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Upcoming Events
May 29
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June 1-30
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August 28
AAP SOTCo Stories from the Field Submissions Due

October 2-6
AAP National Conference & Exhibition
San Diego, CA

October 18-20
Nicotine Dependence Conference & National Summit on Smokeless Tobacco Prevention
Rochester, MN

Hot Topics

Appeals Court Dismisses Industry Appeal of AAP’s E-Cigarette Court Victory
On May 4, the US Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit dismissed the tobacco industry’s appeal of the lawsuit that AAP won against the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for failing to regulate e-cigarettes. The ruling affirms the impending court-ordered deadline—originally May 12 though delayed to September 9 in light of the COVID-19 pandemic—for FDA to begin public health review for e-cigarettes. This deadline was originally imposed by a federal district court after it agreed with AAP’s argument that FDA had acted unlawfully by delaying this process for four years. Since the appeals court dismissed the industry’s appeal, this is likely the end of the
line for industry’s challenges to further delay public health review of e-cigarettes. AAP is now turning attention to ensuring FDA conducts these reviews appropriately to protect young people from the harms posed by tobacco products.

From the AAP Richmond Center

Two AAP Section on Tobacco Control Opportunities for Trainees:

1) Trainee Tobacco Champion Award – Due May 29th
Do you know a medical trainee who is active in tobacco control initiatives? The AAP Section on Tobacco Control is soliciting nominations for the Trainee Tobacco Champion Award. Nominees should have designed their own tobacco-control project or have partnered with others as part of a larger-scale endeavor. Projects may involve research, community work, advocacy or education. Trainees can self-nominate or can be nominated by Program Directors, Attending Physicians, Chief Residents and other trainees for this award. Please use this form to send Nominations from the field to NoTobacco@aap.org by Friday, May 29, 2020. Winners will be notified in September.

2) Soliciting Stories from the Field – Due August 28th
Are you a medical student, resident or pediatric fellowship trainee who is working to address tobacco use and tobacco exposure with patients, families or your community? We would love to hear about your experiences in addressing tobacco. We are soliciting stories of successes, challenges, and experiences with tobacco control—your experiences are shaping the future of tobacco control in pediatrics and we want to hear from you! Selected stories will be published in the AAP Section on Tobacco Control Fall Newsletter. Please use this form to send stories from the field to NoTobacco@aap.org by Friday, August 28, 2020. Winners will be notified in late September.

2020 National Conference & Exhibition Registration Update
The AAP anticipates that the 2020 National Conference will take place as scheduled on October 2-6, 2020 in San Diego, CA. The official launch of the 2020 National Conference has been pushed back approximately one month. Member Registration and Hotel Reservations are now scheduled to open on June 1, at 10:00AM CDT. Non-Member Registration and Hotel Reservations are scheduled to open on June 5, 10:00AM CDT. Updates will continue to be shared on the National Conference website, https://aapexperience.org.

In the News

CDC: Flavors Are a Major Factor in Youth E-Cigarette Epidemic
In a recent commentary in the American Journal of Public Health, officials from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) indicated that the epidemic of youth e-cigarette use in the United States has been driven by child-friendly flavors, targeted marketing, and high nicotine content. Flavors are a key player in the epidemic, as most young e-cigarette users initiate use with a flavored product, and many youth cite flavors as a primary reason that they use e-cigarettes. Successful efforts to curb the e-cigarette epidemic must target flavored products, making them less appealing and accessible to youth. Read more here.

Misinformation and Health Concerns in Twitter Discourse on Vaping and COVID-19
A new study in Nicotine & Tobacco Research reported on trends in recent Twitter conversations about e-cigarette use and the COVID-19 pandemic. Investigators found that many discussions on Twitter focused on health concerns, including the question of whether people who vape have elevated risks of COVID-19, or whether the virus could spread through the use of shared vaping devices or passive exposure to clouds of e-cigarette aerosol. Other Twitter discussions spread misinformation via unsubstantiated health claims about e-cigarettes as a protective factor for COVID-19. The authors note that there is limited evidence about the intersection of vaping and COVID-19 related outcomes, but that experts in the field have noted cause for concern due to the impact of vaping and smoking on overall respiratory health and susceptibility to infection. The authors note that continued monitoring of the public discourse around e-cigarette use and COVID-19 is important in stopping the spread of misinformation and informing public health and clinical strategies to address the pandemic. Read more here.
Clinical Presentation of EVALI in Teen Patients
A new article in the May issue of Pediatrics explores the diagnosis, evaluation, and management of e-cigarette or vaping associated lung injury (EVALI) in a cohort of 13 adolescents hospitalized in Dallas, TX. Via retrospective chart review, the study authors have provided data on patients’ clinical presentation, the results of laboratory and imaging tests, pulmonary function, oxygen requirements, and follow-up protocols. All patients were found to have “ground-glass opacities” in both lungs, and most presented with respiratory and gastrointestinal symptoms. Nearly all reported vaping marijuana, and 62% reported vaping nicotine. These data add to the evidence base for understanding the manifestation of EVALI in adolescent patients. Read more details here. The study was accompanied by a commentary piece from 2013 AAP Richmond Center New Investigator Dr S. Christy Sadreameli and Dr Peter Mogayzel, which noted that efforts to address the youth e-cigarette epidemic must remain a public health priority, even as the EVALI outbreak has been contained. Read more here.

Retailer Practices of Asking for ID to Prevent Illegal Tobacco Sale to Minors
New data published in Pediatrics explore national trends in requiring proof-of-age identification when selling tobacco to young-looking customers. Using state-level data from 2017 and 2018, scientists determined that in 80% of compliance checks, stores asked young-looking customers for an ID to verify their age when attempting to purchase tobacco. In 9% of compliance checks, retailers illegally sold tobacco to minors. In nearly a quarter of these violations, tobacco was sold to a minor after proof-of-age was requested. Retailers were less likely to request proof-of-age from minors attempting to buy vaping products than they were for cigarettes. They were also more likely to illegally sell vaping products to minors than they were to illegally sell cigarettes to minors. The authors conclude that the new federal Tobacco 21 law presents an opportunity to strengthen retailer compliance with age-verification for tobacco purchases. Read more here.

Report: Entertainment Industry Downplays Danger of Onscreen Smoking
A new report from the University of California San Francisco (UCSF) details current trends in children’s exposure to tobacco imagery in media, including streaming services. Despite the US Surgeon General’s conclusion that exposure to onscreen tobacco imagery causes tobacco use in youth, media companies continue to include tobacco imagery in content that is accessible to children. The report explores tobacco imagery trends in popular streaming services such as Netflix and Hulu, noting that these services fail to give viewers advance warning of tobacco content in programs. Read more here.

Resources and Events

Action on Smoking and Health Toolkit on COVID-19 and Tobacco Policy
Action on Smoking and Health has released a toolkit on COVID-19 and tobacco policy, as well as communications providing a summary of current research, policy options and communications resources.

World No Tobacco Day 2020: The Secret’s Out
May 31, 2020
Every year, on May 31st, the World Health Organization (WHO) and global partners celebrate World No Tobacco Day (WNTD). The annual campaign is an opportunity to raise awareness on the harmful and deadly effects of tobacco use and second-hand smoke exposure, and to discourage the use of tobacco in any form. This year’s WNTD theme, The Secret’s Out; and global campaign, #Tobacco Exposed, raise awareness of tobacco and related industry tactics to attract younger generations to nicotine and tobacco. Visit the World No Tobacco Day website for more information, including downloadable posters and social media materials.

Webinar: Tobacco Cessation and Lung Cancer Screening
Wednesday, June 3, 2020, 1:00pm ET
The American Cancer Society presents the webinar: Tobacco Cessation and Lung Cancer Screening, discussing best practices in tobacco cessation in the context of lung cancer screening. Joelle Thirsk Fathi, DNP, RN, ARNP, CTTS will serve as faculty. Dr. Fathi is an Adult Acute Care Nurse Practitioner and Certified Tobacco Treatment Specialist and is a Clinical Associate Professor in the Department of Biobehavioral Nursing and Health Informatics at the University of Washington School of Nursing. Register for the webinar now.

June is National Healthy Homes Month
National Healthy Homes Month (NHHM) is a great opportunity to highlight the importance of a smokefree home. NHHM, created by the Department of Housing and Urban Development’s (HUDs) Office of Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes (OLHCHH), is an outreach campaign designed to help people connect the dots between their health and their home. This year’s theme is "Healthy Housing for All", highlighting the importance of safe and healthy living in your home; no matter your address. More information, outreach materials and a campaign toolkit can be found on the HUD website.

Nicotine Dependence Conference & National Summit on Smokeless Tobacco Prevention 2020
New Course Dates – October 18-20, 2020
Mayo Clinic – Rochester, MN
Registration is open for the Nicotine Dependence Conference & National Summit on Smokeless Tobacco Prevention 2020, presented by The Health Education Council and Mayo Clinic. The Summit will give participants the ability to identify up-to-date research on prevalence and relative risks of tobacco, e-cigarettes, smokeless tobacco, and other non-combustible tobacco products; discuss clinical strategies for treating tobacco use disorder within the context of rapidly evolving nicotine delivery products; and describe effective models for community and public health interventions to provide accurate education and address the evolving tobacco epidemic. Register and find more information here.