

## Nevada Chapter

American Academy of Pediatrics

DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN®



### Letter from the President

Dear colleagues,

Happy spring! The long winter is finally over. With the longer days and warmer weather, it is also time to switch our chapter officers. The new board starts on April first. I want to take this opportunity to thank my board for their hard work and dedication for the past 2 years. Our chapter has grown tremendously, and I am so proud of our efforts. Our annual meeting last year had one of the highest attendances in recent history. Our wellness retreats and happy hours have been popular as well. We will soon be celebrating our 3rd anniversary of Walk with a Doc in Las Vegas and we have a new Walk with a Doc in Reno. Our advocacy efforts have helped protect children's access to health care through the Affordable Care Act and the astounding renewing of CHIP for 10 years. Our chapter has also advocated for other important issues including gun violence and immunizations.

We also welcome a new executive director Leann DiDomenico McAllister. I want to thank our last executive director Roberta Aguin for the hard work as the glue for our chapter. Many of our programs and events would not be possible without her tireless efforts.

Lastly, I want to say what an honor it has been being your chapter president. I've had the opportunity to meet many members and discuss what it takes to care for the children in our state. I am constantly humbled by the passion pediatricians have for the wellbeing of their patients.

I wish the new board well and I have utmost confidence that our chapter will continue to grow.

With sincere gratitude,

Betsy



### Upcoming Events

#### Physician Wellness Retreat Impro and Ethics CME

Saturday, April 6, 2019  
Canyon Gate Country Club  
Las Vegas  
REGISTER BY MARCH 30

#### Reno Walk with a Doc: Kids Time

Saturday, April 13, 9:30-10:30  
(2nd Saturday of every  
month)  
Sparks Marina Gazebo  
Reno

#### LV Walk with a Doc: Kids Time

Sunday, April 14, 8:30-9:30  
(2nd Sunday of every month)  
Springs Preserve  
Las Vegas

#### Annual Meeting

SAVE THE DATE  
Saturday,  
September 21, 2019  
M Resort  
Las Vegas

## Chapter Leadership Changes

On April 1, our Chapter's newly elected leadership will start a 2-year tenure. According to the latest US census data, Nevada is tied with Idaho as the fastest growing state in the U.S. Over the next two years, we expect not only the population of Nevada to grow, but new physicians to also join our growing ranks to meet the needs of new families.

The team that will lead our Chapter through this grow is:

### **President: Pam Greenspon, M.D., FAAP**

Dr. Greenspon is a native of Chicago and its suburbs. She studied at Wesleyan University in Connecticut and then returned to Chicago to study medicine at Northwestern University. After completing residency at Emory University, she practiced general pediatrics in Manchester, Connecticut. In 2004 she settled in Las Vegas and practices at Desert Valley Pediatrics. She has been the Chapter Breastfeeding Coordinator for the Nevada chapter of the AAP.

### **Vice President: Vanessa Slots, M.D., FAAP**

Dr. Slots is originally from Texas and went to medical school at the American University of the Caribbean on the island of St. Maarten. She completed her pediatric residency training at the University of Tennessee, Chattanooga School of Medicine at Erlanger Hospital. Dr. Slots moved to Reno with husband in 2013 post-residency and has been practicing general pediatrics with Renown Children's Hospital since that time. In 2014, she was appointed the medical director for outpatient pediatrics. That role transitioned in 2017 to the Department Chief of General Pediatrics, Adolescent Medicine and Developmental Pediatrics (previously including Behavioral Health).

### **Secretary / Treasurer: Mitchell Strominger, M.D., FAAP**

Dr. Strominger is an ophthalmologist in Reno and is affiliated with Renown Hospital. He earned his M.D. degree from Washington University in 1986 and completed his residency training in ophthalmology at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine at Yeshiva University in New York City. He then completed his neuro-ophthalmology fellowship at the Bascom Palmer Eye Institute in Miami and his pediatric ophthalmology fellowship at the Manhattan Eye, Ear and Throat Hospital.



### Useful Websites

**Nevada Chapter AAP**  
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**Vanessa Slots, M.D., FAAP**  
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**Kami Larsen, M.D., FAAP**  
Immediate Past President

**Roberta Again**  
Executive Director

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## Chapter Leadership Changes *continued*

### **Immediate Past President: Betsy Huang, M.D., FAAP**

Dr. Huang grew up in Southern Nevada. She received her BA in Communication from University of Southern California. She then went to medical school at University of Nevada School of Medicine. She completed her pediatric residency at LAC+USC Medical Center in Los Angeles. Dr. Huang currently works for Nevada Health Centers in the Henderson office.

### **Executive Director: Leann DiDomenico McAllister, MBA**

Before moving last year with her family to Las Vegas, Ms. McAllister was the administrative director of Performance Pediatrics, a primary-care micro practice in Plymouth, Massachusetts, for 10 years. While at Performance Pediatrics, Ms. McAllister was a monthly contributor writing about the joys of running a practice for Physicians' Practice magazine and served on their editorial board. Ms. McAllister also chaired a committee at Boston Children's Hospital that set best practices for the 80 primary-care practices associated with the hospital's IPA. Ms. McAllister and her husband, Dr. Terence R. McAllister, FAAP, are the proud parents of a beautiful, but complicated, foster adopted teenage son. Ms. McAllister is excited by the opportunity to further Nevada AAP's efforts in many areas, but especially in increasing understanding of the life-long impact of childhood trauma on an individual's health. Ms. McAllister welcomes Chapter member to contact her on her mobile (508-685-0918) or email (LeeDiMc@gmail.com) with any Chapter questions or concerns.

### **Call to Action**

There are many openings and opportunities for Chapter members who want to chair committees and lead efforts in areas of pediatrics care they are passionate about. Through colleague connections and collaboration, we have the power to improve care for pediatric patients throughout Nevada while providing professional growth and opportunities for the clinicians that care for children, adolescents, and young adults.



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## Annual Leadership Forum

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) held their Annual Leadership Forum (ALF) March 14 – 17 at their headquarters in Itasca, Illinois. At the meeting, leadership from our Chapter met with leaders from other Chapters, Committees, Councils, and Sections to debate and vote on current AAP resolutions. The ALF is also an opportunity for our Chapter to learn best practices from AAP senior staff as well as from our peers in our District and throughout North America.

In his address at ALF, AAP President Kyle E. Yasuda, M.D., FAAP urged leaders to act to make real institutional change to ease physician burnout. Dr. Yasuda stated that by working together, AAP members must advocate for regulations that lessen the burden of billing, inadequate payments, and documentation. We expect Dr. Yasuda to make addressing the emergency of physician burnout a priority over the next year.

Another call-to-action stemming from the ALF was the release of the 2019 Prevention of Drowning Policy Statement and Toolkit. Drowning is a leading cause of injury-related death in children. In 2017, drowning claimed the lives of almost 1000 US children younger than 20 years. Several strategies are available to prevent these tragedies. As educators and advocates, pediatricians play an important role in the prevention of drowning. The complete policy statement and tool kit are available to members at [AAP.org](http://AAP.org).

Additionally, attendees at ALF were addressed by Lee Savio Beers, M.D., FAAP, of Washington, D.C., and Pamela K. Shaw, M.D., FAAP, of Kansas City, Kan., as candidates for AAP president-elect. Additional information about the candidates, including profiles and position statements, will be published in upcoming issues of AAP News and online at [www.aap.org/election](http://www.aap.org/election). Voting will begin Sept. 7 and ends Sept. 21.



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## A Special Note from the Nevada Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program



Let's do our best for Nevada's children.

Nevada ranks near last nationally in rates of lead testing children under six, with only 3% of children across the state tested. Old homes are only one method by which children can be exposed to lead.

Everyday products brought into the home can also put children at risk. Childhood lead poisoning is entirely preventable, and doctors play a key role in protecting the health and safety of our most vulnerable members of the community. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends testing children at 12 and 24 months of age or at least once before age 6 if not previously tested. Research shows there is no safe level of pediatric lead exposure and at low doses most kids show no outward symptoms.

To address these health challenges, the Nevada Institute for Children's Research and Policy has established a new program to reach out to healthcare providers, community organizations, and individuals to start the conversation about lead testing. The Nevada Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program, a CDC-funded grant, is a statewide initiative, which aims to:

- Increase the number of children under 6 tested for lead
- Improve surveillance data to identify at-risk populations
- Link families of exposed children to services

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## A Special Note from the Nevada Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program *continued*

What we do:

- Provide educational materials to start the conversation with your patients
- Provide brief presentations to providers about the latest evidence of childhood lead poisoning to help your patients make the best decisions with the latest data

What you can do:

- Schedule an in-office visit to review the latest research and recommendations
- Contact Us to order educational materials for your patients
- Counsel parents on the life-long risks of lead exposure
- Test all children at 12 and 24 months or at least once before age 6
- Report blood lead level testing data so that we can get a better idea of what is happening in Nevada

Soon providers will be receiving a lead information packet. Join us in reducing the incidence of lead poisoning in our community by scheduling a meeting to review the latest research findings and recommendations from leading health agencies.

Contact us today to schedule an in-person visit 702-895-1040 or visit us at [nvclppp.org](http://nvclppp.org).

### Contact Us

Questions? Comments? Please contact us at [nevadachapteraap@gmail.com](mailto:nevadachapteraap@gmail.com).



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