



# LEARN

LONGITUDINAL EDUCATIONAL ASSESSMENT RESEARCH NETWORK

## APPD LEARN FAQ posting 2/25/14

Q: How do membership dues support LEARN?

A: Currently, the membership dues support a part-time APPD LEARN Director, Alan Schwartz, and a full-time APPD LEARN Manager, Robin Young as well as administrative aspects of running APPD LEARN. [See APPD LEARN's website for more information on current and past APPD LEARN studies.](#) There are no other sources of support for LEARN at this time.

Q: It is not possible for programs to develop Pediatrics Milestones (PM) assessment instruments for all 21 Pediatrics Milestones. What is APPD doing to communicate the tremendous burden reporting of summative PMs has on programs?

A: The APPD Board of Directors has communicated to the ACGME leadership (Mary Lieh-Lai) and Pediatrics Review Committee leadership (Joe Gilhooly) that the reporting of the Pediatrics Milestones is too burdensome and that without a valid assessment system, the reporting of these scores is not meaningful. The ACGME requirements extended the reporting deadline until June, 2014. The ACGME has stated that the scores will not be used for program evaluation or for accreditation purposes.

Q: What is APPD LEARN doing to develop assessment instruments for the membership?

A: APPD LEARN is working with the ABP and the NBME to develop assessment content and methods (instruments) to provide: 1) evidence for advancement decisions and 2) evidence to inform the Pediatrics Milestones summative score reports.

Q: It seems to be taking a long time to develop assessment systems. What has happened since the Pediatrics Milestones Assessment Pilot (PMAP) has stopped collecting data?

A: There are several manuscripts being produced by authors who were site-lead investigators in the pilot. Additional studies are forthcoming, with one to launch for open enrollment prior to the APPD Spring Meeting in Chicago. The PMAP's items will be available when there is adequate evidence of the reliability and validity of their use, planned as part of next steps in the development of the Pediatrics Milestones

Q: How long does it take to develop an assessment system or series of instruments?

A: It is estimated to take 5 years to develop the entire assessment system, due to the very complex nature of such work. Validity studies are required to provide instruments that provide the evidence to support the claims that such instruments actually inform decisions.

Q: Why don't we just develop some instruments and distribute them throughout the membership so we can say that we are all doing something?

A: APPD is committed to providing supportive materials that add to the field; programs are free to share their current instruments, but APPD would not be able to endorse those instruments without the appropriate research. APPD [ShareWarehouse](#) is a place where current instruments can be shared, if desired.



# LEARN

LONGITUDINAL EDUCATIONAL ASSESSMENT RESEARCH NETWORK

## APPD LEARN FAQ posting 2/25/14

Q: What does APPD know about other specialties and what has been tried regarding assessment instruments or an assessment system?

A: Family Medicine developed an assessment system ~5 years ago. Initially there were ~44 programs who used the system; 3 years later, 2 programs were using the system. Key barriers to implementation were feasibility issues, no technology platform support and inability to add program-specific instruments. Shared lessons learned included the need to study the instruments and the technology platform together.

Q: When APPD LEARN conducts research for Pediatrics Milestones or other research projects, who can participate?

A: APPD LEARN members are eligible to participate in any research project that is accruing sites for participation, so long as the APPD member program is an APPD LEARN member. See the APPD LEARN website for more information on [APPD LEARN membership](#).

Q: What ever happened to the letter the APPD wrote to Dr. Nasca, requesting to de-identify Pediatrics Milestones summative score reports and to directly upload the scores electronically?

A: Dr. Nasca acknowledged the receipt of the December 19, 2013 letter on December 26, 2013 and stated that we could expect a response after the holidays were over. We followed up on February 17, 2014 to request a written response received a response on February 24, 2014 from Dr. Eric Holmboe, Senior Vice President, Milestones Development and Evaluation. This letter is now posted on the ["What's New"](#) section of the APPD homepage.

Q: What can individual programs do to communicate the level of burden that they are experiencing in attempting to assemble summative scores for reporting to the ACGME?

A: Individual programs can send their responses to APPD and we can aggregate those individual responses (redacting the origin of the responses) and forward those messages on to the ACGME. We appreciate that individual programs may not be comfortable with writing individually to the ACGME. Of course, individual programs may write to the ACGME on their own and at any time.

Q: The Pediatrics Milestones Project was an initiative by the ABP and the ACGME. Why did the ABP allow for the ACGME to mandate the reporting of the Pediatrics Milestones when the assessment system using Pediatrics Milestones had not been built yet?

A: The ABP was not asked about the timeline nor plans for reporting. The ABP is not requiring reporting until there is evidence that the Pediatrics Milestones provide meaningful assessment for decisions.