

Pittsburgh Pediatric Society Newsletter

June 2007

This is the second Pittsburgh Pediatric Society Email Newsletter. The first was sent in April, and we did receive a few nice comments on the mailing. As with all mailings, there are occasional complaints: I didn't receive mine. So this will be a test of everyone's email address. Those not received will be sent by fax or otherwise so that we may determine everyone's correct email address. With the increase of the postal rates, the Society is doing everything possible to keep expenses down and sending communications by email really helps. Again, please don't hesitate to contact any of the Pittsburgh Pediatric Society board members for comments, questions or suggestions. Please contact us through the society at (peds@acms.org) or email addresses below. Bill Coppula

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Recent Meeting – a round table discussion held March 1 was considered to be a success. Alcon Pharmaceuticals provided boxed lunches and the members discussed issues relevant to the everyday demands of a pediatric practice. The society at the same time obtained a new member application. A similar meeting was held at the Panera Bread Co., Washington Road in Mt. Lebanon on Tuesday, June 26. Though attendance was less than anticipated, discussion was lively and appeared to be worthwhile to those in attendance. Astra Zeneca provided food for the meeting.

National Committee Releases Recommendations for Management of Obesity

National experts representing 14 organizations (including the AAP) released recommendations for the management of overweight and obese children. For the 9-page report of assessment, treatment and prevention protocols, go to:
http://www.ama-assn.org/ama1/pub/upload/mm/433/ped_obesity_recs.pdf

Society Childhood Obesity project

Society members Scott Serbin, Rich Filiaggi, Tony Kovatch, Kathy Shepard and Katarina Zavaras have volunteered to participate in the project. A meeting is scheduled to plan the approach to local schools and parents by these physicians and will be led by Don Fischer. Tool kits provided to physicians from Highmark will be utilized in preparing for discussions. The obesity project members are exploring other organizations and projects that would be supportive and cooperative of the Pediatric Society's plans. If you are interested in assisting with this project, please contact Mary Carrasco.

Toy Drive

Initial information regarding the 5th Annual New Toy Drive will be sent in August. Frequent reminders will be sent to society members in an attempt to improve on last year's contribution to Allegheny County's Youth and Family Services new toy drive. In an attempt to make it easier for members to make donations, the society will accept credit card donations.

Asthma Camp – The Society has been approached by Astra Zeneca to support and participate in its “For your good health asthma camps”. There has been a “Shoot for your good health asthma basketball camp” since 2004, but despite good success, the number of participants has remained small and varied from year to year, and improvement in disease outcomes has not been clearly demonstrated. The goal of the program is to reduce or eliminate emergency department visits and school absenteeism by attracting and retaining camp attendees with difficult-to-control asthma. This program is for 8 to 14-year-old children who have either missed school or visited a hospital emergency department within the past year. The Pittsburgh Public School Nurses have recently signed on to assist with the program. As discussions move forward, you will be informed of the referral process and how you can help with the actual events. In order to obtain outcome improvement, retention of attendees is important. The program will be looking for reinforcement of a child's participation by their pediatrician. Your encouragement will count toward success of the program.

Allegheny County Immunization Coalition

Thursday, October 4, 2007, is the date of the immunization conference. The program will again be held at the Greentree Holiday Inn at a cost of \$25 for professionals and \$10 for students. Dr. Gary Marshall, University of Louisville School of Medicine, will be the keynote speaker and his presentation is “Addressing parental concerns about vaccination”. Other speakers include Drs. Pamela Murray (Gardasil and teen immunizations) and Samuel Stebbins (adult immunization in promoting community immunity and preparedness). The

program will also include an update on the new info regarding PA-SIIS, vaccines and local immunization rates.

District III Immunization Practices Survey

The District III leadership is interested in learning the experiences and problems practitioners are having with HPV, rotavirus vaccine, meningococcal vaccine, Tdap, varicella influenza and Hep A. Please complete an anonymous online survey at: <http://dermatlas.med.jhmi.edu/survey/view.cfm?Survey=Yes&SurveyID=211>
The survey should take about 15 minutes or less.

Pediatric Society and PROCAP

As reported in the last newsletter, September meetings will be held in conjunction with the Pittsburgh Regional Organization of Child and Adolescent Psychiatrists. This September's meeting will feature a speaker on bullying. As definite plans are made, the information will be forwarded to you.

Are you up to Date on the Legal Requirements of Mandated Reporters?

Recent changes to the Child Protective Services Law regarding mandated reporting of suspected child abuse have a direct impact on all pediatric practice staff. Call 1-866-823-7226 or email SCAN@paaap.org to schedule the 45 minute Suspected Child Abuse and Neglect (SCAN) Express continuing education program to learn what your new legal responsibilities include.

SCAN presentations are provided on site at no charge and fall under the category of Risk Management; practices that schedule a presentation receive a Child Abuse Office Kit and continuing education credit for both physicians and nursing staff. SCAN presentations are also available on site for hospital staff. If you think your local hospital would be interested in a presentation, please send this information to them. For any questions, contact Theresa Olsen, SCAN Program Director, at tolsen@paaap.org

SCAN is an EPIC (Educating Physicians in their Communities) program of the PA Chapter AAP.