

**AAP RESIDENT SECTION  
DISTRICT III  
Report of Activities**

District Coordinator and Assistant District Coordinator  
November 2003 – January 2004.

On November 1, 2003 the representatives of the AAP District III pediatric residency programs met at the 2003 AAP National Conference and Exhibition (NCE) in New Orleans. Twenty-three programs were represented; some of the programs had more than one representative. During the meeting two main topics were discussed: the resident work hour reform, and the increasing shortage of sub-specialists in pediatrics. Discussions about ideas that have already been implemented by some programs to comply with resident work hour reform included: a night float system, answering phone calls from home, and others. Residents also discussed the benefits of resident work hour reform on their residency training thus far. Suggestions were made to increase the interest among pediatric residents in pursuing a fellowship, including creating a database of fellowship opportunities and implementing career days at the state and national levels. The meeting concluded with elections for the positions of District Coordinator and Assistant District Coordinator.

Residents throughout the district have been active with our district project of safety and injury prevention. For example, two residents at Christiana Care Health System Internal Medicine/Pediatrics residency program in Newark, Delaware, Stephanie Trost, MD and Daniel Elliott, MD along with program director Allen Friedland, MD have been representing the AAP by volunteering at a local Babies R' Us twice a month. Here they answer parents' questions on topics including carseats, childproofing the home, and holiday safety. There has been a wonderful response to the program and parents have appreciated the dedication of these pediatricians.

Also, discussions continue with District III leadership, including Dr. Alan Kohrt and Dr. David Bromberg, regarding organizing a district advocacy meeting for residents as well as increasing resident involvement in state chapter advocacy initiatives. Residents throughout the district have expressed interest in this idea. Dr. Carol Rush has been working with Dr. David Bromberg on compiling a list of resident representatives from each residency program and planning for this meeting.

Diego Chaves-Gnecco MD, MPH, met in November with David Adelson, MD, FACS, FAAP, Professor and Vice Chairman of the Department of Neurosurgery at Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh, a member of the AAP Injury Prevention Section and the AAP Neurology Section Executive Committee. Dr. Adelson is interested in involving more residents in the Neurology Section's injury prevention programs and perhaps, in the long term, developing a residency curriculum in injury prevention. Dr. Adelson put Dr. Chaves-Gnecco in contact with Dorothy Zirkle, CEO of *Think First*, a national program for injury prevention. It is our plan to have an article about *Think First* and the opportunities for residents in injury prevention in one of the of the Resident Section District III news letters.

In December changes were made in the Resident Section District III webpage. Besides including the presentations of the new DC and ADC, the web site now includes a section regarding the benefits that the AAP Resident Section provides to residents. It also includes links to each of the District III chapter web pages, to the main page of the AAP Resident Section, and to Pediajob.

In February we will be sending our first news letter of this cycle, the second since the winter of 2001. We also plan to encourage the different program representatives to use the power point presentation available about the AAP Resident Section. Some of these presentations are already scheduled for the next few weeks.