

National MedPeds Residents' Association

Newsletter

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The Second Issue

Here it is, the second issue of the Med/Peds Residents' Newsletter, making this a true periodical. We received a great deal of response from the first issue both from the paper and web versions. The mailing list is developing but still consists primarily of the program directors listed in the "Green Book". Thanks to all those programs that sent in the names of your residents and faculty; you all get your own personal copy of this issue. As for the rest of you, get those responses in! We can't have a forum if we don't know who you are, and we can't publish your articles unless you get them to us. As for communicating, everyone should be taking advantage of the email server for Med/Peds (see article in this issue); it's a great mailing list to be on.

Med/Peds International Effort

One way for us to increase interaction among Med/Peds programs and their residents is to develop combined efforts. A wonderful project for the good of man as well as the good of Med/Peds would be an international relief effort. Many doctors and residents already go to underserved areas every year. Perhaps a group of interested Med/Peds residents from various programs across the nation guided by several Med/Peds program directors, faculty members or even community practitioners could join together as an official Med/Peds trip. Do you already have a Med/Peds person at your program involved in such relief efforts? Has anyone ever worked out a way to get these relief programs to count as an official elective? Let us hear your thoughts.

Med Students' Guide to Med/Peds

As reported in the last issue, many of us had difficulty learning about Med/Peds as medical students. We learned from word of mouth initially and then from one-paragraph descriptions in residency brochures, but never from a consolidated Med/Peds source. The family practice organizations, on the other hand, provide information in several publications and even on their official web site. This gives them a distinct marketing advantage and they even take this opportunity to comment on Med/Peds through their eyes. (See www.aafp.org/family/student/resp-18.html) The need to inform medical students about Med/Peds should be addressed so that we might continue to improve the quality of our applicants and attract those who would best fit into this unique field. *The Med Students' Guide to Med/Peds* is currently under development and input from everyone in the world of Med/Peds is sought. The initial form will be a 4 1/4" x 5 1/2" 8-16 page pamphlet which will be sent to all US medical schools. As our Med/Peds organizations become stronger, it is hoped that this first effort address to medical students will be picked up as an official publication. Please provide your input.

ACP Membership Update

*By Katharine Hurst, MD, Med/Peds Resident
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Finally, a forum for Med/Peds residents to share ideas and frustrations about our residency program! Many thanks to Jeff Bates, MD for his dedication to this project and to our program coordinator, Annette Gonzales, for her help with all of our "projects".

Who knows that you're the doctor for both adults and children? A national survey by the American College of Physicians (ACP) shows one-fourth of Americans think internists are "interns" or "just out of school". At the recent Texas Chapter of the American College of Physicians-Annual Scientific Meeting held in Galveston (November 7-8), the "Doctors for Adults" campaign got off the ground with T-shirts, posters and magnetized name badges with the slogan "*Internal Medicine, Doctors for Adults*". I highly recommend them! To order: Call 1-800-523-1546, extension 2600, and refer to priority code: FILO.

While attending the meeting, I had the privilege of attending a breakfast for chief residents. The national president of the ACP, Dr. William Reynolds, was present to discuss some of the new changes forthcoming to the ACP. This past fall, the ACP and the American Society of Internal Medicine (ASIM) voted to approve a merger between the two organizations. The reason for the merger is "to combine the strengths of the ACP and the ASIM, enhancing the ability of one organization to be an effective advocate in congressional, regulatory, scientific, and other arenas." The current membership of the ACP is 100,000 (including 10,000 medical students), while the ASIM has about 20,000 members (about 12,000 members in common). The new organization is expected to be incorporated on July 1, 1998. In addition to the *Annals of Internal Medicine*, *ACP Journal Club* and discounts on the MKSAP and other meetings, the ACP will be planning to provide residents with access to financial planners and to continue offering reasonable rates on insurance plans.

The ACP-ASIM is our voice in Washington on areas of public health and the impact of managed care on practice and training. You are eligible to become an Associate member as long as you are in a residency or fellowship training program. The lower rate can be extended for up to 6 years beyond completion of your training. To request a membership application, call the ACP Member Records Section at 800/523-1546, extension 2700.

Editor's note: Perhaps Med/Peds could also benefit from such a publicity campaign with something like. "Med/Peds: Specialists in Adults & Specialists in Kids"

Putting the Web to Work for Us!

*by Brian D. Zimmerman, MS-4
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Over the past several years, "e-mail" and "surfing" the web have become popular pastimes for many of us. The instant electronic messages sent and received from around the globe are incredibly convenient and the search for information or "cool" web sites can really be exciting. It doesn't take long, however, to realize that these functions are only the very beginning of the vast power and opportunities that the internet affords.

Corporate America has already begun to harness the power of the internet to market their products and services. As future Med/Peds physicians, we must also discover ways to utilize this technology for our benefit. By becoming more familiar

with the internet and what it offers, we can begin to make it work for us. We can then begin to use this media to provide exposure to the specialty of Med/Peds and to build a unity among Med/Peds residents and physicians.

E-Mail Servers

One of the simplest ways we can begin to make the internet work for us is by utilizing e-mail servers or "list" servers. These are designed to facilitate group distribution of e-mails to a "list" of subscribers. Any e-mails sent to the server are automatically forwarded to all other subscribers. There are e-mail servers set up for nearly any topic you can think of. The most important ones, of course, are the two that have been established for Med/Peds residency program directors and for Med/Peds in general. The list for Med/Peds residency program directors is limited to that group only. However, the other is open to anyone interested in Med/Peds. These e-mail servers were established in 1996 and are maintained on a server at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in California.

To "subscribe" to the Med/Peds list, all you have to do is send an e-mail to "mailserv@csmc.edu". In the body of the e-mail, type *subscribe med-peds* add a space and type *your e-mail address*. It's that simple.

Once you have done this, you will begin receiving the e-mails that are sent to the server. To send an e-mail to all the subscribers of the list, just address it to "med-peds@csmc.edu". As simple as this process is, since January 1996, there have only been about sixty subscribers. This could become an incredible tool for the exchange of information, ideas, job opportunities, etc...we just need to begin using it! There are currently plans for a new e-mail list specifically for Med/Peds residents. As soon as this is established, we will inform everyone of the new site in a future edition of this newsletter.

Web Pages

Another way we can harness the internet is through the establishment of some good Med/Peds web pages. This takes a bit more time and effort than subscribing to an e-mail server, but it can be extremely rewarding. Earlier this year, I decided to take a stab at producing one. It was really not as hard as I thought it would be. In the first six months, the site has had nearly 3000 visitors. I have been amazed by the number of contacts and information I have obtained from this endeavor.

Through establishing several good Med/Peds web sites, we can create a platform for providing and exchanging information regarding Med/Peds. One Med/Peds site is currently under development by the Med/Peds section of the American Academy of Pediatrics. This site and others like it could eventually become a center for health information, physician referrals, job opportunities, discussion groups, links to other interesting sites on the web and a host of other exciting possibilities. For those interested, there are several sources on the web that provide the basics of web page authoring. Take a look at "A Beginners Guide to HTML" found at "<http://www.hcsa.uiuc.edu/General/Internet/WWW/HTMLPrimerP1.html>".

These new technologies are advancing rapidly. As the internet continues to grow and mature, let's take the opportunity to utilize this media for advancing the profession to which we are all committed. With the investment of a little extra time, we will reap great rewards.

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Last Updated March 5, 1999 by [Jeff Bates](#)