AACAP Educational Outreach Program for Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Residents, supported by the AACAP Life Members Fund

The AACAP Educational Outreach Program provides the opportunity for child and adolescent psychiatry residents to receive a formal overview of child and adolescent psychiatry, establish mentor relationships with child and adolescent psychiatrists, and experience AACAP's Annual Meeting. Supported by AACAP's Life Members Fund, recipients receive up to $1,000 of financial assistance to experience AACAP's Annual Meeting.

Apurva Bhatt, MD—University of California Davis
Shailaja Emani, MD—University of South Florida
Paresh A. Jaini, DO—University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center
Vandana Kumar, MD—Children's Hospital of Philadelphia
Brittany M. McCoy, MD—Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai
Sarah Miller, MD—Children's National Medical Center/George Washington University
Soe Thein, MD—University of California Davis
Dear AACAP Life Members Committee,

Thank you for sponsoring this year’s EOP program. I feel immensely grateful for receiving an AACAP EOP travel grant to attend the AACAP/CACAP Annual Meeting this year. This year’s program has enriched my learning and made me more excited to work in the field of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry. This year’s meeting was very busy for me- I chaired three presentations, presented three talks and co-authored two posters. I also serve on the AACAP Adolescent Psychiatry Committee and am liaison to the TAY-CSMH Committee, so I also attended both of those meetings. I would not have had the opportunities to present and be on these committees had it not been for Dr. Liwei Hua (Chair of the Adolescent Psychiatry committee) and Dr. Zhanna Elberg (TAY-CSMH Committee member). I am very grateful for these two AACAP members for supporting my interests!

This year, I really enjoyed all of the Life Member events. During the Meet Life Members event on Tuesday, I met Dr. Douglas Kramer. I enjoyed hearing about his journey into Child & Adolescent psychiatry, his experiences in the Navy and his travels around the world. When he handed me his business card, I smiled as it read “HAVE CANOE- WILL TRAVEL.” The 2-day mentorship program was also an incredibly valuable experience. I got to speak with Drs Eraka Bath and Margaret Stuber, and they shared their wisdom on the job search. I am the first physician in my family and I’m interested in working in academia, but I didn’t know much about the process of applying for a job in academia. It was helpful to hear about both of their journeys into CAP and their rewarding careers in academia. They inspired and encouraged me to continue my search for a job in academia in the Northern California region.
I strongly support continuing the EOP program for several reasons. Many trainees cannot afford to travel to conferences. Programs like the EOP travel grant make it possible for highly motivated individuals like myself to attend the AACAP Annual Meeting, and to contribute to the meeting through presentations and committee membership. Attending the AACAP Annual meeting has fundamentally shifted my career trajectory in a positive way and given me opportunities I would not have otherwise had. In the future, I plan to give back to this award program to support trainees like myself in attending the AACAP Annual Meeting.

Thank you again for selecting me for this award. Please enjoy a few photos taken from the annual meeting!

Sincerely,

Apurva Bhatt, M.D. PGY-5
Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Clinical Fellow
Dept. of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, UC Davis Health
NorCal LEND Fellow (Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and Related Disabilities)
AACAP Adolescent Psychiatry Committee- Fellow member
Central California Regional Organization of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry- Fellow-in-Training Executive Committee Member
I loved presenting with my UC Davis Co-fellows!

This talk was incredibly well-attended (session was full!) and the discussion ran 60 minutes over because attendees kept asking questions! It was incredible!

It was an honor to chair this talk among amazing presenters!
Our poster on anime and CAP was very well received! We took our own Naruto “Team 7” photo.
10-31-22

AACAP Life Members Committee - EOP CAP Residents Program
Attn: Marilyn B. Benoit, MD and Cynthia Pfeffer, MD
3615 Wisconsin Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20016

Dear Dr. Benoit and Dr. Pfeffer,

Thank you for your support in my participation in an incredible week at the AACAP 2022 conference this year. It was an honor receive this opportunity and I will cherish the experience as I continue through my career.

The EOP program has allowed me to experience AACAP in a different way from my attendance in past years. I was able to meet CAP psychiatrists and trainees from all over the world in a smaller setting and participate in event opportunities that helped me see the value in being part of this organization lifelong.

The community in this organization is uniquely geared towards mentorship. I felt this in all the programs I attended there. The Life Members Perspectives Session was a powerful example of this. Hearing Life members such as yourselves so openly describe your roots and life stories was touching. It was a reminder that each of us has a story that drives us to pursue advocating for children and be so passionate in our field. After leaving that session I was able to reflect on some of the experiences that brought me this far as well, so I am thankful to the committee for this.

I was also able to attend multiple small group sessions, institutes, and the MSR mentorship events and meet others who are interested in similar areas. In addition, I was able to connect with other CAP fellows and awardees and exchanged contact information to keep in touch as we progress throughout the years. The excitement of the various mentors at the MSR mentorship programs each evening was palpable and much appreciated. I look forward to reaching out to them for invaluable advice along the way as I begin my career soon within the field.
After attending this conference, I see the importance of staying connected to a bigger community in addition to my involvement in local leadership opportunities. The global perspective and community that AACAP brings to trainees like me is irreplaceable. It has broadened my ideas on interventions to implement on a small and large scale, and even helped me reflect on career paths I could take within the field that I never knew were possible.

Thank you once again for supporting such a great experience at AACAP with programs like this that encourage us to be leaders within our field not only now but throughout our careers!

Sincerely,

Shailaja Emani, MD

Chief Fellow
USF Health CAP PGY-5

18311 Highwoods Preserve Pkwy
Apt. 5402
Tampa, FL 33647
Sheilae18@gmail.com
727-686-7085
AACAP Life Members Committee - EOP CAP Residents Program
Attn: Marilyn B. Benoit, MD and Cynthia Pfeffer, MD
3615 Wisconsin Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20016

Dear Life Members Committee,

I am writing to thank you for your generous scholarship to attend the AACAP 2022 conference. I was very happy and appreciative to learn that I was selected as the recipient of your scholarship.

I am a PGY-5 child and adolescent psychiatry fellow at University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center. I will be graduating in June 2023. After graduation, I plan to work in private practice. Thanks to you, I am one step closer to that goal.

By awarding me this scholarship, you have lightened my financial burden, which allows me to focus more on learning and connecting with other child and adolescent psychiatrists. Your generosity has inspired me to help others and give back to the community. I hope one day I will be able to help trainees achieve their goals just as you have helped me.

Sincerely,

Paresh Jaini, DO

Paresh Jaini
Dear AACAP Life Members,

Thank you so much for giving me the opportunity to travel to Toronto for the 69th annual meeting of the AACAP. I will always cherish this experience and the learning that came with it. I was able to enjoy a variety of sessions and workshops, present a well-received media theatre event, and meet several amazing current and future leaders in our field. It was also a pleasure to attend the Life Members reception and interact with psychiatrists who have dedicated most of their lives to our wonderful field.

I am once again grateful for your generous gift and look forward to attending future AACAP meetings.

Sincerely,

Vandana Kumar, M.D.
PGY5, Child and Adolescent Psychiatry
Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia
November 6, 2022

Dear Dr. Marilyn Benoit & Dr. Cynthia Pfeffer,

I am writing to thank you for selecting me as a recipient of the AACAP Educational Outreach Program for Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Residents. This award helped make it possible for me to join for all six days of the annual meeting this year, the longest I have ever been able to attend the conference. With this time, I was able to participate in a research colloquium for early career investigators, chair my first symposium, present my research, attend my first committee meeting, participate in workshops, and take advantage of several of the symposia and clinical perspectives sessions. I gained new mentors and was able to reconnect with and meet new peers. It was an incredibly inspiring and productive week, and I left the meeting excited about my future as a pediatrician and child and adolescent psychiatrist.

I greatly benefitted from the events that were required as part of receiving this award. I especially appreciated the opportunities we were given to learn from Life Members during the Life Members Wisdom Clinical Perspectives and the Life Members Reception and Dinner. Thank you for including awardees in these events and thank you for sustaining this program for residents. I look forward to continuing to engage with AACAP and attending future annual meetings.

Sincerely,

Brittany McCoy, MD
PGY-5, Triple Board Resident
Pediatrics – Psychiatry – Child & Adolescent Psychiatry
Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai
New York, New York
November 20th, 2022

AACAP Life Members Committee - EOP CAP Residents Program
Attn: Marilyn B. Benoit, MD and Cynthia Pfeffer, MD
3615 Wisconsin Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20016

Dear Representatives of the Life Members Committee,

Thank you for your generosity in selecting me as a recipient of the Life Members award for Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Residents. With this award, I was able to attend an in-person annual meeting this year. I truly appreciated the opportunity to gain advice from mentors, particularly with life members, and to network through the EOP programming, I have been very much impressed by the outstanding programming that has been offered at the annual meeting and I am looking forward to returning to my professional home at the next meeting in New York.

With gratitude,

Sarah Miller, MD
Children’s National Medical Center
Date: 11/1/2022

Attn: Marilyn B. Benoit, MD and Cynthia Pfeffer, MD
3615 Wisconsin Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20016

Dear Drs. Benoit and Pfeffer,

Thank you so much for the opportunity to attend the AACAP conference. This was my first time attending AACAP and it was the most intellectually stimulating week I have had in a while. I learned new insights that have informed my current daily clinical practice. More importantly, I was able to develop close relationships with many colleagues who are passionate about child psychiatry. This experience would not have been possible without the AACAP EOP award.

Warmly,

Soe Thein, M.D., PGY-4
Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Fellow
University of California - Davis