



President's Message

Thanks to all of you who attended the 2010 PAS Meeting in Vancouver and contributed to making it a success, with the most abstracts ever submitted and near record attendance. We are already working on the program for 2011 PAS in Denver and hope to surpass this year's statistics.

As you know, the American Pediatric Society (APS) has engaged in a strategic review. Among the overall goals that you have read about previously, I am focusing on three: (1) education; (2) advocacy; and (3) a closer affiliation with our administrative colleagues in NACHRI (National Association of Children's Hospitals and Related Institutions). I have been concerned, as a Department Chair and as an educator, that academic pediatrics has not played a greater role in shaping residency training and in responding to proposals from the ACGME (Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education). Along with AMSPDC (Association of Medical School Pediatric Department Chairs) and SPR (Society for Pediatric Research), I want to have APS represent the voice of the many chairs, division chiefs, and program directors (both fellowship and residency) in our organizations and to make sure that our point of view is taken into account.

To shape the educational agenda nationally and to advocate for research funding, APS needs to be heard in Washington. The PPC (Public Policy Council) has fulfilled this function admirably for many years, but the environment is changing rapidly. Thus, APS, SPR, and AMSPDC, along with the AAP (American Academy of Pediatrics) are reviewing the structure of the PPC to determine whether it is optimal moving forward.

Finally, I am in the process of building closer ties between APS and NACHRI. In this era of constrained resources, we will need to make sure that children receive their fair share of federal support, whether we are speaking of NIH research directed towards children, pediatric GME, or health insurance. I believe that we have a natural partner in this contest in NACHRI, which includes the chief executives and senior administrators of the nation's children's hospitals in its membership. The combined Councils of the APS and the SPR had an exciting preliminary meeting with several CEOs, including **Dr. Steven M. Altschuler** from CHOP and **Dr. Kevin B. Churchwell** from Vanderbilt, at the PAS meeting in May. At the 2011 PAS Program Committee Meeting, the possibility of a continuing relationship will be discussed.

Secretary/Treasurer's Message

Recap: 2010 PAS in Vancouver

The feedback from our membership was that the 2010 PAS Meeting in Vancouver was a resounding success ... "the best PAS meeting in years." A record number of abstracts were submitted (over 4000) and presented (~3200), and attendance was the third highest (after Toronto and San Francisco) with over 6100 professional attendees (over 7000 all inclusive). The well-attended Opening Ceremony incorporated the **St. Geme** Award presentation to **Dr. Stephen Ludwig** and will continue with further enhancements at 2011 PAS in Denver. The invited science was noted to be particularly strong this year, and the host city as well as the beauty, layout and efficiency of the Vancouver Convention Centre all contributed to the overall success of the meeting.

"APS Day" at 2010 PAS was also well received. We had great member turnout for the APS Plenary Session; those in attendance were treated to outstanding presentations by **Dr. Sherin U. Devaskar**, our now past president, by **Dr. James E. Crowe**, the Norman J. Siegel New Member Outstanding Science Awardee and by **Dr. Charles R. Scriver**, the 58th John Howland Awardee. This was followed by the APS Networking Lunch with about 130 APS members in attendance. Suggestions from our membership on various strategic planning domains have been collated and are summarized at the end of this issue of *APS News*. "APS Day" culminated in the APS Members' (Howland) Dinner at The Fairmont Hotel Vancouver, which was a culinary treat and a thoroughly enjoyable evening for several hundred of our members and guests of the Scriver family.

PAS Media Report

The Vancouver meeting was the first time that the on-site Press Room was exclusively staffed by media relations personnel from the AAP. Below is a summary of their PAS Media Report.

News releases: Media relations staff from the AAP prepared 36 news releases, highlighting both scientific abstracts and PAS sessions. This represents over twice the output of previous years. Releases were distributed to the AAP's list of 1,800 health reporters and editors and were posted on the AAP and PAS websites, and on EurekAlert, a popular science news site for journalists. The PAS releases on EurekAlert have received more than 63,000 hits from journalists and members of the public.

National coverage: Stories appeared in top-tier, mainstream news outlets in both Canada and the U.S., including CNN.com, USA Today, Time magazine, U.S. News & World Report and National Public Radio. Overwhelmingly, coverage of 2010 PAS focused on scientific abstracts presented at the meeting.

Local and trade press coverage: Many local television stations in the U.S. and Canada aired segments featuring studies presented at PAS. Trade publications including AAP News, MedPage Today, Pediatric News, Contemporary Pediatrics and Pediatric SuperSite also carried articles.

Social media: For the first time, the meeting had a strong presence in social media. PAS media relations staff tweeted breaking news from the meeting on the PAS Twitter feed (@PedAcadSoc), and these tweets were retweeted on the AAP Twitter feed (1,000+ followers) and by other outlets, including USA Today. Some tweets about PAS even appeared in French and Spanish. Numerous websites, blogs and other social media outlets also wrote about and linked to our PAS news releases.

Membership Feedback and Advocacy

FY11 Funding for NIH (time sensitive!)

The week of July 12, the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor/Health & Human Services/Education (LHHS) will consider FY 2011 funding for NIH. Please **email or call** your Representative **today** about the importance of investing in research to accelerate the pace of discovery and improve the health of our nation's children. Ask your representative to support \$37 billion for NIH in the fiscal year 2011 Labor/HHS/Education Appropriations bill. For a sample letter and direct links to your state representative, you may access the FASEB website at <http://capwiz.com/faseb/issues/alert/?alertid=15224066>.

ACGME Proposed Changes to Resident Duty Hours

On June 23, 2010, the ACGME announced changes to duty hour standards in response to the Institute of Medicine's Recommendations for Resident Duty Hours. The full announcement is posted on the ACGME website at <http://acgme-2010standards.org/>. We are now in a 45 day comment period which ends on August 9, 2010. The APS is soliciting comments from our membership and urges those involved with resident and fellow education to review the proposed changes and to share your views with us and with the ACGME directly. A commentary by the ACGME Executive Director and the Duty Hour Task Force which includes a summary of the proposed duty hour standards was published in *The New England Journal of Medicine* and can be found at <http://content.nejm.org/cgi/content/full/NEJMSb1005800>.

We welcome your feedback and suggestions for *APS News* content. We also welcome your contributions to the newsletter and the activities of our society.

Gary R. Fleisher, MD
APS President

Judy L. Aschner, MD
APS Secretary/Treasurer

APS Council

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Reports from the Working Groups at the 2010 APS Members' Lunch in Vancouver

APS Child Health Research Advocacy Committee

General consensus: Advocating for child health research is fundamental to the mission of the APS and therefore requires active participation by APS membership. A unifying message is that investment in child health research is an investment in the future health and productivity of our nation. We need to advocate for child health research in different arenas, stressing the importance of improved child health on the eventual health of adults (voters!). Several action items were suggested, including:

1. Establish on-going APS Child Health Research Advocacy Committee to promote APS member participation in APS efforts to represent and promote APS Child Health Research positions for more grant mechanisms, more grant money, more pipeline approaches, and more APS member involvement in national child health research leadership.
2. Develop an internal white paper to define a Child Health Research "message," establish and prioritize child health research topics, and set agendas for subsequent meetings.
3. Establish direct communication with the Director of NIH and Directors of individual NIH institutes to determine where research dollars for child health research (training and research grants) is spent at NIH, evidence that shows the long-term value of dollars spent for child health research for child health outcomes, evidence for how effective grant mechanisms are for producing and sustaining child health researchers, and approaches to increase child health researchers, particularly APS members, on NIH institute and CSR grant review panels and in institute leadership positions.
4. Promote the pipeline of MD child health researchers for all types of investigation—basic, translational, clinical, community, population, outcomes, comparative effectiveness, etc., and promote career advancement opportunities for MD child health investigators in all of these types of research.
5. Develop approaches that show how child health research has improved health outcomes in children and in later stages of life and how child health research has improved economic prosperity—in children, in later stages of life, and in society.
6. Develop mechanisms and financial support for lobbying members of Congress, determine relationships with PPC and other advocacy organizations, develop speaking points for members to use at specific venues, and develop approaches for working with philanthropy for promoting child health research.

Leadership/Coaching Initiative

The goal of the leadership initiative is to build leadership skills and mentor strong leaders at every phase of career development in academic pediatrics. Our objectives are to establish an APS leadership/coaching program and/or service, as well as establish an APS leadership/development program and/or track, and to increase the number of APS members placed in key national leadership positions. At the 2010 APS Members' Networking Lunch there were three tables of interested faculty members who participated in a lively discussion guided by three questions:

1. If you were asked to formally mentor a younger member of the profession, with a mentor/mentee contract and specific goals to achieve, would you volunteer? Why or why not? There was widespread enthusiasm for the concept of mentoring other faculty members, although the formality of a "contract" was challenged. There was also a strong consensus that mentoring is especially important when people rise into a new position because they can be very isolated. They need the wisdom and support of those who have walked down the same path but who are not direct supervisors. APS members discussed the fact that, after a certain age, one realizes that the baton is going to be passed, and there is a real need to shape the future by sharing expertise. The main reason why members would not volunteer for such an initiative was the possibility that there would be a lack of compatibility with the mentee. The group recommended consideration of the development of an instrument that could match mentors and mentees by shared interests or job titles. [NOTE: Due to the administration of a questionnaire developed and administered prior to the 2010 PAS Meeting, APS already has quite a bit of information on APS members who are interested in being mentors.] There was strong interest in having web-based tools available. A recommendation was made to develop a task force to determine what is already available (i.e., not to reinvent the wheel if it exists). It was also discussed whether this task force could compile some information on those programs that had organized mentoring programs that others could use as model systems or if there could be web-based tools for an aspiring mentor to examine to pick up some skills from other programs.

2. What is the best leadership program you have ever attended or heard of, and what attributes made it so great? A number of different programs were mentioned, including the UCLA Anderson School of Business one-year long certificate course in medical leadership, the Executive Leadership in Academic Medicine (ELAM) course sponsored by Drexel University (for women only), the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) weekend course for new chairs, the pre-AMSPDC day-long seminar on leadership, the two-week intensive course for clinical service chiefs at Harvard, and the Federation of Pediatric Organizations (FOPO) leadership retreat. The group thought that APS could help to make faculty members aware of the various opportunities available, along with the requirements for attendance.
3. If APS could help place three members in organizations that have key decision making roles in the future of academic medicine, which organizations and key roles would you select? The organizations mentioned were: AAMC, NICHD, AMA, and NCHRI/CHCA.

Communications Committee Report

There are many types of communication. We concentrated on three, keeping in mind that APS is the senior academic pediatricians group, which should bring our collective experience, expertise and wisdom to child health issues from years of longstanding engagement with the issues.

A. Website Development

Should support communications between APS and its members including sections on:

- Orientation to new members
- History (perhaps by decade) of APS and changes in child health care
- Council corner – reports, minutes of meetings, updates
- Work groups (many types of electronic work groups could be developed from attacking specific problems to “think tanks” and APS specific projects)
- Public messages
- Action/advocacy items
- Mentoring website – matching the individual to the “right” mentor, general info, e-mentoring
- Video corner
 - Howland Award lecturer
 - Clips of acknowledged mentors as they discuss issues
 - Perspectives on particular academic, teaching, subspecialty issues
 - Interviews on a variety of topics
 - Structure that allows research connections to develop
 - Senior perspective – because we are the “elders” of pediatrics, do we have particular perspectives or experiences to share?
 - Other databases

B. Newsletter

In general, the e-mail newsletter is greatly appreciated by members – 4 times a year, short items and 10 - 12 items which are of importance to senior academicians.

- Great way to engage members
- Issues of importance to senior academicians
- Items in which members may wish to get or should be involved
- Just before PAS, 3 or 4 quick updates

C. Media

There is a need to engage reporters in issues of child health. There are many opportunities to engage all types of media in the issues important to academic pediatrics. Who better than senior, seasoned pediatricians to be interviewed? Reporters are looking for stories – so we are missing many opportunities both at the PAS meeting and when other events occur (such as Haiti disaster). APS should consider working in concert with other pediatric national organizations, such as Council of Pediatric Subspecialties (CoPS) that already have formed a media working group.

- PAS meetings – more media coverage. Need press releases ahead of time (e.g., 10 presentations should be picked out for news releases by each of the sponsoring groups (e.g., APS, SPR, AAP, APA)
- Training in media contact and story formulation – AAP does it from a child care perspective – we (APS) have an academic perspective about many issues on which the public should be informed
- Any major awardee – should have a major press release prepared (e.g., Howland Award)

Enhancing the PAS Meeting

Goal: Improve the quality and value of attending the PAS meeting for APS members.

The following suggestions were put forth after lively discussion among APS members:

1. The opening ceremony was well received and there was enthusiasm for continuing this new "tradition." There was consensus that the organizers go for a big name/big theme that will attract the membership from all four sponsoring societies.
2. The program committee should be nimble with regard to "top topics," perhaps reserving a slot for a late-breaking hot topic, such as the H1N1 session in 2009.
3. The decision to have fewer platform sessions was felt to be positive; the program committee was urged to be more selective in choosing abstracts for oral presentation. The feeling was that this would lead to a higher quality meeting with fewer scheduling conflicts.
4. A public policy theme should be routinely incorporated into the meeting, with invited speakers knowledgeable about public policies that impact academic pediatrics, such as healthcare reform and GME policy changes.
5. A suggestion was made that the APS host posters on our website (with author permission) for viewing by the membership after the meeting, in light of no longer publishing the abstracts in our journal.
6. It was suggested that we incorporate the strengths of the poster symposium into all platform sessions by instructing session moderators to communicate with the presenters ahead of the meeting and assign presenters the role of "discussant" on 1-2 other presentations in that session. The moderators would be responsible for assigning the abstracts, providing their full text and requesting that each presenter prepare 1-2 questions for each abstract to which they are assigned the role of discussant.
7. Given that the 2011 PAS Meeting in Denver is co-sponsored with the Asian Society for Pediatric Research, it was suggested we have a hospitality suite for our foreign guests – a place to relax, ask questions, get help and provide opportunities for collaboration with PAS leaders from all member societies.
8. The APS Members' Networking Lunch was deemed a success and there was enthusiasm for providing a similar venue for APS member networking at future PAS meetings.