access. We are in the planning phase of a collaborative section CME program with SOAPM for the 2010 NCE and are actively embarking on major recruitment strategies for younger members, who may not yet have realized that ***55 is not old, but it's old enough to be eligible for membership in this section!***

Finally, I'd like to invite you, as members of SFSM, to be more communicative. Share your articles with Arthur Maron for the Senior Bulletin, and ask him what he needs for future issues. Send Jerry Aronson suggestions for the website ([jmaronson@aap.net](mailto:jmaronson@aap.net)). E-mail me at [lcrain@aap.net](mailto:lcrain@aap.net) about ideas or projects you want our section to pursue, what you want from the section, and what you want to do for the Section for Senior Members. I'll look forward to working together in building an expanded, enthusiastic section with varied interests and expertise. Thank you for the opportunity.

Lucy Crain, MD, MPH, FAAP  
San Francisco, October 30, 2008