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Advocating for Kids

National Doctor's Day



March 30 is National Doctor's Day. We applaud you for all you do for Idaho's families and children.

Thank you!!

Advocating for Kids (cont.)

White Coat Day Report

Members of the Idaho AAP and Pediatric residents visited the Capitol on February 11. They observed the House H&W Committee and some met with legislators. Boxes of conversation valentine hearts with messages such as healthy kids is a healthy state were shared around the Capitol halls.



2025 Idaho AAP Award Recipients

We presented the following awards at our Winter Business/Awards Dinner on February 11. Congratulations to the recipients and thank you for all you do for the children and families in Idaho.

Pediatric Provider of the Year
Dr. Brian Birch

Child Advocate of the Year
Dr. Alejandro Necochea

Organization of the Year
Idaho Academy of Family Physicians



Social Media Update

Social Media Snapshot: January/February

January and February were standout months for Idaho AAP's social media performance. We gained **168 new followers**, bringing our total to **259**, reached **19,500+ views**, and reached **5,483 accounts** across. Compared to December, overall views increased by more than **4,400**, making January, and increased even more so in February across every performance category since we went live with social media.

A major highlight was the success of our **paid posts**, which altogether generated **67%** of our viewers. We will continue to post every vaccine-related post to help spread the information and encourage new followers. It will be exciting to see how well each of these paid posts performs in the future and how our account grows because of them.

Looking ahead to March, we have a lot of fun and meaningful content planned. As mentioned in the Winter Meeting at Cottonwood Grille, we are beginning to implement "**Safety Sundays**," featuring monthly safety messages, with the **first and last Sundays focused on SIDS and suicide prevention**. Throughout the month, we'll also be sharing **vaccine education, national awareness days and weeks**, and **seasonal safety reminders**, including injury prevention as families start spending more time outdoors, spring break travel safety, etc.

March also gives us the opportunity to highlight **National Nutrition Month, Sleep Awareness Week**, and **National Poison Prevention Week**.

Once again, I'm always open to content ideas. Please share any topics you think may resonate with our followers! If you come across a high-quality, trustworthy post on Instagram or Facebook that you think would be a good fit, feel free to DM me, and I'll do my best to feature it in our stories.

And finally, Idaho families are *lucky* to have YOU. 🍀 ❤️

March always makes me think of luck, and I feel incredibly lucky to have a job where I get to work alongside pediatricians and care teams who show up every day to keep kids safe, healthy, and thriving across our state. Excited to see what this next month brings!

Instagram: @idahoaapeditrics

Facebook: Idaho Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics

Isabel Edwards

Email: izzoblue10@gmail.com

Spotlight on a Chapter Member

Idaho AAP Chapter Champions and Open Positions

Our chapter has many openings for Chapter Champions, check out the list of needs and contact Sherry on how to get started.

Asthma	E-Cigarette/Vaping
Breastfeeding	Foster Care
CATCH Facilitator	Oral Health
Disaster Preparedness	

Dr. Mark Uranga – Vitamin K & Infant Bleeding

Thank you, Dr. Uranga for sharing the importance of Vitamin K:

<https://youtu.be/KMReJbCUk4o>

Welcome to New Members

Dr. Seth Branahl

Dr. Christopher Schow

Upcoming Educational Opportunities/Meetings/Events

April – National Child Abuse Prevention Month

April is Strengthening Families Month with the color blue and pinwheels representing awareness of child abuse and prevention. Some simple ways to participate include:

- * Display pinwheels in your clinic or outside in a pinwheel garden.
- * Wear blue once a week or definitely on April 8 which is the statewide awareness day.
- * Check out local activities for families by visiting Idaho Children's Trust Fund website.

If you are interested in pinwheels or window clings for your clinic, please contact Sherry Iverson at sherrydeeverson@gmail.com.

Strong Families, Safe Kids Fair



Friday, April 17
West Boise YMCA

Upcoming Educational Opportunities/Meetings/Events (cont.)

Save the Date! 2026 Pediatric Emergency Medicine Conference



PEDIATRIC EMERGENCY MEDICINE CONFERENCE 2026

JOIN US FOR TWO DAYS OF LEARNING, COLLABORATION, AND INNOVATION IN PEDIATRIC EMERGENCY CARE.

 OCTOBER 19–20, 2026

 ST. LUKE'S PLAZA ON PARKCENTER, CENTRAL PLAZA ROOM
800 E. PARK BLVD, BOISE, ID 83712

HOSTED BY ST. LUKE'S CHILDREN'S AND EMERGENCY MEDICINE OF IDAHO, THIS EVENT BRINGS TOGETHER HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS DEDICATED TO ADVANCING EMERGENCY CARE FOR CHILDREN.

FURTHER DETAILS AND REGISTRATION INFORMATION WILL BE SHARED SOON.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR AND PLAN TO BE PART OF THIS IMPORTANT EVENT!

Save the Date! Idaho Immunization Summit 2026



SAVE THE DATE

IDAHO IMMUNIZATION SUMMIT

 **Thursday, November 19, 2026**

 **8:30 AM - 5:00 PM**

 **Basque Center
601 W Grove Street
Boise, Idaho 83702**

Registration opens summer 2026.

Space will be limited!

 Idaho Immunization Coalition

Upcoming Educational Opportunities/Meetings/Events (cont.)

National AAP *This is my Why* Campaign

From the American Academy of Pediatrics

Introducing *Pediatricians: This Is My Why* Campaign

This year, the AAP is celebrating the expertise, compassion, and everyday heroism of pediatricians, pediatric medical specialists, and pediatric surgical specialists through the new *Pediatricians: This Is My Why* campaign. This yearlong celebration is built around authentic, personal stories shared by members across the country. To kick things off, watch [this powerful video](#) from AAP President Andrew Racine, MD, PhD, FAAP, who describes his "why" and how that inspires his work. The AAP invites all members to join the campaign by sharing their own "my why" story. Members can submit their story in any format: video; blog or written reflection; photo or slideshow; or something creatively and uniquely you.

These experiences will help shape a collective portrait of pediatricians and may be featured throughout the campaign, including in future roundups and at the AAP National Conference & Exhibition. Let's celebrate the calling of pediatrics – one story at a time. [Submit your 'My Why' content here](#).

By submitting your content, you give AAP permission to use, edit, and share it for marketing and promotional purposes across any media. You confirm that the content is yours and that everyone shown has agreed to appear.

Resources

Vaccine Grant Update

The Idaho Chapter has been the recipient of a vaccine grant from National AAP, running from October 2025 to May 2026. Our major focus is to help dispel myths regarding vaccines, and encourage the dialogue between parents and their trusted pediatricians to make the best decisions for their children.

We have implemented many strategies, from increasing our presence on social media with the hiring of Isobel Edwards. She has done a wonderful job posting 2-3 times a week. If you have not yet done so, please start following our chapter on Instagram [idahoaapeditrics](#). Liking, sharing and commenting on the posts helps us reach more parents.

Another objective of the grant was to provide tools to help providers talk with their families. Dr. Tom Patterson's son, Dean Patterson, designed a colorful tee shirt with the messages: "Vaccines give me Super Powers", "Capes not necessary".

The grant has funded a tee shirt for each one of our chapter members. To receive your free tee shirt, please e-mail Marilyn at idahoaap@gmail.com (you should be able to respond to the newsletter email) with your name, tee shirt size and mailing address. We also have a limited supply of super hero bow ties. Please let Marilyn know if you would like a bow tie.



Resources (cont.)

Vaccine Grant Update (cont.)

Our plan was to have your clinic staff wear these tee shirts maybe one day a week. We also have stickers available with “Vaccines give me super powers” that you can order to give to the kids in your practice. Practices can order 50 sticker bundles (up to 500 stickers) for free.

We have been working with Brigade Screen Printing to supply tee shirts for your office staff. There are two options with grey or white shirts in long or short sleeve. To order shirts for your clinic, please visit <https://brigade-screen-printing.printavo.com/merch/aap/>.

Next month we will have a toolkit for each clinic, that includes handouts, flyers and QR codes to send parents to our social platform and our parent landing page on our website. We are also planning some webinars to help provide the best way to build confidence in vaccines.

For any questions or ideas of what you need, please reach out to Sherry at 208-867-3533 or sherrydeeverson@gmail.com.

IOHA – Oral Health and Obstetrics – How Providers Can Help Patients with Oral Health During Pregnancy

The Idaho Oral Health Alliance is offering a 60-minute live web training with Q&A on March 24, March 25, and March 26. We hope you’ll sign up for one of these free trainings. Share the news with colleagues! Register by March 23: Register here by March 23:

Who: Midwives, Doulas, Family Practice team members, Community Health Workers, and all members of the OB team

What: This hour-long live webinar covers scientific rationale for oral healthcare during pregnancy, the role of prenatal providers in supporting patient health through oral health, screening questions to ask patients, patient education tips, and resources (including referral resources).

Why: Because oral health is absolutely intertwined with whole-person health, and dental care can be difficult to access during pregnancy, we hope this training will help you become more comfortable talking with your patients about oral health, looking in the mouth, and assessing immediate concerns that should be referred to dental providers. We also know that pregnant women don’t always understand how their oral health impacts their pregnancy and the early years of their baby’s life. Having a trusted provider explain the connections will help strengthen the health of both mother and child.

When: Choose a session! March 24 at 2:00 (MST), March 25 at noon (MST), or March 26 at 10:00 a.m. (MST). Or if you have a group of interested participants that need a different date or would prefer in-person group training, contact the IOHA to schedule something that meets your needs. Trainings are free. Participants will receive a certificate of participation, but no professional credit is available and sessions will not be recorded.

Bonus: The first 20 providers who register and complete a webinar session will receive some electric toothbrushes to distribute to patients who participate in oral health screenings.

Brought to you by the Idaho Oral Health Alliance, Idaho Smiles/MCNA Dental, and partners of the division of Maternal and Child Health within the Idaho Dept. of Health & Welfare. Developed as part of the Consortium for Oral Health, Building State Capacity for Integration Learning Collaborative.

IOHA Contact: info@idahooralhealth.org , Jennifer Wheeler, executive director
Register by March 23 at <https://www.idahooralhealth.org/ohow/>

Book Corner

The Grief Bubble by Kerry Debay

The Grief Bubble is a special workbook for children ages 6 and older who have experienced the death of someone special. The interactive format invites them to find expression for their thoughts and feelings, encouraging the exploration of their grief. A useful tool for parents, counselors, educators and other caring adults supporting children in grief.