



Wednesday, October 30, 2024

8:00am – Teams

## MINUTES

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**CALL TO ORDER:** The Northeast Florida Pediatric Society (NEFPS) meeting was called to order on Wednesday, October 30, 2024 at 8:13am by Mark Bedard, MD, President.

**ADOPTION OF MINUTES:** The minutes of the July 31, 2024 NEFPS meeting were adopted as written.

**OLD  
BUSINESS**

None

**NEW  
BUSINESS** **Dr. Bedard** reported ongoing efforts to increase membership. There have been some tweaks to our website and we now have a MEMBERS-ONLY Facebook Group page as we utilize technology in reaching out to a wider audience.

**Dr. Paton** shared some upcoming community events:

- November 13 – Nemours dinner at Maggiano’s regarding “Challenging Cases in Pediatrics”. Dr. Steinberg will be presenting on facial surgery; Dr. Lam Hart, neurology and Dr. Bliton on pulmonology and sleep medicine.
- November 21 – Robert Miller Lecture at Timaquana Country Club. **Dr. English** added that the speaker is a preventive cardiologist, from Colorado, Dr. Steven Daniels. He’s covering this topic that is becoming a bigger part of pediatrics. It’s also a good chance to reconnect at a fun event.
- January 25, 2025 - WCH Children’s Challenge at the Winston YMCA, North Bank

**Dr. Trapani** reported that Genetics has onboarded a third geneticist in August. Their Neurofibromatosis Clinic, housed in Genetics, got approval and was nationally endorsed by the Children’s Tumor Foundation in September. Dr. Trapani is on the Clinical Care Advisory Board of the Children’s Tumor Foundation.

**Dr. Li**, a Nemours pediatric pain medicine specialist and anesthesiologist discussed the challenges in filling pediatric anesthesia fellowships. The national pediatric anesthesia society has formed a task force committee to target residents and medical students. He suggested that NEFPS target these same groups to improve our membership. *NOTE: UF residents and fellows are contacted and made aware of our Society and can join for free.* **Dr. Li** also discussed the National Society for Pediatric Pain Medicine that will meet in Orlando in 2025.

He has been selected to chair the inaugural, global, virtual pain conference. All speakers are international except for one from the US. Participants are from more than 25 countries. This Saturday, November 2, 2024 is the virtual meeting and he encouraged folks to attend. International speakers will be discussing:

- Perioperative considerations for children with a history of substance abuse
- How to assess babies with pain
- How to take care of children in a burn unit
- Using regional anesthesia to minimize general anesthesia.
- He will send a flyer out later today detailing the conference, costs, times, speakers.

**STANDING BUSINESS** School Health Program: **Dr. Beverly** wants local pediatricians to be aware that Hazel Health (contractor) is still involved in providing telehealth and mental health services, free of charge, to children sick at school. If their parents assign consent they can file for insurance. Also, full-service schools still offer outside counseling that a pediatrician, teacher, or parent can refer a patient to by filling out a form. There is a set number of sessions, a reevaluation after six months, and dependent on the number of counselors available. She considers the service quite good. If interested, she can arrange for a Hazel representative to make a presentation on one of our member calls. **Dr. Bedard** commented that he has received notes from Hazel Health and that they do recommend following up with one's pediatrician depending on the problem.

FL Chapter - American Academy of Pediatrics (FCAAP) & FMA/CMS – **Dr. Alissa** reported on fallout from the two hurricanes. There are many resources (business help and funding) from AAP and FCAAP for pediatricians whose clinics were damaged, and we sent out a survey to those providers who were affected. Right after all of this the National Conference and Exhibition conference started. It was well-attended with more than 12K physicians. She mentioned that the location for the conference was controversial and created debate and heated discussions for political reasons. But AAP pushed for it to stay in Orlando. It was an excellent conference, the Florida Chapter had a booth that gave FCAAP a presence. Preparations are now being made for the upcoming legislative session that is expected to be very busy. A press release opposing the Marijuana Amendment 3, has been issued due to the negative effects on children. Data collected and reviewed shows that there's an increase in toddler intoxication and adolescent use. Additionally using marijuana during pregnancy can have an effect on the fetus. Please VOTE KIDS! Dr. Alissa will provide the document regarding the hurricane support to be forwarded to NEFPS members.

AAP Report – **Dr. Hudak** mentioned that Dr. Joseph is the AAP District 10 chair and on the Board of Directors. She has been tasked with leading the committee on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. She is also active in some financial oversight. The AAP continues to be a vibrant organization seeking to reach out and represent all its members. Politically there is a lot going on regarding the care of children. The incoming president, Sue Kresley is a general pediatrician in private practice in Pennsylvania. She is semi-retired, spending most of her time in Florida. She starts in January 2025. Her initial focus will be to advocate for better pay for general and specialty pediatricians. She has a

good understanding of these financial issues and describes herself as a data nerd. She spoke at a FCAAP meeting in September about this issue. Dr. Andrew Racine is the president-elect of AAP, his term starts in January of 2026. He heads up Montefiore in New York and is very knowledgeable in respect to financing. He is very engaged in advocacy for children. He headed up the AAPs Poverty Task Force a few years ago. He's articulate, an eloquent orator, "a better person couldn't have been chosen".

The AAP has done some reorganization, there were about 86 committees, councils and sections that operated independently but are now grouped into 6 alliances (medical specialties, surgical specialties, health, career, etc.). Each alliance has a chair. Dr. Hudak is the chair of the Medical Specialty Alliance which has 28 entities. He has five chairs that are dynamic, vocal, engaged and not shy. He expects that with this new structure a lot of progress will be made.

**WCH – Allegra Jaros, Hospital President** reported:

- The 5-year strategic plan has been completed and rolled out. In support of the plan a rebranding strategy has started and was rolled out a week ago. It focuses on the strategic plan, vision and mission and ensuring that over the next five years we are working diligently to provide top decile care to the children we serve. To achieve this we must focus and invest to ensure that WCH is the best place to work, volunteer, practice medicine, and receive care. We're focused on removing barriers to accessing pediatric healthcare through stewardship. This has a lot to do with the alignment in our partnership with our pediatricians. We are thankful for the work that took place over the last year to create this strategic plan. There are 11 goals on our path but here are a couple of examples: Quality - improving hospital acquired infections and having care pathways in place). The first care pathway was around bronchiolitis, it went live October 7<sup>th</sup>. The goal being to ensure that the care given is always the same at any location. Pediatric Sepsis, is another pathway being developed, as is Growth – focused on an epilepsy program.
- WCH Women's Board – The first of the three Florida Forums took place on October 29. December 5 is the Women's Board Gala.
- Legislative / Advocacy – last year there was success in improving rates from Medicaid. This year the focus is improving outcome and care for pediatric cancer. We are asking the State to fund investment for infrastructure, research, and staff to assure that the four Class 2 children's specialty hospitals are providing top decile care and we have access to phase one and phase two type trials. This is of interest to the legislature and the community has shown its support through philanthropic efforts.

**University of Florida:** Dr. Hudak reported that Baptist awarded Spirit of Magnet award to Dr. Heather Cross (palliative care) and Dr. Jose Irazuzta (critical care). Four neonatal APRNs were also honored: Emily Delaney, Stephanie Krawczyk, Nicole Stefan and Emily Crutchfield. UF also honors deserving staff with the Five Star Clinician awards: Dr. Jennifer Rammel (rheumatology), Dr. Pamela Trapani (genetics), Dr. Carlos Arango and Dr. Jessica Warrick Imrisek (primary care) and APRN Mariaisys Gomez at UF North.

Recruitment is going well. Dr. Marcio Leyser will arrive in February to be the new division chief for Neurodevelopmental Pediatrics. UF is expanding their community of societal pediatrics providers with recruitment in palliative care and chronic complex and looking for someone to Join Dr. Nathawad at JAX Hats.

**Nemours Children's Health (NCH) Update:** Dr. Sheth reported:

- Anesthesia has five new physicians, and four new anesthesia assistants and CRNS have been recruited. This should relieve a lot of pressure from this department. Dr. Rouhani joined staff last month, she is a graduate of USF.
- Dr. Bueller, a new fellow graduate for plastic surgery.
- Dr. Janet Lam Hart from Johns Hopkins, a pediatric neurologist who is sleep trained and boarded.
- Dr. Janet Leon graduated from the Nemours program and will be building a comprehensive headache center. The wait list is very long and hopefully will be alleviated. She also has interventional skills that bring cutting edge therapies to kids with chronic headache and pain. She has just started so the clinic is expected to be active in January. There will be an APP and social worker to help.
- Dr. Kim will be joining staff in January. She is a graduate from University of Chicago having done a surgical epilepsy fellowship. Approval for another surgical epileptologist is expected. The surgical epilepsy program with Drs. Beier and Galan has grown. Last year there were 24 surgical resections purely for epilepsy, not tumors.
- Interviews are taking place to replace Dr. Sheth in his role of division chief of Neurology after 16 years.
- Endocrinology had a new doctor start in August.
- Pulmonology has two new physicians. One, Dr. Kyle Bliton, is sleep trained and will join Drs. Lam Hart and Rappoport in managing the sleep lab.
- Two neurology positions need to be filled.
- Psychology was able to get a PATH grant for children with chronic disease and mental illness This will allow them to hire two new psychologists.

**St. Vincent's Family Medicine Residency Program Update:** No report

**Secretary –Treasurer's Report:** Dr. Osman asked that our new Facebook group page that members invite others to join. We really need new members to join NEFPS. Money is going out and not much coming in and it's a bit stressful.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at about 9:12am. The next meeting of the Northeast Florida Pediatric Society will take place on Wednesday, January 29, 2025, at 8:00am via Teams.

Approved by: Mark Bedard, MD – NEFPS President

