

SOUTH CAROLINA CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PEDIATRICS

NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER 2021

President's Message – Robert Saul, MD, FAAP

As COVID-19 continues to occupy our waking and non-sleeping moments, let me take a moment to thank all of you for your incredible grit, determination and dedication to the children and families of SC. Pediatricians selflessly devote so many resources to these efforts, often cutting into their personal and family time, just to be sure those that need our help get our help. At times as we deal with spikes in COVID-19 infections and deal with anti-public health mitigation measures and deal with vaccine-hesitancy or anti-vaxxers, it is easy to get very discouraged. There are estimated to be 430,000 children in the 5-11 age group, and over 7,000 children were vaccinated in the first week (per SCDHEC). That 1.6% is actually pretty remarkable given the logistic challenges nationwide and statewide. The CDC and SCDHEC knew that the initial rollout for 5-11 was going to be difficult.

If you are among those giving COVID-19 vaccines, you might feel that you gave all of those in your office or drive-thru clinic. And obviously you are doing this at the same time that staffing issues, family-anxiety and professional challenges are present.

The SCAAP is here to help. We are working with the state agencies at as many levels as possible. Multiple resources are available—from SCDHEC (educational [professional and lay], logistic; <https://scdhec.gov/covid19/covid-19-data>) and from the national AAP (<https://www.aap.org/en/pages/2019-novel-coronavirus-covid-19-infections/>). I encourage you to reach out if needed. Note the conference below on November 17 includes our own Dr. Greenhouse.

One more thing—the AAP, the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry and the Children's Hospital Association recently declared an emergency for children's mental health. We will be pursuing specific ways to engage in these efforts going forward. The draft declaration below has not been disseminated and awaits further delineation before its release.

A Declaration From The South Carolina Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics

As health professionals dedicated to the care of children and adolescents, we have witnessed soaring rates of mental health challenges among children, adolescents, and their families over the course of the COVID-19 pandemic, exacerbating the situation that existed prior to the pandemic. Children and families, across our country and specifically in South Carolina, have experienced enormous adversity and disruption. The inequities that result from structural racism have contributed to disproportionate impacts on children from communities of color.

This worsening crisis in child and adolescent mental health is inextricably tied to the stress brought on by COVID-19 and the ongoing struggle for racial justice and represents an acceleration of trends observed prior to 2020. Rates of childhood mental health concerns and suicide rose steadily between 2010 and 2020 and by 2018 suicide was the second leading cause of death for youth ages 10-24. The pandemic has intensified this crisis: across the

country we have witnessed dramatic increases in Emergency Department visits for all mental health emergencies including suspected suicide attempts.

The pandemic has struck at the safety and stability of families. More than 140,000 children in the United States lost a primary and/or secondary caregiver, with youth of color disproportionately impacted. We are caring for young people with soaring rates of depression, anxiety, trauma, loneliness, and suicidality that will have lasting impacts on them, their families, and their communities. We must identify strategies to meet these challenges through innovation and action, using state, local and national approaches to improve the access to and quality of care across the continuum of mental health promotion, prevention, and treatment.

We join the national American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry (AACAP) and the Children's Hospital Association (CHA) to declare a State of Emergency in Children's Mental Health. The challenges facing children and adolescents are so widespread that we call on policymakers at all levels and agencies of South Carolina government and advocates for children and adolescents to join us in this declaration and advocate for the following:

- Increase state funding dedicated to ensuring all families and children, from infancy through adolescence, can access evidence-based mental health screening, diagnosis, and treatment to appropriately address their mental health needs, with particular emphasis on meeting the needs of under-resourced populations.
- Address regulatory challenges and improve access to technology to assure continued availability of telemedicine to provide mental health care to all populations.
- Increase implementation and sustainable funding of effective models of school-based mental health care, including clinical strategies and models for payment.
- Accelerate adoption of effective and financially sustainable models of integrated mental health care in primary care pediatrics, including clinical strategies and models for payment.
- Strengthen emerging efforts to reduce the risk of suicide in children and adolescents through prevention programs in schools, primary care, and community settings.
- Address the ongoing challenges of the acute care needs of children and adolescents, including shortage of beds and emergency room boarding by expanding access to step-down programs from inpatient units, short-stay stabilization units, and community-based response teams.
- Fully fund comprehensive, community-based systems of care that connect families in need of behavioral health services and supports for their child with evidence-based interventions in their home, community or school.
- Promote and pay for trauma-informed care services that support relational health and family resilience.
- Accelerate strategies to address longstanding workforce challenges in child mental health, including innovative training programs, loan repayment, and intensified efforts to recruit underrepresented populations into mental health professions as well as attention to the impact that the public health crisis has had on the well-being of health professionals.
- Advance policies that ensure compliance with and enforcement of mental health parity laws.

Register for the CATCH Meeting ASAP!! 2022 SC Chapter of the AAP CATCH Meeting January 21-22 at the Hotel Emeline, Charleston, SC

The SCAAP CATCH Meeting is for South Carolina Chapter members and their staff. CME will be offered and there is no registration fee.

CATCH Agenda



<http://sp2010/societies/SCCAAP/ layouts/WordViewer.aspx?id=/societies/SCCAAP/Shared%20Documents/2022%20Catch%20Agenda.docx&Source=http%3A%2F%2Fsp2010%2Fsocieties%2FSCCAAP%2FShared%2520Documents%2FForms%2FAllItems%2Easpx%3FView%3D%7Bd88dc17d%2Dc595%2D4a01%2Db776%2D10686cc6a627%7D%26SortField%3DModified%26SortDir%3D Desc&DefaultItemOpen=1>

CATCH Registration Form

<http://sp2010/societies/SCCAAP/ layouts/WordViewer.aspx?id=/societies/SCCAAP/Shared%20Documents/CATCH%20Registration%20Form.docx&Source=http%3A%2F%2Fsp2010%2Fsocieties%2FSCCAAP%2FShared%2520Documents%2FForms%2FAllItems%2Easpx%3FInitialTabId%3DRibbon%252EDocument%26VisibilityContext%3DWSSTabPersistence%26View%3D%7Bd88dc17d%2Dc595%2D4a01%2Db776%2D10686cc6a627%7D%26SortField%3DModified%26SortDir%3D Desc&DefaultItemOpen=1>

White House Joins the Conversation: Children and COVID-19: Strategies and Partnerships for Vaccination – November 17, 2021

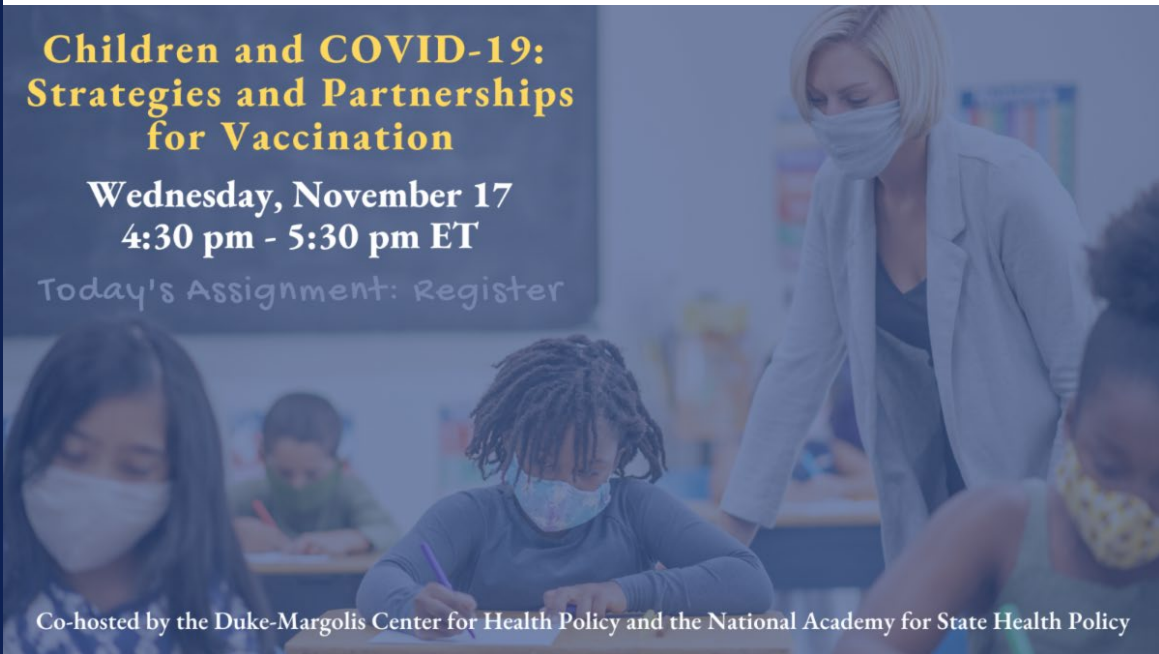
Our own SC Chapter of the AAP member Debbie Greenhouse, MD is going to speak at the webinar below. Be sure to register ASAP.



Children and COVID-19: Strategies and Partnerships for Vaccination

Wednesday, November 17
4:30 pm - 5:30 pm ET

Today's Assignment: Register



Co-hosted by the Duke-Margolis Center for Health Policy and the National Academy for State Health Policy

Date: Wednesday, November 17
Time: 4:30 pm – 5:30 pm ET
Location: Virtual (link provided after registration)
[Register Now](#)

Join the [Duke-Margolis Center for Health Policy](#) and the [National Academy for State Health Policy](#) for our upcoming webinar, “**Children and COVID-19: Strategies and Partnerships for Vaccination**,” on **Wednesday, November 17, 2021 from 4:30 - 5:30 PM ET**. This webinar will feature a conversation with White House Senior Policy Advisor for COVID-19 Equity, **Dr. Cameron Webb**. With the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine now available to children ages 5 to 11, Dr. Webb and Dr. Mark McClellan will discuss how best to protect our children and communities against COVID-19.



Dr. Cameron Webb
White House Senior Policy Advisor for
COVID-19 Equity

This webinar will also feature conversations with state leaders, pediatric providers, school officials, and leaders from community health centers to explore how they have approached planning and partnerships, and how they are addressing logistical challenges to vaccinating children.

Other speakers and panelists include:

- **Brandy Emily, DNP, RN**, Health Equity Branch Chief, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment
- **Deborah Greenhouse, MD, FAAP**, Pediatrician, Columbia, South Carolina
- **Alycia Meriweather**, Deputy Superintendent, Detroit Public Schools Community District
- **Christian Ramers, MD, MPH**, Assistant Medical Director for Research & Special Populations, Family Health Centers of San Diego

Duke-Margolis and NASHP would like to thank the Commonwealth Fund for their generous support for this project.

[View Agenda](#)

[Register Now!](#)

Contact marjolisevents@duke.edu with inquiries regarding the webinar.

Visit our [events page](#) to view other upcoming events hosted by the Duke-Robert J. Margolis, MD, Center for Health Policy.

Connect with us!



Bright Futures eNews Subscribers

To Bright Futures eNews Subscribers

Please consider applying (if appropriate) and share this opportunity with interested colleagues.

Community Access to Child Health (CATCH) Program Call for Proposals is Open!

The Community Access To Child Health (CATCH) program is a national initiative of the AAP that supports pediatric health care professionals to collaborate within their communities to plan and/or implement projects that advance the health of all children. The CATCH Call for Proposals is open through **January 24, 2022 at 11:59 pm CT**. [Pediatric health care professionals](#) and pediatric [residents](#) in the United States, Puerto Rico and Canadian AAP chapters, with innovative ideas to plan or implement initiatives that address critical child health issues in their local communities may apply for \$10,000 and \$2,000, respectively.

The [Resident Call for Proposals guidelines](#) include targeted funding opportunities on more than 10 topics including oral health, community pediatrics, environmental health, developmental and behavioral pediatrics, emergency medicine, school health, obesity prevention, and child abuse/neglect.

Questions? Reach out to [Chapter CATCH Facilitators](#), [District Resident CATCH Liaisons](#) and [CATCH staff](#) for assistance. To learn more about CATCH visit aap.org/CATCH.



CATCH 2022 Application Timeline



It is strongly suggested that all applicants request Technical Assistance as they develop any CATCH project proposals from the CATCH network of Chapter CATCH Facilitators (CCFs) and CATCH District Resident Liaisons (DRLs).

CATCH network contact rosters and the Call for Proposals are available at www.aap.org/CATCH

American Academy of Pediatrics
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Virtual Inflammatory Brain Disorders Conference

I am the director of Neuroimmune Foundation and wanted to invite you to attend our virtual Inflammatory Brain Disorders Conference May 20-21, 2022 via webcast. The focus is both pediatric and adult patients. CME credit is available to all live attendees. A flyer is attached (see link below) featuring our speakers from Mayo Clinic, Stanford, Columbia, Harvard, UCSF, Georgetown, Duke, Johns Hopkins, and others.

As we have partnered with Stanford University School of Medicine to offer this virtual event, I will direct you to their website which subsequently links to the [registration page](#).

The virtual conference is being offered *free of charge* to 500 physicians thanks to generous donations.

Greater than 90% of attendees rated the overall quality of the 2021 conference 5/5 in their CME evaluations.

**Executive Director and Founder, Neuroimmune Foundation
(previously known as The Foundation For Children With Neuroimmune Disorders)**

www.neuroimmune.org

608-381-0367

Neuroimmune Foundation holds [Guidestar's Platinum Seal of Transparency](#), an honor held by fewer than 1% of nonprofits.