Calendar of Events
Visit the Events section of our website for details.

September 16 – 19, 2017
AAP National Conference and Exhibition
Chicago, IL

October 5, 2017
WIAAP Open Forum: Adolescent Health
Oconomowoc, WI

October 18, 2017
2017 HPV Vaccine Summit
Green Bay, WI

October 26, 2017
2017 HPV Vaccine Summit
Eau Claire, WI

WIAAP Open Forum on Immigrant and Refugee Health

Our May 4, 2017 Open Forum centered around how primary care providers can best serve immigrant and refugee children. Dr. Andrea Green, MD, FAAP, from the University of Vermont Children’s Hospital, has created a thriving, family-centered medical home model in her clinic. With fundamental “bridging and networking” strategies, UVM houses in its “New American Clinic” culturally aware primary care physicians for all children and families. The “All Are Welcome” initiative supports students in feeling safe and welcome and empowering them to communicate with strong voices their power to stand up against hurtful rhetoric.

In 2015, Wisconsin welcomed 1,132 refugees, mostly from Burma, Iraq or Somalia, mainly in southeastern Wisconsin and Dane County. Natasa Torbica of the Refugee Programs Section at the Department of Children and Families (and a refugee from the former Yugoslavia) and her colleague, Savitri Tsering of the Department of Public Health’s Refugee Health Program, spoke to trends in refugee resettlement nationally and in Wisconsin, advocacy on behalf of families and communities of all backgrounds, cultures, languages, religions and traditions and health assessment of newly resettled refugees.

Focusing on trauma and promoting health and well-being for refugee and immigrant children were Jim Sanders, MD, MPH and Sebastian Ssempijja, PhD. Dr. Sanders presented on pre- and post-migration medical screening and clearance, including for mental and behavioral health. Dr. Ssempijja cited the number of vulnerable children and adolescents who live in a state of violence and suffer a disproportionate high rate of trauma and chaos during the stress of assimilation, poverty, separation, and cultural isolation.

Panel speakers with lived experience in the life journeys and experiences with refugee resettlement concluded the program. Jo Buth is known as the matriarch of 15 Burmese families now living in Waukesha and has served as a loving intermediary between eastern and western cultures and families, including that of Po Po Too, who spoke of her journey to America under devastating circumstances. Arman Tahir, MD serves as director of operations for the Muslim Community and Health Center in Milwaukee, and spoke to the everyday obstacles of assimilation for refugees as they navigate the health care system.

The WIAAP Vision
The vision of WIAAP is that Wisconsin children have optimal health and well-being and are valued by society. We practice the highest quality health care and experience professional satisfaction and personal well-being.

The Wisconsin Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics (WIAAP) strives to:

- Assure optimal health and safety for Wisconsin’s children and their families through advocacy and collaboration with child interest groups
- Provide support and education to our members, enabling them to continue to be the most effective providers of healthcare to children

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From left to right: WIAAP President Jeff Britton, MD, FAAP; Jo Buth, resettlement volunteer; Arman Tahir, MD, Muslim Community and Health Center; Po Po Too, Burmese refugee living in Waukesha; and Natasa Torbica, WI Department of Children and Families Refugee Programs Section.

AAP Special Achievement Awards (from left to right): Cliff Hartmann, MD, DDS, FAAPD, WIAAP President Jeff Britton and Steven Manson, MD, FAAP.
A Message from Jeffrey Britton, MD, FAAP, WIAAP President

April 2017

It’s hard to believe that it has been nearly three years since I took over as President of your Wisconsin Chapter of the AAP. The time has flown by, and yet when I look back over the past three years, I find that we accomplished quite a bit. It’s only with the tremendous help of our officers, our board members, our terrific executive director Kia LaBracke, and Ashley Monson, Eric Ostermann, and the team at Badger Bay Management Company that we have been able to make such great progress. And, of course, your support of the Chapter, its mission, and its strategic priorities has been critical to our success.

Our work since July 2014 has focused on the areas of Early Childhood, Mental Health, Quality Improvement, and Poverty and Child Health. We have seen the state Departments of Health Services, Children and Families, and Public Instruction accept and implement standards for early childhood screening and assessment throughout the reach of their departments. We have celebrated the opening of the Office of Children’s Mental Health. We have assisted with the creation and implementation of the Child Psychiatry Consultation Pilot Project, and just last month asked legislators to increase its funding. We held a successful Mental Health Symposium in March 2017, and were able to offer MOC Part 2 credit to participants. We ran a successful MOC 4 project aimed at improving HPV vaccination rates, and are currently exploring ways to expand this project so that more of you can participate. We participated in statewide conferences on Poverty and on Mental Health.

Our Open Forum topics have tied in with our strategic priorities. We gathered together representatives from agencies to teach us more about resources for children in poverty, and created “The Pediatrician’s Guide to Poverty Resources” on our website so that you have easy access to this information. We brought together representatives from the Wisconsin Dental Association and Wisconsin Medicaid to discuss issues of children’s oral health, including Medicaid Dental Access. We hosted Dr. David Nichols from the American Board of Pediatrics to discuss Quality improvement and maintenance of Certification. Last fall we discussed food security. And on May 4th we discussed a topic of great interest to me personally, Refugee and Immigrant Health.

On the Advocacy front, we have taken over the organization of the Pediatric Policy Group, a monthly meeting of representatives and lobbyists from like-minded health organizations to discuss bills and policy issues of pediatric interest in the state. We have participated in state and federal advocacy activities, and we have developed a pediatric policy track at the Wisconsin Medical Society Doctor Day event.

We still have a huge amount of work to do. Fortunately, when I step down on June 30, I will be leaving your Chapter in very capable hands. I am very confident that Mala Mathur as president, Dipesh Navsaria as vice president, and Sarah Campbell as secretary/treasurer will far exceed what we have accomplished these past three years.

Finally, I want to emphasize how critical your continued support of the Wisconsin Chapter is to the future of children’s health in Wisconsin. Your membership dues make up the vast majority of the Chapter’s budget, and without them we could not hope to accomplish all that we have accomplished. I sincerely hope that some of you will also choose to become more personally involved in Chapter activities – it’s fun, and it’s rewarding.

It has truly been a privilege to lead the Wisconsin Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, and it has been the highlight of my professional career. Thank you for your support and your trust in me.
New Guidelines for the Prevention of Peanut Allergy in the United States

Todd Mahr, MD, FAAP, FAAAAI, FACAAI

During his tenure as chair of the AAP Section of Allergy and Immunology, Dr. Mahr spearheaded efforts for an AAP-endorsed Allergy and Anaphylaxis plan. Authors included Drs. Julie Wang and Scott Sicherer, both of Mt. Sinai in New York.

Enclosed are the final guidelines. You can find an editable version of the AAP Allergy and Anaphylaxis Emergency Plan at www.aap.org/aaep.

WIAAP Legislative Advocacy: American Health Care Act (AHCA) and Doctor Day

On behalf of all the children and families in your care, we want to thank you for the calls, emails to our federal legislators urging them to reject the AHCA. While the bill as amended did pass through the House of Representatives, there is ample opportunity to advocate for a better bill in the Senate. Throughout the dialogue, our message is the same: Keep kids covered.

Meantime, in Madison, 15 pediatricians and 17 pediatric residents took up the call to meet their legislators on Doctor Day on March 29, 2017. Featured issues included support for the expansion of the Child Psychiatry Consultation Program (CPCP), fighting the opioid epidemic and ensuring the vitality of Wisconsin's Medicaid program. Over 480 physicians were on hand for this empowering event. If you missed it this year, we hope you will consider attending in 2018.

Attention WIAAP Voting Fellows: Proposed Bylaws Changes


WIAAP Board of Directors

Secretary/Treasurer
Sarah Campbell, MD, FAAP
Affinity Health System

Dr. Campbell begins her new position after two terms on the WIAAP board of directors. She serves as co-chair of WIAAP’s Quality Improvement committee and formerly was chair of the committee on early career physicians.

Members at Large

Jennifer Kleven, MD, FAAP
Gundersen Health System, La Crosse

With a desire to integrate the work of WIAAP into practices statewide, Dr. Kleven is an active community volunteer in addition to her responsibilities as a pediatric hospitalist and administrator.

Barbara Kolp-Jurss, MD, MBA, FAAP
Aurora Advanced Health Care, Milwaukee

Dr. Kolp-Jurss advocates for access and quality in mental and behavioral health in the primary care medical home. She served previously on WIAAP’s committee on Breastfeeding and Nutrition.

Our many thanks to Jenny Thomas, MD, FAAP, who has served two terms as a WIAAP board member.
WIAAP Upcoming Events
For more information and to register, visit our web site at wiaap.org.

Adolescent Health
Thursday, October 5, 2017  |  Oconomowoc, WI

As your patients get older, the stakes get higher. Mental health disorders, substance use disorders, reproductive health, diligence in maintaining updated immunizations, the complexities of patient confidentiality - primary care physicians are often the safe and trusted experts to help adolescents make healthy decisions. We'll explore how teens also can teach providers about effective communication, and how you can work together as they transition from pediatric to adult care.

HPV Vaccine Summit
Wednesday, October 18, 2017  |  Green Bay, WI
Thursday, October 26, 2017  |  Eau Claire, WI

HPV Vaccine Summit series aims to improve HPV immunization rates throughout Wisconsin by providing:
• Current data on state-specific HPV disease epidemiology and immunization rates
• Updates on disease caused by HPV from regional experts
• Current information on HPV vaccine safety
• Ways to advocate for organizational support of adolescent immunizations