

Dear Colleagues,

April is **National Volunteer Month** and I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all of you for volunteering your time and effort to improve the lives of children and families in Maryland! We are a year into the pandemic, and I know most of us are exhausted. Yet, as you read on, you will see that our members continue to not only survive, but to move forward and grow.

Our **MDAAP Committee to Achieve Anti-Racism, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion** is finalizing training on implicit bias for our members this summer. Some excellent resources have been shared with us, including [how to discuss racism in the office](#). This becomes more challenging every day as we hear almost daily of new episodes of violent racism, and we must educate ourselves in order to support our patients.

Several MDAAP members participated in a focus group on electronic information sharing with **Infants and Toddlers** to determine what specific feedback you would like to have after making a referral to early intervention. We recently held another focus group to review online training materials **on human trafficking**. The University of Maryland School of Social Work created these modules and will be offering us additional CME accredited training on this topic. More information on both topics to come.

April 12 was Sine Die, the end of our **legislative session** in Maryland. Our MDAAP lobbyist, Pam Metz Kasemeyer, provided us with a summary of the session at our General Membership meeting, and a summary of the session is attached. The **2021 National AAP Advocacy Conference** was held virtually on April 11-13 and the focus was on legislation to strengthen the VFC program, HR2347. We had a large delegation of 30 people and had the opportunity to meet with staff from Senator Cardin's and Senator Van Hollen's offices as well as several representatives. You can read more about this legislation and contact your representative [here](#).

COVID-19 vaccination is now open to all Marylanders 16 years of age and older, with the expectation that the Pfizer vaccine will soon receive emergency use authorization down to age 12 years. Our MDAAP Executive Committee and MDAAP Pediatric Council have been working with the Maryland Department of Health to plan for pediatrician involvement in vaccine administration. Please keep a lookout for a survey regarding your practice capabilities for storing and administering the vaccine.

Finally, **Congratulations to Dr. Cheryl DePinto and Dr. Joseph Wright!** Dr. DePinto has taken a position as the National AAP Senior Vice President for Primary Care and Subspecialty Pediatrics and Dr. Wright is a candidate for National AAP President-elect. We are fortunate to have strong leaders in our state!

Once again, thank you to all of our members for the excellent care you provide to Maryland's children and families. Please let us know how the MDAAP can continue to support you and your practice.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Debbie Badawi, MD, FAAP". The signature is cursive and somewhat stylized.

Debbie Badawi, MD, FAAP

MDAAP Chapter President

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