Dear Members,

Well, just when we thought the worst of it was behind us with the legislative session ending, our state leadership dropped more unfathomable nonsense into our laps. First, we received notification that our state would no longer participate in the Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS). The information collected in the YRBS survey is essential to understanding and protecting the children we serve. With the national emergency in child mental health upon us, now is the worst possible time to go backward on collecting data that are critical to understanding behaviors relating to physical- and mental-health including smoking; alcohol and substance abuse; nutrition; exercise; sexual behavior; and bullying, violence and injury.

According to the CDC, the YRBS survey monitors “health behaviors that contribute markedly to the leading causes of death, disability, and social problems among youth and adults in the United States.” Data collected are used to design risk-behavior mitigation programs for youth and by school systems in curriculum development, among other uses. The decision to stop administering the survey to Florida students was made without providing an opportunity for input from child health experts and the public. Coming on the heels of the passage of HB 1557, commonly called the “Don’t Say Gay” law, the decision to sacrifice data relating to bullying, violence (including sexual violence), suicide and depression further complicates efforts to provide compassionate healthcare services to children, especially children who are members of the LGBTQ+ community. Further, ending survey participation also sacrifices data that are used to support healthy behaviors among children of color.

Then to top off the week, the statement released by the Department of Health regarding objections to providing gender affirming care, took politicization of health to a whole new level. As we mentioned in our statement, gender-affirming care can be lifesaving. Research shows that access to evidence-based gender affirming care among adolescents significantly improves their mental health. Appropriate gender-affirming care, conducted in close coordination with pediatricians and parents, is safe and effective for treating patients experiencing gender dysphoria. It’s disheartening that Florida’s health agency continues to issue child-health guidance that conflicts with broad scientific consensus and without the consultation of pediatric physicians. We know that LGBTQ+ students experience disproportionate bullying and bias in school, and recent CDC data indicate that almost 2 percent of high school students identify as transgender. National data have continued to demonstrate that LGBTQ+ youth are far more likely to attempt suicide, and experience more victimization, bullying, and sexual/dating violence, than their cisgendered peers. It is for these reasons, we will continue to provide science-based treatments to our patients with gender dysphoria. I’m proud that the medical community from many disciplines has come together on this issue. I am also thankful for AAP’s support during these challenging times. They have been amazing.

Thank you for all you do for children, especially advocacy, and if there is anything we can do for you, please let us know!

Lisa Gwynn, DO, MBA, MSPH, FAAP
President, FCAAP
FCAAP ISSUES STATEMENT REJECTING DOH GUIDANCE ON GENDER-AFFIRMING CARE

On April 20, the Florida Department of Health issued new guidance pertaining to the provision of gender-affirming care to children and adolescents who suffer from gender dysphoria. In opposition to current research, as well as guidance from the US Department of Health and Human Services and AAP, the DOH recommends withholding all gender-affirming care from children in need, including non-medical social transitioning.

Research shows that access to evidence-based gender affirming care among adolescents significantly improves their mental health.

“Appropriate gender-affirming care, conducted in close coordination with pediatricians and parents, is safe and effective for treating patients experiencing gender dysphoria,” said FCAAP President Lisa Gwynn, DO, MBA, MSPH, FAAP. “It’s disheartening that Florida’s health agency continues to issue child-health guidance that conflicts with broad scientific consensus and without the consultation of pediatric physicians.”

Read the full statement.

FCAAP MEMBERS ORGANIZE SIGN-ON IN SUPPORT OF GENDER-AFFIRMING CARE

In a recent sign-on letter published in the Tampa Bay Times, pediatricians from the University of Florida and Nicklaus Children’s Hospital criticized current DOH guidance and came out in support of appropriate gender-affirming care for children and adolescents. Read the letter here. (Subscription)

According to the letter: “The recent statement issued by the Florida Department of Health entitled ‘Treatment of Gender Dysphoria for Children and Adolescents’ misrepresents the weight of the evidence, does not allow for personalized patient and family-centered care, and would, if followed, lead to higher rates of youth depression and suicidality.”

The open letter, which was cosigned by 300 health professionals, was authored, organized, and signed by a team of physicians and clinicians including Brittany S. Bruggeman, MD, FAAP; Kristin Dayton, MD; Alejandro Diaz, MD; Jennifer Evans, PsyD; Michael J. Hailer, MD; Mark L. Hudak, MD; Carol A. Mathews, MD; Stephanie Ryan, MD; Michael Shapiro, MD; and Desmond Schatz, MD. We are proud to see so many FCAAP members on this list!

Do you want to get involved with advocacy for children and pediatricians in Florida? FCAAP has opportunities for you to get involved! Contact Communications Coordinator Scott VanDeman at svandeman@fcaap.org or call (850) 224-3939, ext. 1005.
FCAAP LAUNCHES NEW WEBSITE

A great organization deserves a great website. That’s why we are so excited to announce the new fcaap.org! Our improved, more user-friendly site officially launched May 1, 2022. Our new home on the internet offers:

- A new, streamlined look and feel with simplified, consistent navigation for more intuitive browsing.
- Improved, better organized content to ensure the information you need is readily available and easy to find.
- More functionality and the ability to implement new interactive features that will make the site more useful to our members and to the public.

You can still count on fcaap.org as the best source for news, continuing education opportunities, events information, legislative updates, practice resources, and so much more. Visit the new website, and let us know what you think! Contact Publications and Advertising Coordinator John Horne at jhorne@fcaap.org for more information.

COVID-19 PANDEMIC RESPONSE WEBINAR A SUCCESS

FCAAP extends a big thanks to former Florida Surgeon General Dr. Scott Rivkees for presenting “The Six Pillars of Responding to the COVID-19 Pandemic” webinar, held Tuesday, April 26 at 6 p.m. ET. This successful webinar and discussion covered topics including COVID-19 epidemiology, COVID-19 mitigation strategies, and the risks and benefits of COVID-19 vaccines for children.

If you missed it, we have you covered. Please contact FCAAP Events Coordinator Dana Mykytyn at dmykytyn@fcaap.org to obtain a link to the recorded version.
RASHMIN SAVANI, M.B., CH.B. APPOINTED CHAIR OF UF MED’S DEPARTMENT OF PEDIATRICS

Rashmin C. Savani, M.B., Ch.B., has been appointed as the new chair of the Department of Pediatrics at the University of Florida. He will join the UF College of Medicine in August. Dr. Savani grew up in a small city in Uganda, where his father worked as a physician and health adviser for the government. When the country began to change after two government coups, his family fled to the safety of Sheffield, England. Savani was 12 years old.

He attended medical school at the University of Sheffield and visited the United States for the first time in 1976.

“I remember thinking, ‘This is the most amazing place,’” he said. “The ideals I was denied in my upbringing in Uganda are embodied in the Constitution. The moment I realized that, I knew I wanted to move to America.”

Dr. Savani has spent the past 16 years in Dallas building and growing the neonatal programs at UT Southwestern Medical Center. He helped launch and enhance neonatal facilities at four area hospitals and established telemedicine programs for neonatal consultation and outreach.

He is currently a member of the March of Dimes’ National Science Committee and a surveyor for the American Academy of Pediatrics NICU verification program. Dr. Savani has received several distinctions, including the Albert Nelson Marquis Lifetime Achievement Award, the Perinatal Physician Excellence Award from the March of Dimes, and the Young Investigator Award for Perinatal Pediatrics from the American Academy of Pediatrics.

Regarding his new role in Florida, he said he looks forward to partnering with his colleagues at the University of Florida and statewide.

“I am honored and excited to be joining the University of Florida College of Medicine,” said Dr. Savani. “The Department of Pediatrics is strong and provides excellent clinical care while also advancing leading edge innovation and training the next generation of pediatricians and specialists. I am looking forward to partnering with others in the state to advance the care and outcomes of the children of Florida.”

We also would like to thank Dr. Desmond Schatz for the fine work he did in collaboration with FCAAP while serving as the Interim Chair.

Help Us Improve the Health and Welfare of Children in Florida — CLICK & SUPPORT FCAAP TODAY —
THE SPRING 2022 FCAAP WELLNESS SERIES IS HERE!

We are excited to announce that full details are now available for FCAAP’s expanded Spring Wellness Series! The series, hosted in collaboration with the Michigan Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics (MIAPP), provides activities and resources to support the all-around wellness of FCAAP members. The spring series includes expert-led seminars on physical fitness, nutrition, mental health, and mindfulness, all specifically curated to meet the needs of busy physicians.

The five-week Spring Wellness Series is free and is an exclusive benefit for FCAAP and MIAPP members. Featuring educational and motivational seminars, meditation classes, prizes, and even some surprises, the series offers something for everyone.

Let’s Get Started!

Week 1 activities are dedicated to physical fitness and health, and feature two sessions.

SESSION 1: TUESDAY, MAY 3, 7:00 P.M. ET

Dr. Teresa Holtrop will share the importance of self-care at work, along with ways to start taking better care of yourself.

SESSION 2: WEDNESDAY, MAY 4, 12:30 P.M. ET

Join Dr. José Zayas for a discussion about the benefits of exercise and how you can incorporate it into your regular schedule.

What are you waiting for? For details, visit FCAAP website or the members-only site. Register for the series here.

WALK THE PATH TO WELLNESS CHALLENGE

To get the Spring Wellness Series started with a bang, we invite you to take the “Walk the Path to Wellness Strava Challenge.” Participating is easy! Join our community in Strava today. Accept the challenge by clicking “I’m In” on the challenge page/invite.
**HPV Webinar and Live Q&A A Success**

Congratulations to the Medical Student Committee’s HPV Advocacy Team on the successful completion of the HPV Webinar and Live Q&A for pediatric providers. This innovative program — which included a pre-recorded educational webinar, an online content survey, and a live Q&A session held via ZOOM on April 7 — was created to reduce vaccine hesitancy in the Southeast where HPV vaccination rates are low.

The program also offers a free educational brochure that is appropriate for distribution to patients in doctors’ offices and other health facilities.

Thank you to all the medical students and healthcare professionals who participated. If you haven’t already done so, please remember to take the post-webinar content survey. If you missed the webinar, you can view it online.

**Black Women Physicians Virtual Wellness Summit**

This educational opportunity, presented on behalf of WEL Organizational Change Grant recipients, looks to cultivate a space where wellness is redefined by centering on Black women physicians.

The mission of this free virtual conference is to champion wellness in Black women physicians across all medical specialties by providing tools that encourage networking, foster leadership, provide career advancement, stimulate scholarly activity, create pipelines, and celebrate wellness. Featured speakers include Christine Platt, also known as The Afrominimalist, Dr Latifat Akinbode-Akintade, a practicing gastroenterologist, and Dawn E. Norvell, a visionary business leader. The event will be held June 4, 2022, from 10:00 am–4:00 pm ET. Visit the conference website for more information and to register.
MRNA VACCINES: A NEW ERA IN VACCINOLOGY

Messenger RNA (mRNA) technology has made global headlines recently due to its prominent role in combatting the COVID-19 virus. This relatively new breakthrough in vaccinology has established itself as a promising alternative to traditional vaccination methods because it is safe for immunocompromised patients, is cost-effective, and can be quickly manufactured.

Today more than 535 million COVID-19 mRNA vaccines have been administered, and based on an independent analysis by the FDA, mRNA vaccines have demonstrated as high as 95% efficacy. To build on this momentum of success, leading biotech companies are rapidly exploring opportunities to leverage mRNA technology with the goal of developing novel vaccinations and immunotherapy treatments that protect against a variety of harmful illnesses.

Get the latest information on mRNA vaccines in the full blog from our partner, Atlantic Health Partners, here.

COVID-19 AND CMC ECHO: KEY DISCUSSION THEMES AND TIPS TO IMPROVE CARE FOR CMC

The COVID-19 & Children with Medical Complexity (CMC) ECHO focused on increasing participant knowledge, capacity, comfort, and competence in caring for CMC during the COVID-19 pandemic. Key ECHO discussions focused on family/caregiver needs, mental health/wellbeing of families and health care professionals, and telehealth strategies. This tip sheet, the second in a series, outlines key discussions and opportunities for improvement in caring for CMC and their families. The first in the series focused on tips for designing an inclusive, interprofessional ECHO.
FCAAP PROJECTS

FCAAP is engaged in a variety of grant projects throughout the year with the help and leadership of its Committees, Task Forces, and members. Below is a list of current grant projects.

For more information on how to get involved or to start a new project, please contact FCAAP Program Coordinator Olivia Blakeman, oblakeman@fcaap.org.

Vaccinate with Confidence
Status: Current
Primary Leader: Dr. Claudia Gaviria
Associated Committee: Immunization
Focus: To increase influenza vaccination rates in the pediatric population (age 6 months – 18 years old) and to reduce vaccine hesitancy in caregivers at two University of South Florida associated clinics through direct educational intervention.

Project FirstLine
Status: Current
Primary Leader: IPC Ambassador Dr. Allison Messina
Associated Committee: Emerging Infections
Focus: To provide education and training on infection prevention and control.

E-Cigarettes
Status: Current
Primary Leader: Dr. Issa Hanna
Associated Committee: E-Cigarette
Focus: To provide youth e-cigarette prevention and cessation resources and to promote community awareness regarding the dangers of tobacco and e-cigarette use.

COLLABORATING TO PROVIDE LIFELONG CARE FOR PEOPLE WITH CHDS

Recording now available of a multidisciplinary panel event on ensuring that people with Congenital Heart Defects (CHDs) get the specialized care they need to stay healthy across their lifespan.

This interactive forum served as an opportunity for pediatricians, obstetrician-gynecologists, internal medicine physicians, and emergency medicine physicians to engage with each other to build knowledge, skills, and competence related to care coordination for people with CHDs. The recording is eligible for 1.0 AMA PRA Category 1 Credit™.

NEONATAL OPIOID WITHDRAWAL SYNDROME

Pediatricians play an integral role in accompanying families living with opioid use disorder to facilitate access to care for both parents/adult caregivers and infants. Check out more resources about neonatal opioid withdrawal syndrome on the Share Your Knowledge page.

PRACTICE PERFECT STRATEGIES FOR PERFECTING THE BUSINESS OF PEDIATRICS

HOSTED BY:
Florida Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics
INCorporated in Florida

8 PART WEBINAR SERIES – REGISTER NOW!
IMPROVING ADHD CARE IN PEDIATRIC SETTINGS

The AAP Chapter Quality Network is pleased to announce a 3-part webinar series on improving the quality of ADHD care. This webinar series will include didactic content, illustrative cases, and technological supports to facilitate evidence-based ADHD care in pediatric settings.

Attendees are eligible to receive 1.25 AMA PRA Category 1 Credit(s)™ and 1.25 MOC 2 points per webinar.

Overcoming Barriers to Implementing the AAP ADHD Guidelines in Practice
*Jeff Epstein, PhD and Tanya Froehlich, MD*
*Watch the Recording*

ADHD Medication Management
*Bill Brinkman, MD*
*Tuesday, May 17, 2022*
*4:00 - 5:15 PM EST*

The Impact of Comorbidities on ADHD Assessment and Treatment w/ Case Examples
*Tanya Froehlich, MD*
*Wednesday, July 13, 2022*
*4:00 - 5:15 PM EST*

REGISTER NOW!

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) to provide continuing medical education for physicians.

The AAP designates this live activity for a maximum of 1.25 AMA PRA Category 1 Credit(s)™. Physicians should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

Successful completion of this CME activity, which includes participation in the evaluation component, enables the learner to earn up to 1.25 AMA PRA Category 1 Credit(s)™. The American Board of Pediatrics (ABP) uses the ADA CME program to meet its accreditation requirements. The American Board of Pediatrics (ABP) will accept AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™ submitted by ABP members as evidence of educational activity participation in this activity.

The American Board of Pediatrics (ABP) has announced that no pediatrician will lose their ABP certification during the COVID-19 pandemic. Learn more about updated MOC & MOCA-Peds requirements [here](https://www.fcaap.org/moc/). For up-to-date information on continuing education opportunities for pediatricians, visit the [Member page of FCAAP’s website](https://www.fcaap.org/memberpage/).
IDENTIFYING STRENGTHS, RISKS, AND PROTECTIVE FACTORS RESOURCE GUIDE

The AAP offers a free resource guide for pediatricians that highlights the developmental surveillance component of identifying strengths, risks, and protective factors. In 2020, the AAP conducted in-depth interviews with pediatricians related to developmental surveillance. Pediatricians reported challenges identifying strengths, risks, and protective factors, key components of developmental surveillance, as outlined in the AAP clinical report “Promoting Optimal Developmental: Identifying Infants and Young Children with Developmental Disorders Through Developmental Surveillance and Screening.” This resource is designed to further assist pediatricians with discussing and identifying family strengths, risks, and protective factors, further supporting children, families, and caregivers.

Visit the AAP developmental surveillance and screening webpage to view and download these resources.

AHRQ: REQUEST FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality is seeking public comment on the proposed strategic framework for the Agency’s Patient-Centered Outcomes Research (PCOR) Trust Fund investments through fiscal year 2029. The deadline to submit comments is May 24.

The framework was developed in response to the reauthorization of the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Trust Fund (PCORTF) and will guide future planning and evaluation of AHRQ’s trust fund investments. The strategic framework aligns with AHRQ’s mission and broader goals of improving the quality, safety, equity, and value of healthcare delivery.

Feedback received from the Federal Register Notice during the period of public comment will be used to refine AHRQ’s Strategic Framework and guide PCORTF long-range planning and future investments. AHRQ seeks feedback from patients, healthcare professionals, community groups, employers, health services researchers, dissemination and implementation scientists, communications experts, representatives from health systems, public and private payers, and other stakeholders.

FCAAP HAS YOUR MARKETING PRESCRIPTION!

REACH OVER 2500 PEDATRIC PROFESSIONALS EACH MONTH

LET’S DISCUSS THE POSSIBILITIES. CONTACT JOHN L. HORNÉ, PUBLICATIONS & ADVERTISING COORDINATOR | PUBLICATIONS@FCAAP.ORG

FCAAP Corporate Membership offers organizations a wide range of key benefits, including high-profile visibility on FCAAP’s websites and social media, discounts on advertising in our Newsletter and Journal publications, and discounts on Annual Conference packages.

This partnership shows a commitment to the highest standard of pediatric care, recognition of the importance of affordable, quality continuing education opportunities in pediatrics, a pledge to ensuring access to quality healthcare for all children, and support of pediatric health care providers.

For more information on FCAAP Corporate Membership, contact FCAAP Membership Coordinator Anayra Barreras Pena.
TIME TO PRE-BOOK NEXT SEASON’S FLU VACCINE

To assist pediatric practices in pre-booking vaccines for next season, the AAP has released the influenza vaccine recommendations for the 2022-2023 season. The recommendations remain unchanged from the current season with no preference for any one product. Read the full story in AAP News. A new, 15-minute on-demand webinar, “Planning for the Next Influenza Season: Pre-Booking” is now available on Red Book Online. Sheri Burnett, RN, Clinical Director at Plateau Pediatrics, provides an overview on what to consider when pre-booking influenza vaccines. The webinar is free and open to everyone. Watch here.

SOECP RESEARCH, EDUCATION, AND ADVOCACY AWARDS NOMINATIONS

Do you know someone who has been an incredible mentor, especially to those underrepresented in medicine? Is an early career physician in your practice leading noteworthy quality improvement projects worth celebrating? Are you on a team that is championing community initiatives that address health disparities? The AAP Section on Early Career Physicians (SOECP) is excited to open nominations for the 2022 SOECP awards and showcase the incredible work of the Academy’s early career physician members. Click the links below for more information about each award and to submit a nomination. All award nominations due June 1, 2022.

- Advancement in Research Award
- Excellence in Education Award
- Leadership in Advocacy Award

Contact Britt Nagy in the AAP Chapter, District, and Member Engagement with any questions.

ESCAPE THE VAPE: E-CIGARETTES 101
WEBINAR | RESOURCES | TOOLKIT
PRESENTED BY
FCAAP E-CIGARETTE TASK FORCE

CLICK TO WATCH NOW

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE E-CIGARETTE TASK FORCE, PLEASE CONTACT FCAAP PROGRAM COORDINATOR OLIVIA BLAKEMAN AT oblakeman@fcaap.org.

Enterprise Membership (“EM”) is a multi-year partnership with AAP National, FCAAP, and pediatric organizations. EM offers member benefits/services for both individuals and institutions, including a 20% savings on AAP National and FCAAP dues when 100% of the member-eligible physicians in the organization join!

To determine if your organization is eligible for EM, please complete this online EM Interest Form.
MENINGITIS B ACTION PROJECT RESOURCES

With meningococcal infections on the rise in Florida, there’s no better time to share resources from the Meningitis B Action Project. The project’s goal is to make it easier for students to educate the community and advocate for Meningitis B prevention on college campuses. Florida’s college and university students at high-risk for contracting meningitis, and the project now provides young adults and their parents with a comprehensive toolkit to assist them with their efforts. View the toolkit.

The new online educational resource, designed for peer health educators, was created by students to help prevent the spread of Meningitis B on college campuses. The toolkit includes key messages to help explain the disease, educational materials for download, sample presentations, and even inspiration from peer health educators across the country. It also includes ideas for mobilizing a Meningitis B education campaign on campus, and suggestions for engaging student health centers and college administrators in advocating for better Meningitis B prevention measures on campus.

FCAAP RESPONDS TO FLORIDA MENINGOCOCCAL INFECTION OUTBREAK

Florida is experiencing an outbreak of meningococcal infections. So far this year, the number of cases identified surpasses the five-year average of meningococcal disease cases in Florida. In response, FCAAP issued a statement encouraging the public to get their children vaccinated against meningitis. The statement read in part:

“All eligible children and adolescents should be vaccinated against meningococcal infection as recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the American Academy of Pediatrics. We strongly recommend that all pediatricians and pediatric providers proactively communicate with families and encourage them to get the meningococcal vaccines for their children.”

Messaging about meningitis vaccines also was disseminated directly to the public via FCAAP's social media platforms. We thank our leadership for their proactive and thoughtful response. Read the full statement here.

SUPPORT OUR WORK

Support FCAAP’s mission to improve the practice of pediatrics and the health of Florida’s children by donating to the Chapter.

Click here for more information about the work FCAAP is doing and to donate.

Need AMA, AOA, ANCC, AAPA, or MOC 2 credits? Want them from a pediatric-focused event? Look no further – FPP2022 has what you need! See the full agenda and speaker line up here!
FCAAP AMBASSADOR PROGRAM 2.0 Q&A

FCAAP is proud to present the improved Ambassador Program! Qualifying members now earn a reward when colleagues they refer join the Chapter. A bigger Chapter is a stronger Chapter, and growing our membership increases our influence as we support Florida’s pediatricians and pursue the advocacy goals that are important to you.

You can read the fine print here, but the good news is that referring a colleague through the Ambassador Program is simpler than ever. Why not give it a try and help make FCAAP a stronger organization?

Q: How can I become an Ambassador?
A: Complete program registration here. You will receive instructions on how to access your Personal FCAAP Ambassador Dashboard via email. We promise, it’s easy!

Q: How do I make referrals?
A: Make a referral through your Personal FCAAP Ambassador Dashboard. Sending an invite is as easy as adding a subject and your colleague’s email address to a customized invite template.

Q: Can I also share on social media?
A: Yes! A customized social media graphic is available for download (found in Dashboard —> Social Graphics).

Q: Is there a minimum/maximum number of referrals and conversions per Ambassador?
A: No. We appreciate your commitment to increasing membership.

Q: Do I need to keep track of my referrals?
A: Not at all! You can, however, see all your referrals anytime (found in Dashboard —> My Leads).

Q: Who can I contact if I have questions or need assistance?
A: You can contact Membership Coordinator Anayra Barreras Pena at abarreras@fcaap.org

Thank you for connecting your peers to our growing Chapter!

FCAAP AMBASSADORS

Contribute to FCAAP’s growth by becoming an Ambassador in the 2022 Refer-a-Colleague Program.

Premier organizations like FCAAP grow because members like you invite their colleagues to join. We appreciate your commitment to increasing membership and want to reward you for that undertaking.

Extend an invitation to your peers to start taking advantage of our top-notch member benefits including continuing education opportunities, our annual conference, toolkits, our peer-reviewed journal, networking opportunities and, most important, advocacy and legislative efforts that help you excel as a pediatric healthcare practitioner. The more colleagues you refer to join the Chapter, the more valuable gift cards you can earn for your efforts.

To become an Ambassador, complete the application here.

Questions? Contact FCAAP Membership Coordinator Anayra Barreras Pena by email abarreras@fcaap.org, by phone 850-224-3939 ext. 1002, or text (850) 446-4157.

Rules and restrictions apply. Click here for complete details.
THE ADVOCACY BUG
Submitted by: Taylor Taskey, DO, PGY-1
Joe DiMaggio Children’s Hospital Pediatric Residency
A 2022 Florida Pediatric Foundation Advocacy Training Scholarship Winner

I am Dr. Taylor Taskey and I am a 1st year pediatric resident at Joe DiMaggio Children’s Hospital. I am training to become a “tiny-human doctor.” But don’t let the word “tiny” fool you. A pediatrician’s job is no small task – it comes with large responsibility. Pediatricians not only provide medical care for patients from birth up to age 18 (and sometimes even a few years older), but we also have the unique opportunity to educate families, and advocate for those who are unable to do so themselves.

Advocacy, in particular, was one of the first things that compelled me to pursue pediatrics. At the start of my residency, I could not wait to meet with other advocates and local leaders to make a difference. However, I had no idea where to start. Then, I received an email about an opportunity to apply for an advocacy training scholarship from the Florida Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics (FCAAP). A few weeks later, I was notified that I was selected as 1 of 7 recipients in Florida to participate in the 2022 Advocacy Conference from March 20-22. Held virtually this year, the conference consisted of 2 full days of educational workshops, smaller training sessions, and guest speakers, including First Lady Dr. Jill Biden, HHS Assistant Secretary for Health Admiral Rachel Levine, MD, FAAP, and Maternal and Child Health Bureau (MCHB) Associate Administrator Michael Warren, MD, MPH, FAAP. The 3rd day consisted of meetings with our local legislators. Myself and two other pediatric residents in Broward County enjoyed a meeting with the office of Representative Lois Frankel. Then, a larger group of us from Florida had meetings with the offices of Senator Rick Scott and Senator Marco Rubio.

This 3rd day was where my advocacy skills were put to the test. We were given information for two bills that had just been introduced to Congress: The Supporting Children’s Mental Health Care Access Act (H.R. 7076/S. 3864), which supports access to mental health resources/telehealth in pediatric primary care practices, and the Youth Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Act (H.R. 1803/S. 3628), which provides direct funding to schools for a variety of mental health promotion and suicide prevention purposes. Our task was to discuss these bills with our local legislative leaders and ask for support as cosponsors. The results were rewarding. We received positive bipartisan feedback and enjoyed the opportunity to educate our congressional leaders on the mental health crisis that has escalated from the COVID-19 pandemic. These bills affect every one of my colleagues on an almost daily basis.

The 2022 Advocacy Conference experience empowered my advocacy ambitions and has ignited passionate optimism in what I will provide for my patients in the future. The education I received at the conference, and the connections I made, were invaluable. I’ve been officially bitten by the advocacy bug!
FAMILY FRIENDLY REFERRAL GUIDE

New: a free Family Friendly Referral Guide focused on supporting families and caregivers whose child has a developmental concern. Pediatric practices can customize this guide with information about local referral resources, and then use the guide to support families/caregivers in understanding what to do if a developmental concern has been identified. The guide also illustrates the importance of following through with developmental referrals.

Visit the AAP developmental surveillance and screening webpage to view and download these resources.

FDOH: COMMENT PERIOD OPEN FOR CHANGES TO OBESITY TREATMENT STANDARDS

A proposed rule amendment has been introduced to update the overall standards of practice for the prescribing of medication for the treatment of obesity in children and adults and to allow for the use of telemedicine for such prescribing. The Florida Department of Health Board of Medicine is accepting comments on the proposed rule through May 13, 2022. You may review the proposed amendment and submit comments here.

Ready to get out of the house and office? Join colleagues from around the state at The Future of Pediatric Practice 2022 for 3 days of networking, education, and fun at Disney’s Yacht & Beach Club Resorts!

Registration is now open for FPP2022! In-person tickets are limited, so register early to save your spot!
Learn more here!
UFCOM PEDIATRICS INTEREST GROUP SPOTLIGHT
Submitted by Lien Morcate, MD/MPH
University of Miami Miller School of Medicine
FCAAP Medical Student Committee Member

The World Health Organization (WHO) has identified vaccine hesitancy as a major threat to global health. In particular, the highly charged social, political, and media climate of the COVID-19 vaccine has exacerbated vaccine hesitancy. Some of the reasons for refusing the COVID-19 vaccine are political beliefs, fear of side-effects, distrust of the pharmaceutical companies, and social media influence. The most vulnerable age group to social media influence are one of the youngest age groups to be vaccinated – adolescents aged 12 - 18. Because the health literacy amongst adolescents is dependent on their ability to navigate the internet and find medical information, adolescents are vulnerable to the influence of vaccine content presented in social media platforms like TikTok and Instagram. Studies have demonstrated that the relative amount of pro- and anti-vaccine content varies by platform, but the anti-vaccine content frequently generates greater user engagement than its pro-vaccine counterparts. The existing evidence suggests that exposure to such content may directly influence vaccination opinions and drive downstream vaccine hesitancy.

For the COVID-19 pandemic to come to an end, it is critical that adolescents get vaccinated because they can 1) be infected with the SARS-Cov-2 virus that causes COVID-19, 2) get sick from COVID-19, and 3) spread COVID-19 to others. Therefore, a way to improve immunization rates for COVID-19 amongst adolescents is to learn about their COVID-19 vaccine literacy. In the literature of health literacy, adolescent health literacy is the least studied cohort, especially concerning COVID-19 vaccine.

I conducted a 17-question survey at the University of Miami Pediatric Mobile Clinic to adolescents (n=34) aged 12 - 18 that are pro-vaccine across Miami-Dade County. The survey used validated COVID-19 vaccine literacy questions that have been conducted in other studies, questions that asked about where adolescents got their information about COVID-19 vaccine and the influence social media had on their decision to get vaccinated.

The survey results indicated that when reading about the COVID-19 vaccines, about 65% of adolescents had difficulty understanding the information, 80% of them found words that they did not know and 72% needed someone to help them understand the information. The top sources of vaccine information for adolescents were parents (89.47%), family members (50.00%), and social media, friends, and television (each with 39.47%). However, the top 3 most influential sources of COVID-19 vaccine information were parents (4.67/5.00), doctor or health professional (3.89/5.00), and family members excluding parents (3.86/5.00). When analyzing the most influential sources in rejecting the vaccine, doctor, friends, and social media were most powerful in promoting vaccine hesitancy.

...read the full article here.
NEW FCAAP FELLOWS

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR FCAAP MEMBERS WHO BECAME AAP FELLOWS IN MARCH 2022!

REGION 1: ANSLEY SCHULTE, MD, FAAP
REGION 2: HEATHER SVENSON, MD, FAAP
KENYANITA ELLIS, DO, FAAP
REGION 4: PETER M. ANTEVY, MD, FAAP
REGION 5: RENELLE ROMANO, RD, FAAP

WELCOME TO OUR MARCH 2022 NEW FCAAP MEMBERS!

REGION 1: ANSLEY SCHULTE, MD, FAAP
JENNIFER M. CARBONE, MD
VALERIE M. RIOS, MD
REGION 2: ALEXIS VILLACAMPA STARK
CAROL GRANGER SEKHON, MD, FAAP
DAVID A. SCHAFFER, MD, FAAP
HEATHER ANNE WILFONG SVENSON, MD, FAAP
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MARYE LEE
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MARIA F. FAJARDO, MD, FAAP
OSCAR A. ALEA, MD, FAAP
PETER M. ANTEVY, MD, FAAP
REGION 5: KIMBERLEY L. BANFIELD, MBBS

After a year of the unexpected, we are excited to bring back one of FCAAP’s most anticipated events – The Future of Pediatric Practice annual conference!

Although this year’s conference will look somewhat different than previous years due to enhanced safety and health measures, the planning committee is confident that you will have an exceptional experience whether attending in-person or virtually.

Learn more and register here!