



October 2009

Dear Program Delegate:

Welcome to a leadership position in the American Academy of Pediatrics Section on Medical Students, Residents, and Fellowship Trainees!

It is with great pleasure that I congratulate you on your position as program delegate. This role provides a wonderful opportunity for you to enhance your understanding of the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), strengthen your leadership skills and build networking connections that will influence many facets of your life for years to come. The purpose of the AAP Section on Medical Students, Residents, and Fellowship Trainees (SOMSRFT) is to advocate for our section members, develop leadership within our section, and educate section members on how to advocate for healthy children.

With over 10,000 members, the SOMSRFT is the largest of approximately 50 sections. As such, residents have a tremendous voice within the Academy. The leadership of the section is modeled after that of the Academy itself. The executive committee includes a Chair, Vice-Chair, and Secretary, as well as the District Coordinators (DC) and Assistant District Coordinators (ADC) from each of the ten districts around the country and over twenty Resident Liaisons to other sections and committees both within and beyond the Academy.

Beyond our leadership structure, the section depends most heavily on individual members for our strength. In order to have clear communication with over 10,000 members and the elected executive committee, we must have grass roots support. As program delegate, you will act as a direct link between residents within your program and the AAP SOMSRFT. *You should be the one individual at your program that all residents can identify as a resource for information regarding the Academy. Furthermore, you are a conduit to express concerns from the residents at your program to the section at large.*

To assist you in this role, the DC and ADC from your district will be available for information and ideas (as well as Chapter Representatives within some districts). Those individuals should be in frequent contact and you should not hesitate to contact them for any questions regarding your new position. *Please keep in touch with your district leaders* and keep them updated on your current contact information. You can locate your current DC & ADC via this Web page - [http://www.aap.org/sections/ypn/r/resident/district\\_webpages.html](http://www.aap.org/sections/ypn/r/resident/district_webpages.html). As a delegate, and in order to receive the travel grant, you will be expected to attend the AAP National Conference and Exhibition (NCE). The conference for 2010 is in San Francisco, California October 1-5. You are required to attend the SOMSRFT Annual Assembly on Saturday, October 2 from 7:30am – 6:00pm.

This meeting will update you on section activities, including our annual advocacy project, and provide an opportunity to submit resolutions about issues that are of concern to you or your program. For more information, and to register, go to <http://www.aap.org/nce/>. *Your program director will receive the online application for the travel grant on August 1<sup>st</sup>. Please check with them to make sure it has been turned in.*

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Our hope is that after attending this conference you will take the information and opportunities you learned about and share them with your residency program. We feel a noon conference is a great opportunity to teach other residents about the AAP and what we're doing in our section. There is a wealth of knowledge and resources on our section Web site, including an orientation PowerPoint. You can access this information via the YoungPeds Network Program Delegate Web page - [http://www.aap.org/sections/ypn/r/resident/delegate\\_info.html](http://www.aap.org/sections/ypn/r/resident/delegate_info.html).

We also hope that you will get involved with other AAP leadership in your part of the country. District and chapter AAP leaders are always happy to have more involvement, and by attending their meetings, you can be a voice for medical students, residents, fellowship trainees, and your program. Check out your chapter or district's Web site for meeting dates and the leaders to contact for more information - <http://www.aap.org/member/chapters/chapserv.htm>.

The Resident and Fellowship Trainee Web page on the YoungPeds Network , [www.aap.org/ypn/r/](http://www.aap.org/ypn/r/) provides tools and information relevant to your role, other opportunities within the Academy (grants, scholarships, advocacy projects), and resident life. I would encourage you to become familiar with the Web site to ensure the residents within your program are aware of the information they have at their fingertips. Any feedback you have on improving the site would be welcomed.

Our section also encompasses medical students as affiliate members of the AAP. These eager and talented professionals are vital to the future of pediatrics and want to be involved with residents and fellowship trainees. We hope that you will be a key contact with them about their membership in the AAP and work with them to establish or maintain a Pediatric Interest Group. We have created an entire Web site for their needs and hope you will point them to it at - <http://www.aap.org/sections/ypn/ms/>. Medical students can also help with advocacy projects, articles for district and chapter newsletters, and other child health activities. We hope that you will encourage medical students to become members of our section and utilize their talents in improving the health of children.

Your desire to dedicate your time to our section indicates an inner drive to make a difference. Your work will not only assist physicians in training within your program, but ultimately your contribution will also positively influence the lives of infants, children, adolescents and young adults within your communities. All of the AAP appreciates your involvement and will welcome your ideas and participation.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact myself or our staff manager, Julie Raymond, at [jraymond@aap.org](mailto:jraymond@aap.org).

Sincerely,

Joshua Smith, MD, MBA  
Chair, Section on Medical Students, Residents and Fellowship Trainees

Renee Matos, MD  
Vice Chair, Section on Medical Students, Residents and Fellowship Trainees