Greetings from Chicago! In this report I shall review the work of the Executive Committee, our membership recruitment efforts, the 2004 National Convention and Exhibition (NCE), the work of the Surgery Advisory Panel in San Francisco, brief comments about our Section Executive Committee meeting at the ASPO meeting in Las Vegas last month, and give a brief overview of the 2005 NCE in Washington, D.C. in October.

Membership Recruitment
The Section is publicizing the post-residency training fellow (PRTF) category of membership in the Section. The Section will pay the $58.00 dues per year for fellows during training in an effort to demonstrate the value of belonging to the AAP for young pediatric otolaryngologists. Additionally, the Section hosted the poster reception at ASPO in Las Vegas over Memorial Day weekend. We appreciate the support of Alcon for this event. We had an AAP display at the reception with Section members in attendance. We explained the two categories of membership in the AAP for pediatric otolaryngologists: post PRTF and regular AAP Specialty Fellow Section membership. Currently, 79% of the ASPO membership belongs to the Section of Otolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery of the AAP. As I have stated previously, I believe that membership in the American Academy of Pediatrics is vital for all pediatric otolaryngologists. The AAP represents 61,000+ healthcare professionals and speaks with the strongest voice on issues related to the healthcare of children. The AAP maintains full-time lobbyists in Washington, D.C. Additionally, the AAP lobbies with individual states on behalf of state issues relating to the health and welfare of children. In my tenure in our Section, I have seen a tremendous increase in AAP recognition of and support for all surgical subspecialties, including pediatric otolaryngology. As an example of the AAP working for children in Illinois, the AAP joined in a federal suit brought by Medicaid recipients who sued the state on the basis of unfair discrimination by the State of Illinois in the administration of Medicaid. The federal district court held that the state of Illinois failed to ensure that all eligible children in Cook county, Illinois, have access to pediatric care and services to the extent that such care is available to the general population with private or public health insurance. This case is one example of how the AAP advocates for the healthcare of children. (To review the case, visit http://www.illinoisaap.org/Memisovski.htm).

Annual Leadership Forum
Last August the AAP held its first Annual Leadership Forum (ALF) in Chicago. During the three days, Michael Cunningham, Chair of the Surgery Advisory Panel and past Chair of our Section, Bruce Maddern, our Chair-Elect, and I attended this meeting. The purpose of this meeting was to bring the two primary constituencies within the AAP together in the same venue at the same time so that they could learn about and talk to each other. One constituency is the Sections and Committees of which our Section is a member. Separate from the Committees and Sections are the Chapters, primarily composed of general pediatricians grouped by state. The leadership of the AAP sensed that there was a “disconnect” between these two groups and hoped that this inaugural ALF would help the two constituencies to understand each other’s issues and learn how they could work together for the benefit of the health and welfare of children. Michael, Bruce, and I did not know what to expect from this three day event. Speaking for the three of us, we learned a great deal about how the AAP works. We had the opportunity to interact with Chapters and to attend a variety of panels and discussions at which the two groups came to understand and appreciate each other. It was an educational weekend. I look forward to the next ALF, August 12, 13, & 14, 2005.

As you can see, our Section has been very active. I shall report again after the annual leadership forum in August and include more about the Executive Committee Meeting held in Las Vegas at the end of ASPO. It was great to see so many of you in Las Vegas and look forward to meeting again in Washington, D.C. for the NCE, October 8-11.
The National Conference & Exhibition (NCE) held in San Francisco October 8-13, 2004, was very successful for the Section. As usual, our Section presented two types of programs: the H program for Section members and a program for general pediatricians. Seth Pransky did an outstanding job of setting up the program.

The following programs were presented:

**Section H Program for Section Members**

Obstructive Sleep Apnea: When Do I Worry, How Do I Assess and What Should Be Done. Moderator: Anna Messner, MD

The Pediatric Otolaryngologist and the Snoring Child
Kristina Rosbe, MD, FAAP

The Sleep Physician and Non-Surgical Management of the Pediatric OSA Patient
Raphael Pelayo, MD

Obesity Issues in the Pediatric OSA Patient
Lawrence D. Hammer, MD, FAAP

Pediatric Anesthesiology: Pre-op Assessment and Post-operative Management of the Pediatric OSA Patient
Brock Fisher, MD

Pediatric Plastic Surgery: Zone Management of Pediatric OSA
Fernando Burstein, MD, FAAP

Pediatric Otolaryngology: The Pediatric OSA Patient with Chronic Airway Obstruction: Management Beyond T & A
David Darrow, MD, DDS, FAAP

Panel Discussion & Questions
Anna Messner, MD

**Programs for the General Pediatrician**

Potpourri of Common ENT Problems that Confuse and Confound
Anna Messner, MD and Kristina Rosbe, MD

Otitis Media: Sharpening Your Clinical Skills
Linda Carlson, MS, CPNP and Andrew Otolting, MD

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**New Members**

As mentioned earlier, our Recruitment efforts continue, we are happy to welcome the following new members to the Section:

**Specialty Fellows:**

- Khahid Al-Mazrou, MD, FAAP
- Eric Baum, MD, FAAP
- MAJ. Mark Boston, MD, FAAP
- Paolo Campisi, MD, FAAP
- Daniel Choo, MD, FAAP
- Christopher Hartnick, MD, FAAP
- David Kay, MD, FAAP
- ADM. David Mandell, MD, FAAP
- Saswata Roy, MD, FAAP
- Sara Scheid, MD, FAAP
- Steven Sobol, MD, FAAP
- P. Ashley Wackym, MD, FAAP
- Julie Wei, MD, FAAP
- Carlton Zdanski, MD, FAAP
- Shane Zim, MD, FAAP

**Post Residency Training Fellows:**

- John Germiller, MD, PhD
- Steven Goudy, MD
- Romaine Johnson, MD
- Richard Schmidt, MD
- Mark Smith
- Debra Weinberger, MD, MD

**Surgical Advisory Panel Update**

In May, the Surgery Advisory Panel (SAP) met with a division of membership, the Executive Director of the AAP, the Chief Financial Officer of the AAP, and the AAP Board Member responsible for oversight of membership. The SAP continues to move forward in a variety of areas. Most importantly for our Section, and all surgical sections, is that the SAP met with the membership division of the AAP and discussed membership. Key issues discussed at that meeting are the combined costs of membership and attending the NCE. The result of the meeting is that all participants want better value for the dues paid and want the membership of the Sections to understand how the dues are utilized. This work is another example of how the AAP is listening to our concerns as surgeons.

As you may know, Michael Cunningham is resigning in August as Chair of the SAP. Michael has recently been appointed as Director of the Residency at the Massachusetts Eye-Ear Infirmary. Additionally, he is the President-Elect of ASPO. On top of these tasks, he is the father of an infant son and feels that he is overextended. His leadership both of the Section and SAP have been exceptional. He believes that he is over committed and overextended and feels he would not be able to continue to serve the AAP as he has in the past. I thank him on behalf of the Section for all that he has done for us. The SAP will elect a new Chair by the fall.
David Darrow is the Program Chair for the 2005 NCE in Washington, D.C. Again, the program has two components: one for Section members and one for general pediatricians.

**Section H Program for Section Members:**

**Sunday, October 9th**

8:00 am - 12:00 pm
Management Strategies for Children with Craniofacial Disorders

8:00 - 8:10
Introduction and Overview
David Darrow, MD, DDS 2005 NCE Program Chairperson

8:10 - 8:40
Treatment Options for the Micrognathic Child
Sherard A. Tatum, MD

8:40 - 9:10
Challenges in Feeding the Child with Cleft Palate and Other Craniofacial Disorders
Joan C. Arvedson, PhD

9:10 - 9:40
Management of Velopharyngeal Insufficiency - Sphincter, Flap, or Furlow?
Craig W. Senders, MD

9:40 - 10:10
Amplification options for the Craniofacial Patient with Hearing Loss
John K. Niparko, MD

10:10 - 10:20 Q & A

10:30 - 11:30 Point/Counterpoint - Management Strategies for the Microtic Ear

Prosthetic Management of Microtia
Robert R. Barron

Reconstructive Surgery for Microtia
Roland D. Eavey, MD

11:30 - 11:40 Q & A

11:40 - 12:00
Panel Discussion - Pediatric Otolaryngologists as Craniofacial Surgeons: Obstacles and Solutions
David D. Darrow, MD, D.D.S, Moderator
Craig W. Senders, MD
Sherard A. Tatum, MD

**Section Program for the General Pediatrician**

**Saturday, October 8th**

10:00 am - 12:00 pm
Differential Diagnosis of ENT Disorders: YOU Make the Call (Audience Response Case Discussion)
Ellen S. Deutsch, MD; Bruce R. Maddern, MD

**Monday, October 10th**

1:30 pm - 3:30 pm and 4:00 pm - 6:00 pm
The Runny, Stuffy Nose: Allergy, Adenoid, or just Anatomy? (Seminar)
Joint Program with the Section on Allergy & Immunology
Seth M. Pransky, MD; Michael J. Welch, MD

**Tuesday, October 11th**

6:45 am - 7:45 am
Acute Otitis Media: The New Guidelines
Meet the Expert (breakfast session)
Stephen Pelton, MD

10:00 am - 12:00 pm and 1:30 pm - 3:30 pm
Otoscopy Workshop
Andrew J. Hotaling, MD; Linda Carlson, MS, CPNP

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**AAP 75th Anniversary Silent Auction**

At the 2005 AAP National Conference and Exhibition, Oct. 8-10 in Washington, DC, the Academy will hold a special silent auction in celebration of the Academy’s 75th Anniversary with proceeds benefiting the Friends of Children Fund. Physicians nationwide can donate items such as timeshares, vacation home rentals, quilts and books. Individual AAP members, committees, sections, chapters or group practices can donate items. Minimum suggested donation is $75. Anyone interested in donating an item for the auction should fill out the following form: [http://www.aap.org/75/SilentAuctionDonationForm.pdf](http://www.aap.org/75/SilentAuctionDonationForm.pdf).
Come explore our nation’s capitol and experience the best in pediatric education at the 2005 National Conference & Exhibition!

We are expecting one of our largest conferences ever, so register early to ensure your best selection of sessions and to lock in your hotel reservations.

While the American Academy of Pediatrics’ (AAP) National Conference and Exhibition (NCE) is always an exciting event, this year’s promises to be extra special. Why? Because pediatricians attending the 2005 NCE October 8-11 in Washington, DC, won’t only experience the ultimate in pediatric continuing medical education...they’ll also celebrate the Academy’s 75th Anniversary!

I hope you’ll plan to join us as we gather in our nation’s capital to commemorate our past and prepare for the next 75 years.

Sightseeing in Washington, DC

Welcome to Washington, DC! Explore the unique neighborhoods, visit the famous attractions, and discover the cultural and historical treasures that lie in and around America’s capital city.

The District is not only a government town. Washington, DC is a vibrant urban center filled with trendy shops, fabulous restaurants and endless entertainment. Your choice of world-class attractions has grown even more exciting in the past year with the opening of the National World War II Memorial, the National Museum of the American Indian and the Marian Koshland Science Museum. These new attractions join a lengthy list of “must-sees” in Washington, DC. From historic neighborhoods to national monuments and memorials, take the time to discover Washington, DC.

The Lincoln Memorial is a tribute to President Abraham Lincoln and the nation he fought to preserve during the Civil War (1861-1865). It was built to resemble a Greek temple. It has 36 Doric columns, one for each state at the time of Lincoln’s death. A sculpture by Daniel Chester French of a seated Lincoln is in the center of the memorial chamber.

Inscribed on the south wall of the monument is the Gettysburg Address. Above it is a mural painted by Jules Guerin depicting the angel of truth freeing a slave. Guerin also painted the unity of North and South mural on the north wall. Etched into the north wall below the mural is Lincoln’s second inaugural speech.

Smithsonian Institution

Known as the Castle, the oldest of the fourteen Smithsonian museums in Washington houses the crypt of founder James Smithson, 2 orientation theaters, scale models of Washington’s monumental core, interactive touch-screen program in 6 languages, 2 electronic wall maps, plus multilingual information and assistance. Some of the Smithsonian museums are the Air and Space Museum, American History Museum, American Indian Museum on the Mall, Anacostia Museum, (African American History and Culture), Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden (modern and contemporary art), National Zoo, Natural History Museum, and the Postal Gallery.

Metrorail and Metrobus provide the safest, cleanest and most efficient way of getting around Washington, DC and the metropolitan suburbs. To obtain schedules for connecting Metrobus service, locations of Metro sales offices, and other public transportation information, call the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority at 202/637-7000.
The Academy is offering several opportunities for residents to get involved in federal advocacy work. This fall includes a resident advocacy day, Thursday Sept. 8, as well as two sessions at the 2005 National Conference and Exhibition that will provide opportunities to meet face-to-face with their members of Congress and/or staff.

**Resident Advocacy Day**
The Academy is hosting its annual fall AAP Advocacy Day, Thursday September 8 in Washington, D.C. Registration is now open to any AAP pediatric resident interested in federal advocacy. Advocacy Day is a one-day only training session only for residents. The session provides an up-close look at advocating for children’s issues on Capitol Hill. Participants spend the morning in an interactive briefing with AAP staff discussing legislative priorities, the importance of grassroots involvement, and engaging in role-playing and advocacy skill-building exercises. Participants then take what they learned and put it into practice, with afternoon visits with members of Congress and/or congressional staff.

AAP will provide the information and materials – you provide the pediatrician’s perspective and experience. Past participants have lobbied federal legislators on critical AAP legislative priorities like the Pediatric Rule, Medicaid reform, renewing the assault weapons ban and more. The Academy holds these days free of charge annually in both the fall and spring. Participants are responsible for funding their own travel expenses to Washington, D.C.

To register, contact Taryn Rosenkranz, AAP Department of Federal Affairs, 800-336-5475, ext. 3004 or trosenkranz@aap.org.

**2005 NCE Advocacy Opportunities**
The AAP Committee on Federal Government Affairs will be hosting two sessions for pediatricians interested in learning more about advocacy, including providing an opportunity for pediatricians to go to Capitol Hill during the 2005 National Conference and Exhibition (NCE), Oct. 8-11 in Washington, D.C.

**POLITICAL FOCUS 2005: TAKING CHARGE**
**Sunday, Oct. 9**
10:00 am to noon
Congress makes decisions that affect your patients and your practice. Shouldn’t they make those decisions with your input? Find out what the U.S. Congress is up to on pediatric issues, including Medicaid, and discover all the ways you can get involved. Learn new skills and practical techniques to become a better advocate for children. This session focuses on communicating with your legislator, coalition building and working with the media.

**ADVOCACY IN ACTION ON CAPITOL HILL**
**Tuesday, Oct. 11**
6:45 am to 7:45 am - breakfast briefing
10:00 am to noon - Hill visits
Congress needs to hear from pediatricians! This session is your opportunity to turn AAP advocacy into action by visiting congressional members while you are in Washington, D.C. Participants will attend a breakfast briefing Tuesday, Oct. 11 from 6:45 am to 7:45 am during which you will receive information on a key AAP legislative issue, along with the tools needed to prepare you for meetings later that morning with congressional members and/or their staff. At 10:00 am, participants will be transported to Capitol Hill to conduct their congressional visits. Don’t miss this unique opportunity! Information will be provided to participants who register for this session ahead of time so they will be able to schedule their congressional meetings prior to arriving in Washington, D.C. To maximize the effectiveness of these visits, attendance at the breakfast briefing is required. Ticket required.

Contact the AAP Department of Federal Affairs, 800-336-5475 or kids1st@aap.org, with any questions about these two sessions.
Access to Care: Legislative Outlook

The 109th Congress was convened in January. The Academy named access to care as its top priority for Congress and will be leading the fight to secure access to quality health care coverage for every child and adolescent. The Academy has already endorsed four bills that would expand access for children. Each of the bills would do a number of different things from insuring more children to the creation of a Medicaid commission. Concerned about recent pressure to cut entitlement programs like Medicaid, the Academy feels it is critically important to gain support for legislation that will expand access not hinder it. The Academy is working hard to gain additional attention and support for the bills in the coming months.

“We know that providing access to care for every child can help to prevent obesity, heart disease and diabetes,” said AAP President Carol Berkowitz, MD, FAAP. “This is why we are urging Congress to come together and work in a bipartisan way to help solve these problems.”

The four bills that have been endorsed by the Academy to date are:

- **Kids Come First Act of 2005**
- **Start Healthy, Stay Healthy Act of 2005**
- **Bipartisan Commission on Medicaid and the Medically Underserved Act of 2005**
- **Children’s Express Lane to Health Care Coverage Act of 2005**

**Insuring every child (Kids Come First and MediKids)**

The Academy endorsed the *Kids Come First* (S. 114) bill, introduced by Sen. John Kerry (D-MA) for the first time in January, which would expand access to quality care for every child under age 21. The bill differs from the Academy’s MediKids proposal because it would still remain an option for the states to choose while MediKids is a guarantee. The Academy has endorsed the *Kids Come First* bill and will continue to support the MediKids bill when it is introduced. The two bills complement each other and are not competing against each other. At press time, the MediKids bill was still being drafted. Look to future AAP News editions for further updates.

The *Kids Come First* bill was introduced to get states to expand Medicaid coverage for children, get parents to share in the responsibility of covering their children and eliminate enrollment barriers that prevent eligible children from signing up. In this bill, the federal government pays for all Medicaid outreach and coverage costs for children younger than age 21 with incomes at or below poverty level. In exchange, the states agree to pay for its share of a State Children’s Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) or Medicaid coverage expansion to children younger than age 21 whose incomes are under 300 percent of the poverty level. Lastly, the bill requires parents to insure all children younger than age 19 and requires proof of their coverage to avoid forfeiting their federal child tax exemption.

**Start Healthy, Stay Healthy**

At press time, the bill was awaiting introduction by Sen. Jeff Bingaman (D-NM) and Richard Lugar (R-IN). This bipartisan legislation would significantly reduce the number of uninsured pregnant women and newborns by expanding coverage to pregnant women through the Medicaid and SCHIP programs. The bill would provide states the option to further extend coverage to continuously enroll newborns from birth through the first full year of life.

**Medicaid Commission**

Sen. Gordon Smith (R-OR) and Sen. Jeff Bingaman (D-NM) introduced a bill calling for the creation of a Bipartisan Commission on Medicaid and the Medically Underserved (S. 338/H.R. 985). A companion House bill was introduced by Rep. Heather Wilson (R-NM). Sens. Smith and Bingaman believe that the Medicaid program should undergo a comprehensive and thorough review of what is and is not working and how to improve service delivery and quality in the most cost-effective way possible. A similar review was conducted on Medicare, after it was called for in the Balanced Budget Act of 1997. Many senators have signed on to cosponsor the legislation in response to the president’s budget proposal inclusion of $60 billion in Medicaid cuts. Those who have signed on stated that before any cuts are made to Medicaid, a thorough review of the program should be conducted.

**Children’s Express Lane**

At press time, this bill was awaiting introduction by Sens. Bingaman and Lugar and would give states greater flexibility in the ways they can enroll uninsured children into Medicaid and SCHIP programs, while at the same time increasing government efficiency. The bill would give states the option of establishing that their Medicaid or SCHIP financial eligibility rules are satisfied when a family presents proof that their child is already enrolled in another public program with comparable income guidelines.

Efforts to expand access to care will continue throughout the congressional session. The Academy plans to support other access bills such as the Family Opportunity Act, which would expand Medicaid coverage to families with children with special health care needs and MediKids, the Academy’s proposal to insure every child.

AAP members should look to AAP News, the Federal Advocacy Action Network (FAAN)’s email action alerts and the AAP Member Center (www.aap.org/moc, click on Federal Affairs) for legislative updates throughout the second session for information on when pediatricians should take action. For more information on AAP efforts to provide greater access to care, the AAP Department of Federal Affairs, (800) 336-5475, ext. 3001.
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