President-elect candidates outline how they would support AAP Equity Agenda

The AAP has developed an Equity Agenda. Describe your experience with the development and/or implementation of equity initiatives within your community, practice or institution, and how you would support furthering the AAP Equity Agenda.

David L. Hill, M.D., FAAP
Wilmington, N.C.

The AAP Equity Agenda starts for me in the exam room and extends to the canvas of AAP operations and the canopy of mass media and public policy. I’ve spent my career in the most inclusive possible settings, from independent urban and rural practices to safety net public hospitals to my local federally qualified health center. Speaking Spanish has engendered a passion for immigrant health; I’m now studying Haitian Creole to better serve my evolving patient population.

As a medical director, department chair and hospital executive committee member, I’ve spearheaded implementation of social determinants of health screening and adoption of inclusive neonatal opioid exposure therapy while championing recruiting, hiring and retention practices to promote a workforce that reflects the diversity of our patients.

At the Academy, I have taught effective media advocacy to everyone from medical students to AAP leadership and facilitated councils implementing the AAP Equity Agenda. As an editor, I have guided the transition to inclusive language and the elimination of race-based medicine in Caring for Your Baby and Young Child: Birth to Age 5 and AAP Pediatric Patient Education.

As president, I would commit the full force of the Academy’s resources to our new chief health equity officer and the Section on Minority Health, Equity and Inclusion to continue weaving equity and inclusion into the fabric of the Academy and pediatric practice. Together, we can — we must — ensure that every child receives evidence-based, culturally and linguistically appropriate care that meets their unique needs.

Susan J. Kressly, M.D., FAAP
Sanibel, Fla.

Equity isn’t just the work of equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI) champions. It must start with each of us acknowledging our role in ensuring a more equitable world. This includes equitable health outcomes for every child and equity for and within the pediatric profession.

As a general pediatrician and clinical informaticist, my volunteer work for the Academy has been focused on health information technology (HIT), practice management and payment issues. These initiatives are crucial to the Academy’s EDI agenda. Much of our struggle with advancing HIT comes from forcing pediatricians to use tools designed for adults that don’t meet the health care needs of children. EDI, with pediatric expertise, must be consciously incorporated and drive advances in technology (including artificial intelligence), population health and value-based payment models.

We can’t talk about providing equitable care for children without equitable pay for pediatricians. As the professionals who care for children and their families, we have the greatest opportunity to impact the population’s future health. We are among the lowest paid specialties in the house of medicine. We must find a way to create sustainable business models across all care settings — children’s hospitals, multispecialty organizations, rural health clinics and independent practices. Financial stability in each of these settings, including Medicaid payments that provide appropriate resources, is a prerequisite for every child to have a bright future.

Children don’t get to choose where they live. Health equity starts with access to great pediatric health care wherever children are and whatever their circumstances may be.

Senior Vice President, Quality

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) is seeking a member physician to lead AAP quality improvement (QI) and health information technology (HIT) initiatives, including the AAP CHILD registry, elements of Maintenance of Certification, data analytics and measurement, clinical guidelines, and QI implementation. Reporting to the CMO, this executive-level role will provide strategic guidance to the AAP Board of Directors and Senior Leadership on the development and execution of a comprehensive plan to advance the agenda for pediatric quality, in alignment with the AAP equity implementation plan, to support optimal clinical care across the healthcare system. Key responsibilities include:

- Monitor the quality measurement, QI, HIT, and health-care transformation landscape, including performance measures, appropriate use criteria, and guidelines in the field of pediatric medicine.
- Direct the development, implementation, and evaluation of the registry to advance knowledge of longitudinal child health, including developing a model for optimal and continuous collection of data and ensuring appropriate data governance. Oversee development of a marketing strategy to generate registry participation.
- Partner with key stakeholders across the AAP to direct the development of relevant guidance and education/training resources to support optimal use of data to inform practice-level, systems-level, and population health level decision making.
- Partner with relevant AAP stakeholders to develop a model for implementation of high-quality evidence-based clinical practice guidelines and clinical reports.
- Collaborate with health equity initiatives and relevant AAP key experts and stakeholders to advance the AAP equity implementation plan. Ensure an equity lens is applied to all Quality initiatives.
- Ensure ongoing development and expansion of QI and performance measurement through quality networks and learning health systems.
- Oversee the strategic direction of the AAP ECHO superhub, including ongoing partnerships with the ECHO institute.
- Ensure collaborative relationships among staff on QI activities to foster the growth of a QI culture across the AAP.

Qualified candidates must be a Fellow of the AAP and have a minimum of 10 years’ professional experience directing pediatric health care QI initiatives, including performance metrics, data analytics, health services research, and patient registry. For more information on the position description and required qualifications, visit https://www.aap.org/en/about-the-aap/employment-opportunities/.

The AAP is an Equal Opportunity Employer (minority/female/disabled/veteran) that values the strength diversity brings to our workplace.

Please submit CVs to Roberta Bosak, Chief Administrative Officer, at resumes@aap.org.