Chapter and Local History Guide

The history of pediatrics would be incomplete without a record of how it was and is practiced in the local community. To encourage chapters and individuals to preserve this history, the Pediatric History Center has prepared the following suggestions to guide individuals and groups in composing and capturing their past.

- **Founding:** Identify the founders of pediatrics in the community. Who were the first pediatricians in the area? Who else was prominent and why?

- **Growth and Development:** Discuss when and how pediatrics gained acceptance in the area. When and how did pediatricians start to organize into local groups or a chapter of the Academy? Try to include lists of officers and members of committees of these organizations.

- **Unique Aspects:** Describe the challenges faced by pediatricians in your area over time. Most pediatricians will share some experiences, but differences will exist. For example, pediatricians serving rural populations have faced different challenges from those serving large urban populations.

- **Cooperation:** How did local pediatricians work with each other, their chapters, the Academy, and with other specialties, other health care providers, hospitals, schools, local government officials, and community groups to resolve such problems?

- **Relationship with the Academy:** Discuss how the chapter's relationship with the Academy and other organizations and institutions has changed over time.

- **Accomplishments:** Describe the chapter's accomplishments, major and minor (e.g., a hospital built a new program for delivery of health care to children, etc.). Were there any projects that did not work as planned? Lessons can be learned from failures, partial successes, and significant achievements.

- **Evolution of Profession:** Describe how the practice of pediatrics has changed over time from the house calls of the 1940's to the managed care organizations of today.

For assistance in writing and research, it is suggested that the chapter recruit a history graduate student.

Remember all of these points are interrelated and that the issues involved are interrelated. You may want to organize your writing partly by time period and partly by subject, depending on what works best.

The PHC has example histories that you are welcome to preview. Please contact us for assistance by either of the following:

call: 847/434-7093
email: history@aap.org