



## ***President's Bulletin – April 2017***

***Adrian Sandler, MD***

### **SDBP Priorities – top 5 themes**

The Board, management team and I will be meeting in Chicago early April. I look forward to this biannual opportunity to reflect on our members' priorities and needs in the three pillars of our Strategic Plan – Education, Research and Facing the Future. The Moonshot Survey highlighted several important themes that you raised, including this "top 5":

- Quality metrics and guidelines
- Collaborative care/DBP and primary care
- Enhanced recognition of DBP
- Pipeline issues
- Building global connections

The first of these priorities is being addressed by Bill Barbaresi et al, who are making great progress with the challenging task of developing the Complex ADHD Guideline. In March, we took an important step that has the potential to impact the remaining top 5 priorities. A grant has been submitted to MCH, with Carol Weitzman as PI, to fund International Collaborative Office Rounds (iCOR2), in which SDBP will participate as the organizational hub. If the grant is funded, SDBP will provide the infrastructure to support the development of networks of clinical sites for monthly case-based teleconferencing around the theme of families facing social, political or economic distress. To enhance US clinicians' cultural competence related to developmental, behavioral and emotional problems, iCOR2 will include some linkage of domestic with international sites. I am very excited about the potential of this innovative grant to improve collaborative care, enhance the recognition of DBP, attract talent to the field and build connections.

### **Helping children and families with divorce**

Another important contribution from Carol Weitzman, Chair of the AAP Section on DBP (just in case you thought she has not been productive enough!) was published recently:

[Helping Children and Families Deal With Divorce and Separation](#)

### **Potential impact of changes to ACA on children with disabilities**

I am concerned about the impact on children with autism and other disabilities from potential changes to public health insurance. Currently, 95% of U.S. children have health care coverage, a historic high. The proposed AHCA legislation would make drastic changes to Medicaid, transforming it from an entitlement to a block grant, shifting costs to states and likely leading to enrollment cuts. As the legislative debate unfolds, we will assist members in advocating for the needs of our most vulnerable citizens. This brief article from NEJM by Mandell and Barry highlights some of the potential threats and emphasizes the importance of evidence-driven policy:

[Care for Autism and Other Disabilities — A Future in Jeopardy](#)

### **JDBP Challenging Cases**

Hats off to Lee Pachter and JDBP on the publication of the Challenging Cases supplement (JDBP 38, 2S, February/March 2017). This is an anthology of great cases published 2010-2016, illuminated with expert clinical experience and scientific evidence. These are terrific cases for inter-professional teaching. Many

thanks to Marty Stein and Marilyn Augustyn for editing this supplement, and for their continuing stewardship of this popular section, now in its 22<sup>nd</sup> year!

### **Zika and birth defects**

Data from the CDC Zika Pregnancy Registry show U.S. mothers infected with Zika virus last year were 20 times as likely to have babies with birth defects, compared with mothers who gave birth 2 years before the epidemic (6% vs 0.3% of infants):

[CDC: Birth defect rate 20 times higher for infants with Zika-infected mothers](#)

To assist providers in meeting the challenges of this epidemic, CDC has released a new **Zika toolkit** for health care providers:

[CDC U.S. Zika Pregnancy Registry Healthcare Provider Toolkit For Health Departments](#)

### **PAS Announcement**

SDBP will be well represented at this year's PAS meeting with 4 platform sessions of original research (Screening and Assessment, Prematurity Outcomes and Autism, Behavioral/Mental Health, and Parenting). SDBP helped to organize and is sponsoring two Invited Topic Symposia.

- Transforming the Way Pediatrics Approaches Parenting to Improve Child Health Outcomes: Evidence from Attachment Theory and Research (Sunday, 5/7, 10:30am-12:30 pm)
- Using Networks to Improve Care for Children with Autism (Monday, 5/8, 10:30am-12:30pm)

Thanks to Sue Berger and Alan Mendelsohn, our liaisons to PAS, and all who helped with the process.

<https://www.pas-meeting.org/>

### **April Announcements**

(see <https://www.disabled-world.com/disability/awareness/awareness-dates.php> )

April is Autism Awareness month. Our Autism SIG has prepared key messaging for SDBP members to assist you in your advocacy efforts regarding autism awareness:

***The early diagnosis and treatment of autism are critical to improved outcomes for this vulnerable population, and save money for society as a whole.***

***Autism services need to be covered by insurance at the same level as other medical services. Individuals with autism often depend on Medicaid for their health care; proposed changes to Medicaid may negatively impact this very vulnerable population.***

***The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) must be preserved, requiring all schools receiving federal funding to provide an appropriate education for children with autism***

***Vaccines are critically important for children's health and do not cause autism.***

### **Recruitment and open positions**

It is the recruiting season again! There are many open positions in DBPeds, and our subspecialty is very much in demand. For those who are considering applying for a position, or are actively in a search mode, how do you evaluate your options? Check out the Job Bank on the website <http://www.sdbp.org/resources/job-bank.cfm> and sign up on the members-only Mentor/Match program. Nurture your key contacts in SDBP, and look for opportunities to network at the annual meeting. And remember, your President is (shamelessly) recruiting for a rising star to join him in Asheville!