

American Pediatric Society

Winter 2016-17 Newsletter

What's Inside

Volume 8, Issue 3

2 Joint Message from the APS President and Interim Secretary/Treasurer

3 APS Member Dr. Diana Bianchi named Director of NICHD

Deadline and qualifications for \$100,00 Taubman Prize

4 2016 Cures Act Brings Hope and Controversy for Medical Research

5 Pediatric Policy Council Washington, D.C. Update

Committee on Diversity & Inclusion (CODI) Report

6 Directorial Changes
News from *Pediatric Research Journal*

Bylaws Update

7 In Memoriam



APS: OUR MISSION AND VISION

Strategic Plan Committee Redefines Course for Society Endeavors

At this year's APS Fall Council Meeting held on October 29-31 at the Loews Hotel in Chicago, IL, one member priority rang out loud and clear: defining the purpose and future of APS.

During the Design Jam and Strategic Planning Retreat, Council examined member feedback and identified three key mandates of APS:

- Recognizing high impact scientific contributions and leadership
- Mentoring Advanced Level academic pediatric leaders
- Shaping the future of academic pediatrics

They then identified key priorities:

- Funding pediatric research
- Contextualizing the scope of funding
- Combining expertise with mission
- Creating a mentorship pipeline
- Enhancing diversity

These crucial elements combined to give the APS its definitive purpose:

The Mission:

Engaging distinguished pediatric leaders to shape the future of academic pediatrics

The Vision:

A secure future for academic pediatrics

The Identity:

High achievement and leadership in academic pediatrics



www.aps-spr.org

Joint Message from the APS President and Secretary-Treasurers

At the end of October, the APS Council held a highly successful Strategic Planning Retreat along with SPR leadership. The purpose of this meeting was to direct and refine the goals of the APS over the next 3-5 years. This is especially important as we now have additional financial resources as a result of a distribution of certain assets of the International Pediatric Research Foundation (which oversees *Pediatric Research*, owned by the APS, SPR and European SPR). In preparation for this meeting, we sent out an 8 question open-ended survey to our active APS members. The feedback we received was immensely helpful, and we want to thank each and every one of you for helping us move APS into the future.

We are pleased to welcome Dr. Bruce Gelb as Acting APS Secretary-Treasurer. Dr. Gelb was selected by Council to assume the position starting on December 1, 2016 while Dr. Christine Gleason is in Washington, DC doing a one-year Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Health Policy Fellowship.

We hope you will be joining us for the next PAS meeting on May 6-9, 2017, in San Francisco, CA. Abstracts are due on January 4, 2017. We have a number of [exciting programs](#) that comprise APS day at PAS on May 7, and look forward to seeing you there.

Warmly,

Drs. Batshaw, Gelb, and Gleason
APS Council



*APS Council President
Dr. Mark Batshaw*



*APS Secretary-Treasurer Dr. Christine
Gleason, on sabbatical*



*Acting APS Secretary-Treasurer
Dr. Bruce Gelb*

Calendar of Events

12/29/16 PAS Housing Open
Book Your Room >>>

1/4/17 PAS Abstract
Submissions Due
Guidelines >>>

2/1/17 APS Election Deadline
Current Officers >>>

2/15/17 Taubman Prize
Nominations Due
Submit >>>

3/18/17 Call For Membership
Applications (APS)
How To Apply >>>

5/6/17 - PAS 2017 Meeting
5/9/17 San Francisco, CA
Get Details >>>

6/7/17 Call For 2018 Howland
Award Nominations
Criteria >>>

APS Member Appointments and Honors

Dr. Diana Bianchi Named Director of NICHD

On August 25th, National Institutes of Health Director Francis S. Collins, M.D., Ph.D., announced the selection of Diana W. Bianchi, M.D., as director of the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD). Dr. Bianchi officially joined NIH on Oct. 31, 2016

[Read More >>>](#)

Dr. Carrie Byington New Vice Chancellor of Health at Texas A&M

Following an extensive national search, The Texas A&M University System Board of Regents has approved the appointment of Carrie L. Byington, M.D., to lead health education related efforts as Vice Chancellor for Health Services, Dean of the College of Medicine and Senior Vice President for the Health Science

Center at Texas A&M University.
[Read More >>>](#)

Dr. Steven Vermund Appointed Dean of Yale School of Public Health

Dr. Sten H. Vermund, a professor of pediatrics, medicine, health policy, and obstetrics and gynecology at Vanderbilt University, has been named by President Peter Salovey and School of Medicine Dean Dr. Robert J. Alpern as the next dean of the Yale School of Public Health. His term will begin Feb. 1, 2017.

[Read More >>>](#)

Dr. Susan Shurin Official APS Nominee for 2017 Joseph St. Geme Award

APS is pleased to announce that Dr. Susan B. Shurin is the society's nominee for the 2017 Joseph St. Geme Award, and wishes her the best of luck during final FOPO deliberations in February. She is currently Senior Advisor at the National Cancer Institute's Center for Global Health.



Dr. Diana Bianchi



Dr. Carrie Byington



Dr. Steven Vermund

Deadline for \$100,000 Taubman Prize on Feb 15, 2017



**CLICK HERE
TO NOMINATE**

The time is fast approaching to submit your nominee for the 2017 Taubman Prize for Excellence in Translational Medical Science!

Eligibility:

- Applicant must be clinician scientist with MD or MD/PhD
- International scientists are eligible; U-M scientists are not
- Self-nomination is permitted

- The recipient must be available to deliver the keynote speech at the Taubman Institute annual symposium on Oct 20, 2017

Judging Criteria:

- Significant contribution to translating basic research findings into medical practice
- The manner in which nominee's clinical activities connects to his or her laboratory research

A Landmark Agreement

President Barack Obama signs the 21st Century Cures Act, Tuesday, Dec. 13, 2016, in the South Court Auditorium in the Eisenhower Executive Office Building on the White House complex in Washington, surrounded by bipartisan advocates of the historic statute.

(AP Photo/Pablo Martinez Monsivais)



21st Century Cures Act Brings Hope, Controversy for Medical Research

On December 13, President Obama signed into law the largest piece of health care legislation since the Affordable Care Act. A result of rare bipartisan cooperation, the law – known as the 21st Century Cures Act – will likely significantly impact the way the FDA approves new drugs and medical devices. While it holds the potential to invigorate medical research, promote innovation and speed the development of new treatments for cancer and other chronic diseases, it also allocates monies for specific work in the areas of mental health services, opioid addiction, and eating disorders. The bill provides more than \$6 billion in funding and is a welcome relief to scientists who depend on funding from the National Institutes of Health to conduct important medical research.

Impact on Science and Health

The Cures Act injects the NIH with nearly \$4 billion in research dollars, allowing important research to continue and fueling future innovation. (A Congressional study from 2000 found that nearly 60 percent of the most important drugs on the market today resulted from NIH-funded research grants – such as the Human Genome Project.) The act also creates new requirements for the NIH to encourage scientists studying similar topics to collaborate, with the goal of increasing the volume of data on underrepresented populations. Additionally, the bill incentivizes drugmakers to develop new vaccines for pregnant women and make existing ones more

available. Finally, the act encourages pediatric drug development by allowing FDA-designated "rare pediatric disease" products the chance to be considered for a voucher until 2022.

Changes to the FDA

While the FDA prefers to use randomized controlled clinical trials – the most reliable type of evidence for approving new drug uses – RCTs are expensive to conduct and often take years to complete. The Cures Act would allow pharmaceutical companies to instead use "real world evidence" and "in house" registry data to show the drug also works for a new indication. Such "evidence" could be observational studies, which are less reliable than randomized trials, but are cheaper and take less time.

This is likely to result in a substantial cost savings, but opponents worry that the new policy may result in unsafe products making it to the market and putting patients at risk. Advocates argue that the current high costs related to FDA approval discourage innovation and keep smaller companies and entrepreneurial enterprises from entering the process.

"These changes will last for decades after the money is spent," says Colorado State Representative and act proponent Diana DeGette. "It's really not just bringing devices and drugs to market more quickly, but it's also being able to expedite the basic research behind the way we're developing these devices."

Committee on Diversity & Inclusion (CODI) Report

A Productive Year

The APS Committee on Diversity and Inclusion hosted a successful topic symposium at the PAS meeting in Baltimore, "Reaching for the Tipping Point for Equity and Inclusion in Academic Pediatrics," and is pleased to announce that Dr. Elena Fuentes-Afflick has been chosen to present two invited science sessions at PAS 2017 in San Francisco, CA: "The Elephant In Our Room: What strategies can be used to promote diversity and inclusion in Pediatrics?" and "Leading by Example: Pediatric Societies' Perspectives on Diversity and Inclusion."



Dr. Afflick discusses diversity endeavors with Dr. Batshaw at the 2016 Strategic Planning Retreat

The Committee recently bade a fond farewell to outgoing committee members Phyllis Dennerly and Fernando Mendoza, and welcomed two new members: Glenn Flores and Joseph Wright. We are grateful to all APS members who submitted their names for consideration.

Committee Chair: Elena Fuentes-Afflick, efuentes@sfgHPeds.ucsf.edu

Committee members: Mark Batshaw, Jose Cordero, Phyllis Dennerly, Christine Gleason, Danielle Laraque, Fernando Mendoza, Bruder Stapleton, Leslie Walker-Harding

[View Committee Charter >>>](#)



PEDIATRIC POLICY COUNCIL

Washington, DC Update

December 13, 2016

Congress Passes 21st Century Cures Package

- This historic bipartisan legislation made numerous provisions relevant to the child health community, including a PPC-supported requirement that the NIH track and report on the number of children enrolled in clinical trials. Although the NIH has had a formal policy since 1998 requiring this, it has failed to track and publish data on the numbers of children actually enrolled. The PPC has fought for years for such a provision to better understand diseases impacting children and their treatments.

NIH to Require Grant Recipients to Share Data

- In early November, National Institutes of Health (NIH) Director Francis Collins, MD, PhD announced that the agency will require applicants for federal research funding to submit a supplemental plan describing how data collected during their potential project will be shared with the public. The move follows a rule finalized earlier this year at the agency that requires any entities that conduct NIH-funded research to report their results on ClinicalTrials.gov, the federal clinical research database.

[Click Here](#) to read the full report.

NIH Leader Discusses New Trends in NIH Grant Applications and Awards

- On Nov. 4, National Institutes of Health (NIH) Deputy Director for Extramural Research Michael Lauer, MD released a post on his blog "Open Mike" on new trends in grant applications and awards at the agency. Lauer notes in the post that short-duration, lower-budget R21 grants have increased in popularity at a faster rate than traditional R01 grants. In addition, Lauer noted that despite the increase in popularity, R21 grants remain highly competitive and that only 34% of R21 awardees were new NIH investigators. The entire post may be found [here](#).

APS

Society News

Farewell to Association Director Brenda Peat



Brenda Peat

Dear APS Members,

As we journey into the new year, we'd like to take a minute to thank former APS Association Director Brenda Peat. For over 14 years, Brenda has helped keep the wheels of APS beautifully spinning. No matter what came her way—from tech changes, to organizational shifts, or the challenges specific to our field—she handled it all with the warm efficiency and graciousness that we've come to indelibly associate

with her. Her quiet thoroughness deftly stitched together all the different, brilliant pieces of fabric that make up this society.

Always cool under pressure, Brenda's dedication led to two official promotions: one in 2004 to Executive Secretary, and then to Association Director in 2014. Unofficially, she was our resident photographer and always our go-to person for the very best wine or food recommendations! Whatever she does, she does whole-heartedly and to perfection.

So it makes perfect sense that now, as she finds herself presented with an exciting new career opportunity, that she's decided to jump forward with gusto. We will miss her expertise and genuine care for all our APS members, and we

wish her the very best in her new venture.

If you'd like to send a message or well-wishes, you may send them to info@aps-spr.org with the subject line "For Brenda", and we'll make sure she receives them. Meanwhile, our Interim Association Director, Emily James, will continue APS on its yearly course, and ensure that its valued members continue to receive the information and assistance that her predecessor so expertly provided.

Thank you, Brenda. May your new colleagues enjoy and appreciate you every bit as much as we do.

Warmly,

Central Office Staff

Pediatric Research To Gain Two New Sections

Dr. Cynthia Bearer and Dr. Eleanor Molloy are pleased to announce two new sections that broaden the



INTERNATIONAL PEDIATRIC
RESEARCH FOUNDATION

scope of *Pediatric Research*: "Quality Improvement" and "Environmental Health."

The "Quality Improvement" section will take account of pediatric methods currently in use and focus on improvements to provide greater comfort and care to patients. The Editor of this section will be Dr. Peter Lachman, Chief Executive Officer of the International Society for Quality in Healthcare (ISQua).

"Environmental Health" centers on the types of exposures children face today and their mechanisms of toxicity, and includes everything from air pollutants to environmental disasters. The new Section Editor is Dr. Deborah Cory-Slechta, a professor at the University of

Rochester in the Department of Environmental Medicine and Pediatrics.

We welcome Dr. Lachman and Dr. Cory-Slechta to the team!

Updates To Bylaws Pass With Near Unanimity

Your votes are in, and the 2016 updates to the APS Bylaws have met with record member approval.



This rare update resulted in unusually extensive revisions, and aimed at both modernizing and streamlining the inner workings of the society. The most important change allows for email, texting, and online polls to be used for future communications—including bylaws revisions!

[CLICK HERE](#) to read the new bylaws.

In Memoriam

James R. McKay, Jr., MD



Dr. McKay of Barnet, VT, passed away on November 23, 2012. He was born in New York City, graduated from Princeton and went on to get his medical degree from Harvard. He also enhanced his educational experience with a year of study in Germany, returning there during World War II as Battalion Surgeon during the Battle of the Bulge and other advances into Germany, where he was awarded the Bronze Star. After the war, he completed his pediatric training at Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center in New York and at Harvard Medical School. At the University of Vermont College of Medicine, he founded and became 33-year department chair of the Department of Pediatrics, one of the most respected departments in the country, and was Professor Emeritus before his retirement. He was involved in many clinical, research, consulting, professional and academic activities; including the American Pediatric

Society (APS) and the Society for Pediatric Research (SPR).

[Read Obituary >>>](#)

James A. Wolff, MD

Dr. Wolff of Pompano Beach, FL, passed away on December 24, 2012. Prior to completing his first year of his internship at Lenox Hill Hospital, he served in Italy during World War II as a Captain (medical officer) in the U. S. Army. He administered blood and plasma transfusions to casualties on the



frontline, and this work spurred his interest in the field of Hematology. Because of his bravery on the battlefield, he was awarded a silver star for heroism. Returning to Boston to work with Dr. Louis Diamond and Dr. Sidney Farber at Boston Children's Hospital, he participated in groundbreaking research in hematology/

oncology and made one of the most important discoveries in pediatric medicine in the 20th century by systemically administering a simple compound, aminopterin, to children with leukemia, causing remission. Dr. Wolff returned to New York City and joined the staff of Babies Hospital at the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Columbia University, where eventually he was appointed the first full-time Director of Pediatric Hematology and eventually became Professor Emeritus until his retirement in 1981. In 1991, his revolutionary work was recognized through the establishment of the cancer-centric James A. Wolff Professorship in the Department of Pediatrics at Columbia University. He was an Emeritus member in both the American Pediatric Society (APS) and the Society for Pediatric Research (SPR).

[Read Obituary >>>](#)

William E. Harmon, MD

Dr. Harmon of Boston, MA, passed away on May 29, 2016. He was Professor of Pediatrics at Harvard Medical School.

He was engaged in many aspects in the field of pediatric nephrology, which began in 1971 at Boston Children's Hospital, where he was appointed the first Director of the Hemodialysis Unit. He was involved in several aspects of education, research, patient care, and administrative leadership. A world-wide lecturer and educator of more than 65 pediatric nephrology fellows he trained at Boston



Children's Hospital over a 38-year period. He became a voice heard by the legislation regarding end-stage renal disease (ESRD), making the care of children requiring kidney transplants and dialysis a top priority. He served in many capacities in some of the most prominent societies including the American Pediatric Society (APS), American Society of Pediatric Nephrology (ASPN - Founders' Award recipient), American Society of Transplantation (AST) and North American Pediatric Renal Transplant Cooperative Study (NAPRTCS).

[Read Obituary >>>](#)

[Remembrance by Dr. Richard Fine>>>](#)

John D. Snyder, MD



Dr. Snyder of Washington, DC, passed away on July 20, 2016. He graduated from UC Santa Barbara and received his medical doctorate from the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA. After medical school, he worked for the CDC in several developing countries, fighting enteric diseases. He completed his internship and residency at Duke University in general pediatrics after just three years, and received his fellowship training at Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston, in pediatric gastroenterology. After transfers to San Francisco and then Washington DC, he became Chief of Gastroenterology, Hepatology, and Nutrition at Children's National Health System. He did considerable work regarding infant nutrition and international child health and served on the World Health Organization's International Roster of Experts in Pediatric and Maternal Health. He also was a member of both APS and SPR.

[Read Obituary >>>](#)