I already belong to the National AAP, why should I become a member of the Puerto Rico Chapter?

**Advocacy**
- Promote participation in public policy and advocacy activities. Making it aware that the access to vaccines in the pediatric private sector or our population is still deficient.
- Build coalitions with other Pediatric Organizations in the island, working toward improving children’s health and well being this year we are emphasizing our immunization challenges.
- Promote the interests of Puerto Rico pediatricians and residents in the American Academy of Pediatrics by inviting AAP leaders to speak to our members and non-member pediatricians in our annual meetings.
- Promote the prevention of childhood obesity and early brain development by emphasizing and helping our pediatricians adopt Bright Futures Guidelines.
- Dr. Inés Cuevas has been active on the Early Childhood Comprehensive System, advocating on behalf of developmental screening in all children's between 0 – 36 month old in Puerto Rico.
- Dr. Ivette Piovanetti, past Chapter President, continues working as an advocate in breastfeeding. She participated at an ONU forum celebrated on March 2015 defending breast feeding practices.
- Promote Quality Improvement System within our Pediatric members as well as residency trainees.

**Leadership**
- Our Chapter has been recognized by our Health Department, health organizations, medical colleagues, pediatric sister societies, parents, the media, and the public in general as the most knowledgeable source of information for the care of children and adolescents.
- Dr. Cordero, one of our past presidents has been vital in the implementation of the Affordable Care Act for Puerto Rico.
- Since August 2014 Dr. Cuevas has been assigned as EHDI Puerto Rico Chapter Champion.
- Dr. Ricardo Fontanet has been actively working as counselor on Child Obesity and the position of the pediatrician and their important role on the management of these patients.
- Dr. Verónica Del Río and Dr. Yasmin Pedrogo have been selected as QI Chapter Champions.

**Networking**
- Participating on national AAP affairs and inviting our members to apply when available to positions in National Committees. Our chapter past President Dr. Ysern is a member of the National Committee PPAAC.
- Members of our chapter are in strategic positions as counselor to the Health Department in the areas such as immunization, implementation of the Affordable Care Act in Puerto Rico, other members in Committees that relate to children, such as March of Dimes, Infant Maternal Mortality Rate.

**Education**
- We have been invited as speakers to talk about the importance of immunization in our children’s.
- Participation in health fairs, invited med students and pediatric residents to work with us to promote healthy lifestyles and breast-feeding.
- Along with the Health Department we continue the campaign to alert parents about child abuse and the Shaken Baby Syndrome.
- We have published articles on Sudden Infant Death and the importance of self-esteem in the prevention of depression in children and adolescents.
- Our Pediatric Council was involved in the orientation of pediatricians and insurance companies on the correct way to interpret the National Correct Coding Initiatives (NCCI).
- Dr. Ivette Piovanetti Annual Breastfeeding conference to Health Related Professionals.
- Dr. Cuebas, as part of Early Stimulation Program, has participated with Pediatric Residency Program trainees offering orientations to parents, health and child care related professionals on developmental screening tests at primary child care related centers.
What has your Chapter done lately?
- On June we are celebrating our Chapter elections. Our incoming President is: Dr. Inés del C. Cuevas Rolón.
- The Chapter welcomes our new ED, Mrs. Yannira Campos-Mercado.
- Dr. Yserrn has been participating along the P. R. Health Department on the creation of the Early Stimulation Program strategic plan.

Annual Chapter Dues:
- Fellow $75; Specialty Fellow $75; Emeritus Fellow $0; Retired Fellow $0; Associate Member $50; Candidate Member $50; PRT $25; Resident $0; Honorary Fellow $0

Whom do I contact?
- Contact Inés Cuevas MD, Chapter President or Yannira Campos-Mercado, Chapter Executive Director at 787/ or aap.prped@gmail.com. Our web page is under construction.

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