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South Carolina Chapter

American Academy of Pediatrics

DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN®



SCAAP Newsletter

January 2024

Friends,

Happy New Year!

- **See you at CATCH in a couple weeks...** agenda [here](#).
- **New AAP email policy:** "The AAP is implementing a new Document Retention Policy, and an important part of that effort is for member leaders to begin using a *personal email address beginning 1/1/2024*. This new policy does not impact all AAP members, only those members who are active and serve on the AAP Board of Directors as well as AAP committees, councils, sections, task forces, editorial boards, educational planning committees, authors of publications and policy, and other AAP advisory bodies." Note, though this does not impact all members it is a good idea for all to consider. See [here](#) for details on how to change your email.
- Thank you to all who participated in the RSV/COVID vaccine webinar panel on 12/5/23!
- Wanted to share a tool that is part of Dr. Bryan Sexton's evidence-based well-being toolkit [focused on awe](#)... it will just take you ~5min and is great fun!
- Join Dr. Key's ECHO (free!) on 1/3/23 at 12:30p est to talk about **mental health screening** of children in clinical practice and in schools, click [here](#) for more info.
- Check out these [AAP parenting goals](#) for the new year.
- All: We are **recruiting for committee/subcommittee members!** Please check out the [committee list](#) and reach out to join. Each committee meets quarterly and is looking for your input (trainees included)! Groups recruiting members include membership, asthma, oral health, foster care, immunizations, healthy lifestyles, school health, telemedicine, climate, tobacco prevention, pediatric council, legislative advocacy, early hearing detection/intervention, PROS (pediatric research

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- Please contact president@scaap.org if you want to include kudos or announcements in the newsletter!

In the news:

- See **Dr. Eliza Varadi**, our immunization guru on the RSV issue [here!](#)
- **Dr. Bob Saul**, immediate past president, crafted [another articulate blog post!](#) If you'd like to receive his weekly blog post via email, contact him at robertsaul@me.com

Grants:

- We have been awarded a **\$10,000 grant from AHIP** to support communication efforts around Medicaid Unwinding and we will work with Palmetto Project on this grant!
- [CATCH grant applications](#) are due 1/22/24!
- We were awarded a trainee engagement grant, and this will include trainees on the board!
- We were one of 3 chapters awarded a **21k AAP Adolescent Vaccinations and Wellness Grant Program** supported by Merck! Dr. Eliza Varadi is our chapter immunization rep and will be helping to lead the charge to improve vaccine rates throughout the state.
- Other active grants: Project Firstline, Ambassador Suicide

Vaccine info:

- Hot off the press: The **Beyfortus Provider Coverage Finder Tool** has been launched and is accessible through Sanofi's Cracking the Codes website. It allows you to research Beyfortus coverage status through a zip code or state search. This [document](#) provides more information as well as a direct link to register and log into Cracking the Codes. And here is the Cracking the Codes Coverage Training [document](#) in case you are not familiar with the host of coding and billing information on the site.
- See this [CDC health advisory](#) on the urgent need to vaccinate against influenza, COVID, and RSV when possible.

Upcoming dates:

- [CATCH](#): January 19-20, 2024, at Francis Marion Hotel in Charleston
- SCAAP State House Day: March 26, 2024
- Annual summer meeting 2024: August 8-11, 2024, Royal Sonesta on HHI (not Myrtle Beach)

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State advocacy updates: check out www.scaap.org/advocacy for action on current bills

- We are gearing up for the legislative session which starts 1/9/24! Here is a list of relevant [pre-filed legislation](#) as of 12/27/23 from Maggie Cash worth reviewing.
- One of the pre-filed bills is [S.882](#), “Prescriptions for minors,” which is of significant concern, and we are preparing now for the testimony in the subcommittee on 1/3/24.
- Your executive committee has been working with SCASA and SC Advocates for Epilepsy again on the Seizure Safe Schools Act ([H.3309](#)).
- SCAAP was invited by Senator Katrina Shealy to join the **SC Suicide Prevention Coalition** and will be represented by Drs. Martha Edwards & Jan Key, who serve as our suicide prevention ambassadors.
- Several chapter members met with key legislators the week of 12/4 to reinforce our continued opposition to [S.627](#), which proposes a gender-affirming care ban for children under 18 and forces schools to out children before they are ready. We testified against this bill on 3/23/23 in Senate Medical Affairs. This will likely be taken up again in January.
- We continue to support the **hate crime** penalty enhancement bill [H.3014](#) and this may be taken up this session.

National advocacy updates

- Several chapter members met with **Rep. Mace’s** staff on 12/4/23 to discuss the importance of gun violence prevention research and background checks.
- “The AAP is actively advocating for [continued federal investment](#) in research on **firearm violence prevention** as Congress debates the upcoming federal budget. To that end, **the AAP is releasing new videos** of pediatricians discussing their experiences around firearm violence – both personal and professional – to push lawmakers to action. **The videos can be found [here](#)** (with more to come), and we invite you all to share them on social media and with your networks, along with your own messages highlighting the urgency of research into firearm violence prevention.”
- See here for the updated [AAP Advocacy Report](#)
- **How to Sign Up for AAP Advocacy Emails:** If you do not already receive advocacy emails from the AAP, please consider signing up! The Academy sends regular advocacy updates and advocacy action alerts to AAP members, along with a weekly Capital Check-Up email, recapping the child health policy news from Washington when Congress is in session. To request to sign up, email kids1st@aap.org along with your name, email address, and AAP ID if known.

SCAAP president

Section on Early Career Physicians (SOECP) Corner

Your SOECP District IV Reps

DR: Laura Workman, MD— laura.workman@louisville.edu

ADR: Erika Cravanas, MD— erika.cravanas@gmail.com

1. Join the SOECP What's App Group!

Stay connected with other ECPs by joining our SOECP WhatsApp group. The group was started during NCE to help us communicate during the conference, but we decided to keep it open to continue providing updates to members! To download and join, [click here](#).

2. SOECP Workgroups

We're always looking for more people to join our workgroups. It really helps to make you feel more engaged with the Section and take part in programming and decision-making for the group. Our workgroups include: 1) Advocacy, 2) Communications & Member Value, 3) Equity Diversity & Inclusion, 4) Education, and 5) Membership & Networking. Click the link below for more information and to complete the interest form! We will be deciding on new meeting times after the new year based on preferences of workgroup members.

[information here](#)

3. SOECP SOAP Notes Blog

Make sure to check out the articles written by your SOECP peers [HERE](#).

Are you interested in submitting an article, but unsure what you want to write? Well look no further...feel free to refer to the National Health Observance [calendar](#) for monthly topics.

Your original piece can be the next featured article! [Submissions](#) are due by the 15th of each month.

4. Tip of the Month

Physician Employment Contract Tips

- When negotiating a contract, only ask for fair terms. Many physicians feel like they are asking for too much in negotiations, especially if it is their first contract. The pay increase from training to your first attending position can be huge, but you could still be underpaid compared to the average for your specialty and location. Always consult salary data for jobs like yours, so you know whether an offered

your request.

- Many contracts outline some restrictions on outside activities or business ventures you can participate in, mainly those that might interfere with your work or are closely related to your employer's business. These clauses often require prior written consent from your employer before engaging in such activities. If you plan to moonlight or have a side gig, make sure you check for restrictions in your contract and possibly negotiate for them to be lessened.
- Pay close attention to how you must repay signing bonuses. Many bonuses will be forgiven over the course of your employment in a pro-rated manner. Although, contracts can include language requiring you to pay back the remainder of your signing bonus in full if you leave before the repayment period is complete. In more extreme but uncommon cases, you could have even more obligations beyond the original bonus amount. Make sure to check these contract terms and negotiate appropriately to avoid any surprises in the future.

Check Out These Resources and Opportunities

This site [Tobacco Cessation | AAP](#) gives specific recommendations on when nicotine replacement is needed and how much to give...helpful tool!

See here for [DHEC PPE ordering form](#).

Encourage patients to download and use **CDC's milestone tracker app!**

Download this [quick reference guide](#) from the AAP for **age-appropriate dosing of the COVID-19 vaccine**. The chart includes information for immunocompromised children and has been updated to include the latest booster dosing information for children under 5.

SOPT Corner

from Dr. Pooja Gajulapalli, SOPT District IV representative

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The AAP Advocacy Internship Program is restarting after being on hiatus since March 2020. Applications are now open for 1-month internships between March and June 2024. Based in Washington, DC, this internship offers medical students, pediatric residents, and fellowship trainees the opportunity to work with the AAP federal and state advocacy teams. Interns will spend 4 weeks learning about child health policy, the legislative process, and public affairs. Please share this opportunity with any medical students, pediatric residents, and/or fellowship trainees interested in advocacy. Visit the [Advocacy Internship Program website](#) for more information. Applications are due December 31, 2023.

Student, Resident, and Fellow Membership Fees: Nudge a Trainee Today to [Join!](#)

Medical Students: \$25 national AAP, \$0 SCAAP

Residents: \$135 national, \$30 SCAAP (usually sponsored by a program)

Fellowship Trainees: \$145 national, \$30 SCAAP

Visit www.scaap.org and go to membership to join.

Mark Your Calendars!

SCAAP Activities:

- **CATCH meeting:** January 19-20, 2024, at Francis Marion Hotel in Charleston
- **State house day:** March 26, 2024, at Palmetto Club & SC State House
- **Annual summer meeting:** August 8-11, 2024 @ TBD
- **Annual summer meeting:** August 7-10, 2025 @ Grove Park Inn

National AAP activities:

- **1/8/2024:** [Applications Due: Practice Evaluation Project for Progressive Web App Supporting Youth Tobacco Cessation](#)
- **1/11/2024:** [Webinar: Generative AI for Administrative Tasks](#)
- **1/12/2024:** [Nominations Due: PREP Self-Assessment Editorial Board](#)
- **1/12/2024:** [Applications Due: Community Pediatrics Training Initiatives \(CPTI\) Advocacy Training Grants](#)
- **1/15/2024:** [Applications Due: Trustee for AAP Insurance Trust](#)
- **1/15/2024:** [Applications Due: APEX Teaching Program PHM 2024-2025 Cohort](#)

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- **1/22/2024:** [Kick-off Call: AAP Immunization Spokesperson ECHO](#)
- **1/22/2024:** [Proposals Due: Community Access to Child Health \(CATCH\) Program](#)
- **1/22-25/2024:** [NeoPREP Course in Baltimore, MD](#)
- **1/29/2024:** [Applications Due: AAP Chapter Addiction Treatment in Pediatric Settings ECHO](#)
- **1/30/2024:** [Webinar: Call to Action on Breastfeeding](#)

National AAP Updates

AAP Presents New Recommendations for GMO-Based Foods and Children's Health

The AAP has new guidance on the use of genetically modified organisms (GMOs). A new clinical report published in the January 2024 *Pediatrics* emphasizes plant-forward foods and minimizes ultra-processed. The report also makes a strong push for more research and transparency in food labeling.

- **Clinical Report:** [Use of Genetically Modified Organism \(GMO\)-Containing Food Products in Children](#)
- **AAP News:** [Are GMO-Containing Foods Safe for Children? Clinical Report Can Help Address Parent Questions](#)
- **News Release:** [American Academy of Pediatrics Describes Benefits, Risks, and Unknowns About GMO-Based Foods and Children's Health](#)
- **HealthyChildren.org:** [Are GMO Foods Safe for My Child? AAP Policy Explained](#)

Call for Applications: Maternal Infant Health and Opioid Use Virtual Learning Collaborative – Due January 19

The AAP is recruiting 8 hospital-based multidisciplinary teams to participate in the [Maternal-Infant Health and Opioid Use \(MIHOU\) virtual learning collaborative](#). This program focuses on improving the discharge planning processes to ensure a safe transition from hospital to home and support continuity of care through referrals to community-based providers. Through self-study, team collaboration, chart reviews, and expert led webinars, pediatric hospital teams can improve the discharge planning processes for infants with neonatal opioid withdrawal syndrome (NOWS) and their birth parents. [Register here](#) by Friday, January 19, 2024.

Webinar: Call to Action on Breastfeeding – January 30

Join the AAP Section on Breastfeeding on Tuesday, January 30, 2024, from 12:00–1:30 pm CT, to learn how pediatricians can connect with their local communities, hospital

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Breastfeeding Support to highlight the [AMEN \(All Mothers Empowered to Nurse\)](#) and other community initiatives; Lori Feldman-Winter, MD, MPH, FABM, FAAP, presenting the Pediatricians' Role in the [Mississippi CHAMPS Initiative](#) and Opportunities for [CHAMPS National](#); and Paula Shreck, MD, IBCLC, FABM, FAAP, presenting Re-imagining the Hospital Task Force with Community as a True Partner. [Register here](#).

School-Based Care Coordination PowerPoint Training Decks

The AAP has developed trainings for school health teams, pediatricians, and other pediatric professionals to review school health topics, such as management of food allergies and addressing chronic absenteeism with their teams. These 15-20 minute presentations encourage discussion in team meetings and professional development activities. The free downloads include presenter slides and facilitator speakers notes. [Learn more and download the slide decks](#).

We Are Pediatricians Video Series: Why This Pediatrician Loves NICU Babies: 'They're Some of the Toughest People I Know'

What happens when you love the technical side of medicine and the emotional draw of babies in need? You become a neonatologist. Joanna Parga-Belinkie, MD, FAAP, explains why the traumas and triumphs of her tiny patients, many of them premature babies, make neonatology the "best job." See her story in [this video](#). See all the "We Are Pediatricians" videos on the AAP YouTube [#WeArePediatricians playlist](#).

SCAAP Information

SCAAP officers (August 2022 – July 2024):

- Elizabeth Mack, MD, MS, FAAP mackeli@muscc.edu - President
- Martha Edwards, MD, FAAP mmcedwards@yahoo.com - VP
- Ramkumar Jayagopalan, MD, FAAP Ramkumarjayagopalan@gmail.com - Secretary/treasurer
- Bob Saul, MD, FAAP robertsaul@me.com – Past president & Nominating committee chair

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If you would like to contact SCAAP, please email [Ray Saputelli](mailto:Ray.Saputelli).



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