

District One Resident Section Newsletter

Atlantic Provinces, Quebec, Maine, Vermont, New Hampshire, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Uniformed Services Chapter East

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Resident Executive Committee Meeting

What your DC and ADC have been doing for you...

In February, the Resident Executive Committee had a meeting in Chicago to discuss resident issue, review the strategic plan, and prepare for the upcoming year. As your District Coordinator and Assistant District Coordinator, Devon and Ashley, attended the meeting. Here is our update....

The major resident issues addressed were loan deferment and continual work on the fellowship timeline and application process.

One of our major goals in reviewing the strategic plan was addressing the role of fellows in the Section on Residents. Historically, medical students and fellow have been included in the Section on Residents. This year in attempts to increase their involvement we are hoping to change our section name to include all members and make grants and leadership positions available to fellows. If you are planning on a fellowship, stay involved in the Section and stayed tuned for all your benefits.....

In preparation for our upcoming year, we selected a new advocacy project, re-designed the resident report, and are working on a packet to help residents transition from member to fellows in the AAP after graduation. Our new advocacy project will be presented at the National Conference and Exhibition in Boston – start planning your trip!!! The resident report is our Section newsletter and address hot topics and controversial subjects for residents.

What is the ALF?

The Annual Leadership Forum (ALF) was a great opportunity to meet and network with AAP leaders from across the country. As representatives of the Section on Residents (SORE), we appreciated the opportunity to attend and participate in the meeting. We gained further exposure to the resolution process and were able to participate in the voting process through our Section's vote at the ALF. The SORe meeting at the NCE produced 44 resolutions. At the ALF each resolution was presented with time for public conversation and debate. Following this long, but interesting day, which included some passionate debate, each voting member submitted a top 10 list representing their group. The top 10 resolutions from the ALF are meant to represent what is of most importance to the grassroots of the AAP.

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One of the resolutions submitted from the SORe, "Thirty Minutes of Physical Activity for All School Children in Grades K-12," was selected as a Top 10 resolution for the ALF, ranking as the 2nd! The other Top 10 resolutions from the ALF were: Marketing Immunizations to Parents, Health Care for All Children Includes Immigrant Children, Medicaid and SCHIP Payment Rates, Appropriate Payment for Cognitive Services, Reducing Administrative Barriers to Medicaid and SCHIP Enrollment for Eligible Children, Payment for Developmental Screening, Anticipatory Guidance, Strategic Planning and AAP Taskforce on Early Brain and Child Development, and AAP Policy Development on State Mandated Universal Vac-

State Mandated Universal Vaccine Purchase. The SORe Executive Committee lobbied hard for a top 10 resolution addressing the potential change to loan deferment for residents, and we received a lot of support, but the resolution did not make the top 10. However, of the 44 resolutions, SORe contributed 9! Is there something that you feel strongly about that you wish the AAP would address? If so, please consider submitting a resolution at next year's NCE! Resolutions can be submitted via the SORe and they can also be submitted via your state chapters. If the process seems unclear please contact your District Coordinator or Assistant District Coordinator and they can provide you with more details and suggestions!

Special points of interest:

- 11 residents from District One have been awarded grants in the last year...
- An update on the 20/220 pathway legislation
- Bush proposes elimination of CHGME funding.....
- Start planning for NCE in Boston

Congratulations...to our grant winners for 2007 and 2008

The Community Access to Child Health (**CATCH**) Resident Funds program supports pediatric residents in the planning of community-based child health initiatives. Grants of up to \$3,000 are awarded twice each year on a competitive basis for pediatric residents to address the needs of children in their communities. The District One residents were awarded FIVE CATCH grants from 2007 to present. From Rhode Island, **Wilbert Yeung** was awarded a grant to address Supporting Chronically Ill Children in School. From the Uniformed Services East, **Jennifer Kicker** was awarded a grant to address adolescent obesity through pedometer use. Three residents from Boston were awarded grants. **Suzanne Boxer's** grant focuses on adolescent smoking cessation. Teen health through nutrition and exercise is **Michelle Niescierenko's** project. In 2008, **Marc Lieberman** was



awarded the grant to address Health Outreach for Homeless Pregnant Women.

In an effort to enhance the development of research skills among physicians in training, the American Academy of Pediatrics administers the **Resident Research Grant** Program. In 2007, FOUR residents from District One were awarded research grants. **Rachel Nadine Agrin** will be studying Unexplained Hypoglycemia, Inborn Errors of Metabolism and Emergency Department Visits. **Samira Lyn Brown** project is Time to Negativity of APTIMA TMA Assay. The Evaluation of Murmurs in Children using Heart Energy Signatures (HES) will be studied by **Mary Hunt Martin**. **Gary Maslow** will be examining A Comparison of the Objectives of Traditional Summer

Camps and Adventure/Education Summer Programs for Children with Diabetes and Cancer.

The International Travel Grant is awarded to residents who wish to complete a clinical pediatric elective in the developing world during residency. In 2007, TWO residents from District One were awarded grants. **Venee Tubman** will be traveling to Liberia and **Amanda Greene** will be traveling to Indonesia.

We look forward to hearing updates from all our winners over the next year!

ELEVEN Residents from District One have received GRANTS in the last year!!!

An Update.....from a previous winner.

The National Capital Consortium was recently awarded a resident CATCH grant of over \$2000 to fund pedometers and fitness/nutrition materials for 100 patients. The "STEPS to Obesity Awareness" pedometer initiative hopes to relay the message to kids that exercise can truly be incorporated into everyday activity - no special location or expensive equipment necessary. This is a no-cost, free initiative targeting kids 12-18yo with BMI greater than 85% for



age. Interested kids trade a valid email address for an information packet, digital pedometer, and step log. Since enrollment opened mid-Nov 2007, approximately 20 kids have stepped up to the challenge. Resident leaders of this program (Drs. Jennifer Kicker and Katherine Philla) contact enrolled kids by email to send regular doses of exercise encouragement as well as to offer opportunities

for evening follow-up clinics where the kids can have their height and weight charted. We expect to catch a larger audience during the upcoming school physical season. The weather is growing warmer too, which also offers a nice incentive to get outside and get moving...with a pedometer.

From our Liaisons.....

The Resident Section selects residents to serve as liaisons to sections, councils, and committees within the AAP and to larger medical organizations within the country. Here are some updates from our liaisons.

Residency Review Committee

The Pediatrics RRC is partnering with the Residency Review and Redesign in Pediatrics of the American Board of Pediatrics in the development of a system by which programs may be able to receive waivers for specific requirements in order to experiment with residency training. Applications are currently being drafted and may be available in the fall of 2008. The RRC also eliminated the requirement of the ACGME caselog system for tracking procedures; programs may now track procedures through their own means.

American Medical Association, Resident and Fellow Section

The AMA is currently working to reinstate the economic hardship deferment qualification criterion,

known as the 20/220 pathway, and support alternate mechanisms that better address the financial needs of trainees. The AMA is also investigating how guidelines regulating medical licenses are affected by telemedicine and medical technology innovations that allow physicians to practice outside their states of licensure. Finally, the AMA is working with ACGME to consider possible home call in residency and fellowship programs.

Childhood Immunizations Support Program Project Advisory Committee

CISP awarded five stipends to residents and community pediatricians for implementation of the National Vaccine Advisory Committee Standards. Two resident, Claire Bocchini from Baylor and Pui-Ying from Baystate, were awarded the stipends.

The Committee's website

(www.CISPimmunize.org) offers current information with respect to vaccines.

Committee on Resident Scholarships

In 2007, 157 applications were received and 58 scholarships were granted. McNeil Consumer Healthcare is the primary source of the funds rewarded.

Section on Child Abuse and Neglect

The Section is working on the establishment of a curriculum that would standardize child abuse and neglect education amongst residencies. They are also trying to build a teaching tool of cases on their website for resident use.

Interested in being a liaison? Read on....

The AAP Section on Breastfeeding (SoBr) is looking for a [resident liaison](#) to their Section. This is an off-cycle appointment. Thus the term will only be for 1 ½ years starting June 1, 2008 and ending December 31, 2009. Due to the timing and length of the term, only current 1st and 2nd year residents can apply, UNLESS you are confirmed for a fellowship and then up to a 2nd year fellow can apply. Deadline for [application](#) and accompanying documents is **May 1, 2008**. For further information please contact Julie Raymond at jraymond@aap.org.

An update from our chapters.....

Rhode Island

Rhode Island has numerous ongoing projects they would be happy to have resident involvement in. There are several bills currently being addressed in the state the pediatricians will testify for. The chapter would love to have residents attend the testimonies or testify themselves. The current bills are HIV legislation, Rite Care and Medicaid budget, Comprehensive Sex Education, breastfeeding in the workplace and public, and same-sex marriage. Other important topics the chapter is constantly addressing is: the medical home ini-

tiative, retail-based clinic, transition of children with special healthcare needs to adult providers, and early childhood development and universal screening. The Chapter also has an annual advocacy summit, that residents are invited to attend. The chapter also provides travel grants for a rotation at Angkor Children's Hospital in Cambodia. If you are interested in getting involved contact your resident chapter representa-

tive, Riha Batt at rihamoose@aol.com, or the Chapter President, Andrew Synder at asnyder@lifespan.org.

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The 20/220 pathway...an update

Urgent Issues with Loan Deferment (and more)

Background

In September 2007, the College Cost Access and Reduction Act was eliminated (effective in fall 2008). This act was important because it was responsible for the "20/220 pathway" used by 2/3 of all residents. The 20/220 pathway allowed residents to defer repayment of school loans if their debt burden was greater than 20% of their income and their income minus debt burden was not greater than 220% of the federal pov-



erty level.

Interim Attempts

Initially, the Department of Education agreed to work on a compromise to keep the 20/220 pathway intact, but they have since decided against that plan. The Senate and the House of Representatives have each passed bills which address lender transparency, consolidation, and 'financial literacy', but have not re-instated the 20/220 pathway.

Current Work

The AAP and many other physician organizations sent a letter to Congress this past week, urging incorporation of the 20/220 pathway (or an equivalent) into the Higher Education Act Reauthorization due on March 31, 2008.

The AAP Federal Affairs Office has drafted a letter for each resident to send to their legislators. Please take the time to find your legislators (Representative and Senators) at www.congress.org, and **pass along your concern** about loan deferment. Your program delegate has a copy of the letter for you.

Look how busy are residents are in the Capital

Three years ago three residents from Massachusetts General Hospital, Alenka Zeman, MD, Anna Rosenquist, MD and Katharine Zuckerman, MD, began a program to get residents involved in legislation with respect to children. The program has been a huge success and the three were awarded the Anne E. Dyson Child Advocacy Award in 2007. This year on April 8th at their third annual Residents Day at the State House they will address the Children's Mental Health Bill with more than 80 people planning to attend!.

On Jan 22, 2007 after months of negotiations by Frank Donahue, Executive Director of the RIAAP, residents were invited to an evening 'field trip' to the State House. The wait was worth it, as residents and faculty were formally welcomed by the Speaker's office and lectured on 'How a Bill becomes a law' by Deputy Majority leader, Peter Kilmartin. An enlightening legislative panel on the workings of the state House, which included members of the House and Senate, was moderated by Chief Resident Kristin Burns and Dr. Vaz. This was followed by a tour of

the Senate and House Chambers and Hearing Rooms. The residents were delighted as most of them had never toured the State House. The evening ended with a delicious dinner funded by the RIAAP. Since this event several of the residents from Rhode Island have gone to the statehouse to testify at committee hearings, regarding topics of HIV testing and development of a comprehensive sex education program in public schools.

Upcoming Legislative Conference

The Academy's [2008 Legislative Conference](#) is scheduled for March 30-April 1, in Washington, D.C. With the Academy's ongoing commitment to assure access to quality health care for all children and adolescents, 2008 promises to be a year filled with challenge, opportunity and growth. The conference prepares child advocates to participate in the political process

by offering training in skills necessary to advance child health through legislation and regulation on both the state and federal levels.

Young physicians nationwide would find the legislative conference a valuable opportunity to build on their participation in the SCHIP debate and further develop their advocacy train-

ing as child advocates. The conference is an important venue for members to show their support and leadership among other advocates for children.



Partial scholarships are available for residents that would like to attend.

Autism and Vaccines

The AAP enthusiastically supported World Autism Day on April 2. This United Nations initiative will bring increased public awareness to Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) and the challenges these children and families face. The AAP actively promotes the important role pediatricians play in caring for and advocating for these children. As part of World Autism Day:

- President-Elect David Tayloe, MD, FAAP, appeared on CNN's "Larry King Live" to discuss autism and vaccine safety. The guest list also included Harvey Karp, MD, FAAP, Jay Gordon, MD, FAAP, autism activist Jenny McCarthy and writer David Kirby. Dr. Tayloe also appeared last month in interviews on autism on CNN Radio with Dr. Sanjay Gupta and on NBC's "Today" show.

- The AAP is issuing a joint letter with the International Pediatric Association to pediatric societies recognizing World Autism Day and highlighting the AAP's role in setting the gold standard for detection and management of ASD

- The AAP issued a national news release for World Autism Day that highlights its advocacy on behalf of families with autism

- The AAP offers accurate, up-to-date information at www.aap.org for both parents and pediatricians. Recent additions include an updated, revised



"Facts for Parents about Autism and Vaccine Safety" handout an autism issue kit for journalists and updated speaking points for pediatricians about vaccine safety

- Pediatrics, April issue includes a study that documents an association between pre-term birth and autistic behaviors, and a study that finds families with an autistic child are likely to suffer a loss in income. The AAP lifted the embargo early on these studies to coincide with World Autism Day.

- The AAP is planning additional activities in recognition of National Infant Immunization Week April 19-26, which is an opportunity for pediatricians to promote the importance of childhood immunization. Check the AAP Member Center Web for more information.

As World Autism Day brings heightened awareness to Autism Spectrum Disorders, the AAP stresses the importance of early and continuous surveillance and screening for autism and other developmental disorders.

The comprehensive resource, **AUTISM: Caring for Children with Autism Spectrum Disorders: A Resource Toolkit for Clinicians**, includes

clinical guidance to help pediatricians identify and manage children with autism. Information on identification and management of autism is also available in the Clinical Reports,



"Identification and Evaluation of Children with Autism Spectrum Disorders" and "Management of Children with Autism Spectrum Disorders" by Drs. Johnson and Myers and the Council on Children With Disabilities published in 2007.

Trivia Answer:



Hezekiah Beardsley was a physician and

pharmacist who lived in CT in the late 1700s. He was the first to describe the condition of hypertrophic pyloric stenosis. The CT chapter of pediatrics bears his name today.

The CHGME needs you

President Bush's newly released budget for 2009 **eliminates** the bipartisan Children's Graduate Medical Education (CHGME) Program. CHGME provides over \$301 million annually in indispensable investment in the nation's nearly 60 independent children's teaching hospitals. They train 35 percent of all pediatricians, half of all pediatric subspecialists, and the large majority of the nation's pediatric research scientists. Children's hospitals that receive CHGME funding account for less than 1 percent of all hospitals, but they provide half or more of all inpatient care for children with serious conditions such as heart defects, cancer, serious burns, and organ transplants. They also house the

nation's premier centers of pediatric research, and are the safety net for children of low-income families in their regions.

"This is a one-two punch against children's health care," said Renée R. Jenkins, MD, FAAP, AAP president. "Coming on the heels of the SCHIP veto, which denied health coverage to millions of uninsured children, the President's proposal to eliminate CHGME funding would put even more of pediatric medicine at risk."

The purpose of CHGME is to give independent children's teaching hospitals a level of federal support for the training of children's doctors comparable to what the federal government provides to

adult teaching hospitals through Medicare. In fact, CHGME currently provides only about 80 percent of the level of GME support Medicare provides to adult hospitals. The AAP, APA, AMSPDC, APA, APS, N.A.C.H., and SPR strongly recommend that Congress appropriate the full, authorized level of \$330 million for CHGME in FY 2009, the level of funding comparable to what the federal government provides for GME in adult teaching hospitals through Medicare.

Want to get involved, sign up to be a key contact for the AAP. <http://aap.grassroots.com/keycontact/>

Fellowship Application Timeline.....

an advocacy project for residents by residents

At the 2003 National Conference and Exhibition, the resident section approved a resolution which resolved to "examine the feasibility to develop a uniform application and application date one year prior to the start of fellowship [rather than the usual two years]." The concerns that prompted the resolution included the complexity of the process (each subspecialty has a different timeline and often each institution required a separate application) and the pressure residents felt at making a career choice prior to (1) a broad exposure to the options or (2) completing interviews at other programs. Four years and a lot of effort later, the recommendations are official. Here is a brief overview of what the AAP Resident Section set into motion (accomplished!!!) with their resolution.

The Council on Pediatric Subspecialties Recommends:

1 - Recommend that all Pediatric Subspecialties utilize ERAS. Each subspecialty would choose the best ERAS application release date (either July 15th or December 1st) for their group.

2 - In order to allow flexibility for subspecialties and enhance fairness to the applicants, we recommend utilizing a match, but suggest two match dates from which subspecialties could choose. These dates would be in the late spring and late fall. These suggested dates would dovetail with the ERAS release dates, either the third week in May or the first week in December.

3 - The evolution of this process will be reassessed by CoPS on a yearly basis.

Here's to an easier and more unified process!

Next Newsletter's Trivia

What is CPS?

Stay tuned, or ask your colleges north of the border.

Funding for Our Patients

The AAP invites children to participate in a national art contest with a chance to win a trip to Boston, Massachusetts.

The Academy's contest is open to boys and girls in two groups, grades 3-5 and 6-8. The winner in each group and their parents/guardians will be invited to attend the 2008 AAP National Conference & Exhibition in Boston on Saturday, October 11. Both winners will receive \$500 and up to \$1,000 for travel-related expenses. The two second-place winners will each receive \$250. The contest theme is "How I Can Be Active".

www.aap.org/75/2008artcontest

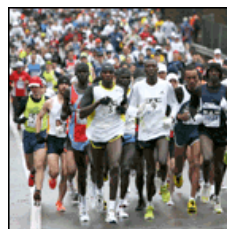
BCRP: Boston Children's

Boston is trying to get things warm during this snowy winter. Recently, one hundred and fifty residents and significant others enjoyed a fabulous dinner, and really cut up the dance floor, during their winter formal, entitled "Moonlighting."

They are also getting ready for that famous marathon, and hoping the snow will be gone by then (it is April 21st)! This will be the



112th running, and the second year residents will be waiting at the finish line to provide medical attention for Harvard and affiliated hospital staff. They are looking forward to treating those sprains, strains and blisters, and hope there won't be too much dehydration. Practice up for frostbite!



Dartmouth Goes Smoke Free

On July 4, 2007 Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center (DHMC) announced that its Lebanon campus would be smoke-free and tobacco-free within one year – by July 4, 2008. The symbolism of Independence Day is not coincidental, and campaign leaders are unequivocal as to why they are making the move. "Smoking is bad for your health: it causes heart disease, cancer, lung disease, diminishes life expectancy, it impacts an individual's quality of life and is harmful to the people around them," says Dr. John Butterly, a cardiologist and Executive Medical Director at DHMC, and a member of the committee charged with implementing the new policy.

"We are a health care institution, and our mission, vision and goals call for us to achieve the healthiest population possible and provide the best care to every patient, every time," Butterly added. "We simply can't live up to that mission if we don't send the message in the strongest possible terms that smoking and tobacco use is bad

for you." It was not a decision arrived at lightly by DHMC officials, who say it was necessary to balance the well-known negative impacts of tobacco use with a deep respect for personal choice and individual freedom. In doing its work, Butterly said the committee was also loath to put in place any policy that anyone might perceive as a barrier to receiving care at DHMC.

The 12-month time frame for full implementation of the new policy is designed to allow people — patients, visitors and DHMC employees —

sufficient time to get used to the change in environment, and to thoroughly publicize and make available a variety of tobacco cessation resources, and to generally implement the change in a thoughtful and respectful way. Butterly said it is important to put the new smoke-



free/tobacco-free campus policy in its proper context. "As health care professionals, it is our right and our responsibility to tell people that they shouldn't smoke," Butterly says. "We have now simply gone a step further to say that as of July 4, 2008, you can't smoke anywhere here at DHMC."

For anyone seeking resources on quitting smoking or tobacco usage: in New Hampshire, call toll free 1-800 TRY TO STOP or (800) 879-8678; and in Vermont call toll free 1-877-YES QUIT or (877) 937-7848.

NoTobacco.org

More From RI

The Adolescent Leadership Council is a resident run group that brings together teens with chronic illness and Brown University students with chronic illness. The group meets monthly and does outreach to Hasbro pediatricians, local schools and the broader community. In 2007, the group created a mural that was displayed at a local art gallery and a newsletter distributed throughout the community. In addition to serving teens and college students, parents of TALC participants meet on monthly basis. In 2006, the group received an Anne E. Dyson Resident Advocacy Award from the American Academy of Pediatrics.

-Gary Maslow, MD

American Academy of Pediatrics, Section on Residents Program Delegates

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Upcoming Meetings.....

4/25	5/7
"The danger of being born into rural northern New England in 2008"	NH Asthma Control Program
17th annual NERPA conference	Asthma 2008- Putting the pieces together: A community Challenge
Sunday River Jordan Grand Hotel in Bethel, Maine	8a-4p Courtyard Marriot Grappone Conference Center
Email Catrina.Graves@NHMS.org for more info or talk with your chair.	Concord, NH
	Email: msteele@snhahec.org
5/5	6/2
Pediatric Dermatology	The Latest Info on Medications and Mother's Milk
Dartmouth-Hitchcock	Speaker and author Thomas Hale
Lebanon, NH	Dartmouth-Hitchcock
Email: Nicole.Pace@hitchcock.org	Lebanon, NH

Your program delegates should be your link to the American Academy of Pediatrics. Please do not hesitate to contact them if you have questions, concerns, or ideas. Devon and Ashley are also available if you need anything. The fastest resource for your questions is our website.....

www.aap.org/sections/ypn/r/

Other Helpful Resources

Career Corner: The Cover Letter

http://www.thedoctorjob.com/careercorner/view_article.php?id_article=13

<http://www.nejmjobs.org/career-resources/physician-cover-letters.aspx>

Travel:

Pedschat.org:

Don't forget Mental Health!

Are these numbers posted in your clinic?

1-800-SUICIDE (suicide prevention/crisis)
1-800-273-TALK (counseling, suicide prevention, mental health referrals)

Get ready for NCE in BOSTON this year.....

www.aapexperience.org

