



Uniformed Services West Chapter – AAP News sheet – Winter 2012/Spring 2013

Presidents' Messages:

Uniformed Services Chapter West

Unfortunately, we won't be offering everyone a free lunch at USPS this year, and I am disappointed that we are unable to recognize such deserving young Pediatricians in person to receive their awards. However, it is still a privilege to announce such deserving pediatricians with the Chapter West Outstanding Young Physician Awards.

Uniformed Services Chapter West Outstanding Young Pediatrician: Army Award Winner

I am pleased to announce **Maj Dan Tolson** as the Army pediatrician award winner.

Dr. Tolson has a long and consistent dedication to family, Army medicine, and community. His pediatric career started with his assignment to Reynold's Army Community Hospital (RACH) at Ft. Sill, OK in 2007. From his first day as a staff pediatrician, Dr. Tolson was tested by fire. He and his partner were freshly out of residency and inherited a busy pediatric clinic, and were the only active duty pediatricians. Dr. Tolson rose to the challenge and quickly mastered the multiple roles required at the MEDDAC. The job responsibilities remained dynamic and Dr. Tolson remained resolute through numerous changes and deployments. After returning from his deployment, Dr. Tolson was the only pediatrician at Ft. Sill. He trained a family practice physician to cover the pediatric duties, but went a span of 3 months on call or back-up to the other providers.

Dr. Tolson's multiple duties included general pediatric clinic, medical director for the asthma clinic, Emergency Room consults, inpatient ward, and newborn deliveries and management. In addition to his clinic responsibilities, Dr. Tolson was the medical consultant for Ft. Sill's Case Review Committee, a position that led to several appearances in civil court as a medical expert in child abuse cases. He served as a committee member on RACH's Sexual Assault Committee. He served as the medical director and primary instructor for the Pediatric Advanced Life Support (PALS) and Neonatal Resuscitation Program (NRP) certifications.

Dr. Tolson has taught numerous physician assistant students from the Army's P.A. school in San Antonio as well as Special Forces medics in training; Ft. Sill was chosen as a training location for Special Forces because of the quality of education students received.

Dr. Tolson's pediatric duties don't end in the clinic. Dan and Else are the parents of 8 active children (1-15 years old). He and his family remain actively involved in school and church activities. Dan has held many positions within his Church. Additionally, he's volunteered within the schools and Boy Scout organization.

He demonstrated his professionalism and commitment to Duty as the 1-36 IN Battalion Surgeon (PROFIS) during their deployment to Mosul, Iraq (11/2009-8/2010). He served as the primary physician to 750 Soldiers and special staff officer to the Battalion Commander. During Dr. Tolson's leadership as the Officer in Charge (OIC) of the pediatric clinic a complete transformation transpired. RACH's leadership recognized the clinic's consistently high level of care and patient satisfaction. They expanded his clinic from 4 providers to 7 providers and 5 nurses to 7. By the end of his tenure, his clinic was a leader in MEDCOM production numbers, 25% above the MEDCOM average. The clinic exceeded the HEDIS and patient satisfaction benchmarks.

Independent of his military medicine duties, he published as a lead author in 2010 (Journal of Hunger and Environmental Nutrition), presented a poster at USPS in 2007 and submitted an abstract for the USPS competition in 2004. Finally, he's reviewed several articles for publication in the Pan American Journal of Public Health (a Spanish language publication). Dr. Tolson's talents are not just seen in his performance as a pediatrician. He is an example of the physician the Army strives to develop.

Uniformed Services Chapter West Outstanding Young Pediatrician Air Force Award Winner

It is my pleasure to announce the Air Force winner of the Outstanding Young Physician's Award, **Maj Jennifer Stangle**.

Maj Stangle has 7 years of experience as a board certified pediatrician and has excelled in her position as the Pediatric Flight Medical Director of the USAF's largest Pediatric clinic, Wilford Hall Ambulatory Surgical Center, servicing 16,000 beneficiaries through 55,000 appointments yearly.

She epitomized academic excellence and is devoted to quality patient care with an outstanding medical knowledge base. A tireless educator, she trained 66 pediatric residents and 107 medical students in the past three years alone, and was honorably awarded the 2010 Uniformed Services University of Health Sciences Clinical Teacher of the Year award by 172 third year students. Dr Stangle served on the Resident Policy and Curriculum Committee, and the Residency Review Committee verifying residents achieve necessary skills to excel. She supervised 14 medical providers and 42 support staff, and is always positive, supporting, reliable, diligent, and an impeccable example. She is unflappable managing frustrated patients and stressed residents despite the chaos of a busy clinic devoted to the health of children. She has led WHASC with the implementation of the AFMS Patient Centered Medical Home and increased continuity of care from 10% to 60%.

Maj Stangle balances her personal and professional life as wife for 13 years, mother of three children, including a child with significant special needs which gave her a profound understanding for parents of special needs children, the struggles that families endure, and communicates her own vast knowledge and experience navigating the military, educational, and civilian medical systems with a special needs child. She also volunteered with Kinetic Kids, an organization dedicated to supporting children with special needs, and also served on the Parent Teacher Association committee at her local school.

Her other job responsibilities included reviewing 110 cases of alleged abuse, creating a Pediatric After Hours Clinic, managing the Pediatric Readiness Skills Verification program, is a Neonatal Resuscitation Program Instructor, taught Pediatric advanced life support classes, and coordinates monthly clinic training for medical personnel.

Maj Stangle is a dedicated officer in the USAF, and has served the Pediatric Clinic with diligence, compassion, and devotion, and is well deserving of the recognition of this award.

Uniformed Services Chapter West Outstanding Young Pediatrician Navy Award Winner

I am excited to announce the Navy winner of the Chapter West Outstanding Young Physician award is **LCDR James Demitrack** who also deserves recognition for his achievements.

LCDR Demitrack has served as a staff pediatrician, chair of the pharmacy and therapeutics committee, chair of the Infection Prevention and Control Committee, Program Director for the Pediatric Advanced Life Support program, and the pediatric Medical Director of the Mother Baby Unit.

Dr. Demitrack has supervised 21 personnel in support of his duties. He implemented innovative changes by the development of a Command Pain Contract Program, to improve the management of chronic pain, and minimize the diversion of controlled substances. He also implemented a new Medication Management instruction and a Food-Drug Interactions policy, which enhances patient safety, and complies with Joint Commission requirements. Dr. Demitrack facilitated, procured, and implemented new equipment for the prevention of ventilator-associated pneumonia, a measure anticipated reducing morbidity and mortality and saving over \$71K in excess costs. Dr. Demitrack also taught a STABLE course to instruct students in the management of critically ill newborns.

LCDR Demitrack is also a scholar, and wrote a case report entitled "Primary Group A Streptococcal Peritonitis in a Previously Healthy Child" which was accepted for publication as a letter to the editor in the Pediatric Infectious Disease Journal.

LCDR Demitrack is a dedicated and highly professional pediatrician serving in Guam, a remote location and also assuming an increasing range of leadership responsibilities. He is in the top five of all physicians in the command for patient encounters this period and cares for a diverse panel of patients, and is well deserving of this recognition and award.

This year was quite challenging to make selections for these awards, and the pediatricians chosen are outstanding. We look forward to continuing to recognize these Young Physicians and their accomplishments, despite unforeseen circumstances.

This is also a call for nominations announcement for USW Chapter. The Uniformed Services - West Chapter will be having an election for 3 positions for the Executive Committee:

1. Vice President (2 yr term, then 2 yr as President, then 2 yr Past President)

2. Member-at-Large (2 year term)

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This committee plans the Chapter's activities and projects for the year. The Executive Committee meets approximately 4 times a year (usually teleconferencing) and at the Annual meeting at the Uniformed Services Pediatric Seminar (if it is held).

Please send a CV and a brief Biosketch (< 250 words) outlining your interest in the position to the Executive Director, Ms. Elina Ly, via email to elina.ly@med.navy.mil . **Send CV and Biosketch no later than 1 June 2013**. The election will proceed directly after - and 30 days will be allowed for voting.

Please contact Executive Director, Ms. Elina Ly, at her email address elina.ly@med.navy.mil , or telephone (619) 532-5233 if you have any questions. Thank you.

We look forward to having new members involved!

Dawn Peredo, President Uniformed Services Chapter West

Update from the Chapter Vice-President – LTC Keith Lemmon, MD, FAAP

It has been a busy fall and winter season for the Chapter, military pediatricians, and military kids issues for which we advocate . The AAP NCE in New Orleans in October was a productive meeting as always. It was my pleasure to represent the Chapter at the Annual Uniformed Services business meeting. Highlights from the business meeting included the announcement that the section's submission of military focused speakers for the 2013 NCE was accepted and Dr. Charles Zeenah will present PTSD and Life Trauma in Children and COL (Dr.) Jeff Hutchinson will present Finding the Military Child in Civilian Practice.

CNA Meeting - Center For Research On Military Children and Families –

29-30 Nov 2012 – Washington, D.C. – please take a few minutes to look over the conference summary from this very important meeting related to "Promoting The Resilience of Military Children Through Effective Programs". Program summary and presentations can be reviewed at :

www.cna.org/solution-centers/cnas-institute-public-research/health-research-policy/center-13

New Content Added to www.MilitaryKidsConnect.org - please check out the newly added content related to the military pediatrician's perspective at www.militarykidsconnect.org/parents/coping/toughtopics

TRICARE for Kids in Final FY13 NDAA Legislation

At the 2009 AAP Annual Leadership Forum, our Chapter submitted the “Improving Access to Care for Military Children and Adolescents - Tri-care Reform” Resolution. It stated: be it

RESOLVED, that the Academy urgently develop a legislative advocacy plan to work toward raising Tri-care payment rates to meet or exceed Medicare payment rates in order to improve access to care for all military dependent children. As a result of the board’s response to the resolution, the AAP’s Department of Federal Affairs worked diligently to shepherd the recent amendment to the National Defense Authorization Act through Congress. The NDAA bill with the Tricare for Kids amendment was signed into law by President Obama in early January.

The TRICARE program covers 9.6 million uniformed service members and their families, including about 2 million children. TRICARE—patterned after Medicare, a healthcare system for senior adults—often adopts policies and practices from Medicare that do not address the unique health care needs of children. Moreover, military families with children with special health care needs and chronic conditions often have difficulty accessing and navigating resources and services offered by local or regional specialized providers. This challenge is further exacerbated by the frequent relocations experienced by military families.

The provision in the NDAA conference report is based on the *TRICARE for Kids Act*, which was originally introduced in the House by co-sponsors Reps. Steve Stivers (R-OH) and Susan Davis (D-CA), and introduced as an amendment to the House FY13 NDAA by Rep. Bobby Schilling (R-IL). *TRICARE for Kids* recognizes that children’s health care needs and standards of care are different from those of adults, and calls for a review of TRICARE policies and the development of a plan to ensure that TRICARE meets the pediatric-specific needs of military families and protects their access to these services and care settings. In addition, a special focus needs to be on improving access for special needs children and their families to community and health care resources.

“It is imperative that military families receive the proper services and medical treatment that their children need,” said Thomas K. McInerney, MD, FAAP, president of the AAP. “This important provision will ensure that TRICARE best meets the needs of these families and their children, especially children with special health care needs and chronic conditions.”

The Uniformed Services West Chapter would like to thank the Academy and Mr. Patrick Johnson from the AAP’s Department of Federal Affairs for their diligent and ongoing work on behalf of all military children and adolescents.

AAP Military Youth Medical Home and Deployment Support Web Site – the website will be a new version of the former Military Youth Deployment Support Website. There will be a new section dedicated to the Patient Centered Medical Home and updated content on advocacy, resources, and research on military kids issues. Look for the release in April – during the Month of the Military Child!!!! The current website can be viewed at www2.aap.org/sections/uniformedservices/deployment/index.html

Final Run of the Military Youth Deployment Support Video Program

On Feb 2nd, 2013 the final 50,000 copies of each video, Military Youth Coping with Separation: When Family Members Deploy and Mr. Poe and Friends Discuss Reunion After Deployment, were delivered to Military One Source. The United States Army Medical Command provided \$100,000 for the final distribution of the program and the Office of the Secretary of Defense pays shipping costs for the distribution of the video program to individuals, families and youth support organizations. To request hard copies of the videos, visit Military One Source at www.militaryonesource.mil or call 1 800 342-9647. This final distribution represents a 27 fold return on investment of the AAP's money for this program back in 2006 of \$20,000 to the Chapter through the AAP Healthy People 2010 Chapter Grant Program.

Resident CATCH (Community Access To Child Health) Corner

Check out the CATCH website: www.aap.org/catch for more details and project ideas. If you would like to discuss an idea for a project, please contact MAJ Thornton Mu, the Chapter West CATCH grant facilitator at thornton.mu@us.army.mil Please continue to consider CATCH grant funding for your next community projects especially in light of recent budget tightening measures.

Pediatric Research in an Office Settings (PROS)

If you are interested in participating in PROS or have questions the Uniformed Services West Chapter PROS coordinator is MAJ Roselynn Cuenca and can be reached at roselynn.cuenca@us.army.mil

Chapter Grant Coordinator

Norman J. Waecker, Jr., MD FAAP



Research Grants: The Uniformed Services West Chapter has been managing research and training grants for our members for the past 5 ½ years. We have successfully helped several investigators by accepting research and grant funds through the USW Chapter. We have helped in the implementation and managing of these projects. All proceeds from the grants have remained in the chapter to assist with administering current grants and for helping chapter members with future opportunities. Anyone interested in more information can contact either the Chapter Grant Coordinator, Norman J. Waecker Jr. MD. MPH, FAAP, at either pedsid@cox.net, or our Executive Director, Ms. Elina Ly, at elina.ly@med.navy.mil.

Young Pediatricians Network

What's New for Young (and Seasoned) Physicians

Request for Applications for COCME Position (DUE: 13 FEB 13) – The AAP Committee on Continuing Medical Education (COCME) is looking for a liaison from the Section on Young Physicians. The term is for 2-years and the AAP pays for your travel to meetings. Application (http://www.aap.org/en-us/about-the-aap/Committees-Councils-Sections/Section-on-young-physicians/Documents/InterestForm_COCME.doc), statement of interest, and a copy of your current CV is due to Barb Miller (bmiller@aap.org) by February 13, 2013.

Webinar – Pediatricians’ Newest Battle: Combating Food and Beverage Marketing in the Digital Era (FRI., 8 FEB 13 1200-1300 CST) – Register for a webinar for this Friday on food and beverage advertising and how this may impact the nutrition and screen time counseling you provide to your patients (<https://www3.gotomeeting.com/register/542660110>).

Webinar – Strengthening State Gun Laws: Strategies to Protect Children from Firearms (THUR., 14 FEB 13 1200-1300 CST) – Recent tragedies have brought this into the national media and you may be struggling with how to talk to your patients or how you can make a difference. Learn about the legislative strategies that states are exploring to reduce gun deaths and injuries, how current research views these strategies, and the role that the AAP chapters can play in representing the pediatric voice on this issue (<https://www3.gotomeeting.com/register/912792326>).

White House Petition on Gun Violence (Deadline: 21 FEB 13) – Speak up for children by signing a White House petition urging sensible policies to keep children safe. A pediatrician started a “We the people” petition on www.whitehouse.gov to urge federal leaders to enact sensible policies that protect children from gun violence. In order to elicit a White House response, the petition must receive 100,000 signatures by Feb. 21, 2013. Add your voice to the petition at <http://wh.gov/yNWY> and encourage friends and pediatrician-supporters to sign as well.

AF Adolescent Physician writes Pediatrics in Review Article on Energy Drinks – Dr. Kwabena Blankson, Maj, USAF, MC was the lead author in a *Pediatrics in Review* article published this month on energy drinks in teenagers. If you haven’t read it, check it out in this month’s issue, or listen to him on the Audiocast!

Attend AAP’s 2013 Legislative Conference in Washington, DC (28-30 APR 13) – The AAP has a wonderful legislative conference in Washington, DC every year that is designed to educate experienced and novice child health advocates about the AAP’s federal policy priorities through interactive skills-building workshops and in-depth training sessions. This conference provides an opportunity to understand how to better advocate for kids at the federal level and sometimes includes a chance to visit your Congressman in DC! Early-bird registration for the conference is \$550 (through 15 Mar 13). More info at: pedialink.aap.org/visitor/cme/cme_finder, enter “Legislative Conference” and search.

NRP Grant Opportunity (DUE 21 JUN 13) – 2013 Neonatal Resuscitation Program Research Grant and Young Investigator Award Call for Applications. This is an award designed to support basic science, clinical, educational, or epidemiological research pertaining to the broad area of neonatal resuscitation. This grant is only available to

residents, fellows-in-training, or those professionals who are no more than 4 years out of their training. More information at: http://www2.aap.org/nrp/science_RGP-YIA.html.

SoYP Plug – Another plug to join the Section on Young Physicians (SoYP). Currently, membership in the SoYP for US Chapter West is extremely low. The SoYP provides valuable guidance and resources for young physicians who are transitioning out of residency and fellowship, as well as to those who are within their first years of practice. The SoYP is the 2nd largest section of the AAP with over 2,000 members and membership is open to anyone age 40 or younger or within their first 5 years of practice. Plus...it **ONLY COSTS \$10** to join!!! For more information, visit their website at www.aap.org/ypn. I'm also happy to answer any questions about the Section, opportunities, or resources. E-mail me at: renee.matos@amedd.army.mil.

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:

Naval Medical Center San Diego
San Diego, CA 92134

Phone: 619-532-5233
Fax: 619-532-7617