



President's Bulletin – February 2019

Damon Korb, MD

Dear SDBP members,

I do not know if it is because I live in the Silicon Valley filled with high expectations and intense families, but when I see a patient with an IQ of 85 my heart sinks. At 85, the schools occasionally pass them over for services and the community expects them to keep up. The reality is that school is going to be difficult for these kids, but when struggle is appropriately supported the outcome can be positive.

This leads me to the topic of what is in my control and what is out of my control. I cannot control my patient's IQ, but I may be able to influence how the community responds to this student. I can call upon the interprofessional support system that I have developed to teach the parents to understand that this student may take longer to wrap his head around an idea and that being honest, loyal, and hard working do not relate to IQ.

There are national issues that feel at times beyond my control like: Why the heck can't our government have a genuine discussion about common sense gun laws? How come children with significant behavioral conditions cannot have access to ABA without having autism? Why is the wait for developmental behavioral pediatric care up to 18 months in some facilities while general surgeons are readily available to place tympanic membrane tubes? And how come that developmental behavioral practitioner who is clearly in high demand gets paid dramatically less than that surgeon?

I believe that the way to answer these questions is the same as how I respond to the frustration for my struggling teenage patient. I tackle the things that are in my control. In regards to these national issues advocacy is clearly needed, but more important we need strategy. We need to identify strategic partners and leverage our knowledge about child development. This is the approach the board is trying to take as we attempt to tackle the complicated issue of workforce. We need to ask ourselves: What can we affect? And can we partner with other organizations to have a greater impact? I am eager to see what we come up. The board looking forward to reading the vision of the committee/SIGS/Sections in their workforce reports due back by February 15th.

Here is a brief update of what the board has been up to this month:

Workforce

We joined a large collaboration of specialty providers in support of the reauthorization of the Pediatric Subspecialty Loan Repayment Program to provide pediatric subspecialists \$35,000 in loan repayment per year for up to three years in exchange for serving in an underserved area. We will see where this goes.

[Title VII Pediatric Subspecialty Loan Repayment letter of support](#)

Practice Issues

Marilyn Augustyn and Becky Baum worked diligently to describe the changes to the 2019 CPT billing codes. This took hours of phone calls with the AAP and others and dozens of revisions. Their notes were shared on the discussion board and here is a link to their suggestions. Please thank them for all of their hard work.

Program Committee

- The program committee is busy planning for the next meeting in DC – September 13-16, 2019. The workshop submission site is now open and more information will be posted as it comes available on the SDBP meetings page: <https://www.sdbp.org/meetings/>
- We are excited to announce Michelle Garcia Winner, MA, CCC-SLP as this year's keynote speaker. Michelle specializes in the treatment of individuals with social learning challenges and is the founder and CEO of Social Thinking®, a company dedicated to helping individuals from four through adulthood develop their social competencies to meet their personal social goals. Michelle coined the term "Social Thinking" in the mid-1990s and since that time has created numerous unique treatment frameworks and curricula that help educators, clinicians, professionals of all types, and parents/family members appreciate that social capabilities are integral to a person's success in life, socially, academically, and professionally.

Research

Heidi Feldman passed this message along—a great indicator of the impact of the SDBP Research Award:

"I want to share terrific news. Yair Bannett was just granted 3 years of internal funding to allow him to develop a K-award while an Instructor at Stanford. I really think that the SDBP Research Award was instrumental in his convincing the committee that he had promise and respect among his peers."

ADHD Guidelines

Bill Barbaresi and his incredible team keep plugging away on their literature review for the complex ADHD guidelines. Discussions are happening in advance about its effective dissemination.

Visibility

We recently received feedback that our association with DBPREP continues to go well, with about 100 more participants than anticipated this year. Given that the response to the course was positive, the AAP Committee on Continuing Medical Education (CME) has approved offering a course again in 2020.

Membership

I respectfully report that one of our long-time members, Dr. Murray Kappelman died on Friday, January 25th at the age of 87. His obituary follows:

Dr. Murray Kappelman will be much missed by the many pediatricians, especially developmental-behavioral pediatricians, who have benefitted from his dedication to education. He was especially committed to educating pediatricians regarding school related problems for children and difficulties children faced in coping with challenging circumstances, especially family issues such as divorce and with issues related to their sexuality.

He was born and raised in Baltimore, attending public schools in Baltimore City through high school and then graduating from University of Maryland, College Park. He then spent a couple of years following his passion for the theatre as an actor before attending medical school at the University of Maryland, graduating with honors in 1955. He completed his residency in pediatrics at Maryland including a stint as chief resident and then served in the Army as a captain, based in Nuremburg where he was pediatrician-in-chief at the military hospital. On return from the Army, he opened a private practice of pediatrics in Baltimore from 1960 through 1967. He then returned to University of Maryland, rising to the level of Full Professor of Pediatrics by 1974. For more than 20 years, he served as Associate Dean for Medical Education for the School of Medicine. He was also Division Chief for Developmental-Behavioral Pediatrics beginning in 1985 until close to his retirement in 2000.

Professionally, he had several major accomplishments in addition to his associate dean responsibilities in the School of Medicine. He was funded by the Federal Government in the late 1960's and early 1970's to study the use of interdisciplinary teams which included physicians, psychologists and speech and language clinicians, as well as more traditional educators to evaluate children with learning difficulties and plan and implement an appropriate educational intervention for them. The core principles that he was able to document as useful were subsequently encoded in the Education for All Handicapped Act (PL94-142) passed by Congress in 1973 and implemented in 1974. He established a School Health Fellowship at Maryland in the early 1970's that was later merged with a fellowship in Behavioral Pediatrics developed by Stan Friedman shortly thereafter. He took over leadership of the Developmental-Behavioral Pediatric Fellowship in the early 1980's and was responsible for training approximately 60 developmental-behavioral pediatricians who practice largely in academic centers across the nation including in Oregon, Arizona,

Texas, California, Illinois, Ohio, North Carolina, Washington (DC), Pennsylvania as well as Maryland. He played a major role in the training of pediatric residents in developmental-behavioral pediatrics through two required rotations for residents from the mid 70's on. His commitment to medical education, especially pediatric education, is exemplified by the fact that there is a fund named after him to support resident education in pediatrics at the University of Maryland. Of note, he was also named Pediatrician of the Year by the Maryland Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics in 1999 because of his longstanding commitment to educating pediatricians in Maryland.

The other side of Murray that many of his physician colleagues may be unaware was his long-standing commitment to the arts in Baltimore. He was a founding board member and a past president of Center Stage, the premier venue for professional theater in Baltimore. Even at the time of his death, he was considered a Board Member Emeriti of Center Stage, an honor afforded to only a small handful of people. He also was a Board member for many years for the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra and also has continued to be a Board Member Emeriti of that organization as well, one of only five or six with such an honor. He earned a reputation for persistent and skillful fund raising while on both boards. However, his interest in "the arts" was not confined to observation only. He wrote two books for parents about helping their children with problems in school age youth. He also wrote four novels that were published under a pseudonym – in an era when you had to convince a publisher of the worth of your work, not just publish it yourself.

Dr. Kappelman's legacy lies especially in three areas: (1) his commitment to medical education at all levels, (2) his commitment to educate primary care pediatricians about children's developmental and behavioral problems, and (3) his strong respect for and commitment to working collaboratively with a wide variety of professionals who work with children, especially in school settings. The best way we can honor him is to continue those values.