



Louisiana Chapter American Academy of Pediatrics PROGRESS NOTES *November 2009*

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FROM THE PRESIDENT



Stewart Gordon, MD, FAAP

Dear Colleagues,

I hope you enjoy your first e-newsletter! Feel free to share with pediatricians who may not be members and encourage them to join our chapter. As we go green, we are using the savings to improve our website as a means of communicating with you more efficiently. We will let you know when our new site goes live.

I appreciate your interest and investment in the Louisiana Chapter of the AAP and what we strive to do for each of you. It is critical that we thrive as an organization. My experience in my first term as State President taught me that no one will look out for pediatricians' interests like we will. Pediatrician's needs are largely forgotten in the traditional organized medicine associations. I trust this is simply because most physicians care for adults. Simply put, we are outnumbered.

You will soon receive an electronic survey that will guide your chapter leadership in charting the future course of our organization. Please complete it so we can continue to be successful together. I can assure each of you that we exist to meet the needs of our practices and our patients.

Below is a summation of my remarks made at this year's annual meeting, "The Importance of Your Professional Home."

It has been a pleasure to serve as your president these past two years and I appreciate the opportunity to do so again. During the past two years, I learned much about the politics of medicine. For the coming two years, I will be more focused on our members and their practice needs.

Your membership is very important. If you are not a member of at least the State Chapter, I encourage you to become one. Our chapter is a small business, just like your practice. We cannot advance our collective agendas of improving the practice of pediatrics in Louisiana, nor change public policy to the betterment of our patients without your dues. Please think of five pediatricians you see regularly and make it a point to ask them if they are members of the state chapter. If not, ask them to join.

Your executive committee, executive director and staff have worked diligently to improve the practice of medicine for pediatricians. We began to meet with state officials of the current administration in April 2008. Since that time we have been strategizing with weekly, now monthly, conference calls to achieve progress. Many times we spoke to deaf ears, but we have not given up our commitment to do what is right for our practices and our patients. While much of our attention has focused on the Medicaid program, we do not neglect advocacy directed towards private payers. For example, we have done our best to explain the financial concerns of providing vaccines in your offices and the need to pay fairly for this service.

All the above is stated to say we have been your voice and want to continue to make gains. Considering the potential financial changes coming to our practices (whether impacted by Medicaid cuts, national health care reform legislation or both) and (by proxy) our patients, your leadership wishes to remain your voice. We need your continued support and the support of others like you. Please put your money where my mouth is!

Stewart T. Gordon, M.D.

2009 OBESITY REPORT CARD - LOUISIANA EARNS ITS SECOND "D"

On September 14, 2009, The Pennington Biomedical Research Center (PBRC) released its second report card on children's health. Louisiana once again earned an overall grade of "D." By their definition, a "D" demonstrates insufficient appropriate physical activity opportunities and programs available to the majority of Louisiana's children and youth.

The report card evaluates several broad categories and specific indicators within each to determine the grade given. Those broad categories are: physical activity/inactivity, health and health behaviors, family, school and community, and policy and investments.

The report card lists specific recommendations for parents, teachers and school administrators, and policy makers, physicians and health care providers and researchers including:

1. Parents should spend time with their children in healthy outdoor activities and establish rules and time limits for television and computer usage referring to the AAP's recommendation of no more than 2 hours each day.
2. Teachers and school administrators should incorporate physical activity breaks during and between classes and make it fun.
3. Physicians and health care providers should become familiar, and keep up with, the 2008 Physical Activity Guidelines for Americans and encourage parents to participate in physical activity with their children.

For copies of the Report Card and the full research report, go to www.pbrc.edu or www.louisianareportcard.org.

In Louisiana, 36% of 10-17 year olds were overweight and obese, according to results from the 2007 National Survey of Children's Health. Data shows that from 2003 to 2007, a larger proportion of children and youth moved into the obese category

CHILDREN'S SPECIAL HEALTH SERVICES SURVEY

Children's Special Health Services (CSHS) is the Louisiana Office of Public Health's Title V program for children and youth with special needs (CYSHCN). The mission of CSHS is to assure that CYSHCN have access to healthcare services to minimize disabilities and maximize their ability to enjoy an independent life. Every 5 years CSHS conducts a statewide needs assessment to assess the current needs of the population and to assess whether needs are changing.

This year CSHS is disseminating surveys to medical practitioners who provide vital healthcare services for this population. The survey is intended to capture what providers believe is important in the provision of medical care for CYSHCN. This information will enable CSHS to implement policy that will complement and enhance the current service delivery system.

It is important to receive your feedback in order to assure that the policy developed captures the diverse opinions of Louisiana providers. Please be aware that you will receive an email that will direct you to an anonymous online survey that will be analyzed by an independent contractor. The results will be presented to CSHS and published in future newsletters. CSHS will be glad to provide a list of community resources for CYSHCN in your region as a thank you for completing this survey. Thank you in advance for your time!

NEW LAAAP OFFICERS ELECTED

Thank you to everyone who voted. At the Business Meeting held during the Pediatric Potpourri XVIII, the new officers were announced for the term September 2009 - September 2011.

President - *Stewart T. Gordon, MD, FAAP*
Vice President - *H. Jay Collinsworth, MD, FAAP*
Secretary - *Michael K. Judice, MD, FAAP*
Treasurer - *Daniel Bronfin, MD, FAAP*

At-Large Members
Bryan Sibley, MD, FAAP
John Vanchiere, MD, PhD, FAAP

Congratulations to those elected.

PEDIATRIC POTPOURRI XVIII

On September 11 and 12, over 100 pediatricians gathered in Baton Rouge for continuing education, networking and to support the local chapter.

Dr. Michael Judice and the Education Committee members planned an outstanding event with continuing education content and speakers of interest to the audience. The Chapter is very fortunate to have such a dedicated team working each year to make the conference a success.



The conference is jointly sponsored by the Woman's Foundation in Lafayette. A special thanks to Taryn Daigle, Mary Landry and Dianna Leger. The Chapter appreciates all of their effort to make this annual event a success.

A thank you is also extended to the Gold Sponsors of the 2009 conference:

MedImmune
PharmaDerm
Sanofi Pasteur

And Silver Sponsor: **Astra Zeneca.**

At the annual meeting, the Chapter recognized outstanding efforts on behalf of the children in our state.

Dr. John Vanchiere presented the Charles M. Vanchiere Child Advocacy Award for 2009 to Dr. Steven Spedale and thanked him for his leadership and willingness to give his time and resources to advocacy.

The 2009 David W. Van Gelder Distinguished Service Award was presented to Dr. Michael Judice recognizing him for his substantial contribution to the advancement of the Chapter. Dr. Judice accepted the award and offered thanks to everyone for their hard work on the conference.

Dr. Roberta Vicarri presented the Elizabeth E. Cassinelli award to Dr. Barbara Golden describing her as the consummate mentor and commended her for always being a role model for female pediatricians. Dr. Golden accepted the award and thanked everyone for the validation of what she does and for caring for children the rest of the world sees as worthless.

Dr. Collinsworth presented the Outstanding Louisiana Pediatric Society award to the Acadiana society. The society has over 80 members and covers eight parishes. Dr. Collinsworth said that Acadiana is "creating a dynasty" and urged other areas to develop a local society and to become more active.

2008 NATIONAL IMMUNIZATION SURVEY RESULTS RELEASED

For the third year, the CDC has conducted the National Immunization Survey– Teen (NIS-Teen) to evaluate the immunization rates of children ages 13-17 nationally. The 2008 report includes estimates for each of the 50 states and a few selected local areas.

Overall, the 2008 NIS-Teen results demonstrated an increase in vaccination coverage for the three most recently recommended adolescent vaccinations and one childhood vaccination: meningococcal conjugate vaccine (MCV4); tetanus diptheria, acellular pertussis vaccine (Tdap); quadrivalent human papillomavirus vaccine (HPV4); and varicella vaccine (VAR).

The study results also shows that the target of 90% coverage among adolescents ages 13-15 years old put forth in *Healthy People 2010* was met for MMR and HepB vaccines.

Data for NIS-Teen was collected using a random-digit-dialed sample of household telephone numbers and the sample size was increased from previous years. The household response rate was 58.7% for the 2008 survey with a total of 17,835 adolescents

participating. The study also looked at provider-verified vaccination records.

Substantial differences were observed across states and local areas. Louisiana was in the short list of states that has greater than 50% coverage for at least one of the three newly recommended vaccines.

Noticed differences were observed among racial/ethnic groups and by poverty status. For example, the HPV4 vaccination coverage among Hispanic adolescent females was 9.4% higher than whites and was 10.6% higher among those who live below the poverty line than those who live at or above the poverty line.

Although there are limitations noted with this study, the CDC is working to identify evidence-based strategies for improving vaccination coverage among adolescents by looking at strategies shown to improve vaccination rates among other populations.

For full results and report, please visit www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5836a2.htm

NATIONAL HEALTH CARE REFORM INFORMATION

Kaiser Family Foundation provides an interactive side-by-side that compares the leading comprehensive reform proposals across a number of key characteristics and plan components. Included in this side-by-side are proposals for moving toward universal coverage that have been put forward by the President and Members of Congress.

http://www.kff.org/healthreform/sidebyside.cfm?utm_source=kff&utm_medium=homepage_nn&utm_campaign=110309_sidebyside_houseleadership

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS) has released its report on the effects of the House of Representatives' health reform bill. To read a copy of the CMS report, go to

<http://thehill.com/images/stories/news/2009/november/weekend111309/cmsactuarynumbers.pdf>.

For an overview of the issue of health care reform and updates from the Department of Health and Human Services, go to <http://www.healthreform.gov/>.

DO YOU KNOW YOUR NATIONAL AAP REPRESENTATIVES?

AAP National Elected Committees Representative:

Chapter Forum Management Committee - *Dr. Keith Perrin*

AAP National Appointed Committees Representatives:

Early Childhood, Adoption, and Dependent Care - *Dr. Margaret Gleason*

Infectious Diseases - *Dr. Joseph Bocchini*

Medical Liability and Risk Management - *Dr. Jay Goldsmith*

Membership - *Dr. George Ellis*

Pediatrics AIDS - *Dr. Russell Van Dyke*

If you are interested in serving on a committee, please let the chapter office know.

THE LOUISIANA AAP FOUNDATION BUILDING FUTURE PEDIATRICIANS

The Louisiana AAP Foundation was created to address educational needs of pediatric health care providers, parents and citizens and to conduct projects related to pediatric health.

The Foundation supports projects on an annual basis to enhance the pediatric resident programs and pediatric interest groups, as well as provides stipends for international residential scholarships.

Pediatric Interest Group grants have underwritten activities such as the "Children's Fair" at Children's Hospital in New Orleans, meetings for interested students to participate in interactive presentations with pediatricians, specialists and pediatric residents, and the "Family Health and Safety Fair" in Shreveport. Pediatric Interest Group grants are typically up to \$500.00, annually.

Each year, the Foundation offers a grant to the pediatric residency programs in the state. This year we are pleased to include the new pediatric residency program at Our Lady of the Lake in Baton Rouge. Each program may apply for a grant up to \$500.00, annually.

The Foundation also provides international scholarships for pediatric residents up to \$500.00.

Please contact the AAP Chapter office and we will provide you with guidance on how to apply for a grant or scholarship.



Louisiana Chapter
Of the American Academy of Pediatrics
P. O. Box 64629
Baton Rouge, LA 70896

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!!

The Louisiana Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics will hold its next Board of Directors meeting December 5, 2009 in New Orleans.



Saturday Pediatric Series
Current Events and New Therapies in Pediatrics
December 12, 2009

Ralph's on the Park
900 City Park Ave. (488-1000)
New Orleans, LA

presented by:
Tulane University School of Medicine
Department of Pediatrics and the
Center for Continuing Education

For more information and to register for this event:
Phone: (504) 988-5466 E-mail: cme@tulane.edu
Register Online at www.cme.tulane.edu

THE FUTURE OF LA AAP

The Chapter is asking each of its members to complete a short, member survey to help determine our goals and priorities for the next year as well as how to best serve you. To complete the survey, [CLICK HERE.](#)

Your responses will be anonymous.

Thank you.

CHANGES FOR YOUR ADDRESS BOOK

The Chapter office has moved! The new office location is
Louisiana Municipal Association Building
700 North 10th Street, Suite 250
Baton Rouge, LA 70802

The mailing address remains the same (P.O. Box 64629 Baton Rouge, LA 70896)
The new phone number is: (225) 379-7923
The new fax number is: (225) 379-7921