

## Highlights of the COMLRM Meeting

The Committee on Medical Liability and Risk Management met on June 28-29, 2009; this was its only face-to-face meeting during the fiscal year. In lieu of a fall meeting, the committee held a series of conference calls to stay on task on its goals and objectives.

After hearing the Federal Government Affairs report, the committee proposed slight modification to the AAP position on medical liability reform. This was done should it be needed to be considered as part of the Academy's response to the President's offer to include some aspect of medical liability reform as part of the larger health care reform debate.

Educating pediatric residents and young physicians about the need for continuous uninterrupted medical liability insurance continues to be a major thrust of the committee. After meeting with staff from the Division of ELearning, the committee decided to go ahead with a free Pedialink module for pediatric residents on medicolegal aspects of practicing pediatrics. An intent for manual will be filed for the 7<sup>th</sup> edition of the manual on medical liability. A new title is under consideration as well as an option to have electronic version available. Maureen DeRosa met with the committee for this important discussion. The committee heard liaison report from the Members Liability Insurance Program Steering Committee and underscored the need to rely on AAP risk management materials as part of the program. It was noted that Dr. Mendelson had recorded 3 brief videos for Practice Management Online on medical liability topics. The committee explored ways to share this information with residents and young physicians.

Assignments were made for the upcoming Pediatricians and the Law columns in *AAP News* into 2010. The committee worked on drafts of 2 policies which are nearly ready for peer review 1) Consent by Proxy for Nonurgent Pediatric Care (a clinical report) and 2) Professional Liability for Pediatric Residents and Fellows (a policy statement). Plans for manuscripts on the periodic survey and the PL3 graduating research survey were discussed as well as an upcoming report from the Physicians Insurers Association of American on Closed Pediatric Claims. In response to increased federal activities investigating and enforcing health care fraud and abuse, the committee crafted a targeted response through *AAP News*, *SOAPM* newsletter, *Coding for Pediatrics*, the revised manual on medical liability and the NCE 2010. Goals and objectives for 2009-2010 were set. Conference calls will resume in September and the next face-to-face COMLRM meeting will be in June 2010.