
APPD NEWSLETTER

Summer

Association of Pediatric Program Directors

1996

EDITOR'S COLUMN

Robert Kamei, MD

As I'm staring at my laptop late at night wondering how to start this column, the first thing that comes to my mind is, "why/how did I ever agree to edit this?" Besides the obvious fact that it is difficult to say no to a request from Carol Berkowitz, I thought a newsletter would be another way for me to help the APPD be more responsive, and useful to the membership. Besides the usual columns that catch you up with some of the latest developments affecting residencies programs, we plan to use the newsletter to publish ideas/comments/questions from the members. We hope the newsletter will promote the best part of our organization: the program directors themselves.

To that aim, I ask that you send me questions/issues that your residency programs are struggling with, and I'll find someone to publish a response. For example, Carol Berkowitz and Walt Tunnesson have already agreed to answer questions for the newsletter that you have for the RRC, or the American Board of Pediatrics. Your questions are most likely shared by many others.

We would like the newsletter to encourage the exchange of ideas and increase networking within the APPD. Hopefully we can publish a newsletter a few times each year that will help make our jobs a little easier.

So, make my job as editor of the newsletter easier by sending me plenty of comments or questions at: Bob Kamei, MD, Director, Pediatric Residency Program, UCSF, Box 0110, M691, San Francisco, CA 94143 or Email: kamei@itsa.ucsf.edu

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Carol D. Berkowitz, MD

The APPD is looking forward to a year of expanded services to its members. The officers will be having a "mini-retreat" to help address areas of need and potential growth. As in the past, the APPD will focus its Annual Meeting and in particular its workshops on equipping program directors with the skills they need to run their residency program. Four major areas will be discussed at the board meeting. These are: Program Coordinators: I had the opportunity to address the program coordinators at a recent conference that they attended. They are eager to be involved with our meeting, and participate in our workshops. APDIM (Association of Program Directors in Internal Medicine) meet together with their program coordinators. Representatives from the Pediatric Program Coordinators will be participating in our Board Meeting. Federation of Pediatric Organizations: This conglomerate of pediatric organizations meets annually to discuss the major issues facing pediatric societies. A major issue for the organization is whether or not to become incorporated. Not all the participating organizations concur with this proposal, and the APPD will be discussing this in greater detail during the Board meeting. Becoming Electronic: Interest in going on line is expanding on all fronts. The APPD is working in conjunction with the ABP to assure an accurate and current listing of all program directors. It is also hoped that residency vacancies will be posted electronically. Whole day session for new program directors: In the past, new program directors met on the evening before the Annual Meeting. The session had a semiformal format with presentations from the AAP, ABP, and RRC. There were also pearls of wisdom from other more experienced program directors. Our plans are to have a more structured, hands-on program for new directors. We're hoping to have participants bring their Program Directors Handbook to help assure that all necessary information is present.

The officers are eager to hear from the membership about perceived needs and areas for growth and improvement. Please write or e-mail me: Carol Berkowitz, MD, Department of Pediatrics, Harbor-UCLA Medical Center, 1000 W. Carson, Box 437, Torrance, CA 90509; E-mail: carolb@mem.po.com

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APPD ENGAGES PROFESSIONAL MANAGEMENT

APPD has engaged the services of a professional association management firm to work with the Board and Officers in the development of the association. Degnon Associates of McLean, VA has been managing professional societies and medical associations for 18 years and has established a distinctive record of accomplishments among its clients.

“We’re absolutely delighted that George Degnon will be providing his skill and expertise in assisting us as we prepare for a dynamic role on behalf of our members,” said Carol Berkowitz, APPD President.

Among the services provided by Degnon Associates to its clients are office management and administration, financial management, membership services including membership recruitment, meeting planning and management of annual conferences, assistance to the Board in policy development, public relations services, production of the newsletters, Journals and other publications, assistance with long range planning, and management of special projects.

“We have contracted initially for a set of basic services and as the APPD grows, we will be in a position to negotiate expanded services from our management company” added Ken Roberts, Immediate Past President. Degnon Associates has been developing, nurturing, and maintaining national organizations through the application of sound management principle and a lot of old fashioned hard-work since 1979. George Degnon is assisted by a team of dedicated associates including his wife, Marge, who manages the Ambulatory Pediatric Association (1,500 members) and daughter Laura who serves as Account Manager for APPD handling the daily activities.

Prior to establishing the company in 1979, George Degnon served 13 years with the American Academy of Pediatrics as a staff member, founding Director of its Washington Office and as Associate Executive Director.

“It is a personal honor to be working with pediatric educators and serving APPD. Program Directors have a major responsibility in general medical education and as the organization infrastructure of APPD is strengthened I envision it becoming a very dynamic organization,” he said. Other Association served by Degnon Associates include the Association of Christian Therapists, the newly created National Assembly on School Based Health Care,

the Society of Pediatric Pathology, and the American Psychosomatic Society.

New APPD National Headquarters:
George K. Degnon, CAE (Executive Director)
Laura Degnon (Account Manager)
6728 Old McLean Village Drive
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703-556-9222
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Questions/Answers Column with Walt Tunnesson, President of the American Board of Pediatrics

We are going to feature a questions/answers column with Walt Tunnesson, President of the ABP, in our future Newsletters. Please submit questions to the Newsletter Editor, Bob Kamei (address/email of front page). This column will appear in our next issue, so please submit your questions!

THE RESIDENCY REVIEW COMMITTEE

Carol D. Berkowitz, MD

The thing foremost in the minds of many program directors are the new requirements from the RRC. All program directors should have received copies of the requirements which will go into effect in February, 1997. The revised program information forms have not yet been finalized.

There has already been much discussion about the move from in-patient care to ambulatory services. Although some program directors express concern about reaching the 50% of time in ambulatory services, it is important to recall that continuity counts toward ambulatory time, as does clinic time in subspecialty services.

The RRC appreciates all the input from the program directors as the requirements were being revised.

Welcome - New Program Directors!

Grace Caputo, MD, Phoenix Children's Hospital
Jill Clark-Hamilton, MD, Overlook Hospital, Pediatrics
Chris Derauf, MD, Univ. of Hawaii Integrated Ped. Res. Prgm.
Edna DeVries, MD, Marshfield Clinic/St. Joseph's Hospital
Robert Ellis, MD, Portsmouth Naval Hospital
Patrick Flynn, MD, Cornell-New York Hospital
Catrell J. McCulloch, MD, LSU Medical Center-Shreveport
Alfonso Vargas, MD, Louisiana State University Medical Center
Gary D. Williams, MD, Cleveland Clinic Foundation

APPD ADVOCACY

Julia A. McMillan, MD and Timothy R. Schum, MD

Legislative debates pertinent to the APPD currently revolve around decreasing reimbursement for the IME from 7.7% to 6.0% by 1999, capping all residency slots at 110% of the present level, and diminishing funding for IMGs. There is also debate about allowing graduate medical education dollars to be used in non-hospital sites e.g. managed care plans with resident training in place, as well as some discussion on enhanced payments for residents in primary care disciplines.

The APPD, through the Federation of Pediatric Organizations and on our own, has registered concern with legislative leaders regarding a possible threat to combined internal medicine/pediatric training programs. Legislation currently being considered would restrict Federal support of residency training to the first post graduate specialty training for any individual. Funding for the fourth year of med/peds training would be in jeopardy if this legislation passed.

Tim Schum, the APPD's representative to the Primary Care Organizations Consortium (PCOC) reports that PCOC is now working on plans for its future direction. A web page is being developed. Recently the Division of Medicine sponsored a faculty development conference with the goal of enhancing skills for generalists to enable them to assume more leadership roles in academic medical centers. Further PCOC plans include attempting to increase funding for primary care research and expanding the concept of the Interdisciplinary Generalist Curriculum to additional medical schools and residency programs.

AAP RESIDENT SECTION

Richard Pan, MD

Chairperson, AAP Resident Section

The AAP Resident Section has had an exciting year, and the Section appreciates the tremendous support of the APPD. The Resident Section has an exciting meeting planned for Saturday, October 26, 1996 in Boston at the AAP Annual Meeting. The keynote session is on Caring for the Community in the Changing Healthcare Environment featuring Drs. Jocelyn Elders, Evan Charney, and Paul Wise. Workshops on Resident as Teacher, Violence Prevention, and Balancing Residency and Life will follow. I hope that you will encourage residents at your program to attend, and a \$300 travel grant is available from Ross Laboratories through the Resident Section.

A program for medical students is also being held the prior evening of October 25. If you send me brochures about your residency, they will be made available to attending students. I also hope residents from your program attending the AAP meeting can available to talk to the students as well.

The events of the past few years have underscored the vulnerability of children and medical education in the political process. The AAP Resident Section and APPD are encouraging pediatric residents to vote in the elections in November. Please encourage residents in your program to register to vote this summer and provide them time to go to the polls on Election Day. Your leadership on this issue is crucial.

Please call the Resident Section manager Jackie Bucko at the AAP (1-800-433-9016 ext 6759) with any questions.

LOGO CONTEST

THE APPD NEEDS A LOGO. WE'RE ASKING MEMBERS TO START THEIR CREATIVE JUICES FLOWING AND SUBMIT BY FEBRUARY 28, 1997 PROPOSED DESIGNS TO JULIA MCMILLAN, CMSC 2-124, JOHNS HOPKINS HOSPITAL, 600 N. WOLFE STREET, BALTIMORE, MD 21287-3224. THE OFFICERS AND COUNCILORS WILL PUT THEIR HEADS TOGETHER AND SELECT A WINNER.

1997 APPD Annual Meeting
Mark your calendars now
April 30 and May 1, 1997
Renaissance Hotel
Washington, D.C.

Immediately preceding the Pediatric Academic Societies meeting which begins on Friday, May 2.

THE MED-PEDS PROGRAM

Gary Onady, MD

The APPD membership is likely aware of the recent GME proposal by HCFA to limit Medicine-Pediatric Residency funding to 1.0 FTE for the first three years and 0.5 FTE for the fourth year of training. This proposal was first announced in the May 31, 1996 Federal Register with implementation anticipated for fiscal year 1997 rates. HCFA, however, graciously announced they would accept comments regarding this proposal until July 31, 1996. The rationale for HCFA pushing for this proposal is speculative at this point. In any event, the consequences of such an action, should the HCFA proposal be enforced, would likely negatively impact the number of Medicine-Pediatrics residents in training.

The MPPDA has responded by initiating a grass roots campaign to help provide HCFA with vital information aimed at addressing the speculative rationale leading to the HCFA policy decision. To this end, many of you have received a formatted letter from the MPPDA that recommends content and direction toward proceeding with this letter writing campaign. Department Chairs, Deans, and previous graduates of Medicine-Pediatrics Residency Programs have, in addition to Program Directors, been asked to write HCFA offering comments. I personally want to take this opportunity to thank all of you for helping our profession through your personal letters.

Additional support has been offered through strong representation from professional organizations. Our parent organizations, APPD and APDIM, have led the way in notifying HCFA as to their concerns. The American Board of Pediatrics and the American Board of Internal Medicine has also demonstrated a dedicated support of Medicine-Pediatrics. FICM has drafted a position statement also in support of Medicine-Pediatrics. While PCOC cannot make policy statements, representatives have been asked to address a supportive response within their parent organizations in behalf of Medicine-Pediatrics. Included in this request was membership from the American Academy of Family Practice.

A memorandum submitted by Jordan Cohen with the AAMC best states the objectivity behind the HCFA proposal. The HCFA proposal on combined programs runs contrary to the current legislation, with HCFA having no authority to implement this change. The law states that a 1.0 FTE be counted during the "resident's initial residency period." The law further states the "initial residency period" means the period of board eligibility." Because Medicine-

Pediatrics residents are not eligible to sit for either board until completing four years of training, their funding is secure within the current legislative guidelines.

The likely intent of Congress' decision to allow payment as a full FTE for the first residency program only, was to decrease subspecialty training and increase the primary care work force. Medicine-Pediatrics is truly recognized as a primary care specialty through multiple outcomes publications as well as through national recognition by membership on the Primary Care Organization Consortium. Redirecting this information toward our congressional representatives is now the best direction to take to assure the current legislation supporting a full 4 years of 1.0 FTE funding for Medicine-Pediatrics will remain intact.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Regional Events

The Rocky Mountain Program Directors are hosting a regional meeting for members of the APPD on October 19 and 20 in Phoenix, Arizona. We are especially trying to hold a forum for Western Pediatric Program Directors, though any interested Program Director is welcome. The meeting will be at the Radisson Midtown Hotel, and a block of rooms is being held for attendees at a rate of \$65/night. The Radisson can be reached at 602-234-2464. Contact John Olsson, MD, at 602-4063519, or FAX 6024064102, or e-mail jolsson1@aol.com, for information or to confirm attendance. I would welcome suggestions for agenda items.

Training Opportunities

The Department of Pediatrics, New York University School of Medicine has additional fellowship positions beginning in July, 1997 in the following subspecialty areas (Program Director's name in parentheses): **Cardiology** (Michael Artman, MD), **Developmental-Behavioral Pediatrics** (Bernard Dreyer, MD), **General Academic Pediatrics** (Arthur Fierman, MD), **Hematology-Oncology** (Margaret Karpatkin, MD), and **Neonatology** (Karen Hendricks-Munoz, MD). Broad clinical experience and research training are integral and essential components of all these programs. Interested residents should contact the Program Director of each subspecialty at : Department of Pediatrics, NYU School of Medicine, 550 First Avenue, NY, NY 10016. (Phone: 212-236-6425; FAX: 212-263-8172).