

The New Executive Director



The Board of Directors of NY District II is pleased to announce the appointment of **George M. Dunkel** as the new Executive Director of AAP District II (New York State). He began working for the District on December 2,

2002. George started his career in organized medicine fresh out of undergraduate school as the CME Coordinator of the Westchester County Medical Society (WCMS). Throughout his eight year tenure at WCMS, he wore many hats, and finally became the Assistant Executive Director. In 1998, in a homecoming of sorts, he became the Executive Director of the Dutchess County Medical Society.

It was in this position that he became very involved in projects concerning children and underserved populations. George actively participated in many community coalitions that dealt with the health and well being of children and society in general. Most importantly, George relates that he and his wife Jill first met at a meeting of the Tobacco-Free Action Coalition. After four years of educating and lobbying, the Coalition finally helped to pass comprehensive smoke-free restaurant and workplace legislation.

George and Jill currently live in the town of Lagrange. He looks forward to working with AAP members throughout the state to make New York a better place for kids and pediatricians. George is interested in hearing from the membership on ways that he can help improve their practice of medicine. Please feel free to contact him at (516) 326-0310 or at gdunkel@aap.org.

New Year's Resolution: Time to Take Action on HIPAA!

If you have been procrastinating on looking into what steps and actions are necessary to comply with the federal Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA), in particular, HIPAA's electronic transactions, privacy, and security requirements, it's time to move HIPAA to the top of your "To Do" list for 2003.

The first critical date had to do with HIPAA's national standards for electronic health care transactions and code sets. October 16, 2002 was the deadline for entities covered by HIPAA (including medical practices that file electronic claims or otherwise conduct electronic transactions) to comply with these standards. However, pursuant to a December 2001 law, entities covered by HIPAA could have applied for an extension to October 16, 2003. In order to qualify for this extension, a covered entity must have submitted a compliance plan by October 15, 2002. If you filed for an extension, you should proceed with your compliance efforts, as the law requires that testing of your software and systems for compliance with the electronic transaction standards and code sets begin no later than April 16, 2003.

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Reflections and Transitions

The District Chairman Writes:



A new year - a time to reflect on where we've been, where we are, and where we're going. The past year has been an operational challenge, but we are thrilled to have a new District Executive Director, **George Dunkel**. Along with our very capable District Administrative Coordinator, **Jessica Schmidt**, George will bring us to a more productive level of performance in addressing the needs of children and pediatricians in NYS.

Access to quality health care for all children in our state, and in our entire country, is not yet a reality. We have made incremental improvements in that struggle but we still have a way to go. This January, the AAP will have a retreat in Washington, DC, at which representatives from businesses, foundations, unions, insurers, government and the AAP will come together to determine what is feasible and doable in our current financial environment in order to accomplish our ultimate goal of universal access to quality care for children.

In the June 2002 edition of "New York State Pediatrician" I wrote about immunizations and delineated some of the challenges that we were facing. We continue to face challenges in vaccine supply, vaccine safety, and the threat of bioterrorism. We are expanding our efforts to educate clinicians, parents, and elected officials using accurate, scientifically-based information. This past November we had a Vaccine Safety Summit in Cooperstown, NY for clinicians from the entire state of New York that was supported by the NYSDOH and jointly sponsored by District II, AAP, the AAFP and MSSNY. (See page 3 for more information.)

In the September 2002 edition I discussed infinite needs, difficult problems and finite resources. As we enter the new year, the budgetary problems facing our state will challenge our ability to continue to deliver quality services. At the *Campaign for Healthy Children's agenda setting meeting in January 2003, the members of the campaign will be faced with looking for new ways to maintain quality care for children, as well as ensuring fair and adequate reimbursement for pediatricians.

The difficult problems that we were facing continue to be difficult, the finite resources are decreasing, and the infinite needs continue. Let's all work together to focus on our priorities, find viable solutions, and realize our goals.

*The Campaign for Healthy Children is a joint project of the American Academy of Pediatrics, District II, and Statewide Youth Advocacy. The Campaign's goal is to secure a quality medical home for every child.

- **Robert M. Corwin**

New Year's Resolution: Time to Take Action on HIPAA! *continued from page 1*

If you are a covered entity under HIPAA, but failed to submit a compliance plan by October 15, 2002, you must be compliant with the HIPAA electronic health care transactions and code sets standards now. If a complaint should be made to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) (the agency charged with enforcing the transactions and code sets standards), alleging your non-compliance, CMS will check to see if you filed for an extension by October 15th. If you did not, CMS will contact you to determine if you are compliant with the transactions and code sets that have been established. If you are not, CMS will ask that you enter into a corrective action plan to work towards compliance. Failure to make good faith efforts towards compliance, i.e., refusing to enter into a corrective action plan, could result in sanctions.

Meanwhile, the requirements of HIPAA that relate to privacy of protected health information (PHI) continue to have a compliance date of April 14, 2003. Final modifications to the HIPAA privacy regulations were adopted August 14, 2002, so there is no excuse to put off any longer taking steps to comply. These steps include reviewing how PHI flows throughout and out of your organization; who your "business associates" are and what written agreements with your business associates need to be prepared or amended; preparing a notice of your privacy practices and an authorization form; developing policies and procedures regarding your handling of PHI, including providing patients with the required access, amendment, and accounting rights; establishing a complaint process; and training your staff on your policies and procedures, all by the April 14, 2003 compliance date.

While there is no question that HIPAA constitutes a bureaucratic quagmire, it is a reality. More important, it is the law. HIPAA requirements are not particularly complicated but they are tedious. (See "Chapters on the Move" on pages 4-5 to learn about upcoming HIPAA seminars in your area, or call your local Chapter Office.)

- Michael J. Schoppmann, Esq.
Kern Augustine Conroy & Schoppmann, P.C.

New York Plans Statewide Immunization Registry; NYC Registry Online

Since 1997, the New York City Department of Health has operated the Citywide Immunization Registry (CIR), a central, computerized record-keeping system that maintains the immunization records of NYC's children. The NYC Health Code requires NYC providers to report all immunizations administered to children age seven or younger. As of October 2002, the CIR included more than 2 million children and over 14 million immunizations.

Now, New York State's Commissioner of Health, **Antonia C. Novello**, MD, MPH, has announced plans for developing a statewide registry. Based on its experience with four different regional registry pilot projects, the State believes it has solutions for the issues of confidentiality of patient records, methods to uniquely identify children in the registry, and data entry; and that it has demonstrated the feasibility and usefulness of accessible, computerized immunization information.

State officials point out that registries offer many potential benefits. When parents move or change jobs, their insurance coverage can change, which may require a change in doctors and result in a fragmented medical record. When medical appointments are missed or provider recall systems fail, children may ultimately be under immunized.

Missing information can result in a missed opportunity for immunization or in over-immunization. A registry that provides timely and accurate immunization information for each child improves the physician's ability to ensure that his or her patients are properly immunized. A registry can consolidate information from multiple providers, generate authoritative immunization records for required forms, thereby decreasing administrative burdens on the individual physician, remind parents about upcoming immunizations, and generate recall notices after missed appointments. Public health officials also benefit by having crucial information for controlling vaccine-preventable disease outbreaks, streamlining vaccine management, and identifying communities or areas with low rates of immunization.

Some of these benefits are being realized in NYC where last June the CIR launched the Online Registry, giving health care providers access to the immunization records of their patients via the Internet. Providers can look up the records, see which immunizations have been given previously and view recommendations of

immunizations due now. Providers may also use the Online Registry to report the immunizations they administer, as well as immunization histories, and print out official immunization records to be used for school, day care, and/or camp entry, or to be stored in the child's chart. Providers may also fax immunization records to other providers using the Online Registry. Licensed health care providers in New York State are encouraged to call the CIR at 212-676-2323 to obtain a user ID and password for access to the Online Registry.

Also in June, the CIR Web File Repository (WFR) application was introduced to facilitate electronic reporting by providers. Using WFR, a Web-based electronic file transfer solution that fully encrypts data in transit from the provider's desktop to the CIR's Web server, health care providers can easily send batch files generated from their office billing, encounter or clinical management systems to the CIR via the Internet.

Developing a population-based computerized registry is a complex process, as New York City physicians have learned. Now, as we advance further into the electronic age, New York physicians who practice outside the city will soon have the opportunity to participate in the newest development of a key information system for pediatrics.

Editor's note: Visit the CIR's website at www.nyc.gov/health/cir to learn about their services. Providers and parents can call for CIR information at 212-676-2323, Mon.-Fri., from 8am to 5pm.

Cooperstown "Summit" on Vaccine Safety Issues

In early November, nearly 100 individuals representing AAP District II, the New York State Academy of Family Physicians, and MMSNY met at Cooperstown to hear a number of experts discuss various aspects of vaccine safety, and how concerns about it, both realistic and unrealistic, are being addressed. Recognizing that primary care physicians need assistance in dealing with families' questions and the media, the New York State Department of Health's Immunization Program reached out to professional leaders around the state to give them useful information and material on the issues which they in turn can share with practitioners in the field. Look for announcements about upcoming conferences on immunization. To schedule presentations in NYC, call **Sheila Palevsky** at 212-676-2264.

CHAPTERS ON THE MOVE

Chapter 1: Focus on Education

I'm excited by the direction that our Chapter is taking, particularly with regard to new interest and participation in AAP activities. I encourage all of you to check in periodically to our website, www.ny1aap.org. You will find a new design as well as a new link to the PROS network, Pediatric Research in the Office Setting, the source of some cutting-edge research that affects the way we practice pediatrics in our own offices.

We received a \$7500 grant this year for a vaccine initiative. Thanks to our Vice President, **Catherine Goodfellow**, we are sponsoring four educational sessions for all pediatric residents at Buffalo, Syracuse, Rochester, and Albany on vaccine science, safety and advocacy with four nationally known infectious disease specialists. Dr. Goodfellow has also been presenting educational sessions on pediatric coding to pediatric residents.

Three Chapter I pediatricians will be sent by the Chapter to the AAP Annual Legislative Conference in Washington in June 2003: **Susan Baker** (Buffalo), **Herbert Schneiderman** (Syracuse), and **Eric Beyer** (Canandaigua).

Cynthia DeVore, Chair of the District II School Health Committee and I will address the Buffalo Pediatric Society in March 2003.

On Dec. 18th, Chapter I participated in a regional Think Tank on Transportation Problems as a Barrier to Access to Health Care in Rochester. Health Care officials, representatives from local, state, and federal government, and child advocates will be present. *continued on page 5*

"NY Chapter 1 Annual CME Meeting"

May 2 - 4, 2003

Copperfield Inn in North Creek, NY
(in the beautiful Adirondack Mountains)

Friday - Reception / Dinner / Presentation - James Townsend,
of the Adirondack Agency

Saturday - Workshops:

- * Pediatric Practice, Liability, and Litigation - Peter Rodgers, Esq.
- * Customer Service in the Pediatric Practice - Anne Francis, MD and Nancy Adams, Exec. Dir., NY Chapter 1
- * The Electronic Pediatric Office - William Zurhellen, MD
- * HIPAA-an Update and How to do it - Anna Lynch, Esq.
- * Pediatric Psychiatry - Steve Munson, MD
- * Teens and Sex: What's a Clinician to Do? - Richard Kreipe, MD

All District II Members Are Invited to Attend!

For more details, visit the Chapter 1 website at www.ny1aap.org

Chapter 2 Hall of Fame Planned

Chapter 2 Hall of Fame

Our website, www.ny2aap.org, will soon feature a new section – The Chapter 2 Hall of Fame. Here you will find pictures of the Past Chapter 2 Presidents accompanied by their histories and major accomplishments. We're sure that you will find it to be both informative and entertaining.

SAVE THE DATE

March 25, 2003

Chateau Briand in Carle Place, NY

**Practice Management Symposium:
HIPAA - Preparing for the April Deadline**

Speaker: Michael Schoppmann, JD

Watch for registration materials in the mail.

Resident's Night

Thirty eight residents attended our first Resident's Night on July 9th, 2002. In response to their overwhelmingly positive feedback, the co-chairs of the Residents' Needs Subcommittee, **Brad Fell** and **Marc Lashley**, are currently working on a second meeting for February 2003. This meeting will focus on a number of topics that will assist our residents in their transition from residency to practice, including a discussion about the different types of practices, financial considerations and the benefits of AAP membership.

Chapter 2 Publications

By now, you all have received the following publications: "What You Should Know About Tattooing and Body Piercing," "Adolescents in Need: a Resource Booklet for Pediatricians," and "Bone up on Calcium." We would love to hear your feedback about these materials! Also, please note that additional copies of the tattooing brochure and adolescent referral manual are available at the Chapter 2 Office, (516) 326-0310, jschmidt@aap.org (the manual is available for a nominal fee). *continued on page 5*

Chapter 3: Focus on Teens & Underserved

Survey of Children's Health Needs Post 9/11

In September of 2002, at the one year anniversary of September 11th, the AAP survey was sent out to its members in the tri-state area (NY, NJ, Conn) in an effort to characterize the experience of practitioners post 9/11 and their training needs relative to three areas: mental health, environmental health and bioterrorism. The membership was surveyed via an electronic, e-mail, web-based survey and the more traditional mail survey. The electronic survey was sent to all 4330 members with e-mail addresses. A random sample of the 4226 members without e-mail addresses (1320) also received the survey. Each group was contacted a total of three times. There were 981 responses from the e-mail group and 560 responses from the mail group. We are currently in the process of weighting variables for the sampling fractions and response biases and will report the data to the membership as soon as possible!

New Chapter Committee on Underserved Children

Chapter 3 is please to announce the creation of a new Committee on Underserved Children, chaired by **Bernard Dreyer**. This committee will focus on children who are immigrants, homeless, or the children of migrant farm workers. If you are interested in hearing more about this committee, or if you would like to get involved, please contact the Chapter 3 Office at (516) 326-0310 or jschmidt@aap.org.

Encouraging Membership Involvement

While our Chapter has an active Executive Council (its governing body) and numerous committees, we want to see more of our membership getting involved in the Chapter. To this end, our committees have each

been charged to devise a "small project" that will encourage greater member participation. The Task Force on Practice Management, co-chaired by **Clifford Mevs** and **William Zurhellen**, has decided to hold an educational conference on practice management issues, including HIPAA. It will be held in Staten Island during March or April 2003. A second practice management conference is already being planned for the Westchester area.

Teen Handbook is Printed

The Westchester Children's Association, in collaboration with NY Chapter 3, has printed a teen handbook which speaks to teens on how to take responsibility for their own health. To obtain a copy of this publication, please contact the Chapter 3 Office at (516) 326-0310 or jschmidt@aap.org.

- **Danielle Laraque**, President, NY Chapter 3

Chapter 1: Focus on Education

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I would like to thank our Executive Director, Nancy Adams, for all that she does for New York Chapter 1; she makes our Chapter a professional home for us all.

- **Sanford J. Mayer**, President, NY Chapter 1

Chapter 2 Hall of Fame Planned

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Change in Committee Leadership

- *Fetus and Newborn Committee*

After many years of service to our Chapter, **Kathy King** has stepped down as Chair of the Fetus and Newborn Committee. *Thank you, Kathy, for all of your hard work!* We are pleased to announce that **Renu Aggarwal** has taken over as the new chair. If you would like to get involved in this committee, please contact Renu at (516) 663-2288 or doctoraggarwal@yahoo.com.

- *Committee on Children with Disabilities*

Stephanie Citerman has recently assumed the position of Chair of the Committee on Children with Disabilities. The group has set a number of goals, including educating physicians about the definition of and services available to disabled children. To become involved in this committee, please contact Stephanie at (516) 938-9042 or alyvnkikn@aol.com.

- **Louis M. Goldblum**, President, NY Chapter 2

NY Chapter 3 Annual Meeting

"Community Pediatrics: Perspectives for the Future"

April 24, 2003

Keynote Speaker: Judith Palfrey, MD
Chief, Division of General Pediatrics,
Children's Hospital at Boston

* Community Pediatrics * Environmental Health
* Universal Health Insurance * Immunizations

Location: Mt. Sinai School of Medicine in NYC

Watch for registration materials in the mail.

Teen Gambling – A Hidden Problem A Fellow Speaks Out

Here in Buffalo, a controversy over a gambling casino is dividing the community. Unfortunately for the citizens of New York, the current glut of legalized gambling plus the illegal surge towards casino gambling (now unconstitutional in NYS) will increase social costs, harm our communities and seriously affect our adolescent population. The issue that we in pediatrics and adolescent medicine need to address is the “SILENT ADDICTION” of gambling. More and more teenagers are drawn into games of chance with many finding it more addictive than smoking, alcohol or drugs. Between 5 and 8 percent of young Americans and Canadians report a “serious” gambling problem – prevalence almost twice as high as that among adults. The hype around the huge lottery payoffs seduces adults and helps draw young children into a culture of gambling. It is a serious and challenging problem for the pathologic and at risk adolescent gambler. Harm comes to them socially, educationally, vocationally or in family relationships.

Many studies nationally and internationally show the problem increasing. There was a 74% increase in the rate of gambling problems in New York from 1986 to 1996 and more since then. Financial and legal problems, divorce, suicide and child neglect and abuse are the harmful social costs. Funding and insurance coverage for mental health care for problem gamblers is very limited. In order to address this problem, New York State must fund treatment programs, and research prevalence and prevention strategies. Our communities’ health and well being will depend on parity in mental health coverage including gambling addiction. Schools offer various programs aimed at encouraging responsible behavior and preventing harmful behavior such as sexuality, drug and alcohol use, and violence. Unfortunately, gambling is not included. Many pre-teens gamble. Prevention programs, therefore, should focus on elementary and middle school students. Our neighbors in Toronto and Quebec have implemented awareness programs that we should model here. It is our responsibility to enter the conflict and do our utmost to help curtail this growing hidden problem for the sake of our children and families.

- **Robert J. Schulman**

New York’s Pediatric Resident Section is Growing; Establishes Goals for 2003

Attendance at the District II Resident Section meeting during this year’s AAP national meeting in Boston was up by 20% over last year. The New York group has become an active, growing and vibrant part of the nation’s pediatric residents. At its meeting the Section identified four main goals for its agenda this year:

❖ **Child Advocacy and Outreach**

Residents have used funds from CATCH grants to further their outreach projects (for example at Columbia and Jacobi residency programs) and have used opportunities for international electives to further overseas child health care.

❖ **Communication**

To improve communication within the Section, a new updated list-serve has been created to keep program delegates and members aware of events and activities.

❖ **Career Planning**

Residents need more information in this area. The hope is to set up a lecture series with such topics as how to organize a job search or plan for a fellowship. Funding through each Chapter may be needed to further this goal.

❖ **Promoting Resident Leadership within the AAP**

To spur interest on the part of many more residents, they will be encouraged to consider national and district positions on the executive board, program delegate positions, and chapter liaison positions.

With the continuing interest and participation of pediatric residents throughout New York State, we hope to achieve these goals and make this a successful year.

Please feel to contact us with your questions and concerns via the email addresses listed below.

- **Punita Ponda**

District II Resident Coordinator
punitaponda@hotmail.com

- **Danielle Curitore**

Assistant District II Resident Coordinator
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Awards and Honors

Jerry Ente (Chapter 2, Westbury) is the president of The Police Surgeons' Lodge #SA03 of the New York State Fraternal Order of Police. He has also just completed his 1st year term as President of the Nassau County Academy of Medicine.

Richard M. Cantor, (Chapter 1, Fayetteville) associate professor of emergency medicine and pediatrics and director of pediatric emergency services at SUNY Upstate Medical University, has received the 2002 Award for Outstanding Contribution in Education by the American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP). He received the honor Oct. 6 at ACEP's annual convention, held in Seattle. Cantor was selected from a field of more than 22,000 emergency medicine physicians.

Grant Recipients

Based at Children's Hospital of Brooklyn (SUNY-Downstate and King's County Hospitals), **Robert Karp** (Chapter 2) used his CATCH grant to "Create an Entry into a 'Medical Home' for Caribbean Immigrant Children through Faith-based Organizations."

Publications

David Annunziato (Chapter 2, East Meadow) has been lecturing at various hospitals on smallpox and has recently had an article on "Smallpox Vaccination and its Complications" accepted for an upcoming issue of *Contemporary Pediatrics*.

In Memoriam

Neal W. Fuhr, (Chapter 1) long-time pediatrician in Buffalo NY, died on Oct. 17, 2002. He was the husband of Thelma Hill Toffolo Fuhr and the late Oleen Fuhr, father of Lucinda Decker, Holly DeLong, and Andrew Fuhr, and brother of Myra Beneke. A memorial service was held in Buffalo on October 19, 2002. Memorial donations may be directed to the American Cancer Society.

If you have a noteworthy event that you would like to share with your AAP colleagues, please send it to the Downstate District II Office via email: jschmidt@aap.org or fax: 516-326-0316

Does the AAP Have Your Updated Information?

With 15% to 20% of the Academy's member contact information in a state of change at any given time, the online Member Directory should be your primary resource to locate colleagues. This Directory has the most accurate, up-to-the-minute contact information available. An important component of the online Member Directory is the **Membership Information Change Form** located within the Members Only Channel at www.aap.org/moc/memberservices/updatedmemberinfoform.cfm. The Membership Information Change Form allows members to check and update if necessary their address, demographic, and subspecialty information that the Academy has in its database.

The Academy understands that members are changing their information more frequently, and now each time you make a change, you can simply enter it into the Membership Information Change Form and the Academy's database will be updated the following business day. This way, there will be no delay in receiving your member benefits and more importantly, in providing your colleagues with your updated information.

It is very important that all Academy members check their address, demographic and subspecialty information. Please take the time to visit the Membership Information Change Form located within the Members Only Channel at www.aap.org/moc/memberservices/updatedmemberinfoform and provide the Academy with your updated information.

NOTE: Chapter Affiliates, Chapter Emeritus Fellows, Chapter Non-Billable Members and Section Affiliates are not considered AAP National Members, therefore they do not have access to the Academy's Members Only Channel.