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Federal Legislative Update

In this update:

- Alan Guttmacher, MD, FAAP, to Serve as Director of NICHD
- AAP Committee on Drugs Chair Testifies Before Senate HELP Committee
- AAP Leaders Write to Local Papers on Health Reform Law's Benefits for Children
- Health Reform Implementation: Update on Regulations

Alan Guttmacher, MD, FAAP, to Serve as Director of NICHD

Today, National Institutes of Health Director Francis S. Collins MD, PhD, announced the appointment of Alan Guttmacher, MD, FAAP, as director of the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD), one of the 27 institutes and centers that comprise the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

The focus of the NICHD is on human health and development from conception through the reproductive years, on disorders affecting women, and on rehabilitation after injury or disease. The NICHD sponsors research on development, before and after birth; maternal, child, and family health; reproductive biology and population issues; and medical rehabilitation.

Dr. Guttmacher began his NIH career at the National Human Genome Research Institute (NHGRI), where he eventually became acting director. While at the NHGRI, Dr. Guttmacher also oversaw the NIH's involvement in the Surgeon General's Family History Initiative, an effort to encourage Americans to learn about and use their families' health histories to promote personal health and prevent disease. Dr. Guttmacher came to the NIH from the University of Vermont, where he directed the Department of Pediatrics' Vermont Regional Genetics Center and Pregnancy Risk Information Service. He served as the medical director of the Vermont Newborn Screening Program, founded Vermont's only pediatric intensive care unit, and co-directed the Vermont Cancer Center's Familial Cancer Program. He was also the principal investigator for an NIH-supported initiative that was the nation's first statewide effort to involve the general public in discussion of the Human Genome Project's ethical, legal, and social implications.

The Academy congratulates Dr. Guttmacher on his appointment, and released a press statement in support of his new position, which is posted in the [AAP News Room](#) and on federaladvocacy.aap.org.

AAP Committee on Drugs Chair Testifies Before Senate HELP Committee



On Wednesday, Daniel Frattarelli, MD, FAAP, Chair of the American Academy of Pediatrics' (AAP) Committee on Drugs, testified before the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor & Pensions (HELP) at a hearing titled, "Treating Rare and Neglected Pediatric Diseases: Promoting the Development of New Treatments and Cures." Dr. Frattarelli spoke on the need to improve therapeutics and access to treatments for children with rare and neglected diseases.

AAP Leaders Write to Local Papers on Health Reform Law's Benefits for Children

This week, several opinion editorials (op-eds) and blogs were published by AAP leadership in support of health reform for children:

- On Monday, AAP President Judith S. Palfrey, MD, FAAP, wrote a [guest post](#) on the Georgetown Center for Children and Families [blog](#) on the preventive services Interim Final Rule as part of health reform, and how it will benefit children.
- On Tuesday, AAP President-Elect O. Marion Burton, MD, FAAP, published an [op-ed](#) in his local paper in South Carolina in support of health reform for children.
- On Wednesday, AAP District VIII Chair Mary Brown, MD, FAAP, co-authored an [op-ed](#) in her local paper with AAP members and Oregon Pediatric Society leaders David Willis, MD, FAAP, and Arthur Jaffe, MD, FAAP. The op-ed also focused on the benefits of health reform for children. Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) then forwarded the op-ed to members of Congress' Capitol Hill offices.

Visit the [Media Outreach section](#) of the new federal affairs Member Center Web site to look up contact information for your local publications by zip code, and connect to the AAP Department of Federal Affairs on [Facebook](#) for links to media coverage of federal issues, photos of AAP leadership participating in federal advocacy events, and more.

Health Reform Implementation: Update on Regulations

New regulations are being disseminated regularly by federal government agencies to expand upon provisions included in the Affordable Care Act (ACA). At this time, pediatrician experts and Academy staff are reviewing and drafting comments on the following regulations released this week:

- The establishment of criteria for determining which home visitation models will be considered "evidence-based" and therefore eligible for states to implement with ACA home visitation program funding; and
- The establishment of appeals processes for consumers who may disagree with an insurer's coverage or other rulings.

In addition, pediatrician experts and Academy staff are reviewing and drafting comments on regulations pertaining to the following issues:

- Coverage of *Bright Futures* and other preventive services for no co-pay;
- Which health insurance plans lose "grandfather" status (and therefore have to comply with new consumer protections, such as offering preventive services without cost-sharing);
- Coverage of young adults up to age 26; and
- The new Patients' Bill of Rights, which includes the lifting of annual and lifetime limits on insurance coverage, lifting of pre-existing condition exclusions, barring rescissions, and allowing individuals to designate a pediatrician.

Apart from health reform, pediatrician experts and Academy staff are also drafting comments to meaningful use and health information technology certification rules as well as a Final Rule implementing state flexibility to charge co-pays for certain Medicaid enrollees under the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005.

Once Academy comments are finalized and published for all relevant regulations, they will be posted to federaladvocacy.aap.org.