

**President's Bulletin – September 2017**

**Adrian Sandler, MD**



**Dr. Bill Coleman**

On August 21, 2017, our sun was eclipsed by the moon, and a shadow was cast over us. What a sad and strange coincidence that this day also marked the peaceful passing of our dear friend Bill Coleman. Thirty years ago, it was Bill's warmth, vitality and friendship that attracted me to this field of pediatrics, and it was he who introduced me to SDBP. Bill was a dear friend and mentor to so many of us – including Chapel Hill colleagues Michelle Macias, Lynn Wegner, Maricela Gulbranson, Des Kelly, Hank Shapiro, Ron Lindsay, Mark Ruggiero, Dan Moran, Ricardo Halpern, Stu Teplin, Mel Levine and me. He taught us about listening and opening our hearts to our patients and families. I learned more than I can say from Bill about friendship. This eclipse has passed, but we mourn the lasting loss of Bill's radiance. Bill leaves behind his wife Julie, his daughter Chandra, his three grandchildren, and the memory of his son Justin.

<http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/newsobserver/obituary.william-lord-coleman>

**SDBP and Developing Developments**

Approaching the end of my term as President, I was reviewing my previous monthly bulletins in which I highlighted some of SDBP's current activities and projects. As I read them, I was struck by the growth and development of the Society, not so much in membership (although that too is encouraging), but in the maturity and scope of the organization. I believe we are on the threshold of important new opportunities to be relevant to our members and to our patients, and to position our field for the future of value-based care.

In the "early childhood" of SDBP, when we were a small organization with very limited resources, the main constraint to development was our reliance on individual volunteerism. A few highly motivated leaders in our field dedicated their time and effort to obtaining recognition of DBP and putting on a fun, engaging and intimate annual meeting, but there was only so much that they could do. In the adolescence of our Society, we grew in numbers and developed a sustaining structure and identity. Now, in our young adulthood, we have a functioning, multi-faceted organization, administrative staff, and a depth of expertise and commitment. Our growing developmental capacities to change the world brings into sharper relief another important constraint to development – the lack of funds.

Let me emphasize that we are financially healthy – solvent, stable, and with sufficient reserves for survival - but we don't have enough discretionary funds to invest fully in the future of SDBP. Each year, our Board grapples with funding decisions, frequently turning down promising new initiatives and proposals because of lack of available funds. That is why I am focusing this Bulletin on *Development* – both in the sense of maturation and in the sense of building the funds to reduce financial constraints.

I think an important first step is to communicate with members about the costs of initiatives. For example, one year ago we embarked on the development of SDBP's first Clinical Guideline on Complex ADHD. Key action statements, algorithms and an introductory paper are in preparation. This is a high-value project, with great potential to impact patient care and the field of DBP. Strong clinical guidelines are based on expert literature review, and the typical costs of outsourcing systematic review and evidence grading are in excess of \$100,000. Thanks to the extraordinarily hard work of Bill Barbaresi and his willing guideline committee, we were able to accomplish this for around \$30,000, and the Board is confident that our members and the field will reap great rewards from this investment. In the future, we may want to invest in the development of other guidelines. Attempting to do this cheaply – on the labor of volunteers – is

probably not feasible or sustainable. If the next critically needed guideline has a budget of \$75,000, will we have the available funds to make such an investment?

In my July bulletin, I shared with you the news that iCOR2 was funded by MCH, and that SDBP is contracted to serve as the organizational hub for this grant. I did not share the fact SDBP will receive \$5000/year for the 5 years of the grant, but we estimate that it may cost twice this amount to fulfill our responsibilities to the project. The Board and Executive Committee agreed that the potential benefits of this initiative justified the financial risk, but we recognize that we will need to find the funds to make up the shortfall. In taking this decision, we were reassured by a generous donation from Betsy Lozoff, who expressed her willingness to help support the project. Had Betsy not come forward, iCOR2 might never have been launched.

Each year, we consider several proposals that have associated costs and that may address aspects of our strategic plan. These include establishing a second annual Research Award, ongoing support for the Research Scholars Symposium, and offering reduced admission costs to improve access to our educational offerings. Inevitably, some good proposals are turned down.

This year, 120 (13% of our members) made a contribution to SDBP, and 21 members (2%) gave \$250 or more. Total annual contributions amount to about \$20,000. If we had twice this amount, SDBP would be in a stronger position to seek new opportunities to make a difference for our members and our field. The donors are listed on the website – and the Board joins me in thanking all of you who donated. I am especially grateful to those among us who have over the years given generously to the Society. Please know how much we value and appreciate your donations.

The development of a child rests on the interplay of nature and nurture. In a sense, these influences are also at play in the development of our Society. The importance of a supportive, nurturing environment in optimal human development is mirrored in the importance of the prevailing culture in a Society's development. We are so fortunate to have an unusually strong culture of participation and volunteerism in SDBP. As our Society develops and matures, our culture of philanthropy must evolve as well if we are to realize our full potential.

### **Consider some possibilities...**

- Enhancing our annual meeting – with a second endowed lectureship, a second research award, supporting international virtual attendees, continued support for Research Scholars Symposium.
- Funding efforts to disseminate the Complex ADHD guideline and translate it into practice
- Development of another clinical practice guideline
- Higher levels of administrative support to committees
- Defining measurement sets for common DBP cycles of care
- Supporting the establishment of registries.

All of our Board members and Committee/Section/SIG Chairs are excited by these opportunities for the development of their professional home. All of us have a stake in our Society's future. Let's ramp it up for SDBP!