



Uniformed Services West Chapter – AAP Newsletter – Summer 2017

Presidents' Messages:

Amy Michalski, MD, FAAP

Hello Uniformed Services West Chapter Members. I recently transitioned to the President role of the Chapter and I am excited to work with and for our Chapter. I would like to extend a big 'THANK YOU' to Amy Thompson for her time as President. It was wonderful to get to know her and work with her.

This time of the year can be very exciting as well as very stressful for the military medical community as a new academic year starts with new trainees filling the teaching hospitals as well as many PSCs affecting our members and the families we care for. As a favorite mentor always said, "The only constant is change." Please remember to take care of yourselves and your colleagues as we continue to provide excellent pediatric care to our patients.

In July, I attended the District VIII meeting in Colorado. One of the major issues discussed is the future of pediatric health care in the United States. Many of our colleagues in the community take care of children that are at risk to lose their medical coverage depending on what Congress does. Members of the AAP have been busy voicing their concerns to those who determine our nation's policies. The AAP also advocates for on-going military pediatric care to support military families which is important to those of us practicing within the military. During the meeting, there were also some sessions on physician resiliency which continues to be a concern. It is inspiring to be at a meeting with pediatricians who are working to make a difference in the world.



AAP District VIII

July 2017

Denver, Colorado

Last spring, our Chapter supported sending one of the residents from Naval Medical Center San Diego to the California Advocacy Day for Pediatrics in Sacramento. The resident really enjoyed being able to attend and learn about the importance of advocacy to help ensure children get appropriate medical care. I am so pleased that our Chapter was able to help provide this activity. Please contact me or the Chapter if you have ideas of how the Chapter can help support projects.

NCE will be early this year in September and once again, we are funding a resident from each of the four pediatric training programs within our Chapter to attend the meeting. The Uniformed Services Section will have its meeting on Sunday with awards and discussions geared towards those of us working within military system. I look forward to seeing colleagues that have transferred to other commands and getting to meeting others I know through email, but have not met in person.

Once again, please contact us if you have projects that need some support or projects you have done that you would like to share. Collaborating with each other is exciting and can lead to new ideas and new friends.

Congratulations!!!

Congratulations to the resident reps that were selected to receive a chapter travel grant and represent their program at the NCE 2017 in Chicago, IL.

LT Anthony Kuelto – NMCS
MAJ Benjamin Smith – TAMC
Capt. Perri Hopkins– SAMMC
CPT Thomas Hamilton – MAMC

In addition, several Pediatricians in our chapter were recognized and awarded at the District meeting with Special Achievement Awards.

Dr. Stephen Greefkens, MD, FAAP for his contributions to military pediatrics as a Developmental Pediatrics Specialist. He has over 30 years of exceptional service in military pediatrics, service to military families, and education of future pediatricians

Dr. Deene Sutter, MD, FAAP for her phenomenal service as an infectious disease specialist who provided over 17 years of exceptional service in military pediatrics. She has led young pediatricians toward research and training in the important field of infectious diseases

Dr. Gregg Montalto, MD, MPH, FAAP for leadership in the Tunajali Watoto program in Uganda. This project allowed pediatric residents to engage in a Global Health Engagement experience

Thank you for your continued devotion to our service members and their families!

Vice Presidents' Messages:

LTC Thornton Mu, MD, FAAP

First off, a big "thank you!" for the support you've placed in electing me to serve as Vice President for our chapter. I hope to serve our chapter well. With summer speeding by, many of our members are in the middle of PCS moves or carrying additional clinical workload while awaiting new colleagues to get settled into their new roles and positions. I wanted to share a few updates from my perspective of chapter activities. We have identified four talented, energetic pediatric residents from the military residencies in our chapter to represent their programs at this fall's NCE. Sponsoring their travel represents our commitment to investing in our collective future by introducing them to additional leadership and educational opportunities within the AAP, SOUS, and uniformed services chapters. I look forward to their report in the fall newsletter! As I close, I want to highlight another opportunity presented to our chapter to nominate two members to attend a HPV vaccine QI training/ shared lesson session in Las Vegas this September. We are delighted that USW members, LtCols Shana Hansen (SAMMC, San Antonio, TX) and Amy Costello (USAFA, Colorado Springs, CO) will be representing our chapter and look forward to them sharing their lessons learned this fall! These opportunities provide added value to our membership and ultimately improve the health and well-being of our patients. I look forward to seeing members at the upcoming NCE in Chicago! Until then, stay cool, use plenty of sunscreen, and remember to hydrate!! Happy summer everyone!

Resident Advocacy Day

LT Lynn Mercer (Naval Medical Center San Diego)

Through the support of the chapter, I had the opportunity to attend the CMA/AAP-CA legislative day in Sacramento, CA this spring as part of my community pediatrics education. During the trip, I attended a speech and discussion from the only pediatrician elected to state congress, Dr. Richard Pan. He described the origin of his interest in public service and the pathway it took for him to become a congressman. One of the highlights of his career has been authoring the bill abolishing non-medical exemptions to immunization for school attendance which has now been passed into law. The following day we attended meetings with acting congressmen representing San Diego to educate and advocate for bills supported by the AAP including Proposition 56 paramount to funding medical and SB-501 attempting to regulate anesthesia provision in dental offices.

Although as active duty members we are nonpartisan and reclude ourselves from involvement in politics, this opportunity allowed me to learn about advocacy on a state and national level. Seeing how Senator Pan has been able to propose and pass a bill widely supported by the public and the AAP and which will make children safer was inspiring. I recognized the opportunity and responsibility that we as pediatricians (and pediatricians in training) have to educate not only our patients, but also the public and lawmakers. I look forward to continuing this important role in society, and I thank the chapter for the educational opportunity in my professional development.

HPV vaccination experience at the United States Air Force Academy (USAFA)

Lt Col Amy Costello, MD, FAAP and Lt Col Ruth German, DO, FAAFP

We work in USAFA's Cadet Medicine Clinic, which is equivalent to a student health center at a civilian college.

We have the advantage of an excellent electronic immunization tracking system (ASIMS), and with the entry of the Class of 2020, we began to transcribe our students' childhood immunization records into their ASIMS immunizations record. This gave us the opportunity to look at HPV completion rates in our student population.

We worked with the ASIMS immunizations programmers to create a report of HPV status by class year. In August of 2016, we found that HPV completion rates for cadets were approximately 51% for women and 22% for men. Since the majority of our cadets are in the 18-22 year old age range, we wanted to explore their barriers to vaccination, and develop ways to improve our HPV vaccination coverage.

We know that the more common barriers to immunization include hesitancy on the part of the patient, lack of endorsement from primary care physicians, and lack of ready access to vaccination. We hypothesized the primary barrier to vaccination for our patients was our geographic separation from the immunization clinic at the 10th MDG. Cadet Medicine is a stand-alone clinic located in an annex to an academic building on the USAFA campus. We're approximately two miles from the main MDG, which serves the medical needs of the rest of the USAFA installation. In our clinic, we offer comprehensive primary care services, including adolescent medicine, sports medicine, and physical therapy, and we have in-house pharmacy, lab, and radiology. However, in the summer of 2016, we did not have a robust immunizations capability. We felt that the distance to the MDG immunization clinic, especially since cadets have very regimented schedules, and are not allowed cars until their junior year, presented the primary barrier to vaccination.

We requested expansion of our minimal cadet clinic vaccine capability, so we could offer HPV vaccine in the cadets' medical home, but due to administrative barriers, we were not able to do so. Instead, we instituted standardized counseling regarding HPV vaccination at every graduation physical. Graduation physicals are performed during junior year, by two experienced board-certified family practice physicians. During counseling, they explained the importance of the vaccine, and how to travel to the MDG to get it. However, despite perceived interest from the students, at the end of the graduation physical period, in April 2017, we found that our HPV completion rates were at 52% for women, and 22.4% for men.

With this data, we plan to request expansion of our immunization capability to include HPV vaccine. Since the Class of 2017 has graduated, and the Class of 2021 is now on campus, we will recalculate our baseline vaccination rate, and repeat the education process during graduation physicals. We'll follow up in April after graduation physicals are completed, to see if removing a geographic barrier to access had a better effect on HPV completion rates than did counseling alone.

Do you Like us?

You should! The US Chapter West is making some bold attempts at social media. Help boost our self-esteem. Join our Facebook Group: **Uniformed Services West Chapter** – **AAP** or e-mail reneedlt@gmail.com to be added. Better yet...follow us on Twitter! **@AAP_USW**. We would really appreciate it. Please? Pretty please?

**Chapter Volunteer Opportunities**

If you are interested in Chapter volunteer opportunities please feel free to contact the Chapter administrative office. Working together we can make our Chapter better and stronger.

US West Chapter Administrative Office:

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