

American Academy of Pediatrics

DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN™



California District IX

## DISTRICT IX RESIDENT NEWSLETTER

### Spring 2006 Issue

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#### NCE 2006

The 2006 AAP National Conference and Exposition will be held October 7-10, 2006 in Atlanta, GA at the World Congress Center. The event was originally scheduled to occur in New Orleans, but had to be relocated secondary to the effects of Hurricane Katrina. Registration will begin in June. Look for more information on the AAP website.

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#### SECTION FOCUS

Learn more about the many subgroups of the AAP.

##### Council on School Health (COSH)

COSH is the recently combined product of the Section on School Health and the Committee on School Health. Its role is to develop policy statements, educate school personnel, and advocate for the well-being of children in the school setting. Visit their website at [www.schoolhealth.org](http://www.schoolhealth.org) to learn more about their mission, what the AAP thinks in regards to seat belts on school buses, and how you can get involved as a school physician.

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#### CALIFORNIA ADVOCACY SPOTLIGHT



##### Is Advocacy Really that Hard?

By Melissa Bauserman, M.D., Program Delegate from UCSD

What do newborn hearing screens, handguns and a ban on male circumcision have in common? This is not a distorted knock-knock joke--these were all subjects of discussion at the AAP State Government Affairs Committee Meeting on March 11. So now you wonder, "What is the AAP State Government Affairs Committee?" That was my next question when I was asked to fill in as the resident representative to this meeting. Here is the scoop: the AAP has a staff monitoring the bills coming before the State Legislature. Bills associated with children's health get targeted for statements from the AAP. This is where the committee comes in: made up of representatives from the 4 AAP Chapters in California, the members meet a couple of times a year to discuss the bills and their effects on the pediatric community.

The result: advocacy for children's health. Okay, I skipped a few steps, the result

is actually a letter to send to the representatives to approve, amend, or reject the bills. The hoped end result is education to the legislators to give them an inside perspective on the lives and health of children, as we see it. The power: we have actually talked to the legislators to inform them of our views of the needs of children in California.

I stumbled into an opportunity for advocacy and doors are open for more. Not just for me, but for you too. Yes, you, even as you read this article. Believe it or not, legislators actually listen to us. We represent children's health, and people see us as experts.

What I learned at the committee meeting is that even seemingly passive activities can get you involved in advocacy. Everything from joining local interest groups on child's health (like the AAP), to becoming more involved in the government affairs committee by joining their listserv can get you started. Attending this meeting has gotten me excited to seek out other ways to become involved in legislation, even if right now this means is that I occasionally fill in to go to a meeting that decides if the AAP supports or opposes a bill proposed on the state congressional floor. Sometimes, even the smallest steps make a difference.

A couple bills to follow:

**AB 576** – Ensures full funding of the California State Immunization Information System by 2007-8.

**AB 2651** – Ensures that every California Children's Services approved hospital with perinatal services offers hearing screens.

**AB 352** – Requires all semi-automatic handguns sold would have imprinting devices to imprint the cartridges that are fired and therefore aid in the identification of the owner.

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## GRANTS



### Section on Infectious Diseases Travel Grant to the NCE

All Infectious Disease Fellows and any interested Residents are invited to apply for a Travel Grant (\$1200) to attend the Section on Infectious Diseases Section Program at the NCE. Interested individuals may nominate themselves or be nominated by their program or fellowship director. Six travel grant recipients will be selected by lottery and will be notified by July 29th. If interested, please contact Barbara Drelicharz before ([Bdrelicharz@aap.org](mailto:Bdrelicharz@aap.org)) or Alison Siwek (847/434-7939). The deadline is **Friday, June 30th**.

### Anne E. Dyson Child Advocacy Award

Apply if you have a resident run project that's goal is to improve the lives of children. Winners receive \$300 for the project plus travel and lodging expenses for two residents to attend the AAP NCE. Last year, a total of 11 applications were received and 2 awards were given. The deadline is **Friday August 4th**.

### Clinical Case Presentation Program

The resident section has a successful new tradition at the National Conference & Exhibition (NCE) – Clinical Case Presentations. Residents submit abstracts of interesting cases they have come across through the AAP's online abstract submission process. The abstracts are judged by a committee of residents, and the top ten authors are awarded **free registration for the conference**. The abstracts are presented at a poster session along with the winners of the Resident Research Grant Program at the NCE Resident Section reception. The **first place**

winner is announced that night, and their case will later be presented in Pediatrics in Review as an Index of Suspicion article. They also receive **travel reimbursement** for their trip to the NCE.

The 2005 NCE marked the third year since the program's inception in 2003 by former resident section member, Dr. David Kaelber. Since then interest has risen dramatically. There were forty submissions the inaugural year and nearly sixty submissions in 2005. Christina Kim, M.D., this year's program coordinator, hopes to see that number jump to eighty for the 2006 conference.

So, keep your eyes open for unusual diseases or common diseases presenting in an unusual fashion. Everyone, plan to support the winners by attending the poster session Friday night at this year's NCE in Atlanta.

The abstract submission web page can be found at [www.call4abstracts.com/aap/](http://www.call4abstracts.com/aap/). **The deadline for abstract submission is Friday, April 14<sup>th</sup>.**

More information about the above grants and scholarships can be found online at <http://www.aap.org/sections/resident/summary-ga.htm>

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## UPCOMING EVENTS



### **AAP – CA/CMA Legislative Leadership Day**

The California AAP legislative office and the CMA will be holding their annual legislative day April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2006 in Sacramento. Speakers include Senators Denise Moreno and George Runner, Democratic strategist Richie Ross, and Republican strategist Dan Schnur. In the morning, learn about issues important to both organizations. Spend the afternoon

discussing these issues with your representatives and their staff. A great opportunity to learn about advocacy! For more information, contact Mariane Hockenberry at 510-559-8383 or [aapcalifornia@aol.com](mailto:aapcalifornia@aol.com).

### **Chapter 1 – Pediatric Mental Health**

May 27-29, 2006 in Monterey, CA. Contact Beverly Busher for more information at 415-479-9200 or visit the chapter 1 website.

### **Chapter 2 – Advances In Pediatrics**

April 27-30, 2006 in Las Vegas, NV.

### **Chapter 3 – 2006 Physicians Forum II: Rotavirus Vaccine and Vaccine Safety Issues**

April 27, 2006 in San Diego, CA.

### **Chapter 3 – Essential Topics in Pediatrics: Exploring the Developmental Spectrum**

May 11-13, 2006 in San Diego, CA.

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## RESOURCES

Resident AAP Website:

[www.aap.org/sections/resident](http://www.aap.org/sections/resident)

District IX Resident Website:

[www.aap.org/sections/resident/districtix.htm](http://www.aap.org/sections/resident/districtix.htm)



District IX Chapter Websites:

Chapter 1 (Northern CA)

[www.aapca1.org](http://www.aapca1.org)

Chapter 2 (Southern CA)

[www.aapca2.org](http://www.aapca2.org)

Chapter 3 (San Diego)

[www.aapca3.org](http://www.aapca3.org)

Chapter 4 (Orange County)

[www.aapca4.org](http://www.aapca4.org)

### Program Delegates:

Cedars – Sinai – Kara Calkins  
Children’s Hospital LA – Erin Wanner  
Children’s Hospital Oakland – Elizabeth Bassett  
Children’s Hospital Orange County – Melissa Krebs  
Loma Linda – William Selby  
Stanford – Noelle Johnstone  
UC Davis – Karin Wertz  
UCLA – Shoba Narayan  
UC Irvine – Aviva Alyeshmerni  
UCSD – Melissa Bauserman  
UCSF – Ricky Choi  
UCSF/Fresno – Katherine Goldsich & Susan Wollersheim  
USC – Monika Stevens

### Chapter Representatives:

Chapter 1 – Noelle Johnstone & Karin Wertz  
Chapter 2 – Kara Calkins & Lisa  
Chapter 3 – Melissa Bauserman  
Chapter 4 – Melissa Krebs

**The Resident Section Mission:**  
The AAP Section on Residents will advocate for residents, training fellows and medical students, develop leadership within the Section, and educate section members on how to advocate for the infants, children, adolescents, and young adults.

