

MISSISSIPPI pediatrics

newsletter for members of the mississippi chapter of the aap

Message from our President

John Gaudet, MD, FAAP Hattiesburg, MS



Part of the fun of pediatrics for me has been developing longitudinal relationships with families. I've now been in practice long enough that many of my adolescent patients came to me as infants.

Sometimes I allow myself the privilege to reminisce with families about their early years. We recall joys and struggles from the past. Frequently the parent will say... "I'll never forget what you told me the day she was born..." This comment always makes me a little nervous - I'm sure my advice and counsel has changed (hopefully for the better) over time. Regardless, I'm honored that they remember.

The things we do and say in what seems to be a routine hospital or office visit will be remembered for years - maybe even for generations.

Pediatricians work every day to improve the health of our patients. But what about the children whom we don't have the privilege of directly seeing, to which we can't directly speak, on which we can't actually lay our hands?

We can help them too... through advocacy.

When we teach a medical student or resident how best to take care of a patient, we are reaching all of the future patients of that student or resident. They remember what we do and say.

When we discuss the health effects of legislation being considered by our state Senator or Representative, we are reaching all of the potential patients affected by that legislation. They act on what we do and say.

When we counsel an adolescent about making healthy choices, we are reaching not only that child, but potentially all of their progeny as well. They remember what we do and say.

Advocacy is not a hobby, it is patient care. With all of us working toward common goals, the MSAAP broadens our reach. As your MSAAP president for 2019-2020, I am honored to be working with you toward advocating for patients in our communities, our state, and our nation.

HPV Vaccine 2018 Champion Award

Congratulations to Dr Audrey Robertson, Dr. Jasmine Sandhu, Ali Tirell, PNP and all of the staff of Trinity Pediatrics in Jackson. The Clinic received the **HPV Vaccine 2018 Champion Award**, given by CDC, ACS and AACI. Each state is awarded a champion for providing excellent HPV vaccine uptake to adolescents, age 13-15 years. Dr. Robertson and her group administered twice as many HPV as Tdap to this age group.

The clinic's two-dose HPV completion rate for age under 15 years was an astounding 87%. Dr. Robertson's approach is to bundle Tdap, HPV and MCV at adolescents - 7th grade vaccine visit. They also schedule patients to return for their second dose of HPV vaccine prior to leaving the clinic.



Dr. Audrey Robertson (center, holding award), Dr. Jasmine Sandhu (3rd from left), and Trinity Pediatric Clinic staff show their pride

Another key to their success is sending appointment reminders two days before all scheduled appointments. The office staff also includes a primary immunization coordinator and support staff.

Advocacy on the Air

One day before the initiation of the state Legislative session, in a proactive effort to gain the support of lawmakers and the general public, Chapter member Dr. Darren Scoggin and State Health Officer Dr. Thomas Dobbs spoke on the Paul Gallo Radio Show on MS Public Broadcasting.

Their messages were to thank legislators for protecting our current childhood immunizations laws in the 2018 session, to tout the solid science behind immunizations, and to ask for continued protection of Mississippi children by maintaining current state guidelines. *(Left to right: Dr. Thomas Dobbs, Host Paul Gallo, Dr. Darren Scoggin)*



SAVE THE DATE



Mississippi Thrive! Child Health and Development Summit

April 25-26, 2019 • Civil Rights Museum, Jackson, Mississippi

This meeting is supported in part by grant UK2MC31456 from Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). Its contents are solely the responsibility of the University of Mississippi Medical Center and do not necessarily represent the official views of HRSA.

Speakers:

Dr. Laura Jana, Media Spokesperson for American Academy of Pediatrics, Author
Jeana Ross, Secretary of the Alabama Department of Early Childhood Education
Dr. Julie Sweetland, Vice President for Strategy and Innovation, Frame Works Institute
Marissa Kaiser, Program Officer, Bezos Family Foundation
Other national and local experts

Target Audience:

Physicians, Physician Assistants, Nurse Practitioners, Nurses, Social Workers, Occupational, Physical, and Speech Therapists, Psychologists, Dietitians, Business Community, Legislators, Policy Makers, Educators

Topics Include:

- Day 1**
- Health Literacy
 - Release of Mississippi's Survey Results on Child Health Development
 - Policy Opportunities for promoting Child Health and Development
 - Practice Transformation
- Day 2**
- Early Introduction of Food Allergens
 - Causes of Dental Erosion in Children
 - Screening for High Blood Pressure
 - Asthma/Wheezing in Infants
 - Update on Vaping
 - Early Childhood Obesity: A Lifestyle Approach
 - Residents' Case Presentations

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MSAAP Legislative Report February 2019

The first legislative deadline at the end of January killed a number of very good bills the Chapter worked on, but thankfully killed all the dangerous immunization exemption bills.

- **Expanded scope of practice** All the nursing scope of practice bills were killed on deadline.
- **Seatbelts** Our effort to increase the fine for not wearing a seatbelt from \$25 to \$50 (the national average is \$49) was not successful.
- **School bus safety** However, a good bill is working its way through the process. House Bill (HB) 677 would make it possible for anyone to report a driver who does not stop for a school bus letting off a child, or picking up a child, as is required by law. HB677 would also allow the school bus driver to position the bus so it blocks traffic when letting a child on or off the bus. There were at least 3 children killed by on-coming motor vehicles last year.
- **Banning tanning bed use by teens** Senate Bill (SB) 2847, which would ban teens from tanning beds, successfully passed the full Senate in mid-February.
- **E-cigarettes ban** Unfortunately, the bills to ban e-cigarettes in K-12 schools all died, but individual school districts can adopt policies prohibiting them.
- **Increased tobacco users' fee** HB1486 to tax e-cigarettes like other tobacco products is still alive and in the House Ways and Means Committee. The bills to raise the cigarette tax that the Tobacco Tax Coalition is supporting are SB 2536 by Brice Wiggins to raise the tax by \$1.50, and HB1573 by Jeff Smith to raise the tax by \$1 (Chairman Smith says he is considering a \$1.50 tax raise). Senator Simmons' SB2665 would increase the tax by \$1.50. As of February 27th, all tobacco tax bills died in committee.
- **Medicaid** No Medicaid expansion bills were taken up in the committee, to which they were referred, effectively killing the bills. One of those bills would have provided for coverage for women between pregnancies. While not successful this year, it is a positive that the need for this program was brought to the awareness of policymakers. There are four Medicaid-related bills still alive, all in the Senate. SB2213 by Brice Wiggins is supporting the pilot for allowing MS Medicaid contract directly with UMMC and the CAY Clinic to care for medically complex children. SB2267 continues the Medicaid Advisory Committee. SB2268 continues Medicaid coverage for ex-inpatient psychiatry patients. SB2439 expands DOM authority for timely filing and dual-eligible billings.
- **Access to healthy foods in food deserts** HB1132 would renew a law to help small grocery stores in Food Deserts stock fruits and vegetables. It has passed the House and gone to the Senate.
- **Health care financing** HB801 extends the repealer on the Health Care Expenditure Fund.
- **Vision screening for children entering school** HB1322 is a bill intended to catch school children who need eye glasses but don't have them. An "opt out" provision was added for parents. However, there is no mention of Bright Futures eye screenings and there will be difficulty for some parents to opt out. We are watching the content of this bill.

VACCINATION

We've all worked with parents who are vaccine hesitant and need reassurance. Beyond your expert medical advice, some parents look for non-medical advice from peers. Perhaps [this article](#) will help.

Congratulations to the MSDH, pediatricians and family physicians!

In late January, the MS State Department of Health (MSDH) received a "*Vaccination Coverage Award - Most Improved Coverage Among Adolescents*" award from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). From 2014 to 2017, the adolescent vaccine rates (13-17 year olds) rose across the board. Depending on the particular vaccine, increases were from 9.8% for HPV Female (Up-To Date) to an increase of 29.4% for Varicella (greater than or equal to 2 doses). This reflects the most improvement of any state in the country.

Screening Technical Assistance & Resource Center child development - maternal depression - social determinants of health

Early childhood screening is an essential component of health supervision. The AAP [STAR Center](#) offers screening recommendations, practice tools, and individualized assistance to help pediatric health care providers implement effective screening, referral, and follow-up for developmental milestones, maternal depression, and social determinants of health. [Click here for information.](#)

From MS Medicaid: checking available physician office visits

On Jan. 1, 2019, the Mississippi Division of Medicaid (DOM) increased the number of physician office visits for Medicaid beneficiaries from 12 to 16 visits per state fiscal (SFY) year. However, when providers check a beneficiary's available service limits in the Mississippi Envision Web Portal, the number of remaining office visits are displayed in two separate tabs. To learn more, click [here](#).

MSCAN Corner

Mississippi Medicaid's *Coordinated Access Network* for children

REMINDER FROM UNITED HEALTHCARE

UNITEDHEALTHCARE SUPPORTING PRESCRIBER NEEDS THROUGH PHARMACY RESOURCES

PreCheck MyScript: This App is now available on Link and provides real-time prescription costs and coverage detail.

PreCheck MyScript helps make it easy for prescribers to run a pharmacy trial claim to get real-time prescription coverage details for your patients who are UnitedHealthcare benefit plan members.

PreCheck MyScript gives you:

- Immediate alerts when a proposed prescription currently requires prior authorization, or is non-covered or non-preferred
- A quick online way to request prior authorization- without the need for a phone call or fax

The App is designed to integrate with your current office workflow, it can save you time by reducing the need to fax or call for prescription coverage information. By alerting you when a medication requires prior authorization or isn't covered, it may also reduce frustration and delays for members at the pharmacy.

PreCheck MyScript is available in the Link marketplace. To learn more about PreCheck MyScript please visit UHCprovider.com/PreCheckMyScript



give your feedback

Participate in an online survey about pediatricians' perspectives on nature and health!

Participate in an online survey about pediatricians' perspectives on nature and health! This study is being conducted by an undergraduate student and Rawlings Presidential Research Scholar at Cornell University. The survey takes approximately 15 minutes to complete and as a thank you, you will be entered into a lottery for one of two \$25 Amazon gift cards. You must be a pediatrician practicing in the United States or Canada to participate. You can access the survey using the following [link](#). If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Briana via email (bl459@cornell.edu).

tobacco**CONTROL**

A. Learn more about e-cigarettes and AAP resources [here](#).

B. A whole new legion of future cigarette smokers is being created by those that vape e-cigarettes today, [reports a study](#) detailed in JAMA. Largely, these youth otherwise wouldn't have smoked cigarettes.

C. The American Academy of Pediatrics has released an updated policy statement, "[E-Cigarettes and Similar Devices](#)." The policy was published in the February 2019 issue of *Pediatrics*, and outlines the dramatic increase in teen e-cigarette use and addresses the health impacts of e-cigarettes and nicotine addiction. The national Academy continues to call for immediate federal regulation to limit youth access to vaping products. See the policy statement [here](#).

D. Quitting Vaped Nicotine is very difficult for teens...

An estimated 3.6 million middle and high school students vape regularly, and there are limited resources and interventions available to help teens addicted to vaping nicotine that come from the use of JUUL and other e-cigarettes. Strategies and resources for cessation are not available as the products are relatively new, vary greatly in the amount of nicotine delivered, and research on proven cessation strategies is not available. "[Pediatricians] are using our best judgment but we don't know exactly what to do. There's no sound science yet," said Dr. Susanne E. Tanski, Investigator for the AAP's Julius B. Richmond Center of Excellence. Read a *New York Times* article [here](#).



E. A Tool to Identify Adolescents at Risk of Cigarette Smoking Initiation

Click [here](#) learn about a short prognostic tool that can be incorporated into a busy clinical practice, and can be used to accurately identify adolescents at risk for cigarette smoking initiation.

F. Clinic "lunch and learns" are being offered

Augment the services your clinic provides to children exposed to secondhand smoke and family members who smoke. The Chapter continues offering tobacco "lunch and learns" to practices across the state. We will bring lunch into your clinic and provide an one hour tobacco education training for interested clinics.

At the *Lunch and Learn*, pediatricians and their staff will learn

- about JUULs and other e-cigarettes and vaping (do you know that these devices are NOT a safe and effective tobacco cessation aid?), and the latest research on the impact of e-cigarettes and vaping devices
- kids' exposure to secondhand smoke and how the clinic can help address this with your patients;
- how to code for reimbursement for providing tobacco education/intervention to families;
- what state-specific resources are currently available and how to refer users who want to quit to the MS Tobacco Quitline.

There is no cost and no further obligation for your clinic. Please make space on your calendar for us soon. If you are interested in hosting a lunch and learn in your clinic, contact Gretchen Mahan at msaap@integrity.com.

The Tobacco Free Mississippi: Engaging Mississippi Pediatricians project is funded by a grant from the Mississippi State Department of Health Office of Tobacco Control.