



NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2017 **OK PEDIATRICIAN**

**LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT**

Howdy friends!



What a fall! As you probably know by now, the eight week special legislative session adjourned Friday November 20<sup>th</sup> after a roller coaster ride filled with efforts to pass a new state budget to cover the gap created after the Oklahoma Supreme Court ruling struck down last session's smoking cessation fee.

Governor Fallin vetoed all but five sections of the General Appropriations bill she received Friday. Fortunately, the sections she signed

provide additional funding to the Oklahoma Health Care Authority, the Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services, and the Department of Human Services, all agencies that have profound impact on children and families.

This new bill stalls the deep budget cuts, including what would have been a devastating 9% Medicaid (SoonerCare) provider reimbursement rate cut, that were slated to go into effect in December. However, the budget as passed still causes these agencies to have large deficits that must be addressed. Fallin announced she plans to call another special session to address these continuing problems soon.

In the context of budget plans that if passed likely would have gutted the pediatric healthcare workforce in the state, especially for our most vulnerable citizens, the OKAAP executive committee has begun exploring strategies to strengthen our voice in public policy. OKAAP member and pediatrician in private practice in Norman, OK, Tom Kuhls, MD, has suggested that we consider allocating a larger portion of OKAAP's budget to support a lobbyist. As founder and board president of Vaccinate Oklahoma ([www.vaccinateoklahoma.org](http://www.vaccinateoklahoma.org)), Dr. Kuhl's recommendation is appreciated, given his successful use of lobbying to protect immunization rates in the state. Over the last several years, under Tom's direction (including initially using his own funds to hire a lobbyist), Vaccinate Oklahoma has been able to raise and maintain lawmakers' awareness of the need to protect public health by both preserving vaccine-supportive legislation and prevent-

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR - 2018**

- ◆ Annual Leadership Forum - March 15-18
- ◆ AAP Legislative Conference - April 8-10
- ◆ OKAAP Annual Board Meeting - April 13
- ◆ 44th Annual Advances in Pediatrics - April 13

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ing legislative proposals that would erode the public vaccine mandate.

Up to this point, OKAAP has collaborated with OSMA, relying on its lobbyist to educate OKAAP members about healthcare policies as they unfold in each legislative session. As many of OKAAP and OSMA's healthcare policy priorities overlap, this partnership has been mutually beneficial over the years. Furthermore, as OSMA has never charged OKAAP anything for our partnership, it has been a cost-effective way to keep abreast of the state policy agendas regarding healthcare and child health policy in successive legislative sessions. However, while OKAAP is extremely grateful to OSMA, as we watched the budget debate progress this year, it became increasingly clear that this strategy limits our collective strength to proactively protect the pediatrician workforce against future proposed budget cuts. Both OSMA and OKAAP agree that OKAAP would benefit from a more focused voice on behalf of pediatricians.

**Continued on page 2...**

## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT CONTINUED

Therefore, at our last board meeting call, we agreed to research the possibility of OKAAP hiring our own legislative lobbyist. A sub-committee is now considering the details. While we have worked hard to prevent increases in OKAAP membership dues over the last few years, at this point, it is likely that we will need to raise them to be able to afford our own lobbyist. I invite each of you to contribute to the discussion as we debate the costs and benefits of this choice.

One last thing I would like to bring to your attention is the AAP's For Our Future Campaign to support the new AAP Headquarters in Itasca, IL. You received an email about this recently and there is more information on page 3.

As usual, thanks to Amy Prentice OKAAP executive director, for putting together a great newsletter edition again. Please contact her or me with any suggestions for future newsletter topics. And thanks again for all that you do for Oklahoma children!

Laura McGuinn, MD, FAAP

## ADVANCED CLINICAL TRAINING IN DEVELOPMENTAL AND BEHAVIORAL PEDIATRICS FOR PEDIATRICIANS AND FAMILY PHYSICIANS.

The OU Health Sciences Center Dept. of Pediatrics Section on Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics Child Study Center in Oklahoma City has US Maternal and Child Health Bureau (MCHB) funding to support a stipend (prorated at the level of a PGY-4 resident salary) for primary care providers who wish to improve their skills in caring for children with developmental and behavioral concerns in the primary care setting. The program includes a structured curriculum of mentored clinical care and didactics at the Child Study Center.

Primary care clinicians can tailor their time in the program as needed to minimize disruption to their practice. For example, some may choose to spend one day per week over a year, others may elect several 2 week or month long blocks over several months. Activities are designed to enhance primary care clinicians' clinical management of children with developmental and behavioral concerns such as ADHD, depression and anxiety, autism, a history of trauma, etc. For additional information or to indicate interest, please contact Laura McGuinn, MD, Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrician, Associate Professor of Pediatrics through Kecia Huff, 405-271-5700 extension 45123 [kecia-huff@ouhsc.edu](mailto:kecia-huff@ouhsc.edu)

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## OKLAHOMA'S RESIDENT IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Alexandra Riggs



Alexandra Riggs is in her second year of Pediatric Residency at the University of Oklahoma Children's Hospital in Oklahoma City. Alex grew up in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, and graduated from Saint Joseph's Academy. She attended Louisiana Tech University and received a Bachelor of Science in Biology.

Though her father is an ER physician, Alex's decision to pursue medicine came later than most. She originally chose to attend Louisiana Tech University to pursue a degree in Speech Language Pathology. It was not until her sophomore year in college that she changed her major to Biology and decided to apply to medical school. While in college, she enjoyed memberships in Union Board and her sorority, Phi Mu. She served as the Panhellenic President in 2011, which helped her to develop leadership and delegation skills. She participated in multiple primary care physician shadowing opportunities during college, helping to solidify her decision to pursue medicine. She was later accepted to LSU Medical School's Class of 2016.

During medical school, Alex was initially interested in the field of OB-GYN. However, only a few weeks into her pediatrics rotation - her first of the year - she knew Pediatrics was the perfect fit! She loved the young, fun patients and variety of disease processes seen. She found her inpatient rotation to be especially educational and enjoyable. She then quickly became involved in

the Pediatric Interest Group on campus. Additionally, she served as the director for "Camp Tiger," a five day camp for local children with physical and mental disabilities, run 100% by medical students.

Alex is grateful for the enthusiasm and support from her family in friends. She currently resides in Oklahoma City with her husband Christopher, their dog Zooney, and their horse Picasso. In her free time, Alex enjoys horseback riding, gardening, watching *The Bachelor*, and spending time with her friends and family. She and her husband also enjoy rooting for the La Tech Bulldogs, LSU Tigers, New Orleans Saints, Chicago Bulls, and of course, OKC Thunder!

After residency, Alex is considering pursuing a fellowship in either Hospitalist Medicine or Emergency Medicine.

## FOR OUR FUTURE. THE AAP CAMPAIGN FOR CHILDREN

AAP is undertaking a major fundraising campaign to help SUPPORT the new AAP Headquarters in Itasca, Illinois. The AAP has completely outgrown its current Headquarters and the States of District VII have joined together to participate in this fundraising effort. **The Oklahoma Chapter is striving for a pledge of \$8,000 by December 31st for our part in this campaign.**

[See the full details here.](#)

Gift payments may be spread over five years: [Download the official pledge form.](#)

Gifts can be made by securities transfer, check, cash or credit card and delivered by mail to the AAP or made online using our [campaign donation site.](#)

## REMEMBERING J. RODMAN SEELY, MD, PHD.

July 28, 1927 - October 27, 2017

Oklahoma pediatricians fondly remember Dr. J. Rodman Seely who touched many lives in his 60 year professional career. Dr. Seely is credited with more than 75 publications and several teaching awards. In 1979, Dr. Seely opened a private practice caring for children with genetic and endocrine diseases and became the Director of the Genetics Diagnostic Center at Presbyterian Hospital in Oklahoma City. He was also among the first to perform amniocentesis and genetic analysis. Dr. Seely will be remembered for his love for and devotion to his wife and family and for his compassion for the children he cared for. [Read more about Dr. Seely's celebrated life and distinguished career.](#)



## KNOWLEDGE, ATTITUDES, AND PRACTICES OF PHYSICIANS ABOUT EHDI SYSTEMS:

Part 20 – Genetic Testing & Counseling following Pediatric Hearing Loss Diagnosis

By the Oklahoma Audiology Taskforce & OU Genetics



The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) recommends referring for genetic medical evaluations to determine etiology and identify related conditions. However, according to *Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices of Physicians* study completed by the Oklahoma Newborn Hearing Screening Pro-

gram (NHSP)/Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) system partnered with the National Center for Hearing Assessment and Management (NCHAM) at Utah State University, Boys Town National Research Hospital, and the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center – Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders, only 8.9% of Oklahoma medical providers refer to a geneticist or genetic services.

As a follow-up to the last Oklahoma Pediatrician E-Newsletter on genetics, the Department of Pediatrics, Section of Genetics at the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center (OUHSC) has been asked to provide additional information regarding genetic testing and counselling.

### ASK THE EXPERT:

#### OUHSC Licensed Genetic Counselor Team

For patients with congenital hearing loss, genetic testing can provide a wealth of knowledge. Not only can this information shed light on the etiology of the patient's hearing loss, but also provide information about recurrence for the child's parents- and even for the child's future children. Based on family history data of American children, it is estimated that approximately 60% of educationally significant hearing loss is caused by a genetic factor<sup>1</sup>. The American College of Medical Genetics (ACMG) formally recognized the utility of this testing in their 2014 practice statement regarding genetic testing for children diagnosed with hearing loss<sup>2</sup>. ACMG recommends a formal evaluation for all newborns and infants with confirmed hearing loss- including a detailed family and birth history, along with a dysmorphology and physical exam. Families should be edu-

cated about the benefits and limitations of genetic testing for hearing loss through the process of genetic counseling. Genetic counselors are specialized healthcare providers knowledgeable about the benefits, limitation, and appropriate use of genetic testing. A referral to a genetic counselor can provide information about genetic testing as well as the implications for the entire family based on results and how to proceed with positive or negative results. ACMG recommends pre-test genetic counseling be included in a comprehensive evaluation for hearing loss to determine the appropriate testing route, if desired. To find a genetic counselor in your area, visit [www.nsgc.org/findageneticcounselor](http://www.nsgc.org/findageneticcounselor).

<sup>1</sup>Marazita ML, Ploughman LM, Rawlings B, Remington E, Arnos KS, Nance WE. Genetic epidemiological studies of early-onset deafness in the U.S. school-age population. *Am J Med Genet* 1993;46:486-491.

<sup>2</sup>"American College of Medical Genetics and Genomics Guideline for the Clinical Evaluation and Etiologic Diagnosis of Hearing Loss." *Genetics in Medicine: Official Journal of the American College of Medical Genetics*. U.S. National Library of Medicine, Apr. 2014.

*To learn more about the Oklahoma Newborn Hearing Screening Program, gather resources for families, or receive a copy of the previous articles in this series, please send an email to [NewBornScreen@health.ok.gov](mailto:NewBornScreen@health.ok.gov)*

## CALLING ALL PEDIATRIC SUBSPECIALISTS!



Share your subspecialty knowledge and information with other OKAAP members. Submit an article for the OKAAP E-newsletter. Contact Amy at [aprentice@upal.com](mailto:aprentice@upal.com) or 918-858-0298.





**SAVE THE DATE**  
**April 13, 2018**

## 44th Annual Advances in Pediatrics

### Pediatric Sports Medicine:

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# NEWS AND OPPORTUNITIES

## AAP Legislative Conference: Scholarships available & deadline to fill spots

A limited number of scholarships are now available for the AAP Legislative Conference. The scholarship application, which includes additional information about the types of scholarships offered and eligibility requirements, can be found here: <https://fs25.formsite.com/aapmembership/form207/index.html>. The deadline to apply is December 14, 2017, at midnight (EST).

## AAP Legislative Conference Registration is open!

Registration is open for the 2018 AAP Legislative Conference, and spots are filling up fast!

[Register today and reserve your spot.](#)

## Trainee & Early Career Resources Now at Your Fingertips

If you are looking for the latest happening in the Section on Pediatric Trainees (SOPT) and the Section on Early Career Physicians (SOECP), [check out this new area on the collaboration site](#) (under AAP Programs & Resources).

## AAP Issues Updated Flu Vaccine Recommendations

The NPR (9/4) "Shots" blog reported the American Academy of Pediatrics issued updated recommendations Monday for the flu vaccine, but some parent and pediatricians were disappointed that the FluMist nasal vaccine is once again not recommended. [Read the full article.](#)

## 2017 OK 25 By 25 Celebration

If you haven't already done so, mark your calendars to attend our OK 25 by 25 Celebration on Thursday, November 30th. Below you will find a detailed invitation summarizing what the celebration is about along with the agenda. If you haven't done so, you can register for this FREE event at [www.ok25by25celebration.eventbrite.com](http://www.ok25by25celebration.eventbrite.com). Feel free to invite others to attend who you think might be interested.

## AAP Speaks Out on Congressional Efforts to Advance Tax Legislation

The Academy issued a [statement](#), urging Congress to shift its focus to immediately extending funding for the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) and the Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting program, both of which expired nearly two months ago, and opposing several provisions included in the pending legislation.

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