

President's Bulletin – March 2019

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Dear SDBP members,

Sometimes you step into a job only to find that the job keeps getting bigger and bigger. That is how I have felt about the goal to address the workforce issue. This is a broad sweeping issue that will need the force of our membership to make significant change. In preparation of our spring board meeting a few board members participated on a phone call with about 25 leaders in our society (a summary of that call is included below). Fortunately, as the board heads into our spring board meeting, I am now optimistic that we have a better understanding of what lies ahead and we are poised to create an actionable plan. To summarize the workforce concerns: our numbers are far too small to meet the national patient needs, we are not attracting enough new people into our fields, our clinicians are aging out, and we are one of the lowest paid specialties in each of our fields of practice. The following articles do a good job describing the problem.

- [AAP publications: A Workforce Survey on Developmental-Behavioral Pediatrics](#)
- [Childrens Hospitals: Pediatric Workforce Shortages Persist](#)
- [Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics on the Brink](#)

Summary of Workforce Call

Most important themes discussed:

1. Broad support for early exposure to developmental and behavioral pediatrics as an effort to attract people to the field.
2. Make DBPcare, more financially viable.
3. There is a need to collaborate more regularly with key partners (APA, AAP, AACAP, ABP, COPS, SODBP, NAPNAP, MCHB etc.).
4. Outcomes research is critical.

There were so many topics to cover that we ran out of time, but other important considerations include:

1. Seek outside consultation on strategic planning.
2. Visibility, which people described as important but we did not scratch the surface of the details.
3. There was also mention that our society should support education for psychology, NP, and general pediatricians.

I am fully aware that much of this discussion focuses on Developmental and Behavioral Pediatricians. My assumption is that this specialty is in peril, because SDBP has not yet become the unified voice for this group and we have not effectively networked with other organizations. However, our psychology and NP colleagues have their own separate issues that need to be understood as we move through this process.

Other News

- The Program Committee is in the process of creating the schedule for the conference. Given our proximity to DC, the Program Committee is working with the Advocacy Committee to integrate advocacy into the program. **Plan now to attend SDBP's Annual Meeting, September 13-16, 2019** in Washington, DC at the Washington Hilton and if you have not heard, I am excited to introduce our **2019 Lectureship Recipient: Michelle Garcia Winner, MA, CCC-SLP Social Cognitive Specialist, CEO & Founder of Social Thinking.**
- Tanya Froehlich and the Advocacy co-chairs (Dinah Godwin and Marsheena Murray) reviewed an 80+ page document on Mass Violence that was created by a group within the AAP that included SDBP representation by David Schonfeld. Based on their recommendation, we agreed to endorse the document.
- We endorsed a bill to make appropriations for Fiscal Year (FY) 2020, to provide \$50 million in funding for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to conduct public health research into firearm morbidity and mortality prevention.
- Beth Wildman was nominated to represent SDBP on DBPNet.
- Our membership continues to donate generously to our society and we are on pace to eclipse last years' totals. Donations help us fund, among other initiatives, research scholarships and the ADHD guidelines. Thank you so much and if you plan to donate, here is the link: [SDBP Donations](#)

Personal Note

My wife and I have spent the past two months traveling separately to watch our kids play sports in Modesto, CA, Manteca CA, Fresno CA, Boston, Denver, Kansas City, Philadelphia, Washington state and Reno, NV. Not sure where the line of crazy parenting should be drawn, but I do know that we couldn't be having much more fun.

Warm Regards,
Damon
