

Even Year Awards:

Charles M. Vanchiere Child Advocacy Award: This award is given to recognize special efforts to improve the health of children in Louisiana by increasing their access to needed health care.

Nominator: Dr. Joseph Bocchini, Jr., MD, FAAP

Nominee: Dr. John A. Vanchiere (recipient in 2017)

Nomination notes: John has worked tirelessly for the benefit of the children of Louisiana and nationally.

From the time of his return to Louisiana, John has taken on a number of leadership roles within the LA AAP and as a Louisiana pediatrician to improve access of children to health services. He has spoken for pediatricians throughout the state. He has been an effective leader working with Medicaid, LDH, and other state agencies to address numerous issues. He has represented us on a variety of state committees, provided testimony to Legislative committees and led and lobbied the Chapter's efforts in many areas over the years.

I believe he is more than qualified to receive this award named after his father.

I will be happy to provide a more detailed nomination if needed.

Thank you,

Joe Bocchini

Nominator: Ann Kay Logarbo, MD, FAAP

Nominee: Chris Leumas, MD, FAAP

Nomination Notes: Chris has worked quietly and tirelessly for over 30 years in an economically challenged area, working to improve access to care for the population of North Tangipahoa Parish. For the most part, he has been the only and most stable pediatrician in the area.

Bettina C. Hilman Award for Services to Special Needs Children: This award is given to a pediatrician that has provided significant services for special needs children in the state.

Nominator: Ann Kay Logarbo, MD, FAAP

Nominee: Ann Tilton

Nomination Notes: Ann has been the pediatric neurologist of choice for decades in the greater NOLA area. Her commitment to the neurologically challenged child, especially those with epilepsy, goes unmatched. In the 35 years I have known her, I could pick up the phone and she would offer to see any patient that needed her expertise at once. Add to that that she raised 4 kids while doing it all and you have a star!

Nominator: Brian M. Barkemeyer, MD
Professor and Vice Chair of Pediatrics, LSUHSC-New Orleans
200 Henry Clay Avenue
New Orleans, LA 70118
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Cell – 504-452-1241

**** NOTE- DR. Logarbo also recommended Dr. Levine for this award**

Nominee: Dr. Stephen Levine (Pediatric Pulmonary and Critical Care) – recently retired
200 Henry Clay Avenue
New Orleans, LA 70118
Cell phone – 504-450-9603

Nomination Notes:

I am pleased to nominate Dr. Stephen Levine for the Bettina C. Hilman Award for Services to Special Needs Children. Knowing both Dr. Hilman and Dr. Levine from the earliest stages of my career, I am confident he is deserving of this award. Like Dr. Hilman, Dr. Levine is a pediatric pulmonologist. Over the course of his career, Dr. Levine worked in the care of patients with lung diseases like cystic fibrosis, bronchopulmonary dysplasia, and asthma. For much of the early part of his career, Dr. Levine also served as medical director for the PICU at Children's Hospital and along with his partners as an early version of a hospitalist service. He also led the Chronic Ventilator Program for many years. In my work in the NICU, I often interacted with Dr. Levine in the care of our sickest patients with chronic lung disease. In his own direct way, Dr. Levine cared for these patients and families without shying away from a difficult situation or being anything less than honest and open with patient families. He was always available to serve as a resource for patients, families, and other clinicians, and he was involved in the education of hundreds of pediatric residents.

In his various roles, Dr. Levine served children with special needs without regard to their background or family status. He cared to the most vulnerable, often the most disenfranchised, and sometimes just special needs kids who did not have someone else to care for them. Ironically, one example of Dr. Levine's care involves a special needs patient not from Louisiana and someone who Dr. Levine never actually provided direct patient care for. A physician from a neighboring state sought our assistance with a difficult case for a special needs newborn with an extended hospital stay where the family needed additional guidance to aid their decision-making. The mom and grandma traveled to New Orleans to meet Dr. Levine and me and discuss their child's condition and treatment options. There was no compensation or recognition involved, just a heart to heart conversation with family members struggling to make complex decisions. After this conversation, the family left more assured in their decision-making; the referring physician was most appreciative of the support offered to this family and their program.

With Dr. Levine's recent retirement, our state has lost a valuable clinical resource for special needs children who is deserving of this recognition for over 40 years of service.

Chapter Service Award: This award is to recognize a committee or special interest group that has most successfully accomplished its goals and objectives.

Nominator: Harley G. Ginsberg, MD, FAAP
Medical Director, Mothers' Milk Bank of Louisiana
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Nominee: Mothers' Milk Bank of Louisiana

Nomination Notes: Please allow me to nominate Mothers' Milk Bank of Louisiana as a "Special Interest Group" for the 2020 Chapter Service Award for the Louisiana Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics. It is well known that human milk is much more than wonderful nutrition for healthy newborns. Research has demonstrated that human milk may be life saving therapy for critically ill babies and unfortunately, some mothers may not be capable of providing this nourishment for their offspring. Pasteurized donor human milk has been proven and subsequently recognized by the American Academy of Pediatrics as the next best source of nutrition when a mother's milk is not available.

In 2015, our team established the first human milk depot in Louisiana at Ochsner Baptist. Three years later, in March of 2018, we were accredited by the Human Milk Banking Association of North America (HMBANA) as Louisiana's first milk bank. We are now establishing milk depots throughout our State and with an amazing, ever expanding group of donor moms, provide pasteurized donor human milk to over half of our level III and above NICUs in the State of Louisiana. Recognizing that there are medical indications for outpatient donor human milk, we have recently established a program for helping these babies as well.

Sandra C. Adams Award: recognition of a non-physician in their efforts to improve health of children in Louisiana through advocacy and community involvement.

Nominator: Roberta Carona Vicari, MD, FAAP
Nominee: Paula Doyle Zeanah, PhD, MSN, BSN

Nomination Notes:

September 15, 2020

It is my pleasure to nominate Paula Doyle Zeanah, PhD, MSN, BSN for the Sandra C. Adams Award.

Dr. Zeanah has a long history of working for children and advocating for them in a variety of ways throughout her nursing career, as a nurse practitioner, and as a psychologist with expertise in infant mental health.

In 2015, however, Dr. Zeanah was chosen to be part of the inaugural group of adverse child experience (ACE) educators for the state of Louisiana. Tulane's School of Public Health and Louisiana's Dept. of Child and Family Services jointly sponsored this. It consisted of a group of 27 people from across the state committed to three years of service. They were trained directly by Dr. Rob Anda and Laura Porter, the co-directors of the ACE Interface, considered "Cohort 1" for Louisiana.

Dr. Zeanah spoke around the state on numerous occasions before a variety of groups to educate about the consequences of adverse childhood experiences on long term health, economy and more. She developed seminars for some areas incorporating daylong education with mental health and the aspects of ACES. She transitioned to serve as the chairperson of the Louisiana State ACE Initiative Team through 2020 with various leaders around the state and continued to build momentum as more cohorts were trained and word spread about the significance of ACES and consequences to children and their adult future. (There are now six cohorts across the state!)

In that role, Dr. Zeanah lead the organization to acquire grants and hold the first state ACE Summit in 2019 bringing national experts together with state leaders to bring to forefront the widespread ACE issues among our own communities in a two-day event in which the LA AAP partnered with the LA ACE Initiative.

Then, in the fall of 2019, Dr. Zeanah lead the same ACE Team in Louisiana along with professional support to produce a documentary—**Toxic Stress: Adverse Childhood Experiences in Louisiana**. This is being utilized as an educational tool for our state. It incorporated all aspects of the pediatric communities across the state: educational, social services, medical, legal, and the interactions among them.

This woman's talents as a child advocate are well known through her role as the Director of Research at the Cecil Picard Center for Child Development and Lifelong Learning at the University of Louisiana in Lafayette. Dr. Zeanah's involvement with the ACE Initiative has advanced community awareness of the significance for our children across the state and into the world of nursing in particular.

"Paula" is energetic, loving and enthusiastic in every aspect of her professional activities. Her kindness is a model for us all to emulate; her selflessness in acting for the love of children provides those around her with a challenge to look at our own purpose...evidenced by her recognition as a Champion for Children by Prevent Child Abuse Louisiana!

I can think of no one more deserving of the Sandra C. Adams Award than Dr. Paula Doyle Zeanah.

Respectfully,

Roberta C Vicari

Nominator: Brian M. Barkemeyer, MD
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Nominee: Kimberly Novod
Founder, Saul's Light (saulslight.org)
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Nomination Notes: I am pleased to nominate Kimberly Novod for the Sandra C. Adams Award. Having known Sandra and witnessed her tireless advocacy for children of Louisiana, I see similar traits in Kimberly Novod and feel she is deserving of this award. I first met Kimberly and her husband Aaron Novod in 2014 in the care of their premature infant son Saul. After the unexpected and untimely death of Saul, Kimberly and Aaron turned their grief into hope via the formation of Saul's Light in 2015 as resource for NICU parents.

Kimberly's passion in her leadership of Saul's Light shines through as the foundation grows to support NICU families in multiple ways, initially with the purchase of cuddle cots to aid in bereavement options at several local hospitals and now through multiple avenues to help NICU families educationally, emotionally, and financially. Over 300 families have been directly assisted by the efforts of Saul's Light. Most recently, Kimberly has reached out to displaced NICU families of infants from Lake Charles after hurricane Laura.

Kimberly has been a consensus builder, often uniting entities from separate hospital settings to raise NICU awareness, to advocate for babies and families, and to help others learn from her personal experiences. She is energetic and engaged in her work deftly using social media and contacts with local governmental and hospital leaders to further the cause of NICU patients and families. Recognition via this award would honor Kimberly, but more importantly bring more awareness to the useful causes she supports.