Welcome to the Section on International Child Health (SOICH) newsletter, March 2018 issue.

2018 AAP National Conference & Exhibition

• SOICH & SOIMG Joint 2018 NCE Call for Abstracts
• Point-of-Care Ultrasound Workshop: NCE 2018

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• Addressing global shortages of health workers

Get Involved

SOICH Looking for Tech-Savvy Members to Help with SOICH Web Design and Newsletter Improvements! Reach out today!

Mark Your Calendars
Important Upcoming Dates

Vote for your AAP and SOICH Leaders by March 30th!

NCE 2017 - H Program Report

• Training new ICATCH Grant Reviewers
• Free Medical Spanish Course

Global Child Health in the News
• Become a GCH Advocate (AAP News)
• AAP Advocacy Extends Beyond US Borders (AAP News)
• Ending Violence Against Children (WHO)
• Volunteering Abroad? Be Careful with Social Media! (NPR Goats and Soda)
• WHO Approves Typhoid Vaccine (NY Times)

Announcements
• @aapglobalhealth
New AAP Employee: Vayram Nyadroh
Manager, International Relations

Vayram Nyadroh is the new Manager, International Relations at the American Academy of Pediatrics. She is originally from Chicago, IL and is a first generation American. Her parents were born and raised in Ghana, West Africa. And she is the proud daughter of a pediatrician.

Vayram joins the Academy from the U.S. Department of State where she worked as a Foreign Service Officer (FSO). As an FSO, she had assignments in Guatemala, Afghanistan, and in the United States.

In Guatemala, she worked as a Vice Consul and as a Political Officer (PolOff). As a PolOff, she was responsible for coordinating the United States Government’s (USG’s) efforts in combatting Trafficking in Persons (TIP). Her portfolio also included Human Rights and Election Monitoring. While in Guatemala, she worked closely with colleagues at the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), Guatemalan government officials, non-governmental organizations and international organizations to help advance USG foreign policy objectives.

In Afghanistan, she worked as a Public Diplomacy Officer and oversaw the State Department’s premier professional exchange program (the International Visitors Leadership Program) and the Voluntary Visitors Program. In addition, she was the Lead Grants Officer Representative for 17 assistance awards totaling over $14 million (USD). She worked extensively with multiple USG agencies, as well as with international military personnel.

Before joining the State Department, Vayram worked in the arts, in city government, and in public advocacy. She also participated in multiple public health projects throughout Latin America.

As the Manager, International Relations, Vayram will support the Section on International Child Health (SOICH), the Section on International Medical Graduates (SOIMG), International Community Access to Child Health (ICATCH), and the India Gianni Fund.

She is looking forward to meeting every SOICH member in the year ahead, and to helping increase member engagement in SOICH initiatives and activities. She is thrilled to be a part of the International Relations Team at the AAP and hopes to see you in Orlando for NCE 2018!
Health Volunteers Overseas
Addressing global shortages of health workers: volunteers build relationships to improve care

“As volunteers, we build relationships with our colleagues in other countries,” observes Cynthia Howard, MD, MPH, FAAP, member and volunteer of Health Volunteers Overseas (HVO) – a Washington, DC based nonprofit with a pediatric program sponsored by the American Academy of Pediatrics.

HVO is dedicated to improving global health through education. The organization recruits volunteers to travel to project sites in resource-limited countries to provide training to students at the start of their medical careers and facilitate continuing education and professional development opportunities for practicing health workers.

Since 1997, Dr. Howard has worked with HVO to improve global pediatric care, traveling to HVO’s project site at Makerere University and Mulago Hospital in Kampala, Uganda on a dozen separate assignments.
“I think developing professional relationships with international colleagues - teaching together and exchanging ideas provides not only personal satisfaction, but the opportunity to build pediatric capacity together,” comments Dr. Howard.

Her work in Uganda, along with the efforts of fellow pediatric HVO volunteers and Ugandan colleagues, has led to the development of collegial relationships and bi-directional education for students, residents and faculty from both the US and Uganda. Throughout her twenty-year relationship with HVO, Dr. Howard has witnessed many positive developments that resulted from these relationships.

For example, Dr. Philippa Musoke, professor and former chair of pediatrics at Makerere University served as Dr. Howard’s host when she first visited Kampala in 1997. The collegial friendship they formed has led to many positive developments, including Dr. Musoke guest lecturing at the University of Minnesota, Dr. Howard’s home institution.

“The greatest impact for all of us is the professional network we have developed together,” shares Dr. Howard. She notes that this network of HVO volunteers and Ugandan colleagues and partners have worked together to: teach neonatology (a project led by Dr. Yvonne Vaucher with Dr. Margaret Nakakeeto); establish an adolescent clinic (a project led by Dr. Sabrina Kitaka with Dr. Betsy Pfeiffer); implement a screen for G6PD deficiency (a project led by Dr. Troy Lund with lab colleagues at Mulago Hospital); and develop a diabetes clinic (a project led by Dr. Terry Piloya with Dr. Toni Moran).

“We work together continually,” adds Dr. Howard.

Dr. Howard also notes that, in addition to building relationships and improving global health, global volunteer work positively affects volunteers themselves, as evidenced by her own career.

“In terms of what the volunteer gains, there’s a long list. First, the joy of working with colleagues from other cultures, second, the knowledge we bring home to our own patients and practice and third, the network we build to improve pediatric workforce capacity at home and abroad,” says Dr. Howard.
She notes that global health volunteer work has affected her both personally and professionally in a number of ways. Her current position as Director of the Division of Global Pediatrics and Director of the Global Medical Education and Research program at the University of Minnesota, as well as her work with immigrant and refugee populations in the United States, is directly informed by her work in East Africa.

For individuals considering international volunteer work, Dr. Howard has a few recommendations.

“It’s a good idea to look introspectively and articulate to yourself why you want to volunteer,” notes Dr. Howard. She goes on to suggest that once that’s determined, and you have your goal in mind, you can determine the best organization with which to volunteer.

Dr. Howard also calls on potential volunteers to consider some practical questions when choosing their volunteer assignment, including whether a volunteer opportunity offers an ethically sound framework, whether the volunteer program has a sustainable model, and what practical guidance and support a volunteer program can provide.

“I highly recommend HVO [for new volunteers] because of the mission, but also because of the people. The staff emphasize sustainability and provides the infrastructure to support volunteers before, during and after travel,” added Dr. Howard.

In addition to the project in Uganda, HVO is recruiting volunteers for projects in Bhutan, Cambodia, Laos, Nicaragua, and St. Lucia. Short-term volunteers - fully licensed and trained health care professionals committed to sharing their knowledge and skills - staff HVO’s pediatrics projects. These health care professionals work with faculty and staff in a variety of child health specialties. HVO also accepts senior residents who are accompanied by a consultant mentor to offer training at some HVO project sites.

HVO volunteer assignments range from two to four weeks. A team of staff and volunteers, both local and abroad, run each of the projects, and a director based in North America takes responsibility for approving and preparing all volunteer candidates.

If you are interested in a volunteer assignment, visit HVO’s website and complete the volunteer application or contact the HVO volunteer coordinator Elysabeth Stuehrmann at e.stuehrmann@hvousa.org for more information.
Are you creative? Do you have IT experience?
Help Us Improve the SOICH Newsletter and Website!

Improving Communication Platforms with SOICH members, through the website and SOICH Newsletter, has been a work in progress over the past several years, and we continue to look for ways to improve this member engagement.

We hope to optimize our newsletter format and content and improve the content and layout of our website to reflect the work SOICH and our members are doing and to engage members with the Section and with each other. We know that there are creative and talented SOICH members out there that can contribute their expertise and ideas.

If you are interested in helping in any way, please reach out to us at soich@aap.org with the subject “Newsletter volunteer.” We look forward to your help in creating a new and improved SOICH website in 2018!
National Conference & Exhibition 2017
H Program Report

AAP SOICH 2017 H Program

216 Participants

Type

- Allied Health (2.75%)
- General Pediatrician (56.48%)
- Hospitalist (6.48%)
- Medical Student (5.56%)
- Other (3.70%)
- Subspecialist (10.19%)
- Resident/Fellow (14.81%)

International (15.28%) US (84.72%)

International Participants
- Brazil
- Cambodia
- Canada
- Colombia
- Dominican Rep.
- Ecuador
- Egypt
- India
- Mexico
- Nigeria
- Pakistan
- Peru
- Philippines
- Rwanda
- Uganda
- Vietnam
National Conference & Exhibition 2018:
Section on International Child Health & Section on International Medical Graduates Joint Abstract Call

American Academy of Pediatrics
DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN

Section on International Child Health
Section on International Medical Graduates

Global Child Health Abstract Symposium:
“Advocacy and Justice for Children at Home and Abroad”

Sunday, November 4, 2018, 8:00 AM – 5:30 PM
AAP National Conference & Exhibition (NCE)
Orlando, Florida

- The Section on International Child Health (SOICH) is partnering with the Section on International Medical Graduates (SOIMG) to host a joint abstract program on global child health.
- Abstracts in the categories of original research, program evaluation, and educational or advocacy initiatives will be considered. Selected abstracts will be accepted for podium (oral) or poster presentations.
- Submissions by members and non-members of SOICH and SOIMG are welcome; participation is open to health professionals in any field.

Questions?
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For more information on NCE:
http://www.aapconverge.org

Deadline for submissions is Friday, April 13, 2018
Submit abstracts electronically to the AAP:

Submit Abstracts Here!
International Community Access to Child Health (ICATCH) Grantee Spotlight:
Ghulam Mustafa, MD

Dr Mustafa is one of the first ICATCH grantees and now an ICATCH reviewer who is a pediatric pulmonologist in Multan Pakistan. Thanks to his connections to ICATCH, he is also now a member of the AAP.

Next quarter, we will feature an article by Dr Mustafa describing the follow-up of his ICATCH grantee work with Falah Child and his efforts to improve access to health care for very poor mothers and newborns in Multan, Pakistan.

The ICATCH Grant Program is supported by YOUR SOICH membership dues, and by the very generous additional donations from SOICH members and others.

To learn more, or make a tax-deductible donation, please visit www.aap.org/icatch.

The ICATCH Team warmly thanks SOICH members and the larger AAP community that make these programs to improve child health possible. Together we can improve the care for children in a global way!
The Growing Problem of Vaccine Hesitancy Worldwide

Childhood illness and death due to vaccine-preventable diseases are uniquely tragic. Ensuring that children around the globe have access to lifesaving immunizations has been an important cornerstone of global child health initiatives. This work has been successful: the WHO estimates that immunizations prevent 2-3 million deaths every year. But there’s still work to be done. An estimated 1.5 million children die each year from vaccine-preventable illness. A comprehensive, sustained and multi-faceted approach is needed to reduce the number of children who become ill or die from these preventable diseases.

As access to immunizations increases and the incidence of vaccine-preventable illness decreases, a predictable pattern of vaccine hesitancy emerges. Communities may see stagnating or even decreasing vaccination rates due to vaccine hesitancy, a complex and multi-factorial issue.

The WHO defines vaccine hesitancy as a “delay in acceptance or refusal of vaccines despite availability of vaccination services. Vaccine hesitancy is complex and context specific varying across time, place and vaccines. It includes factors such as complacency, convenience and confidence”

Vaccine hesitancy crosses every demographic and can be found in any population. No community is immune to misinformation. Research in this area is evolving and there is no single standardized intervention to address this issue. Interventions need to be tailored to specific communities and to individual patients themselves.

What you can do for your patients:

Listen to parental concerns. Acknowledge that there is a lot of confusing information out there and that it’s ok to ask questions. Address their concerns and explain why immunizations are so crucial in keeping their child healthy.

The CASE model (Corroborate, About Me, Science, Explain/Advise) is an effective method of addressing
parental concerns about vaccines. Read more about the method and see it in action here. Recommendations are more impactful if they come from a personal perspective. Describe what you’ve seen as a pediatrician and why you are so passionate about making sure all of your patients are protected from preventable illness.

Let parents know that there is a lot of research and data about vaccines. Immunizations are vetted as thoroughly as any other medicine and research and monitoring are ongoing. Do you have parents who are worried about a link between vaccines and autism? Good news - this question has been extensively studied and there are lots and lots of data showing no link. Check out the Vaccine Education Center at the Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia for information sheets for parents addressing common vaccine concerns.

**What you can do for your community:**

The WHO’s Strategic Advisory Group of Experts (SAGE) has identified vaccine hesitancy as a top priority and has established a working group to tackle this issue. The group has established standard survey questions to assess vaccine hesitancy that should be validated at the country and community levels. Strategies for addressing vaccine hesitancy are discussed including public media campaigns, engagement of local leaders and training of community health workers. You can find the comprehensive report here and a report summary here.

Understanding the problem of vaccine hesitancy in our communities is an important and necessary step in ensuring our children remain protected from vaccine-preventable diseases.
SOICH Member Spotlights:
AAP Legislative Conference Scholarship Winners

Congratulations to Emily Esmaili, Stephanie Napolitano, Sanemba Aya Fanny, Nadir Ijaz, Alison Gardner, and Natalia Garza who will be attending the conference on behalf of SOICH.

Stay tuned for a report from them in an upcoming SOICH newsletter.
Global Child Health in the News: check out these articles!

Become a global child health advocate (AAP News)

AAP child health advocacy reaches beyond U.S. borders

Global summit highlights solutions to end violence against children, calls for accelerated action

Volunteering Abroad? Read This Before You Post That Selfie

W.H.O. Approves a Safe, Inexpensive Typhoid Vaccine
Global Child Health Literature Highlights

**Indigenous languages and global health (The Lancet February 2018)**

In this Commentary from *The Lancet*, Flood and Rohloff discuss language as an example of a barrier to health care and advocate for greater consideration of indigenous languages in global health.

**A Dream Deferred: Ending DACA Threatens Children, Families, and Communities (Pediatrics, October 2017)**

In this recent manuscript in *Pediatrics* by SOICH member Dr. Linton and colleagues discuss the impact of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) and the subsequent consequences of ending DACA for immigrant adolescents and young adults.


In this recent manuscript from *Frontiers in Public Health*, Welaga and colleagues describe how the measles vaccine provides non-specific benefits unrelated to measles and has contributed to a reduction in all-cause mortality in Ghana.

**Novel use Of Hydroxyurea in an African Region with Malaria (NOHARM): a trial for children with sickle cell anemia**

In the first large trial of hydroxyurea for sickle cell anemia in sub-Saharan Africa, Opoka and colleagues describe the clinical benefits and safety of hydroxyurea compared to placebo for the treatment of Ugandan children with sickle cell anemia.
Get Involved

Training New ICATCH Grant Reviewers – Opportunities forthcoming -stay Tuned!

Have you ever wondered how ICATCH grantees are chosen? Would you like to be an ICATCH grant reviewer and possibly advise grantees on their final grant applications? The ICATCH Team will begin training new volunteer grant reviewers later this year. If you’re interested in joining the ICATCH volunteer ranks, stay tuned.

Soon we will send out information about: a short meeting for potential reviewers to be held during the PAS meetings in Toronto (not required; connecting during the summer; and holding a training session at the NCE in Orlando in early November. Please watch for an email from the SOICH listserv in the near future.

Free Medical Spanish Course -- supported by the AAP through Canopy

Canopy has developed an online medical Spanish course that empowers medical students and professionals with the skills to overcome communication friction and better care for increasingly diverse patient populations. The course teaches specialized medical concepts and terminology across a wide spectrum of commonly-encountered clinical scenarios to enable providers to establish a rapport with their Spanish-speaking patients.
Important Upcoming Dates

Mark Your Calendar

March 1 – 30, 2018
AAP Elections – vote for the next SOICH Executive Committee Members

April 7 – 9, 2018
The 8th Annual Consortium of Universities for Global Health Conference, Washington, DC

April 8 – 10, 2018
2018 AAP Legislative Conference, Washington DC

April 13, 2018
Abstracts due for Global Child Health Abstract Symposium, joint SOICH & SOIMG call

Nov 2 – 6, 2018
2018 National Conference & Exhibition, Orlando, FL


National Conference & Exhibition 2018: Point-of-Care Ultrasound Workshop

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2018
ADVANCED POINT-OF-CARE ULTRASOUND WORKSHOP
8AM - 1:30PM

JOINT PROGRAM: SECTION ON EMERGENCY MEDICINE, SECTION ON CRITICAL CARE MEDICINE & SECTION ON INTERNATIONAL CHILD HEALTH | Course Co-Directors: Atim Uya, MD | Adam Sivitz, MD, FAAP

ADVANCED POINT-OF-CARE ULTRASOUND WORKSHOP: ULTRASOUND-GUIDED RESUSCITATION: PRECISION CARE FOR THE CRITICALLY ILL CHILD

Hands-on Instructions:
- Advanced Echocardiography - TBD
- Vascular Access (central and peripheral) - TBD
- Musculoskeletal - TBD
- Rapid Ultrasound for Shock and Tachycardia #1 - TBD
- Rapid Ultrasound for Shock and Tachycardia (with simulations) #2 - TBD
- Potpourri (Abdomen/ Ocular/ First Trimester Pregnancy) - TBD