



RESIDENT NEWSLETTER – ADVOCACY EDITION 2006

From your District Coordinator (Preeti Parikh) and Assistant District Coordinator (Jenni Linebarger): The goal of this newsletter is to (1) explain why resident advocacy matters more than ever, (2) share a bit about resident advocacy projects currently going on across the state, (3) remind you how to get funding through CATCH for your project, (4) bring you up to date on some health care legislation, (5) let you know about advocacy within the AAP Resident Section, and (6) make a plug for advocacy on a larger (and life-long) scale.



Residency Review Committees (RRC) Advocacy Requirement

Recently, the RRC developed an advocacy requirement for pediatric residency programs. The requirement reads: There must be structured educational experiences, with planned didactic and experiential opportunities for learning and methods of evaluation, that prepare residents for the role of advocate for the health of children within the community. These should include both didactic and experiential components that may be integrated into other parts of the curriculum (e.g., continuity, adolescent, behavior/development) or they may be designed as distinct longitudinal or block rotations.

How the AAP is helping: The **Community Pediatrics Training Initiative** works to advance the field of community pediatrics through promotion and support of residency training activities that empower future pediatricians to become leaders in improving the health of all children in their communities.

News from Around New York



MOUNT SINAI
SCHOOL OF
MEDICINE

Mount Sinai

Parent Health Education Night – Their resident-run advocacy group has developed a monthly parent health education night for their continuity clinic families. During the ambulatory rotation, residents develop a brief curriculum for parents on specific health topics, ranging from parental smoking cessation to injury prevention to after school programs. For more information, contact blair.hammond@mssm.edu or taryn.baer@mssm.edu.

Cap4Kids New York City – Cap4Kids is a children's advocacy website developed by an advocacy group at St. Christopher's Hospital in Philadelphia. Using their template, a group at Mt Sinai has created a New York City website. The site lists city-wide resources in various categories, such as education, nutrition, housing, etc. The lists include phone numbers and websites, and can be printed as parent handouts by physician, parent or any internet user. Also included are sample



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letters for special education evaluation. The site is continuously updated and will be PDA downloadable soon. It can be accessed at www.cap4kids.org. The creators have partnered with the AAP and their goal is for all NYC hospitals to utilize this site. They will be reaching out to all the hospitals in NYC for possible co-sponsorship of the website. In order to become a co-sponsor, there will be no need for monetary contributions just information and a contact person from your hospital. If you would like to be a co-sponsor please contact preeti.jain@mssm.edu, or if you would like to recommend a resource, or be on our listserv without being a co-sponsor, please email dana.wyles@mssm.edu,



COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY
MEDICAL CENTER

Columbia University wanted to share their upcoming events:

COLUMBIA'S NEW NARRATIVE MEDICINE INTENSIVE WEEKEND WORKSHOPS:

May 19-21 and June 9-11, 2006. These workshops will offer rigorous skill-building in narrative competence. Participants will learn effective techniques for attentive listening, adopting others' perspectives, accurate representation, & reflective reasoning.

SUMMER INTENSIVE "WRITING THE MEDICAL EXPERIENCE" WORKSHOP:
June 11-17, 2006. This intensive weeklong program in the literature of illness & recovery is open to doctors, nurses, patients, health care professionals & families of patients. Writers with a special interest in medical subjects are also welcome. For more information on the workshop go to <http://www.slc.edu/index.php?pageID=4000>



Buffalo – Residents started a Reach Out and Read program. Reach Out and Read (ROR) is a national non-profit organization that promotes early literacy by giving new books to children and advice to parents about the importance of reading aloud in pediatric exam rooms across the nation.

Rochester – All interns complete two-week Pediatric Links with the Community (PLC) program. Nineteen residents currently have **eleven advocacy projects** as part of the Child Advocacy Resident Education (CARE) Program. Complete details on each project, as well as on PLC and CARE can be found at www.plccare.org.





American Academy of Pediatrics

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District II - New York State

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Stony Brook – Residents partnered with the affiliated dental school, arranging the "smile network" to channel pediatric primary care patients into dental clinics for improved oral health care. Sarah Schlegel also called every pediatric dentist in Suffolk County and compiled a directory of providers.

Residents at Downstate Medical have three different volunteer sites to work at: Emmanuel Baptist Church (STDs and contraception), Holy Cross Church (asthma and obesity), and The Boys and Girls Club (mentoring and career guidance).



Since 1991, the Community Access to Child Health (CATCH) program has supported the pediatricians who work with communities to ensure that all children have medical homes and access to any other needed health care services.



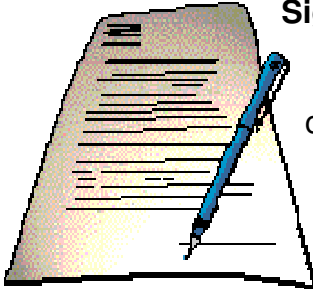
The CATCH Resident Funds program supports pediatric residents in the planning of community-based child health initiatives. Grants of up to \$3,000 are awarded twice each year. CATCH Resident Funds grant projects must include planning activities and also may include some implementation activities. Resident grants are available twice a year— May to July, during the CATCH Planning Funds grant cycle, and November to January, during the CATCH Implementation Funds grant cycle. **Applications are due online July 14, 2006.**

Some 2006 resident recipients of CATCH grants include:
Subhashini Subramanian from SUNY Upstate: Improving Refugee Access to Health Care
Blair Hammond from Mt. Sinai: Linking Learning Needs and Medical Homes
Calvin Tomkins from Montefiore: Health Now: Obesity Prevention Strategies



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National News



Signed into law: Deficit Reduction Act (DRA)

The DRA was signed on February 8, 2006.

- Pre-DRA, states were barred from imposing co-pays on children in Medicaid. Post-DRA, co-pays are allowed and children can be turned away if their parents cannot pay.
- Pre-DRA, Medicaid applicants “self-declared” their citizenship. Post-DRA, everyone applying for Medicaid must present their birth certificate.
- Pre-DRA, there were strong minimum standards of care for children. Post-DRA, Medicaid has more flexibility about what services they will and will-not cover (called “benchmark benefits”).

AAP Resident Section Advocacy Projects

Within the AAP Resident Section there is an advocacy subcommittee. Each year they pick an advocacy issue to focus on. The resident section advocacy project for 2006 will focus on the **Deficit Reduction Act**. The goal is to create a presentation for AAP program delegates to present at their residencies. We will also provide information on how to become an effective advocate, the contact information of local AAP chapters and local congressmen. The aim is to educate physicians on this issue, and be proactive before changes are made in each state that will truly be detrimental to patients. If you have any questions please contact preeti.jain@mssm.edu.

In 2005, the advocacy project was a **Soft Drink Letter Campaign**, and this May, the American Beverage Association announced all major beverage manufactures will begin to remove soda from public schools. They agreed to follow the guidelines from The Alliance for a Healthier Generation. "Under the terms of the agreement, the beverage industry will work to spread these standards to 75% of the nation's schools prior to the beginning of the 2008-2009 school year. The industry will strive to fully implement these guidelines prior to the beginning of the 2009-2010 school year, provided schools and school districts are willing to amend existing contracts. "

For more information on the announcement and guidelines, go to:

<http://www.healthiergeneration.org/beverage.html>

<http://www.clintonfoundation.org/050306-nr-cf-hs-hk-usa-pr-healthy-school-beverage-guidelines-set-for-united-states-schools.htm>

<http://www.ameribev.org/pressroom/2006MayStatementNewVendingPolicy.asp>





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“Take Five” Advocacy

1.) Sign up for alerts so you know what’s going on

- a. Federal Advocacy Action Network (FAAN) through the AAP
- b. Children’s Defense Fund Action Council at www.cdfactioncouncil.org and link to the “Activist Toolkit” in the top left

2.) Telephone or fax/email your government officials

(1 phone call represents the voice of 1000 constituents to your legislator; mail has to go through anthrax clearance so takes too long)

- a. Federal government resources
 - i. AAP Department of Federal Affairs (Login to Members Only, click on Federal Affairs, link to Elected Officials, and plug in your info – you will get the district and federal contact information on your representative and both senators)
 - ii. Legislative websites: www.senate.gov and www.house.gov
- b. State government resources
 - i. District II webpage (www.aapdistrictii.org) has a link to the Legislative Action Center, powered by capwhiz
 - ii. Legislative websites: www.senate.state.ny.us and

3.) Help others advocate

- a. “Take Five [Minutes]” table – generate letters, sign up members for a grassroots campaign, win involvement in a community education campaign
- b. Morning Report topic – One example - After a morning report on an abuse case, have letters ready for the residents/faculty to sign addressing key issues like CPS funding

4.) Advertise your issue with a badge, button or bag

5.) Talk to anyone who will listen – in clinic, at the grocery store or even the laundermat