



# President's Bulletin

CAROL WEITZMAN, MD

**March 23, 2021**

***Dear Members, Colleagues, and Friends,***

The days are getting longer, the weather is warming and signs of spring popping through. More people are getting vaccinated each day. It's hard not to be hopeful we may be emerging from our cocoons of the past year.

Although the country is itching to put COVID in our rear-view mirror, it is critical that we learn from this experience and keep in mind the vast and lasting impact this will have on children and families. There is a great need to invest in our youth so they can recover from this past year with improved and more accessible mental health services including trauma informed care; additional support for schools to help children catch-up and re-enter learning environments, ready to learn; deeper screening and identification of children with developmental and behavioral problems and families with significant social determinants of health as these challenges have been so greatly exacerbated this past year. It is also important to think of innovations we have put in place over the past year that have improved access to care and think about how to use these tools, such as telehealth, going forward in the work we do.

I wanted to take a moment to give you some highlights of things happening in SDBP as things are busier than ever. We continue to grow and innovate as we work to meet the needs of our members and be a vital resource on children's developmental and behavioral health needs. This work is the work of an army of dedicated and creative professionals and I am inspired by them and grateful for the opportunity to serve as President.

- We continue to hold Diversity, Equity and Inclusion training for all people serving in leadership roles in the society. The work of our DEI Committee is tremendous as we work to infuse these ideals and sometimes difficult conversations into the fabric of everything we do as a society.
- JDBP is going to be appointing a DEI Associate Editor in partnership with SDBP. We are one of the first journals to innovate this way and our editor,

Lee Pachter, is actively working to identify a qualified candidate.

- We have approved making the Complex ADHD guidelines and the algorithms freely available to the public so that one does not need to be a journal subscriber. We want these to be widely used globally, and to remove any potential barriers to accessing them such as cost.
- SDBP will be partnering with the AAP Section of Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics to revise the behavior screening statement that was initially published in 2016 entitled, ["Promoting Optimal Development: Screening for Behavioral and Emotional Problems"](#). Michelle Macias will be representing SDBP and I will be the lead author as I was for the first publication.
- A second workforce paper, ["Developmental-Behavioral Pediatrics 13 Years After the First Board Certification: Evolving Subspecialty"](#) was just published in JDBP in partnership with the AAP. Our SDBP authors included Nancy J. Roizen, Nerissa S. Bauer, Britt A. Nielsen, Anne DeBattista, and our beloved Carolyn Bridgemohan, who we miss dearly. The survey data indicated that the workforce is aging and changing and diversifying. ADHD, ASD, and developmental delays are solidifying as the defining clinical focus of DBP.
- *US News and World Report* has proposed a new category to rank Children's Hospitals that has been entitled Pediatric Behavioral/Mental Health. We reviewed the questions and noted that the survey was overly narrow in scope focusing primarily on the inpatient and emergency room care of children with psychiatric disturbance and essentially did not include DBP and DBP divisions at all. We swiftly responded and have had discussion with USNWR and have been invited to have representation on the work group that will be formed to review the survey and adjust it. More information will be coming as people will need to apply through their Children's Hospital, but we have been assured a seat at the table!
- The International Interprofessional Collaborative Office Rounds (iiCOR) is preparing to launch a large global discussion board (separate from the SDBP discussion board) designed to create an interprofessional forum for case discussion around DBP issues that fosters a safe space for cross-cultural learning, respect, and humanism. I will be devoting an entire bulletin to this as we get a bit closer to the official launch but suffice it to say, I am incredibly excited about this ambitious endeavor!
- We have officially begun to make our meeting materials from the 2020 meeting available for purchase and plan to continue to develop this. It is not only a potential revenue source but also an amazing opportunity for our Society to gain visibility as experts in the area of DBP to untapped audiences. Our communications committee is working on developing a digital marketing strategy to extend our reach!

This list is likely not inclusive of all that is happening, but you can see we are busy! I remind you that this is your society—share your ideas and suggestions, let me know what your priorities are, and get involved. There are so many ways to contribute large and small. Drop me a line to say and tell me what is happening in your world! In my next bulletin, I hope to have some updates about the upcoming meeting and hoping we will all be sitting together in Austin in the fall. Stay healthy, stay safe and enjoy allowing some spring into our lives.

*Sincerely,*

[Carol Weitzman, MD](#)

President, SDBP

[Carol.Weitzman@childrens.harvard.edu](mailto:Carol.Weitzman@childrens.harvard.edu)

