Medical Students, Residents, and Fellowship Trainees:

Since our last update, we have again witnessed an all too familiar tragic scene—young lives lost to gun violence. As a nation we watched and mourned with those in Isla Vista, California and Seattle, Washington as friends and families remembered the lives of those lost in public displays of violence. Our thoughts are with those impacted in these areas.

As pediatricians we understand the public health impact of gun violence, and see the devastating effects of firearm injury firsthand in the form of suicides and homicides, and by treating those exposed to gun violence at school, in the community, or at home. We recognize that according to the CDC over 7 young people each day die as a result of firearm injury. It is with this humbling statistic in mind that our thoughts also remain with the children and families impacted by gun violence or firearm injury every day in our own communities.

With these recent events and as the official start of summer nears, we are reminded of the important role pediatricians play to prevent firearm injury through counseling and education. In this update, we focus on the Asking Saves Kids (ASK) campaign, an important program that can help prevent tragic unintentional injury due to firearms.

**June 21 is ASK Day: ASKING SAVES KIDS (ASK)**

In America, one out of three homes with children has a gun, and nearly 1.7 million children live in a home with a loaded, unlocked gun. Every year thousands of kids are killed and injured as a result.

The ASK (Asking Saves Kids) Campaign, a partnership of the AAP and the Brady Center to Prevent Gun Violence, promotes a simple idea with the potential to help keep kids safe. It encourages parents to ASK if there are unlocked guns in the homes where their children play—just as they discuss other safety issues.

Parents ask all sorts of questions before their children visit other homes. They ask about pets in the house, discuss allergies and Internet access, and ask questions about supervision. ASK encourages parents to add one more question to this conversation: “Is there an unlocked gun in your house?” It’s a simple question, but it has the power to save a child’s life.

Every parent cares about the safety of their children. ASK allows parents to play an active role in keeping kids safe. Any parent can make a difference by ASKing and encouraging others to do the same.

ASK Day occurs on June 21 each year to mark the beginning of summer and to raise awareness of the importance of ASKing. Members are urged to join the ASK Day effort this year, and to
spread the word in their communities. A tool kit featuring videos, posters, infographics, a pledge, and more can be found at [http://askingsaveskids.org/get-involved](http://askingsaveskids.org/get-involved).

For more than a decade, the ASK Campaign has partnered with more than 400 grassroots organizations to spread its message in neighborhoods nationwide. The campaign has successfully inspired 19 million households to ask if there are guns where their children play.

To find out more about ASK Day and to engage in social media around this event, follow @AAPSOMSRFT on Twitter and the AAP on Twitter @AmerAcadPeds and Facebook, use the hashtag #ASKingSavesKids when sharing messages.

As a pediatricians in training, advocate for firearm injury prevention by making ASK part of your clinic visits and encourage those around you to do the same, encourage them to take the pledge to ASK. Other ways to get involved include spreading the word by or hanging signs about his important program and/or having an ASK booth with information at your program, local school, or health fair.

For more ideas and information about ASK Day or the year-round ASK Campaign, contact Gina Steiner, Director, Division of Public Information, at gsteiner@aap.org or PAVE Tri-chair Lisa Costello at costello.lisa@gmail.com.

**ADVOCATE FOR FIREARM VIOLENCE PREVENTION IN MINUTES**

For the June edition of **ADVOCATE FOR FIREARM VIOLENCE PREVENTION IN MINUTES**, we ask you to take part in the **Asking Saves Kids (ASK) Campaign**:

1. Review the Asking Saves Kids toolkit: [http://askingsaveskids.org/sites/default/files/ASK-Toolkit_0.pdf](http://askingsaveskids.org/sites/default/files/ASK-Toolkit_0.pdf). This resource from the ASK campaign contains numerous pre-crafted messages for social media, posters, infographics, and more.

2. Use one aspect of the tool kit to encourage ASKing in your community and subsequent advocacy for firearm injury prevention. For example, you could encourage those in your program to take the pledge to ASK, hang posters in clinic, share an infographic via email or social media, or share the video with a family. Whatever you choose will help keep a child safe, and prove it only take a few minutes to be an advocate for kids.

Please write to us (Christian.pulcini@gmail.com) so we can highlight your efforts in the next advocacy email, or if you have any questions and/or suggestions! Thank you for all that you do for kids!

**PAVE PROJECT SPOTLIGHT**

The success of any advocacy campaign comes from grassroots support and efforts. The work happening in clinics, communities, residency programs, and medical schools across the country is impressive and appreciated. We want to know what is going on at your school and program! In an effort to share ideas, we will be placing the “spotlight” on a different project each month.
June’s spotlight comes to us from Naiomi Cohen, M.D., 2nd year Pediatric Resident at Miami Children’s Hospital who also serves as the AAP SOMSRFT District X Advocacy Director.

Here at Miami Children’s we have been working hard on determining what we would like to accomplish with the PAVE Advocacy Project. We have already presented in front of the residency program and sent out e-mails regarding the PAVE Advocacy project and have encouraged incorporating questioning and educating about guns and gun violence during well child visits. We have decided we are wanting to focus on 4 areas thus we created 4 committees. Each committee consists of 2-3 residents who will be working hard to accomplish the respective goals prior to AAP NCE in October 2014. We are in the preparation phase and starting to get all of the material developed and ready for release by our goal dates. Our goal is to begin implementing everything this summer. This way we can involve our new incoming PGY-1 class and we can reach out to parents/students prior to them beginning the school year at their orientations. The committees will be working together as there are goals that overlap and can combine resources to reach out to a larger audience.

The committees and goals are listed below.

1. Community Pediatricians Outreach Committee
   a. Create guidelines for local pediatricians on addressing guns and gun safety.
   b. Create pamphlet to be given out to families during well child visits.
   c. Send information out to local pediatricians in both electronic and hard copies.

2. Local Law Enforcement and Gunlocks Committee
   a. Contact local law enforcement about guns, gun safety, gunlocks.
   b. Coordinate with other committees to include law enforcement in the lectures/activities regarding gun violence/prevention.

3. School Outreach Committee
   a. Create presentation to deliver to parents/children during school orientation.
   b. Give lecture to 3 local schools (1 elementary, 1 middle, 1 high).
   c. Coordinate with law enforcement committee to involve them in lecture.

4. Resident Education and Cerner Committee
   a. Incorporate guns and gun safety into our well child visit templates on our EMR.
   b. Incorporate guns and gun safety information into our hospital-wide newsletter that goes out to all employees.
   c. Give lecture and information packets to residents regarding PAVE, guns and gun safety and how to approach the issue during well child visits.
   d. Create gun information/gun safety day at Miami Children's which will include a booth display with information pamphlets available to families coming in and out of the facility and residents to answer any questions people may have.
Good luck to everyone working hard on the PAVE advocacy project. Let’s keep working together to get this important information out there!

**SOCIAL MEDIA ADVOCACY FOR FIREARM INJURY PREVENTION**

Use social media for advocacy by engaging with the AAP SOMSRFT on [Twitter](https://twitter.com) and [Facebook](https://facebook.com). We continue to remember and honor those affected by gun violence, and raise awareness about the public health issue of firearm injury in social media.

We need your help: follow us, like us, tweet or post what is happening at your programs, and retweet or repost our social media advocacy efforts. Follow and use #PAVE #KeepKidsSafe #PutKids1st in messages about firearm injury. To raise awareness that approximately seven young people die each day from gun violence, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, change your profile pic to the [PAVE logo](https://www.paveproject.org) on the 7th of each month.

**POETRY FOR PREVENTION**

We will continue to feature a poetry piece in each of our monthly PAVE advocacy updates, share pieces on SOMSRFT’s social media accounts, and among other platforms showcase submissions our website.

We are accepting submissions for poems written by you, pediatricians in training. The poem must have a firearm injury or gun violence prevention focus, but is otherwise open to your own creativity. Feel free to submit a poem in any format and creativity is encouraged: free verse, haiku, limerick (appropriate for pediatric advocate audiences of course), sonnet, etc. **Please send your entries to PAVE Tri-Chair, Lisa Costello at costello.lisa@gmail.com**

**June Poetry for Prevention:**

The official start of summer is near
An important time to ensure prevention strategies are clear

To keep children safe parents need to ask many questions
As pediatricians we provide suggestions

Is there exposure to food allergies at camp?
Will you always ensure there is a helmet on my bike champ?

Do you keep a fence around your pool?
Will you encourage breaks from the heat to help keep the kids cool?

Do all the poisons have tight lids?
There is another question that really saves kids
The first day of summer, June 21st is ASK day
Now, more than ever we must encourage parents to say

Is there an unlocked gun where my child goes to play?
These question need to be asked, regardless of length of stay

ASKing can truly save lives of those we care for
use this opportunity to advocate even more

WHAT WE’RE READING, TWEETING, & WATCHING
- An article in the Daily Beast referencing SOMSRFT’s PAVE project and quoting pediatricians on the importance of gun violence and firearm injury prevention
- A Letter to the Editor published in the Miami Herald by Tamara Gayle, MD: “Keep children safe from gun violence”
- New York Times Taking Note editorial page piece “Keep Handguns Away From Teenagers.”
- Akshar Patel (@uKsherRaymond) 5/22/14, 3:29 AM Gun safety research can save lives, reduce injuries & change behavior. Pediatricians call on Congress to fund $10 million for @CDCgov #PAVE
- Aimee Grace (@DrAimeeGrace) 5/27/14, 1:49 PM Thank you @RepMaloney & @MarkeyMemo for your dedication to keeping children & families safe from gun violence: 1.usa.gov/1gxLquV #PAVE
- Susan Kressly (@kiddrsue) 5/31/14, 9:59 AM 72+ school shootings since Sandy Hook. What are YOU doing to help kids grow up safely? Follow our young leaders #PAVE #AAPLeads #putkids1st
- ASK campaign video encouraging parents to ASK if there is an unlocked gun where children play.

Whether we witness the devastating effects of gun violence unfold on our TV, computer, or mobile device screens, or in our clinics and communities, pediatricians see the toll firearm injury has on our patients and their families. We remain undeterred in our efforts to keep children safe; together, we remain Pediatricians Against Violence Everywhere.

#Forkids

Pediatricians Against Violence Everywhere Advocacy Team

Thanks:
Thank you Gina Steiner, Director of Public Information for the AAP, for your assistance with ASK campaign information.

Thank you Dr. Naiomi Cohen for the update of the awesome work happening at Miami Children’s Hos