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South Carolina Chapter

American Academy of Pediatrics

DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN®



SCAAP Newsletter

March 2024

Friends,

Happy Leap Year and Happy March!

- **Board member elections are due 4/5/24** for secretary/treasurer, member-at-large (Midlands), member-at-large (Lowcountry), trainee co-chair membership, & trainee co-chair DEI. **And award nominations are due 4/5/24 for career achievement and advocacy awards.** Ballot/nominations here: https://redcap.link/2024_awardnom_boardelection
- **SCAAP state house day 3/26/24...[register here!](#)**
- Mark your calendars: **CATCH/QTIP at Francis Marion January 24-26, 2025!**
- We hear you about the impact of the **Prisma/United** issue and are continuing to share the impact on children. We asked who pediatricians should send feedback to at UHC, and here is the response: “Regarding your question of what phone number or email pediatricians/pediatric subspecialists should use when they have concerns about a patient’s care related to coverage – each practice should have an identified Provider Relations contact within UnitedHealthcare. Otherwise, there is no single phone number for these questions. Most practices also have login credentials for the [uhcprovider.com](https://www.uhcprovider.com) “portal” – from within the portal, physicians/practices can find patient-specific eligibility and coverage information. Even if the practice does not have a portal login/password, there is a main page with contact phone numbers: <https://www.uhcprovider.com/en/contact-us.html>
- Due to lower vaccine rates, we are seeing a **resurgence of measles** around the country. Dr. Leigh Bragg, Project Firstline champion, shares this [one-pager](#) to refresh our memories on measles.
- 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,

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research in office setting), early physicians, senior physicians, and mental health working group.

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

In the news:

- **In memorium:** [Dr. Charlie Darby](#), former chair of MUSC Peds
- Check out **Dr. Martha Edwards' blog** <https://overunderinbetween.wordpress.com/>
- **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 are working with Palmetto Project on this grant!
- We were one of 3 chapters awarded a **21k AAP Adolescent Vaccinations and Wellness Grant Program** supported by Merck! Dr. Eliza Varadi and Martha Edwards are leading the charge to improve vaccine rates throughout the state.
- **Suicide prevention ambassador grant**
- **Abbott GI & Abbott nutrition grants:** fund dynamic CME focused on GI/nutrition
- Other active grants: **Project Firstline, trainee engagement grant**

Vaccine info:

- From Sanofi: "It was just brought to my attention that both the 50 mg and 100 mg presentations for **Beyfortus** are available for ordering on vaccineshop.com on a first come, first served basis."
- Updated CDC guidance on [nirsevimab](#) 1/5/24

Upcoming dates:

- SCAAP state house day: March 26, 2024 at Palmetto Club & State House
- Annual summer meeting August 8-11, 2024, Royal Sonesta in Hilton Head
- CATCH meeting January 24-26, 2025, Francis Marion hotel in Charleston
- Annual summer meeting August 7-10, 2025, Grove Park in Asheville

State advocacy updates:

- **Call or email your legislators here!** www.scaap.org/advocacy
- There will be numerous opportunities for various types of legislative advocacy this session. We'd love to put together a **Slack or What's App thread for advocates** who are interested in being activated for action! Email president@scaap.org if you're interested with your cell!
- **Check out Maggie Cash's update** as of 2/19/24

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Currently not moving.

- **Seizure Safe Schools Act ([H.3309](#))**: We have been working with SCASA and SC Advocates for Epilepsy again on this bill, and it passed house and passed full senate ed cmtte 2/28.
- **Gender affirming care ban**: Multiple chapter members testified against [H.4624](#) 1/9/24 and despite 47/48 speaking in opposition at the hearing (the 1 person in support was an attorney in Alabama), the bill passed through the house. We were requested to speak as 1 of 3 experts 2/14 in senate med affairs which led to no vote but ultimately passed. And as of 2/29 passed senate med affairs committee, headed to senate floor. Check out this relevant article from [AAMC](#).
- **[H.3988](#) PREP act**: We have been in communication with other stakeholders on this issue and testified against it. [S.505](#) is the companion bill. We subsequently worked w other stakeholders on a compromise amendment which passed out of house 3M week of 2/27.
- **[S.21](#) Children's Firearm Accident Prevention Act**: this bill would provide consequences for adults who do not store firearms safely, creating accountability if a child is injured. We are in support.
- **[S.109](#) Permittless Carry of Firearms**: this bill would allow firearm owners to carry handguns openly or concealed in public without a state permit. Law enforcement and medical professionals have uniformly testified in opposition. This is being debated in the senate.
- **Hate crime** penalty enhancement bill [H.3014](#): we continue to support this bill an urge leg to be taken up in the senate this session.

National advocacy updates

- Registration for the **2024 AAP Advocacy Conference is open!** The conference will take place in Washington, DC, April 14 – 16, 2024. The early bird deadline for registration is 3/4/24. [Here is the application](#) to apply for a scholarship to attend the advocacy conference. Scholarships will completely cover the early bird registration fee (\$515 for trainees; \$725 for all other AAP members). **The deadline to apply is Monday, February 5, 2024 (11:59pm CST).** [Apply here!](#)
- We signed onto a letter to EPA supporting the waiver for California's **clean cars rule**. For background, this letter is aligned with an [amicus brief](#) that the AAP filed in *Ohio v. EPA*, in which the AAP joined other medical societies in supporting the waiver for California's clean cars rule and asked the court to uphold EPA's authority. EPA granting California this waiver is important because not only will this allow California to move forward with strong rules to drive a transition to zero-emission cars, but it will also allow other states who have opted into those rules to move forward too.
- We signed onto a [letter](#) opposing the *Ensuring Medicaid Continuity for Children in Foster Care Act of 2023* (S. 3196)
- From Dr. Amati: In June 2023, our chapter submitted a letter alongside the SC Oral Health Coalition to encourage HRSA to retain the oral health national performance measure (NPM) in the [Title V Maternal and Child Health Services Block Grant Program Guidance](#) and not transition it to a state performance measure. Our concern was that if oral health transitioned to

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received 170 comments from state agencies, state maternal and child health programs, public health organizations, universities, community members, and other stakeholders and the Maternal and Child Health Bureau has announced this month the good news that **oral health has been retained as a national performance measure!**

- [OnCall4Kids](#) is hosting their next in-person lobbying day on the hill 5/21/24 focused on gun violence prevention. [RSVP here](#). Committee application [here](#).
- **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.

Surveys

- From Katherine Chike-Harris, a PhD doctoral candidate at MUSC CON. There are 2 populations in SC that I'm interested in: (1) Caregivers of those children with a diagnosis of **asthma** who attend schools with school-based clinics, and (2) Local community pediatric primary care providers who practice within counties that have school-based clinics. I am doing a mixed-method study where the participants complete a survey and then some will be chosen for an interview. Participants will be compensated for their time (\$10 for the survey; \$15 for the interview). [See here](#) for more info.
- From Rosalie Connell, a current PhD candidate at Ohio State University studying pediatric injury biomechanics through the Injury Biomechanics Research Center. Her research is focused on improving **child restraint system use, specifically for booster-aged occupants (4-12 years old)**. As a part of this work, I am conducting short interviews (15 minutes or less) to better understand how pediatricians share information with families about child restraint systems, or car seats. Interested physicians can email her their availability for a brief interview- Rosalie.Connell@osumc.edu

Conferences and Webinars

- Check out this upcoming [healthy lifestyles webinar](#) 3/21/24 (free CME!)
- Check out these behavioral health ECHOs coming up [3/6](#) & [3/20](#) (free CME!)

Elizabeth Mack, MD, MS, FAAP

SCAAP president

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Your SOECP District IV Reps

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

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

1. AAP Community-based Education Listserv

Based on member input and a top 10 resolution at last year's AAP Leadership Conference, we are working on expanding education and advocacy for community-based preceptors of all levels of learners (students, residents, fellows, peers). As a first step, we have created a new AAP listserv for anyone interested in community-based education to communicate and discuss issues, events, questions, and concerns centered around the education of learners in the community practice setting. Please share this with anyone interested in joining in on the conversation. **To be added to the listserv, please send your name and email address to Shelia Valadez at svaladez@aap.org.**

2. 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.

3. SOECP Health Equity Grant—Applications due 3/3/24

The goal of the SOECP Health Equity Grant Program is to support early career physicians, especially those who are underrepresented in medicine, as they conduct research, interventions, and education that address antiracism and health equity in communities and institutions. **Funding:** Individual projects can receive up to \$3,450 in funding, and budgets may include a **maximum of \$3,000 in programmatic costs**. [Learn more & apply](#)

4. Open Liaison Roles for SOECP

The Section on Early Career Physicians (SOECP) is currently seeking members to fill several roles; please view the opportunities listed below. Though membership in the SOECP is open to all AAP members, applicants must have completed training (either residency or fellowship, whichever is most recent) within the past 10 years at the time of initial appointment. Below is further information.

- [SOECP Liaison to the Committee on Infectious Diseases \(COID\) Red Book Online \(RBO\) Team](#)
 - **Term:** 3 year commitment with opportunity for reappointment (preferred: March 1, 2024 - February 28, 2027)
 - **Eligibility:** Applicant must be a member of the SOECP within 10 years of residency or fellowship training

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- [SOECP Liaison to the Pediatrician Life and Career Experience Study \(PLACES\) Project Advisory Committee \(PAC\)](#)
 - **Term:** 2 year commitment with opportunity for reappointment (preferred: March 1, 2024 - February 28, 2026)
 - **Eligibility:** Applicant must be a member of the SOECP within 10 years of residency or fellowship training
 - For additional details, including time commitment and responsibilities, refer to the [SOECP Liaison to PLACES PAC Position Description](#)
- In alignment with the AAP Equity Agenda, the SOECP is committed to increasing the percentage of members from groups underrepresented in medicine that serve in our leadership roles. Diverse candidates in terms of race, ethnicity, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, subspecialty, practice location, and/or national origin are encouraged to apply. If you have any questions about these positions or are unable to complete this application due to a disability, please contact [Elisha Ferguson](#).

Check Out These Resources and Opportunities

On April 25-26, 2024, New Morning will host [Access for All: A Reproductive Health Summit](#) at the Columbia Marriott located in Columbia, South Carolina. With two days of collaborative discussion with industry leaders, attendees will learn more about barriers to reproductive healthcare, best practices, innovative solutions, and the path toward strengthening reproductive health access across America.

CNE, CME, CHES, and AASECT credits will be provided. To register, [please visit our website](#).

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.

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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.

Free antibiotic stewardship community of practice via AHRQ x18 mos!

From our telehealth guru Dr. McElligott: Program participation opportunity for practices interested in antibiotic stewardship in the context of telehealth visits. The program is seeking practices that are willing to join in peer learning and contribute learning and knowledge in an effort to enhance the quality of care delivered via telehealth. Further details can be found at <https://safetyprogram4telemedicine.org/page/join-the-program>.

Mark Your Calendars!

National AAP activities:

- **3/1/2024:** [Applications Due: Pediatric Primary Care \(PPC\) Quality Network QI Collaborative on Substance Use and Mental Health](#)
- **3/1/2024:** [Nominations Due: AAP President-elect](#)
- **3/1/2024:** [Nominations Due: Provisional CHILDRN Registry Data Committee](#)
- **3/1/2024:** [Applications Due: AAP MOC Portfolio Review Panel Members](#)
- **3/3/2024:** [Applications Due: Section on Early Career Physicians \(SOECP\) Health Equity Grant](#)
- **3/4/2024:** [Early Bird Deadline: AAP Advocacy Conference](#)
- **3/5/2024:** [AAP State Advocacy Webinar: Kids and Technology: State Strategies to Prevent Harm to Children](#)
- **3/6/2024:** [Webinar: Advocating for Children in Crisis and Conflict Settings](#)
- **3/6/2024:** [Webinar: Social Media, AI Training for AAP Members](#)
- **3/7/2024:** [Webinar: Family Partnerships Network Open House](#)
- **3/8/2024:** [Applications Due: Global Health Education Course Project Advisory Committee](#)
- **3/11/2024:** [Applications Due: Healthy People 2030 Grant](#)
- **3/15/2024:** [Plenary Proposals Due: 2024 AAP National Conference & Exhibition](#)
- **3/15/2024:** [Webinar: Virtual Learning Café Series on Pediatric Mental Health](#)

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National AAP Updates

AAP Policy Statement and Technical Report: Climate Change and Children's Health

The physical health and mental well-being of children are jeopardized when extreme climate variations occur. The AAP addresses the vulnerability of children and why pediatricians must stand in the gap in a new policy statement and technical report. The documents outline how to achieve significant gains in child health and equity.

- **Policy Statement:** [Climate Change and Children's Health: Building a Healthy Future for Every Child](#)
- **Technical Report:** [Climate Change and Children's Health: Building a Healthy Future for Every Child](#)
- **AAP News:** [Updated Climate Change Policy Emphasizes Practice, Advocacy, Justice](#)
- **News Release:** [American Academy of Pediatrics Warns of Climate Change Impacts on Children in Guidance Update](#)
- **HealthyChildren.org:** [Climate Change & Children's Health: AAP Policy Explained](#)
- **AAP YouTube:** [Climate Change Impact: Safeguarding Your Family's Health and Well-being](#)

Webinar: Advocating for Children in Crisis and Conflict Settings – March 6

With recent crises and conflicts that have taken place around the world, pediatricians have expressed a strong desire to advocate for the health and well-being of children who are impacted by those events. However, most pediatricians are unaware of how they can advocate on a federal level to support children, especially on a global scale. This webinar from the Section on Global Health (SOGH), taking place Wednesday, March 6, 2024, 7:00–8:00 pm CT, will address professional practice gaps in crafting an advocacy message and aims to equip pediatricians with tools to better advocate for children globally within the US federal government. [Register here.](#)

Webinar: Social Media, AI Training for AAP Members – March 6

Join this free training session featuring Wendy Sue Swanson, MD, FAAP, on March 6, 2024, at 11:00 am CT. Dr Swanson will cover how innovations in online tools and social media can help pediatricians bridge the gap with parents. She will also walk through the latest in generative AI and how pediatricians can use this cutting-edge technology for good. Her presentation is part of the [AAP Pediatric Digital Response Hub](#) and is only open to AAP members. [Register here.](#) Attendees in the live session will

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Call for Plenary Proposals and Abstracts: 2024 AAP National Conference & Exhibition

- **Plenary Proposals – Due Friday, March 15, 2024**

Plenary sessions are high-level, 15- to 20-minute lectures that occur on the main stage of the National Conference and are designated for CME credit. These sessions address cutting-edge, crucial, or emergent clinical topics for pediatric care and should be of broad interest and importance to all attendees. [Click here](#) for additional details.

- **Abstracts – Due Friday, April 12, 2024**

The AAP National Conference & Exhibition accepts abstracts of case reports, original research, program evaluations, quality improvement projects, and advocacy projects for presentation within various section and council programs. Each participating section and council has program-specific guidelines which must be reviewed in detail before submission. [Click here](#) for additional details.

Call for Nominations: 2024 Section on Advances in Therapeutics and Technology (SOATT) Award for Pediatric Innovation – Due April 15

Each year, the AAP SOATT recognizes and honors an outstanding pediatrician actively engaged in bringing innovation to the pediatric space to improve the health and well-being of infants, children, adolescents, and young adults. Please consider [nominating an AAP member](#) (SOATT membership is not required), who has made outstanding contributions to child health through innovation. Nominations must include a detailed letter of recommendation, bio sketch (for *AAP News*), and CV. Submit nomination materials to [Eleni Victoria](#), Section Manager, by Monday, April 15, 2024.

Virtual Course: Pediatric and Adolescent HIV Training – May 7-8, Early Bird Deadline April 8

Join the AAP Committee on Pediatric & Adolescent HIV for the Pediatric and Adolescent HIV virtual course, taking place live on Tuesday and Wednesday, May 7-8, 2024. This comprehensive course will address all aspects of HIV management in infants, children, adolescents, and young persons, as well as present evidence-based data to optimize clinical practice. The course is intended for individuals that are interested in expanding their knowledge in HIV/AIDS care. Register by Monday, April 8 and save with early bird rates. [Register here](#).

Strengthen & Enhance Epilepsy Knowledge (SEEK) Training | Module 2

Develop the expertise to better care for children and youth with epilepsy (CYE). The SEEK trainings are free, ready-to-use modules covering topics like seizure rescue medications, seizure action plans, and more. Improve your understanding and make a difference in CYE lives. [Check out module 2](#). Interested in learning more? Access related resources aligned with the content in module 2.

- [Supporting Children and Youth with Epilepsy at School](#)

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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

[SCAAP Executive Committee, Board, Committees, Liaisons.](#)

Lutine Management Associates: <https://lutinemanagement.com/our-team/>

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



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