

Pennsylvania Chapter

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American Academy of Pediatrics
DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN®



Congratulations to the PA AAP's 2023 Pediatrician of the Year!

Pediatrician of the Year Dr. Debra Bogen, MD, FAAP

The Pennsylvania Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics (PA AAP) is pleased to announce that Acting Secretary of Health Dr. Debra L. Bogen, MD, FAAP has been named “**2023 Pediatrician of the Year.**” This honor is selected through a detailed vetting process based on peer nominations and is awarded to a Pennsylvania pediatrician who exemplifies the ideals of the pediatric profession and participates in activities that reflect the mission and values of the Chapter.



Dr. Bogen's career is remarkable, having spent more than two decades as a member of the Pittsburgh region's medical and research community. She held a primary academic appointment as Professor of Pediatrics at the University of Pittsburgh, and secondary appointments in psychiatry and clinical translational science. Dr. Bogen also served as Vice Chair of Education for the Department of Pediatrics at UPMC Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh. While serving in leadership roles, Dr. Bogen remained dedicated as a primary care provider, regularly going above and beyond to support her patients and families, sharing her cell phone number or making house calls to assist new mothers in establishing breastfeeding. She often sought additional ways to improve the health of children beyond the clinic walls, such as helping to establish the MidAtlantic Mothers' Milk Bank which provides safe human milk to babies in need, or by serving as the PA AAP's Medical Advisor for breastfeeding initiatives for the last 15 years.

Dr. Bogen has been identified as a superstar among pediatricians, not only for taking care of her patients in clinic, but also for her broader community-facing efforts, research investigation, educational and training initiatives, and by accepting leadership roles that have improved children's health and well-being beyond the practice walls.

In an effort to strengthen her impact at the community level, Dr. Bogen took on the position of Director of the Allegheny County Health Department in 2020, at the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. She jumped into this new leadership role two months earlier than planned and provided skillful leadership and public health advocacy, becoming the trusted face of the region's pandemic response. She and her staff stayed on top of the pandemic and provided

consistent, measured and common-sense information to the public while working closely with many stakeholders in the county. Her extraordinary efforts during this time were recognized by leaders in the Commonwealth, including Governor Shapiro, who recently appointed Dr. Bogen to serve as Pennsylvania's Secretary of Health.

"Dr. Debra Bogen has been a long-standing advocate for children's health," said Dr. Mary Ann Rigas, MD, FAAP, President of the Pennsylvania Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics. Rigas continued, "She represents the ideals of pediatric-care and power of the pediatrician to influence the health and safety of children, families and Pennsylvania residents of any age."