



American Academy of Pediatrics District VIII Resident Newsletter

SPRING 2007

AK, AZ, CO, HI, ID, MT, NV, NM, OR, UT, WA, WY, Uniformed Services West, Alberta, BC

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Free Travel
- Stipends & Awards Available
- We need your help!

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Resident Section Moves Mental Health To Top

In February, the Resident Section Executive Committee met in Chicago to determine the goals of the Resident Section for the upcoming year, including this year's advocacy campaign.

While last year we had a difficult, yet important topic to grasp with Debt Reduction Act, this year we wanted to tackle something that most residents have probably witnessed as being a problem in their communities. We also wanted to stay in line with the AAP's Strategic Plan for this year by focusing on one of their identified child health priorities. With this in mind, we selected mental health as our upcoming advocacy project.

Although Mental Health is a broad topic, this was intentional

to allow for diverse options for advocacy. Some of the problems identified at our meeting included lack of access to mental health providers for children due to insufficient number of providers and lack of insurance coverage. There were also concerns about the high number of suicides in children and adolescents and the need for suicide awareness and prevention programs.

While we are still in the planning phase of this

Advocacy project, if you have personal stories about how this problem has affected your patients, or if you feel compelled to help in the early phase, please let us know.



Resident Section Executive Committee in Chicago, IL

Residents get Free 2007 PREP Audio®

To assist resident education training, Mead Johnson has sponsored subscriptions for all pediatrics residents to PREP Audio: Critical Conversations with Experts, a new education program developed by the AAP. This monthly audio journal is the latest addition to the Academy's

PREP family of products. Residents can activate their subscription at www.prepaudio.org using their AAP ID number.

Unsure of your AAP ID number, contact AAP Customer Service for assistance at 866-THE-AAPI (843-2271), Monday through

Friday between 7:00AM and 5:30PM Central Time.



Want to go to Orlando?



The Future of Pediatrics: Community Pediatrics, Medical Home and Beyond is an exciting new AAP conference taking place **June 29 – July 1, 2007** in Orlando, FL. It will be a great opportunity for community pediatricians and other community health providers and medical home advocates to network and learn from each other as well as from the re-

spected clinical and practice faculty.

There will be concurrent session tracks on community pediatrics training and skills development, community partnerships, medical home, practice management, and key clinical issues. A hands-on workshop will let you present your idea for a community project to a small group leader and other participants

who will help you shape and enhance your idea into a viable project. Medical home sessions include an interactive workshop on collaborative approaches to addressing chronic medical conditions. In addition, more than 100 medical home and community practitioners and advocates will share their successful projects through posters at a reception and poster session.

To register or find out more, go to www.pedialink.org/cmefinder



American Academy of Pediatrics
DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN™
Community Pediatrics, the Medical Home and Beyond
June 29 - July 1, 2007 • Orlando, Florida



Have you seen an interesting case lately? Want the AAP to pay your way to San Francisco? Then read on...

AAP Call for Abstracts - SF NCE

Have you seen an interesting case recently? If you've come across an unusual disease, or even a common disease presenting in an unusual fashion, prepare an abstract for the Clinical Case Presentation Program at this year's National Conference and Exhibition (NCE). The top ten authors are awarded free one-day registration for the confer-

ence. This year's NCE will be held in exciting San Francisco between October 27th and 30th. The abstracts are presented at a poster session, and the 1st place winner has the opportunity to publish their case in *Pediatrics in Review*. The 1st place winner also receives travel reimbursement for the trip to San Francisco. The deadline is **April 13th**.

All abstracts should be submitted online at <http://www.call4abstracts.com/aap/>.



Consolidate Your Student Loans with the AAP



The American Academy of Pediatrics, through a partnership with nonprofit Student Assistance Foundation, is pleased to offer a student loan consolidation program that features the simplicity of one loan, one lender and one

payment. AAP members, their spouses, pediatric residents and medical students can receive benefits including principal reductions, interest rate reductions and much more by enrolling in the AAP Student Loan Consolidation Program.

You can find out more online at: <http://www.aapstudentloans.org/>



Genetics Home Reference - A Resource for your Patients

After a doctor sees a patient, he or she often prescribes medications. But what if such a doctor also wants to direct a patient to up-to-date, reliable, consumer-friendly information about a genetic condition, or an explanation of the basics of genetic science? Pediatricians can refer their patients to Genetics Home Reference, a free, patient-friendly Web site of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), at <http://ghr.nlm.nih.gov>. This project makes it easy to refer patients directly to Genetics Home Reference with a

free and convenient Information Rx prescription pad.

Pediatricians can request free "Information Rx" pads, which will enable them to write "prescriptions," pointing patients to the Genetics Home Reference site and to the wealth of information it contains. The free "Information Rx" pads can be ordered through at <http://www.informationrx.org>.

Here's how to order:

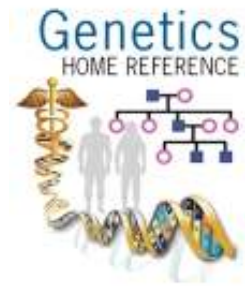
1.) Go to <http://www.informationrx.org/> and select

Genetics Home Reference.

2.) Choose the organization to which you belong.

3.) Enter the quantity of free Rx pads that you would like and proceed to checkout. Fill in the required information for mailing.

Genetics Home Reference includes over 500 topics on genetic conditions and related genes and is updated regularly by scientific staff and reviewed by external experts.



"AAP members may only get 2 or 3 FAAN email alerts in a given year, but they are urgent, action-oriented and usually deal with an issue that impacts a large number of our membership"

Be on the Look-Out for FAAN E-mails

The Federal Advocacy Action Network (FAAN) is a quick and easy way to get involved in an AAP federal legislative issue. **You don't even have to sign up.** You will automatically receive FAAN email alerts if the AAP already has an email address for you in its member database. As of March 2007, FAAN email alerts are sent to approximately 53,000 of its 60,000

members. The AAP Washington Office uses FAAN alerts when the issue affects a large number of pediatricians and/or volume counts (i.e. we need to overwhelm Congress with calls and emails to inform a vote). AAP members may only get 2 or 3 FAAN email alerts in a given year, but they are urgent, action-oriented and usually deal with an issue that impacts a large

number of our membership, like Medicaid or the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP). In 2007, the AAP anticipates SCHIP reauthorization and health insurance for all children will be the focus of our FAAN alerts.

You can look up the names and contact information for your members of Congress at: <http://www.aap.org/moc>. Click on "Federal Affairs."

What is SCHIP?



State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) is Title XXI of the Social Security Act and is jointly financed by the Federal and State governments. Within broad Federal guidelines, each State determines the design of its program, eligibility groups, benefit packages, payment levels for coverage, and administrative and operating procedures.

All children should have access to comprehensive, age-appropriate, quality health care.

However, despite the eligibility expansions of SCHIP, the number and proportion of American children lacking health insurance remains high. SCHIP has the potential to dramatically increase and maintain the number of children in

the United States with health insurance coverage.

However, SCHIP needs to be reauthorized by Congress no later than September 30, 2007, and as a result is the Academy's top priority for 2007 to avoid the tragedy of children losing health care coverage because funding runs out.

READ MORE ON SCHIP:

Federal Affairs Website <http://aap.grassroots.com/>

SCHIP Background and Resources <http://aap.grassroots.com/SCHIPsignon/>

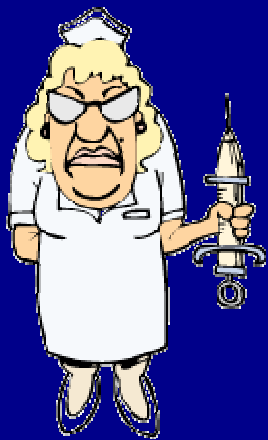
General Information on Medicaid and SCHIP <http://www.aap.org/advocacy/staccess.htm>

Medicaid Fact Sheets by State http://www.aap.org/advocacy/washing/elections/med_factsheet_pub.htm

Military Residents Go To Honduras



Capt. Meredith Sarda, MD is using a MUAC tape to measure this child's arm circumference as a way to screen for malnutrition.



"They hope that this will not only broaden their horizon, but also help the local community to become self-sufficient."

Residents from the San Antonio Military Pediatric Center (SAMPC) are learning about international health through a unique first hand experience in Honduras. The program has been developed in collaboration with the Honduran Ministry of Health to assess regions of the country that are at highest risk of malnutrition, a leading cause of death among young children in Honduras.

Teams of researchers, including Pediatric Residents go

through a 12 week lecture series on topics including malnutrition, vitamin deficiencies, tropical medicine, international safety, and the health system of Honduras.

Upon arrival in Honduras, the residents are trained to survey families at risk for malnutrition. Households are randomly selected from regions chosen in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and are sometimes very rural in location (i.e. only accessible by hum-

vees and then only by foot).

At each household, children under five years of age and their mothers are weighed, measured, and assessed for signs of malnutrition. Blood samples are also obtained to assess for anemia and vitamin deficiencies, which are then treated.

While the trip only lasts for 10 days, the program continues as different groups of residents tackle different areas of the country on 4 month cycles.

Attention Immunization Advocates

The AAP Childhood Immunization Support Program is pleased to announce the availability of several **\$1,500 stipends**.

Stipends will be awarded to AAP members (fellows or residents) who wish to initiate or sustain a project that encourages implementation of the National Vaccine Advisory Committee's *Standards on*

Childhood and Adolescent Immunization Practices. (Available at: <http://www.hhs.gov/nvpo/nvac/documents/StandardsCAImm.pdf>.)

Priority will be given to those projects that address underserved populations.

The application is attached, or you can download it from the CISP Web site at <http://www.cispimmunize.org/NVAC%20Stipend%20Application.doc>.

Applications are due to Elizabeth Sobczyk by **Friday, April 27 at 5:00pm**. For questions, feel free to e-mail esobczyk@aap.org or call (847) 434-4271.



Interns Heading to Africa

Sahera Dirajjal, D.O. writes to share her excitement about an upcoming adventure at Phoenix Childrens Hospital. Five interns are going to Swaziland for their intern week.

Swaziland is a small landlocked country in South Africa, that is devastated by AIDS. In 2004, Swaziland acknowledged for

the first time that it suffered an AIDS crisis, with 38.8% of the population infected with HIV, giving aid agencies the opportunity to collaborate with local communities to provide care and education.

The interns are joining Mission of Mercy and Dr. Beyda for approximately 10 days. Their

goal is to set up a rotation in the future where other residents can spend a month in that setting. They hope that this will not only broaden their horizon, but also help the local community to become self-sufficient. For more information, contact Sahera at sdirajjal@phoenixchildrens.com.

Cash Awards for Interest in ADHD...(if you can finish reading)



CHADD is now taking applications for its Young Scientist Research Fund Awards, a program to recognize young researchers making contributions to the understanding of AD/HD.

Through the Fund, CHADD will support three researchers with an

unrestricted cash award of \$5,000 each; paid travel and hotel expenses, registration and a meal allowance to the **2007 19th Annual International Conference**, where they will be recognized; and a one-year CHADD professional membership.

Applicants must be in the process of completing a doctoral degree or must have completed such a degree within the last three years. Research may address any area relevant to AD/HD including, but not limited to: biological/genetic under-

pinnings of the disorder; treatment efficacy; impact on the individual or family; school or workplace accommodations; social stigma and discrimination; public health; and epidemiology.

The awards are funded by Eli Lilly and Company, McNeil Consumer & Specialty Pharmaceuticals and a number of individual donations.

Deadline for applications is **April 24, 2007**. For an application or for more information, go to www.chadd.org/youngscientist/.

University of Hawaii had their annual resident weekend retreat at Malakehana Campground on the North Shore of Oahu.

(Photo compliments of Theresa Watson, MD)



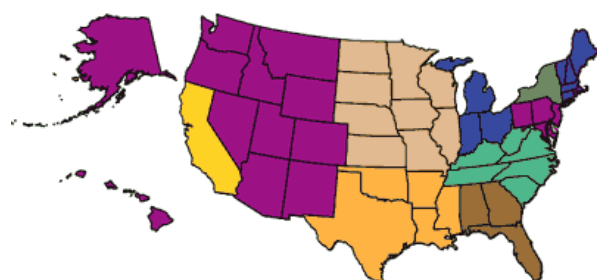
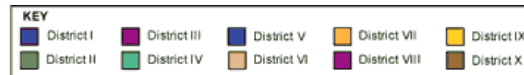
Do You Know What Your Chapter is Doing?

District VIII is the largest geographic district in the AAP, encompassing most of the western U.S. and the Uniformed Services West. The district is then broken down into Chapters (primarily states).

The Chapters are where much of the AAP does its work to effect policy and legislative change to benefit children and pediatricians.

It is important to the Resident Section that we have a resident attending the Chapter meetings in states where there are residency programs so we can provide input and know about what is going on.

If nobody from your state is going to the Chapter meetings, and you are interested in getting involved, please e-mail reneedt@gmail.com.



Contact Information

District Coordinator: Capt. Renée Matos, MD
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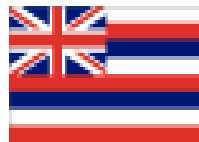
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Is anything interesting going on in your program? Do you have fun pictures you'd like us to include in the next Newsletter? If so, send me an e-mail at reneedt@gmail.com. We'd love your contribution!

