Reflections from the Chair
Section on Urology (SOU)
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I am so honored to step into this role as Chair of the American Academy of Pediatrics, Section on Urology (SOU). It is humbling to gaze at the long list of esteemed Past-Chairs. I will strive to fill these enormous shoes as I serve you in this position! I want to specifically mention those Past-Chairs with whom I have had the opportunity to serve under during my time on the SOU Executive Committee: Chris Cooper, David Joseph, Earl Cheng, and Andy Kirsch. Their leadership and mentorship has been outstanding. Additionally, their support and passion for the SOU should make all of us excited for the role that the SOU will play in the future of pediatric urology!

I want to take a moment to specifically recognize those who dedicate their time to the SOU: Secretary-Treasurer (Gregory Dean), Chair-elect (John Pope), Executive Committee (Stephen Canon, Martin Kaefer, Kathleen Kieran, and Elizabeth Yerkes) and members of our working committees (Hans Arora, Jeffrey Campbell, Julie Cheng, Laura Cornwell, William DeFoor, Michael Ernst, Julia Finkelstein, Christopher Jaeger, Martin Koyle, Gina Lockwood, Blake Palmer, Sherry Ross, Douglas Storm, and Jason Van Batavia). Most importantly, nothing would be accomplished within our Section without the oversight and direction provided by Jen Gorlewski as the SOU Manager. While Jen has recently left the SOU and moved on to her next adventure, I want to thank her for her outstanding service. I am excited to continue working with all of you in the coming year. I appreciate the work you do, the time and effort that you put into the success of the SOU, and ultimately, the influence it has on the urologic care of children.

I will use this opportunity to frame an outline for my goal as Chair and highlight an area where I feel the SOU can work to further our field of pediatric urology. To start, I pledge to all members (and future members) of the SOU, that as the Chair I will utilize the infrastructure and strength of the SOU to create opportunities for others. Medicine is considered a meritocracy. As such, it is easy to fall into the mindset that our individual successes are solely due to our own hard work and dedication. This mantra is pervasive and many feel that we can “pull ourselves up by our bootstraps” without help from those around us. From my vantage point, the reality is very different. Our achievements are largely made possible by a combination of: (1) opportunities presented to us by mentors and colleagues and (2) support of the community around us. By no means does this denigrate individual hard work. The grasping of opportunities and taking them to completion is the logical second step in this equation. However, most all of us have had the great fortune to be supported by those around us, allowing us to succeed. Often, this surrounding community does not get the credit they deserve. I am thinking of family, friends, colleagues, mentors, etc. We would all do well to live in a mindset of gratitude. This would prompt us to thank and recognize those who helped in our journey.

The corollary to such gratitude is to live in a mode of seeking ways to provide opportunity to those around us, specifically those who may not have the same access to institutional support and resources. I believe the AAP SOU can lift up our members and help showcase the future leaders in our field. I am impressed by the current efforts of Michael Ernst and Chris Jaeger, the SOU Fellow Representatives, to develop a formal mentorship program within the Section. I applaud novel actions like this that work to help those around us in a collaborative manner. I also feel that the SOU can lead
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the way in championing inclusivity and diversity. We must be intentional with our efforts to mentor, support, and lead. These efforts cannot be just hollow words but should be action. Specifically, we should mindfully, and consciously, work to identify opportunities and positions of leadership for those members (and future members) who come from under-represented populations. To that end, I am creating a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Task Force for the SOU Executive Committee. This group will advise our Section on how we can grow in this area, and for example, will counsel us in our selection of committee appointments. My vision is that this Task Force will hold the SOU accountable to the ideals mentioned above. I am proud of the increasing awareness in our field for the importance of diversity. The visibility of people from all backgrounds matters and serves to make our community even stronger. Personally, I commit to decline participation in non-diverse panels at conferences, and further, I will recommend candidates from diverse backgrounds for such opportunities. I hope we can look back proudly on this current period in time as one where the SOU continued its historic leadership role within the field of pediatric urology to shine a light forward to a bright future.

Thank you to those of you taking the time to read these words. I strongly encourage you to join us as members of the SOU. I hope to make tangible the value and importance of SOU membership. I could not conclude this address with a better statement than that which was written by Dr. David Joseph in his initial address as Chair of the SOU a few years ago . . . “I encourage you to mentor your partners, the recent fellow graduates, and the current fellows on the value and privilege of achieving FAAP status. A strong membership is required to sustain the influence that the SOU has within the AAP. It’s a win/win/win.” I welcome you all to join, and as we support all of our members, together we are stronger.

Humbly,
Nicholas Cost, MD, FACS, FAAP

PS – I want to personally recognize, and thank, the following people who helped make this statement more clear and cogent: Hillary Copp, Candace Granberg, Sarah Hecht, Emilie Johnson, Elizabeth Malm-Buatsi, Jonathan Routh, Amanda Saltzman, and Casey Seideman. Please reach out to me directly if you are interested in participating in this Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Task Force (nicholas.cost@childrenscolorado.org).

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We are excited for the warming weather and the promise of seeing our colleagues soon at the AUA and SPU 70th annual meeting in New Orleans in May. While this is our second in-person conference since the start of the pandemic, this is our first opportunity to reunite with our adult urology partners after the long hiatus. Having looked at the program for the SPU 70th annual meeting, we know it will be a spectacular display of the history and current state of our field. We want to thank Drs. Rosalia Misseri and Gina Lockwood for their efforts in planning the meeting and for providing an excellent preview that you will find in this newsletter.

As the membership representatives to the AAP SOU, we also would like to make you aware of our membership drive. Since you are reading this newsletter you likely are already a member of the AAP SOU, but we ask you to share this newsletter with others who may not be members and encourage them to join as well! Tell them why you are a member and why membership in the AAP is important for pediatric care. The SOU acts as an expert resource to the AAP and members contribute to policy statements, brochures, and other AAP publications. Beyond education, another critical function of the SOU is in advocating for our specialty. Given the relatively small number of pediatric urologists, as part of the AAP we have the ability to use this larger body to support our mission and work. The AAP SOU is here to be your voice and as such we need your support. With this in mind there are a few aspects of membership we would like to briefly highlight:

1) **AAP Enterprise Discount**: For each practice/division that achieves 100% membership for physicians in the AAP, each member of that practice/division will receive a 20% discount on membership fees. **(note: You do not need to get 100% membership of your entire hospital or pediatric staff, just your pediatric urology practice or division)**

2) **International Membership**: You no longer need to be located in the USA or Canada to join. International members can enjoy all the benefits of membership at reduced prices.

3) **Fellow Membership**: Fellows are able to join the AAP during their training years at a discounted rate. The AAP Section on Urology Education Committee hosts panels that are high yield for fellows in additional to resources through the Section on Pediatric Trainees. Please encourage your fellows to take advantage of this opportunity.

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As always, we would like to thank each contributor for taking the time out of their busy schedules to put together the articles in this newsletter. We are honored to serve you as Membership representatives to the SOU and appreciate all your support over the past year. We welcome any feedback on the newsletter and any suggestions for future articles or sections. We envision this newsletter as a mechanism to communicate ideas, research findings, and opportunities to our small community and welcome submissions from all SOU members. Feel free to email or speak with us for more details and consider contributing to our next edition in the Fall of 2022.

Before we get on with the newsletter, we would like to take the opportunity to thank Jennifer Gorlewski, former Manager of the SOU, for her guidance and assistance over the past years, as well as welcome Suzanne Kirkwood who has taken over that role on an interim basis.

Safe travels and we look forward to seeing you in New Orleans!

**Upcoming Meetings of Interest:**

1. June 3-4, 2022: Pediatric Adolescent and Young Adult Urologic Oncology Course - Children's Hospital Colorado

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**Preview: 70th Annual Meeting of the SPU**

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The 70th annual meeting of the Societies for Pediatric Urology (SPU) will be held in conjunction with the AUA Annual Meeting in New Orleans, LA (May 14, 2022, Hilton New Orleans Riverside). We are looking forward to an exciting, in-person, educational program!

We have worked with SPU leadership and the AUA to produce an outstanding program. We have superb moderators and speakers from around the world. The pediatric program, in conjunction with the AUA, includes panel discussions
and debates, podium presentations, moderated posters sessions, and the distinguished Meredith Campbell Lecture and Duckett Lectures over the course of the weekend.

To kick off the pediatric portion of the meeting, the Society for Fetal Urology Meeting will take place Thursday, May 12th from 5PM to 7PM at the Hilton New Orleans Riverside. This meeting will consist of presentations of interesting cases with perinatal diagnoses. Scientific podium and moderated poster sessions on a variety of pediatric topics will be occurring throughout the day on Friday, May 13th.

The SPU program on Saturday, May 14th from 7:00 AM to 6:00 PM will include sessions on neurogenic bladder in the non-spina bifida patient, cryptorchidism, non-hypospadias penile anomalies, robotics, oncology and megaureter. Mini-debates will highlight controversies in pediatric urologic care and raise important questions to the audience, allowing broad participation by attendees. We will review landmark papers in pediatric urology with special reflections from the authors themselves including Drs. Douglas Canning (proximal hypospadias), Stephen Koff (valve bladder syndrome), and Paul Mitrofanoff (appendicovesicostomy). It will be great honor to hear from these giants of pediatric urology!

During the session, “When Should the Ball Drop? Consequences of Cryptorchidism”, we will discuss optimal timing of orchiopexy, malignancy and fertility associated with undescended testicles with a distinguish panel including pediatric urologists Drs. Bayne and Yu and urologic oncologist Dr. Clint Cary. AAP medalist Dr. Anthony Caldamone will deliver the Meredith Campbell Lecture entitled “Peer Review, Open Access, Predatory Journalism and the Future of Scientific Communication”. The Pediatric Oncology Working Group will update us on Children's Oncology Group trials and current standards of care for children with Wilm's tumor. Dr. Tony Herndon will update us on the exciting work of the Societies for Pediatric Urology.

A new course, “Your Essential Guide to Congenitalism and Transitional Care” will be presented by the AUA in collaboration with GURS, SPU and SUFU on Thursday, May 12th. This unique course will bring together three societies with overlapping interests to provide excellent care to patients as they transition from pediatric to adult care providers and institutions. This novel collaboration will focus on the evaluation and management of common problems associated with congenital neuropathic bladder in peri-adolescent and adult life.

On Sunday, May 15th (New Orleans Ernest N. Morial Convention Center) the SPU will combine with the AUA program during the morning Plenary Session for even more exciting and cutting-edge lectures and debates. Panel discussions and debates regarding regenerative medicine in pediatrics, renal and ureteral duplications, and ureterocele will be held in Great Hall A. Dr. Christian Ramer will present the esteemed EAU Lecture, “Is Endocrine Treatment for Undescended Testis of Any Benefit at All?”. Finally, the John Duckett Memorial Lecture will be presented by Dr. David Joseph, honoring his exceptional contributions to pediatric urology. This will be followed by a final pediatric podium session on genital, upper and lower urinary tract anomalies.

The Societies for Pediatric Urology 70th Annual Meeting will surely be educational and thought provoking. We look forward to seeing all of you in the Big Easy this spring! Welcome back to the SPU and the AUA!
hypospadias and was equally well received. Our most recent webinar reviewed the options available in the management of the open bladder neck in children. Emily Blum, MD did a fantastic job moderating the session and was able to leverage her background in medical technology development, to pose insightful questions to the panelists. Israel Franco, MD provided a great overview of the role of urodynamics as a diagnostic tool in these children. Anthony Herndon, MD brought his experience with the artificial urinary sphincter dating from his time as a fellow at Indiana University. I spoke on the use of bulbar slings while Andrew Kirsch focused on his nuanced approach to bladder neck bulking and Patricio Gargallo on the role of technology with robot assisted sling placement. The best therapeutic option in these patients remain unsettled and it was wonderful that the SOU was able to provide an open educational platform to shed light on this challenging topic. I would like to personally thank my fellow panelists and our moderator for all the hard work and time that they put into this great educational event.

Please stay tuned for further webinars as we continue through this year. There is no better way to spend a Wednesday evening than watching one of these educational webinars over a glass of wine while you collect CMEs! If you missed the webinar, use the following for access: [https://collaborate.aap.org/SOU/Pages/Education.aspx](https://collaborate.aap.org/SOU/Pages/Education.aspx) (AAP login and password required)

Professional education is central to the mission of the AAP Section on Urology. Historically we have hosted live education with the annual AAP Fall NCE meeting, which was over time, merged into the Fall Congress. While there is no replacement for live meetings, these evening webinars are very much aligned with the educational goals of the section. With respect to live meetings, we had hoped that the SOU would be returning to the NCE this October, but because of administrative issues, we are pushing this back to the Fall of 2023 when the AAP NCE will meet in Washington DC. Drs. Franco and Rushton will continue as the program chairs. In the meantime, the SOU will continue to participate in the Fall Congress in association with the SPU. As always, we would like to hear from our members regarding topics which they would like to see presented for future Webinars as well as the names of presenters who you would like to hear from. Thank you for belonging to the AAP SOU. I look forward to seeing many of you in New Orleans at the AUA!

Best regards

Greg

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**SAVE THE DATE!**

**October 20-23, 2022** – 2022 Pediatric Urology Fall Congress – Las Vegas, NV - [https://spuonline.org/](https://spuonline.org/)

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**Christopher S. Cooper, MD, FAAP**

for Device that Improves Bladder Monitoring at Home

Christopher Cooper, Professor of Urology at the University of Iowa Carver College of Medicine, was awarded the 2022 Pediatric Urology Device Prize from the Southwest National Pediatric Device Innovation Consortium and the AAP SOU for a home-based pediatric cystomanometer. The device allows for more accessible and frequent bladder pressure monitoring at home.

The purpose of the annual SWPDC and AAP SOU Pediatric Urology Device prize is to foster the innovation of pediatric urologic devices specifically designed for children. Of note, the award, as well as any assistance provided by SWPDC, is provided in a non-dilutive, “no-strings-attached” manner. SWPDC can provide direct device and seed funding, consulting assistance, engineering and design assistance, potential clinical collaborators, and connections to local programs and resources. Please visit SWPDC.org for more information.

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“Many children and adults born with spinal cord problems have abnormal bladder function that may result in high pressures that silently destroy their kidneys and also cause further damage to their bladder,” said Cooper. “These patients require passing a catheter into their bladder multiple times a day to drain out the urine.”

Physicians typically monitor these patients' bladder function and pressure once a year, or every other year, with a complex and expensive procedure done in the hospital called a 'urodynamic study'. “Unfortunately, some patients sustain permanent damage to their kidneys or bladder from high bladder pressures that developed before they come back for these visits,” said Cooper. “By routinely checking their own bladder pressure at home with this device, it is hoped that harmful trends in their bladder pressures could be detected earlier and treated sooner to prevent this damage.”

The device attaches to any catheter and transmits real-time data to a smartphone app. The data can then be sent from the smartphone directly to a secure hospital server and their attending physician.

This technology permits patients to monitor their own health at home, and the frequent, real-time measurements allow health care providers to more accurately monitor and assess patient health. “The hope is that this will lead to increased quality of care and patient outcomes, including reduced hospital visits,” said Cooper. Following demonstration of the device accuracy and function in patients undergoing urodynamic studies, Dr. Cooper and his colleagues began sending patients home with the device to use for several weeks. They noted that there was a durability issue with the devices as many were returned broken. Dr. Cooper notes that the prize money he recently received from the SWPDC is critical to further development of a more durable device.

Dr. Cooper worked with the University of Iowa Research Foundation (UIRF) on a series of invention disclosures that culminated in the UIRF filing patent applications on his invention in 2016 and receiving a patent in 2019.

“Dr. Cooper exemplifies the innovative spirit of the physician/researchers here at the University of Iowa,” said Marie Kerbeshian, executive director of the UIRF. “He recognized the challenges that his patients and their parents face during treatment, he came up with an idea to overcome these challenges, he worked with colleagues and students at the university to invent a solution, and he reached out to the Southwest National Pediatric Device Innovation Consortium for further suggestions and advice.”

Cooper's collaborators and co-inventors represent the collaborative nature of his research, including physicians, graduate students, and project engineers from the Department of Urology and the UI College of Engineering and Business. His co-inventors on the device are Ryan Steinberg and Lewis Thomas from Urology, and Sanam Zarei, Eric Pahl, Kayla Jones, and Clifford Curry.

He is currently working with ProtoStudios (https://protostudios.uiowa.edu) on a redesign of the device to improve its durability. The UIRF is working closely with Cooper to identify a commercial partner that can bring his invention to the market.

The Southwest National Pediatric Device Innovation Consortium, which awarded the prize, is a multi-institutional consortium that is supported by a FDA Pediatric Device Consortia grant, anchored by Texas Children's Hospital and Baylor College of Medicine, and includes Texas A&M University, Rice University, University of Houston, and Fannin Innovation Studio. The consortium is dedicated to improving children's health by supporting pediatric device innovators to create novel pediatric medical devices with local, regional, and national institutional and innovation partners.

References:
More than four years ago the Section on Urology was asked to participate in the American Board of Internal Medicine Foundation’s Choosing Wisely Campaign. The initiative was created in 2012 by the ABIM Foundation and Consumer Reports, following the work of Dr. Howard Brody. Brody (a bioethicist at the University of Texas), published a piece in the New England Journal of Medicine in 2010, calling on medical specialty societies to identify five tests and treatments that did not provide meaningful benefit for patients. Since 2012, more than 70 medical societies have partnered with Choosing Wisely to create lists of tests or procedures used in their fields whose necessity should be questioned, helping engage patients and providers in discussion.

We are happy to announce that “Five Things Physicians and Patients Should Question”, envisioned by our Executive Committee and written by the Education Committee, was published in January 2022! This full list and explanations can be found at choosingwisely.org:

1. Do not perform diagnostic imaging to establish the diagnosis of cryptorchidism.
2. Do not screen for urinary tract infection in asymptomatic patients who perform clean intermittent catheterization.
3. Do not perform newborn clamp circumcision in boys with anatomic penile anomalies including hypospadias, chordee, penile torsion or penoscrotal webbing without first consulting with a urologist.
4. Do not perform a bagged urine specimen for urine culture to confirm urinary tract infection in a non-potty-trained child.
5. Do not treat urinary incontinence in a child with pharmacotherapy (e.g., anticholinergics), before first evaluation and treating constipation.

Choosing Wisely strives to promote conversations between clinicians and patients by helping patients choose care that is supported by evidence, not duplicative of other tests or procedures already received, free from harm, and truly necessary. The American Urological Association created fifteen recommendations from 2013 to 2017, including two pediatric-specific recommendations. The SOU has joined the AAP at large, as well as other sections of the AAP, including Hospital Medicine, Endocrinology and Rheumatology in list creation.

The campaign recognizes “Choosing Wisely Champions” who lead efforts to design initiatives to educate colleagues or create interventions to implement Choosing Wisely recommendations in their practice. The foundation also awards grants focused on improvement of healthcare delivery. Champions from the AUA have led quality improvement initiatives such as developing tools to educate local providers and hospital networks about antibiotic use for urinary tract infection, and even creating prompts in electronic medical records when providers attempt to order tests that go against Choosing Wisely recommendations.

We challenge you to use this list to inspire better education of providers, patients and parents to improve the quality of care of our patient population. Go to choosingwisely.org to learn more!
The wheels have been turning at the SOU Education Committee where we can share the progress of our section's contributions to educational endeavors within the AAP. Highlights for this season include new HealthyChildren.org article publications, the organization of urological lectures for the AAP National Conference and Exhibitions (NCE), as well as our long-awaited publication of the AAP Choosing Wisely guideline statements as described separately in the newsletter.

We have welcomed two new fellow members to our committee: Dr. Christopher Jaeger of Boston Children’s and Dr. Julie Cheng of Seattle Children’s. In addition to the common agenda items regarding lecture organization and article publication, the committee often will be tasked with reviewing educational publications put forth by other sections of the AAP. Recent examples include a review of fetoscopic surgery, the use of point of care ultrasounds in the NICU setting, and two new pamphlets released by the AAP on toilet training and sleep issues including nocturnal enuresis.

Our most recent HealthyChildren.org publication includes a January 2022 revised web article on “Undescended Testes,” by our prior fellow committee member, Dr. Hatim Thaker. In addition to the new revision published with the AAP, he also received press attention from the Omaha World-Herald who interviewed him for an “Ask the Pediatrician” article published online at Omaha.com.

We have numerous pending articles to look forward to share in future newsletters, including a revision of “Hypospadias,” by Dr. Niccolo Passoni, “Hydrocele,” by Dr. Campbell Grant, amongst many others largely contributed by fellows working.

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The 2021 AAP NCE occurred in a virtual format but will be back in person in Fall 2022. For the 2022 AAP NCE Urology lectures for general pediatricians, Dr. Blake Palmer is taking our organizational lead. Accepted presentations will include “Wet pants, UTIs, and Constipation: The Impact of Bowel Function on Urology,” as well as “Evaluation of the Male Newborn Genitalia,” and “Groans from the Groin: Evaluation and Management of the Acute Scrotum.” The conference will be taking place on October 7-9 in Anaheim, CA.

We will look forward to reporting our new updates in the upcoming seasons and would like to thank our AAP SOU members for their continued support of the AAP.

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**Fellows Corner**

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**Michael Ernst, MD**
Nationwide Children’s Hospital, Columbus, OH - Class of 2022
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Spring is an exciting time for fellows. It is far enough along in the academic year where interpersonal relationships have been forged and proficiencies are being homed in on. The progression towards self-efficacy as a Pediatric Urologist by this time of the year is immensely rewarding as fellows ponder transitioning to the next step in their career - either another year of fellowship or independent practice. Spring is also a chance to be reminded of our path to Pediatric Urology as Urology residents interview for a chance to enter this field. The Pediatric Urology Match process allows fellows to reflect and appreciate their individual journeys when conversing with Urology residents hoping to follow in their footsteps. Spring is a reminder to many fellows that joining the Pediatric Urology community was the best decision they ever made.

This past year educational opportunities began to grow as the world slowly started to emerge from COVID-19 restrictions. The SPU Fall Congress in Miami, FL featured many interesting sessions and panels, but was highlighted by the ability to connect with colleagues in-person, oftentimes for the first time since the pandemic began. With the support of the AAP, the “Speed Mentoring” event for fellows was held as planned. The goal of the event was to support fellows’ needs as they prepare to transition into independent practice. A diverse set of 18 attending mentors and 20 current Pediatric Urology fellows were paired and rotated throughout the hour-long session. Evaluation of the program revealed a high level of satisfaction with evidence of immediate effects on fellows’ understanding of the job application process and mentor relationships that were fostered as a result of the event. We are prepared to use the constructive feedback from participants to improve this event for the next Fall Congress meeting in Las Vegas.

Fellows eagerly await opportunities to connect and engage with the Pediatric Urology community in 2022. The annual Pediatric Urology Workshop hosted by Cincinnati Children’s is back in-person this April featuring a “fellows bowl” as it has done in previous years. Additionally, the AAP Section on Urology continues to offer virtual educational sessions on topics of interest to fellows. A webinar held on “Bladder Neck Reconstruction” was hosted in March with more exciting, relevant topics being planned by the AAP Section on Urology education committee. The first annual Pediatric Adolescent and Young Adult Urologic Oncology course is also being held in June by Children's Hospital Colorado. This is an exciting new
course for fellows and other interested providers. These opportunities continue to elevate the already rich educational experience Pediatric Urology fellows are afforded.

It is our hope that our fellow colleagues recognize all that the AAP Section on Urology does for Pediatric Urology. Whether it be educational events for fellows, webinars, advocacy efforts, continuing medical education for pediatricians, and patient education – the AAP Section on Urology is far reaching and impactful. We strongly encourage all fellows to join the AAP Section on Urology to support the continued work the section does for our specialty.

We welcome any fellow to contact us any time if you would like us to highlight anything relevant to the training of Pediatric Urology fellows.

Why Join the AAP Section on Urology?

• Membership in the academic group (section) most influential in the development of pediatric urology as a true specialty with a separate CAQ
• Support for the group (AAP) that recognized our development as true specialists long before the AUA, ABU, or anyone else did so

Individual Benefits
• Identification, with a degree of legitimacy, as a specialist in the care of children
• Tangible support for local pediatricians who are the source of most patient referrals
• Opportunity to serve on the Section's Executive Committee and sub-committees
• Opportunity to serve on national AAP committees that draft clinical policy and guidelines
• Access to Section and AAP websites and educational information
• Opportunity to shape and implement child health policy at a local and regional level

Who Can Join? (membership criteria can be found online)

1. AAP Members
   Membership in the section is open to Board Certified Pediatric Urologists, Board Eligible Pediatric Urologists, Fellowship Trainees, and National Affiliates (nurse practitioners and physician assistants)

2. Other Allied Health Providers – Section affiliate members who are physicians, osteopathic physicians, nurses, research scientists, and nephrologists who advance the care of pediatric urology patients but who are not eligible for membership in the Academy.

How To Join?

1. Go to https://membership.aap.org and create a shopAAP login and password.
2. Choose a membership type (see above)
3. Fill out the application. Check the box for “Section on Urology” -- and any other Sections or Councils that interest you.

Questions? - If you or any potential members have any questions about membership, please contact Dr. Jason Van Batavia (vanbatavij@chop.edu), Dr. Julia Finkelstein (julia.finkelstein@childrens.harvard.edu), or our Section Manager, Suzanne Kirkwood (skirkwood@aap.org)
Highlights from the January 2022 AAP Board of Directors Meeting

• The **Equity Committee** will be authoring a new policy statement on Eliminating Race-Based Medicine with Dr Joseph Wright and Dr Wendy Davis as lead authors. In follow-up to a 2021 Resolution from the AAP Pennsylvania Chapter, the Committee discussed establishing a national award on equity, diversity, and inclusion. Staff will develop a proposal for consideration at a future committee meeting.

• The **Member Value and Engagement Committee** received a presentation from Chief Product and Services Officer, Mary Lou White and Vice President, Chapter Relations & Member Engagement, Janet Henderson, on marketing and recruitment and retention strategies. Current strategies employ an increased use of data and leveraging members & non-members to build a value statement via focus groups, research, and surveys. The Committee offered feedback on enterprise membership programs, outreach to graduating residents and peer to peer recruitment. The committee recommended, and the Board approved a five dollar increase in AAP membership dues (excluding medical student members, international members, associate members, and national affiliate members) for the 2022-2023 fiscal year. National affiliate member dues were raised by 21% for the next fiscal year.

• The **Policy Committee** provided an update on committee-level initiatives such as achieving improved strategic alignment with AAP and a better-defined role of the Board of Directors within the Clinical Practice Guideline (CPG) development process. The Committee aims to reiterate word limits for policy reports and recommended limits for clinical reports, and to endorse and codify the integration of equity in policy, clinical and technical report development.

• The **Strategic Planning Committee** discussed a new plan to review the organization's mission and vision, examine data on the demographics and status of children and families, the profession of pediatrics, and to review larger trends in medicine and the outside environment as they affect the AAP, its members, and children and families. Following this annual review, the committee will propose any necessary updates or revisions to the Strategic Plan goals and objectives to allow for continuous improvement and responsiveness to changes in the environment or emergent priorities. The committee also developed a process for selecting child health and pediatric initiatives that will be evidence informed, address policy gaps and respond to child health and pediatric trends. Discussion of potential new initiatives will ordinarily begin at the annual planning retreat of the Board.

• AAP CEO/Executive Vice President, Mark Del Monte, JD, provided an organizational and operational report to the Board. The new members of the AAP Executive Committee which included Dr Sandy Chung as AAP President-Elect and Dr Dennis Cooley as Secretary-Treasurer were welcomed. Mr Del Monte announced that Dr Anne Edwards has been promoted to Chief Medical Officer and that AAP would soon begin recruitment for a new Chief Equity, Diversity, & Inclusion Officer. AAP has continued the COVID-19 vaccine confidence plan, including new elements addressing parents of children ages 5-11 as eligibility expanded for the vaccine. In December, the Biden administration announced new actions to continue the fight against COVID-19, including a requirement for states to pay for vaccine counseling in Medicaid and Medicaid-Expansion CHIP programs. Medicaid will cover COVID-19 vaccine counseling visits for most children up to age 21 with 100% federal funding throughout the public health emergency and the following year. Additionally, moving forward, CMS will require that states cover stand-alone vaccine counseling visits related to all pediatric vaccines under the EPSDT benefit. This has been a long-standing advocacy priority for the Academy and represents important progress toward helping families get the information and guidance they need on vaccination for their children. The development of the CHILD Registry continues in partnership with ArborMetrix. Along with the foundational aspect of the longitudinal registry collecting data on preventative care, some 2022 key priorities include child and adolescent mental health, COVID-19 infection effects and vaccination rates, childhood obesity and clinical practice guideline adherence, childhood asthma reporting, and CHIPRA quality measures reporting. All these initiatives will have a lens on health equity and social determinants of health. Mr Del Monte reported that the 2022 Virtual Advocacy Conference will take place March 20-22. AAP will resume in-person continuing education courses beginning January 2022 with the Puerto Rico Practical Pediatrics Course (PPC). All AAP meetings will be requiring vaccination and adherence to all AAP and CDC guidelines as well as any local and/or government regulations. The CLEAR app and tool will be used starting in January 2022 to securely manage proof of vaccination records for attendees.

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AAP Vice President, Research, Dr Lynn Olson provided a comprehensive report on child demographics data in the United States. The trends suggested the following:

- There is a declining rate of children (under the age of 18) represented in the overall United States population.
- There has been a substantial child population shift with notable growth in the southern region and a shrinkage in northeast.
- Growth in immigrant children populations are at historic levels.
- The child population is increasingly diverse with a decrease in White children and an increase in Hispanic/Latino children.
- US children are highly diverse, and characteristics are highly variable across states.
- While there has been substantial progress in child insurance coverage remaining gaps are strongly related to geography, race, and ethnicity.
- Race, Ethnicity, and Geography are interrelated with historically high-income disparities.
- Health disparities exist particularly in rural and non-metro areas.
We welcome contributions to the newsletter on any topic of interest to the pediatric urology community.

Please submit your idea or article to:
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