I want to take this opportunity to update you about the many activities going on within APPD. At the last Board Meeting held in conjunction with the Fall Meeting we reviewed APPD activities on many fronts. The following are just some highlights:

**APPD Special Projects Program**
The Board of Directors authorized the funding of all six special projects that were approved and announced at the Spring Meeting for a total of $65,033. We look forward to completion of these projects, the sharing of results with our membership at future APPD meetings, and a new round of RFPs and funding.

**New Action Team Addresses Recommendations from the Task Force on Women**
Ann Burke will lead a new Action Team to review and discuss the Federation of Pediatric Organizations (FOPO) Task Force on Women in Pediatrics. In addition, APPD is a co-sponsor with the Association of Medical School Pediatric Department Chairs (AMSPDC) of a Topic Symposium at the Pediatric Academic Societies (PAS) in San Francisco next spring entitled, “Making Pediatrics Family Friendly.” Ann will speak at the symposium about the Action Team and its discussions about how pediatric residency programs can address this important topic.

**Hurricane Katrina and the Gulf Coast Pediatric Programs**
APPD has been in contact with program directors Bonnie Desselle (LSU) and Hosea Doucet (Tulane) in the aftermath of the disaster that affected their pediatric residency training programs. Further discussions will be held with APPD leadership and Jerry Rushton to determine what is needed to support them as they rebuild their programs.

**Subspecialties Forum in Memphis**
Bruder Stapleton of AMSPDC, Dick Behrman of FOPO, Bill Schnaper of the Alliance Societies of the PAS, and I are leading an effort to determine the optimal organizational structure of pediatric subspecialties and fellowship programs. There will be a Subspecialty Forum held on January 29-30 in Memphis, Tennessee with invited representatives of pediatric subspecialties and related academic and specialty groups to discuss options.
and organizational models. We hope to determine at this meeting if there is consensus about forming an organization and plan the next steps.

Fellowships Directors Track at APPD Meetings
New Common Program Requirements for Pediatric Subspecialties will be implemented as of July 1, 2006. These new requirements call for the implementation of the general competencies within all pediatric subspecialty fellowship programs. In response, the APPD Board of Directors included a Fellowship Directors Track at the Annual and Fall Meetings. We feel that pediatric program directors have the expertise and experience in competency-based training to offer fellowship directors assistance as they begin the transition to competency-based training within their fellowship programs. The results of the meeting in Memphis will help us determine whether another organization parallel to APPD in structure will emerge in the future and guide our efforts to lend our educational administrative expertise to fellowship directors.

The Concept of an APPD Educational Resources Warehouse
The Board of Directors had some preliminary discussions about how to build upon our existing website to provide warehouse space to house educational materials, curricula, tools, evaluation instruments, policies and procedures, and administrative documents. The idea of housing content on our website grew from our Task Forces. Please see what is already on the APPD website under the tab, Educational Resources. You will find the Curriculum Toolshed and the Evaluation Toolshed. The idea of a warehouse is a larger concept that will require organization, systems for collecting and indexing content, and an optimal method of searching, such as providing a mini-Google search engine. We hope to launch this project over the next 6 – 12 months and provide our membership with a useful collection of educational resources. Over time, there could be an effort to create a best practices section with the opportunity for peer review.

APPD Sponsors 2 Mini Courses at the 2006 PAS Meeting
Susan Guralnick serves as our APPD Liaison to the PAS Planning Committee and she was quite successful in placing two APPD sponsored Mini Courses on the program of the next PAS Meeting in San Francisco: “Sports Medicine for the Young Athlete” led by Rob McGregor and “Educating Pediatric Fellows in a Competency-based World” led by Susan Guralnick and Joe Gilhooly.

State of the Art Plenary at PAS: New Residency Work Hours and Quality of Care – Synergistic or Antagonistic?
I will be part of a panel, led by Dick Behrman and including David Leach of the ACGME and Doug Jones of the Pediatric RRC, discussing this important topic. In preparation, I would appreciate your thoughts about how the new duty hour standards have impacted your program and quality of patient care. I promise to represent the entire range of opinion about this topic and offer my personal perspective as well. As we approach the PAS Meeting, I will be sending out a brief web-based survey to have timely data for this State of the Art Plenary.

As you see there is a lot of activity going on within APPD. This list does not include what takes place within Task Forces, Regions, Action Teams, and the review of abstracts and workshop proposals and APPD Special Projects. We continue to enjoy steady growth of membership and participation at meetings because we offer important activities and programs. We are fortunate to have the guidance of a great and responsive management team.

As we enter into this busy time of the year with interviewing intern applicants, I wish you all a successful and smooth interview season.

APPD REQUEST FOR SPECIAL PROJECTS
For the second year, the Association of Pediatric Program Directors (APPD) Special Projects Program will provide financial support for projects in the areas of learning technology, residency curriculum, educational research, residency evaluation and/or faculty development. The APPD may grant up to $10,000 per selected project, drawing upon APPD funds. The Board of Directors will determine the funds available for this program annually. The number of awards will be dependent on the funds available and the size of the grant requests of the selected projects. Initial proposals must be received by **December 1, 2005**. For more information, see the complete RFP in the awards section of the appd website at www.appd.org.

APPD COORDINATORS’ AWARD NOMINATIONS

*Dr. Carol Berkowitz Award for Lifetime of Advocacy and Leadership in Pediatric Medical Education*

Nominations are now being accepted for the APPD Coordinators’ Section Dr. Carol Berkowitz Award for Lifetime of Advocacy and Leadership in Pediatric Medical Education. The deadline for nominating a coordinator is **November 15, 2005**. E-mail nominations to the APPD National Office at info@appd.org. Any member of the APPD may make the nomination. Visit www.appd.org for more details.
RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN MPPDA AND APPD: AN OPEN LETTER TO THE APPD MEMBERSHIP

Allen Friedland, MD, FACP, FAAP, President, Med-Peds Program Directors Association

On behalf of the MPPDA Executive Committee we would like to thank the APPD for your ongoing support of our organization and its members. We also value our combined efforts in training excellent pediatricians well suited to a rapidly changing medical environment. We have recently completed our leadership retreat during which we reflected upon our relationships and contributions to many organizations and set goals for the future.

We realize the need to collaborate closely with APPD. All pediatric trainees and their programs have faced the challenges of substantial change over the past few years. Our trainees are also very much part of the fabric of the modern pediatric workforce. Fifty percent of accredited pediatric programs contain a med-peds program and med-peds residents comprise approximately 15% of all pediatric trainees. Both pediatricians and med-peds residents and programs will undergo more change with new RRC requirements for pediatrics and new accreditation of med-peds programs both due to occur in 2006. Accreditation alone will require even more coordination and sharing of ideas between our sets of directors and faculty than ever before. We welcome this prospect.

We are proud of our increased involvement with APPD, some of which has included:

• Workshops (5) and posters (3) presented in the Spring 2005 APPD meeting
• Newsletter contributions (3)
• Representation on Learning Technology and Evaluation Task Forces
• Evaluation of posters and workshops to the annual meeting
• Updates with APPD Board of Directors
• Improved membership (43 directors not including co-directors) in APPD and improved attendance (about 90 attendees) to the 2005 annual meeting which was the largest med-peds business meeting with APPD.

Our strategic planning process for the coming years has resulted in the development of short and long term goals in several areas. Some examples are: a research agenda to include the long-term outcomes of med-peds trainees, work closely with the ACGME on the process of accreditation of med-peds programs, competency based education for combined trainees, and national advocacy on issues of teaching residents about the transition of children with chronic diseases to adult care providers.

The communication between our organizations has improved significantly over the past few years. In an effort to continue this mutually beneficial trend we would propose the following:

• Regular conference calls and yearly meetings of our leadership with APPD leadership in conjunction with a national meeting.
• Invite APPD board members to attend our annual business meeting each spring.
• Continue new dues structure that includes 100% membership of med-peds directors in APPD as long as the categorical pediatrics program is in paid status.
• Continue to be involved with the annual meeting poster and workshop selection.
• Offer pediatric and med-peds co-directors a comment period specifically on the proposed requirements for med-peds programs by posting portions of the requirements on the APPD web site.
• MPPDA would like to meet with coordinators who perform both peds and med-peds functions to better ensure communication at a annual meeting.

These are a few ways to build a more cohesive team for the future of pediatric training. We welcome further discussion on any or all of these points.

APPD Leadership

President (2004-2006)
Theodore Sectish, M.D.

President-Elect (2004-2006)
Robert McGregor, M.D.

Secretary-Treasurer (2004-2007)
Ann Burke, M.D.

Past-President (2004-2006)
Edwin Zalneraitis, M.D.

Executive Director
Laura E. Degnon

Board of Directors
Annamaria Church, M.D. (2005-2008)
Susan Guralnick, M.D. (2003-2006)
Adam Pallant, M.D., Ph.D. (2005-2008)

Coordinators Executive Committee
Cindy Colpitts (2003-2006)
Therese D’Agostino (2005-2008)
Mary Gallagher (2004-2007)
Louise Kadane (2003-2006)
Sally Koons (2005-2007)
Vanessa Pichette (2005-2008)
“Like a deer caught in the headlights” – That was my first thought when I entered my very first coordinators’ session in Washington, DC back six years ago. I’ve come a long way. And it is with thanks to two seasoned coordinators who recognized the “what am I doing here” look. Within five seconds, I was motioned to sit between them and the rest is history. During the break they took care of the intros and answered any and all of my questions. It was an incredible start. I left the conference with business cards, e-mail addresses, phone numbers and a suitcase full of handouts which I use to this day. Hopefully in a few years time, another coordinator will write a similar scenario.

As coordinators, one of our goals is to provide a comfortable relationship with newer, less experienced coordinators. We will support guidance, friendship, role-modeling, assistance and an attentive ear. We will encourage partnership in an open, non-judgmental structure. Mentoring can be done in person, by e-mail, by phone, and in a group setting when we attend the annual APPD meetings. At the recent APPD meeting in Reston, we announced the launch of this mentoring endeavor. During the meeting, we contacted both seasoned and new coordinators and invited all to a dinner meeting. It was a “meet and greet” session attended by 40 coordinators with a lovely dinner and a great exchange of ideas. We invite all coordinators to participate in this worthwhile venture. Those experienced coordinators have a wealth of information to share and our newer coordinators can have the opportunity to expand on their knowledge. Our past experience in working with such a varied group of coordinators over the past several years has enabled us to broaden our knowledge base, find out what other coordinators are doing simpler, faster and sometimes for financial gains, etc. Please encourage your program director to send you to these annual meetings; there is much to be gained for you and your PD. If for financial reasons you cannot attend, scholarship monies are available and this information can also be obtained by contacting either one of us or by visiting the APPD website at www.appd.org (click on “Annual Meetings” and “APPD Scholarship Application for Residency Program Coordinators”). If travel is still not an option for you, please contact us and we will put you in touch with a mentor. We will be putting out a call to our more experienced coordinators who will be available to mentor at the annual meetings and throughout the academic year by e-mail and by phone. A complete listing of all coordinators can be found on the APPD website where you have a source of information which is yours for the asking. For those of you who have not completed either a mentor/mentee form, you can contact Sally Koons at Penn State Hershey Medical Center at skoons@hmc.psu.edu and she will be in touch with you.

Looking forward to meeting you and working with you and remember, there are no such things as strangers – only friends we have yet to meet.

AAP SECTION ON RESIDENTS:
LEARNING TO LEAD

Theresa Murdock-Vlautin, Vice Chair, Resident Section, American Academy of Pediatrics

The American Academy of Pediatrics National Conference and Exhibition (NCE) was held in Washington DC and heralded the 75th Anniversary of the AAP. The AAP Section on Residents provided an educational program on leadership and community advocacy at the Resident Section Annual Assembly at the NCE. This Assembly is designed to provide non-traditional education opportunities for residents, fellows and medical students. Dr. Lewis First, Chairman of Pediatrics at University of Vermont, provided an inspiring keynote address, which focused on “what is leadership” and “how to be a leader in your personal life, career, and community”. District lunches provided an opportunity for residents to exchange ideas and debate issues relevant to resident training and education, which led to a multitude of resolutions presented to the Assembly following lunch. A total of 24 resolutions were debated and we look forward to following the progress of the resolutions as they move forward through the AAP. The afternoon provided two interactive breakout sessions. One focused on leadership personalities, as well as techniques to giving and receiving effective feedback. The second session featured skills to develop and sustain a resident based community advocacy project. All sessions were well attended. The assembly also provided elections of our new national officers; secretary Angela Fimbres and Vice-Chair, Chris Strother. Our current Vice-Chair Sarah Corathers, will take over as Chair of the Section on Residents. The AAP Resident Section looks forward to providing non-traditional educational opportunities for residents and working with program directors to enhance resident education.
REGIONAL HAPPENINGS

MID-AMERICA
John D. Mahan, MD, Program Director, Children’s Hospital/ The Ohio State University Pediatric Residency Program

Forty seven members of the APPD Mid-America Region met for a breakfast meeting on May 13, 2005 in Washington D.C. at the APPD Annual Meeting. I had the opportunity to chair this session alone, since Bradley Bradford (our founding father) retired from his Program Director post last year.

Mid-America Regional Fall Meeting
The group discussed a number of issues regarding our annual fall meeting in the region. The members were convinced that the annual meeting, with the opportunity to share program issues and processes was worthwhile, and that the recent inclusion of program coordinators and chief residents at the meeting should be continued. After some discussion, the group agreed to have the upcoming October meeting in Columbus, due to its central location, but to re-visit the idea of rotating the meeting to other sites in the future. Separate agenda items of interest to program coordinators will be explored for the fall meeting.

Mid-America Procedure Survey and other potential projects
Ann Burke reviewed the success of the Mid-America PD’s survey of pediatric resident procedure requirements and levels of competency; the data represented information from >70% of the programs in the Mid-America Region and was presented at the APPD meeting. A manuscript is being prepared with this data. The group discussed other potential collaborative projects, including a study of the value for residents of an NIH funded CD Rom module that addresses informing parents of the diagnosis of Downs syndrome in their child. A survey regarding present patterns of access for pharmaceutical companies to pediatric residents was also discussed.

APPD Electronic Communication
There was heated discussion about the methods utilized by APPD to monitor surveys and other materials distributed to members. The APPD Board still must approve the distribution of any survey or study to members. Some members would prefer a more interactive chat board rather than the present use of the periodic distribution of information by the list serve. Some members strongly preferred the present format since it successfully regulated email traffic of APPD issues. The APPD Board has committed to continue to use discussion boards and brief member surveys for “hot” topics of active interest. This approach was favored by the majority of the region members.

Mid-America Region Officers
The Regional Chairs Structure (taken from APPD Annual Report, May 2005) was discussed. The term for the Mid-America Region Officers was to start at two years (beginning May 2005) and, with the 16 elected Regional Chairs and the APPD President-Elect, will comprise the Council of Regional Chairs. The group decided to open nominations to all of the members, to be forwarded to the Columbus Children’s Hospital site and to conduct the balloting by email. The election was completed in August 2005 with the following slate of officers elected by the members:
• PD Chair: Dena Hofkosh (Pittsburgh)
• PD Vice Chair: Raheel Khan (West Virginia)
• PC Chair: Christine Mayes (Akron)
• PC Vice Chair: Dalena Vanover (Columbus)

Congratulations to the new officers!

MID-ATLANTIC
Cliff Yu, MD, Program Director, National Capital Consortium Pediatric Residency

The APPD Mid-Atlantic Region met for a one day conference on Tuesday, September 20 at Geisinger Medical Center in beautiful Danville, Pennsylvania, hosted by Paul Bellino and Mary Anne Wesner. Thanks in large measure to English Willis from Crozer-Chester for keeping up our listserv and getting the word out, we had a great showing of over 50 participants representing 16 programs from Delaware, Pennsylvania, Virginia, Maryland, New Jersey, and the District of Columbia.

We spent a good portion of the morning hearing from several of our member programs during a “show-and-tell” about innovative approaches to a variety of residency topics from computer-based learning to continuity clinic curricula and a host of other issues.

Joe Lopreiato from the National Capital Consortium presented an informative plenary session on direct observation of residents, a timely and relevant topic given the emphasis placed on the use of this tool for a variety of competencies in the new RRC requirements.

We rounded out the afternoon with breakout sessions involving program directors and associate program directors, program coordinators, and chief residents. Kathy Miller from Johns Hopkins and Dave Schwartz from the National Capital Consortium led the latter two groups through lively group discussions. After re-convening for summaries from our groups, we all adjourned with a promise to build on our in-
tra-regional communication and resources and, although a tough order to fulfill, to start the planning for an even better meeting for next year.

SOUTHEAST
Marc Majure, MD, Program Director, Duke University
Jenny Myers, Program Coordinator, East Carolina University School of Medicine

Program Directors, Coordinators, and Chief Residents affiliated with the Categorical, Subspecialty and Combined Training programs in pediatrics in the Southeast Region met as a group during the Spring Meeting of the APPD held in Washington, D.C. Lee Sanders, M.D., M.P.H. presented an overview of the Continuity Research Network (CORNET). Programs expressed interest in joining the Network and will be contacted by Dr. Sanders in the near future. The Region has also established a Listserv that has been used very successfully to provide a forum for discussion about common issues. The structure of the Listserv was discussed and it was agreed that this would continue to be a closed list open to those affiliated with programs in the Southeast. It will continue to be hosted at Duke University at this time. Regional organization was a significant topic of discussion. It was again agreed that geography made it difficult for formal meetings in the regions at times other than the Spring APPD meeting. However, several cluster groups have met over the preceding year, including Georgia Plus, North Carolina and Virginia. Next year a consideration will be made to group tables by geographic location within the region to facilitate discussion by programs that are close to each other.

After completion of the agenda items, an open forum was held. It became evident from this discussion that break out time for Program Directors and Coordinators to meet with their own groups would be helpful. Also, lively discussion was held concerning the start dates for fellowship and what the expectation was for ending of residency training. It was decided that the Southeast Regions would like to communicate to the APPD leadership that the Region supports a delayed start for fellowships. Frustration was voiced that as the meeting has grown larger, it has become more difficult to get to know individuals from the Region or to know exactly who is attending from the Region. The group would like to suggest that the attendance roster contain a section that is broken down by Regional Attendees.

Even though time was limited in the group meeting, members of the Region continued to discuss Regional issues throughout the meeting. One frustration in particular voiced by some of the directors of smaller programs was the limited options for their residents to find electives at other institutions in subspecialties that the home program does not offer. Further discussion will be held through the Listserv with an attempt to develop a listing of programs offering opportunities for visiting residents.

SOUTHWEST
Surendra K. Varma, MD, Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center

The Southwest Region was scheduled to meet in Galveston during the Texas Pediatrics Society annual meeting. Our plans were derailed by Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Rita and thus we could not meet.

The resident recruitment season is just warming up. We plan to coordinate our efforts for the applicants’ interview visits. We plan to discuss new RRC requirements through our list serve. Through our list serve we plan to ask our Louisiana colleagues how we can help in their recruitment efforts. Earlier, many of our programs had offered help and temporary placement of pediatric residents from affected areas.

EDITOR, continued from page 1

I encourage you to do the same. Don’t feel guilty for reading this newsletter instead of “getting some work done.” When was the last time you explored the APPD web site or read through the discussion board? Have you read a journal article recently just because it looked interesting rather than to “look something up quickly?” Or, better yet, have you read something non-medical? Have you spent time with your family when you weren’t obligated to?

Look back at what has happened in the world in the last two months. Take the time to assess and balance your life. When you take that time, you will find that your job will once again be fun.

APPD CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

The Association of Pediatric Program Directors’ Nominating Committee is soliciting nominations for the following positions:

- President-Elect (Begin April ’06)
- One Board Member (Begin April ’06)
- One Nominating Committee Member (Begin April ’06)
- Two Coordinators Executive Committee (Begin April ’06)

All nominations should be sent to the APPD office no later than December 15. You may self-nominate. This is a great opportunity for you or a colleague to get more involved in the growth and development of APPD.
The APPD Learning Technology Task Force continues to make progress on several fronts. Based on the Learning Technology Task Force meeting in Washington D.C. on 5/12/05, a number of initiatives are underway:

1. Expanding the process of LT vendor presentations at the annual Spring Meeting. The AAMC Medical Education list serve and lists of vendors attending COMSEP and Internal Medicine will be mined for potential vendors. A request to APPD members to identify education vendors will also be conducted this winter.

2. The format for the APPD website LT Resource Center was reviewed and approved. This center will serve as a mechanism to post useful (and non-useful) LT for review by APPD members.

3. A commitment by the LT Task Force to work with the ACGME on the Pediatric Case Log System (Procedures, Continuity Patient Panel) was confirmed. The group identified three items of particular interest for Pediatric PD’s in regards to the Case (Procedure) Log System:
   a) the need to develop reports from the ACGME Log that are useful to PD’s
   b) methods to upload data from commercial procedure services
   c) further efforts to streamline the ACGME system for easier data entry.

4. Willingness for the LT Task Force to contribute to future progress of the APPD PediaLink site was expressed and several future enhancements useful for residents and PD’s were discussed.

5. The potential for LT Task Force collaborative proposals was discussed, including:
   a) pilot projects to study electronic sign outs vrs paper sign outs
   b) the effect of a sleep study module completion on knowledge acquisition, safe behaviors
   c) best methods to implement self-learning modules

Recent Breaking Developments include:

1. Abhay Dandekar has agreed to be the LT Task Force Resource Center Czar and post new submissions and monitor. We plan to have the site in operation by the end of the year.

2. I have received a commitment from Tom Richter, Systems Manager for ACGME, to work with an APPD ACGME-LT Task Force Action Team. Five members of the APPD LT Task Force have volunteered to participate in the series of conference calls.

We will keep the members of the APPD posted on all developments, particularly with our work with the ACGME. The work of Abhay on the LT Resource Center will be noticed by all and should be a real asset to the members of the organization.

As always, the opportunities to integrate LT into the training of pediatric residents are legion. If anyone is interested in becoming involved, please contact me at jmahan@chi.osu.edu.
APPD ANNUAL AWARDS

The following awards are open to current and former Program Directors and Associate Directors who are or have been APPD members. Our deadline for nominations is **February 1** of each year.

**Nomination Process:** In 250 words or less, answer the question: Why should this person win the award?

**Send nominations to:** APPD, 6728 Old McLean Village Drive, McLean VA 22101, E-mail: info@appd.org.

**Robert S. Holm, MD Leadership Award**  
2005 Recipient: Kenneth B. Roberts, MD  
2004 Recipient: Carol D. Berkowitz MD

This award is to honor a Program Director or Associate Program Director (past or present) for extraordinary contribution(s) in pediatric program director leadership or in support of other pediatric program directors as a mentor, advisor or role model for the many duties and responsibilities of the position.

**Walter W. Tunnessen, Jr. MD Award for the Advancement of Pediatric Resident Education**  
2005 Recipient: Gail A. McGuinness, MD  
2004 Recipient: Carol Carraccio, MD

This award is to honor a Program Director or Associate Program Director (past or present) for extraordinary or innovative contribution(s) in pediatric graduate medical education.