

## What's New in Chapter 2? June 2008

American Academy of Pediatrics

DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN™



New York Chapter 2

Dear AAP NY Chapter 2 Member,

### *COMMUNICATION IS KEY*

Your chapter leadership is pleased to email you this update featuring a few of NY Chapter 2's recent activities. We will send them to you periodically (about 4 times a year), and promise not to overwhelm your Inbox!

### *WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU TOO!*

Please contact us with your comments, suggestions, and concerns so we can serve you better!

President – Ishvar Patel – [ispatel@pol.net](mailto:ispatel@pol.net)

Vice President – Bram Jelin – [bramjel@aol.com](mailto:bramjel@aol.com)

Secretary – Richard Ancona – [brnped@verizon.net](mailto:brnped@verizon.net)

Treasurer – Marc Lashley – [vspeds@optonline.net](mailto:vspeds@optonline.net)

Executive Director – Jessica Geslani – [jgeslani@aap.org](mailto:jgeslani@aap.org) (NY Chapter 2 Office: 516-326-0310)

### **1) Health Information Technology CME Program – Building a Better Practice**

NY Chapter 2 held a free CME dinner program for our members and their office managers on May 22, 2008 entitled “Taking HIT to the Next Level.” Dr. Sal Volpe talked to our members and their staff about integrating electronic medical records and electronic prescribing technologies into their practices, which can save tens of thousands of dollars. The evaluations were glowing and attendees were excited to begin working on incorporating new technology into their practices. This meeting was facilitated by the Medical Society of the State of New York with funding from the NYSDOH.

### **2) Pediatric Council – Working with Insurers**

NY Chapters 2 and 3 are working together in many ways, including a new and improved Pediatric Council! A Pediatric Council is a forum for pediatricians and the payers to discuss insurance coverage issues. Its goal is to facilitate communication between pediatricians and health insurance plans in order to improve the quality of and access to health care for children, obtain more appropriate coverage for pediatric services, and simplify and expedite health plan claims adjudication.

On April 10, 2008, the Pediatric Council met with the VP of Empire Blue Cross, Dr. John Whitney, and the Director of Provider Network Management, Mr. Cliff Omstrom, at their Albany offices. Agenda items included the preventative services schedule, screening mandates, bundling, throat cultures, lactation consultants, and immunization payment updates. The meeting was both cordial and productive. It was agreed that vaccine prices will be adjusted on a monthly basis. A future meeting with Empire is planned, in addition to a meeting with Oxford and United Health in Manhattan this summer.

\*\*\* ACTION: The Pediatric Council would like suggestions for agenda items to bring to insurance companies' attention. Please forward your suggestions to Jessica Geslani at [jgeslani@aap.org](mailto:jgeslani@aap.org). \*\*\*

### **3) Annual Leadership Forum (ALF) – Helping to Direct the AAP's Future**

The Annual Leadership Forum allows the grass roots membership to communicate and make suggestions to the National AAP's Board of Directors. This national meeting includes leadership from Chapters, Committees, Sections and Councils. At the meeting resolutions authored by AAP fellows are discussed and voted upon.

\*\*\* ACTION: Any AAP Fellow can write a resolution! Guidelines can be found here: <http://www.aap.org/moc/displaytemp/GuidelinesforSubmittingResolutions.pdf>, also, you can contact NY Chapter 2 for assistance with your resolution. \*\*\*

Your chapter officers attended this year's Annual Leadership Forum on March 13-16 in Chicago, IL. Four resolutions were proposed by NY Chapter 2, and three were approved.

1. Bram Jelin proposed a resolution calling on the Committee on Nutrition to develop a policy statement about the safety and efficacy of artificial sweeteners in children's diets. (Passed)
2. Warren Seigel proposed a resolution calling on the AAP to support expedited partner therapy for Chlamydia infection. There was some concern about liability; however given that such therapy is now standard practice, physicians may be liable if they do not offer partners appropriate therapy. (Passed)
3. Larry Galinkin proposed a resolution calling for a policy concerning unsupervised and undersupervised teen parties. (Passed)
4. Marc Lashley proposed a resolution asking the AAP to explore ways to increase local chapter membership. (Defeated) Although this particular resolution did not pass, chapter membership was a focus of many sessions at the ALF.

Visit the Members' Only Channel on the AAP website to see which other resolutions passed and to read more extensively about those mentioned above: <http://www.aap.org/moc/displaytemp/topten08.pdf>.

Other noteworthy events at the ALF included:

- The introduction of the AAP President-Elect candidates: Judith Palfrey of Massachusetts and Colleen Kraft of Virginia. Both candidates were impressive and spoke to the attendees and answered questions in an open forum. You can read what they have to say in "AAP News."
- James Stockman elaborated in detail the newly devised maintenance of certification requirements of the American Board of Pediatrics. A closed book test will be required only once every ten years but on-going activity will be required in the intervening years. You can look at the Board's website for further details – [www.abp.org](http://www.abp.org). These requirements will be relevant for those with lifetime certifications since state licensing boards may be requiring maintenance of certification in the near future.
- Congratulations to our sister chapter, NY Chapter 3, for winning an Outstanding Chapter Award in the large chapter category! What an honor!