

President's Message

Andrew Garner, MD, PhD, FAAP began his tenure as president of Ohio AAP on July 1, 2014.

As this is my first column as Chapter President, I want to begin by thanking all the Chapter's leaders who have come before me. Because of their collective efforts, the Ohio Chapter is recognized nationally as an innovative leader in providing both MOC credit and strong member value. I'm honored to be following in their footsteps, and I now know what it means to be "standing on the shoulders of giants!"

In particular, I want to thank Drs. Tiberio and Romano. Under their leadership, and the wisdom of the book "Race for Relevance," the Chapter has reorganized its internal structure to maximize its functioning and to increase opportunities for member participation. To reduce redundancy and to optimize collaboration, they have consolidated the Chapter's numerous, traditional committees into four overarching pillars:

- **Operations** – oversees the Chapter's programming and business. This includes the quality improvement and MOC part IV efforts under the Planning, Implementation and Performance Committee (PIP).
- **Advocacy** – coordinates the Chapter's legislative efforts and overall messaging.
- **Child Health** – manages the Chapter's educational efforts, including the Expert Roundtables, the Annual Meeting, and the materials on the Chapter web site.
- **Practice of Pediatrics** – focuses on membership and ways the Chapter can support the efforts of family-centered, pediatric medical homes. This includes the Chapter's Pediatric Care Council (go Jon Price!), which works with payers to improve reimbursement issues.

Consolidating the Chapter's efforts under these four pillars promotes collaboration between what were often smaller committees, and reduces duplicate efforts (the right hand now knows what the left

hand is doing!). Many of the Chapter's activities draw upon a wide range of expertise, so having more numerous and diversified participants on the quarterly "Pillar Conference Calls" should lead to richer discussions and more innovative approaches.

Having four pillars should also allow for the Chapter to become more nimble, responding more efficiently to emerging issues. For example, chiropractors have repeatedly attempted to legislate a role for themselves in clearing athletes after concussions. Given that this dramatic expansion in their scope of practice is not in the best interest of Ohio's young athlete's, the Chapter's experts in advocacy, injury, and sports medicine have worked collaboratively to respond promptly and forcefully at every turn (see article on pgs. 1 & 2).

Most importantly, this new structure more closely reflects people's interests and participation in the Chapter's activities. For example, a member may have an emerging interest in preventing handgun injuries (Advocacy) during one year. But the following year, her interest may shift to addressing mental health concerns within the medical home (BMW/Operations). And in a few years, her interest may shift yet again to reimbursement issues that her practice is having with specific payers (Pediatric Care Council/Practice). Not being locked into one committee for years at a time allows members to follow their passions while also contributing to on-going vitality of the Chapter.

So what's your passion? What's "that one thing" that you would love to change about your practice? The Chapter is betting that, whatever "that one thing" is, it probably falls into one or more of these four pillars. So join the next quarterly "Pillar Conference Call" or discuss your ideas with either the pillar leadership or our excellent staff. The Chapter is here to support and assist you in improving both your practice and the wellbeing of children across the state

Meet Dr. Garner



- Dr. Garner and wife, Sharon, have two children, Timothy and Deborah
- Graduate of Swarthmore College
- Medical Scientist Training (MD, PhD) Program at Case Western Reserve University
- Pediatric Residency Training Program at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia
- Has practiced primary care pediatrics with University Hospitals Medical Practices since 2000
- Associate Clinical Professor of Pediatrics at Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine
- Member of the American Academy of Pediatrics' (AAP) Committee on Psychosocial Aspects of Child and Family Health
- Chair of the AAP's Early Brain and Child Development Leadership Workgroup
- Member of the AAP's Leadership Workgroup on Epigenetics
- Member of the AAP's latest Leadership Workgroup on Poverty