



# Louisiana Chapter American Academy of Pediatrics PROGRESS NOTES *Spring 2011*

*To be advocates for children in Louisiana*

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**UPCOMING CME OPPORTUNITIES:**

- ◇ April 4th - Asthma Healthcare Provider Training (6:30– 8:30 pm, Monroe)
- ◇ April 7th-9th - LMGMA Annual Conference - LA AAP session April 8th
- ◇ March 25th - LAMCH conference
- ◇ May 14th - Leading the Way to Better Health Outcomes: The Patient Centered Medical Home in Louisiana (8am—3 pm, Baton Rouge)
- ◇ September 30th - October 2nd - Red River Pediatric Potpourri (Shreveport)

## FROM THE PRESIDENT



Stewart Gordon, MD, FAAP

Dear LA AAP Members,

I hope this newsletter finds you approaching a decrease in the flu and RSV season very soon!

My father was a practicing Internist and Endocrinologist fortunate enough to practice during the 'golden age' of medicine. He practiced prior to Medicare, Medicaid, HMO's and private health insurance. If patients could not 'pay' for their visit, they settled up with a bushel of mustard greens, fresh tomatoes and the like. As I became interested in medicine, he assured me, "the practice of medicine should never be considered a business. Also, medicine and politics do not mix!" Oh, how I wish that were still true today!

Also, medicine and politics do not mix!" Oh, how I wish that were still true today!

Your chapter leadership has been quite busy guiding me through the ever fluid proposed changes to our Medicaid delivery system. The Chapter continues to promote improvements to our system which preserve your ability to practice medicine (stay in business), provide quality care to patients and improve the health outcomes of our patients and their families. I very much appreciate the calls and emails which enlighten me to the real issues faced in each your practice. Without your ongoing input and involvement, our Chapter will not effectively improve our health system.

Your continuing education is one of our priorities as a Chapter. Over the next three months, the Chapter will bring a CME to your community on Health Information Technology, Electronic Health Records, Meaningful Use and what this means to the pediatrician. Be on the lookout for the meeting in your area and we hope to see many of you there.

In an effort to strengthen our collective practices efforts, we thought it would be a good idea to host a meeting of our pediatric practice managers. The idea is to facilitate regular communication amongst them in partnership with the State Chapter. Our first step in doing so will involve sponsoring a session at the LMGMA 2011 Soaring to New Heights conference April 7-9, 2011 in Baton Rouge. By combining the business realities faced by our practice managers with health needs of our patients, we can strengthen our efforts to chart our course.

Thank you for your ongoing support!

Best regards,

Stewart T. Gordon, MD, FAAP  
President, LA AAP

### Community CARE 2.0 Update

The official Emergency Rule changed Community CARE to Community CARE 2.0 was published in the January 2011 issue of the Louisiana Register ([www.doa.louisiana.gov/osr/emr/1101EMR028.pdf](http://www.doa.louisiana.gov/osr/emr/1101EMR028.pdf)) which outlined all the changes, pay for performance measures and what groups are included and excluded.

As a provision in Community CARE 2.0, a quality committee is established with the purpose of informing the secretary on health issues and make recommendations. On February 22, 2011. DHH Secretary Bruce Greenstein named those appointments. ([www.doa.louisiana.gov/osr/emr/1101EMR028.pdf](http://www.doa.louisiana.gov/osr/emr/1101EMR028.pdf)).

The Chapter is very interested in your feedback regarding the changes that have been implemented. We encourage you to share your thoughts by emailing the Chapter Executive Director at [ashley.politz@laaap.org](mailto:ashley.politz@laaap.org).

## A Memo From DHH

**Bobby Jindal**  
GOVERNOR



**Bruce D. Greenstein**  
SECRETARY

### State of Louisiana

Department of Health and Hospitals  
Bureau of Health Services Financing

#### MEMORANDUM

**TO:** CommunityCARE Providers

**FROM:** Don Gregory, Medicaid Director *Don Gregory* Clayton Williams, OPH Assistant Secretary *Clayton Williams*

**SUBJECT:** Immunizations Provided in Primary Care Provider Offices

**DATE:** February 9, 2011

We are writing today to thank you for your service to Louisiana's children. You have played a critical role in ensuring more of our children are immunized on time than ever before. The Medicaid Immunization Pay-for-Performance (P4P) Program, which has been in place since July 2006, was implemented to promote timely immunizations of Louisiana Medicaid-eligible children and to increase the number of providers using the Louisiana Immunization Network for Kids Statewide (LINKS) registry.

As you are aware, the P4P Program rewards primary care providers (PCP) whose Medicaid patients adhere to a specific immunization schedule recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the American Academy of Pediatrics. The monthly calculations are based on the number of children between 19 and 35 months of age who have an up-to-date immunization record in LINKS by 24-months-old, divided by the total number of children in that age group linked to a CommunityCARE 2.0 PCP. The following schedule is used to determine the quarterly supplemental payments received by qualifying providers:

- \$0.25 per Medicaid recipient younger than 21 years of age linked to the PCP if 60 to 74 percent of the above-mentioned children are up to date on the vaccine series 4:3:1:3:1 (4-DTaP, 3-IPV, 1-MMR, 3-HIB, 3-HFPB and 1-Varicella);
- \$0.50 per Medicaid recipient younger than 21 years of age linked to the PCP if 75 to 89 percent of the above-mentioned children are up to date on vaccine series 4:3:1:3:1; and
- \$1.00 per Medicaid recipient younger than 21 years of age linked to the PCP if 90 percent or more of the above-mentioned children are up to date on vaccine series 4:3:1:3:1.

LINKS sends Medicaid a monthly data file of all immunization records for children between the ages of 19 and 35 months to determine each provider's performance. A Social Security Number (SSN) is used to determine which children are enrolled in Medicaid. When an SSN is not present, the system will use the child's name and date of birth to determine whether there is a match. If there is any discrepancy, the child's two records (Medicaid and LINKS) may not be matched. Any child that cannot be matched is considered as not having services provided or having a blank immunization record; the PCP will not be

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credited for these services and this will reflect in the calculation of the P4P incentive percentage rates, which are conducted quarterly to determine if the PCP is eligible for the P4P.

**To address some concerns raised by providers participating in the Medicaid P4P program, effective February 1, 2011 an enhancement was made to also match records based on the Medicaid ID number the PCP entered into LINKS.** The LINKS system already has the ability to accept the Medicaid ID number when a provider updates a child's immunization record or demographic information. By providing an additional opportunity to match a child's LINKS record to Medicaid, we believe we will address the concerns of the providers and more accurately reflect the number of children who are actually up to date on the immunizations counted in the P4P calculations.

We also would like to take this opportunity to clarify the difference between the P4P program and the Department's Office of Public Health's (OPH) Immunization Program's Vaccine for Children (VFC) program. The OPH Immunization Program conducts VFC chart review audits of all providers that have received a supply of vaccines through the VFC program. As part of this audit process, OPH requests providers who participate in the VFC program to pull medical charts on 50-60 children, both Medicaid and non-Medicaid recipients, younger than 24 months of age prior to their on-site visit. OPH representatives review the selected charts to verify the data entered into LINKS. From this limited review, an "up-to-date" calculation is determined for the practice, which represents the "estimated" percentage of 24-month-old children who are up to date for that particular PCP's practice. These audit results are not the same calculations used in the Medicaid P4P program, as they represent all 2-year-old children in the practice, not just the Medicaid-enrolled children. They represent two separate and distinct analyses.

We hope this provides greater clarification on the two programs administered by the Department. Our offices will continue to work together to streamline our programs, and we encourage you to continue to provide your input so together we can provide quality services to our residents.

Additional information about the LINKS registry can be obtained by contacting your region's OPH Immunization Consultant (see <https://linksweb.oph.dhh.louisiana.gov/linksweb/main.jsp>) or calling the OPH Immunization Office at (504) 838-5300. Molina Provider Relations should be contacted at (800) 473- 2783 or (225) 924-5040 for any additional questions.

DG/kv

## Coordinated Care Networks (CCNs)- Where are they now?

The Louisiana Chapter is continuously working to stay abreast of all the changes being put forth for the Coordinated Care Networks. In the February 2011 Louisiana Register, DHH published its Notice of Intent for CCNs. The following link will take you to the full, 131 page document which outlines DHH's plan on how CCNs will operate - [http://new.dhh.louisiana.gov/assets/docs/Making\\_Medicaid\\_Better/NoticeofIntent\\_Materials/CCN\\_NOI\\_LARegister\\_Feb2011.pdf](http://new.dhh.louisiana.gov/assets/docs/Making_Medicaid_Better/NoticeofIntent_Materials/CCN_NOI_LARegister_Feb2011.pdf)

The rule is now in the public comment period. The Chapter reviewing the Notice of Intent document in order to submit our comments. Please send us your comments so they can be included with our submission of questions and comments to the Department. If you care to submit your own written comments, they must be sent to Don Gregory, Bureau of Health Services Financing, P.O. Box 91030, Baton Rouge, LA 70821-9030. He is responsible for responding to inquiries regarding this proposed Rule.

A public hearing on this proposed Rule is scheduled for Wednesday, March 30, 2011 at 9:30 a.m. in Room 118, Bienville Building, 628 North Fourth Street, Baton Rouge, LA. At that time all interested persons will be afforded an opportunity to submit data, views or arguments either orally or in writing. The deadline for receipt of all written comments is 4:30 p.m. on the next business day following the public hearing.

Helpful links:

[www.makingmedicaidbetter.com](http://www.makingmedicaidbetter.com) - this website is regularly updated by DHH and contains information related to CCNs and presentations that have been given by Secretary Greenstein and the Department. You can also subscribe to the Making Medicaid Better Newsletter.

<http://new.dhh.louisiana.gov/index.cfm/newsroom/category/4> - this website contains all of the official press releases from Secretary Greenstein.

### **AAP Launches New Health Information Technology (HIT) Website**

To help educate AAP members in rapidly evolving HIT matters, the AAP launched the Child Health Informatics Center (CHIC) Web site in late January 2011. The address is: [www.aap.org/chic](http://www.aap.org/chic)

The site is a one stop shop which centralizes all AAP HIT resources aimed to support pediatricians in the effective adoption and use of electronic health record (EHRs). Exciting website components include:

- A member resource library which provides information about meaningful use, AAP policy, advocacy efforts, and other essential educational materials.
- A state and territorial resource page which allows users to search for their state specific HIT activities and contacts.
- An archive of AAP responses to and comments on HIT policy and regulatory documents.
- Summaries on Academy project involvement and initiatives.
- An up-to-date list of upcoming HIT meetings and events.

For questions about the new website or the CHIC, contact [CHIC@aap.org](mailto:CHIC@aap.org)

### **IRS Sides with AAP in Ruling to Make Breast Pumps Tax-Deductible**

On Thursday, February 10, 2011, the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) ruled that breast pumps and breastfeeding supplies are medical expenses worthy of reimbursement through Flexible Spending Accounts (FSAs).

The AAP released a statement commending the IRS ruling, which comes after years of effective advocacy by the AAP on the issue.

Previously, the IRS had excluded breastfeeding supplies from the list of expenses eligible for purchase with pre-tax dollars, stating that eligible medical care expenses to be reimbursed under FSAs are “the costs of diagnosis, cure, mitigation, treatment, or prevention of disease,” and that breastfeeding supplies do not fall under this definition.

At last, the IRS has recognized the error in this judgment and reversed its position, allowing breastfeeding supplies to be purchased using pre-tax dollars.

The AAP has argued to the IRS that the extensive evidence supporting breastfeeding as having medical benefits for children and their mothers should qualify breast pumps as vital preventive care measures for infants, and therefore they should be eligible to be purchased through FSAs. In addition, the AAP initiated two Dear Colleague letters in the House and Senate last fall, encouraging federal legislators to echo the Academy’s message.

The ruling marks an important victory for the health of women and children across the country by making breastfeeding a more practical option for new and working mothers.

## "Into the Swamp: Healthy Choices Win" – A Collaborative Community Project

By Michele Ball, RD

For the third year, the "Into the Swamp" project has continued as a collaborative effort between the LA chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, the Baton Rouge Ballet Theatre, and the LSU School of Human Ecology. Created and implemented by Registered Dietitian Michele Ball, the project offers a 5 week series of hands on nutrition activities and dance workshops during the school day to third and fourth grade children at participating EBR elementary schools.

The interactive nutrition sessions focus on increased consumption of fruit and vegetables. Food samples compliment education on such topics as *MyPyramid*, energy balance, and portion control. During dance sessions, children learn ballet, modern and square dance steps, use movement to express feelings, and learn a dance to perform for their peers and parents. The culminating event is the Ballet for Children performance of "Into the Swamp."

Workshops for the 2010/ 2011 academic year have been made possible by grant funding from Blue Cross/ Blue Shield of Louisiana and the Pennington Foundation. This funding will also support the development of a tool kit and training seminar to train educators and Registered Dietitians to implement the workshops in future years, with the purpose of sustaining the project. LSU School of Human Ecology has participated by providing 2 research assistants, under the supervision of Georgianna Tuuri, Phd., to work with Ms. Ball on the development of data collection tools and methods of analysis to better evaluate the effectiveness of the project. As part of their community volunteer experience, Dietetics students have also served as volunteers during the elementary nutrition workshops.

For more information about this project or how to bring it to your area, please e-mail Michele Ball at [mballrd@cox.net](mailto:mballrd@cox.net).

### *On a Lighter note...*

Members of the Louisiana Chapter leadership met with the NCE planning committee to begin planning for the 2012 NCE in New Orleans. Be sure to look for the promo videos during the 2011 conference.



## Louisiana Chapter President Honored



Children's Coalition of Greater Baton Rouge  
P.O. Box 66482  
Baton Rouge, LA 70896

**MEDIA RELEASE**  
For Immediate Release  
February 9, 2011

### **Dr. Stewart Gordon and Health Centers in Schools to be Honored Thursday for Outstanding Service to Baton Rouge Children**

Baton Rouge, LA – For outstanding service to Baton Rouge children, Dr. Stewart Gordon of LSU Health Sciences Center and Health Centers in Schools, a local non-profit organization will be honored at a luncheon held by the Children's Coalition of Greater Baton Rouge (CCGBR). The *For the Love of Children Luncheon and Award Ceremony* is Thursday, February 10 at 11:00 a.m. at the Louisiana Resource Center for Educators (LRCE) at 5550 Florida Blvd. in Baton Rouge. Cost to attend the luncheon is \$35.00 which includes a one year membership to the Coalition.

In 2010 the Children's Coalition began the *For the Love of Children Award* to recognize one individual and one organization/agency in the community whose performance demonstrated collaborative work with other individuals and agencies, and advocacy efforts for the children of Greater Baton Rouge. The CCGBR is a collective force united to effect community change to improve the lives of children and families through partnership and advocacies in the Capital City Area. The group recognizes that collaboration with other individuals and organizations strengthens relationships, extends networking capabilities, and improves the ability to reach the children they seek to serve.

Stewart T. Gordon, MD practices at LSU Health Sciences' Earl K. Long Medical Center Pediatric Clinic in Baton Rouge and has been a pediatrician for over 20 years. Very involved in children's causes in Baton Rouge for many years, Dr. Gordon has served on the boards of several non-profit organizations advocating for children. Formerly a "Top 40 Under 40" for the *Greater Baton Rouge Business Report*, Dr. Gordon received his medical doctorate from the LSU School of Medicine in New Orleans and completed his residency at the former Charity Hospital in New Orleans.

Health Centers in Schools (HCS) is a non-profit organization in Baton Rouge that manages eleven school-based health centers and the school nurse program in East Baton Rouge Parish. The organization provides free school-based health care for over 45,000 children in over 90 East Baton Rouge Parish Public Schools, the Recovery School District and charter schools. With parents' consent, HCS helps ALL children, regardless of income get the preventive and emergency health care they need to be able to stay in school and learn. HCS recently completed the third annual Flu Vaccination Program in East Baton Rouge vaccinating nearly 8000 students.

For more information about the Children's Coalition of Greater Baton Rouge or to attend the award luncheon, please contact Yvonne Giron at (225) 389-1400 or email [4kids@ccofgbr.org](mailto:4kids@ccofgbr.org).

*Congratulations on your achievement Dr. Gordon!*

Pictured left to right: Carmen Jones, For the Love of Children Luncheon Co-Chair; Cricket Gordon, Dr. Gordon's Wife; Dr. Stewart Gordon; Mrs. Gordon, Dr. Gordon's Mother, and Patience Travasos, For the Love of Children Luncheon Chair.



## A Message from Sanofi Pasteur— Tripedia Being Discontinued

Sanofi Pasteur will be discontinuing the supply of **Tripedia**<sup>®</sup> (Diphtheria and Tetanus Toxoids and Acellular Pertussis Vaccine Adsorbed) and **TriHIBit**<sup>®</sup> (Haemophilus b Conjugate Vaccine [Tetanus Toxoid Conjugate]-ActHIB<sup>®</sup> reconstituted with Diphtheria and Tetanus Toxoids and Acellular Pertussis Vaccine Adsorbed-Tripedia) as we focus our efforts on supporting our other DTaP<sup>a</sup> and Hib<sup>b</sup> products. We anticipate that supplies will be depleted in Q2, 2011. This is subject to change based on fluctuations in demand.

We are pleased to continue to offer you a full line of DTaP and Hib products, including **Pentacel**<sup>®</sup> (Diphtheria and Tetanus Toxoids and Acellular Pertussis Adsorbed, Inactivated Poliovirus and Haemophilus b Conjugate [Tetanus Toxoid Conjugate] Vaccine), **DAPTACEL**<sup>®</sup> (Diphtheria and Tetanus Toxoids and Acellular Pertussis Vaccine Adsorbed), and **ActHIB**<sup>®</sup> (Haemophilus b Conjugate Vaccine [Tetanus Toxoid Conjugate]).

Pentacel is the first and only DTaP-IPV<sup>c</sup>/Hib vaccine:<sup>1</sup>

- As a 4-dose Hib-containing combination vaccine, Pentacel vaccine fits naturally into the primary series at 2, 4, and 6 months of age, with a booster at 15 to 18 months<sup>1,2</sup>
- With 4 doses of Pentacel vaccine, you can help reduce the number of injections during both the primary series and at the crowded toddler visit<sup>2,3</sup>

A primary pertussis immunization series consists of 4 doses of Pentacel vaccine; therefore, children who have completed the 4-dose series with Pentacel vaccine should receive a fifth dose of DTaP at to 6 years of age<sup>1</sup>

DAPTACEL, a 5-component acellular pertussis vaccine, is approved for all 5 doses of DTaP in children 6 weeks through 6 years of age. It is highly protective against all severities of pertussis.<sup>4</sup>

These products provide the option of using a single-entity DTaP—DAPTACEL vaccine—or a DTaP in combination with IPV and Hib—Pentacel vaccine.

ActHIB vaccine induces a robust immune response that helps protect against invasive Hib disease in infants and toddlers.

It has been in continuous supply since launch in 1996, with more than 80 million doses distributed in the United States.<sup>5,6</sup>

We hope the discontinuation of Tripedia and TriHIBit vaccines will not cause any inconvenience to your providers. To help you communicate this information to your providers we have created the following e-mail template for your distribution. If you have questions or require additional information about alternatives to the discontinued vaccines, please contact our customer account representatives at **1-800-VACCINE** (1-800-822-2463).

### Indications

ActHIB vaccine is indicated for the active immunization of infants and children 2 through 18 months of age for prevention of invasive disease caused by *Haemophilus influenzae* type b.

DAPTACEL vaccine is indicated for active immunization against diphtheria, tetanus, and pertussis as a 5-dose series in infants and children 6 weeks through 6 years of age (prior to seventh birthday).

Pentacel vaccine is indicated for active immunization against diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, poliomyelitis, and invasive disease due to *Haemophilus influenzae* type b. Pentacel vaccine is approved for use as a 4-dose series in children 6 weeks through 4 years of age (prior to fifth birthday).

### Safety Information

The most common local and systemic adverse reactions to ActHIB vaccine include injection site erythema, swelling, and tenderness; fever, irritability, drowsiness, and anorexia. Other adverse reactions may occur. ActHIB vaccine is contraindicated in persons with known hypersensitivity to any component of the vaccine. The decision to give ActHIB vaccine should be based on the potential benefits and risks; if Guillain-Barré syndrome has occurred within 6 weeks of receipt of a prior vaccine containing tetanus toxoid; or if adverse events have occurred in temporal relation to receipt of tetanus toxoid-containing vaccine. Vaccination with

ActHIB vaccine may not protect all individuals.

The most common local and systemic adverse reactions to DAPTACEL vaccine include injection site redness, swelling, and tenderness; fever, irritability, drowsiness, and crying more than usual. Other adverse reactions may occur. DAPTACEL vaccine is contraindicated in persons with any immediate anaphylactic reaction or hypersensitivity to any component of the vaccine.

The decision to give DAPTACEL vaccine should be based on the potential benefits and risks; if Guillain-Barré syndrome has occurred within 6 weeks of receipt of a prior vaccine containing tetanus toxoid; or if adverse events have occurred in temporal relation to receipt of pertussis-containing vaccine. Encephalopathy within 7 days of administration of a previous dose of a pertussis-containing vaccine or a progressive neurologic disorder is a contraindication. Vaccination with DAPTACEL vaccine may not protect all individuals.

The most common local and systemic adverse reactions to Pentacel vaccine include injection site redness, swelling, and tenderness; fever, fussiness, and crying. Other adverse reactions may occur. Known systemic hypersensitivity reaction to any component of Pentacel vaccine or a life-threatening reaction after previous administration of the vaccine or a vaccine containing the same substances are contraindications to vaccination.

The decision to give Pentacel vaccine should be based on the potential benefits and risks; if Guillain-Barré syndrome has occurred within 6 weeks of receipt of a prior vaccine containing tetanus toxoid; or if adverse events have occurred in temporal relation to receipt of pertussis-containing vaccine. Encephalopathy within 7 days of administration of a previous dose of a pertussis-containing vaccine or a progressive neurologic disorder is a contraindication. Vaccination with Pentacel vaccine may not protect all individuals.

<sup>a</sup> DTaP = Diphtheria, tetanus, and acellular pertussis.

<sup>b</sup> Hib = *Haemophilus influenzae* type b.

<sup>c</sup> IPV = Inactivated poliovirus.

ActHIB vaccine is manufactured by Sanofi Pasteur SA and distributed by Sanofi Pasteur Inc.

DAPTACEL vaccine is manufactured by Sanofi Pasteur Limited and distributed by Sanofi Pasteur Inc.

TriHIBit vaccine: ActHIB vaccine combined with Tripedia by reconstitution.

Tripedia vaccine is manufactured and distributed by Sanofi Pasteur Inc.

Pentacel vaccine is manufactured by Sanofi Pasteur Limited and Sanofi Pasteur SA and distributed by Sanofi Pasteur Inc.

**For more information, please contact:**

Laura Roberts | Public Health Manager | sanofi pasteur | ( 225-328-6731 | \* [laura.roberts@sanofipasteur.com](mailto:laura.roberts@sanofipasteur.com)

**References:** 1. Pentacel vaccine [Prescribing Information]. Swiftwater, PA: Sanofi Pasteur Inc.; 2009. 2. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Recommended immunization schedules for persons aged 0 through 18 years—United States, 2010. *MMWR*. 2010;58(51&52):1-4. 3. Food and Drug Administration. Pentacel<sup>®</sup>: DTaP-IPV/Hib Combined (diphtheria and tetanus toxoids and acellular pertussis adsorbed, inactivated poliovirus and *Haemophilus b* conjugate [tetanus toxoid conjugate] vaccine combined). VRBPAC Briefing Document. <http://www.fda.gov/ohrms/dockets/ac/07/briefing/2007-4275B1-01.pdf>. Accessed December 2, 2010. 4. Gustaffson L, Hallander HO, Olin P, Reizenstein E, Storsaeter J. A controlled trial of a two-component acellular, a five-component acellular, and a whole-cell pertussis vaccine. *N Engl J Med*. 1996;334:349-355. 5. ActHIB vaccine [Prescribing Information]. Swiftwater, PA: Sanofi Pasteur Inc.; 2009. 6. Sanofi Pasteur Inc. Data on file (ActHIB sales by dose), December 2009. MKT18628.

## LAGNIAPPE

### CHIPRA Turns 2

Friday, February 4 marked the two-year anniversary of the Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act. The Times Picayune published an article "Continuing kids health coverage is essential" on Saturday, February 5, 2011 encouraging everyone to make covering uninsured children a priority this year. The full article can be accessed through this link: [www.nola.com/news/t-p/letterstoeditor/index.ssf?/base/news-17/12968868376320.xml&coll=1](http://www.nola.com/news/t-p/letterstoeditor/index.ssf?/base/news-17/12968868376320.xml&coll=1)

### LA AAP in the News

Dr. Stewart Gordon, LA AAP President, and Dr. John Vanchiere, LA AAP Board Member-at-Large, presented to the Baton Rouge Press Club on Monday, February 28, 2011. Their presentation was titled "Healthcare for Louisiana's Children: Where the heck are we going?"

Subsequent to the presentation, two articles were published. To read the articles, click on the links below:

[www.2theadvocate.com/news/Doctors-support-tobacco-tax-hike.html?showAll=y&c=y](http://www.2theadvocate.com/news/Doctors-support-tobacco-tax-hike.html?showAll=y&c=y)

[www.2theadvocate.com/news/Doctors-support-tobacco-tax-hike.html?showAll=y&c=y](http://www.2theadvocate.com/news/Doctors-support-tobacco-tax-hike.html?showAll=y&c=y)

If you would like a copy of the presentation emailed to you, please request by email to: [ashley.politz@laaap.org](mailto:ashley.politz@laaap.org)

### NATIONAL VACCINE PLAN FROM HHS

Earlier this month, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) released a new strategic plan to advance vaccine and immunization science and policy for the next 10 years. The National Vaccine Plan is intended to enhance coordination of all aspects of federal vaccine and immunization activities and to ensure that all Americans can access the benefits of vaccines. Included in the Plan are strategies for advancing vaccine research and development, financing, supply, distribution, safety, global cooperation, and informed decision-making among consumers and health care providers. It consists of two phases: a strategic plan with overall goals and objectives to achieve for a 10-year period and an implementation plan with measurable outcomes and processes to achieve the goals of the plan. Regional meetings with stakeholders will take place in spring and summer 2011, with a focus on how to implement the strategies in the Plan. For more information on the National Vaccine Plan, go to [www.hhs.gov/nvpo/vacc\\_plan/](http://www.hhs.gov/nvpo/vacc_plan/)

### IMPACT OF ORAL HEALTH ON SCHOOL ATTENDANCE AND PERFORMANCE

A study published online February 17th for the March edition of the American Journal of Public Health looks at the impact of poor oral health on children's school attendance and performance. The study authors examined school days missed for routine dental care in comparison with days missed for dental pain or infection. Data from the 2008 North Carolina Health Assessment and Monitoring Program was used to study more than 2,100 school children and assess school absences and performance, oral health status, parental education, health insurance coverage, race and gender. Children with poor oral health status were nearly three times more likely than those with good oral health to miss school as a result of dental pain. Absences caused by pain were also associated with poorer school performance, but absences for routine care were not. The study authors conclude that improving children's oral health status may be a way to enhance their education experience. To review the study online, go to <http://ajph.aphapublications.org/cgi/content/abstract/AJPH.2010.200915v1>.

## Events and Opportunities



**REGISTER EARLY!**  
Register by **Tuesday, March 15, 2011** to receive a discount on your registration. Go to [www.lmgma.org](http://www.lmgma.org) to download the registration form and to see the full brochure.

**REASONS TO ATTEND**

- Opportunity to enhance your skills, talents, and knowledge base
- Interact with expert speakers
- Discuss products and services with various vendors
- Network with medical practice managers from across Louisiana

**APRIL 7-9, 2011**  
**HILTON CAPITAL CENTER**  
**BATON ROUGE, LA**

### WHO SHOULD ATTEND

The LMGMA 2011 Annual Conference is designed for administrators, managers, executives, physicians, nurse managers, billing and coding, compliance officers, health administration students and faculty, and other business professionals involved in managing a medical group practice.

### LODGING

**Hilton Baton Rouge Capitol Center Hotel – 201 Lafayette Street – Baton Rouge**

We are proud to designate the Hilton Baton Rouge Capitol Center Hotel as our conference headquarters. A block of guest rooms is being held for the conference until Tuesday, March 17, 2011, or until the guest room block is full. To make your reservations, call 1-800-HILTONS (1-800-445-8667) or go online to [www.hilton.com](http://www.hilton.com) the online code is **LMG** and be sure to mention that you are with the Louisiana Medical Group Management Association and receive a special single or double guest room rate of \$129.00.

### CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

The Conference Registration fee includes a program guide, breakfast and breaks, lunch, reception and social on Friday night, and full access to Exhibit Hall and all education sessions. Go to [www.lmgma.org](http://www.lmgma.org) to download the registration form.

### KEY NOTE SPEAKER SPEAKING ON THE PRACTICE OF LEADERSHIP

**Lt. General Russel Honoré (Ret.) • Commander of Joint Task Force • Katrina and Visionary Leader**

*Friday, April 8, 2011 1:30pm-2:30pm*



**CONCOURSE 3: GATE D**

**Pediatric Practice Managers and LA Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics: Charting our Future Together**  
Stewart Gordon, MD, FAAP, LA AAP President & Ashley Politz, LA AAP Executive Director

This session will be an open format discussion between the leadership of the Louisiana Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics (LA AAP) and pediatric practice managers. The goals of the discussion are to identifying opportunities to work collaboratively, identify pediatric specific practice management needs and establish relationships for ongoing dialogue.

# SAVE THE DATE

2011 Perinatal/MCH Foundation  
Annual Conference  
"Improving Birth Outcomes"

March 25, 2011

Children's Hospital  
200 Henry Clay Avenue  
New Orleans, Louisiana 70118

A multidisciplinary continuing education offering for physicians, registered nurses and other healthcare professionals whose practices impact the health of women and children.



For more information, contact:

Janie Martin, LAMCH Executive Director  
janie.martin@lamch.org or 225-379-7922

## SAVE THE DATE...

### 2011 NEW ORLEANS JOB FAIR

March 30, 2011  
5:00pm - 9:00pm  
New Orleans Marriott  
555 Canal Street

Practicing Physicians & Residents in all medical specialties and all years of training and Mid-Level Providers are invited to attend this FREE event to meet employers from Louisiana's top healthcare organizations. This is your opportunity to speak one on one with the top decision makers about their openings.

You don't want to miss this opportunity to show these employers why you should be their next hire.

**RSVP TODAY!**

Visit [www.MedJobLouisiana.com](http://www.MedJobLouisiana.com) and click on the "Events Calendar"

Thank you to our sponsors



For more information on this event contact:

Jenny Baudoin - 337.356.3515 - [jbaudoin@medjoblouisiana.com](mailto:jbaudoin@medjoblouisiana.com)

**[www.MedJobLouisiana.com](http://www.MedJobLouisiana.com)**

## REMINDERS

Daylight Savings Time Change— Spring forward at

2:00 am on Sunday, March 15th

St. Patrick's Day is March 17th- Don't forget to wear

your GREEN on March 17th!

If you have something you would like to submit for inclusion in the next newsletter, please submit the information to

[ashley.politz@laaap.org](mailto:ashley.politz@laaap.org).

### LA AAP Advisory Board Meeting

The next Advisory Board Meeting for the LA AAP will be Saturday, March 19, 2011 from 9:00 am— 1:00 pm in Baton Rouge. If you would like to attend or submit something for consideration by the board, please contact Ashley Politz at [ashley.politz@laaap.org](mailto:ashley.politz@laaap.org)