

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

**Adrian Sandler, MD**

### **Annual Meeting**

Are you getting excited about the Annual Meeting? It is time to register, peruse the program and make your arrangements. For the first time, SDBP is embracing a theme for its annual meeting, and this theme - *Improving Outcomes through Partnership and Collaboration* - is reflected in the Guest Lectureship, the Plenary Presentation (also new this year), and in many of the workshops. I am so grateful to Carol Weitzman, Robyn Mehlenbeck, Kim Zlomke, Janice Wilkins, Amy Schull, Daglyn Carr and others who have worked so hard to prepare for this spectacular event. SDBP has a big Cleveland contingent, and they can attest to the renaissance of this great city. I am planning to come a day early to visit the Rock n Roll Hall of Fame! [36 Hours in Cleveland](#)  
<https://www.sdbp.org/meetings/>

### **Integration of research and clinical practice to improve outcomes**

Having staffed cerebral palsy clinics for many years, I was delighted to see that one of the half-day workshops is on improving outcomes in CP, presented by SDBP members Katherine Steingass, Allison Dempsey and Howard Needelman. I have been thinking a lot lately about how SDBP could facilitate efforts to improve outcomes. Recently, I read a fascinating article from Nationwide Children's Hospital and the "Learn from Every Patient" (LFEP) Study Group. For decades we have been focused on *evidence-based practice* - taking accumulated evidence from randomized clinical trials in narrowly-defined homogeneous samples to make incremental changes in our practice. But there is more to determining effectiveness than the results of clinical trials. Imagine a time when our EHRs include the important clinical data fields that we need to document routine clinical care, as well as some overlapping clinical research data fields needed to answer important treatment effectiveness research, along with our patients' social and demographic data. As our ability to measure outcomes matures, we can envision real-time outcome data on our patients providing us with continual feedback loops, informing us in the clinic, and allowing us to *learn from every patient* as we take better and better care of them. Evidence-based practice could be enhanced with *practice-based evidence*. This would have the power and promise to improve outcomes across the broad spectrum of children we see, using clinical data obtained from our own clinical practice. Sounds like science fiction? The learning health system LFEP has been established in the CP program at Nationwide (Lowe, Noritz et al). It is already contributing to improved patient outcomes, substantially decreasing costs, continuously accumulating robust research data, and translating knowledge into practice:

[Learn From Every Patient': implementation and early results of a learning health system](#)

### **Children in the shadows**

An estimated 775,000 children in the US are unauthorized migrants. Another 4.5 million children and youth are US citizens with at least one unauthorized parent. This month's issue of JDBP includes an important scholarly commentary by Carola Suarez-Orozco PhD on the developmental and behavioral implications of growing up in the shadows. The lack of societal protections and safety nets - and the ever-present threat of deportation - takes its toll on the emotional health of millions.

[Conferring Disadvantage: Behavioral and Developmental Implications for Children Growing up in the Shadow of Undocumented Immigration Status](#)

### **Barbara Korsch's legacy**

I recently learned that Dr. Barbara Korsch passed away in March at the age of 96. Barbara was President of SDBP 1985-1986. She was a champion of inter-disciplinary collaboration, and her research and teaching in the area of doctor-patient communication was very influential in our field: [BARBARA KORSCH-WARD M.D.](#)

## Zika Care Connect

Zika Care Connect (ZCC) was developed and funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and the website is hosted and maintained by the March of Dimes. ZCC helps families affected by Zika find information and specialty healthcare professionals who have agreed to care for families affected by Zika. Healthcare professionals can also use ZCC as a resource to access patient education materials and to identify other specialists who care for families affected by Zika. All information on healthcare professionals is publicly available and/or submitted voluntarily and updated directly by the participating healthcare professionals. ZCC was initially focused on California, Florida, Georgia, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, Puerto Rico, Texas, Virginia, and US Virgin Islands, but has expanded to include additional areas with a high number of reported Zika cases (Arizona, Illinois, Louisiana, Massachusetts, New Mexico, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Tennessee and Washington). ZCC is continuing to seek healthcare specialists in several fields – including developmental pediatrics – to join the network. Participating healthcare professionals will receive periodic emails, Zika updates, clinical recommendations and patient resource tools. If you are interested, please call toll-free 1-844-677-0447 or visit <https://www.zikacareconnect.org/>

## Antidepressants in pregnancy and autism risk

A Canadian study published in 2015 suggested a slightly increased risk of autism in offspring of women who took antidepressants in pregnancy. This recent study published in British Medical Journal analyzed data from 254,000 children ages 4-17 years in Stockholm, including >5000 who had autism. In an effort to control for confounding effects of depression, mothers included those with no psychiatric disorder who not take antidepressant medications, those with psychiatric disorder who took medication, and those with psychiatric disorder who did not take medication. No doubt, this study will generate additional research and raise some complex issues with families in our clinics: [Antidepressants during pregnancy and autism in offspring: population based cohort study](#)

## What's cooking at SDBP?

SDBP has come a long way, and we are excited about many new initiatives going forward. I wanted to convey this excitement in a simple graphic. I had some fun with this, and I hope you do too!

