AACAP: GET INVOLVED!
GET CONNECTED
STAY CONNECTED
The Mission of the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry (AACAP) is to promote the healthy development of children, adolescents, and families through advocacy, education, and research, and to meet the professional needs of child and adolescent psychiatrists throughout their careers.
AACAP is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, established in 1953, and is comprised of more than 9,400 child and adolescent psychiatrists and other interested physicians.

Child and adolescent psychiatrists are the leading physician authority on children’s mental health. AACAP is the leading national professional medical association dedicated to treating and improving the lives of children, adolescents, and their families.
To support and advance child and adolescent psychiatry and those it serves, AACAP provides:

- National public information through distribution of Facts for Families and research findings, as well as recognized professionals as spokespersons.
- Government liaisons and education to respond to national concerns over healthcare and social-economic issues affecting children both at the local and national level, as well as expert testimony on issues affecting children, in an effort to improve and expand psychiatric services to children.
- Continuing medical education through scientific meetings and institutes high in quality and content.
- Practice guidelines and systems of care documents to advance the quality of care.
- An interface with managed care organizations to establish appropriate coverage for children and adolescents.
- Promotion and support for research and training opportunities.
- Continual review and development of training curricula for child and adolescent psychiatry training programs.
- Medical student fellowship in child and adolescent psychiatry.
How Can AACAP Support You?

We provide opportunities to become actively involved through:

- Advocacy
- Awards
- Committees
- Research
- Regional organizations
- AACAP national governance
- Networking amongst colleagues and mentors
- Our website, which offers boundless materials to educate and enhance members’, trainees’, and families’ understanding of children and adolescent mental health
Each AACAP Resource Center contains consumer-friendly definitions, answers to frequently asked questions, clinical resources, expert videos, and abstracts from JAACAP, Scientific Proceedings, and Facts for Families relevant to each disorder. This data is developed by AACAP’s Consumer Issues Committee in collaboration with other AACAP committees on special topics such as:

- Anxiety Disorders
- Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD)
- Autism
- Bipolar Disorder
- Bullying
- Trauma and Child Abuse
- Conduct Disorder
- Depression
- Disaster
- Military Families
- Moving Into Adulthood
- Obsessive Compulsive Disorder
- Oppositional Defiant Disorder
- Substance Use
- Suicide
Anxiety Disorders
Anxiety in children is expected and normal at specific times in development. However, parents should not discount a child's fears. Because anxious children may also be quiet, compliant and eager to please, their difficulties may be missed.

Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD)
Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) is a condition which includes difficulties with attention, increased activity, and difficulties with impulsivity. Estimates show that between 3 and 7 percent of school-aged children and about 4 percent of adults have ADHD.

Autism
Autism spectrum disorders affect as many as 1 in 150 American children. Types of autism include autistic disorder, pervasive developmental disorder, and Asperger's syndrome. The cause of autism is not known.

Bipolar Disorder
Although bipolar disorder more commonly develops in older teenagers and young adults, it can appear in children as young as 6. Evaluation will find that some of these children are suffering from a mental disorder. Yet, only a very few of those will have bipolar disorder.

Bullying
Bullying is a common experience for many children and adolescents. Surveys indicate that as many as half of all children are bullied at some time during their school years, and at least 10% are bullied on a regular basis.

Trauma and Child Abuse
Child abuse and violence affect millions of children each year. Child abuse includes physical, sexual, emotional abuse and neglect. Interpersonal violence is violence between people and includes community violence, partner violence (also called "domestic violence"), and bullying.

Conduct Disorder
Conduct disorder is a serious behavioral and emotional disorder that can occur in children and teens. A child with this disorder may display a pattern of disruptive and violent behavior and have problems following rules.

Depression
Childhood depression is different from the normal "blues" and everyday emotions that occur as a child develops. Just because a child seems sad, this does not necessarily mean he or she has significant depression. If the sadness becomes persistent, or if disruptive behavior that interferes with normal social activities, interests, schoolwork, or family life develops, it may indicate that he or she has a depressive illness.

Disaster
A child who has been exposed to a disaster may have been an eye-witness to a disaster. He or she might have been hurt or had a family member who was hurt or killed. Children are also exposed to disasters through TV, media, word-of-mouth, or a mixture of these.

Military Families
Global conflict and unrest have led to the deployment of large numbers of military personnel (active duty, Reserves, National Guard). As a result of duty assignments, members of the military are often separated from their families for lengthy periods of time. A family that loses the active presence of a parent through separation faces significant challenges and stress.

Moving Into Adulthood
Young people moving from adolescence into young adulthood are defined as transitional age youth. New tasks often include: moving away from family, becoming independent, developing one's identity, and learning to handle more complex relationships. For this age group, handling these tasks while adjusting to the start of college and/or moving into the working world can be challenging.

Obsessive Compulsive Disorder
Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder (OCD) is seen in as many as 1-3% of children and adolescents. OCD is characterized by recurrent intense obsessions and/or compulsions that cause severe distress and interfere with day-to-day functioning.

Oppositional Defiant Disorder
It's not unusual for children, especially those in their "terrible twos" and early teens, to defy authority every now and then. When this behavior lasts longer than six months and is excessive compared to what is usual for the child's age, it may mean that the child has a type of behavior disorder called oppositional defiant disorder (ODD).

Substance Use
Use and abuse of drugs and alcohol by teens is a common occurrence and can have serious consequences. Substance abuse can have lasting effects on adolescents and contributes to personal distress, poor school performance, short and long term health problems, relationship difficulties and involvement in antisocial activities.
While every child is unique and special, sometimes they encounter emotions, feelings, or behavior that cause problems in their lives and the lives of those around them. Facts for Families provide information on these topics.

- AACAP provides Facts for Families as a public service that may be duplicated and distributed free of charge
- Articles are written at seventh grade reading level
- AACAP (to date) produced 126 Facts for Families and counting
- Facts for Families generates over one million hits annually
- Articles are available in both online and PDF formats at www.aacap.org
- Articles are available in English, Spanish, Chinese, and Vietnamese
The **Toolbox for Clinical Practice and Outcomes** is a prime resource for members to use in clinical practice for safe and effective treatment and monitoring.

These resources capture:

- Baseline (Medical History and Record Requests and Repeat Monitoring) of Clinical Symptoms
- Medication Initiation
- Medication Monitoring
- Outcome Scales
- Medication Information Resources for Professionals and Families

[www.aacap.org/clinicalpracticetoolbox](http://www.aacap.org/clinicalpracticetoolbox)
Living with Mental Illness: Books, Stories, and Memoirs

- List of books, stories, and memoirs that can be used to help educate children, adolescents, parents, and clinicians about experiences with mental illness
- Cover a wide variety of topics ranging from ADHD to Trauma and are suitable for different ages
- Include a summary and a recommendation on the appropriate audience
- A great resource for patients and a way to expand your personal library

www.aacap.org/livingwithmentalillness
Advocacy with AACAP

We work to educate policymakers and administrators about issues affecting child and adolescent psychiatry and children’s mental health and regularly engage our members on pertinent legislation and regulatory activities.

AACAP provides resources for members to use as they communicate with policymakers about issues related to child and adolescent psychiatry and children’s mental health.
How to Be an Advocate
AACAP develops tools and trainings for members looking to hone their advocacy skills and get involved. Download our advocacy tools and training materials, and listen to our webinars.

Federal and State Initiatives
Despite improved early identification and treatment, most youth with mental illnesses do not receive services and face barriers in accessing care. Learn more about AACAP’s federal and state initiatives to help eliminate these barriers in our rapidly changing health care environment.

Policy Resources
AACAP continually develops resources for members to use as they communicate with policymakers about issues related to child and adolescent psychiatry and children's mental health. Click here to download the resources, including sample communications, fact sheets, testimony, state-specific data cards, and more.

Legislative Action Center
Make your voice heard on behalf of children with mental illness! Through AACAP's Legislative Action Center, you can take action on our current federal advocacy alerts, correspond with your members of Congress and the Administration, and contact your local media.

AACAP-PAC
AACAP-PAC’s mission is to educate, support, and elect candidates for Congress who advocate for child and adolescent psychiatry and child mental health. Additionally, AACAP-PAC’s vision is that child and adolescent psychiatry will have strong relationships with legislators, so that Congress acts to improve child mental health.

Advocacy Updates and Alerts
AACAP sends regular advocacy updates and action alerts to keep members updated on federal and state legislation and provide opportunities to get involved. Click here to read past updates and alerts.

Regulatory Issues
AACAP regularly provides input on the implementation of federal laws related to child psychiatry and children’s mental health by providing comments to federal agencies during the development of regulations.

Legislative Conference
Through AACAP’s annual Legislative Conference, members partner with family advocates to raise awareness for children's mental health issues and help our policy makers better understand the serious needs of these children and families.

Amicus Curiae
The amicus curiae, or amicus briefs, is a legal term meaning “friend of the court” and is a method through organizations can offer the court additional information or perspective about a case. Learn more about the amicus briefs in which AACAP has participated.
Policy Statements

Policy Statements By Year

2018
- Off-Label Prescribing
- Conversion Therapy

2017
- Delivery of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Services Through Telepsychiatry
- Psychologists Prescribing
- Marijuana Legalization

2016
- Jurisdiction of the Juvenile Court System
- Coercive Interventions for Reactive Attachment Disorder
- Transgender Youth in Juvenile Justice and other Correctional Systems
- Children and Guns
- Autism and Vaccines

2015
- Mandatory Shackling in Juvenile Court Settings
- Electronic Cigarettes

www.aacap.org/policystatements
The Pediatric Integrated Care Resource Center (PIC-RC) is designed to promote the integration of medical and behavioral/mental health services for children, adolescents, and their families by providing ready access to needed resources to interested professionals in different disciplines who are working in a variety of settings.

integratedcareforkids.org
Get in the KNOW – STAY in the KNOW!

AACAP News  JAACAP  JAACAP Connect  Member Directory

Plus access to:
- *Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Clinics of North America*
- *Psychiatric Clinics of North America*
- *Journal of Substance Abuse Treatment*
- *Journal of Pediatrics*
The monthly *Journal of the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry* (JAACAP) is AACAP’s flagship journal and the leading journal focusing exclusively on today's psychiatric research and treatment of the child and adolescent.

Published 12 times per year, each issue is committed to its mission of advancing the science of pediatric mental health and promoting the care of youth and their families.
Medical Students & Residents

Medical Students
Residents & Fellows
Mentorship Matters
Talk to Us

www.aacap.org/AACAP/Medical_Students_and_Residents
Check out AACAP’s toolkit on systems-based practice, annotated bibliography of psychotherapy readings, and Beyond Private Practice webinar series.

- Training Toolkit for Systems-Based Practice
- Psychodynamic Readings for Residents or Fellows
- Beyond Private Practice Webinar Series
AACAP’s educational mission is to provide members and allied health professionals with up-to-date resources. Via AACAP’s Education Center it’s easy to find links to articles, presentations, and webinars from AACAP’s educational resources, e.g.

- Annual Meeting
- Continuing Medical Education Programs
- Life Long Learning Modules

www.aacap.org/AACAP/Member_Resources/Education_Center
AACAP upholds its mission through our robust awards program, which offers over 150 awards on an annual basis to child and adolescent psychiatrists in varying stages of their careers.
Award Opportunities

• AACAP Psychodynamic Faculty Training and Mentorship Initiative
• Catchers in the Rye Awards
• Distinguished Member Awards
• Academic Paper Awards
• Residents and Early Career Psychiatrists
• Medical Students

For more information on our many awards, please visit:

www.aacap.org/aacap/Awards/Award_Home.aspx
Twitter

@AACAP
#AACAPAM18

Protecting Kids' Mental Health With School Shootings on the Rise. bit.ly/2u0HLdQ & AACAP's Responding to Gun Violence resources. bit.ly/2ugFzt2d

HHS Hosts Federal Commission on School Safety Meeting. bit.ly/2NSymi1r
AACAP Members Gabrielle Carlson, MD (pictured right) & Sheryl Kataoka, MD (pictured left) served as experts on Integrating Behavioral Health Services into Schools & Psychotropic Medications for Children.

And we're off on day two at #AACAPJam18!
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