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*The Council of Pediatric Subspecialties advances child health through communication and collaboration within its network of pediatric subspecialties and liaison organization*

### **CoPS Update- May 2020**

**Please distribute this update to the members in your organization.**

Related to the COVID-19 pandemic, our daily lives across subspecialties have changed in many ways, with the impact quite variable across geographical regions. The CoPS Executive Committee (EC) has been engaged in efforts to manage and respond to this impact, on your behalf. We have attempted to keep you updated through emails, but will summarize some key activities here, and share next steps:

- COVID-related announcements: We have information from many agencies and organizations, about changes in medical education, board certification, etc. on our website, at: <https://s3.amazonaws.com/cops-video/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/23004554/CoPSwebcovid19.pdf>
- Fellowship Recruitment Action Team: Along with representation from Association of Pediatric Program Directors (APPD) and Association of Medical School Pediatric Department Chairs (AMSPDC), CoPS was a lead on a recent Letter to the Pediatric Community, shared with you all 5/11/20. This letter summarizes recommendations regarding fellowship recruitment for this fall season. CoPS representatives and Faculty Contacts were specifically highlighted as available mentors during this interview season, in this letter. We engaged key stakeholders (American Association of Medical Colleges, AAMC, and others) when developing this guidance, shared this letter with those key stakeholders, and shared with the entire pediatric community. [https://s3.amazonaws.com/cops-video/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/13212729/PediatricFellowshipApplicationProcessRecommendations\\_5\\_11\\_20.pdf](https://s3.amazonaws.com/cops-video/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/13212729/PediatricFellowshipApplicationProcessRecommendations_5_11_20.pdf)
- Co-hosting virtual cafes: APPD is holding weekly virtual cafes ([https://www.appd.org/home/virtual\\_cafe.cfm](https://www.appd.org/home/virtual_cafe.cfm)) and CoPS has co-hosted cafes to support pediatric fellows. Please disseminate information for upcoming cafes within your subspecialty, and we will share links for future CoPS co-hosted cafes, as those are scheduled.
- Virtual interviewing: We are recommending fellowship programs transition to virtual interviewing this fall recruitment season. CoPS and APPD will co-host a webinar to support pediatric subspecialties in this transition, so expect that announcement soon. Our Fellowship Recruitment Action Team is actively engaged in searching out best practices, so please let our CoPS EC know if you have experience to share.

Despite the pandemic, CoPS EC remains engaged in our Pediatric Workforce efforts.

- CoPS EC members attended the AMSPDC Workforce Summit in late February 2020, and shared with CoPS Council the 5 themes of Workforce that came from that summit. We will represent you in AMSPDC’s efforts to prioritize these themes and take the lead on Action Item(s) relevant to CoPS. Those 5 themes are:
  1. **Workforce Data:** understand, update, and centralize pediatric workforce data
  2. **Need and Access:** address pediatric workforce limitations and regionalization
  3. **Attracting Residents:** increasing interest in pediatrics and its subspecialties
  4. **Economic Strategy:** increase financial viability of pediatrics and its subspecialties
  5. **Changing the Educational Paradigm:** explore changes in undergraduate and graduate medical education to better position pediatrics as an attractive field
- You will notice that the 5 Workforce themes identified through the 2020 Summit have notable overlap with our 4 current CoPS Workforce Action Teams. We should therefore be well-poised to implement action through CoPS, once these themes are prioritized soon. We will share Summit Action Items, as those are decided, with CoPS Action Teams, for efficient dissemination and action. Please let the lead on these Action Teams know if you want to be part of a Team:

CoPS Workforce Action Team	CoPS Lead(s) on Team	Ties to which Workforce Summit Theme?
<b>Workforce Surveys</b>	Rob Ross, Angie Myers	1, 2
<b>Exposure to Pediatric Subspecialties</b>	Mary Moffatt	3
<b>Exploring Length of Training</b>	Tandy Aye	5
<b>Recruiting. Sustaining fellows, junior faculty in Research</b>	Mel Heyman, Audrea Burns	1, 5

- We represent you in the Pediatric Virtual Workforce Network, a collaborative group we chair along with the American Board of Pediatrics (ABP). This group brings together numerous pediatric organizations invested in pediatric subspecialty workforce efforts. Currently, we are partnering with the Sheps Center for Health Services Research in efforts of better understanding pediatric subspecialty workforce needs. This network will be meeting again in early June 2020.
- We have formed a task force with the goals to engage, empower, and excel Women in Pediatric Subspecialties. We hope to network and increase women leadership at all career levels while recruiting the next generation of women into our subspecialties. The Women in Pediatric Subspecialties Task Force has representation from Neurology, DBP, GI, Hospitalist Medicine, Nephrology, Critical Care, EM, Pulmonology, Allergy/Immunology, and trainees. If your subspecialty is not represented and you want to join us, please contact [cdammann@tuftsmedicalcenter.org](mailto:cdammann@tuftsmedicalcenter.org).

CoPS also remains active in the ABP’s *Roadmap to Resilience and Emotional Health* project (<https://www.abp.org/foundation/roadmap>). Roadmap’s goal is to improve screening for mental health issues in patients with chronic medical conditions, and CoPS involvement is to promote these practices and support subspecialties in implementation. Our plan to host a webinar was postponed, related to the COVID-19 pandemic, but we will share a reschedule date soon. An ABP-approved Maintenance of Certification (MOC) Roadmap activity is available

for free, allowing diplomates to earn MOC Part 2 credit. Go to the ABP website and search “Emotional Health and Resilience for Patients and Families with Chronic Pediatric Conditions” within the MOC Part 2 section of “My ABP Portfolio” to enroll in this activity.

CoPS meetings:

Thanks to the CoPS representatives who were able to attend our most recent Council meeting March 30, 2020. This was a very engaging and productive meeting, despite our having to hold it virtually, because of the COVID-19 pandemic. The webinar recording is available at:

[https://cops-video.s3.amazonaws.com/COPS\\_2020\\_Meeting.mp4](https://cops-video.s3.amazonaws.com/COPS_2020_Meeting.mp4) .

We announced your newly elected Executive Committee members then, and have quickly engaged them in our work, on subsequent EC calls:

Angie Myers	CoPS Chair-Elect
Mary Moffatt	Secretary / Treasurer
Christiane Dammann	At-Large Member
Robert Ross	At-Large Member

The next Council meeting is scheduled for September 20-21, 2020. We are considering if this meeting will need to be transitioned to a virtual one, and will make a decision on that at our next EC meeting in Summer 2020. Council members, please keep these dates scheduled on your calendar, and we will follow up with details soon.

Please let your Council representative(s) know how else CoPS could be helpful, or email your EC members at [info@pedsubs.org](mailto:info@pedsubs.org) .