

DECEMBER 20, 2020



PRESIDENT'S NEWSLETTER

San Diego Academy of
Child & Adolescent Psychiatry

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WELCOME TO OUR NEW
PRESIDENT, DR. LAURA
VLEUGELS

Dear SDACAP members,

I hope you and yours are doing well. As this year and my SDACAP presidency ends, I want to thank you for allowing me to serve as your president for the past two years. It has been a true honor to lead this group of amazing colleagues, and thank you for your continuous work serving the children and families of San Diego County, especially during these difficult times. Since my last newsletter, SDACAP has been busy.

We had meetings September and October, which helped us plan for the next two years.

- Our Member in Training officer position have been vacant for some time, so the executive committee unanimously voted in early October to elect Tyler Morisson and Michael Chu to share this important position.

Congrats Tyler and Michael for officially becoming our
MIT officers in October!



- In addition, Tyler volunteered to lead a financial subcommittee, alongside our incoming secretary treasurer and other EC members. One of the goals of this subcommittee is to review our organization's finances, their potential growth, and make recommendations to our EC.

Thank you Tyler for your initiative and awesome leadership!

- We had a break from our monthly meeting in November; however, we did have an important and exciting ECP event led by our very own Charmi Patel-Rao. Our expert and diverse panel addressed issues such as researching job opportunities, working on your CV, job interviews and negotiating contracts.

A special thanks to Melissa Lorang, Shashita Inamdar, Claire Andersen and Brett Johnson for sharing your knowledge with our MIT and ECP colleagues! Moreover, an extra special thank you to Charmi and Vanessa for organizing this special event!

- The EC is revising our Bylaws as we speak. More to come on this in 2021.

Thank you Mark for volunteering to be our main editor for this revision!

- I am thrilled to be transitioning to CALACAP's presidency on January 1st. It will be my honor to continue to serve you in this capacity. CALACAP has been busy lately. It has been years since CALACAP has authored legislature focused specifically on improving children's mental health and our work as child psychiatrist in the community.

- With the help of our lobby firm, Shaw Yoder Antwih Schmelzer and Lange, we are hoping this will happen in 2021.

We have picked two important issues to move forward. I will share our Fact Sheets and more information on possible co-authors for these bills when we have them ready.

In brief:

- **Same Day Visits for Children's Primary Care:** This bill would allow FQHCs and RHCs to bill Medi-Cal for two visits when mental health and medical visits occur on the same day. This bill would improve access to mental health services for the growing diverse and underrepresented group of children, adolescents and families in California, who access care in these settings. Breaking down barriers to care is even more critical given the disproportionate impact of the pandemic on these children and families.
- **Provider Access to Foster Youth Mental and Physical Health Information Portal:** This bill will create an electronic portal containing the Health Passport and the JV 220's accessible by the physicians and physician extenders who are charged with evaluating these vulnerable children. The "Cures" system is similar with child psychiatrists required to check in electronically and regularly to have access to controlled substance information. Such a portal would be a real benefit to foster children and youth and greatly improve their mental health care.
- **If you are a member in training or a medical student, do not forget to apply for the Wasserman Award. Due date in December 31! Please email your application to Vanessa. Additional information on the award and how to apply is attached.**

This award is extra special as Dr. Saul Wasserman passed away recently. With this award, we are honoring Saul's extensive contributions to the field of children's mental health at the state and national level. This award was one of his last wishes... He will continue to inspire the new generations of child and adolescent psychiatrist for years to come. RIP Dear Saul.

- We had an election for our executive committee and have an amazing group of colleagues serving as our council officer for the next two years.

SDACAP will be led by my amazing colleague and friend, Dr. Laura Vleugels,
congrats Laura!

Please join me in welcoming and congratulating our 2021-2022 SDACAP Executive Committee: [New EC 2021](#)

This year has been a difficult one to say the least; however, it also shed a light on the strength and resilience of humanity, the power of science, and what really matters in our lives. This year closes with many things to look forward too and be grateful for... I also look forward to having our monthly meetings in person again, and really miss our wonderful celebrations. I am hopeful these will happen soon.

In closing, I wish you the best for this holiday season, and I miss the warmth of seeing your faces in person.

With gratitude,
Alejandra Postlethwaite