



Research Update

New AAP study to follow pediatricians as they start their careers

from the **AAP Department of Research**

The Academy is launching a major research initiative to track young pediatricians' experiences over the course of their careers.

Called the Pediatrician Life And Career Experience Study (PLACES), this longitudinal study will improve understanding of how changes in health systems, medical knowledge, technology and society are influencing pediatricians' personal and professional lives.

"The idea that we can begin to learn about the wide variety of factors that shape the lives of young pediatricians as they embark upon and navigate their careers is very exciting," said Amy Jost Starmer, M.D., M.P.H., FAAP, a member of the PLACES project advisory committee (PAC) and the Vision of Pediatrics 2020 Task Force.

PLACES will help the Academy understand the experiences and expectations of younger pediatricians as well as monitor trends identified through the Vision of Pediatrics 2020 project. Data also will be shared with participants so they can compare their career paths and experiences with those of their peers.

"This is such a unique project," said PAC member Bobbi J. Byrne, M.D., FAAP. "It is a privilege to be in a profession like pediatrics where the AAP is committed to understanding the careers of its members over time."

Starting this winter, up to 1,200 pediatricians who are within 10 years post residency will be recruited and followed on their career



paths for at least five years. Participants will be asked to give annual updates on core issues related to career choice and satisfaction, work-life balance, work environment, daily stressors, life changes and

emerging issues in pediatrics.

"So many young pediatricians are busy balancing work and family. Participating in PLACES is a practical way they can volunteer and provide direction to the AAP and the pediatric community," said PAC member Ashley M. Brunelle, M.D., FAAP.

The longitudinal nature of PLACES will provide detailed information about individual pediatricians across multiple points in time and allow the Academy to respond to the needs and interests of pediatricians, whether they are in primary care, subspecialty training, subspecialty care or hospitalist practice.

"PLACES is a great opportunity for young pediatricians. It gives us a voice and a chance to contribute to our specialty," said PAC member Shesha K. Katakam, M.D., M.P.H.

PLACES will build on the work of the AAP Division of Health Services Research, which collects information on clinical and training topics through the Periodic Survey of Fellows and the Annual Survey of Graduating Residents.

For more information on PLACES, contact Mary Pat Frintner, M.S.P.H., in the AAP Department of Research, at 800-433-9016, ext. 7664, or mfrintner@aap.org.