Update from our district coordinator

Annual Leadership Forum & AAP Resolutions

Every year in March, hundreds of AAP leaders assemble to debate and pass policy at the Annual Leadership Forum (ALF). The ALF is a three day meeting dedicated to the process of evaluating and voting on resolutions submitted by members of the AAP. After another invigorating meeting, I wanted to share with you some highlights and thoughts moving forward.

Prior to the ALF, at the National Conference and Exhibition (NCE), the Section on Medical Students, Residents, and Fellowship Trainees (SOMSRFT) had voted on ten resolutions at the NCE in October that were crafted by the SOMSRFT membership to submit to the ALF. Along with these resolutions, a few other resolutions written by SOMSRFT members were submitted with support from AAP members. These resolutions were compiled by the SOMSRFT Resolution Task Force (RTF), a group of SOMSRFT members who have a particular passion for the legislative process as an important part of child advocacy. With the authors, the RTF created testimony providing background and arguments supporting the resolutions. The RTF also identified resolutions which were submitted outside of the SOMSRFT but were pertinent to SOMSRFT advocacy issues or relevant to SOMSRFT members. About 32 resolutions were identified as related to or authored by the SOMSRFT and supported by the RTF.

In the weeks prior to the ALF, all resolutions (about 110) were posted to a discussion board online. All AAP members were encouraged to comment and vote on these resolutions. The 110 resolutions were then divided into three reference committees (A, B, and C). On Friday of the ALF meeting, the resolutions were debated and discussed. RTF members present at the ALF and the SOMSRFT Executive Committee members (including your SOMSRFT District Coordinators) provided testimony in support of resolutions. On Saturday and Sunday morning, the resolutions were voted on by the ALF attendees.

So what happened once resolutions were passed? The policies described in the resolved clauses of the resolutions became recommendations to the AAP Board of Directors. The Board then works tirelessly to assign these resolutions to the appropriate AAP committees, councils, and sections to work on enacting the ideas put forward. Of the resolutions passed, the assembly voted on their top ten priorities. The Board of Directors is required to act on and report back within one year on their progress in working on these ten chosen resolutions.

And now for the exciting news, of the top ten prioritized resolutions from this year's ALF, the SOMSRFT proudly authored three of the ten! Better yet, SOMSRFT member Peter Cooch authored the number one prioritized resolution of the AAP this year which was "Addressing the Legal and Mental Health Needs of Undocumented Children." The other two SOMSRFT authored resolutions in the top ten were voted numbers four and nine. They were "Screening and Toolkit for Poverty," by Lauren Gambill, which encourages creation of a toolkit for pediatricians to screen for and address poverty, and "Prevent Marijuana Exposure for Children," by Shana Godfred-Cato, addressing advertising and exposure to the substance to children.

Now you might be thinking, "well I have an idea and want to have that idea become policy of the AAP--how do I proceed?" Luckily, we have already begun the resolution process for the 2015/2016 year! Starting now, we are asking that you start generating your resolution ideas for this year's NCE. In each district, three resolutions will be chosen to go through a similar process at the NCE that was described above. We will be accepting resolution ideas through August 31, 2015. The resolutions do not need to be perfectly formatted but rather only filled with passionate ideas to advocate for kids and SOMSRFT issues. If you have an idea and would like to see it come to fruition, and potentially prioritized as a top issue by the AAP, you need only to reach out to your RTF representative, who happens to be yours truly, Angela Sandell, asandell@buffalo.edu.

I am looking forward to working with you as your District Coordinator and RTF representative to collaborate to support the patients for whom we care. Together, we can extend this support outside of the clinic to make a wide-reaching impact.

Angela Sandell
ADVOCACY

B’N FIT
The Children's Hospital at Montefiore is pioneering weight-loss initiatives free to the local teen community. Below is a brief summary of B’N FIT, a clinic group designed by Adolescent Medicine attending Dr. Rieder, MD that entices teens to sign up for monthly clinic reviews on diet, nutrition, and weight loss with clinician guidance as well as an after school program that gets teens involved in sports and activities. This initiative is a great example of this year's AAP Campaign to FACE poverty as it is a free weight loss program for teens in our community and serves as a great model to be replicated at other facilities!

"The Division of Adolescent Medicine at The Children's Hospital at Montefiore and the Moshulu Montefiore Community Center have developed the Bronx Nutrition and Fitness Initiative for Teens (B’N Fit) Program to comprehensively address the issue of adolescent obesity.

Teens have fun meeting new friends, playing a variety of games and sports, trying new foods, going on trips, while family members engage in programming that promote active and healthy lifestyles.

Please also visit the BnFit Lifestyle Learning Center to learn about healthy living tips for the entire family. All activities are under the supervision of caring and dedicated professionals who are committed to working with teens."

http://www.cham.org/programs/bnfit

Gabriella Polyak, MD

CALL FOR ARTICLES IN PEDIATRICS!

Pediatrics has offered the AAP Section On Medical Students, Residents, and Fellowship Trainees (SOMSFRT) the opportunity to publish a column in the Pediatrics “Monthly Feature” section

Topics

Doing less: There are times in medicine when doing less is better for patients. This may be at the end of life, or this may be evident in everyday illnesses. However, there is always an impetus to do more, to help by acting. Are we able to do less when the situation calls for it? What is our role as residents? What if we are comfortable, but our attendings push for unnecessary tests and interventions?

Cultural Competence: Each of us has a culture that we carry with us. The same is true for our patients and their families. What happens when these cultures clash? Can we work past differing cultural norms to reach our final goals? What if these goals are different? How much do we bend? How do we bridge the divide?

Safety and errors in medicine: Errors, large and small, are made on a daily basis in medicine. How do these errors affect families? How do they affect trainees? How do we deal with these mistakes as trainees? care teams? a profession? What if an error is very large? What if it is very small?

Submission Guidelines:

- 3 articles selected annually to be published in Pediatrics
- “Runners Up” will be considered for alternative SOMSRFT publications
- Word Limit: 1,200 words
- Reference Limit: 10 references
- First author must be a resident, fellow, or medical student
- Submit to: SOMSRFTPediatics@aap.org
AAP President Elect Candidates

Fernando Stein, MD, FAAP

*How will you as President help the Academy to provide tools to chapters and local members to promote community investment in children?*

The formation of imaginative partnerships with commerce, industry, foundations and non-governmental organizations can be fostered and facilitated by the AAP. Individual members and Chapters should be able to partner with the national structure of the AAP to achieve this goal. A variety of services exist within the AAP that are available but not currently easily accessible to the members and Chapters. Promotion of investment in children begins with the illustration of their needs and the eventual embracing of them by their community. Pediatricians have traditionally been the advocates for children and have the logical opportunity to speak to the needs of children. It is one of my central agenda items to facilitate leadership training and access to Academy services for all members.

The Academy has a Chapter Relations Division in place. I will make better known the skills available in the AAP Staff to help Chapters solve various problems. The AAP should establish a formalized consulting service that is widely publicized and readily accessible to the individual members and chapters. An effective method to support “Best Practices in Chapter Management Concepts” will be to make this service robust in its charge and responsibilities. For the AAP to adequately represent the reality of its membership, it must gather information about members’ needs, attitudes and opinions. I will work to better manage and strategically utilize the AAP’s data and data systems so that current, reliable, and easily accessible information can be leveraged on pediatricians’ behalf.

Lynda Young, MD, FAAP

*How will you as President help the Academy to provide tools to chapters and local members to promote community investment in children?*

First, the unified voice of many is louder than many single voices. Building membership in our chapters increases the impact of the voice of advocacy for children. As President, I would encourage efforts to increase our membership at the local level, particularly through the use of social media and other electronic outlets. Secondly, many physicians and chapters are committed to advocacy but may not know where to begin. We need to make available the “playbooks” on relevant initiatives, like immunization, gun control, health coverage. Such playbooks can detail who to call, how to build collaboration, what the resources are - along with fact sheets and talking points. Thirdly, we need to implement a mechanism to share success stories. I propose that our Academy develop its own version of “Pinterest”. Pinterest is a free website, widely used for people to share ideas. Our members could post stories of successful promotion of investment in children on such an Academy website – for example, a post “Our Chapter was successful in getting legislation restricting access to tobacco products for children and here’s how we did it.” In this way, best practices across the country can be shared for our members to adopt and adapt for their own localities. The use of social media like this creates the opportunity to learn from others, as well as to engage and energize our members.
National Updates

Disaster Preparedness Survey
Since disaster preparedness training is not standardized in residency, we are evaluating resident’s disaster preparedness training, as well as comfort level related to taking care of children during times of disasters. Please take a few minutes to complete the survey. Your 5 minutes of time will greatly help to collect the most accurate data on residents and disaster preparedness. Please email me with any questions – Shana Godfred-Cato, DO.

Adolescent Immunization Courses
The AAP has developed 2 online courses on adolescent immunizations to help you improve rates in your practice:

- adolescent immunizations: Office Strategies - This course provides strategies that pediatric offices can use to optimize their adolescent immunization efforts and improve their adolescent immunization rates.
- Adolescent Immunizations: Strongly Recommending the HPV Vaccine - This course will discuss strategies for strongly recommending the HPV vaccine and will offer information to help pediatricians address their patients’ concerns about the vaccine.
- To access these courses, please visit: http://pedialink.aap.org/visitor and click the Continuing Education tab.
- The American Academy of Pediatrics has developed an Adolescent Immunization Flip Chart to help pediatricians hold productive conversations with parents about vaccines due during adolescence. If you would like to receive one for use in your office, please complete the survey at: https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/HJ89322.

Ready, Set, ADVOCATE - Who’s speaking up for children?
Inaugural and state of the state addresses offer a quick look at governors’ top line priorities and are a great way for your chapter to identify shared interests, make a connection, and offer your expertise. The AAP Division of State Government Affairs has been listening in to what governors are saying, and we’re keeping track of some things you’ll want to know in our Who’s speaking up for children? resource. So take a look, make a connection, and contact your governor! Kids are counting on you.

Materials on Early Childhood Development
The CDC Learn the Signs, Act Early program provides free resources and materials for pediatric clinicians to distribute to patients or include in waiting areas, including milestone checklists, brochures and flyers. These materials are also available in Spanish.

Developmental Screening in Practice
Are you interested in using standardized developmental screening tools to improve screening for developmental delays in your practice? Check out the Birth to 5: Watch Me Thrive! guide for primary care providers, which includes information about healthy development, developmental concerns, how to select an appropriate screening tool, where to go for help, how to talk to families, and tips on how to best support children.
UPCOMING EVENTS & RESOURCES

2015 AAP National Conference & Exhibition
More information to come. Please visit the website below for registration and more information.
http://www.aapexperience.org/

Useful Links and Webpages

BRAVE Hotline – Bullying hotline
212-709-3222
http://www.uft.org/our-rights/brave

NYS AAP: http://nysaap.org/
SOMSRFT: http://www2.aap.org/sections/ypn/r/
SOMSFRT Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/AAPSOMSRFT
SOMSFRT Twitter: https://twitter.com/AAPSOMSRFT

Pediatric Job Listings: FREE! www.pedjobs.org

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NEWSLETTER: If you have anything you would like to share in the next AAP District newsletter please contact:

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