



Champion E-Correspondence

November 2012



This is an e-mail communication related to the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) "Medical Home Chapter Champions Program on Asthma." It is designed to provide AAP Medical Home Chapter Champions with resources, as well as current clinical and other information. The Champion E-Correspondence is sent on a monthly basis. Feel free to share the Champion E-Correspondence with colleagues. Distribution information appears at the end of this newsletter.

Project Updates

- **Welcome to the Newly-Appointed Chapter Champions:** We are excited to welcome new chapter champions to the network! Andy Aligne, MD, MPH, FAAP (New York 1) is an academic pediatrician who serves on faculty at the University of Rochester in the Departments of Pediatrics and Emergency Medicine and the Center for Community Health. Kristin Millin, MD, FAAP (Wisconsin) is a general pediatrician who recently transitioned from academia at the University of Wisconsin to the primary care setting at Meriter's West Washington Clinic. Brian Wu, MD, FAAP (Hawaii) is a pediatric pulmonologist and an assistant clinical professor in the Department of Pediatrics at the University of Hawaii. Please give Drs Aligne, Millin, and Wu a warm welcome!
- **Work Plans:** All chapter champions will need to have a current* work plan on file in order to complete the registration process for the 2013 MHCCPA Conference. If you have not already done so, [please submit your original or updated work plan to \[crajagopalan@aap.org\]\(mailto:crajagopalan@aap.org\) as soon as possible.](#) A [template](#) and [ideas to get you started](#) are available online for those who do not yet have a written work plan.
*Any work plan updated in **August 2012 or later** is considered current.
- **2013 MHCCPA Conference: Save the date for the 2013 MHCCPA Conference! It will take place on March 2-3, 2013 in Rosemont (Chicago area), IL.** The AAP—through funding from The JPB Foundation—will cover travel expenses (flight, hotel, meals) for one champion from each chapter to attend the conference. Instructions on how to book travel, specific details regarding expenses that will be covered, and a formal invitation to the conference will be distributed in December.
- **Webinar Series on Academy Resources:** A webinar series will be offered to all chapter champions in early 2013 to provide information, resources, and tools that are available to champions as members of the Academy. Topics for the webinar series will include advocacy, payment, and AAP councils and sections as well as other special interest groups. If you are unable to participate "live," the webinars will be recorded for viewing at your leisure. **Stay tuned for the webinar schedule and related registration information!**
- **Regional Conference Calls:** Thank you to all who were able to join us for the fall 2012 MHCCPA regional conference calls. Notes from each call will be distributed to all chapter champions in the coming weeks. If you have any questions or comments regarding the discussions from your region's call, contact your designated Project Advisory Committee (PAC) member or Chelsea (crajagopalan@aap.org). The next round of conference calls will occur in the spring after the conference.

Upcoming Events

- ◆ [Webinar: Patient-Centered Care — A Cross-Cultural Approach](#)
December 7
10:30am Central
- ◆ [Webinar: Promoting Adolescent Health Care Innovations in a Medical Home](#)
December 11
12:00pm Central
- ◆ [Summit on the Science of Eliminating Health Disparities](#)
December 17-19
National Harbor, MD
- ◆ [Webinar: CDC Public Health Grand Rounds on Disability and Health](#)
December 18
12:00pm Central
- ◆ [Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs \(AMCHP\) Annual Conference](#)
February 9-12
Washington, DC
- ◆ [American Academy of Allergy, Asthma, and Immunology \(AAAAI\) Annual Meeting](#)
February 22-26
San Antonio, TX
- ◆ **2013 Medical Home Chapter Champions Program on Asthma Conference**
March 2-3
Rosemont (Chicago area), IL
- ◆ [AAP Legislative Conference](#)
April 28-30
Washington, DC



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Chapter Champion Spotlight

Chapter Champion Spotlight on California 1 Champion: Shannon Thyne, MD, FAAP

Shannon Thyne, MD, FAAP has many projects underway to improve the care of children with asthma within the medical home in the San Francisco Bay Area. Dr Thyne is a general pediatrician with a special interest in asthma, trainee and medical education, and health care disparities. She serves as Chief of Medical Staff at [San Francisco General Hospital](#) (SFGH), Professor of Clinical Pediatrics at the [University of California, San Francisco](#) (UCSF), and also oversees the [Pediatric Asthma Clinic](#) at SFGH.

Dr Thyne is currently leading a project to improve the follow-up process for pediatric asthma patients after they visit urgent care. Community health workers at the clinic telephone each patient within 7 days of their urgent care visit to ensure that a follow-up appointment has been scheduled with the child's primary care provider. The primary care provider receives a notice about the urgent care visit, as well. Preliminary data indicates the project's success with decreasing hospitalization rates. Her asthma team hopes to extend this effort to several other clinics in the Bay Area in early 2013.

In addition, Dr Thyne and her colleagues have implemented a training program for medical students to increase their awareness of the prevalence of asthma and improve their competencies in providing high quality asthma care. All third year medical students rotating at SFGH spend 3-4 sessions in the asthma clinic during their outpatient rotation. Over 100 students have been trained in this way, and a similar program is in place at the clinic for nursing students.

Dr Thyne is an active member of the [AAP California 1 Chapter](#) and of the [Asthma Task Force of San Francisco](#) where she regularly provides educational presentations for providers in the Bay Area. She received her undergraduate degree from Yale College and her medical degree from Brown University and completed her residency at the UCSF.

Dr Thyne, thank you for your dedication to the Medical Home Chapter Champions Program on Asthma and to improving the lives of children with asthma within the medical home!

Resources

Improving Care for Vulnerable Populations Video

[The Commonwealth Fund](#) recently released a brief [video](#) available online that describes the difficulties that vulnerable populations—including low-income, the uninsured, and racial and ethnic minorities—have in accessing health care and the poorer health outcomes they often experience. The video outlines the need to improve care for these populations and explains how the Affordable Care Act will help to enhance health care access, quality, and outcomes.

Secondhand Smoke and Tobacco Resources

The [AAP Julius B. Richmond Center of Excellence](#) has a number of resources available to providers to ensure that you are compensated accordingly for time spent discussing tobacco use and/or exposure to secondhand smoke during patient encounters. There is a [Tobacco Coding Fact Sheet](#) and various articles on how to [get paid for smoking cessation counseling](#), guidance on [using behavior change intervention codes](#), and more. Click [here](#) to access other tools for use in practice.

Merck Childhood Asthma Network Unveils New Website

The Merck Childhood Asthma Network (MCAN) has a re-designed [website](#). The website has been reorganized to make childhood asthma information more accessible to providers, researchers, and policymakers. The new site features in-depth information on MCAN-supported programs and initiatives in communities across the US, access to archived presentations and webinars, and downloads and other links to publications related to childhood asthma. Click [here](#) to sign up for MCAN e-Alerts.



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Reports

About Half of the States are Implementing Patient-Centered Medical Homes for Their Medicaid Populations

This [report](#), published in [Health Affairs](#), highlights the growing number of private and public payers across the US who are testing the patient-centered medical home (PCMH) model to improve the quality and cost-effectiveness of health care. State Medicaid programs have been instrumental in this movement, as new payment systems are implemented and existing payment systems are revised to enhance primary care. Quality-of-care standards are being aligned with payment to improve health outcomes, patient satisfaction, and cost effectiveness. The information contained in this report may help to inform public and private payment strategies in the future.

National Surveillance of Asthma: United States, 2001-2010

This [report](#)—released by the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) earlier this month—indicates that more people in the US are now living with asthma than in previous decades, however the asthma population is effectively managing and controlling the disease and fewer people are dying from the disease. The rate of asthma-related hospital visits has remained steady. Due to the improved management and control, people with asthma are able to lead healthier and more productive lives.

Putting Guideline Priorities into Action

Over the past few years, the [National Asthma Control Initiative](#) (NACI) launched, funded, and followed 28 community-based projects across the country aimed at increasing awareness and enhancing implementation of the [National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute Guidelines for the Diagnosis and Management of Asthma](#) into practice. The goal was to promote the use of the guidelines—specifically the six key actions to improve asthma care and control: use inhaled corticosteroids; use written asthma action plans; assess asthma severity; assess and monitor asthma control; schedule follow-up visits; and control environmental exposures—and to make them easier to implement. Investigators identified the following practical strategies that showed success in increasing the awareness and use of the guidelines: adapt existing evidence-based tools and interventions; offer training to enhance skills; foster collaboration; and share findings. Click [here](#) to read more about the findings and to access the recommended tools to assist in guideline implementation.

In the News...

Affordable Care Act Delivers Higher Payments to Primary Care Pediatricians

On November 1, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) released its [final rule](#) governing the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA) provision increasing Medicaid payment to primary care physicians for specific primary care services. Medicaid payments will be increased to Medicare levels as of January 1, 2013 and this will remain in effect until the end of 2014. The increased payment rule also extends to certain physician subspecialists—those who are recognized by the American Board of Physician Specialties (ABPS) and/or the American Osteopathic Association (AOA) and who provide primary care within the overall scope of those categories. In addition, the payment increase is applicable to eligible service providers under the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). The AAP has released a [statement](#) on the Medicaid payment final rule, applauding this effort by CMS. If you have any questions, contact the AAP Division of State Government Affairs at stgov@aap.org.

- [Payment Reform has Best Chance to Improve Quality and Cut Costs](#)
- [Study Links EHR Portal Access to Higher Health Care Use](#)
- [Few Pediatricians Advise Parents to Implement a Smoke-Free Car Policy](#)
- [Use of Antibiotics During Pregnancy Tied to Asthma in Children](#)

The AAP [Medical Home Chapter Champions Program on Asthma](#) staff provides this e-mail update to the Academy's Medical Home Chapter Champions, other interested AAP members, and staff. For additional information on medical home, visit the [National Center for Medical Home Implementation Web site](#). All comments and inquiries can be sent to Chelsea Rajagopalan at cragopalan@aap.org or 800/433-9016, ext 4311. If you would like to unsubscribe to the Champions E-Correspondence, contact Chelsea Rajagopalan.