

LET'S BUDDY-UP!

By Todd A. Mahr, MD, FAAP, Chair, AAP Section on Allergy and Immunology

Congratulations on taking the initiative to become AAP Medical Home Asthma, Allergy and Anaphylaxis Chapter Champions! I am pleased to serve as a champion in the Wisconsin Chapter and, like you, continue to strive toward better communication, quality, and continuity of care for kids with allergies and asthma within my region.

By way of introduction, I have been a member of the AAP for over 30 years, taking active roles in the Section on Allergy and Immunology, the National Conference & Exhibition (NCE) Planning Group, Practical Pediatrics Course (PPC) Planning Group, PREP: Self-Assessment Question & Critique Writers Committee, and my local Chapter. I have found working with the AAP to be extremely rewarding and I encourage all of you to find different ways to remain involved with the Academy.

The Section on Allergy and Immunology (SOAI), comprised of 200 board-certified pediatric allergists-immunologists, is highly committed to ensure that pediatric-aged patients receive the highest quality of care in allergy, asthma, and immunology. Ongoing section initiatives include clinical reports, educational sessions for the NCE, awards to residents, fellows-in-training, and junior faculty for outstanding abstracts and presentation of interesting cases, and a Visiting Professor Program for underserved areas.

The SOAI Executive Committee continuously seeks new opportunities to bridge the gap between general pediatricians and the pediatric allergist-immunologist. Referral resources have recently been developed by section members and can be accessed via our section website:

<http://www2.aap.org/sections/allergy/SOAIConsultResources.pdf>

In addition, we should explore ways in which chapter champions can “buddy-up” with allergists in their respective states. We currently have 54 chapter champions serving in 51 AAP Chapters, only 8 of whom are allergists. The SOAI would be delighted to partner with chapters and districts to develop relationships and projects on a local and regional basis. Chapter champions should know that there are SOAI members with expertise in allergy and anaphylaxis who are willing and can be called upon at the local level to work with them if needed. We could partner together to write short articles for inclusion in chapter newsletters or webpages, present grand rounds, participate in allergy awareness seminars in schools (targeting both staff and students) or community fairs, or co-submit op-eds in local publications. We may also be able to help facilitate relationships with state and local allergy societies. The SOAI is committed to providing chapter champions with the support they might need.

If you would like to “buddy-up” with a pediatric allergist in your chapter, please contact Nkem Chineme at nchineme@aap.org.

