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AACAP Members Visit Local Congressional Offices during Summer Recess

A special thank you to our AACAP members who visited their Members of Congress in their local office during the summer Congressional Recess!

One key to successful advocacy is persistence. Many of these appointments were follow-ups to visits during AACAP’s Advocacy Day in Washington, D.C. Our members, in coordination with parent and other professional allies, met with state and regional representatives from 9 states. They discussed the importance of funding loan repayment for child and adolescent psychiatrists during this year’s appropriations process. Despite the tight fiscal climate, several members reported having very productive meetings and were encouraged by the positive response from the staff.

THANK YOU!

| Albert M. Arensdorf, M.D. | Jack McDermott, M.D. |
| Wayne Batzer, M.D. | Warren Ng, M.D. |
| Bettina Bernstein, D.O. | Jessy Sandoval-Barrett, M.D. |
| Burt Copeland, M.D. | Jenna Saul, M.D. |
| Fayez El-Gabalawi, M.D. | Jeanette Scheid, M.D. |
| R. Rao Gogineni, M.D. | Gabrielle Shapiro, M.D. |
| Anthony P. S. Guerrero, M.D. | William P. Sheehan, M.D. |
| Randall Gurak, M.D. | Laine Taylor, D.O. |
| Susan Lurie, M.D. | Daniel W. Ulrich, M.D. |

If you are interested in meeting with the local office of your Members of Congress, please contact Karen Davis at kdavis@aacap.org or 202.966.7300, ext. 128. To find out more about AACAP’s advocacy efforts and how to get involved, visit Information Avenue at AACAP + CACAP’s Joint Annual Meeting in Toronto!
Children’s Psychiatric Hospital GME Bill Update

In previous updates and alerts, we informed and alerted you about efforts by Senator Sheldon Whitehouse (RI-D) to amend the Children’s Hospital Graduate Medical Education (CHGME) Reauthorization Act (S. 958) during committee mark-up. This amendment will allow a limited number of children’s psychiatric hospitals to receive funding under the CHGME program. Since our last alert, the CHGME reauthorization bill passed the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee without Senator Whitehouse’s amendment. This legislation was about to be considered by the full Senate when Senator Whitehouse placed a hold on it (a parliamentary tactic to stop or slow down legislation) in an effort to have the children’s psychiatric hospital amendment included. Senator Whitehouse is currently working with Senate leadership in an effort to have his amendment included in the final legislation. We will keep you informed on the progress of this legislation and the need for any grassroots action.

As Deadline Nears, Congress Reauthorizes Autism Funding

With only days left before crucial programs that support autism research expired, Congress passed legislation to reauthorize the Combating Autism Act (H.R. 2005). This bi-partisan legislation authorizes Congress to spend up to $693 million dollars over the next three years on autism related research and screening programs. We would like to thank all the members who responded to AACAP’s action alert to call the House leadership to ask for passage of this crucial legislation.

PDUFA Update

Earlier this month, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and drug manufacturers reached a draft agreement on the reauthorization of the Prescription Drug User Fee Act (PDUFA.) PDUFA, first enacted in 1992, allows the FDA to collect fees from drug manufacturers to increase the speed and efficiency of the FDA’s drug approval process. The goal of the new draft agreement is to increase the number of first cycle drug approvals through increased communication, transparency, and consistency at the FDA. To achieve this goal, the FDA will receive a 6% increase in fees it collects from new drug applications and will have an additional two months to review new drug applicants. In return, the FDA will increase communications with drug companies, including a pre-application submission meeting, a mid-cycle review meeting, and a late cycle review meeting. The FDA and trade associations representing drug manufacturers agree that these changes will lead to increased first cycle reviews (increasing the overall efficiency of the drug approval process) while still protecting the integrity of the drug approval process. The current PDUFA legislation is set to expire in September of 2012, unless it is
reauthorized by Congress. This draft agreement between the FDA and drug manufacturers is an important first step in the Congressional reauthorization process. We will keep you informed of further developments.

State Advocacy Update

While the majority of states legislatures have adjourned for 2011, some states continue to meet through the end of this year. Additionally, a few states are beginning to file bills for the 2012 session. To see what’s happening in your state, click here and select your state on the map.

*California Postpones Juvenile Life without Parole Legislation*

On September 9, the California State Legislature adjourned for the year, postponing a vote on SB 9, which would allow for review of life without parole sentences for inmates who were sentenced as juveniles. The legislation, introduced by Senator Leland Yee (D-18), would allow these youth to petition a court to review his or her case after serving between 10 and 25 years in prison. The legislation passed the state Senate in June, but failed to pass the Assembly in August. However, the bill will now be reconsidered in January when the legislature reconvenes.

The California Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry (CALACAP) has been a strong supporter of the bill since its original introduction in 2009. AACAP continues to partner with CALACAP to keep members updated on its progress and send alerts when there are opportunities to take action.

Advocacy Highlights at AACAP+CACAP Joint Annual Meeting

Toronto, Canada
October 18-23, 2011

**Mental Health Advocacy Seminar: Being an Effective Advocate for Children’s Mental Health**

*Thursday, Oct 20, 3:00 – 5:00*

Attention Early Career Psychiatrists and Trainees! Designed for child and adolescent psychiatry trainees and early career psychiatrists, this interactive training helps participants develop the advocacy knowledge and skills that are critical to a child and adolescent psychiatrist's professional practice. To register online, click here.

**Take Action at AACAP’s Information Avenue!**

Throughout the meeting, be sure to stop by AACAP’s Information Avenue to take action on behalf of children’s mental health. At Information Avenue, you will be able to send a message to your Members of Congress, pick up AACAP advocacy resources, and speak...
with AACAP’s Department of Government Affairs and Advocacy Liaisons about how to get more involved in advocacy. We look forward to seeing you there!

**AACAP Town Meeting: Where do Child and Adolescent Psychiatrists Fit in the Future of Healthcare Delivery?**  
*Friday, Oct 21, 11:15am – 1:15pm*  
Join AACAP leadership and the Health Care Access and Economics Committee to examine how key provisions in both the Mental Health Parity Act and the Affordable Care Act are essential to members’ practices. This session will also address how child and adolescent psychiatrists are involved in medical home models, and discuss your questions and concerns. No registration is required.

**Confidentiality in the Era of Health Information Technology**  
*Wednesday, Oct 19, 1:15-2:15pm*  
Are you interested in how new health information technology will impact your patients’ confidentiality? This session will explore the unique aspects of confidentiality as it relates to child mental health records, propose questions for member feedback, and present a draft AACAP policy statement. No registration is required.

**If you have any questions, please let us know.**  
Kristin Kroeger Ptakowski, Director of Government Affairs & Clinical Practice *(kkroeger@aacap.org)*  
Jennifer Medicus, Assistant Director, Clinical Practice *(jmedicus@aacap.org)*  
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Adriano Boccanelli, Clinical Practice Manager *(aboccanelli@aacap.org)*  
Karen Davis, Legislative Coordinator *(kdavis@aacap.org)*