

## From the Chair of the AAP Section on Cardiology & Cardiac Surgery

The Section on Pediatric Cardiology and Cardiovascular Surgery sessions of the American Academy of Pediatric National Conference and Exhibit are to be held on November 2-4 in Orlando, Florida. This year's program is a very interesting one that focuses on quality, public policy, and the principles of electrophysiology. The sessions include a very unique session to kickoff our Friday morning conference entitled, "Safety, Quality Improvement and Value in Pediatric Cardiology." This session, moderated by Dr Jeffrey Anderson and Dr Tess Saarel, will cover the current state of measurement and improvement of safety, clinical outcomes, and value within the fields of pediatric cardiology and cardiothoracic surgery. Four first-time abstracts will be presented during this session and the winner of this abstract competition will receive the Quality Improvement Award from the Section.

After this unique Quality Session, the section will host the Young Investigator Abstract Presentations. There are a variety of abstracts to be presented during this session. The winners will be given the Pediatric Cardiology Young Investigator Award. After the Young Investigator Session, the Cardiology Banquet will be held at Cuba Libre. This is a great opportunity to renew old friendships and make new ones. Saturday's afternoon session is entitled, "AAP and Advocacy in the World of Pediatric Medicine." We have secured two special speakers, Dr Colleen Kraft, the President of the American Academy of Pediatrics and Mark DelMonte, JD, Interim CEO of the American Academy of Pediatrics. This session is being provided to alert all meeting attendees of all that the American Academy of Pediatrics does in advocacy for children as well as provide many of those in attendance with unique new opportunities to be involved in advocating for our patients. Sunday morning begins with the announcing of the Awards of the Children's Heart Foundation Research Fellowship as well the Children's Cardiomyopathy Foundation Research Award.

The highlight of the meeting is the Founders Award Introduction. The Founders Award this year is going to Dr Jane Newburger, the Commonwealth Professor of Pediatrics at Harvard Medical School and Associate Cardiologist-in-Chief for Academic Affairs at Boston Children's Hospital. Her research has focused on prospective clinical studies, including multidisciplinary prospective randomized trials and prospective cohort studies. She has made seminal contributions in two fields: evaluation and therapy of Kawasaki disease and neurodevelopmental outcomes in children with congenital heart disease. Dr Newburger received the 2007 Distinguished Scientist Award (Clinical) of the American College of Cardiology (ACC), Mentor of the Year Award from the ESPR in 2008, the 2009 Meritorious

Achievement Award of the Cardiovascular Disease in the Young Council of the American Heart Association (AHA), and the 2009 Clinical Research Prize from the AHA. She is an author of more than 400 original peer-reviewed manuscripts, chapters, and reviews. She has served in leadership roles in a broad array of national organizations and journal editorial boards. She has served on leadership councils of the AAP, ACC, and AHA, and served as the program chair for annual sessions of the AAP and ACC. She chaired the AHA Committee on Rheumatic Fever, Endocarditis and Kawasaki disease, and has served as an author on numerous AHA scientific statements or guidelines. She was Associate Editor and then Senior Editor of *Circulation* during the 12 years that it was based in Boston, and also served on the NHLBI Advisory Council of the NIH. Dr Newburger has mentored generations of trainees, many of whom are now themselves academic leaders. Our final sessions will be a joined AAP and Pediatric and Adult Congenital Electrophysiology Society Meeting where the President of PACES Dr Bryan Cannon will give a talk as well as Dr George Van Hare, the President of Heart Rhythm Society. In addition to these unique sessions, there are also poster sessions and the Pediatric Cardiology Dinner which will be held on Friday evening.

In addition to the upcoming AAP National Conference and Exhibit, the Section on Pediatric Cardiology & Cardiovascular Surgery has been extremely busy working on your behalf. Through the assistance of Dr Jonathon Johnson and Juan Villafane, the Publications Committee has put out a new textbook entitled, "Common Cardiac Issues in Pediatrics." The section has also updated the healthychildren.org website for the American Academy of Pediatrics and has reviewed numerous statements from other sections in pediatrics that have involvement in pediatric cardiology. The Membership Committee chaired by Drs Antonio Cabrera and Rusty Rodriguez has put through an initiative to have all members of the American Academy of Pediatrics that are pediatric cardiologists brought into The Section on Pediatric Cardiology. This has increased the number of members to over 900 current active members of the Section of Pediatric Cardiology. They have also initiated PREP:Cardiology and ensure that all fellows in training get this added value for free with their membership into the American Academy of Pediatrics Section on Cardiology.

A new committee in the Section of Pediatric Cardiology & Cardiovascular Surgery is Development. This is chaired by Dr Jeffrey Vergales. Dr Vergales has assisted the section with raising funds to help support our Pediatric Cardiology Board Review Training Course as well as the AAP Annual Meeting with sponsors ranging

from Cincinnati Children's Heart Institute, Cardiac Networks United, Children's Minnesota, Scientific Software Solutions, LocusHealth, Prolacta Bioscience, and Silvergate Pharmaceuticals.

In addition to this, the American Academy of Pediatrics Section on Cardiology has also had some outreach to other countries during the past year. We've had a representative give a number of talks at the Argentine Society of Pediatrics regarding cardiology, the future of pediatric cardiology, and a comparison of pediatric cardiology in the practices in United States and in Argentina. Two members also went to Panama and spoke at the Panamena Society of Pediatrics and discussed issues from how to interpret an ECG to how to diagnose and treat pulmonary hypertension.

As you can see, the section has been extremely busy over the past year. I consider it an extreme pleasure to serve all of you and the families and children of the patients we care for in this extremely important role. I hope to see you all in Orlando and if any of you have

any questions regarding the direction of the section, please do not hesitate to reach out to me at [Christopher.snyder@uhhospitals.org](mailto:Christopher.snyder@uhhospitals.org)

Sincerely,

Christopher S. Snyder, MD

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