



NOTES FROM THE CHAPTER PRESIDENT November 2009



Congratulations to Jerry Hirschfield, MD on his retirement. A true example for Idaho pediatrician's of what a pediatrician can and should be.

State Chapter News:

I plan to continue to visit practices around the state. This spring I met with pediatricians from Idaho Falls and Rexburg. They have felt isolated from chapter activities which occur in Boise. The executive committee for the chapter decided to have our summer meeting in different parts of the state. In June we will visit Idaho Falls with a dinner CME and business meeting and invite other eastern Idaho pediatricians to join in.

For the annual winter dinner and business meeting, on Thursday, February 18th Dr. Rodewald and Tiffany Tate from the Maryland Immunization Coalition will join us for a round table discussion on Immunizations. There will be more information coming soon regarding this evening!

For the summer meeting we hope to coax Dr. Paul Miles from the American Board of Pediatrics (who practiced in Twin Falls for decades) to explain the mysteries of the MOC (maintenance of certification) and QI projects.

Thank you to Perry Brown, MD for taking on the chapter's Legislative representative. He will help organize pediatric support or opposition to upcoming state legislative bills. Thank you to Andy Smith, MD for becoming the chapter's PROS representative (pediatric research in the office setting).

We still have open chapter positions. This just takes someone interested in an area and we will give plenty of state and national AAP support. Contact me through the chapter website: idahoaap.org or hardcrei@cableone.net.

- Someone interested in organizing a young physicians group for the Idaho Chapter; they have a web page accessed from the aap.org site.
- Someone interested in organizing a Chapter Pediatric Council to ensure adequate coverage for children in the private payer arena and ensuring adequate physician payment for Medicaid and schip.

A big thank you to those fellow pediatricians taking the reins as chapter representatives: Susan Bradford for Child Abuse, Naya Antink for Obesity, Susan Kim for Reach Out and Read, Elsa Lee for Breastfeeding, Kenny Bramwell for EMS, James Van Looy for Newborn Hearing, Kathy Stevens for Disaster Preparedness, and Steve Felix for the State Early Learning Council.

District and National News:

The district 8 meeting in Calgary this September stressed several areas:

- That the Medical Home concept, that we all embrace 'work toward a fully integrated system. This entails incorporating care coordinators and counselors in larger practices. Several states already pay pediatricians an additional per member per month amount for coordinating care for complex patients above the usual monthly per member fee. Also receiving payment for telephone consultation is being implemented in some states. As Idaho's economy improves we will pursue these re-imbursements.
- Much heat and some light were generated in discussing the new RSV prophylaxis guidelines. The AAP Committee on Infectious Disease feels that available data supports the shorter prophylaxis schedule for the 32-35 week preemie. At the same time a group of Idaho pediatricians, headed by Jennifer Merchant and Tom Rand made a statement to support the prior 5 dose guidelines. I'm sure Idaho Medicaid will make a swift decision on this.

Check our new website at idahoAAP.org. Thanks to our Executive Director, Sherry Iverson and her assistant, Meghan Sainsbury for this.

Thank you all for all you do for Idaho's kids.

Creighton Hardin
Pocatello Children's Clinic
President Idaho Chapter AAP