



The Alabama Pediatrician

Second Quarter 2018

From the President



Wes Stubblefield, MD, FAAP
Chapter President

I truly believe that pediatricians have a unique role among physicians. Not only do we function to care for our patients, but we feel that we have a responsibility for the health of all children. Aptly, this is the tagline of the AAP.

Most of the time, these roles complement

each other. We advise our patients and their families on the appropriateness of antibiotics not only for their own health, but also for the betterment of greater society. Right now, we are facing a situation that could introduce conflict between what could improve the children of Alabama and how we function as primary care providers and/or business owners.

Intuitively, we understand that increasing access to vaccines might improve our state's abysmal adolescent vaccine rates. This might come in several settings, including school-based clinics or retail pharmacies. But, will our patients continue to visit our clinic and receive the full spectrum of the recommended adolescent care?

On behalf of the Alabama Chapter, we will never advocate for any policy that interferes with or degrades the concept of the medical home. It may be inevitable that we will be forced to adapt to changing times as it relates to vaccine delivery. But, rest assured that your leadership will be present for every relevant conversation and serve as your voice on this issue.

As we move forward, please keep our leadership informed of any changes that you experience in your community that affects your ability to care for patients, especially on the issue of adolescent vaccines. We pledge to do the same. Let's move forward together for the good of all of our children.

Spring Meeting combined fun and quality education for pediatricians across the state

The Chapter's 2018 Spring Meeting & Pediatric Update, held May 3-6 at the Grand Hotel Marriott Resort in Point Clear, Ala., was once again a weekend of valuable pediatric education and networking among pediatricians and other pediatric healthcare providers across the state, as well as time for family fun!

National and state speakers provided top-notch presentations on topics including SIDS and safe sleep, opioid trends in Medicaid, HPV, infant mortality, early hearing, asthma, teen driving, emergency medicine and more.

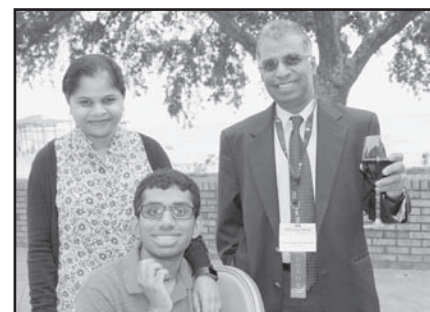
Attendees enjoyed a strong sense of camaraderie at networking events, such as the opening reception and the Bayou Bash & Feast on Saturday night, which was generously sponsored again this year by USA Children's and Women's Hospital and featured jazz band Bayou Rhythm. This year, the Chapter was pleased to have the participation again of 11 medical students, whose

attendance was made possible through scholarships provided by practices and individual pediatricians from across the state.

The highlight of

the weekend was the time pediatricians shared with one another as they tackled the five events of the second annual Grand Pediatric Pentathlon to raise monies for Reach Out and Read (see article in the "Reach Out and Read All About It!" section on page 6)! Many thanks go to Nola Ernest, MD, FAAP, of Enterprise Pediatric Clinic, for chairing the event this year.

Don't miss next year's Spring Meeting, set for May 2-5, 2019 at the Sandestin Golf & Beach Resort!



The Saturday night Bayou Bash & Feast was a fun night for all attendees, including Sudha Bennuri, MD, FAAP, and his family; Ken Elmer, MD, FAAP, and his wife Julie; and Dr. Jennifer McCain's son, Gus, future musician!

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Alabama Chapter – AAP

Mission:

The mission of the Alabama Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics is to obtain optimal health and well-being for all children in Alabama, and to provide educational and practice support for its membership so the highest quality of medical care can be achieved.

Values:

Children must be highly valued by society.

Each child must develop to his/her highest potential.

Children must have strong advocates for they have no voice of their own.

Pediatricians are essential to achieving optimal child health. The work of pediatricians, and the profession of pediatrics, must endure and grow even stronger.

Vision:

Children in Alabama are happy and healthy; Alabama pediatricians are professionally fulfilled and financially secure.

Annual Meeting to feature topics on oral health, adolescent visits

Alabama NAPNAP to host track on Saturday afternoon

Make sure your calendars are marked for Sept. 28-30, 2018 for the Alabama Chapter-AAP's 2018 Annual Meeting and Fall Pediatric Update at the Hyatt Regency Birmingham-The Wynfrey Hotel in Birmingham! This year's conference will offer a strong line-up of faculty, who will address topics on oral health, adolescent well visits, opioids, treating disruptive behavior, diversity and improving birth outcomes, among others.

In addition, on Friday afternoon, a separate practice management workshop, co-sponsored by the Chapter's Practice Management Association, will feature sessions on coding for adolescent visits, receivables, protecting your practice from cyber attacks, enhancing the patient experience, and more! The workshop will be followed by a two-hour Loss Prevention seminar, sponsored and presented by ProAssurance Indemnity.

This year, we are partnering with the Alabama Chapter of the National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners (AL NAPNAP) to provide a Saturday afternoon track geared specifically for them. Nurse practitioners who are members of either of our organizations will pay less for registration. AL NAPNAP will also hold a poster presentation during the Saturday evening reception to showcase some of the work of its members.

"We are very excited about this partnership and the ability to interconnect at the conference," said AL NAPNAP President Kristen Waddell, CRNP.

Look for registration details in your mailboxes soon and on the Chapter web site at www.alaap.org!



Chapter/ADPH addresses DHR policies around reporting of substance use

In a parallel effort that complements its work on the Opioid Misuse/Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome Task Force, the Alabama Chapter-AAP is addressing policies within the Alabama Department of Human Resources (DHR) regarding reporting of substance use among pregnant women.

In March, Chapter representatives, along with members of the Task Force, met with DHR leaders to discuss a letter that was sent to pediatricians and other providers across the state, requiring reporting of babies "affected" by maternal use of legal/prescription/over-the-counter drugs. The communication was a result of new federal guidelines through the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act (CARA), which added the word "legal" to reporting guidelines. Alabama's compliance with CARA is actually not consistent with a state law passed in 2016 that relieves healthcare providers from reporting if the mother has a bonafide prescription. DHR representatives indicated that their use of the words "over-the-counter" was based on existing DHR policy.

In June, the Chapter sent a formal letter to Nancy Buckner, Commissioner of DHR, requesting changes to their policies based on current evidence and removal of such confusing language.

"Threat of harm to infants by maternal OTC medication abuse is dwarfed in magnitude by the prevalence and severity of opioid dependence challenges for mothers and infants," wrote Chapter President Wes Stubblefield, MD, FAAP.

The Chapter's ultimate goal is to improve the likelihood of treatment for mothers who are misusing substances during pregnancy. Specifically, our aim is to change the public conversation so that these pregnant women enter prenatal care and recovery services rather than retreat into the shadows, which certain laws and policies have perpetuated.

More details coming as this advocacy journey unfolds!

#StayWell! Adolescent vaccinations, well visits take center stage in Chapter work

In March, the Chapter leadership learned that the Alabama Department of Public Health had reached out to school superintendents, encouraging the administration of adolescent vaccinations – Tdap, Meningococcal and HPV – via vaccine clinics carried out in schools (much like the flu vaccination clinics already administered). The Chapter leadership immediately responded with a letter and a face-to-face meeting with the State Health Officer to underscore the importance of the medical home and comprehensive well visits for adolescents.

In late March/early April, the Chapter was also able to successfully advocate that the Governor not sign a legislative resolution that encourages school-based vaccination so that there would not be any legislative mandates on the table.

Alabama Chapter-AAP
WORKS
for you

Meanwhile, ADPH Immunization's current goal is to increase state adolescent rates, especially for HPV. The current rate of up-to-

date HPV vaccination in Alabama is 18 percent and overall, the adolescent rate is 19 percent. The Chapter subsequently met with ADPH representatives, Department of Education staff and those representing mass school vaccinators to sort through ways to encourage the medical home and increase vaccination rates at the same time. Although it was clear that vaccination of adolescents in schools will move forward as part of the mix to increase vaccination rates, Chapter leaders were able to drive home the importance of protecting the medical home and the need for communication between primary care pediatricians and the schools if vaccines are administered outside of the medical home. Chapter Executive Director will be working with ADPH on the details of this communication. It's important to note here that for VFC providers, point-of-service use of ImmPRINT for all vaccines is now required, with ADPH planning to require it for all providers soon.

Partners at the meetings also agreed to push out information to parents and teens on the importance of seeing their doctor throughout adolescence.

To that end, the Chapter is working with the Alabama Child Health Improvement Alliance (ACHIA) and adolescent pediatricians at UAB on a statewide flier for teens/parents that simply states why the adolescent teen visit is so important. The flier will be part of a larger campaign, for which the Chapter hopes to partner with ADPH, that will parallel ACHIA's 2019 quality improvement collaborative on the adolescent visit. The name for both: #StayWell!

Also as part of this initiative, the Chapter is exploring advocacy for the medical home among students who play sports and only receive the required sports physical, which we maintain, is not a substitute for comprehensive adolescent care.

ACHIA

The Adolescent-Friendly Office

By Cason Benton, MD, FAAP, Medical Director, Alabama Child Health Improvement Alliance

Pediatricians offer adolescents guidance through potentially turbulent times, however, teens have low annual visits. What can offices do to increase adolescent well visit rates? That is the question tackled in the Alabama Child Health Improvement Alliance's (ACHIA) 2019 Collaborative #Stay Well: An Adolescent Well Visit Learning Collaborative.

Join Nola Earnest, MD, FAAP, #StayWell physician champion and pediatrician with Enterprise Pediatric Clinic (check out her twitter feed @Alabama KidDoc), and Daniel Preud'homme, MD, FAAP, Director of Adolescent Medicine and Pediatric Healthy Life Center at the University of South Alabama, for a January-September 2019 quality improvement collaborative that:

- fits into a practice's daily routine
- improves patient outcomes
- improves the practice's bottom line, and
- provides CME/CEU and 25 Part IV Maintenance of Certification points.

The collaborative will review preventive care recommendations as well as how to navigate thorny issues of consent and confidentiality. Practices may also select optional focus areas – screening for depression, healthy active living, screening for sexually transmitted infections, immunizations, or family planning.

New this year: #StayWell CME educational content may be completed at the Alabama Chapter- AAP Fall meeting or online. Stay tuned for enrollment information. Questions? Contact Cason Benton, MD, FAAP, ACHIA Medical Director, at cbenton@peds.uab.edu.

#StayWell

Adolescent Well Visit
Learning Collaborative



ACHIA
Alabama Child Health Improvement Alliance

Event Calendar

July 25, 2018
Chapter/PMA Webinar:
Marketing to Build Your Practice
in the Digital Age
12:15 p.m.

August 25, 2018
UAB Pediatric Residency Reunion
6 p.m. - 9 p.m.
Children's of Alabama
Birmingham, AL

September 28 - 30, 2018
2018 Annual Meeting & Fall
Pediatric Update
Hyatt Regency Birmingham-The
Wynfrey Hotel
Birmingham, AL

May 2 - 5, 2019
2019 Spring Meeting & Pediatric
Update
Sandestin Golf & Beach Resort
Destin, FL

Did You Know? The role of the school nurse in Alabama

This article is the first on school nurses and ways to make the relationship between pediatricians and their local school nurses as seamless as possible. For starters, what is a school nurse's role?

The school nurse is responsible for all students in a given school, district, or region, and in all school-sponsored activities in which the student is a direct participant. School nurses improve attendance through health promotion, disease prevention and disease management.

Students identified with chronic medical conditions may require routine assistance with medication at school, allowing them to learn at their highest potential. The issues associated with medicines in the schools require an understanding of the child's environment and history. The number of students with complex health issues enrolled in schools is increasing. The school nurse is essential in caring for children with chronic health conditions (*Kruger et al., 2009*).

The school nurse's role includes:

- Improving student health to impact

achievement and success;

- Collaborating with administrators to promote a healthy, safe, and nurturing environment;
- Providing parents assurance that their child's health needs and injuries are handled;
- Being knowledgeable about applicable local, state and federal law;
- Developing a relationship with the student's healthcare provider and family to assure that there is adequate communication and collaboration between the student and family, healthcare provider, school officials, and providers of community-based resources;
- Ensuring continuity, compliance and supervision of care for the child with a chronic condition or injury who attends school;
- Assuring that medical orders and resulting individual health plans are implemented correctly and signed off by all who need to know; and
- Identifying controlled substances and storing them in a secure, double-locked location.



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Camden Hebson, MD

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Medicaid News

Agency to seek approval for new Medicaid care coordination delivery system

The Alabama Medicaid Agency is taking final steps to request permission from the federal government to implement a care coordination delivery system that effectively links patients, providers and community resources to achieve optimal health outcomes.

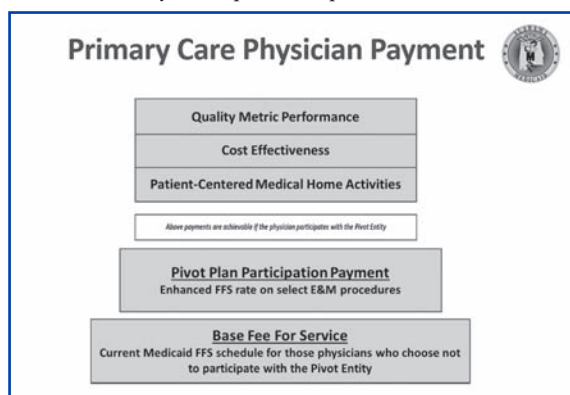
The new effort was developed as an alternative to the Regional Care Organizations but is different in its approach. This new program, dubbed the “Pivot Plan,” will replace the silos in the current program and will create a single, unified structure for case management in each of the seven newly defined regions, according to Robert Moon, MD, Medicaid Chief Medical Officer and Deputy Commissioner for Health Systems.

The Pivot entities will be incentivized along with primary care providers to achieve better health outcomes and to provide a higher volume of care coordination services.

If approved, the Patient 1st program, the Health Home program and the current maternity care program would end and these populations will be managed through the Pivot Plan organizations. The Plan First program would continue as before with care coordination activities being the responsibility of the Pivot entities.

Alabama’s proposed Pivot Program will operate statewide, contracting with one regional entity in each of the seven regions. Regions have been drawn based on existing patterns of care, access to care and to ensure financial viability of regional organizations.

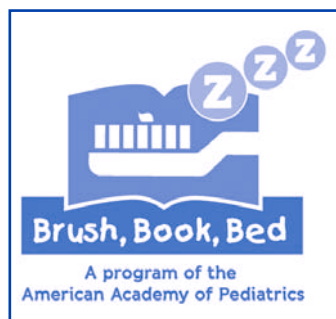
Informational sessions will be held during the upcoming months to update providers on the progress of the initiative. For more information on the planned effort, go to <https://bit.ly/2K5XYNZ>.



Primary care physicians will be paid incentives much like Blue Cross Blue Shield’s value-based payment program; payment of the current “bump” rate will be available to those who contract with the “pivot” entity, working on quality improvement and cost effectiveness for the betterment of the Medicaid population.

12 Alabama pediatric practices are teaching families through Brush Book Bed

Twelve practices have applied for and been accepted into the Alabama Chapter-AAP’s Brush Book Bed initiative, a grant-funded project that is teaching families to establish healthy bedtime routines through oral hygiene practices, reading, and regular bedtimes.



“Many families, especially those most vulnerable, are not aware of the importance of early oral health, seeing a dentist and reading to their children,” said Grant Allen, MD, FAAP, physician leader of the BBB initiative, who led the practices on a recent kick-off call.

Thanks to a grant from the DentaQuest Foundation, along with in-kind support from the Alabama Department of Public Health’s Oral Health Division, the Chapter and its early literacy arm, Reach Out and Read-Alabama, pediatricians are encouraging healthy bedtime practices using the American Academy of Pediatrics’ already established model, and families are leaving well-child visits with materials in hand (age-

appropriate books, stickers, a toothbrush, and toothpaste) to reinforce the need to complete the BBB routine each night to achieve optimal oral health for their children.

Alabama Chapter-AAP addresses pivot plan particulars

In response to a request to begin identifying pediatricians for the regional “pivot” entity boards (50 percent of which must be made up of primary care physicians), the Chapter sent an email to members to seek those willing to serve. At time of writing, 14 pediatricians have indicated interest; we still need more pediatricians to step up, especially when you consider that there are seven regions and there might be as many as eight primary care physician slots available for each region.

Additionally, Chapter staff attended Medicaid’s recent informational meeting in Montgomery (from which the video and PowerPoint can be found here: <https://bit.ly/2K5XYNZ>). Chapter staff is collecting and sending questions to the Agency for answers.

Congratulations and good luck to the 12 practices:

Charles Henderson Child Health Center, Troy
Dothan Pediatric Clinic
Enterprise Pediatric Clinic
Eufaula Pediatric Clinic
Gadsden Pediatric Clinic
Model City Pediatrics, Anniston
Ozark Pediatric Clinic
Partners in Pediatrics, Montgomery
Pediatrics West Bessemer
Pediatrics West McAdory, Bessemer
USA Family Medicine, Mobile
West Alabama Pediatrics, Tuscaloosa

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Reach Out and Read All About It!

By Salina Taylor, Development and Communications Coordinator

Pentathlon gives children brain-building boost

Five years ago, Dr. Grant Allen, past president of the Alabama Chapter-AAP (AL-AAP), had a vision that has grown into the yearly event at which AL-AAP Spring Meeting attendees and their families have fun while building brains in Alabama's children.

"The fifth annual Grand Pediatric Pentathlon was a HUGE success. Not only did we succeed in raising more money than past years to help #buildbetterbrains in Alabama's children, but it was also a great event for the family," Nola Ernest, MD, PhD, FAAP.

At this year's event, 44 pediatricians and their families kayaked, biked, ran, swam and read to raise more than \$14,000 for Reach Out and Read-Alabama. The event wrapped up with a fun mixer at which participants had the opportunity to win great prizes, including a Regions Bank green cruiser bicycle; a basket from Everything Alabama; a kayak donated by Grant Allen, MD, FAAP; wine baskets donated by the Chapter Executive Board; and many more.

Special thanks goes to our sponsors: the Medical Association of the State of Alabama, Joe Piper, Inc., Grant Allen, MD, FAAP, Fair Advantage Consortium, MyCare Alabama, Read-Write: The Learning Center, ALL Kids, Business Council of Alabama, Jackson Thornton, Jade Development Engineers, Momma Goldberg's Deli, Troy Bank & Trust, and Wind Creek Montgomery.



2018 Rx for Summer Reading joins Brush Book and Bed

A very hungry caterpillar, dancing barnyard animals, celebrating dinosaurs, a bunny visiting

the doctor, and a super hero kid will be joined by a tiger this summer in sharing the importance of reading with the children and families served by Reach Out and Read-Alabama (ROR-AL).

Paralleling the Chapter's Brush Book Bed initiative, ROR-AL's practices and clinics will have the opportunity to encourage the families they serve to establish healthy bedtime routines that include sharing a book together. According to the AAP's website, healthychildren.org, books are one of the 4 B's of bedtime:

"Since you don't want food or drink to become your child's bedtime source of comfort, books can serve as the perfect cue that it's time to cuddle up and go to sleep. When it comes to lifelong healthy habits, we can't think of a better one."

In addition to distributing the focus book at their summer reading events, ROR-AL providers will write prescriptions to encourage families to register for summer reading programs at their local public libraries. Visit www.roralabama.org to register or for more information.



New research continues to link reading aloud to social-emotional benefits

A recent *New York Times* article by Perri Klass, MD, FAAP, national medical director of Reach Out and Read, emphasizes the importance of "the ways that reading and playing can shape cognitive

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Coding

O Coding oral health services

By Lynn Abernathy Brown, CPC

Alabama Medicaid and ALL Kids currently allow billing under the 1st Look Program (oral health risk assessment and fluoride varnish administered in the pediatric medical home) using the following codes:

D0145 - Oral exam less than 3 years old, counseling with primary caregiver

D1206 - Topical fluoride application

D0145 and D1206 should be linked one of the following diagnosis codes:

Z01.20 Encounter for dental examination and cleaning without abnormal findings **or Z01.21** Encounter for dental examination and cleaning with abnormal findings

Resource: Alabama Provider Manual, Appendix A

For Alabama BCBS Healthcare Reform (mandated preventive care services contracts), the following codes would be billed:

96160 - Administration of patient-focused health risk assessment instrument (e.g., health hazard appraisal) with scoring and

documentation, per standardized instrument (AAP Caries-Risk Assessment Tool)

Link to diagnosis code: **Z13.84** Encounter for screening for dental disorders

Ages 6 months to 6 years; 3 services during age range

NOTE: A form must be retained in the medical record to support billing 96160

99188 - Application of topical fluoride varnish by a Physician or other Health Care Professional

Link to diagnosis code: **Z29.3** Encounter for prophylactic fluoride administration

Birth to 5 years; Maximum 4 per calendar year

Resource: [BCBSAL.ORG/Provider/Resources/Programs/Healthcare Reform/ Preventive Care Services Coding Sheet](http://BCBSAL.ORG/Provider/Resources/Programs/Healthcare_Reform/Preventive_Care_Services_Coding_Sheet)

For all other commercial payers, following either their specific coding guidelines or the BCBS HCR coding may be appropriate.

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LET'S HEAR IT FROM OUR DEPARTMENTS OF PEDIATRICS!

USA Pediatrics: Welcomes Dr. Roger Berkow as Pediatric Residency Program Director

By David Gremse, MD, FAAP, Chair, USA Department of Pediatrics



David Gremse, MD, FAAP

The USA Department of Pediatrics welcomes Roger L. Berkow, MD, FAAP, as the Pediatric Residency Program Director, and Professor and Vice Chair of Pediatrics.

Longtime residency program director Franklin Trimm, MD, FAAP, is now the Associate Dean for Diversity and Inclusion for the USA College of Medicine. USA is fortunate that Dr. Trimm will continue to serve the school in his new role. Students,

residents and faculty will still be able to be mentored by his knowledge, expertise and insight.

Dr. Berkow returns to a full-time academic position in Alabama at the University of South Alabama after serving as Chair of the Nemours Children's Specialty Care in Pensacola, Fla. Dr. Berkow received his MD degree from the Loyola University Stritch School of Medicine and completed his pediatric residency at Wyler's

Children's Hospital of the University of Chicago. After residency training, he began his fellowship training in Pediatric Hematology/Oncology at Indiana University.

Dr. Berkow has an outstanding career in academic medicine. For many years he served on the faculty in the UAB Department of Pediatrics, where he was a leader in pediatric education, serving as the Pediatric Clerkship Director, Program Director of the Pediatric Hematology-Oncology fellowship, and Associate Dean for Undergraduate Medical Education. He received numerous teaching awards, including the Argus Society Award for Best Pediatric Faculty numerous times, the UAB Presidential Award for Excellence in Education, and the Most Outstanding Clinical Professor. UAB recognized him by naming an award in his honor, the Roger Berkow Award for Leadership, given to a senior medical student with outstanding leadership skills. Achievements during his career are



Roger L. Berkow, MD, FAAP

continued on page 9

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From Departments of Pediatrics continued from page 8

signified by his selection to receive the Wallace Clyde Award by the UAB Department of Pediatrics and the Edith Levitt Award from the National Board of Medical Examiners.

Dr. Berkow's expertise in education is recognized by his serving as Editor of PREP Self Assessment by the American Academy of Pediatrics, where he also serves on the Committee on Pediatric Education. Previously, he was Associate Editor of CLIPP (Computer-Assisted Learning in Pediatrics).

I am excited about the future of our department for our faculty, our residents, our students, our staff, our clinical programs, our teaching, and our research. We have much to celebrate and be proud of and look forward to working with the Alabama Chapter to train pediatricians to care for children across the state.

Pediatric Liver Care Center and expanded Liver Transplant Program at Children's of Alabama and UAB

By Mitch Cohen, MD, FAAP, Chair, Department of Pediatrics, University of Alabama at Birmingham School of Medicine; Physician in Chief, Children's of Alabama



Mitch Cohen, MD, FAAP

With the recent growth of our pediatric hepatology services, we have created the Pediatric Liver Care Center and expanded the Pediatric Liver Transplant Program. Mike Leonis, MD, PhD, joined the faculty at UAB and Children's of Alabama last summer as the Bradford Dean Dixon Professor of Hepatology, Medical Director, Pediatric Liver Care Center and Medical

Director, Pediatric Liver Transplant Program. Mike, who had been at Cincinnati Children's since 1999, joined Janaina Nogueira, MD (our terrific long-time UAB colleague) and Gillian Noel, MD, whom we successfully recruited from the University of Colorado (GI Fellowship) and Emory University (Liver Transplant Fellowship).

Our program goals are to provide excellent pre-, peri- and post-transplant care with clinical outcomes equal to "the best in class."

In order to do this, we plan to grow the liver transplant program so that more children are able to receive appropriate organs in-state. In the first half of 2018, we have already performed five liver transplants.

In December 2017, an independent inpatient liver service began to work collaboratively with our transplant surgeons (Drs. Devin Eckoff and Stephen Gray), and pediatric general surgeon (Elizabeth Beierle, MD, FAAP), as well as the PICU and other medical consultants. In addition, the Pediatric Liver Care Center has added additional outpatient clinics for non-transplant care of liver patients.

The Pediatric Liver Care Center can be reached at 205-638-9873 and the Pediatric Liver Transplant Program can be reached at 205-638-9290.



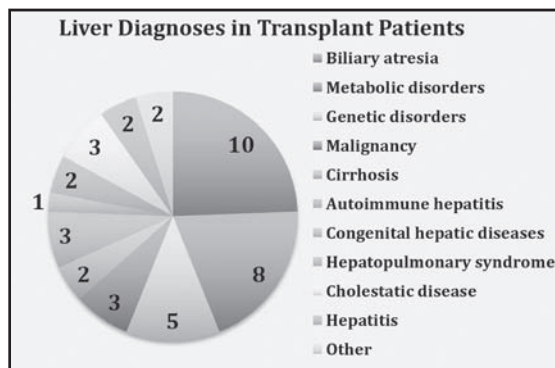
Mike Leonis, MD, PhD



Janaina Nogueira, MD



Gillian Noel, MD



Liver diagnoses in patients transplanted at Children's of Alabama since 2013.

From Reach Out and Read continued from page 6

as well as social and emotional development, and the power of parental attention to help children flourish." Dr. Klass cites a study by Alan Mendelsohn, MD, FAAP, published in April *Pediatrics*, building on Reach Out and Read and showing that increased reading aloud in primary care improves social emotional development, reducing hyperactivity and increasing attention capacities, with impacts that are sustained two years later at school entry.

Quoting study co-author Dr. Adriana Weisleder, Dr. Klass' article points out that "in reading and playing, children can encounter situations a little more challenging than what they usually come across in everyday life, and adults can help them think about how to manage those situations."

Visit www.reachoutandreadalabama.org to see how the families and children you serve can benefit from this important program.



REMINDER: Chapter Challenge: Reach out to local political candidates NOW on pediatric issues!

The Alabama Chapter-AAP leadership continues to invite members to take part in our 2018 "Chapter Challenge" to reach out to local candidates for public office on the importance of considering child health in their platforms. At the Spring Meeting in May, 16 pediatricians "accepted" the challenge; now we need even more pediatricians to consider doing this as we gear up for the November general election!

"The goal of this effort is to get pediatricians across the state talking to those running for office about what we consider important for pediatrics, including affordable, high quality health insurance coverage, access to care, healthy eating, safety, early learning, immunizations and much more," said Nola Ernest, MD, FAAP, Chapter Legislative Chair.

The "Bible" for these visits is the Chapter's "Blueprint for Child Well-Being" booklet, which can be found on the Chapter website and details our priorities for Alabama's children.

During the visits, which could be done at clinics, local coffee shops or wherever makes the most sense, members can lend their expertise and ideas on helping the candidates position Alabama to lead the nation in support for children.

Afterward, members are asked to respond and let us know how it went.

To "accept the Challenge," visit www.alaap.org/2018-chapter-challenge.

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Lessons learned: making vaccines part of every visit

By LaDonna Crews, MD, FAAP, pediatrician, USA Department of Pediatrics

I have had the fortune of participating in our state (Alabama Child Health Improvement Alliance) QI project focused on increasing HPV vaccination rates. I believe that immunizing children is one of the most important preventive care measures performed, not only for individual patients, but for the community as a whole. Throughout my residency training and early practice, vaccination was usually incorporated into the well-child visit alone or as delinquencies were noted when an immunization record was requested. My practice had always had good rates, but this project's processes have taken our immunization rates to a different level of compliance.

The first Plan-Do-Study-Act cycle (series of QI steps) we performed involved provider and nursing education, which is important, since there are 65 providers and nursing staff with direct patient contact in the practice.

Emphasis was placed on strong provider recommendation for all vaccinations available for the patient's age group. The mindset of the practice quickly

changed with vaccinations being given when they are due – addressing

vaccinations at all patient encounters. The misperception that families would not return for a well-child visit if given vaccinations during an acute encounter soon resolved in our minds.

The next several steps involved our nursing staff obtaining the ImmPrint records for comparison with our EHR documentation for all scheduled patients the day prior to the visit. This led to a pre-visit, brief huddle between the provider and nursing staff reviewing needs. The clinic's overall vaccine rate improved. However, as most pediatric practices, one-third of our patients are scheduled the same day of the visit, not always allowing for the pre-visit work to occur during the busy clinic day.

Our next intervention was engagement of the front desk and triage personnel to identify patients who were being scheduled for same-day appointments to assure that the immunization history was available. The patients have become accustomed to vaccines being given at any encounter. Every patient has a form completed at each visit indicating the vaccines due, the vaccines given, or the reason the vaccines were not given. This form is kept for tracking purposes to schedule future visits. Additionally, standing orders have been implemented, allowing the nursing staff to become confident with the vaccination schedule and empowering them to make plans for vaccinations in the pre-work periods.

Another benefit of providing vaccines at all visits was a reduction in nurse-only visits for vaccines, which are often time-consuming and pose billing challenges. In addition, it has allowed the provider to have more time to focus on other areas during the well-child visit. The patient and family are able to relax and listen to the information being provided instead of concentrating on the number of "shots" to be received. Now, many patients are up to date when they come for their well-child visit. Furthermore, the whole office team approach has ensured that providing vaccination is the common goal and not the sole responsibility of the provider.

In summary, the culture change this project created for our clinic can be easily adapted to other practices, enhancing immunization rates and care delivery.



NEWS FROM PUBLIC HEALTH

Free help for patients to quit smoking

Administered by the Alabama Department of Public Health, the Alabama Tobacco Quitline is a free phone (800-784-8669) and online counseling service (quitnowalabama.com) for your patients who are ready to quit tobacco use. The Quitline is open from 6 a.m. to midnight,

seven days a week.

Quitline fax referral forms can be found at www.quitnowalabama.com.

For more information or to order materials, call 334-206-3830 or email Julie.Hare@adph.state.al.us. Visit www.adph.org/tobacco (click the Healthcare providers link).

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The New ImmPRINT Vaccine Coverage Rate Report

ImmPRINT has a new Vaccine Coverage Rate Report that is now available to all healthcare providers who are vaccinating children 0-18 years of age. The new report offers a selection of 3 age ranges, 24-35 months of age, 4-6 years of age, and 11-15 years of age.

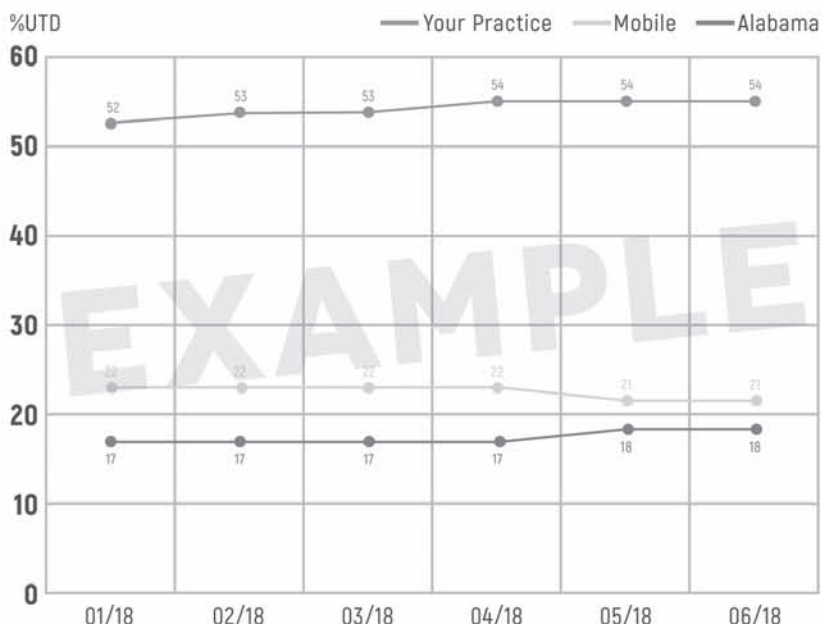
After selecting an age group, the report will compare your practice's coverage rates to that of the state and all providers in your county. The report will give each site baseline vaccination rates and allow you to see if new quality improvement strategies are working.

ImmPRINT runs monthly vaccine coverage reports for the state and each county. This report is based on all children in ImmPRINT within a selected age range, and only counts valid ACIP recommended doses. Your patients must have a chart number from your site in ImmPRINT to be returned in the report. Inactive patients are excluded.

VACCINE COVERAGE REPORT CARD, ADOLESCENTS AGED 11-15 YEARS

Jurisdiction	# of Patients	# UTD	# UTD Tdap	# UTD HPV	# UTD MCV
Your Practice as of 05/31/2018	2568	1389 (54%)	2339 (91%)	1411 (55%)	2223 (87%)
Mobile County as of 05/02/2018	38083	8120 (21%)	24283 (64%)	8550 (64%)	21092 (55%)
Alabama as of 05/02/2018	376322	66535 (18%)	249044 (66%)	70824 (19%)	198146 (53%)

VACCINE COMPARISON CHART



To view your Vaccine Coverage Rate Report, log on to ImmPRINT and select Reports in the left menu bar.

For more information, email immprint@adph.state.al.us

In Memoriam: Two Chapter past presidents who made impacts for pediatrics

In the last couple of months, the Alabama Chapter-AAP has learned of the passing of two of our past Chapter presidents, Don Palmer, MD, FAAP (1993-1995) and V.H. Reddy, MD, FAAP (2005-2007), both of whom made tremendous impacts for children and pediatricians in Alabama.

Stephen Donald “Don” Palmer, MD, FAAP, was a true child advocate and



devoted pediatrician in Alabama for many years, and served as Chapter president from 1993 to 1995. He never stopped caring about children, and especially about their safety. He was

a keen advocate for safe sleep and child passenger safety restraints, among other safety issues, and his advocacy led to improvements in many of these areas in Alabama. He passed away on May 29 at the age of 94.

His quiet, unrecognized contributions are best articulated by Carden Johnston, MD, FAAP, former Chapter president (“chairman”) and AAP president from 2003-2004:

Dr. Don Palmer knew about balusters. One of his toddler patients got his body through the posts holding up the handrail (balusters) on stairs. Unfortunately, the head did not go through, leading to a fatal outcome. Don was so moved and motivated, he relentlessly lobbied over a decade, finally getting building code regulations to restrict the distances between balusters and effectively preventing other toddlers from dying. This is one of his unrecognized contributions for children.

The first time I met Don was when I was a medical student. Unbelievable now, but then I worked the overnight shift in the laboratory at University Hospital providing emergency chemistries, cultures and CBCs. One of my results was wrong... not a little, but an entire decimal point. Don was

head of the laboratories then, so I had to humble myself before him. His disciplinary action was gentle, kind objective and... unforgettable.

Another contribution is located at 305 South Court Street, Talladega, Ala.: the address of a Child Advocacy Center serving abused children of three counties for decades. It is named Palmer Place. He had recognized a need for community involvement to adequately care for and prevent child abuse that he had observed in his rural practice in Sylacauga. Seemingly effortlessly, he organized conferences, educated community leaders, law enforcement, social workers and others to get recognition of the issue and the need: a huge effort with little recognition and no financial benefit. I knew of his commitment and the conferences he had organized. I did not know, nor did he ever mention, that the center was named after him.

When the American Academy of Pediatrics issued a policy of Back to Sleep, Don recognized most day care centers in Alabama were reluctant to change infants from the prone position. By coordinating with the Alabama Department of Human Resources, he was able prevent a few, if not many, of children dying of SIDS through policy change and education. Another unrecognized achievement.

The *Talladega Daily Home* published over 1,500 articles that he wrote over the space of more than 30 years. No other pediatrician in the United States has had so many articles in print to provide lay education in a public instrument. The articles were current, informative and worthy of a much larger publication. They slowly and steadily increased health knowledge and practices in his community. He did not get paid for

these contributions for over a decade, after which they offered him a free subscription. That phase of his life was just yet another of the incredible, unrecognized, altruistic contributions of his life, career and passion.

After serving as Director of Laboratories at University Hospital, he started Greenville Pediatrics. However, he found practicing pediatrics with Dr. Bob Gray in Sylacauga was an area in which he felt more comfortable and rewarding with his contributions to children.

He served organized pediatrics by being President of the Alabama Chapter of the AAP, and by being a member of the Committee of Injury and Poison Prevention at the national level. His interest in poison prevention goes back to his residency days, during which he started the first poison control center in the state.

His passion was pediatrics. He did have a hobby of beekeeping, however, he developed an allergy, so his solo enjoyment, besides

friends and family, was... pediatrics.

Don was a quiet, gentle, highly effective leader, improving children's lives by advocating for and making changes to improve their social, physical and mental

health. We remember him as a person using medical and communicative skills to fulfill his foremost passion in his life: children.

V. Haranatha (V.H.) Reddy, MD, FAAP, a longtime pediatrician in Scottsboro, Ala., and president of the Chapter from 2005 to 2007, passed away on April 6, 2018 after a prolonged battle with Parkinson's Disease and dementia.

Since 1977, Dr. Reddy had been in solo practice in general pediatrics in Scottsboro, where he was the first full-time pediatrician in Jackson County. After



CHAPTER BRIEFS

Alabama's efforts to support breastfeeding highlighted nationally

Thanks to a grant from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Alabama Breastfeeding Committee and the Alabama Department of Public Health have been engaged in leveraging resources to establish more support for breastfeeding and increase rates in Alabama. Those efforts were recently highlighted in the *Journal of Human Lactation*. To see the article, visit: <https://bit.ly/2MQEKdK>.

UAB Pediatric Residency Program hosts second reunion

The UAB Department of Pediatrics is excited to host its second UAB Pediatric Residency Reunion on Saturday, August 25 from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. at Children's of Alabama.

"We hope to see many UAB Pediatric Residency alumni as well as faculty alumni,"

said Michele Nichols, MD, FAAP, Pediatric Residency Program Director. "All current UAB pediatric residents, fellows and faculty are also invited. We cannot wait to have a night of celebrating our UAB friends and family and connecting with people working to improve the care of children across our state and country."

RSVP by August 10 by emailing pedsrsvp@peds.uab.edu or calling 205-638-9589.

Denton lands CATCH grant for community-based reading enrichment project

Congratulations to Stephanie Denton, MD, FAAP, of Birmingham, for successfully securing a 2018 Community Access to Child Health (CATCH) grant from the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), which will allow her to launch a pilot reading enrichment program for K-5th grade

students enrolled at an "at risk" school that has an higher than expected number of struggling readers.

The goals of Dr. Denton's project, entitled "Applying Neuro-Developmental Models to Literacy Intervention," is to train teachers on how to teach reading based upon neuro-developmental models, and to allow for comprehensive reading evaluations for students continuing to struggle to explore the possibility of coexisting conditions that could be impacting learning.

Kudos again to Dr. Denton for undertaking this project!

AL-AAP Practice Management Association update

By Josie Brooks, PMA Chair

AL-AAP Practice Management Association members and your pediatricians: Are you ready?! The Annual Meeting is fast

continued on page 15

From Leaders mourn loss continued from page 12

graduating from medical school in India, he completed an internship in Kansas City,



Mo., and underwent a pediatric residency and fellowship in ambulatory pediatrics at the State University of New York.

A member of the Executive Board of AL-AAP since 2001, Dr.

Reddy was recognized by the UAB Pediatric Alumni Association as a Master Pediatrician. He also served as Jackson County's representative to the Medical Association of the State of Alabama's College of Counselors and Vice Chair of the Board of Trustees for the American Association of Physicians of Indian Origin (AAPI). He had been a life member of the AAPI since its inception, and served as its Chairman from 2003 to 2004. He was also a Paul Harris Fellow of the

Scottsboro Rotary Club.

He and his wife, Snehaprabha, also in medical practice in Scottsboro, had three grown children (two of whom were physicians) and five grandchildren.

"Dr. Reddy cared deeply for the children of Alabama. He was a champion not only for them, but was also a tireless champion for practicing pediatricians," said A.Z. Holloway, MD, FAAP, who succeeded him as Chapter president and worked with him for many years on the board.

"We wish to add our voices to the chorus of those mourning the loss of this doctor in your community and in the state of Alabama," wrote Children's of Alabama's Chief Executive Officer Mike Warren and UAB Department of Pediatrics Chair Mitch Cohen,

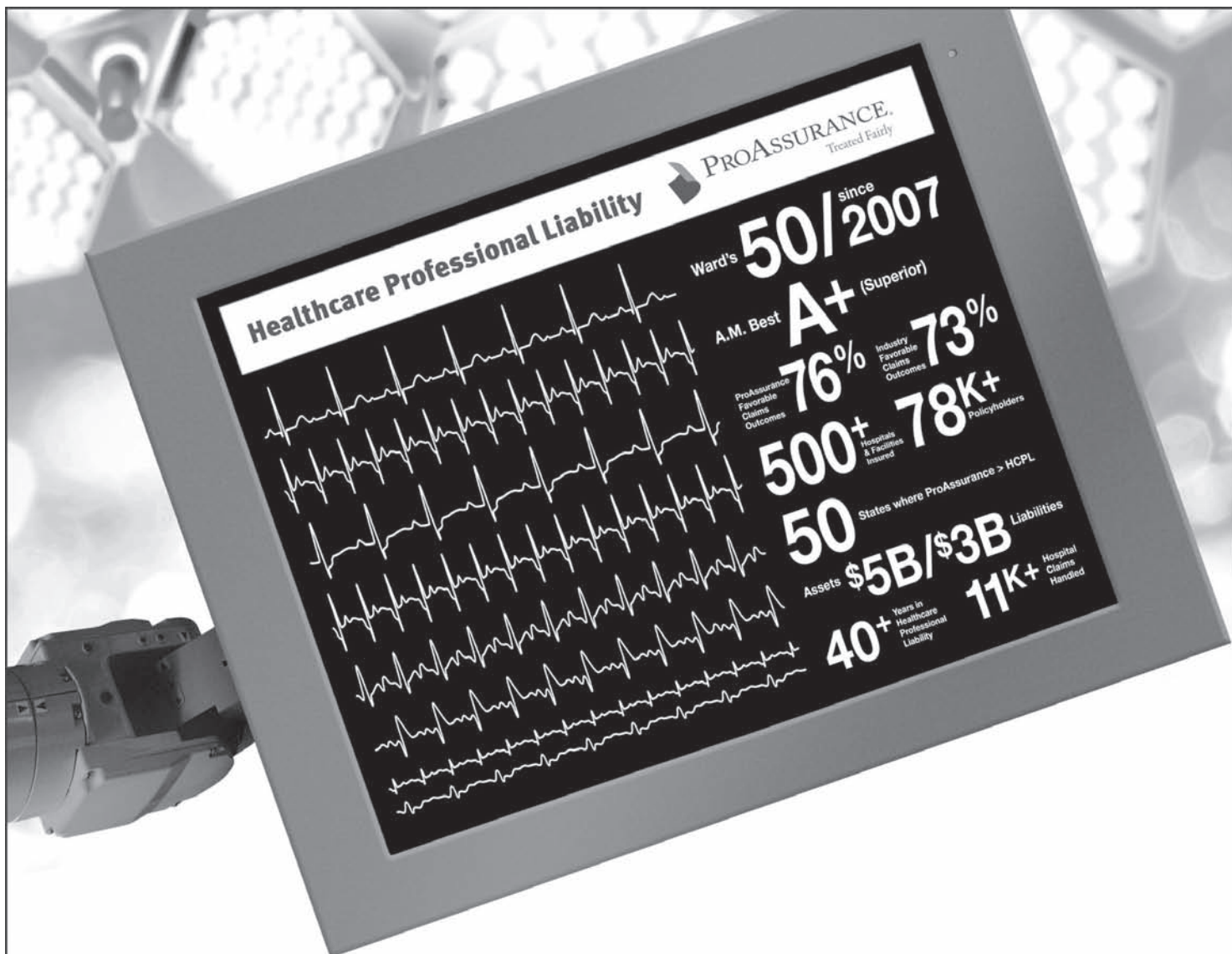
MD, FAAP. "Dr. Reddy's contributions were recognized by a peer group of pediatricians from across our state as being above and beyond the usual expectations."

Chapter Executive Director Linda Lee, APR, added, "Dr. Reddy was my first



two-year 'boss' after I accepted this position in 2005. He was always keenly aware of individual practicing members' needs and how our decisions at the Chapter level needed to be couched in terms of what

was best for them. He was also adept at understanding the importance of putting pediatricians in front of state and federal policymakers."



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From Chapter Briefs continued from page 13

approaching and we have scheduled a day full of networking and learning! Do not miss out on this! If your manager is not a part of the PMA, please encourage him or her to sign up. We are over 100 members strong and continue to grow. The group email list is a wealth of knowledge and the Annual Meeting is the perfect opportunity to network with other managers from all over the state. For membership information, visit www.alaap.org.

Eckenrode wins first place poster at Southern Society of General Internal Medicine



Madeline Eckenrode, MD

Kudos to Madeline Eckenrode, MD, a third-year med-peds resident at UAB, on winning first place poster at the Southern Society of General Internal Medicine in New Orleans, La. Her

poster, "Anti-NMDA-Receptor Encephalitis in a Patient with Radiographically Occult Ovarian Teratoma: A Case Report," wowed the judges!

Feig elected to AAP Section on Nephrology Executive Council



Daniel Feig, MD, FAAP

Congratulations to Daniel Feig, MD, FAAP, UAB Pediatric Nephrology, on being elected to the American Academy of Pediatrics Section on Nephrology Executive Council. Dr. Feig's term on the council

begins November 1, 2018 and extends through October 31, 2021.

Beierle wins UAB Graduate Dean's Excellence Award

Elizabeth Beierle, MD, FAAP, UAB Pediatric Surgery, has been named one of ten graduate faculty honored with the UAB Graduate



Elizabeth Beierle, MD, FAAP

Society House. Kudos, Dr. Beierle!

Jackson recognized for contributions to oral health of children with special needs



Janice Jackson, DMD

Dean's Excellence in Mentorship Award. These awards were given for exceptional work with graduate students and postdoctoral fellows. The ceremony was held this Spring at the National Alumni

the Manuel M. Album Award by the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry. The annual award is given to the individual or organization that has made the greatest contribution to the oral health of children with special needs. Congratulations, Dr. Jackson!

Ladinsky wins inclusive research & initiative award



Morissa Ladinsky, MD, FAAP

In April, Morissa Ladinsky, MD, FAAP, UAB Academic General Pediatrics, was awarded the Inclusive Research & Initiative Award at the Lavender Celebration, held in the Spring of each academic year at

which LGBTQ undergraduate, graduate and professional students receive recognition for both their contribution to campus and their

success in graduating. During the celebration, awards are given out to students, faculty and staff. Dr. Ladinsky was honored for her work on a project to make UAB medicine and its trained physicians and healthcare providers better at serving transgender patients. Kudos, Dr. Ladinsky!

LET'S CATCH UP! Get your CATCH proposals in now through July 31!

The American Academy of Pediatrics is seeking grant applications for innovative community-based projects to improve access to health care services for children who are most likely to experience barriers. Eligible initiatives reach out to the community at large.

Up to \$10,000 will be awarded to pediatricians and fellowship trainees and \$2,000 to pediatric residents to work collaboratively with local community partners to ensure that all children have medical homes and access to health care services not otherwise available in their communities.

The Community Access to Child Health (CATCH) Program - 2019 Cycle 1 call for proposals is open through July 31, 2018 at 2 p.m. CT. Please see the program application here: <https://bit.ly/2ywTzPB>. CATCH empowers the collaboration of pediatricians and pediatric residents with their communities to advance the health of children. Direct questions to CATCH staff at catch@aap.org or your own CATCH co-facilitators in Alabama: Jacob Edwards, MD, FAAP, at babydoc23@me.com or Stephanie Denton, MD, FAAP, at sadenton@bellsouth.net. They are available to discuss your ideas and help you with the application process.

To see what others are doing with their CATCH grants, visit the Community Pediatrics grants database at www2.aap.org/commmpeds/grantsdatabase, where you can search by several major categories, including health topic and grant program.

And remember, one pediatrician *can* make a difference!

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