



December 12, 2022

Dear Michigan Academy of Pediatric Dentistry Membership,

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as 2022-23 president of the Michigan Academy of Pediatric Dentistry (MAPD). The last eight years as an MAPD member – from attending my first meeting at The Campus Inn (now Graduate Ann Arbor) in October 2014 to becoming co-chairperson of the Arrangements and Programs Committee in 2016 to joining the Board of Directors in 2019 – have educated and inspired me to serve as President to my fullest ability. Since becoming President on September 17, the Board of Directors and I have been busy, and we have the following updates to share:

- **AAPD Chapter Leadership Conference:** The week before becoming President, I attended this event in Chicago in September with our then-President Dr. Neeru Ramaswami and our Public Policy Advocate (PPA) Dr. John Deppen. We enjoyed the opportunity to learn and network.
- **AAPD Dues Collection:** The AAPD Chapter Leadership Conference inspired us to become the 40<sup>th</sup> state to have AAPD collect its dues. President-Elect and chairperson of our Membership and Credentials Committee Dr. Sam Blanchard has led this effort.\*
- **Constitution & Bylaws Amendments:** Transitioning MAPD dues collection requires several changes to our Bylaws. Our Constitution & Bylaws Committee (Drs. Phil Monroy, Michelle Tiberia, and Elizabeth Ralstrom) has studied proposed changes and made recommendations.\*
- **Strategic Planning:** The AAPD Chapter Leadership Conference also inspired us to pursue strategic planning for the MAPD to refocus our efforts as an organization. Our Board of Directors plus two stakeholders will participate. We plan to deliver an MAPD Strategic Plan by Fall 2023.
- **New Accounting Firm & Implementation of QuickBooks:** Dr. Veronica Hamilton has led the effort to transition our accounting and bookkeeping to Andy Johnson, CPA and QuickBooks, respectively. We are excited to update and streamline this aspect of the MAPD.
- **Board of Directors Vacancies:** Remaining Board members Dr. Ramaswami, Dr. Blanchard, Dr. Jessica Bentoski, and I appointed Drs. Stephen Ghezzi and Kathryn Swanson. The membership will formally elect them as officers at the General Assembly meeting on February 11.\*
- **PPA In-Training:** This role is an opportunity for our PPA Dr. Deppen, who has served since the AAPD's PPA initiative in 2012, to have a protégé ready to go when he is ready to hand over the reins. Dr. Christopher Van Deven will be serving in this role throughout my presidency.
- **Facility Fee Increase:** Last month, we submitted public comment in response to the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services Proposed Policy Draft to increase reimbursement for facilities providing care for patients requiring dental treatment under general anesthesia.
- **North Central Society of Pediatric Dentistry (NCSPD):** On November 9, I attended an NCSPD Zoom meeting. We discussed how to use funds held by NCSPD since it began collecting \$30 annual dues in 2020. The NCSPD welcomes input from state chapters on how to use these funds.
- **Special Guests:** Through my last couple months of networking, I learned several national and district leaders have an interest in attending our continuing education and General Assembly meetings. Dr. Colleen Greene, AAPD Northcentral Trustee, will attend our February meeting.

- **Transition Committee:** Chaired by Dr. Bentoski, this committee is organizing a happy hour and dinner in Rochester on Friday, February 10 for residents, the Board of Directors, and the Transition Committee. We hope to extend this to the general membership in the future.
- **Michigan Dental Association (MDA) Annual Session Sponsorship:** The MAPD will dedicate a portion of its membership dues to sponsor two pediatric dentistry speakers (Drs. Winifred Booker and Jane Soxman and) at the MDA Annual Session in May 2023.

I hope you will all join me in absorbing the energy these changes and updates bring to the MAPD, and I look forward to seeing you all on **Saturday, February 11** for our continuing education and General Assembly meetings at the **Royal Park Hotel in Rochester**. Our Arrangements and Program Committee currently composed of Dr. Ramaswami, Dr. Meggan Krause, Dr. Melisa Potocki and I along with its outgoing members Dr. Stephanie Rashevsky and Drew Stern have expended tremendous effort to bring you the following features for our course entitled, "**An Update on Ankyloglossia and Other Oral Ties:**"

- **Three speakers** to provide a balanced view on the topic.
  - Dr. Richard Baxter, DMD
  - Dr. Jonathan Walsh, MD
  - Dr. Soroush Zaghi, MD
- **Sponsorship** (LightScalpel) to help offset the costs of hosting three speakers.
- **Continuing Medical Education (CME)** Credit offered through Michigan State University to provide our medical colleagues interested in attending to learn more about oral ties.

Please contact our executive secretary, Kristi Ocenasek, at [michiganapd.org@gmail.com](mailto:michiganapd.org@gmail.com) if you did not receive an email on December 10, 2022 with the registration information and flyer for this event. Please note: **No paper registration information or flyer will be sent for our upcoming meeting.**

On a personal note, I would like to share that I became a Fellow of the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry (FAAPD) in October 2022. It is truly as exciting a time as ever for me to practice pediatric dentistry, and I am so grateful to share that energy as president of the MAPD. Thank you again for the opportunity.

Sincerely,

Jane Stieber Amato, DDS, MSD, MPH

\*Attachments:

- AAPD Dues Collection Summary & Process
- Constitution & Bylaws Recommended Amendments
- Board of Directors Nominee Information (2)