

Dear Colleagues,

I hope this finds you, your families and your colleagues and staff all well as we head into flu season and see COVID-19 cases rising. Many of our activities are focused on advocating for our members and their patients during the pandemic, but we are managing to get some other initiatives off the ground as well.

Thank you to Monique Soileau-Burke, Rachel Dodge and Celestino Menchavez for resuming our COVID-19 and Its Effect on Private Practice Pediatricians meetings. On October 19th we talked about concerns regarding PPE availability and had an excellent discussion with Drs. Geoff Rosenthal and Yvette Rooks on cardiac clearance for athletes who have had COVID-19. If you weren't able to join the meeting, you can view the recording at <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Mgetn2CvF1DeU407v-CjcxCd2glEVysH/view>.

We also sent out a **very brief survey** to members regarding SARS-CoV-2 testing capacity. This information is **critical** to help us advocate at the state level for pediatric support including availability of PPE and pediatric testing sites. Thank you to those of you who completed this!

Turning our attention from the pandemic, on October 26 we had our kick off for our family engagement grant. The goal of this grant is to find a way to engage family and possibly youth representation in the chapter. We had two excellent speakers, Pattie Archuleta from the Maryland Coalition for Families and Stacy Taylor from the Office for Genetics and People with Special Healthcare Needs in the Maryland Department of Health. We were also joined by members of other state chapters who have successfully integrated families. If you weren't able to join the meeting, you can view the recording at <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1eZsu9iVSVTElWdgsgm8MEO989b5gwZSX/view?usp=sharing>.

The Pritzker Children's Initiative funds collaboratives in 21 states to improve early childhood services. We have been chosen as one of 4 states who will be partnering with our Pritzker collaborative headed by the Maryland Family Network to improve collaboration between early childhood services and pediatricians. Goals include supporting medical home capacity, increasing referrals to early intervention, and educating parents about the importance of early childhood for healthy development. We

are in the early stages of this work and welcome participation from all who are interested. Please contact Loretta Hoepfner, MDAAP Executive Director at loretta@mdaap.org if you would like to become involved.

Legislative session is around the corner. The session will be virtual, and we anticipate legislation around telehealth. The Maternal Child Health task force completed its work this summer with Mel Stern as our representative, and one of the recommendations was to make MCH the 3rd goal in population health for Maryland's Improvement strategy with CMS and to create a standing MCH committee in the MDH. Both are in the works. Our Tuesday night legislative calls will start in January, so keep an eye out for the information from Loretta.

At our general membership meeting on October 15th, we heard from the Baltimore City Health Department regarding their flu initiative; from CRISP regarding a new Infants and Toddlers alert for high risk conditions and an optional immunization alert; and from the McKibben Group regarding information on safe gun storage for families. If you missed the meeting and would like this information, you can listen to the recording at <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1DjXwR0ruqq4xRRRwrkS76DdMq1rnBjmF/view>. Please let Loretta or I know if you have ideas for additional pediatric features in CRISP. We have a pediatrician there who is interested in working with us and want to take advantage of the opportunity!

Finally, I would like to **congratulate the many Award winners in our chapter**. We typically recognize individuals for their outstanding service during our Annual Meeting. This has been postponed until the spring or summer, but we would like to recognize people for going above and beyond!

- **Brian Corden, MD** received a National AAP award for Distinguished Service for his work as the Eastern Shore Regional Representative and an advocate for disaster preparedness for children.
- **Diana Fertsch, MD** received a National AAP award for Distinguished Service for her work as co-creator of the MDAAP Gun Violence as a Public Health Epidemic Task Force.

- **Mike Ichniowski, MD** received a National AAP award for Distinguished Service for his work as the Chair of our Environmental Health Committee.

Maryland Chapter Awards

- Leadership Award: This award goes to **Jim Campbell, MD, Susie Lipton, MD and Cheryl DePinto, MD** for their efforts on behalf of our chapter and Maryland children during the pandemic.
- Child Advocate Award: This award goes to **Vicki Tepper, PhD** for her decades of work on behalf of adolescents in Baltimore, particularly those at highest risk of adverse outcomes.
- Lifetime Achievement Award: This award goes to **Will Standiford, MD** for his outstanding commitment over a 50 year career caring for patients and teaching and mentoring students and residents.
- Pediatrician of the Year: This award goes to **Maria Brown, MD** for successfully leading the MDAAP through the challenges of a global pandemic and America's growing recognition of racial injustice.
- Special Achievement Award: This award goes to **Tina Cheng, MD** for her career of leadership in Maryland including her roles as Chair of Pediatrics at Johns Hopkins, and as co-chair of the Maryland Department of Health Task Force on Maternal and Child Health striving to make MCH a priority in Maryland.
- Michael Burke MD Mentorship Award: This award goes to **Maria Trent, MD** for her work in shaping the next generation of adolescent health scientists as the director of

the Adolescent Medicine Fellowship and Adolescent Reproductive Health Training Program at Johns Hopkins, and co-director of the SAHM Research and Mentoring Forum.

Finally, I would like to say a big **Thank You!** to Loretta Hoepfner and Ariana Rinda for keeping our organization running smoothly despite the challenges of our virtual world.

Thank you and wishing you all a safe and Happy Thanksgiving.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Debbie Badawi, MD, FAAP". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a distinct "D" at the start and "MD, FAAP" at the end.

Debbie Badawi, MD, FAAP

MDAAP Chapter President

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