

# RESIDENT SECTION DISTRICT 7 SUMMER 2004 NEWSLETTER

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We hope that this finds you all doing well, as we start another year of our residencies and fellowships. And a special hello to all of the new interns who have just begun this adventure! Please email us if you have ANY (seriously) questions about the AAP or the Resident Section.

## WHAT'S GOING ON IN THE RESIDENT SECTION?

- Have you checked out our website? <http://www.aap.org/resident>

- The National Convention in San Francisco is a great way to combine fun, learning and networking. The AAP provides travel grants to program delegates to offset travel expenses. This year it will be \$300 per program. Many programs also provide funding for delegates and residents to attend to convention, so be sure to ask your program director! (Your program director must fill out a form and submit it to the AAP to request the \$300.)

- The NCE runs October 9-13<sup>th</sup>, but the resident section will begin on the evening of the 8<sup>th</sup> with a meet and greet with clinical case presentations. It is informal (the presenters will probably be wearing shirts and probably ties) and laid back and there should be drinks and hors d'oeuvres (no extra charge). The resident section will then have a program on Saturday, which if you are going to attend the NCE then you should DEFINITELY attend (and if you want the \$300 then you must attend). Residents of each district meet separately and talk about thoughts, concerns, resolutions and life in general over lunch (also included) during the Saturday program, we then reconvene to elect officers and pass resolutions. (The AAP also has a resolution process where any member can propose a resolution that if approved can then pass through the appropriate channels and ultimately become an AAP policy statement.) Resolution proposals will be accepted at the NCE, so keep this in mind and start thinking about them. The following Sunday

there is a district breakfast where you can meet our district's and states' leadership – they are always VERY excited to have residents at this!

- Keep the idea of applying for a CATCH grant in the back of your mind. You can get funds up to \$3000 to help with a project that will serve the community and add something to your resume. The winter deadline should be in January. See <http://www.aap.org/catch> for more details.

- FYI there are also other sources of money from the AAP, for US: international travel grants and need based grants - for emergencies or extenuating circumstances that have arisen during residency.

- The **Subcommittee on Advocacy** (Stephen is a member) is working on a soft drink letter to be mailed out to PTAs, superintendents and state legislators and asking for their consideration and support of the removal of soft drink vending machines from schools. We will need program delegate and resident support in identifying and sending out these letters. The committee is also working on a web page to serve as a database for present and past resident run advocacy projects. We are also trying to compile sources of pediatric patient information handouts in Spanish.

- The resident section is also showing strong disapproval through AAP channels of any proposals to increase mandatory time spent in NICUs. This stems from an article in January's Pediatrics, which suggested that residents were deficient in neonatal resuscitation skills (particularly intubating) and so should spend more time training in neonatology.

## **WHAT'S GOING ON IN YOUR STATE?**

Please consider contacting your state chapters and attending their state meetings. Residents are highly valued and welcomed at these meetings and the leadership always wants to know how to include more residents. If you'd like us to put you into contact with your state's AAP leadership, or if you have a particular interest, please let us know!

## **ARKANSAS:** website under revision

-There is a BMI initiative in Arkansas and 80% of the children in the Arkansas Public Schools -350,000- have had BMI data taken on them and their families will receive a letter stating their child's BMI and its implications (it really works - I've already seen one in my clinic!).

-Legislatively, they are trying to ensure that the obstacles for immunization exemption for philosophical reasons remain in place. An interesting note, more than half of the exemptions are in one corner of the state where there are also many Mexican immigrants. It has been rumored that Mexico is no longer administering the second MMR vaccine, which could lead to a measles outbreak in a non-immunized population.

-They are working with the Arkansas Department of Health to endorse the findings of the IOM report on thimerosal.

## **LOUISIANA:** <http://www.laaap.org/>

-Legislation: Louisiana is now the second state to allow psychologists to have prescription authority.

-Medicaid will stay the same, but no increases. They are 100% of Medicare.

-There is a bill to set up a committee to create a standardized health care form for the school; the form is to be in place by 2006.

-Another bill would require day care centers to place kids on their backs and follow the AAP guidelines, but it is being thwarted by an “expert” in the field. Stay tuned.

-Their CME meeting is November 19-20.

## **MISSISSIPPI:** <http://www.aapms.org/>

-The Mississippi Legislature just recessed. A tort reform package was passed and most of the pediatricians seem happy with it. Some Medicaid reform bills were passed dealing with the eligibility process, annual physicals for each person on Medicaid and to encourage recipients to have a medical home. None of the highway safety legislation passed.

-The Fall CME meeting is set for September 16-17, 2004, Hattiesburg Convention Center; Hattiesburg, MS

## **OKLAHOMA:** <http://www.okaap.org/>

-OKAAP Spring CME featured a single speaker on obesity and type II diabetes.

-The Medicaid lawsuit has finished the trial phase. Closing arguments will be July 7 with written arguments due July 28. The judgment should be handed down in September.

-At the end of the Oklahoma legislative session, the second tort reform package was passed. It will help bail out the liability insurance company for the doctors and put a moratorium on additional tort reform for six years. Other legislation included making tobacco access harder for children, putting before a vote of the people a tobacco tax whose revenue will be used in part for the Medicaid reimbursement increase, and a requirement that local schools have a health related committee at each school. Failing issues included increased physical fitness in the schools and banning sodas in the schools.

The next CME meeting will be in Oklahoma City, September 10 and 11<sup>th</sup>, “Back to School With Our Kids 2004”

**TEXAS:** <http://www.txped.org/>

-Their summer Council will meet in July to develop a legislative agenda.

-The Texas statewide obesity task force is developing resources and obesity tool kits for children. The kids are screened in school for acanthosis and the group is working on this as an opportunity to discuss family history, BMI, healthy lifestyles, etc. They are trying to develop an Obesity Clinic Network.

-The Chapter is working with HHS to ensure that kids with special health care needs don't fall through the cracks by working for increased funding for access and care.

-Through the AAP Health Leadership Forum, they and various Texas organizations are developing an adolescent mental health and primary care task force to address the needs and funding of mental health issues for children.

-The adolescent committee is working on publishing a website about talking to teens about sex.

- TPS Annual Meeting, September 9-12, Dallas, Texas

We hope to see you at the NCE in San Francisco and PLEASE email if you have any questions or concerns!!! Also, if you can, try to stay in the convention hotel (San Francisco Marriott) as you'll be much closer to all of the action, but reserve rooms soon as it will fill up quickly!

Stephen and Lara.

