News from the Chair
COL Beth Ellen Davis, MD, MPH, FAAP

1959-2009
Happy 50th, Section on Uniformed Services!

What better way to celebrate the 50 year long legacy of the Section than at USPS? The annual Uniformed Services CME is a chance to share cutting edge knowledge in pediatrics, excellent scholarly activities, military unique aspects of patient care and professional duty, triservice networking and FUN with old friends.

Our colleagues from Wright Patterson Air Force Base delivered the goods! Lt Col Rick and his planning committee worked tirelessly for the last 2 years to provide a top notch program from 8-11 March 2009 with exceptional learning topics, hands on workshop venues, and a gala in the War Museum in Indianapolis IN. We are so appreciative of their time, energy and expertise: Thank you!

See inside this edition of the SOUS Newsletter for details of the USPS awards, research competitions, and activities.

The initial copies of the Section’s 50th Anniversary Yearbook were handed out to USPS participants and ALL Section members will be receiving a copy with this newsletter. On behalf of the Section, our sincere gratitude is extended to COL (ret.) John Pierce, who left no stone unturned in his quest to “tell the story” of the Section on Uniformed Services.

Not everyone can attend USPS (though they should!). As your Section Chair for a few more months, it is my desire to support each and every member of the Section, and not only those present at the annual meeting. I want to share with you a few GREAT (FREE) resources that you may not otherwise know about:

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Immediate Past Chairperson Joseph Lopreiato, MD (from left), Chairperson Beth Ellen Davis, MD and Gregory Toussaint, MD.
Section on Uniformed Services
2009-2010 Executive Committee Roster

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News from the Chair

Featured this month on the AAP HOME page is the "Month of the Military Child". This link takes you directly to the Deployment webpage where, as a provider, can get tons of information for parents and for children. From this site you can also order free DVDs for teens dealing with parental deployment, free DVDs for young children and listen (FREE) to the August 2008 PREP-Audio devoted to primary care providers working with families, to name just a few of the deployment related resources available.

If you go to the AAP Pedialink list of Online CME, you can order the Pediatric Leadership Alliance training course (FREE through 30 June 2009). Learn how pediatricians can provide leadership in their field, their community, in their office.

The pediatric dentists and community health coalitions at AAP have worked hard to prepare FREE CME on “Oral Health Risk Assessment Training for Pediatricians”. Clearly, part of every child’s medical home is the ability of his/her primary care provider to say something about their oral health. Go to www.aap.org/oralhealth/cme to access this excellent resource that compliments one of the plenary and workshop sessions we heard at USPS.

Finally, AAP has partnered with Mead Johnson to offer pediatricians and residents an unbelievable resource called Pediatric Care Online: www.pediatriccareonline.org. It is a Point-of-Care Reference gold mine! It includes texts, the complete Bright Futures guidelines, handouts, the Red Book, an interactive preventive care table where you click on the age, and it provides all the guidance currently recommended, research updates that can come on email, news updates, algorithms for difficult diagnoses, and SO much more. FREE trial for 3 months for pediatricians and for 1 year for residents, call 888-363-2362 to get the access card from your local Mead Johnson representative.

This newsletter brings with it a goodbye to our Newsletter Editor, COL David Estroff, who is retiring and heading to Europe as a civilian provider with the Army. I want to express my appreciation to him on behalf of Section, and request a “European Update’ at least once a year for all to read.

COL Beth Ellen Davis, MC, USA
MD MPH FAAP
Chair, SOUS

Dear Uniformed Services Section Members:

Enclosed with this newsletter is a copy of the Section’s Yearbook honoring the 50 Year Anniversary of the Section on Uniformed Services.

Please note that if your envelope does not contain a copy of the Yearbook, you received it on-site at the 2009 USPS in Indianapolis, IN. If you did not receive a Yearbook at the USPS and a copy is not enclosed, please e-mail Lisa Donato at the AAP at ldonato@aap.org and she will mail you a copy. Enjoy!
2009 USPS Scientific Award Competition

The Scientific Awards Competition (SAC) had a successful year under the guidance of Lt Col Mike Rajnik. In early September 2008, applicants began the process with abstract submissions for the different award categories. There were 63 abstracts submitted for the 2009 USPS SAC: 37 US Army, 7 US Navy, 14 US Air Force and 5 not listed. There were 5 Bruton, 5 Margileth, 6 Johnson, 6 Hemming, 35 Geppert Case and 6 Geppert Research submissions. This was the second year we used online submission and scoring.

Chairperson Beth Ellen Davis, MD (left) presents Lt Col Michael Rajnik with a plaque to express gratitude for his service as the Scientific Award Competition Chairperson.

Ogden C. Bruton Award

The Ogden C. Bruton Award, given by the Uniformed Services Section of the American Academy of Pediatrics, is an annual citation and award for the best paper by a Uniformed Services pediatrician on either basic research or applied research on the development, evaluation, or application of an emerging technology in pediatrics.

This award was first presented at West Point, New York in 1969. In 1989, the Uniformed Services Section of the American Academy of Pediatrics provided additional recognition and awards for individuals placing second and third place in this competition.

The award is named in honor of Dr. Ogden C. Bruton, discoverer of the immunodeficiency disease bearing his name and organizer of the first pediatric residency program at Walter Reed Army Medical Center.

This year’s first place winner was Capt Matthew Eberly for “Massive Infection of Memory CD4 T Cells is Associated with Significant Increase in IL-15 Production during Acute Simian Immunodeficiency Virus Infection.”

This award includes a $500 stipend and a plaque.

Lt Col Michael Rajnik (right) presents the Ogden C. Bruton Award to Capt Matthew Eberly (left).
Leo J. Geppert Awards

The Leo J. Geppert Award, given by the Uniformed Services Section of the American Academy of Pediatric, is an annual citation and award for the best case presentation and original research study by a Uniformed Services pediatrician for research in primary pediatric care.

This award was first presented in San Antonio, Texas in March 1997.

The award is named in honor of Dr. Leo J. Geppert for his many contributions to military pediatrics as the first Chief of Pediatrics at Brooke Army Medical Center and Chief of the first Department of Defense Pediatrics Residency Program.

This year’s first place Leo J. Geppert Case Award was Lt Col Lee Williams for “Deletion of One Allele of Chromosome 14q13-14q24 Associated with a Unique Presentation of Brain-Thyroid-Lung Syndrome.”

This year’s first place for Leo J. Geppert Research winner was LCDR Timothy Wilks for “Experience with Comparative Genomic Hybridization: Pediatricians Peering into Pandora’s Box.”

They both received a $200 stipend and a plaque.

For more information or to join the section . . . visit our website at: www.aap.org/sections/uniformedservices
Val G. Hemming Award

The Val G. Hemming Award, given by the Uniformed Services Section of the American Academy of Pediatric, is an annual citation and award for the best paper by a Uniformed Services medical student.

This award was first presented in Washington, DC in 2003.

The award is named in honor of Dr. Val G. Hemming whose devotion to medical education as Chairman of Pediatrics at Uniformed Services University of Health Sciences is legendary.

This year’s first place winner was 2Lt Daniel E. Hatz for “The Incidence of Spondylolysis and Spondylolysis in Children with Osteogenesis Imperfecta.”

This award includes a $200 stipend and a plaque.

Dr. Val G. Hemming (left) presents the Val G. Hemming Award to 2Lt Daniel E. Hatz (right).

Howard H. Johnson Jr. Award

The Howard H. Johnson, Jr. Award, given by the Uniformed Services Section of the American Academy of Pediatrics, is an annual citation and award for the best research paper on a pediatric topic by a Uniformed Services house officer.

Recognizing that the competitive nature of the other Uniformed Services Section research awards limited participation by house officers, the Executive Committee of the Uniformed Services Section established this award. It was designed to foster house officer research and was first given in San Francisco in March 1983. In 1989, the Uniformed Services Section of the American Academy of Pediatrics provided additional recognition and awards for individuals placing second and third in this competition.

The award is named in honor of Howard H. Johnson, Jr., whose devotion to house officer education as Chairman of Pediatrics at Wilford Hall USAF Medical Center is legendary.

This year’s first place winner was LT Melissa A. Buryk for “Efficacy of Neonatal Release of Ankyloglossia.”

This award includes a $500 stipend and a plaque.
Andrew M. Margileth Award

The Andrew M. Margileth Award, given by the Uniformed Services Section of the American Academy of Pediatrics, is an annual citation and award for the best paper by a Uniformed Services pediatrician for research in a clinical area.

This award was first presented in El Paso, Texas in March 1977. In 1988, the Uniformed Services Section of the American Academy of Pediatrics provided additional recognition and awards for individuals placing second and third place in this competition.

The award is named in honor of Dr. Andrew M. Margileth for his many outstanding contributions to military pediatrics, both during his active military career and as a faculty member of the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences School of Medicine.

This year’s first place winner was Captain Cade McCoy-Nylund for “Bacterial Enteritis as a Risk Factor for Childhood Intussusceptions, a Retrospective Cohort Study.”

This award includes a $500 stipend and a plaque.

2009 Scientific Award Competition

The Scientific Award Committee of the Uniformed Services would like to make the preliminary announcement of the 2010 Scientific Award Competition. This competition will take place at the 44th Annual Uniformed Services Pediatric Seminar in San Diego, CA from 7-10 March 2010. A full announcement of the competitions and instructions for abstract submission will be available this summer on the USPS website www.aap.org/sections/uniformedservices/usps.htm. The anticipated abstract deadline is 14 September 2010. Any questions pertaining to the competition may be directed to this year’s SAC Chairperson Greg Gorman, MD, FAAP at: gregory.gorman@ymail.com.

(from left) Drs. Edward N. Bailey, Board Member District 1, Errol R. Alden, AAP CEO and Mary P. Brown, Board Member District 8 attend the 2009 USPS.
Dave Berry Award

Established in 2001, the Dave Berry award recognizes an individual who:
• sets high standards for excellence in the practice of pediatrics
• holds significant promise for a career in military medical education
• is a caring, compassionate physician who serves as a role model for parent interactions
• leads a balanced life that acknowledges the many facets of a whole self: career, family, friends, community, spirituality, and physical health

This year’s winner was LCDR Michael E. Epperly, MD, FAAP.

Outstanding Service Award

Special recognition in rotation among the US Army, Navy and Air Force is awarded annually to a present or former Uniformed Services Pediatrician for outstanding life-time services to the military and pediatrics. Criteria for selection of the OSA are as follows: pediatric leadership, contribution to Army, Navy or Air Force medicine, Contribution to Uniformed Services Section and/or Military Chapter of the AAP, a career of Scholarly Achievement.

The potential recipients are nominated and selected by the Executive Committee, in conjunction with the pediatric specialty advisors to the Surgeons General. A list of potential candidates is developed and narrowed down to a nominee that is approved by vote by the award subcommittee and the Section of Uniformed Services Executive Committee.

This year’s winner was CAPT (ret) Norman Waecker, Jr., MD, MPH, FAAP.
The intent of the Bass Visiting Professorship, established and sponsored by the USUHS Department of Pediatrics, is to carry forward and honor the vision of Dr. Bass through advancing military pediatric education and fostering collaboration among pediatric healthcare providers. As a master clinician, superb educator, revered scholar, retired Army colonel, and the first Pediatric Department Chair at USUHS, Dr. Bass was a pioneer in military pediatrics and pediatric infectious diseases. He is recognized as one of the pillars of pediatric medical education, pediatric research, and the clinical practice of pediatrics and pediatric infectious diseases. His vision and achievements created the very foundation upon which today’s excellence in academics and research continues to flourish.

As a tribute to Dr. Bass and his accomplishments, a distinguished pediatric clinician, scientist, or educator will be invited to one of the Air Force, Army, or Navy pediatric training sites annually as a Visiting Professor. The host site will rotate among the pediatric training programs in all three military services to foster its proliferation as the premier tribute to a legend in military pediatrics and academic medicine.

The distinguished professor with expertise in a field of pediatrics will possess a senior academic rank of Professor or Associate Professor, preferably a senior military rank (active, reserve, or retired) and will be identified by the host site. Nominees will be submitted in a rank order of preference from the host site to the advisory board, who will forward it for final approval to the Chair, Department of Pediatrics, USUHS. The Advisory Board currently consists of three senior officers (CAPT Norm Waecker, COL Chuck Callahan, and COL Sean Murphy), one from each of the three military medical corps. The Visiting Professor will provide educational forums at the host site to including, but not limited to, pediatric grand rounds, inpatient clinical rounds, and clinical or research seminars for medical students, residents, fellows, and staff physicians.

Following a rigorous review process, the First Annual James W. Bass Visiting Professorship was awarded in September to Dr. Errol R. Alden, Executive Director, American Academy of Pediatrics. Dr. Alden is a retired Army colonel and past Chair, Department of Pediatrics, USUHS. Dr. Alden was the featured speaker at Pediatric Grand Rounds, discussing “The State of Pediatrics in the US: A Growing Field, A Changing Practice.”

Dr. Alden also participated in a research symposium that included presentations from pediatric fellows of the five USUHS pediatric fellowships and an evening dinner-seminar program, which included recognition of the long history of the dedicated and committed medical educators and trainees that were instrumental in developing the quality pediatric training programs that exist today.

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Leslie Ellwood, MD, FAAP, a 1968 graduate of the University of Florida College of Medicine, entered the Navy through the Ensign 1915 and Senior Medical Student Program while in medical school. After graduation, he completed a rotating internship and pediatrics residency at the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, MD. His first assignment was as staff pediatrician, Naval Hospital, Long Beach, CA. While there, he became a Fellow of the American Academy of Pediatrics and volunteered to be the editor of the Military Section Newsletter in 1974, a post he held until 1987.

In 1981, the AAP confirmed the special status of military pediatricians by authorizing the creation of two military Chapters. In 1982, Dr. Ellwood became the secretary treasurer of the new AAP Chapter East. Just prior to his retirement from the Navy in 1987, Dr. Ellwood completed a study of Vietnam casualties that showed that management of at least 80% of war disease casualties were within a pediatrician’s competency.

In civilian life, Dr. Ellwood has been a primary care pediatrician, pediatric department chief, and quality improvement physician for the Mid-Atlantic Permanente Medical Group.

Over the last 18 years, the Leslie Ellwood lecture has been given yearly as the keynote address at the Uniformed Services Pediatric Seminar in honor of CAPT Elwood’s tireless efforts on behalf of uniformed pediatricians and his outstanding work within the American Academy of Pediatrics.

This year's Elwood keynote lecture, "The Pediatrician and Disaster Preparedness", was delivered by Dr. Sarita Chung, FAAP. Dr. Chung is a Pediatrician and Pediatric Emergency Physician and Faculty Member, Division of Emergency Medicine, and the project scientist at the Center for Biopreparedness at Children's Hospital, Boston, MA.

The AAP Section on Uniformed Services would like to thank Mead Johnson Nutrition and Abbott Nutrition for their contribution to the 2009 Uniformed Services Pediatric Seminar (USPS).
Ogden Bruton Lectureship

Established in 1969 to honor Ogden C. Bruton, MD, FAAP, who discovered the immunodeficiency disease bearing his name and organizer of the first pediatric residency program at Walter Reed Army Medical Center. For all those who knew him, “The patient is first, and last, always.” This endowment provides an honorarium of $300.00 and a plaque to a prominent speaker for the Uniformed Services Pediatric Seminar.

This year's Bruton lecture, "Obesity: A Matter of Mind over Matter", was delivered by William Balistreri, MD FAAP. Dr. Balistreri is Medical Director, Pediatric Liver Care Center and Associate Chair for Subspecialty Training, Department of Pediatrics at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center. Dr. Balistreri has been editor of The Journal of Pediatrics since 1995. He is the former editor-in-chief of the Journal of Pediatric Gastroenterology and Nutrition, and co-editor, associate editor, guest editor, reviewer and member of numerous editorial boards of several journals and periodicals. He is co-editor of the prestigious text Liver Disease in Children.

Lt. Col. James R. Rick, MD (left) presents William F. Balistreri, MD (right) with the Ogden Bruton Lectureship.

Have an Issue?

Join the Section on Uniformed Services Listserv by contacting tcoletta@aap.org.

Update your Personal Profile

An important service is available on the AAP Member Center. A Personal Profile has been added to provide you with an opportunity to view your address, demographic, and subspecialty information and update it at your own convenience. Simply enter the changes into the form and our database will be updated the following day. This way, there will be no delay in receiving your member benefits.

The AAP online Member Directory, available through the AAP Member Center at , has recently been improved. The online Directory should be your primary resource to locate colleagues. Quite simply, it has the most accurate, up-to-the-minute contact information available.

With these new changes and enhancements, we believe we can further improve service to members and the public. However, it is also an important time for our members to check their address and demographic information for accuracy. **Please take the time to visit the Member Center and click on “Update my Personal Profile”.** If you prefer to contact us by phone or e-mail, you can call 877/THE-AAP1, or send an e-mail to csc@aap.org.
Army Pediatric Consultant’s Update
by COL Kevin Creamer

It was great to see everybody in Indianapolis. Although it was not Hawaii, Jim Rick, Randy Zernzach and the folks from Wright Patterson put on a phenomenal USPS.

As 2009 proceeds your consultant team of COL Mark Thompson (60P), COL Kevin Creamer (60Q), and LTC Bill Adelman (Adolescent Medicine) is joined by LTC Delores Gries as the Army Neonatology Consultant. We welcome Dee to our leadership circle and look forward to close interactions as we serve our populations.

We continue to be impressed by the work and sacrifice that Army pediatricians are making daily for their patients and the call of duty. The Big Army has shown its appreciation in many ways. We were again afforded extra fellowship training slots at this year’s joint graduate medical education selection board. Extra training opportunities over and above our usual 11 slots were granted in Adolescent medicine, critical care and pulmonology. Our “operational tax” was again reduced allowing us to send fewer Pediatricians into flight surgeon and brigade surgeon slots. This frees up more Pediatricians to do Pediatric care at throughout our strained system. MEDCOM’s adoption of a 6 month deployment policy for physicians assigned to echelons above brigade was a great first step toward 6 month deployments for all. For the first time during OIF/OEF, our average deployment length has dropped to less than 200 and 300 days for 60Qs and 60Ps respectively. We will continue to lobby the leadership on this critical issue which effects morale, retention and patient care at the home stations. We also won significant concessions in the arena of pay bonuses. As a result of our triservice efforts, there was a substantial increase in the Pediatric 4 year MSP. Several Pediatric Subspecialty bonuses were also formally raised to their adult counterpart levels. The effected subspecialties include Gastroenterology, Pulmonology, Critical Care and Cardiology. We are now working on pay parity for Neonatology and Neurology as well as continuing to push for further increases to the general Pediatrics bonus.

This summer we begin to adjust Pediatric staffing to parallel the increasing troop concentrations in many CONUS MEDDAC and MEDCENS along with reductions in Europe. The priorities continue to be serving our population best while maintaining the critical skills of our workforce. Since it takes a considerable amount of time to “grow” an Army Pediatrician or pediatric subspecialist we will continue to collaborate with our Navy and Air Force counterparts to find Triservice staffing solutions. We continue to encourage regional commands to use GWOT dollars to hire additional Pediatric provider resources to avoid underlaps in care caused by ongoing increased operational tempos.

Although the future certainly holds many challenges for Army Pediatrics we are confident that we will meet and overcome these challenges together. In the meantime we encourage all Army Pediatricians to focus on our core strengths of being excellent physicians, leaders and officers. Take a proactive posture toward your career. Pay attention to details like your board certification, military education, OER, DA photo and APFT. Take time to mentor those who follow in your foot steps, and don’t hesitate to contact us with questions, or comments.

We welcome contributions to the newsletter on any topic of interest to the pediatric community.

Please submit your idea or article to:
LTC Richard Kynion
at richard.kynion@us.army.mil.
Greetings military pediatricians!

It was great to see everyone at this year’s USPS in Indianapolis – another outstanding conference! Though the Navy was a little underrepresented in numbers, we did well in hauling in awards. I want to congratulate the following Navy pediatricians: CAPT(ret) Norman Waecker (Outstanding Service Award); LCDR Mike Epperly (Dave Berry Award); Outstanding Pediatricians East and West LCDR John Moree and LT Michele Perkins, respectively; LT Missy Buryk (Johnson Award winner); LCDR Greg Gorman (2nd Place, Margileth Award); and LCDR Tim Wilks (Geppert Award winner). The Navy did not fare as well in the Bass Bowl, but after so many years of doing so well, a let down was inevitable. The team fought hard and made us proud.

Navy Pediatrics had a good year and the future looks challenging but achievable. We have completed our downsizing adventure and now find ourselves short, due in part to the addition of nine more pediatric billets. I consider it a good thing when COs are mad at me because they don’t have enough pediatricians! As you all know, the number of pediatrician training authorizations has been down for the past five years and so we have had to focus on retention and have done well.

We enjoyed the lowest attrition rate this year in 20 years. It looks like retention for next year will also be very good. On the input pipeline side of things, we are seeing strong interest in Navy pediatrics among the rising 4th year medical student class. I think that we will experience the first year of growth in Navy Pediatrics next year in about 20 years. Right now, we are at an end-strength of 134 pediatricians. The population of Marines has grown in several geographic regions and so we have had to flex to try to meet this increasing demand.

We have challenges ahead. We need to place a large number of pediatricians into fellowships again this year. It appears we will again have a strong applicant pool and good numbers of interested pediatricians.

This was a busy year for deployments. Navy pediatricians did 23 deployments- 16 of these were on humanitarian/disaster relief missions. I am actively exploring leadership positions and a potential specialty designation for humanitarian medicine expertise. Navy Pediatrics is truly leading the way in this realm.

We are working with our Air Force colleagues toward collaborative training in Portsmouth and the National Capital region which will help improve our numbers. The Army and Navy have worked together this year to retain a number of high quality individuals through geographic “swaps” and will continue to do so when mutually beneficial. Overall, I think the community is in very good health and has a bright future. I am continually impressed with the professionalism, work ethic and quality of care that Navy pediatricians provide in many settings, across the globe. It is an honor to serve this community!

Tim Shope
CAPT, MC, USN
Navy Pediatric Specialty Leader
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Spring 2009 News from the Navy Pediatrics Specialty Leader
by CAPT Tim Shope

Uniformed Services Section Election Results

Lt Col Michael Rajnik MD FAAP
Air Force - Chairperson

LCDR Christine Leigh Johnson MD FAAP
Navy Representative

MAJ Catherine Anne Kimball-Eayrs MD FAAP
Army Representative

LTC Thomas G Eccles MD FAAP
Army Representative

Thank You to All Who Voted!
News from the Air Force Consultant

by Leslie Wilson, Lt Col, USAF, MC

Spring 2009

It was great to meet many of my fellow AF pediatricians and pediatric subspecialists last month in Indianapolis at the USPS meeting. Kudos to Col (sel) Jim Rick and his colleagues at Wright Patterson for putting on an outstanding conference. Congratulations to all the AF winners of the Scientific Awards Competitions, the Chapters West and East Outstanding Pediatricians and the AF team that sought victory to this year’s Bass Bowl. If you were unable to get to Indianapolis, I hope to see you next year in San Diego.

I am 9 months into my role as your AF consultant and it has been a pleasure working with everyone. First, let me say THANK YOU for everything that each of you is doing for your patients and their families. No question, our Airmen want AF pediatricians caring for their children.

This year’s assignments are complete and have been loaded. Last year we shorted 12 bases an active duty pediatrician. Some were able to get funding and hire a contractor to fill the gap. The good news is that this year, because a few more pediatricians are coming out of training along with a better retention rate than we have seen in recent years, we will be able to fill 100% of our authorizations for pediatricians. We have over 140 pediatricians in authorized slots, and over 50 subspecialists with an additional 110 in training. There are also over 30 pediatricians serving in significant leadership roles all across the AFMS. Thanks again for everyone’s service.

A few updates on GME. Next month the Health Education Professional Requirements Board will meet to determine our training needs for 2010 starts for residency and fellowships. The results should be released in June. We have been fortunate to continue to offer many fellowship training opportunities for AF pediatricians. In 2009, we will be training AF residents at 5 military residency programs to include joint efforts with both the Army and Navy. Keesler AFB is in the early preparation for a 2010 application to the RRC, and if approved, plans to accept pediatric residents in 2011.

In the past year we have had pediatricians who have deployed to many countries, including humanitarian trips all across the world, to Balad and Bagram, and on the US Navy hospital ships Mercy and Comfort. I applaud each and everyone who has deployed in support of our countries’ freedom and the care of the children of this world.

This has been a good year for AF pediatrics. Some of the improvements with special pays, special experience identifiers, senior clinician billets and other unique opportunities show that we indeed are a valued specialty.

I have enjoyed meeting many of you during my travels and I hope to meet many more. I encourage you to focus on our AF core values of Integrity, Service and Excellence in our roles as physicians, leaders and officers. Take a proactive role in your career. Mentor those who follow in your footsteps and please, feel free to contact me at anytime!

Leslie Wilson, Lt Col, USAF, MC
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2009-2010 Uniformed Services Newsletter Schedule

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The AAP Section on Uniformed Services would like to thank Mead Johnson Nutrition for their contribution to the 2008 Conference on Perinatal Research in Austin (COMPRA) meeting.
Section Members Who Need Commercial Malpractice Insurance can Receive Coverage through a new Member Benefit Affinity Program

AAP Department of Membership

The Academy is offering a new member benefit affinity program, through which members will receive exclusive discounts and exceptional coverage from the nation’s leading provider of medical malpractice insurance, Medical Protective. In addition, the program offers consultative services through a partnership with Marsh Consumer Connexions.

The Members Liability Insurance Program will assist and educate members in evaluating medical malpractice insurance and provide them with a quality product and extensive coverage options available at a competitive price to the majority of members.

To promote continued risk management education, the Academy is providing members accepted by this program with a complimentary copy of the AAP’s *Medical Liability for Pediatricians*, 6th edition, from the AAP Committee on Medical Liability and Risk Management. The manual provides up-to-date, practice-oriented guidance on recognizing and reducing legal risks associated with patient care.

The Members Liability Insurance Program incorporates the key values members identified in a 2008 survey. AAP members rated the following products and services among the highest requirements in the selection of medical liability coverage: financial strength of carrier; competitive rates; services offered; occurrence and claims-made coverage options; tail coverage; inquiry resolution and defense results; risk management education; and an AAP-sponsored program.

As a Warren Buffett/Berkshire Hathaway company, Medical Protective is the highest rated medical malpractice carrier, rated “A++” and “AAA” from A.M. Best and S&P, respectively.

Medical Protective coverage provides a safety net of protection and defense for pediatricians, offering experience in protecting assets and professional reputations. Its expertise in claims handling for pediatricians nationally has resulted in an 80% success rate in claims closed without payment, and a 100% national trial win percentage for pediatricians from 2003 through 2007.

Key features of the Members Liability Insurance Program include:

- AAP member discount. A 2% credit is available exclusively to AAP members who purchase this plan.
- Competitive rates with credits.
- New-to-practice credits.
- Part-time practice credits (includes locum tenens arrangements, retirees and special circumstances).
- Claim-free credits.
- Group practice discount. Physician groups that make a single buying decision have the ability to receive additional discretionary credits.
- Risk management education and discount. Free access to risk management tools and education. Members who complete Med Pro qualified risk management programs receive a 5% reduction in net premium for three policy periods.
- Superior defense and claims handling. Medical Protective is trusted by almost 2,200 pediatricians and 70,000 health care providers nationwide, due in large part to its national pool of 7,500 expert witnesses and top local attorneys, capable of mounting an aggressive defense on your behalf.
- “Consent-to-settle” Provides doctors the right to refuse case settlement.
- Free tail coverage. Physicians receive their free tail coverage upon retirement at any age with just one year of coverage at a mature rate.
- Occurrence, claims-made, convertible claims-made and prior acts coverage options.

The Academy understands the need to protect careers and livelihoods and encourages members to make informed decisions about liability insurance coverage and choose coverage to fit their practice situations.

Resources

For a description of the benefits offered to AAP members through the Members Liability Insurance Program go to [www.mlip4aap.com](http://www.mlip4aap.com), or for a quick, customized premium estimate, call 866-281-7142.

Member participation in AAP affinity programs provides financial support to the Academy and its mission.

*Coverage not available in NY, VT, WV*
Call for Proposals

2010 CATCH Planning Funds and CATCH Resident Funds

For the 16th consecutive year, the American Academy of Pediatrics is offering pediatricians an opportunity to put their ideas into action by taking advantage of the funding available through the CATCH Program. The CATCH mission and the focus of the Planning Funds grants are to enable pediatricians to plan innovative community-based child health initiatives that increase access to medical homes or specific health services not otherwise available. A pediatrician must lead the project and be involved in the proposal development and project activities.

CATCH Planning Funds grants are awarded in amounts from $2,500 to $12,000 on a competitive basis for planning activities such as needs assessments and community asset mapping, feasibility studies, community coalition/collaboration meetings, focus groups, and development of grant proposals for project implementation after the planning phase is complete. Priority is given to projects that will be serving communities with the greatest health disparities. Applications are due July 31, 2009.

CATCH Resident Funds grants are limited to a maximum of $3,000. Resident CATCH projects must include or demonstrate completed planning activities, and may include some implementation activities. A pediatric resident must lead the project and be involved in the proposal development and project activities. Applications are due July 31, 2009.

For more information, visit http://www.aap.org/catch/planninggrants.htm or http://www.aap.org/catch/residentgrants.htm, or call 800/433-9016, ext 7632. Note: All applications must be submitted online.

Join more than 1,000 pediatricians who, through their CATCH projects, have learned that local child health problems can be solved locally, often using local resources.

One pediatrician can make a difference!
Continuity of Care: What Does It Mean and Who Cares?
by Carmelita Britton, MD, FAAP

Editor’s Note: This discussion asks a number of significant questions that reflect the reality of our practices in today’s high operation tempo military. How can the issues that Dr. Britton raises here best be addressed?

“As a pediatrician at Ft. Drum in upstate New York, I have the privilege of serving the families of the 10th Mountain Division. I joined the Ft. Drum family of pediatricians three years ago. Our soldiers are amongst the most frequently deployed in the nation. I have had ample opportunity to experience and appreciate first-hand the strength and resiliency of our military families.

Stresses on the spouses and children of soldiers have become legendary, and it is gratifying to see the attention being brought to focus on these issues by the medical profession and by the media in recent months. Children in military families often manifest both physical and mental health conditions that are common in the pediatric community in general, but that also may reflect the particular stresses and strains of “military life”.

As is true for all children, it is ideal to have a consistent, effective relationship with a provider who can coordinate health and wellness care. For our military families, this continuity of care can be difficult to ensure for a number of reasons. Families may relocate to another military base, and families may return to their home communities at times of deployment. In addition, our military primary care providers (PCM) deploy or are reassigned to another base, the contracts of civilian PCMs expire, and families are often reassigned to different MEDDAC PCMs or into civilian community care by Tricare.

Over the past 3 years, I have become increasingly concerned about this discontinuity of primary care, and wonder what effect – if any – it has on the children and families we serve and our partnerships with them. Do these families miss the traditional doctor/patient relationship that develops over the long haul with periodic office “visits” to the same provider? Do we as PCMs miss out on chances to address “soft morbidities” because to do so would require long-term management?

In today’s medical industrial reality, perhaps few families in any community expect to see the same pediatric PCM over the course of a child’s infancy, childhood, or adolescence. Indeed, today’s primary care pediatrician may not expect this long-term relationship either. Perhaps all of us have lowered our expectations for personal “partnership” with families, substituting the assumed continuity of care provided by the electronic medical record. Despite the strength and resiliency of our military families, I worry that they are not optimally supported by our current system, and wonder if options for ensuring increased continuity of care should be explored.

One of the many joys of the pediatrician’s world is the opportunity to watch families and children grow, and to be a part of their progress toward a happy, healthy young adulthood. I was certainly raised (as a pediatric resident) to expect this as a large part of my professional gratification. I miss it.

I would love to know what my colleagues think about this, and whether or not these realities are even perceived as problematic.”

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The August 2008 PREP® Audio issue, The Effect of Deployment on Children (Vol 3 #8) has been made freely available to all providers and the public through a collaborative sponsorship by:

- The Military Child & Adolescent Center of Excellence (MCA CoE)
- The Uniformed Services West & East Chapters of the AAP
- The Uniformed Services Section of the AAP

Participants will learn to recognize the stages of deployment, outline possible changes to family dynamics during deployment, and recommend potential psychosocial resources, both within and outside the military.

This presentation is available to all at http://www.prepaudio.org/deploy after registration on the web page. You can recommend this resource to all providers and parents who may benefit from listening to this comprehensive presentation.
The Uniformed Services Web Site as a Resource to all . . .
by Lisa Donato
Division Coordinator, Department of Membership

The recently updated, user friendly uniformed services Web site serves as resource to all members of the AAP Uniformed Services section.

What’s new for Uniformed Services? The home page of the web site features what’s new announcements and upcoming events. The web site is updated regularly as information becomes available. The newest addition is the Uniformed Services yearbook. The yearbook can be found on the web site history page.

About Us – includes the executive roster, the section’s mission statement, information on how to join the section and the minutes from current and past executive meetings.

The newsletters posted are archived back to the fall of 2004. You can submit an article for the newsletter by emailing the editor LTC Richard Kynion at richard.kynion@us.army.mil.

Resources and links provide tools for pediatricians in every stage of their career, resident to senior. The resources found under this category reference goals and objectives, teaching and learning, links to pediatric military web sites and the Uniformed Services University.

The Deployment web site http://www.aap.org/sections/uniformedservices/deployment/index.html offers free downloads to the AudioPrep® as well as information and support for family members. Dr. Cozza’s Child and Family program thru the Center for Study of Traumatic Stress has recently been added as a link on the resource page on the Deployment site. This site can also be accessed thru the Uniformed Services home page.

Awards are posted yearly after the USPS meeting. The 2009 award recipients are now posted along with the new slide show from this years USPS meeting highlights. The USPS meeting agenda for 2010 will be posted soon.

Please check the web site often for updates. Have comments or questions? Please do not hesitate to send me an email with your comments at ldonato@aap.org, or use the “contact us” feature located at the top of home page of the web site.

A Message From The AAP

If your AAP membership expires soon, please watch your mail for your renewal invoice. You will receive an e-mail notifying you when your renewal invoice has been mailed. When you receive your invoice, please review it for accuracy. If you currently hold other AAP memberships, they will be on your renewal invoice in the following order:

- National membership type
- Uniformed Services Chapter membership
- State Chapter membership
- Section membership(s)
- Council membership(s)

A couple of things to note:
1) The state chapter is added to all national renewal invoices regardless of current state chapter membership status.
2) The Uniformed Services chapter membership is added to your invoice only if you are a member of the chapter at the time your renewal invoice is created.
3) Chapter membership is not mandatory, though is strongly encouraged.
4) The Section on Uniformed Services does not charge dues. You can easily join the section online. Log on to the Member Center, in the Member Community section click the Join a Section or Council link.

New This Year:
Members can now edit their membership renewal invoice online at http://eweb.aap.org/myaccount. Log in with your AAP ID and password. Chapter, section, or council memberships can be removed from your invoice prior to entering credit card information.

If you wish to change your member type or add additional chapter, section or council memberships please contact Member Services at 800-433-9016, ext 5897 or e-mail us at membership@aap.org.

Thank you for your continued membership and support of our mission.
The 111th Congress began its work in January 2009 and will finish in December 2010. Below are some of the issues the AAP is working on.

• AAP Access Principles
• A Call for Congress to Insure Every Child: AAP newspaper ad

AAP Priorities on Health Reform

The Academy will be addressing a wide variety of issues critical to children’s health during the 111th Congress, including health reform. The Academy has been sounding the call that health reform must begin with, and include children’s access to quality care. The Department of Federal Affairs (DOFA) has identified specific areas in which we feel child health reform is necessary and have developed detailed one-pagers to address these topics. DOFA is aggressively reaching out to Capitol Hill and the White House with these materials, and we are hopeful that our message is being heard.

The areas of focus include:
• Pediatric Workforce
• Pediatric Access and Payment Rates
• Children and Health Care Equity
• Medical Home
• Health Information Technology
• Mental Health
• Oral Health
• Comparative Effectiveness
• Children and Public Programs
• State Roles and Partnerships
• Medikids
• What is Prevention
• Pediatrics is Prevention
• Gold Standard: Bright Futures
• Access to Care
• High Quality Care
• High Quality Care in a Reformed Health Care System
• Federal Employee Health Benefit Plan Model
• Benefits to Meet All Children’s Needs

This is located on http://aap.org/advocacy/washing/chi97.htm.

For additional information regarding the American Academy of Pediatrics’ health care reform priorities, please contact the Department of Federal Affairs at 202/347-8600 or kids1st@aap.org.
The Section on Uniformed Services, founded in 1959, is dedicated to educating physicians on topics in pediatrics unique to the uniformed services, to providing a forum for pediatricians in the military and the Public Health Service, and to playing an advocate role on behalf of eligible pediatric beneficiaries and uniformed services pediatricians. In addition, the section provides consultation to the AAP Board of Directors upon request on issues relevant to the uniformed services. Membership in the section is open to all Fellows (including those in training) of the Academy who are active, retired, or former US military or Public Health Service; to uniformed counterparts from other countries of the Americas; and to civilian pediatricians with close ties to the uniformed services. The Section also has an affiliate membership category for physicians, nurses whose patient population is 50% uniformed services pediatric beneficiaries. Membership in 2009 exceeds 900. The Section on Uniformed Services hosts educational programs at the Academy's National Conference and Exhibition and holds its own organizational meeting at the Uniformed Services Pediatric Seminar (USPS), a 4-day CME course held each year in late Winter - early Spring. USPS, attended by nearly 300 pediatricians annually. The USPS features topics of interest to pediatric primary care practitioners, additional plenary topics with unique relevance to uniformed pediatricians, and a variety of special interest seminars and workshops. USPS also features a Scientific Awards Competition (SAC) in categories including: (1) the Ogden Bruton Award for basic research, (2) the Andrew Margileth Award for clinical research, (3) the Howard Johnson Award for research during residency training, (4) the Leo Geppert Awards for brief clinical communications and research, and (5) the Val Hemming Award for clinical or basic science research submitted by a medical student. Finally, USPS includes awarding of an annual Outstanding Service Award, Dave Berry Award and an always fun and invigorating inter-service rivalry in the 'Jeopardy'-style James Bass Challenge Bowl. There are many opportunities for both formal and informal interactions with friends, colleagues, and leaders from both uniformed services pediatrics and from the Academy, including the AAP President. Joint Section programs at the Academy's National Convention and Exhibition have featured partnerships with other Section and focus on uniformed services-related pediatric topics. The Ogden Bruton Lectureship is among highlights of the NCE meeting for the Section. The Section, through an elected Section Chair and elected members of the Section Executive Committee, works closely with other AAP Sections and with the AAP Uniformed Services Chapters East and West. In addition, the Section works with the Pediatric Specialty Advisors of the respective service Surgeon General: the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences; and numerous military medical facilities around the country and the world. The Section produces a triannual Uniformed Services Pediatric Newsletter featuring updates on Section, Chapter, and AAP topics and activities and maintains an active Section home page on the Internet. This newsletter is the official biennial publication of the Uniformed Services Section, Uniformed Services Chapter East, and Uniformed Services Chapter West of the American Academy of Pediatrics. Statements and opinions expressed in this publication are those of the authors and not necessarily those of the American Academy of Pediatrics, the Department of Defense, or of the Surgeons General.