

Iowa Chapter

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President's Article

Fellow Iowa pediatricians,

We appear to be past the worst of COVID-19 in our patients and on the cusp of having vaccines for the youngest children. This has been a long and difficult road, but it is good to see the light at the end of the tunnel. I hope you are all hanging in there with the long ride.

There will be a national advocacy event for AAP pediatricians in late March. We are hoping this goes as well as the last few in terms of results. In the past 2 years, congress passed the legislation we were lobbying for. This event will be held virtually again this year. I would love to visit with all of you on the mall, but that will have to wait. Please join us virtually to help give a voice to our nation's children. Just log in to live AAP events and sign up for it.

Our chapter has done well in the last few years, and we hope to continue to get your support. Keep your eyes open for virtual, and hopefully some in-person, events coming up this year.

Thanks again,

Dan Wright, D.O. FAAP

Resident Sponsorship to AAP Advocacy Conference

The Iowa Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics will be awarding scholarships to selected fellows/residents/students to attend the [2022 AAP Advocacy Conference](#). This virtual event will be held March 20-22, 2022. To apply, please fill out the [interest form](#). **Final application deadline is March 1, 2022.**

The AAP Advocacy Conference gives participants the opportunity to hear from distinguished guest speakers, attend advocacy skills-building and child health

policy issue sessions, and learn how to be a strong voice for children and families. On the final day of the conference, participants will attend virtual meetings with their congressional offices with other attendees from their state.

[Learn More](#)

[Apply for Scholarship](#)



Iowa Newborn Screening Program for Cystic Fibrosis

Dear Iowa Pediatric Providers:

We have made significant progress in the treatment of cystic fibrosis (CF). Due to this progress, we are seeing more and more cystic fibrosis patients become mothers. This is something to celebrate!

Often, our CF mothers are taking CF modulator medications such as elexacaftor/tezacaftor/ivacaftor (Trikafta®). CF modulator use by the mother may impact the accuracy of the baby's newborn screen for cystic fibrosis. Additionally, there has been concern that sweat test results could be altered if an infant is breastfeeding. Therefore, alternate plans should be made in these circumstances.

We suggest:

- Offering a referral for prenatal genetic counseling for a woman with CF who becomes pregnant
- Informing the family of the limitations of newborn screening for cystic fibrosis due to modulator medication use
- Informing the state newborn screening program about any pending birth, or recent birth, for a mother on CF modulator therapy so DNA screening can be performed regardless of the baby's IRT value (319-384-5097 or iowanewbornscreening@uiowa.edu). Please include the mother's name, date of birth, and estimated due date. When known, please also include the baby's name, date of birth, and name of the birthing hospital.

- Referring the infant to an accredited CF center as soon as possible for further evaluation. Sweat testing, as well as genetic sequencing, will likely both be needed to appropriately evaluate the infant

It is important that the baby of a mother with CF be identified as soon as possible. We need to obtain appropriate testing to ascertain the infant's true CF disease status. If there is strong clinical suspicion that the infant has CF, treatment should be initiated while evaluation continues.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Iowa Newborn Screening Program at 319-384-5097 or by emailing iowanewbornscreening@uiowa.edu. We appreciate your help in addressing this issue.



Dr. Kaushik Announced as IPC Ambassador for Iowa AAP

Ashlesha Kaushik, MD, FAAP has been selected to serve as an American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) Ambassador representing the Iowa Chapter. In this role, Dr. Kaushik will be joining the AAP Project Firstline, which is a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) national health care workforce infection prevention and control training collaborative. As an IPC Ambassador, Dr. Kaushik will be part of a diverse group of pediatricians working together to address state-level infection prevention and control to improve the health of children and adolescents in your state. IA AAP moves into its second year of Project Firstline efforts. Stay tuned for more details.

Iowa EHDl Chapter Champion Opportunity

The Iowa Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (IA EHDl) Program is looking for a IAAAP Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDl) Chapter Champion. Almost every AAP chapter currently has an appointed EHDl Chapter Champion. These individuals serve as the point person for newborn hearing concerns at the state and local level to ensure success of reaching each of the AAP EHDl program goals.

AAP EHDI Chapter Champions help improve the effectiveness of newborn hearing screening, diagnosis, and intervention through the medical home. They assist with maintaining focus on increasing the involvement of primary care pediatricians and other child health care providers by linking follow-up services more closely to the newborn's medical home.

It is desired that the Chapter Champion attend quarterly IA EHDI Advisory Council meetings and consult with area pediatricians as needed to affirm the importance of timely and effective newborn hearing screening and related follow up.

If you are interested, please contact mdekker@iowamedical.org. Click the button below for the EDHI Chapter Champion job description.

[EHDI Job Description](#)
