

DISTRICT IX RESIDENT NEWSLETTER

Spring 2004 Issue

CATCH GRANT WINNERS!

Congratulations to the three residents from our district who submitted grant applications in July 2003 and will now be receiving a \$3000 CATCH grant for further development of their advocacy project. Grant winners from the January 2004 submission have not yet been selected.

Anisha Patel, MD from Palo Alto
Un Equilibrio Sano (A Healthy Balance)

Linh Thi-Thanh Pham, MD from Huntington Beach
Why The Delay?

Rebecca Whitney, MD, MPH from Los Angeles
A Medical Home for Uninsured Children

UPCOMING NATIONAL CATCH CONFERENCE



The conference will be in Chicago from July 16-17, 2004. At the conference residents will work with physicians, allied health professionals, family representatives and other child advocates to learn about developing the medical home for patients. Other workshops will focus on improving access to care, asset-based community development, coalition building and successful models of care from community-based initiatives around the world. CATCH in Action Tours will also take place; participants will travel in small groups to local community based child health programs and will have the opportunity to view the program and interact with the program staff.

For more information go to the CATCH National Conference Webpage at:

<http://www.aap.org/catch/nationalconf.html>

DEVELOPING AN ADVOCACY PROJECT-IMPLEMENTING A PROJECT WITH COMMUNITY COLLABORATION

Residents around California are impacting children with self-initiated advocacy projects. Inessa Gofman, an intern at UC Davis Medical Center, is one of those residents. As part of the Anne E. Dyson initiative at UC Davis, Inessa collaborated with community members in Rancho Cordova, California and formed a Russian speaking, child health related radio talk show. Inessa and the Rancho Cordova Community Collaborative Program Director, Linda Lee, decided to develop the program after attending an NCE meeting and hearing about a resident who had developed a similar program for Spanish speaking patients in San Diego. Inspired by the program's success in San Diego, they contacted the local radio station manager. After several meetings with the radio station and several nights brushing up on her Russian, Inessa led the first radio talk show on December 2nd. The show discussed why parents should bring their healthy children in to see a doctor regularly and addressed the importance of preventative care, immunizations and monitoring child development. At the end of the first show, three listeners called in with questions. The Russian speaking population in Rancho Cordova enthusiastically welcomed the talk show and the show is now scheduled regularly on the radio station. Inessa's success in getting an advocacy project started can be attributed to inspiration from those around her, initiative, collaboration with her community and a passion for children's health!

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATIVE DAY APRIL 28th, 2004 IN SACRAMENTO

On April 28th AAP members from throughout California will descend upon the State Capitol and serve as a powerful force for child advocacy with our state legislators. A teaching session on the legislative process and legislative advocacy will also be held that day and resident members are invited to participate. Mark your calendar-join the activities in Sacramento at the California Legislative Day!

AAP NCE MEETING IN NEW ORLEANS

The 2003 NCE Meeting was a success! The Resident Section program was well attended with over 600 residents from around the nation participating. Public health was the focus of the program and the highlight was keynote speaker Dr. Antonia Novella, former surgeon general. She spoke with enthusiasm about the importance of pediatricians in medicine and the power we have to speak for children around the world and in our neighborhoods. National Resident Section elections took place and were run by our Resident Section Chairperson, Ben Springgate from Tulane University. District IX's former District Coordinator, Theresa Murdock-Vlautin from Children's Hospital San Diego was elected Vice-Chairperson and Alison Volpe Holmes, a resident from University of North Carolina was elected Secretary. A lunchtime work meeting was held for each district. The District IX discussion focused on four main topics: starting advocacy projects, difficulties in applying to fellowships, international health and legislative action. Elected District Coordinator, Sevgi Gurkan from LAC/USC and Assistant District Coordinator Laura Hufford from UC Davis gathered ideas for the upcoming year. The meeting then consisted of breakout sessions for hands on learning and additional didactic sessions providing continuing education materials. The conference was topped off with an all out party on Bourbon Street for Halloween!



**UPCOMING
AAP NCE MEETING
SAN FRANCISCO
OCTOBER 9-13, 2004
SAVE THE DATES!!!**



LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE GRANT

The AAP's annual Legislative Conference is scheduled for April 25-27th in Washington DC. The meeting provides three days of hands on training in legislative advocacy work and developing skills to utilize the media. Throughout the conference Congressional Representatives will speak to the AAP attendees. Residents are invited to come to the conference. The cost for registration prior to Feb 27th is \$450. The Resident Section is offering scholarships to those residents who would like to attend. If you are interested in applying for a scholarship address a letter to John Lewy, MD, FAAP Chair, Committee on Federal Government Affairs.

The letter should include:

- Name, address, phone number, email
- List any advocacy interest, training or experience and state your year of residency
- Describe how you expect to utilize your new advocacy skills to better advocate for children's health issues after participation in the conference.
- Indicate why you are interested in scholarship assistance.
- Describe what other sources of funding you expect to have, if any, and how much the total external financial support will be

The letter is due Feb 20, 2004 and should be mailed to:

Resident Scholarship Program
American Academy of Pediatrics
601 13th Street, NW, Suite 400 North
Washington, DC 20005
Or fax to 202-393-6137
Or Email: lgidley@aap.org

TAKING THE NEXT STEP

by Alison Daigneault MD, MBA, FAAP
Resident Liaison to Section on Administration and
Practice Management

So here you are, in residency or fellowship, and you can see the light of the real world shining from the end of the tunnel. You feel ready; after all you went through countless interviewing processes for residency, fellowship, perhaps even research grants. You know the type of practice you want, the call schedule, the city, the colleagues, what else is there to ask?

The answer is more than you suspect. Nowhere in your training did you learn how to negotiate a contract, how salaries are determined, how doctors are reimbursed and what value you bring to the table. In this brief article I wanted to give you some tips on how to get ready for the next step.

Let's start with some basics. Do you know which state you want to work in? This is a critical question because you must obtain a license in this state. The process of licensure varies from state to state but in most cases it can take six months to a year. Contact the state board and get the ball rolling. Having a license in place may give you the edge over another doctor competing for your position who won't have a license for six months. Along the same lines, make sure you have your federal DEA as well as state narcotics license ready.

Contact Medicare and get your unique physician identification number (UPIN), which allows a practice to bill Medicare for patients you see. Why is this important? While Medicare is insurance that deals mostly with adults, many Medicaid programs require their physicians to have a UPIN for billing. If you don't have it when you start another doctor will have to sign off on all your charts and prescriptions until you get the number. This is a cumbersome ordeal that makes you less attractive to a prospective group.

Finally, check on the status of your credentials. Many programs pay for ACLS, PALS, or NALS. If your credentials are about to expire, take the recertification course. This is an easy task that may give you the advantage over another prospective doctor.

On to the next step, how do you evaluate the practice and the contract they propose? The following are some important questions you will want to ask.

- Is the position salaried (set income) or incentive based (income per number of patients seen)?

- How has this practice grown and what are the plans for future growth?
- What is the expected growth of your practice? (i.e. obtain 1-2,000 new patients per year)
- What is the turnover of the ancillary staff? (Are there new receptionists or nurses every 3 months, 6 months, or year?)
- Does the contract have a non compete clause? (Which means should you leave the practice are you restricted from practicing within a certain radius, i.e. 30 miles?)

Once you have asked the questions and evaluated the answers the most important final steps are to spend time in the group you hope to join and have a professional evaluate your contract. Spending a few days in the practice helps you determine your fit. Do you work well with your colleagues, are the nurses and ancillary staff keeping the flow of patients running smoothly, and are the patients happy? This step is important because once you accept a position you will likely have at least a one to two year obligation, if you are unhappy you are out of luck.

Having a professional look at your contract will help you to understand less clear cut areas and get you the most out of the proposal. This one time investment will give you the information needed to negotiate a stronger position.

Planning for the future now is the key to finding the job you've been dreaming of since the day you decided to become a doctor.

VALUABLE WEBSITE AND CONTACT INFORMATION

RESIDENT AAP WEBSITE:

<http://www.aap.org/sections/resident/>

NATIONAL CONFERENCE AND EXHIBITION IN SAN FRANCISCO 2004:

<http://s12.a2zinc.net/clients/aap/aap2004/>

INFORMATION ON FELLOWSHIPS:

<http://www.aap.org/sections/resident/findafship.htm>

CATCH:

<http://www.aap.org/catch/>

WOMEN IN PEDIATRICS:

<http://www.aap.org/womenpedis/>

Do you want to contribute to the resident district newsletter? Contact Laura Hufford, newsletter editor/assistant district coordinator by email at: ariamedicine@hotmail.com