



President's Bulletin – September 2019
Damon Korb, MD

With our annual meeting around the corner, this will be my last Presidential Update. Our annual meeting is full of new and inspiring ideas. We have a great Key Note Speaker, Michelle Garcia Winner, whose presentation will address *Fostering the Development of Social Competencies—It's More Than Teaching Social Skills*. The Advocacy committee is offering a lobbying training and then about 80 of our members will head to the Hill to speak with their congressional leaders giving SDBP a voice. Our partnership with NAPNAP has produced another top notch pre-conference opportunity for primary care providers interested in DBPeds to improve their skills and earn CME credit. And this year, thanks to a generous donation from the Shashaty family, 26 pediatric residents were given scholarship to participate in our conference. Be sure to share with them why you are DBPeds.

This year our Board, Committees, Special Interest Groups, and Sections focused attention and efforts towards Workforce Issues. We created a [SDBP Workforce Action Plan](#) which will guide our Society over the next few years as we work to strengthen the futures of our patients and our field. I am proud of the effort of the accomplishments made by our Board and members over the past year. The following is an overview of the efforts and progress that we have made so far.

Collaboration

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- Our partnership with the AAP in developing DBPrep continues to offer education to hundreds of clinicians and is financially valuable for both of our organizations.
 - David Schonfeld served as a Liaison from SDBP to the Medical Director Institute (MDI) of the National Council for Behavioral Health (MDI) and supported the development of a comprehensive response following recent episodes of mass violence "Mass Violence in America: Causes, Impacts and Solutions."
 - The board has worked with Carol Weitzman and the AAP to clarify mechanisms for effective communication and representation between the two organizations.
 - The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) was potentially changing the E/M codes in a way that would negatively affect our bottom lines. Becky Baum and Marilyn Augustyn have been collaborating with AAP and after much advocacy from the AAP, CMS has finalized a plan which will likely be effective in 2021. In short, it appears that we will now be able to bill E/M codes to reflect the TOTAL visit time, including pre-service work (up to 3 days prior) and post-service work (including report-generation...up to 7 days post). This means that the time-based billing codes have been adjusted so that the time requirements include TOTAL visit time. And, in another bit of good news, in most cases the RVU's have been increased slightly.
 - The Program Committee has created a plan to broaden input into the Annual Meeting by including representation on the committee by SIGS, Sections, and other Committees.

Going forward, the Board plans to clarify the role of our liaisons as we establish partnerships and work with our other leadership groups. And, at the end of our annual meeting, several leaders in our society will meet with the Maternal Child Health Bureau. Amongst other things, MCBH supports the LEND fellowships and will be an important partner for SDBP going forward.

Visibility

- The Communication Committee has been very active. They developed “I Am DBP” videos that are available on the SDBP YouTube Channel

[SDBP YOUTUBE Channel I am DBP videos.](#)

Our Twitter presence has increased, we now have 533 followers @SDBPeds and our Tweets are reaching thousands of people. Log in and follow. And recently the Communication Committee started using Instagram and Facebook to share information about DBPeds. These tools have the potential to amplify our voice so please share with your friends. If you have content or information about yourself or your program to promote, email it to sdbp-social-media@googlegroups.com.

- At this year’s annual meeting, the Advocacy Committee has created an advocacy training and scheduled visits on the Hill. SDBP’s presence will be felt as last I checked there were about 85 members scheduled to make visits.
- The Board and our membership have reviewed and supported several papers including the 2nd Workforce Paper from the AAP, our Complex ADHD Guidelines, and recently Karen Ratliff-Schaub reviewed a draft of the AAN practice guideline titled “Treatment for insomnia and disrupted sleep behavior in children and adolescents with autism spectrum disorder.”

Models of Care

- Bill Barbaresi and his amazing team of conspirators have created SDBP’s, soon to be released, first clinical guidelines on the Management of Complex ADHD. This document is thorough and approachable and has taken a herculean effort to complete. Now the Society is working with the JDBP on a plan to implement and promote the wide dissemination of these guidelines.

Going forward the Board will seek out innovative technologies and evidence based best practice models as well as support education to primary care providers to expand the reach of our work.

Outcomes Research

- Nate Blum, the Chair of the Developmental-Behavioral Pediatrics Research Network (DBPNet) is working with the SDBP to support members who work in small hospital-based DBP programs and DBP’s in private practice who want to consider participating in DBPNet research. This plan will enhance the generalizability of practice-based research and provide a mechanism for DBPs not currently involved in DBPNet to provide input into research priorities and research design. It may also support more robust participation of these clinicians in our annual meetings. Please email Damon Korb, MD at doctorkorb@deminds.com if you are interested in learning more about this plan.

The board remains interested in outcomes research as we recognize the need to demonstrate the importance of our specialty.

Education

- The Education Committee worked with the Program Committee to create another top notch educational annual meeting. There once again were many excellent submissions for posters and presentations.
- Our partnership with NAPNAP has created the opportunity for primary care providers to expand their knowledge of DBPeds.

The Board plans to support the use of technology to give greater access to our conference and the educational offerings of our society.

Headcount

- The Membership Committee worked with the board to propose a change to our bylaws that will, among other benefits, give full membership status to non-physicians that were excluded by the current system and allow for a fee structure that will offer significant discounts for people in school or training. View proposal here: [SDBP Membership Bylaws section proposal](#) . The board's intention is to make our society accessible to the diverse community that practices DBPeds. A blast email was sent to all members to review and make any comments on the SDBP discussion board. These comments will be taking into consideration and a formal vote on the bylaws change will go out to current voting members after the SDBP Meeting.
- In order to learn more about creative training options the Board reached out to Suzanne Woods at the American Board of Pediatrics to explore the option of creating a 5 year (2 year pediatric residency, 3 year DBP fellowship) residency fellowship program. She pointed out that the ACGME will be working with stakeholders to redesign pediatric requirements. The board will share our thoughts about the importance of integrating DBPeds throughout pediatric training.
- Thanks to a generous grant from the Shashaty family we created the Exploring DBP for Pediatric Residents Program. We had 34 applications and will have 26 new attendees that were offered full or partial scholarships to attend the meeting. They will be given a special introduction to our field and then be paired with a mentor. Please let Degnon know if you want to participate as a mentor by signing up here: <https://form.jotform.com/92313759682163>. It would be wonderful if we can attract future donors to support this effort among other non-medical specialties as well.
- The Psychology Section will offer a poster award for a first-authored poster by a psychology trainee (student, intern, fellow).
- The Board wrote a letter of support of the EMPOWER for Health Act of 2019 (H.R. 2781), which would reauthorize the Pediatric Subspecialty Loan Repayment Program.

Our Society continues to grow. Our meeting continues to expand. And we all are fortunate to have Robyn Mehlenbeck stepping in to take over as President after our annual meeting. I encourage you to take a look at the Workforce Action Plan, join a Committee, Section, or SIG and get involved. Thank you for the opportunity to serve as President of this wonderful organization.

Personal Note

We recently lost one of our very special members, Carolyn Bridgemohan. Her contributions to the Society were enormous. For the past 12 years she improved our annual meeting as an integral member of the Program Committee. She chaired the Education Committee for 6 years and she was one of the current Autism SIG Chairs. She served on the Practice Issues, Nominations, and Communications Committees as well as three years on the Board of Directors. It is difficult to say if anyone dove into our society more deeply than Carolyn. She was a fearless leader who brought humanity to everything she touched. She left many of us inspired to fight for children in her honor.

Respectfully,
Damon

