

# the Tennessee Pediatrician



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TENNESSEE PEDIATRIC SOCIETY

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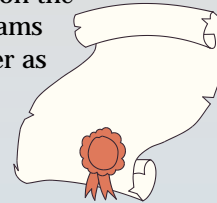
## TN CHAPTER WINS TOP AAP AWARD

*San Francisco-- "The Outstanding Large Chapter Award goes to... the Tennessee Chapter!" Applause erupts, heads turn, Iris screams, Fenner's jaw drops, Lentz and Ring shake hands warmly. Before they know it, they are engulfed in embraces and congratulatory remarks, which continue through the duration of the AAP National Conference and Exhibition in October...*



*Chapter President Joe Lentz, MD, (left) and Vice President John Ring, MD, at the announcement of the Outstanding Chapter Award in San Francisco.*

Each year, based on the activities and programs of each AAP Chapter as outlined in the Annual Chapter Report we submit every June, the American Academy of Pediatrics selects the most Outstanding Chapter for each size category (small, medium, and large Chapters). The Tennessee Chapter is one of the smallest of the 25 or so Large Chapters, and while we have been nominated for this award 5 of the last 6 years, we have not received it since 1991. So many of our members played a part in the achievements during the last year. You can access our FY01 Annual Chapter Report that clenched this award by going to our website ([www.tnaap.org](http://www.tnaap.org)), or the Chapter office would be happy to mail you a copy if you prefer.



## Exciting New Meetings Planned for 2002

Mark your calendars now for some new programs available to our members.

Practice Managers' Network and Open Forum-- On Friday, March 8th, we will hold our first Pediatric Practice Manager Network meeting, followed by our first Open Forum for the membership on Saturday, March 9th. Practice managers are encouraged to stay for Saturday's meeting, when issues relevant to both audiences, such as HIPAA, will be discussed. A social reception will be planned for Friday evening, and both events will take place in the Nashville area.

Annual Meeting / Open Forum / Awards Dinner-- We will be holding our annual meeting in Knoxville on September 13th and 14th. The CME portion will be conducted by East TN

Children's Hospital in conjunction with our Committee on Pediatric Emergency Medicine and Children's Emergency Care Alliance and will take place Friday afternoon, followed by a fundraising event for Children's Emergency Care Alliance at a horse farm that evening. Saturday will begin with the remainder of the CME meeting, which will include our annual meeting and Open Forum over a long lunch. The TNAAP Awards Banquet will be held Saturday night.

Don't miss these great opportunities for learning and networking! Look for future mailings.



## INSIDE

- Page 2  
President's Report
- Page 3  
Executive Director's Report
- Page 4  
Project Updates
- Page 5  
EPSDT Contract
- Page 6  
National Update / New Members
- Page 7  
Welcome New Residents
- Page 8  
TennCare Update / Calendar
- Page 9  
Vaccine Shortage
- Pages 10-11  
Awards Dinner
- Back Cover  
Sponsor List



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NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Catherine M. Fenner

## President's Final Report

**Joseph F. Lentz, MD**

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*G*oodbye, farewell, auf wiedersehen...

This is my final President's report, written mostly on my return flight from the AAP Annual meeting (now called the National Conference and Exhibition or NCE) in San Francisco.

**NCE items:**

**1) THE TN CHAPTER WON THE OUTSTANDING LARGE CHAPTER AWARD for 2000-2001-- #1 in the US of A-- it doesn't get any better than this!!!** The award represents many hours of dedicated work by many people-- thank you all. I am delighted at our success and very grateful to all who participated in Chapter activities.

**2) "MediKids":** The AAP will continue to push for universal child health insurance at every opportunity. I do believe that most of the leadership recognizes that there are many questions which must be resolved before "MediKids" goes forward. Iris Snider and I spent hours interacting with AAP leadership, and I believe we are and will continue to be heard on the issues, especially reimbursement as it relates to access to care. Be very thankful that Steve Edwards is President-Elect, as he truly understands the facts for pediatricians and pediatric subspecialists. All AAP members must inform themselves on MediKids and contact AAP leaders with your comments and suggestions. Remember that MediKids will have an enormous impact on children and on our professional lives-- we must get it right!

**3)** There was much discussion on bioterrorism and terrorism in general. Briefly put, I think you will find excellent and accurate information on these issues at the AAP website ([www.aap.org](http://www.aap.org)). The site is current, and the info is there for your patients as well--use it, and encourage your patients to do so.

**4)** As always, it was nice to see old friends and meet new people plus getting to hear the latest CME from the experts. On a sad note, I attended my last District IV dinner; I will miss spending time with this great group of people, as this group was the cherry on top of being President of TNAAP.

**Back home in TN:**

Our contract with TennCare to assist with EPSDT (Early Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment) has moved along quite well. Pat Davis and our coordinator, Ruth Allen, are doing a great job, and have increased our input into TennCare immeasurably. Check out the cyber CME offering on EPSDT and be on the lookout for the video on EPSDT which you should have already received. The contract ends on December 31st, but we have applied for a one-year extension, and we are hopeful it will be approved.

And finally, Access MedPlus is gone. One would hope that the economic fallout will not be similar to the Xantus fiasco. Folding all the AM+ patients into TennCare Select certainly puts the State at greater financial risk. As you will recall, this program is an administrative services contract, and the State assumes all cost overruns.

Then there is the Governor's plan to modify TennCare, which basically follows many of the recommendations of the Commission on the Future of TennCare. Many of the details remain unclear at the present time, and, as always, the devil will be in the details. I did testify before the TennCare Legislative Oversight Committee and expressed our ongoing concerns with the TennCare program, especially regarding access to the subspecialists.



Continued on page 3...

## "Be careful what you wish for.."



Catherine M. Fenner,  
Executive Director

### **Executive Director's Report** Catherine M. Fenner

"...you just might get it."

As we close out this very successful year, I find myself reflecting on our accomplishments and the impact they have made in the Chapter and in my own professional life. I also look forward to what I see

as the continued growth and importance that our activities will play in the lives of Tennessee children.

Thankfully, we did get what we wished for-- and more. A year ago, having more staff-- even one at part time-- to help fulfill the dreams and opportunities of

our members was only a vision. Now, you can read Patrice's column to see how many irons we have in the fire that benefit children and their pediatricians, just since she was hired in April. You can also read Ruth's column to see how much of a player we have become in the TennCare Bureau in only four months. These advancements in our level of participation and activity required more time than our volunteer leaders or I had. We needed more staff hands, and the Board was willing to make an investment in that vision.

You can also read the President's Report to see what this metamorphosis has meant to Joe, as we say not "farewell" (as he will continue to serve as Open Forum Chair and Legislative Chair) but rather "thank you" to an excellent leader. And for me, that is what has made all of this happen--years of excellent leaders. From the day I started on February 1, 1994, I have been awed by the strength, knowledge, and leadership that each of our Chapter Presidents has had. I have had the honor of working under the direction of Dr. Harold Vann, Dr. Russ Chesney, Dr. Iris Snider, and Dr. Joe Lentz, and I look forward to the next two years working with Dr. John Ring. These are the outstanding leaders that have *together* earned the 2001 Outstanding Chapter Award for our Chapter this year. I hope you-- our 1100 members-- know how fortunate you are to have such fine people leading your professional society and representing you on a state and national level. They devote a great deal of time and energy to the presidency.

Meanwhile, my role as Executive Director has changed somewhat during the last year. The growth in staff, projects, and contracts has demanded that more of my attention be devoted to staff management and supervision, budget development and financial management, and of course, juggler and cheerleader, especially since we all work full-time from our own homes. We are also hoping that the TennCare contract will allow us to hire a fourth full-time employee-- a coding educator-- who will also work from home. While my lobbying duties remain a priority, we anticipate a relatively quiet year in the 2002 session due to the weight of the budget crisis, redistricting, and security issues. This, I hope, will allow more time for me to get acclimated to my changing professional environment, as well as speculate on ways to continue this expansion and development in the future.

Thank you members, for the continued support of your association. None of the "wishes" could come true without the support of membership dues, committee participation, and project involvement. Your time and ideas, as well as your dues, are critical to attaining our goals and expanding our vision.

### **President's Report, continued from page 2...**

Cathy Fenner, John Ring, and I attended the AAP's Advocacy Summit in Atlanta, November 9-12. It was a most informative meeting with lots of good ideas for increasing chapter members' involvement in state government affairs. As the Legislative Chair for our Chapter, I will try to put some of the fresh ideas into use within our Chapter; we have much work to accomplish at many levels of state government. An added bonus at the meeting was the participation of our own Gene Caldwell and Quentin Humberd on the program. They were excellent and certainly enhanced the image of the TN Chapter. For any of our members who have previously attended the Legislative Conference, this Advocacy Summit meeting is an excellent follow up. It is a small meeting however, typically made up of the Legislative Chair and the lobbyist of each Chapter; this made for excellent networking.

As the final days of my 4-year commitment (2 each as President and VP) wind down, I am amazed at how rapidly the time has passed, what has been accomplished and how much remains to be done! I have been blessed with this opportunity to serve children and our members and my thanks to all of you who gave me this opportunity. A very special thanks to Cathy Fenner-- the best ED in all of the AAP! She was a constant source of energy, direction, support and continuity-- what a treasure we have. Also Patrice Mayo-Ligon and Ruth Allen have been marvelous new additions to our staff; who could have imagined 4 years ago that TNAAP would have 3 full-time staff persons!

Goodbye and thanks again.

Good luck John Ring,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Joe".

## Project Updates

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Patrice Mayo-Ligon,  
Project Coordinator

By the time this newsletter reaches you, a few projects will have come to a close and several new ones will be underway.

### **Bicycle Helmet Safety Initiative:**

The last of the orders for bicycle helmet safety posters and brochures were mailed in October. Your enthusiasm surpassed our high expectations.

Over 300 physicians/practices statewide placed orders for more than 50,000 brochures and 1500 posters. As a result of this program, many more Tennessee children are using bicycle helmets, wearing them correctly, and significantly decreasing their risk for and severity of head trauma. A small supply of materials remains and may be requested.

**Membership Directory:** I am updating our membership database during November from the several hundred responses received from you. This revision will be used for printing the new Membership Directory. You should receive the directory in January.

### **Safe Transportation of Children with Special Health**

**Care Needs:** The Safe Transportation project is directed by Melinda Lucas, MD and was initially funded by the Ronald McDonald House Charities of Nashville. It addresses the many Tennessee children with special health care needs who require car safety seats specifically designed to accommodate their health care needs. We are currently purchasing a variety of these special car safety seats to provide to families through a loaner program that will be housed at Vanderbilt University. We appreciate the help of Dr. Arnold Strauss in arranging the storage location. The loaner program will house approximately 20 car seats of various types and sizes for children with special health care needs. Parents and caregivers will receive training to install the seats and secure children properly. Once additional funding is secured, we will be providing this training to interested pediatricians and subspecialists as well.

**The Medical Home Planning Project (MHPP):** The Medical Home Planning Project, the successful six-month planning effort funded by the AAP through the CATCH (Community Access to Child Health) program and directed by Quentin Humberd, MD, came to an end in September. It laid the groundwork for a sustainable

training program for pediatricians, families, and others involved in the coordination or delivery of care to children with disabilities or chronic illnesses in Tennessee. I participate on the steering committee for this project, along with Dr. Humberd and Dr. John Ring. Statewide partners are providing input for the submission of a competitive three-year federal grant to implement the Tennessee Medical Home Project. The lead agency for the project is Family Voices, and Dr. Humberd will serve as its medical director.

**New Projects for 2002:** At the end of August, Cathy and I traveled to Asheville, NC to attend the NC AAP Chapter's annual meeting. There, we had the opportunity to observe two of their very successful programs, the Open Forum (OF) and the Practice Managers' Network (PMN). From this experience, Cathy and I have begun planning these programs to apply to our Chapter's needs. Both programs will be implemented this Spring and will be held on consecutive days March 8 (PMN) and March 9 (OF), 2002.

The Open Forum will be a statewide meeting of pediatricians which we hope will take place twice a year. The program will bring pediatricians together to address current relevant issues. The 5-hour agenda for the spring meeting will include a formal program, lunch, an "open mike" session for participants to share experiences and concerns, and a reception with vendor displays. The second Open Forum meeting will be held in conjunction with the Annual Meeting September 14th. Please plan to attend these meetings with your peers.

The Pediatric Practice Managers' Network will provide pediatric practice managers in Tennessee with a professional network of colleagues to discuss crucial management issues, share pertinent experiences, increase knowledge, and improve their management skills in order to strengthen the practices in which they work. Potential topics include: coding, documentation, and billing; compliance issues; contract negotiation; staff hiring, training, and retention; salary and labor issues; decision-making and coping skills; office communication and meetings; and successful office set-up. Our partners in coordinating this effort will be the Cumberland Pediatric Foundation and Tennessee Medical Group Management Association, with the meetings consisting of multiple sessions with expert presenters, peer-led workshops, and group discussions. Please encourage your practice manager to attend this meeting.

Please contact me if you have any questions or input regarding the Chapter's projects. Our many current projects attest to the interest and involvement of our members. Indeed, this new level of member activity and enthusiasm helped secure the Outstanding Large Chapter Award.

## TNAAP Offers Free Placement Service

The Chapter office often receives calls from pediatricians and pediatric nurse practitioners moving to Tennessee or relocating within the state looking for employment opportunities. As a free service to our members, you may call the office (615-383-6004) for a simple employment opportunity form which will be faxed to you for completion. We will keep the information on file for six months from date of receipt, unless otherwise specified, and it will not be made available to medical personnel recruiting firms.

*\* Positions are currently available at ETSU for a pediatric neurologist and a general academic pediatrician.*

## Visit our web site



[www.tnaap.org](http://www.tnaap.org)

## Contract with TennCare in Full Swing

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EPSDT Coordinator  
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(fax) 865-927-8039  
[rutheallen@yahoo.com](mailto:rutheallen@yahoo.com)



Ruth E. Allen,  
EPSDT Coordinator

"hit the ground running" when I started late this summer to fulfill our 6-month contract with the TennCare Bureau, focused on Early Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment (EPSDT) services.

Our activities have been focused on identifying barriers for pediatricians to provide EPSDT services and working with the State on their educational initiatives related to EPSDT. The following are some examples of the projects we have been working on.

Dr. Pat Davis, Medical Director for the contract, and I conducted focus groups in Jackson and Knoxville regarding barriers to services. The feedback we received included:

- ✓ Difficulty in making referrals to specialists;
- ✓ Overall "hassle factors" with TennCare (e.g. MCO referral forms and formulary issues);
- ✓ The lack of information regarding children in state custody, and;
- ✓ The lack of staff to provide outreach to children who have not received EPSDT services.

This feedback has been communicated to the TennCare Bureau.

Dr. Davis, Catherine Fenner, Dr. Joe Lentz and I meet monthly with the Children's Health Initiative (headed by child psychologist Joe McLaughlin, PhD). This committee has had input on an educational video produced by TennCare, an interactive internet training called "Cyber CE" for physicians providing EPSDT services, a public awareness campaign regarding EPSDT services entitled "Tennessee Caring for Children" (TV advertisements, brochures and posters soon to be released), and other issues and initiatives.

I am regularly participating in many activities, including attending the monthly TennCare Oversight meetings and communicating pertinent information to key board members, serving on the MCO Medical Director's committee on EPSDT (this committee has been tasked with many issues such as reducing the number of audits, developing a standard referral form, etc.), participating in the TennCare and Children Working Group sponsored by the Children's Health Initiative (along with other advocacy networking), and meeting with MCOs to learn about the strategies they are developing to increase EPSDT services by participating physicians.

We are currently in the process of trying to renew our contract for the calendar year 2002. Part of our proposal includes hiring a Coding Educator to serve as another resource to our members.

My appreciation goes out to Catherine Fenner, Pat Davis, MD, Joe Lentz, MD, and Patrice Mayo-Ligon for bringing me up to speed so quickly on TNAAP initiatives and philosophies. Special thanks also go to Iris Snider, MD, Joel Bradley, MD, Pat Davis, MD, and Charles Campbell, MD, for letting me spend time in their offices and with their staff to learn more about "a day in the life of a Tennessee pediatrician". For those of you I have yet to meet, I hope to have the opportunity to dialogue with you soon.

### Newsletter Editor Needed

Dr. Cathy Dundon has served the Chapter in many wonderful ways over the years, one of which has been the role of editor of this publication, *The Tennessee Pediatrician*. After ten years, she has retired from this role, so we are in need of a new editor. Anyone with interest should submit a letter to the Chapter office defining the desire for the position and relevant qualifications. Letters of interest must be received by January 30th.

# National Update: Meet Our New District Chair

Dave Tayloe, MD, AAP District IV Chair  
2706 Medical Office Place, Goldsboro, NC 27534

The AAP will become an even stronger voice for children, and for those of us who spend most of our waking hours taking care of children, since Steve Edwards has vacated his District IV Chairmanship position, and become Vice President/President-elect of the Academy. It will be my difficult task to attempt to provide you with the leadership and support that Steve has given you during these last six years. And this is not an easy time for the AAP or for any of us. Our nation is at war with a poorly understood enemy. The AAP's major leadership development meeting of the year was recently cancelled because of its proximity to the September 11 terrorism. State governments across the nation are having major problems paying for vital child health services. And the economic downturn is depleting the once-predicted federal surplus, endangering many human services programs that desperately need congressional funding. Most pediatricians have no control over these forces and are struggling to make a living and provide an acceptable level of health services for the children who live in their communities.

My background is community pediatrics. Our group practice in Goldsboro, N.C., operates four offices and provides health services for a very large population of children in rural eastern North Carolina. Medicaid payments comprise over 50% of our cash flow. We struggle with the growing Hispanic culture. Our practice provides consultation and back-up call for four middle school-based health centers. Patient care is still my primary focus and the one thing I had rather do than any other professional activity. My other interest is state government lobbying. It has been my pleasure to direct the North Carolina Chapter's state government lobbying efforts since 1985. With the upcoming responsibilities of District IV Chairperson, it has been necessary for me to give up the Chairmanship of the N.C. Chapter's Committee on Government Affairs. Needless to say, my understanding of subspecialty care and pediatric research leaves much to be desired. I am, however, very concerned about the future of subspecialty pediatric care and pediatric research. We have major national problems in the areas of graduate medical education and pediatric research, and the AAP is working daily on these issues in Washington, D.C. It will be my task to listen and respond to all of your needs, and to do the best I can to help you in any way the AAP might be able to offer you assistance.

I believe pediatricians' main task at this moment is to be as valuable as possible to the children, families, and child service professionals in our communities. We must network with other agencies to provide comprehensive care in the local community. We must provide the medical home for children with special needs. The biggest threat to pediatrics and to children is the army of other health care providers who think they can take child health away from the pediatric community. You and I know that if these financially motivated groups succeed in

convincing the government and the insurance industry that they are right, that not only will pediatricians suffer but children everywhere will receive inferior health care. I encourage you all to take this challenge seriously as you care for children and organize your own local health care systems.

I hope you will let me know when you have concerns about pediatrics or the AAP. You can e-mail me at dtayloe@aap.org, or call me at work (919-580-7207, -7209), or at home (919-735-2552). I look forward to serving you as we all try to take better care of all our children.

## Welcome New Members

Tammy Hasting Adams, MD	Murfreesboro
Jennifer G. Amrol, MD	Nashville
Stephen T. Bauch, MD	Memphis
Kevin Carl Brinkmann, MD	Memphis
Kelly Marie Butler, MD	Nashville
Shannon Cohen, MD	Knoxville
Jane Rasnick Conley, MD	Knoxville
J. David Crossley, DDS	Morristown
Michael Todd Damron, MD	Knoxville
Tripp Alex Dargie, MD	Memphis
Timothy H. Eidson, MD	Goodlettsville
Paul Douglas Hain, MD	Nashville
Jane Silva Hankins, MD	Memphis
Anwarul Haque, MD	Nashville
Jane E. Hayden, MD	Memphis
Susan Hope Hayes, MD	Chattanooga
Mary J. Haynes, MD	Nashville
Rachel McAllister Hecht, MD	Elizabethton
H. Pitts Hinson, DDS	Columbia
J. Steve Hobby, MD	Nashville
DeAnn Richele Holbrook, MD	Knoxville
James Lamont Laham, DO	Knoxville
Grace Youngjung Lee, MD	Memphis
Becky Sue McMahan, MD	Chattanooga
Richard James Michael, MD	Nashville
Ashley Boals Miller, MD	Memphis
J. Donald Moore, MD	Nashville
Chris W. Morton, MD	Nashville
Sandra A. Moutsios, MD	Nashville
Karen Jackson Parsell, MD	Paris
Cheryl Lamon Pearson, MD	Memphis
Lisa Marie Petursson, MD	Nashville
Robert Neal Rayder, MD	Arlington
Radhika Sadagopan, MD	Oneida
Alicia Wright Salyer, MD	Knoxville
Nicole M. Sheffield, MD	Memphis
Evelyn Yap Silver, MD	Oneida
M. Victoria DeRosas Spurbeck, MD	Memphis
Otto H.P. Teixeira, MD	Kingsport
Ahmad A. Wattad, MD	Johnson City
Neva Nicole White, MD	Nashville
Seth Wright, MD	Nashville

The Tennessee Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics and the Academic Medical Schools of Tennessee welcome the entering classes of 2001 to the Pediatric and Med/Ped Residency Programs:

**CHATTANOOGA UNIT, UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE COLLEGE OF MEDICINE**

Amy Jo Adams, M.D.	Texas Tech University School of Medicine
Nicole Canaley, M.D.	University of Illinois College of Medicine
James "Paul" Darke, M.D.	University of Tennessee College of Medicine
Todd Levine, M.D.	Medical College of Georgia
Tiquette Mason, M.D.	Mercer University
Katherine Nobles, M.D.	University of Alabama School of Medicine
Arthur "Chester" Ogborn, M.D.	University of Nebraska College of Medicine
Jeremy Screws, M.D.	University of Mississippi School of Medicine

**EAST TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY**

Heather K. Cash, M.D.	East Tennessee State University
Michael L. Gage, M.D.	University of Tennessee, Memphis
Shane Hill, M.D.	Saba University, Netherlands Antilles
Jeffrey K. McVey, D.O.	West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine
Suresh Sreedharen, M.D.	University College Of Med. Sciences, India
Dawn S. Tuell, M.D.	East Tennessee State University

**UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE, MEMPHIS**

Rana Assfoura, M.D.	Damascus University, Syria
Amanda Barre, M.D.	Louisiana State University, New Orleans
Jara Best, M.D.	University of Tennessee
Honor Canon, M.D.	University of Tennessee
Cherissa Carrington, M.D.	University of Texas, Galveston
Tracy Fowler, M.D.	University of Texas, Austin
Teresa Fritts, M.D.	University of Arizona
Bonnie Fry, M.D.	East Tennessee State University
Radha Gandhi, M.D.	University of Tennessee
Derrick Hamilton, M.D.	Brown Medical School
Kristine Harlander, M.D.	Medical College of Georgia
Gil Herren, M.D.	East Tennessee State University
Tara Houston, M.D.	University of Louisville
Hsiao Lai, M.D.	University of Florida
Jeffrey Lehaman, M.D.	Southern Illinois University School of Medicine
Jason Lindsey, M.D.	University of Tennessee
Kacie Lutz, M.D.	University of Arkansas
Cynthia Sands, M.D.	University of Tennessee
David Saudek, M.D.	Medical College of Georgia
Tejas Shah, M.D.	University of Missouri
Erika Stalets, M.D.	Southern Illinois University School of Medicine
James Stamps, M.D.	University of Tennessee
Maria Streck, M.D.	Wake Forest
A. Heather Thompson, M.D.	University of Oklahoma

**VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY**

David Adler, M.D.	Medical College of Virginia
Folasade Aworinde, M.D.	Vanderbilt University
Joseph Baust, M.D.	Meharry Medical College
Tyler Berutti, M.D.	Ohio State University
Travis Bowles, M.D.	University of Texas--Houston
Alex Brunner, M.D.	Case Western Reserve
Thomas Byars, M.D.	Medical College of Georgia
Jay Campbell, M.D.	University of South Carolina
Brad Eilerman, M.D.	University of Kentucky
Mike Engel, M.D.	Vanderbilt University
Ashraf Hamdan, M.D.	Alexandria University Faculty of Medicine
Christine Hidalgo, M.D.	Louisiana State University--New Orleans
Tanya Kowalczyk, M.D.	Medical University of South Carolina
Carla Lee, M.D.	Vanderbilt University
Karen Lubell, M.D.	University of Texas--San Antonio
Eric Mullins, M.D.	University of Missouri
Marta Papp, M.D.	Medical School of Debrecen
Ben Reynolds, M.D.	University of Virginia
Catherine Sauls, M.D.	University of Florida
Angela Singleton, M.D.	Vanderbilt University
Andrew Smith, M.D.	University of Maryland
Joyce Teng, M.D.	Vanderbilt University
Mary Traylor, M.D.	University of Florida
Amy Vehec, M.D.	Indiana University

# TennCare Update

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Writing a column on TennCare continues to be an attempt to hit a moving target. As I put this together, Access MedPlus has just had its contract revoked. The events leading up to this will have been covered in detail in the news media by the time you read this, along with exactly what will happen to the money owed to providers, how patients will be transferred to TennCare Select, and other pertinent details that hopefully have been worked out in advance.

Historically, in the first meeting of our TennCare Committee with Bob Corker (Gov. Sundquist's first Commissioner of Finance 7 years ago), he stated his intention to close Access MedPlus. This seems to have taken a little longer than he expected, but it finally happened. Again, the state becomes directly responsible for more patients and, by using Blue Cross to administer it, becomes the largest MCO in TennCare. Many of us have repeatedly said that the state needs to return to a single payer system with the state administering it directly or through an administrative service organization (ASO) as they are doing with TennCare Select. It just makes more sense to me to have one system rather than the hodge-podge we have been dealing with for the past 7 years.

For those of you who are not yet aware of it, Rep. Gene Caldwell, MD, is now the Chair of the TennCare Legislative Oversight Committee. This is a job of monumental proportions, and it is wonderful to have someone in this role who can understand our concerns from having practiced pediatrics for 33 years. He has spent many extra hours visiting with providers of all sorts trying to work through the problems that TennCare presents. I cannot say how much I appreciate his efforts to make things work better for us and our patients, especially those children who are now on TennCare Select due to special needs.

Our contract to help the state with EPSDT is up and running and is covered in this newsletter in Ruth Allen's article. There are presently some financial incentives in the form of one-time bonuses by BlueCare to those who are doing EPSDT in their offices. The explanation that I have received says that the

amount of the bonus is based on the percentage of EPSDTs being done by the office. This is a nice addition to office income as a reward for doing something that all pediatricians believe in. There is also a move afoot to use a special form to give the MCOs data on how many and what portions of EDSDT exams are being done. Since, despite all attempts, MCOs have never been able to glean this information from their billing data, it would give them their needed information, and we would be compensated for time to fill it out. Although still under discussion, it is definitely getting serious consideration as the solution to the problem of accurate numbers on compliance with EPSDT standards. Interestingly enough, the form bears a great resemblance to the old billing tool from state Medicaid days.

*"Many of us have repeatedly said that the state needs to return to a single payer system with the state administering it directly or through an administrative service organization (ASO) as they are doing with TennCare Select."*

The state has sent its waiver request with the highly publicized changes into HCFA (now called CMS) for approval. Since this plan's acceptance or rejection by the federal government and the changes that it finally brings will greatly influence pediatricians and other providers, we need to be very aware of things as they progress.

Finally, for those of you who have not read the October, 2001 copy of the TMA's Tennessee Medicine magazine, I highly recommend you do so. It presents an excellent discussion of the many facets of TennCare from the viewpoints of many different groups affected by it. For me, this gives the most comprehensive discussion of TennCare that has been published in one place so far. As always, please contact me with your problems or concerns regarding TennCare.

## 2002 Calendar

Jan 19	* TNAAP Board Meeting	Nashville
Mar 8	Practice Managers' Network	Nashville
Mar 9	Open Forum	Nashville
Apr 19	* TNAAP Board Meeting	Fall Creek Falls State Park, TN
Apr 20-21	Annual Planning Retreat	Fall Creek Falls State Park, TN
Jun 21-23	FL-AAP Annual Meeting	Lake Buena Vista, FL
Sep 13-15	TNAAP Annual Meeting	Knoxville

*\* All Chapter members are invited to attend the Board meetings, but please let the Chapter office know at least 2 weeks in advance.*

## AAP Promotes Health of Children in Child Care Settings

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**D**uring well child visits, many pediatricians ask parents about health-related issues in child care settings. What do child care workers need to know about child safety, contagious diseases, administration of medicines, nutrition, or mental health? Many of these important health issues were discussed at the 5th annual Healthy Child Care America (HCCA) conference in Washington DC in September. Sponsored and funded through support of the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), I was fortunate to be chosen to attend as the Tennessee representative.

The most remarkable aspect of this conference was the depth to which health care professionals have teamed to provide specific recommendations to optimize the health of children in child care settings. At the conference, a few of the key session topics relating to child care settings included: the importance of partnerships to creating programs; changes in the national standards; children with special health care needs; administration of medications; and mental health resources.

The history of the AAP's involvement in the health of children in child care setting is long-standing and includes such publications as Standards for Day Care Centers (1971) and Health in Day Care: A Manual for Health Professionals (1987). Through a collaborative effort with the American Public Health Association, one of the best resources that exemplifies the AAP's ongoing involvement with health issues in child care settings is the "National Health and Safety Performance Standards in Out-of-Home Child Care Programs." (URL: <http://nrc.uchsc.edu/national/index.html>)

The HCCA campaign was launched in 1995 by Donna Shalala, secretary of the US Department of Health and Human Services (URL: <http://www.nccic.org/hcca/>). Health and early childhood professionals from around the country have joined to continue HCCA's commitment to promote community activities related to health in child care settings. The five primary goals of HCCA are to provide:

- Safe, healthy child care environments for all children, including those with special health needs;
- Up-to-date and easily accessible immunizations for children in child care;
- Access to quality health, dental, and developmental screening and comprehensive follow-up for children in child care;
- Health and mental health consultation, support, and education for all families, children and child care providers; and
- Health, nutrition and safety education for children in child care, their families, and child care providers.

Obviously, these goals are familiar territories for many general pediatricians. The goals also outline some of the many opportunities that pediatricians and other child health care providers can consider if they have an interest in promoting health in child care settings. For example, my particular focus has been to team with professionals from local child care centers to create an interactive CD ROM that teaches the basics in how to respond to an aggressive child; this conference offered an unparalleled sounding board for my project.

Pediatrics is a specialty known for its population-based focus. In line with this philosophy, the AAP promotes children's health and welfare initiatives by sponsoring pediatricians to attend strategic meetings such as the HCCA meeting. Make sure the Chapter office knows your areas of interest, so that you can have a similar opportunity to attend one of the many conferences offered.

## Vaccine Shortage

Jerry Narramore,  
Tennessee Immunization  
Director  
615-532-8517

**D**ue to the continuing shortage of the S. Pneumonia vaccine (Prevnar), restrictions on the use of VFC program supplied vaccine are being imposed. Effective September 26, 2001, vaccine may be used only for the primary series of vaccine (first three doses) and not for the booster (4th) dose. For children starting the series late, please consult the package insert, or other reference material, to determine the number of doses need for the primary series.

These restrictions are in line with the recommendations from CDC (MMWR, September 14, 2001) and are being implemented after consultation with leadership of the TNAAP and the Tennessee Academy of Family Physicians. These restrictions will remain in effect until the vaccine supply situation has improved.



# Annual Awards Dinner

September 8, 2001 ~~at Music City Queen Riverboat~~ Nashville, Tennessee

Dinner Supported by Ross Laboratories

Cocktail Reception Supported by MedImmune

## Pediatrician of the Year

### J. Michael "Mick" Connors, MD, Knoxville

Dr. Connors graduated from the University of Notre Dame in 1988 and attended the Medical College of Virginia in Richmond. He completed his Pediatric Residency at Children's Hospital Medical Center in Cincinnati, Ohio, in 1995, followed by a Fellowship in Pediatric Emergency Medicine at Jacobi Medical Center, Albert Einstein College of Medicine, Bronx, NY, for one year and another two years back at Children's in Cincinnati. He moved to Knoxville in 1998 and currently serves as Assistant Director of Pediatric Emergency Medicine at East Tennessee Children's Hospital.

As Chair of the Committee on Pediatric Emergency Medicine for the Tennessee Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, Dr. Connors launched one of the Chapter's most successful programs to date-- a statewide bicycle helmet education campaign. Posters and brochures were created and distributed to 2500 pediatricians, pediatric emergency physicians, and family physicians across Tennessee. More than 50,000 brochures and 1000 posters have been ordered since then. In addition to this campaign, Dr. Connors' Committee has established its own very informative newsletter, the *Pediatric Emergency Messenger*, published three times a year and distributed to pediatricians, family physicians, and pediatric emergency physicians.



*Pediatrician of the Year, Dr. Mick Connors, wife Angie, and two of their four children, Jack and Sara (center); parents John and Helen; sister Maureen and niece Brittany.*

## Senior Pediatrician of the Year

### Festus O. Adebajo, MD, Johnson City

Dr. Adebajo graduated from Yale University with his medical degree in 1960. He completed his medical education at the Yale New Haven Medical Center in 1963. Since then, he has been an instructor of pediatrics in California, Pennsylvania, New York, and Nigeria. He came to Tennessee in 1984 as Chairman of the Department of Pediatrics at Meharry, and moved to Johnson City in 1988 to Chair the department at James H. Quillen College of Medicine, where he remained until he retired in 1998. While there, he established the pediatric residency program and served as the first medical director of the Children's Hospital at Johnson City Medical Center. Over the course of his career, he has established a national reputation for his work in childhood nutrition and has served on many national and state committees involving childhood nutrition, child health research, and sickle cell disease.



*Senior Pediatrician of the Year Dr. Festus Adebajo (left) with wife Leslie and son Geoffrey, along with two of the many who nominated him, Dr. Philip Bagnell and Dr. David Kalwinsky.*

## Many Thanks to the Following Board Members Finishing their Term December 31, 2001

Joseph F. Lentz, MD, President  
Mary E. Keown, MD, Secretary-Treasurer  
Martin I. Herman, MD, Fellow At-Large, West TN  
Patricia C. Davis, MD, Fellow At-Large, Middle TN  
Charles L. Campbell, MD, Fellow At-Large, East TN  
Joan W. White, MD, Program Chair  
Carol H. Broadway, MD, Membership Chair  
Stephen P. Combs, MD, Nominating Chair

## Legislator of the Year

### Representative Kim McMillan (D-Clarksville)

For successful passage of the absolute immunity law and countless other efforts on behalf of children and their pediatricians.

## Special Achievement Awards

### Quentin A. Humberd, M.D. (Clarksville)

For outstanding service rendered to children with special health care needs, including but not limited to, the Medical Home Project.

### Melinda A. Lucas, M.D. (Knoxville)

For outstanding service rendered in the area of injury prevention.



Above: TNAAP's Newest Staff: Patrice Mayo-Ligon, Project Coordinator (l), and Ruth Allen, EPSDT Coordinator in front of the Music City Queen Riverboat.



Dr. Jason Kastner (l) with Dr. Jerry Hickson and Dr. John Ring



Left: Pediatrician of the Year Dr. Mick Connors stands with TNAAP President, Dr. Joe Lentz.



Dr. Liz Pierce (l) and Dr. Joan White enjoy the entertainment....



... provided by husbands Dr. Jim Gay and Bill White during the reception

Special Thanks  
to our 2001  
Corporate Sponsors

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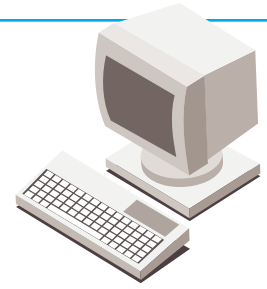
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**TennCare Promotes EPSDT –  
Pediatricians and Kids Can Benefit!**



**Donald E. Lighter, MD**  
2217 Breakwater Drive, Suite 115  
Knoxville TN 37922

The Bureau of TennCare has initiated a program to improve EPSDT usage among pediatricians and other practitioners in Tennessee. EPSDT, the Early Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment program mandated under Medicaid, has become an important issue for TennCare due to the Grier consent decree that has increased incentives for the Bureau to improve the use of EPSDT screening exams for TennCare members. To achieve this goal, the state has enlisted CyberCE, Inc. of Knoxville, Tennessee, to produce a series of programs to educate physicians and other providers on EPSDT exams.

The online sessions will be conducted after regular office hours and on weekends when physicians can attend without missing office hours. A series of "EPSDT 101" sessions will be held to acquaint physicians with the elements of an EPSDT exam, screening tests, and coding issues. An important issue that these programs cover is the fact that any EPSDT screening examination elements must be reimbursed by TennCare managed care organizations, and any referrals made on the basis of EPSDT exams must also be allowed. The online programs cover these issues in detail and help physicians and office staff determine the best ways to handle the health needs of their patients. For example, did you know that vision and hearing screening exams have CPT codes that can be used to describe these services for submitting reports and bills to managed care organizations? These sessions are designed to be very practical and give information that pediatricians can take back to their offices and use immediately.

The sessions are free of charge and provide 2 hours of continuing medical education credit. Additionally, there are a number of informational items available on the EPSDT Learning Lab web site. More information can be found at <http://tenncare.cyberce.net>, including information on registration. For more information, you can also email Don Lighter, MD at [dlightermd@cyberce.net](mailto:dlightermd@cyberce.net) or call 888-870-1690.

American Academy of Pediatrics

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