

Nominating Committee, July 1, 2022-June 30, 2025

David Karas, MD, FAAP

I have been a general pediatrician with Akron Children's Hospital since 2003. I love caring for individual patients, but I know that there is still so much that we can do to improve health and outcomes for children in Ohio. Over the past 8 years, I have expanded my work into quality improvement and clinical informatics. I want to ensure that every patient gets the highest level of quality care every time and that every clinician has the tools and resources that they need to provide that care. I look forward to continuing to work with Ohio AAP to advance our mission and to help every child thrive.

1. Which aspect(s) to children's health do you think the Ohio Chapter should focus on in the near future? Why and how?

Without a doubt, our main focus needs to be recovery from the many consequences of COVID-19. While many children have suffered from both acute and long-COVID, we now have a whole generation of children whose social, emotional, and intellectual development has been interrupted for over 2 years. We are already seeing increased rates of depression and anxiety and we must continue to focus on expanding mental health services and providing education and resources to both families and clinicians. Additionally, vaccine hesitancy threatens to undermine decades of work in overcoming vaccine-preventable illnesses.

1. How has your Ohio AAP membership and involvement shaped your professional development or enhanced your personal life?

Working with the Ohio AAP on quality improvement projects has allowed me to provide better care for my patients, expand that knowledge to other sites, and create life-long friends. Every pediatrician should get involved!