

DISTRICT X NEWSLETTER

Alabama, Florida, Georgia, and Puerto Rico

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ALF Highlights

The 2008 Annual Leadership Forum was held in a suburb of the windy city recently from March 13th – 16th. This conference is the one time of year that AAP leadership meets to create, debate, and vote on resolutions to the Board of Directors. These resolutions will then direct the AAP's priorities in upcoming years.

Resolutions are simply calls to action that members of the academy propose, and are then discussed and voted on at the ALF. Resolutions this year ranged from issues relating to juice to creating a policy statement condemning nuclear arms. If attended this past NCE in beautiful San Francisco, you'll recall that we drew up resolutions at our District lunches, and then voted on them at the assembly in the afternoon. Similarly, other sections, councils, and committees did the same. And at the ALF, all of the submitted resolutions were debated, with each section able to vote to create the academy's "top 10".

This year, after a lengthy debate process, one of our own resolutions not only made it into the top 10, but it received the 2nd most votes of all resolutions! Submitted by District IV, it calls for the AAP to "advocate at the local, state and federal level for the incorporation of a minimum of 30 minutes of daily physical activity into the school day in grades K-12".

In addition to the resolution vote process, attendees were also offered the opportunity to tour the AAP's headquarters in Elk Grove Village. And as at the NCE, there were also numerous break-out educational meetings as well as a leadership seminar.

Overall, this ALF was a wonderful experience and proved to be a great opportunity for residents. This was the second year that our section received a full vote during the assembly, which is an honor to be able to directly participate in the creation of AAP policy, as well as a sign of the Academy's acceptance and respect for our section.

AAP Membership Benefits

Want to know what the benefits of being a Resident Section Member of the AAP are?

- ✓ Pediatrics, AAP News, Red Book
- ✓ Members only center on AAP website,
- ✓ Pedialink and Resident Center
- ✓ YoungPeds Network
- ✓ AAP Policy Statements
- ✓ AAP Section on Residents Membership
- ✓ Section and Chapter membership
- ✓ National Committee participation
- ✓ Resident programs at NCE
- ✓ Discounts on AAP products/services
- ✓ PREP curriculum
- ✓ Pediatrics in Review (Print and Online Access)
- ✓ AAP Grand Rounds (print & online access)
- ✓ Pediatric Environmental Health
- ✓ International Travel Grants
- ✓ Resident Research Grants
- ✓ NCE Travel Grants,
- ✓ Anne E. Dyson Child Advocacy Award Program
- ✓ Resident Initiative Fund



Resident Initiative Fund

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) has created a grant fund that will allow residents to initiate projects/programs in their community to improve the health of children. This funding will enable residents to educate fellow residents and/or parents on a specific aspect of one of the Academy's national child health priorities (Special Health Care Needs – Foster Care, Oral Health, Disaster Preparedness, Mental Health, Obesity, and Immunizations). The Resident Initiative Fund will offer twenty-five (25) grants of up to \$1000 each per resident project.

The deadline has been extended! The application can be accessed at: http://www.aap.org/sections/ypn/r/funding_awards/res_initiative.html

Resident Section Clinical Case Competition

The Resident Section of the AAP has held an annual "Clinical Case Competition" since 2003. Residents submit abstracts of interesting cases they have come across in training through the Academy's online abstract submission process. The abstracts are judged by a committee of resident leaders and the top ten authors are invited to present their case in poster format at the annual National Conference and Exhibition (NCE). In addition the winners are awarded free one-day registration for the conference as well as travel reimbursement. The first place winner is announced that night by the Editor-in-Chief of *Pediatrics in Review (PIR)*, who will publish the case in *PIR* as an "Index of Suspicion" article. The deadline for submission is April 11, 2008.

Council on School Health Young Investigator Prize

The COSH Young Investigator Prize will be given for best oral or poster abstract presentation which may represent research, clinical projects, or community-based interventions. The prize will award a medical student, resident, post resident or young physician a \$500 honorarium and certificate at the COSH educational program held during the NCE. Potential presenters are encouraged to submit abstracts related to disaster preparedness, obesity, immunizations, mental health, oral health and foster care. Interested presenters should select this item when submitting their abstract at <http://www.call4abstracts.com/aap>.

The deadline for submissions is April 11, 2008.



**Covering the Bases:
Adolescent Sexual Health**

Covering The Bases: Adolescent Sexual Health

The PediaLink® online learning course, [Covering the Bases, Adolescent Sexual Health](#) has been selected to be offered free to residents. Participants in this course will learn to eliminate barriers to communicating with adolescent patients about HIV and STD. Residents can register for free at www.pedialink.org.

Residents' Training Assessment on Adolescent Health

We want to hear from you! In an effort to better meet the needs of adolescents, the AAP Adolescent Health Partnership Project wants to gain a better understanding of how you view aspects of adolescent health care and ask you to briefly assess your confidence and perceived skill level in caring for adolescent patients.

Results from the needs assessment will be used by the AAP Adolescent Health Partnership Project to develop activities that help pediatricians, including residents in training, improve the care they provide youth. A summary of the results will be made available to residents, residency program directors and other relevant groups.

Please take a few minutes to complete this survey – we desire your input on how adolescent health care training can be improved. It can be accessed at http://www.aap.org/sections/ypn/r/whats_new/

For questions about this survey or the AAP Adolescent Health Partnership Project, please contact Charlotte O. Zia, MPH, CHES, Program Manager, at czia@aap.org or 847-434-7870.

AAP COCP Funding Opportunity for Mentorship Activities

The Council on Community Pediatrics (COCP) is pleased to announce that we are issuing a special call for applications for Mentorship and Technical Assistance Program (MTAP) grants to COCP members. Eight MTAP grants will be awarded for [obesity programs](#) and an additional three grants will be awarded to [resident members](#) of the COCP. The MTAP grant program provides up to \$2,000 to [COCP members](#) to improve their community pediatrics skills and/or develop innovative programs within their community.

To apply for funding please see the funding applications for the [obesity](#) and [resident](#) programs. Recipients of MTAP grants are required to be *COCP members*. To join the COCP, please visit www.aap.org/sections/socp for more information. The deadline for applications is 5:00pm CT Monday, March 31, 2008. If you have any questions please contact Regina Shaefer, AAP staff at rshaefer@aap.org.

New Resource on Palliative Care

The AAP has an exciting new education tool that covers the ACGME competencies of interpersonal and communication skills, professionalism, and role modeling: *Cameron's Arc: Creating A Full Life*. This is a DVD film and teaching guide that addresses the role of a primary care pediatrician and the healthcare team in supporting families with a terminally ill child.

This video is a joint project of the American Academy of Pediatrics' National Center of Medical Home Initiatives for Children with Special Needs and Carepoints, a Boston-based initiative joining the voices of families and doctors to improve the care of children and families in difficult circumstances.

To purchase this DVD/Teaching Guide, click on:
http://www.aap.org/bst/showdetl.cfm?&DID=15&Product_ID=4340

Academy's Disaster Preparedness Update

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) Disaster Preparedness Advisory Council (DPAC) was established in May 2007. The DPAC held a strategic planning meeting in July 2007 and a brief meeting at the AAP National Conference and Exhibition.

Key issues that the AAP is addressing include:

- Ensure that children's issues are addressed as early as possible in the development of programs, materials, and activities.
- Involve pediatric experts in all levels of disaster planning/response (medical home to national levels)
- Support AAP Chapters and members to integrate pediatric issues into state plans

If you are interested in sharing or supporting these efforts, send any of the following information to DisasterReady@aap.org:

- Share information on existing AAP policies/resources or initiatives that your groups are working on that relate to disaster preparedness.
- Forward any finished resources that you would like posted on the AAP Children and Disasters Web site.
- If you know of interested members or experts who are involved in disaster preparedness initiatives, forward their information or request that they send an e-mail to the above address.
- Copy the above address on e-mails to help bring them up-to-speed on activities you are working on that relate to disaster preparedness.
- Ask the AAP Disaster Preparedness Advisory Council (DPAC) to review materials or to share their input on policies/publications that your groups are working on.

You can also find more information at the following sites:

<http://www.aap.org/healthtopics/terrorism.cfm> (disaster/terrorism health topics)
<http://www.aap.org/terrorism/index.html> (Children and Disasters Web site)

Free CME Courses on PediaLink!

PediaLink supports Residents' professional growth and life long learning. Free courses are now available to Residents until January 2009.

- New Spin on Childhood Obesity
- Hot Topics: Early Childhood Caries Risk Assessment
- Hot Topics: Gastroesophageal Reflux in Infants
- Hot Topics: Pediatric Obesity

Go to <http://www.pedialink.org/cmefinder/search-results.cfm?type=online&grp=2>

1. Find the course you would like and register for it using your AAP ID # and password.
2. Once your order has been completed return to www.pedialink.org to access the course: under the "Training Tools" navigation bar find "Online Courses" and then click on the link for My Online Courses

Contact Person: Charlette Nunnery, Manager of E-Learning Content
cnunnery@aap.org or 847-434-4981.

Uniform Fellowship Application Progress

At the 2003 NC Exhibition, the Section on Residents approved a resolution that 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.

Link to the Federation of Pediatric Organizations policy statement:

<http://aappolicy.aappublications.org/cgi/content/full/pediatrics;114/1/295>

Summary of the CoPS recommendations:

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.
 - Goal: All eligible subspecialties would be encouraged to utilize ERAS by the 2010 cycle
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:
 1. 3rd week in May (13 1/2 months prior to starting fellowship) to coincide with a December application ERAS release date
 - or
 2. 1st week in December (7 months prior to starting fellowship) to coincide with a July ERAS application release date.
 - If a subspecialty is currently utilizing a match date different than the two suggested above, they do not have to change.
3. The evolution of this process will be reassessed by CoPS on a yearly basis by communication with ERAS, NRMP, and surveys of fellows and program directors. Results of the yearly assessment will be made available to the entire subspecialty community.

Economic Hardship Deferment Part II

The AAMC and the American Medical Association (AMA) March 12 sent a joint [letter](#) to members of the House and Senate education committees, urging them to reinstate the debt-to-income ratio (20/220) of the economic hardship deferment in the ongoing conference of the Higher Education Act (HEA) reauthorization bills. The committees are expected to finish conferencing the bills in April following the Easter recess. The letter follows the Department of Education's announcement at the March 4-6 Negotiated [Rulemaking sessions](#) on student loans that the department intends to eliminate the 20/220 pathway in regulation after July 1, 2009 [see [Washington Highlights, March 7](#)].

The letter notes that "medical residents rely on the 20/220 pathway to help defray their high debt burden," and "Borrowers with high loan debt may be deterred from entering public health service, practicing medicine in underserved areas, starting a career in medical education or research, or practicing primary care medicine."

Medical residents will be eligible for economic hardship until July 1, 2009, at which point they can enter the new income-based repayment (IBR) program. The 20/220 pathway allows medical residents to qualify for the economic hardship deferment and postpone repayment of their student loans (without penalty). Conversely, the IBR will require medical residents to make small monthly loan repayments. The economic hardship deferment has been operating under the Secretary of Education's authority after it was eliminated in statute last year by the "College Cost Reduction and Access Act of 2007" ([P.L. 110-84](#)).

Negotiators will meet again April 14 before the Department publishes draft regulations in the Federal Register for public comment. Carrie Steere-Salazar, chair of the AAMC Committee on Student Financial Assistance, represents the AAMC and the graduate/professional education community on the negotiated rulemaking committee.

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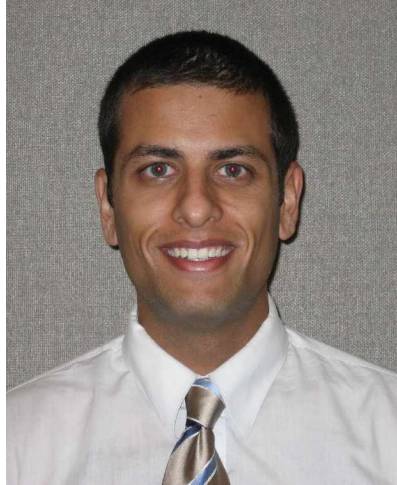


Upcoming Meetings

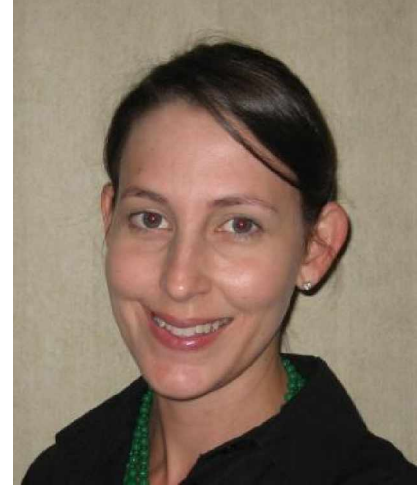
- ✓ Districts VII and X Meeting
June 26-29, 2008
Park City, UT
- ✓ AAP National Conference and Exhibition
October 27-30, 2007
Boston, MA

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American
Academy of
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Section on
Residents

Visit the resident Section Website!

<http://www.aap.org/ypn/r>

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