

Vice-President



Candidate: Mark L. Hudak, MD

Primary City of Practice: Jacksonville, Florida

Statement of Interest/Bio:

Serving on the Board of the FCAAP, first as the Medical School Pediatric Department Chair Delegate and more intimately over the past 2 years as Treasurer, has given me a bird's eye view of the evolving challenges that confront Florida children, families, and pediatric caregivers. I have especially enjoyed my advocacy work within the FCAAP. Although our efforts have at times been frustrated, as a united Chapter we have achieved some important successes and are well poised to reengage this coming year.

I am running for Vice-President of the Executive Committee of the FCAAP because I wish to channel my energies to help lead the FCAAP in its missions of statewide advocacy and education in support of all of our primary care and subspecialty physicians and our resident members. I will apply my skillset and "lessons learned" from the many different responsibilities entrusted to me over my career.

Although I started my career as a neonatologist at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, I will be stepping down after having served for more than 12 years as the Chair of Pediatrics at the University of Florida College of Medicine – Jacksonville. In this position, I broadened my understanding of the entire pediatric care continuum, of the needs of all children and families, and of the operational and fiscal intricacies of large health care systems.

I have been blessed to work on behalf of all US pediatricians in many other roles within the AAP, including 7 years as member and then Chair of the Committee on Child Health Financing and 12 years as member and then Chair of the Section on Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine. One of the my most rewarding outcomes occurred when AAP leadership voted my resolution entitled, "The Medicaid Program for Children and Young Adults Requires Foundational Change: National Standards and Full Federal Funding" as its #1 resolution at the 2021 AAP Annual Leadership Conference. This resolution stimulated the groundbreaking October 2023 AAP policy statement, "[Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program: Optimization to Promote Equity in Child and Adult Health](#)"¹ that will be the cornerstone of federal and state AAP advocacy over the next decade. There is much in this statement that we can achieve in Florida if we with clear eyes execute a long-term advocacy campaign, and I look forward to helping lead this effort.