



# Behavioral Developments

*The Newsletter of the SDBP*

Dear Members,

Welcome to the New SDBP Newsletter!

Over the past year, the SDBP Communications Committee has been reaching out to members to get a better sense of how we should communicate activities, updates, and news to you all.

We thank all of you for your input and have decided to put out this quarterly newsletter that will contain brief updates from committees, SIGs, and sections, member activities, announcements, and reminders. We are also hoping to highlight trainees, as seen in this issue. Any important or time sensitive information will be posted on the Discussion Board or sent out via email in between these newsletter publications.

Please feel free to send us any feedback or newsworthy information to include as you see fit! We welcome submissions from all members and would love to hear from you!

Thank you!

SDBP Communications Committee Co-Chairs: Alyssa Schlenz, Lisa Campbell and Shruti Mittal  
(Newsletter Team)

## In this Issue

- ❖ [Welcome to the New SDBP Newsletter!](#)
- ❖ [SDBP Research Grant Awardee Spotlight](#)
- ❖ [SDBP Research Symposium: The Trainees' Perspective](#)
- ❖ [Committee Updates: Advocacy, Education, Membership, Program](#)
- ❖ [Section/SIG Updates: Fellowship Training](#)
- ❖ [Highlights from the E-Library, Discussion Board, and Media News](#)
- ❖ [Highlights from Twitter: Annual Meeting #SDBP 2017](#)
- ❖ [Guide to Communicating in the Society](#)
- ❖ [Upcoming Deadlines and Reminders](#)

## SDBP Research Grant Awardee Spotlight

The SDBP Research Grant award is a competitive award that awards \$10,000 to support a young investigator's research initiative. This year, two outstanding research proposals received funding for their projects, which is the first time SDBP has funded two initiatives. One of these awardees is highlighted below and we hope to highlight the second awardee in a coming issue. The research grant award is made possible by financial contributions to the society. *The Research Committee co-chairs are Diane Langkamp and Carolyn Ievers-Landis and Ellen Silver is chair of the Research Grants subcommittee.*

**Carol Wilkinson, Boston Children's Hospital**

***Neural Predictors Of Autism Symptoms And Language In Fragile X Syndrome***



Pictures provided by Carol Wilkinson; this is her son.

### **Project Description:**

A major challenge in developing effective therapies for autism spectrum disorder (ASD) is the striking heterogeneity that affects virtually all aspects of the disorder. Single-gene disorders associated with ASD, such as Fragile X Syndrome (FXS), can serve as more homogenous genetic models of ASD, and allow the study of common neural pathways that underlie key aspects of ASD. 30-50% of children with FXS meet criteria for ASD, and virtually all have cognitive and language difficulties ranging from mild to severe. Animal models of FXS have led to greater understanding of the neurobiology of the disorder, and identified key drug targets that improve cognitive and behavioral phenotypes. Despite extensive research in animal models, only a handful of studies have investigated brain activity and function in children with FXS, presenting a huge roadblock in translating lab-developed therapeutics to patients. This project aims to identify and characterize brain-based markers that predict cognitive, language, and behavioral deficits in young children with FXS. We will use EEG (a low cost, non-invasive technique) to measure brain activity in response to sensory stimuli, and correlate this with a range of cognitive, language, and behavioral measures. The brain-based markers will then be used in future clinical trials as objective measures for targeted outcomes. Results from this study should improve our understanding of the neural mechanisms that underlie some of the core ASD symptoms and comorbidities seen in FXS.

[Return to Table of Contents](#)



SDBP Research Symposium Attendees & Mentors

"As a young investigator early in my DBP career, I was excited to be accepted into the SDBP research symposium and have the opportunity to receive feedback on my fellowship research project. Over the course of two days, I developed new relationships with DBP trainees who shared my passion for neurodevelopmental research. We discussed a diverse range of research projects, including: issues in early childhood, ADHD, neurodevelopmental disabilities, primary care, and parent perception/family impact. I received positive, constructive feedback from enthusiastic senior mentors, many of whom are pioneers of the DBP field and I've long admired.

When the symposium ended and the annual SDBP meeting began, I found myself looking forward to seeing my colleagues at concurrent sessions and social receptions. Although it was only two short days, the symposium provided a supportive and nurturing environment for young, aspiring DBP trainees to share ideas and goals with experienced mentors, free of other distractions. I left the symposium feeling inspired by the brilliant minds around me and more motivated to pursue my own research endeavors. I had a clearer vision of my fellowship project, but perhaps more importantly I gained a clearer vision of my aspirations and future career goals as a developmental-behavioral pediatrician. "

**-Shruti Mittal MD FAAP**

**Fellow, Developmental-Behavioral Pediatrics, Medical University of South Carolina**

The Research Symposium helped clarify so many questions I was afraid to ask - especially about how to find a research mentor, explain my 'Question', and start writing a manuscript. I really treasured the collegial and constructive environment. One of my most valued new connections was with a mentor who shared practical tips for how to navigate the next steps of my career."

**-Sandhya Iyengar, MD**

**Fellow, Developmental & Behavioral Pediatrics, The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia**

"The SDBP research symposium was an invaluable way to think critically and improve individual research projects, through tailored feedback from the brightest scientists in DBP. The advice from the expert panel will be incredibly helpful for future projects and professional development. It was also lovely meeting such a wonderful group of fellows and early career professionals from around the country. I left the meeting feeling energized, inspired, and motivated to make a humble contribution to the field!"

**-Tiffany Munzer, MD**

**Fellow, Developmental & Behavioral Pediatrics, University of Michigan**

The attendees would like to extend our sincerest gratitude to the senior mentors and SDBP for sponsoring the symposium!

### Words of Wisdom

***"A Good Dissertation is a Done Dissertation!" – Dr. Rosenthal***

***"Find Your Edge" – Dr. Feldman***

***"Don't Get It Right, Get it Written!" – Dr. Blum***

***"Narrow your research focus and become THE expert on it." – Dr. Wolraich***

*Contributions also from Kathleen Pitterle & Sukkarieh Modar*

## Committee Update: Advocacy, Education, Membership, Program

### Advocacy Committee Update

*Submitted by: Jenna Wallace, PsyD*

At the 2017 SDBP Annual Meeting, the Advocacy Committee presented “**Advocacy Boot Camp: Learning to Become an Effective Advocate for Children with Disabilities,**” an initial installment of a multi-year series with a rotating curriculum. Presenters introduced social determinants of health, Medicaid and Medicare basics, and practical advocacy skills. We were joined via Skype by **Michael Gamel-McCormick, Disability Policy Director for Senator Bob Casey (D-PA)**, who provided updates regarding the state of health care and gave insight into effective advocacy measures at the state and federal levels. Attendees left the workshop with a Personal Advocacy Plan to assist in organizing their next steps as advocates.

**Some helpful resources from this year’s workshop include:** [AAP Advocacy Toolkits](#); [APA Legislative Issues and Advocacy Training Tools](#); [ACTION \(Global Health Advocacy Partnership\)](#); [Association of University Centers on Disabilities \(AUCD\)](#); [Children’s Defense Fund](#); [UNICEF Advocacy Toolkit](#); and [5 Calls](#).

In 2018, the Advocacy Committee intends to increase SDBP members’ awareness of public policy issues that impact the wellbeing of children and their families through use of the Listserv, message boards, and other publication opportunities.

---

### Education Committee Update

*Submitted by: Jennifer Poon, MD*

The 2017 Teaching Workshop was held concurrently with the Pre-Meeting Workshops for the first time this year. Despite the overlap of educational offerings, the teaching Workshop maintained a good turn out with 87 participants. Breakout sessions covered a wide range of topics in education including infant mental health, mindfulness, novel instructional methods, professionalism, and shared decision making. Slides from the presentations will be added to the SDBP e-Library.

The Education Committee’s work with the Best Practices Initiative is underway with initial focus on identification of key mental health topics in resident training. Furthermore, the Committee continues to work with the National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners (NAPNAP) in development of a symposium to be held in 2018.

---

### Membership Committee Update

*Submitted by: Melissa Armstrong, PhD*

The membership committee is focusing on three major initiatives intended to both increase and maintain membership in SDBP. The diversity initiative aims to increase the racial and cultural diversity of the organization through marketing to national and international professional organizations with a high percentage of members from diverse cultural or racial groups (i.e., Association of Black Psychologists). The student/early career initiative seeks to identify ways to attract more individuals in training or early aspects of their career by collaborating with communications to enhance the SDBP social media presence as well as targeted membership benefits. Finally, the clinical initiative includes plans for working with various other committees in SDBP to develop resources and programming at the annual meeting that will be particularly appealing to professionals in private practice or non-academic settings.

---

### Program Committee Update

*Submitted by: Carol Weitzman, MD*

A year ago, the SDBP board approved a new process for committees, SIGs, and Section chairs to submit proposals to obtain limited funding for selected invited speakers for workshops or concurrent sessions. The purpose of this was to be able to include noteworthy speakers at the annual meeting who fill an educational gap; and without this financial support, would likely not attend the meeting. Providing some financial support to bring additional speakers to the meeting is a wonderful opportunity to expand the range of critical and informative material presented at the SDBP Annual Meeting. Last year was the first time this funding was available and the Communications Committee used this mechanism to bring Dr. Michael Patrick to the meeting to conduct the workshop, “Communicating with external media, patients, and parents,” which was received with great enthusiasm. There are a number of important procedures to follow to submit a letter of intent and funding policies for invited speakers have been established.

Submitting a letter of intent does not guarantee funding and a workshop or concurrent proposal still needs to be submitted with the proposed invited speaker listed on that proposal. Submitting a letter of intent also does not guarantee that a proposed workshop or concurrent session will be accepted. The deadline for submissions for the 2018 Annual Meeting is January 15, 2018. More details about the policies and procedures for submitting a letter of intent are available [here](#). It is important that these procedures are carefully reviewed before submitting a letter of intent and any additional questions can be directed to the program committee co-chairs, Carol Weitzman and Kimberley Zlomke.

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

## Section/SIG Updates: Fellowship Training

### Fellowship Section Update

*Submitted by: Robert Voigt, MD*

The SDBP Section on Fellowship Training met in Cleveland on the last afternoon of the SDBP Annual Meeting. The following is a synopsis of topics reviewed and discussed at our meeting:

#### ACGME Updates:

- New Fellowship Eligibility Requirements (effective July 2016):
  - All new fellows must have graduated from an ACGME-accredited pediatric residency program
  - Graduates of international medical schools who have not graduated from an ACGME-accredited pediatric residency program are not eligible to begin fellowship
  - Graduates of osteopathic residency programs are not eligible to begin fellowship unless their programs are also ACGME-accredited
- Verification of Competency:
  - All fellowship programs should receive verification of competency reports from each fellow's prior pediatric residency program
  - These reports should be available for program directors to review by clicking on the ACGME WebADS "Reports" tab
- Subspecialty Program Requirements Revision
  - Comment period will be in the Winter/Spring 2018

#### CoPS Update:

- Fellowship start date:
  - CoPS recommending fellowship start date no earlier than July 7
  - CoPS/ABP survey of fellowship program directors across all subspecialties about fellowship start date in Fall 2017

#### 2016-2017 Match Summary:

- 44 DBP fellowship positions offered across 34 DBP Fellowship programs
- **32 applicants (31 matched)**
- 2016-2017 Match Fill Rate = **70% (31 applicants/44 positions)**
- 2015-2016 Match Fill Rate = 54%
- 2014-2015 Match Fill Rate = 73%
- 2013-2014 Match Fill Rate = 68%

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

## Highlights from the E-Library, Discussion Board, and Media News

### E-Library Highlights

Please submit to the e-library! Check out these recent additions:

- [Cerebral Palsy: Improving Outcomes Through Early Diagnosis and Intervention](#)
  - [Parent Handout on Behavior Management](#)
  - [Free Media Training Podcasts for Health Care Professionals](#)
  - [NAPNAP's Developmental Behavioral and Mental Health Resource](#)
  - [Innovation and Technology in DBP Education: Alternatives to the Typical One Month Rotation](#)
- 

### Discussion Board Highlights

Join the discussion at [sdbp.org](http://sdbp.org). Recent topics have including a range of clinical and practice issues, such as:

- High functioning autism in girls – when to diagnose?
  - What is the evidence base for neurofeedback and what do we tell parents about it?
  - What is the best way to get reports into EPIC?
  - How can I set up ePrescribing for my practice?
- 

### Media News Highlights

- [A brief intervention to help parents manage children's screen time](#)
  - [What is the vmPFC and why is it important?](#)
  - [Bullying remains about perceived differences](#)
  - [Vitamin and mineral supplements show some promise in kids with ADHD](#)
  - [Modern teenagers are delaying adulthood](#)
- 

Do you have a current event in the media that we should highlight? Send it to Jeff Yang at: [jdbp.webeditor@gmail.com](mailto:jdbp.webeditor@gmail.com)

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

## Highlights from Twitter: Annual Meeting #SDBP 2017

Check out these posts from #SDBP2017. Read these and more [@sdbpeds](#) and [@jdbp\\_online](#).



**Christina Low Kapalu** @DrLowKapalu · Oct 15

"Normal is for people who haven't had enough tests yet." - normality is not a binary construct. Challenge assumptions!  
[#SDBP2017](#)



**Dr. Terry Stancin** @TStancin · Oct 15

[@SDBPeds](#) President Adrian Sandler & Past President Nate Blum. Thank you for your amazing leadership! [#SDBP2017](#)



**Dinah Godwin** @DinahGodwin · Oct 14

Advocacy Boot Camp planning committee after a successful workshop. Go forth and advocate! [#SDBP2017](#)



[Return to Table of Contents](#)

## Guide to Communicating in the Society

We would like to introduce you to a new tool developed by the Communications Committee to help you understand how to use the various tools the committee has developed or that the society has in place.

Where do you go to find teaching resources for your learners? Where do you post your job openings? How do you disseminate advocacy opportunities and needs? Use this grid to figure out what tool you can use for your particular need to best communicate with your colleagues.

### SDBP Communication Tools

	General Website	Discussion Board	e-Library	Newsletter	Twitter	Media News	Email Communication from Society	Job Bank	Journal Advertisement	Annual Meeting Program	SDBP Board
<b>Member Communication</b>											
Job postings								✓	✓	✓	
Society announcements	✓			✓			✓				
Interesting news articles					✓	✓					
Pertinent articles from other journals					✓	✓					
Committee/SIG/Section reports and news				✓							
<b>Clinical Practice Communication</b>											
Patient referrals		✓									
Patient education			✓								
Clinical questions for colleagues		✓									
Questions about practice issues		✓									
Info about practice issues		✓		✓							
<b>Education/Training Communication</b>											
Teaching resources			✓		✓						
Trainee news, accomplishments or research				✓							
Info about workshops/trainings		✓		✓							
Research Scholars news		✓		✓							
Updates on new fellowship or internship opportunities		✓		✓							
<b>Research Communication</b>											
Info about current research or research interests		✓		✓							
Research Scholars news		✓		✓							
Alerts to special journal issues		✓		✓	✓		✓				
Alerts to grant opportunities		✓		✓			✓				
Pertinent articles from other journals		✓			✓	✓					
<b>Advocacy/External Communication</b>											
Advocacy issues and announcements		✓		✓	✓						
Interesting news articles					✓	✓					
Disseminate society or topical news on national level		✓		✓	✓	✓					✓

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

## Deadlines and Reminders

### Upcoming SDBP Deadlines

- 1/15/18 - Deadline to request funds for invited speakers from Program Committee
  - 2018 Workshop submissions open: Mid January / Close: Mid March
  - 2018 Abstract submissions open: Mid March / Close: early May
- 

### Reminders

- The **SDBP Complex ADHD Guideline Writing Committee** is seeking assistance from the membership of the ADHD SIG, Research Committee, and Psychology Section in grading evidence for the guideline. Please complete the survey below to indicate your preferred level of commitment: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/DFK6SVT>. Questions should be directed to [Eugenia.chan@childrens.harvard.edu](mailto:Eugenia.chan@childrens.harvard.edu).
  - **Save the Date!**  
**SDBP 2018 Annual Meeting**  
September 14 - 17, 2018  
Anaheim Marriot  
Anaheim, CA
  - Stay up to date with our [Calendar of Events!](#)
- 

### Awareness Events

- January
  - National Birth Defects Month
  - National Folic Acid Awareness Week (first full week of January)
- February
  - National Children's Dental Health Month
  - Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month
  - World Cancer Day (February 4)
  - Give Kids a Smile Day (February 5)
  - Congenital Heart Defect Awareness Week (February 7 to 14)
  - National Donor Day (February 14)
  - Eating Disorders Awareness and Screening Week (last week of February)

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Questions about submissions can be sent to Alyssa Schlenz: [schlenz@musc.edu](mailto:schlenz@musc.edu)

Society for Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics  
6728 Old McLean Village Drive, McLean, VA 22101  
Phone: 703-556-9222 | Email: [info@sdbp.org](mailto:info@sdbp.org) | [Privacy Policy](#)  
Copyright © 2017 SDBP | All rights reserved