Hot Topics
AAP Releases New E-Cigarette Policy Statement
The AAP Section on Tobacco Control has published an updated policy statement called "E-Cigarettes and Similar Devices." E-cigarettes are the most commonly used tobacco product among youth, and the policy statement is designed to help pediatricians and the public understand these products and protect youth and families. The statement provides an overview of the current data, including epidemiology, health effects and relationship with use of other tobacco products. The statement also reviews federal, state and local regulatory issues related to e-cigarettes and the need for further research. Finally, the statement provides clinical and public policy recommendations to protect children and families from e-cigarette use. Visit the AAP Richmond Center website for more information and resources about e-cigarettes.

From the AAP Richmond Center
AAP Provides Testimony at FDA Hearing on Youth E-Cigarette Addiction
The US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) hosted a public hearing this month to discuss youth e-cigarette cessation and the potential role of drug therapies to support nicotine-addicted youth. Dr. Susanne E. Tanski provided oral testimony on behalf of the American Academy of Pediatrics: in her statement, she described pediatricians’ grave concern over the rapid rise in youth e-cigarette use and the need for research funding to evaluate cessation interventions and to understand trajectories of addiction in young e-cigarette users. Furthermore, she noted that it is critical that FDA enact strong federal regulation to prevent youth...
access to e-cigarettes, including removing all flavored e-cigarettes from the market and raising the tobacco purchase age to 21 years. For more information on electronic cigarettes, visit the AAP Richmond Center website.

**New York Times Highlights the Difficulty of Quitting Vaped Nicotine**

A recent article in the *New York Times* describes the limited interventions and resources available to adolescents who are addicted to vaping nicotine through JUUL and other e-cigarettes. This reporting coincides with new data from Monitoring the Future, which found that 3.6 million middle and high school students vape regularly. “[Pediatricians] are using our best judgment but we don’t know exactly what to do. There’s no sound science yet,” said Dr. Susanne E. Tanski, Julius B. Richmond Center of Excellence Investigator. Dr. Tanski described the need for further research to protect children from developing a lifelong nicotine addiction, and to encourage cessation in youth who are already addicted. Read the full New York Times article [here](#).

Learn more about e-cigarettes and AAP resources [here](#).

**Florida Passes its First Tobacco 21 Law**

![Image of people wearing blue shirts](image)

Last week, the state of Florida passed its first-ever Tobacco 21 law in Alachua County. AAP Tobacco Consortium member Ramzi Salloum, PhD (second from right) and former Richmond Center program manager Janet Brishke, MPH (right) joined advocates from the University of Florida Institute for Child Health Policy to speak in support of the ordinance at a public hearing of the Alachua County Commission. Once it goes into effect, the ordinance will raise the purchase age for tobacco products to 21, prohibit sales of tobacco products within 1,000 feet of schools, and require tobacco product merchants to apply annually for a distribution license. The funds from tobacco licenses will fund enforcement efforts across the county. The Alachua County ordinance passed with full Commission support. Congratulations to Alachua County!

**AAP Richmond Center Funding Opportunity: New Investigator Grants**

The AAP Julius B. Richmond Center of Excellence is accepting applications for New Investigator grants. Awards of up to $12,000 will be given to pediatricians and child health researchers to fund innovative research to protect children from tobacco smoke exposure. The call for funding proposals is now open. Applications are due February 8, 2019.

**In the News**

**CDC Kicks off a “Year of Cessation”**

A new campaign from the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) encourages people who smoke to make 2019 the year that they quit for good. In a new feature article, “*It’s Never too Early to Quit Smoking,*” CDC promotes tools and resources that can aid in a successful quit attempt, and shares a video from James, a participant in the CDC Tips From Former Smokers® campaign, recounting how a conversation with his roommate helped him stay smoke-free. For information about how to talk with patients and families about tobacco cessation, visit the AAP Richmond Center website.

**Updated Tool Projects Revenues and Benefits from Tobacco Tax Increases**
The American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network (ACS-CAN) and the Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids (CTFK) have released an updated tool which is able to project anticipated economic and public health benefits of raising tobacco taxes at the state level. The projection model is intended for use by public health organizations when advocating for cigarette tax increases. For more information about the tool or to request an estimate for your state, use the contact information provided by ACS-CAN and CTFK.

Strict Retail Regulations Deter Teens from Trying Cigarettes and E-Cigarettes
A recent study published in the February issue of Pediatrics found that high school students who lived in jurisdictions with the most stringent retail licensing laws had lower rates of cigarette and e-cigarette use and initiation, compared with those in jurisdictions with less restrictive laws. The authors conclude that strict licensing laws, along with continued monitoring and enforcement of those laws, could play a part in reducing adolescent tobacco use. Read the full article here.

Flavored Tobacco Products Gain Popularity
According to a recently published study in JAMA Pediatrics, teen use of flavored tobacco products fell from 69.4% to 57.7% between 2014 and 2016, but then rose to 63.6% in 2017. “The rebound in the proportion of flavored tobacco use from 2016 to 2017 is mainly due to an increase of flavor use in e-cigarettes,” according to study author, Hongying Dai, PhD, of the University of Nebraska Medical Center in Omaha. Flavored non-cigarette tobacco products are aggressively marketed, and studies show that flavors play a major role in youth use of tobacco products such as e-cigarettes. “Flavoring has become one of the leading reasons for current tobacco use among youth” said Dai.

Learn more about e-cigarettes and other alternative tobacco products here. For more information on how the tobacco industry uses flavored products to attract youth, read “The Flavor Trap,” a report issued by AAP and four partner organizations.

Resources and Events
Broken Promises to Our Children: A State-by-State Look at the 1998 Tobacco Settlement 20 Years Later

FDA Tobacco Regulatory Science Fellowship – Applications Due March 1, 2019
The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Center for Tobacco Products and the National Academy of Medicine (NAM) are offering mid-career professionals a unique opportunity to spend 12 months working in FDA's Center for Tobacco Products (CTP). Fellows will be placed in one of six areas within the CTP: Compliance and Enforcement; Health Communication and Education; Management; Policy; Regulations; or Science. Fellows support the development of science-based public health strategies and serve as the lead for defined projects, meet with policy leaders, and acquire new knowledge related to tobacco products and their use.

Fellows are awarded up to $95,000 based on salary history and may choose to enroll in a health insurance plan through the NAM, which administers the program, or get reimbursed for a COBRA plan. Fellows with a sponsoring
In addition, each fellow may be eligible to receive a relocation fund (not to exceed $10,000). The application opened January 3, 2019 and will close on March 1, 2019. To find out more, visit the [FDA Tobacco Regulatory Science Fellowship website](http://www.fda.gov).

**Call for Abstracts for the 2019 APHA Annual Meeting and Expo**

Abstracts are now being accepted for the American Public Health Association (APHA) 2019 Annual Meeting and Expo. The meeting will be held at the Pennsylvania Convention Center in Philadelphia, PA on November 2-6, and this year’s theme is “Creating the Healthiest Nation: For science. For action. For health.” Abstract due dates vary. The [Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drugs Section abstract submission](http://www.apha.org) due date is February 23, 2019.

**People in the News**

Dr Brian Jenssen and Dr. Susan Walley

Brian Jenssen, MD, MSHP, FAAP and Susan Walley MD, FAAP of the AAP Section on Tobacco Control Executive Committee lead the authorship of a new Academy Policy Statement, “E-Cigarettes and Similar Devices.” The new statement presents data related to the dramatic rise in e-cigarette use among American youth, presents data on related health concerns, and concludes that stronger federal regulation is needed to prevent youth access to e-cigarettes. In a [press statement](http://www.aap.org), Dr. Walley noted that “the research is clear that teens are at higher risk of transitioning to traditional cigarettes with even experimental use of e-cigarettes.” Dr. Jenssen described the urgency of the situation, noting that “We have a chance to protect this generation, but we need to act now.”