Dear Mississippi AAP members,

As we enter the holiday season, we have so much to be thankful for here at MSAAP. Dr. Susan Buttross was elected as district 7 chair and will be serving for 6 years! Eve Switzer from Oklahoma was elected district 7 vice chair as well.

We had a successful 2-day on-line summit for suicide prevention. Many thanks to Drs. Jonathan Shook and Angela Weathersby for all the work they did to make sure it went well! We would also like to thank the Project Echo team for their hard work as well. We look forward to our collaboration with the American Foundation of Suicide Prevention and CHAMP in the future.

We continue to form and fine tune the Pediatric Payer Council. We will be meeting with Medicaid the first week of December. The process for procurement of the bids for MCOs is still stalled. Dr. Anita Henderson has agreed to be a liaison to MSMA’s Payer Advocacy Committee.

Dr. Tami Brooks is leading the Governmental Affairs Committee. We recently met with Senator Kevin Blackwell in anticipation of the upcoming legislative session and the Medicaid technical amendments bill.

Drs. Patricia Tibbs and Claire Gilliam are starting to plan our Spring Conference in Laurel. We are looking forward to seeing as many of you as possible in person! We hope to have some pleasant “hometown hero” surprises in store for you!

Wishing you happiness and good health,

Tanya Fitts, MD
MSAAP President

members Select Dr. Kressly AAP President-Elect; Approve New Board Rotation Calendar

When the call came in to inform Susan J. Kressly, M.D., FAAP, she was elected AAP president-elect, it was exactly one year since Hurricane Ian hit Sanibel Island, Fla., where she lives. The worst storm on that island since 1926 devastated her home, though it remains livable.

As Dr. Kressly continues rebuilding, the good news of her AAP win was well-timed. “It was really awesome to know that there is hope at the end of a long journey…,” Dr. Kressly said.

Resilience is one of the qualities of the pediatric practice expert who has served in many AAP leadership capacities. Her tenure as chair of the AAP Section on Administration and Practice Management will end Dec. 31, as she steps into the role of president-elect on January 1, 2024. [read more]

Source: https://publications.aap.org/aapnews/news/26214/

MSAAP and the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention – Mississippi Chapter (AFSP Mississippi) have partnered to establish a community of Suicide Prevention Ambassadors across the U.S. and Puerto Rico. If you have not already, please participate in our survey to obtain information regarding the protocols that pediatricians use and their knowledge of suicide risk procedures. The survey is voluntary, anonymous, and should take no more than five minutes. Please complete the survey here for your chance to win a $50 gift card!
A native of Monroe, LA Dr. Stanley was magna cum laude graduate of Xavier University of Louisiana and received her medical degree from Meharry Medical College in Nashville, TN. She completed her pediatric residency at the University of Mississippi Medical Center (UMMC). Following her residency, she continued as staff pediatrician at the now Batson Kids Clinic where she currently serves as medical director.

Prior to the COVID pandemic, Dr. Stanley was on the team responsible for spearheading the UMMC Pediatric After-Hours Clinic where she served as medical director and was also highly involved in the Pediatric Mobile Field Clinic during the start of the COVID pandemic. She has held various leadership and committee memberships across her budding career as it deals with educating tomorrow’s medical leaders. She is involved in the medical education of learners across all fields including college preceptorships, medical students, pediatric residents, family medicine residents, and nurse practitioners. Dr. Stanley has been a physician leader having the opportunity to serve as an expert in local publications. She is an active member of the Mississippi chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics and previous served at the Early Childhood Champion representing Mississippi on the national level. She is committed to providing world-class care to her patient population with a special interest in supporting childhood and family literacy with continued involvement in UMMC’s Reach Out and Read Program in collaboration with the MS Children’s Museum.

Outside of the hospital, she enjoys reading, involvement in her church’s ministries, and spending time with her family.

Dr. Vibha Vig trained in medicine in India and came to the United States in the late 1980s. She attended University of MS Medical Center and graduated in 1993, having completed her residency training in Pediatrics. She began work in Pediatrics at the Greater Meridian Health Clinic in Meridian MS, where she also served underprivileged children.

In 1995, Dr. Vig established the first ever pediatric practice in Canton, MS, along with the first newborn and inpatient children’s services at the local hospital. Now, Sunshine Children’s Clinic and its satellite offices in Carthage and Yazoo City have grown into a medical home for thousands of children. Her clinics focus on actively engaging families to ensure vaccinations are scheduled and completed on time. Sunshine Children’s Clinic sees around 10,000 patients on an active basis in rural and semi-rural areas. Because of her high HPV vaccination rates, Dr. Vig received the 2019 HPV Vaccine is Cancer Prevention Champion award!

Dr. Vig is very active with the Mississippi Chapter and has attended numerous MSAAP Capitol Days advocating on behalf of physicians and children.

Dr. Terry Rayford is board certified in Internal Medicine, Pediatrics and Obesity Medicine. Professionally, he enjoys teaching, advocacy, and community engagement. He is very active in the community serving in leadership roles from board of directors’ member to president. In 2021, he helped found a non-profit organization to promote and deliver over 2600 COVID vaccinations to families in Northeast Mississippi. Personally, Dr. Rayford enjoys RV travel with his family and running marathons.

Dr. Monge was born and raised on the east coast before moving to Mississippi for college (Mississippi College) and later medical school (UMMC). He received his residency training in the Pediatric department here at UMC and fellowship training in Pediatric Emergency Medicine at Akron Children's Hospital (one of the original PEM fellowships). He joined the Pediatric EM faculty at UMC in 2018 and became associate program director of the PEM fellowship in 2019. During his first two years as faculty, he completed a fellowship in Emergency Point of Care Ultrasound and is the division's Ultrasound director. In 2022, he became the program director for the PEM Fellowship and took over as director for PEM Education for the division. He and his wife, Kalyn, have three children - Griffin, Ryder, and Riley - and currently live in Clinton, MS.

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REACH OUT AND READ
Expands in Mississippi

“The critical importance of child development from birth is indisputable. The home environment and nurturing relationships between parent/caregiver and child lay the foundation for healthy development, school readiness, and all future learning,” as stated by Jill Sells, MD, past President of AAP Council on Early Childhood and consultant to Mississippi Thrive! Child Health and Development Project.

Reach Out and Read (ROR) is a developmental health promotion activity that pediatric healthcare providers can share with parents to encourage nurturing bonds and to promote early literacy. Reach Out and Read (ROR) is an evidenced-based early childhood program that incorporates the reading and sharing of books into well-child visits for young children and encourages families to read aloud and create meaningful moments.

Over the last 7 years, MS Thrive worked to expand Reach Out and Read in the state. A new partnership has been established between Children’s of Mississippi, the Mississippi Children’s Museum (MCM), and National Reach Out and Read with the goal of supporting MCM in becoming a ROR statewide affiliate. This allows MCM to provide local support to clinics through the application process, for fundraising assistance, and to help in processes sustaining them as a ROR site. National ROR and Scholastic Books are fully supportive of these efforts and have each invested a $15,000 gift to launch this initiative.

For more information, please email Sidney Ferris at Sidney@mcm.ms or visit the MCM ROR site here.

For more information on Mississippi Thrive, visit our website, https://mississippithrive.com/.

SAVE THE DATE
Mississippi Chapter – AAP 2024 Primary Care Day
Tuesday, February 6th
8:00 AM – 11:30 AM

Come meet our Legislators!

Mississippi Chapter – AAP 2024 Spring Conference
Saturday, March 2nd
Welcome Reception: Friday March 1st

“Innovations in Pediatric Care: Insights from Hometown Heroes”

Location:
South Central Place
2250 Hwy. 15 North
Laurel, MS 39440

For more information visit: www.aapms.org