

RESEARCH TASK FORCE MEETING

May 1, 2008

Honolulu, HI

The Research Task Force Spring meeting was well attended and provided a venue for lively discussion in several areas. Drs. John Co (Task Force Chair) and Linda Waggoner-Fountain (Task Force Vice-Chair) led the discussion.

- 1) Drs. Su Ting Li (Associate Program Director) and Dan West (Program Director) of UC Davis presented their APPD Special Projects Grant funded project about Individualized Learning Plans. The explained how program directors and trainees will be recruited to participate in this survey-based study to better understand factors leading to success in using ILP's in pediatric residency training.
- 2) COMSEP Collaboration: Dr. Co explained the current progress of the COMSEP/APPD project in developing a curriculum for sub-internships in pediatrics. The task force members were excited to hear about this project, with several indicating interest in helping with the project, including findings ways to study and evaluate the curriculum.
- 3) Survey Policy: Five surveys that were submitted to the APPD office were reviewed during the meeting. None were given APPD approval for distribution. While the topic areas of the surveys seemed important, task force members expressed concern that surveys were not developed, were better distributed to someone other than the residency program director, and/or that the survey findings would not lead to improvements in pediatric graduate medical education. Some discussion ensued regarding how to modify the current survey policy to streamline review and make it clearer for prospective investigators.
- 4) Support for Research: Several ideas were raised in how the APPD and the task force could support members for doing educational research. This included establishing a network of programs to do research (perhaps in collaboration or as part of LEARN), conducting workshops on how to do educational research, disseminate funding sources for projects, and having a more visible presence at the APPD annual meeting. Many stated next years joint meeting with COMSEP will provide and excellent opportunity to highlight high quality collaborative research.