



*President's Weekly Bulletin – July 13, 2020*

*Robyn Mehlenbeck, PhD*

Dear Members, Trainees & Friends,

Last week was incredible. Special thanks to Adiaha Spinks-Franklin, MD, MPH, FAAP for leading an important and inspiring discussion of R.A.C.E.C.A.R.D. and it's relation to SDBP. The Board spent a lot of time last week discussing Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, as well as anti-racism in particular, starting with a subgroup of the Board discussing priorities for addressing anti-racism in SDBP as well as how we can be anti-racist providers, working with our trainees, families and children in our day to day practice, research and education. Dr. Spinks-Franklin's discussion was next, with a lot of insight and challenge to each of us to examine our own biases and actions. Finally, we finished the week on our monthly Board meeting, discussing options and recommendations.

One key recommendation to come out of this is to create a new committee to address Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, with the first priority of this committee being to set up a strategic plan to help our society with anti-racism. As you know, SDBP Committees exist to implement the SDBP Strategic Plan or essential operational functions of the Society. By adding this committee, we are taking a step to ensure that Diversity, Equity and Inclusion are seen as a key priority for our society.

Many other creative ideas have come out of our discussions, including that the Board has approved partnering with the Academic Pediatric Association's New Century Scholars program to recruit a DBPeds focused resident. As we finalize the outline for this, we will be looking for both a senior and junior DBPeds mentor! Another idea that is already scheduled is that Board and RACECARD member, Dr. Tanya Froehlich, will lead a journal club during our August 22<sup>nd</sup> SDBP connect call. She will share a few key anti-racism articles in advance (yes, look for them soon!) and I look forward to a rich discussion that day! In addition to more formal anti racism training for SDBP leadership, we are also looking at ways to provide ongoing educational opportunities for our membership.

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Finally, I have been blown away this week by the work done by the Program Committee! They are working tirelessly to set up a rich, robust and do-able virtual meeting (yes, Zoom fatigue is being strongly considered!) that will keep us all connected. A tentative schedule will be coming soon!

### **SDBP CONNECT – Next meeting! Save the date!**

#### **Wednesday July 22<sup>nd</sup> at 12 noon EDT**

Our president-elect, Dr. Carol Weitzman, will help lead a discussion on re-opening practices. With schools across the country trying to make decisions for the Fall, as well as each of us dealing with our own practices and systems, let's share our expertise with each other on re-opening for ourselves, as well as the kids we serve.

### **SAVE THE DATES! AUGUST SDBP CONNECT**

Tuesday August 7<sup>th</sup> – 4pm EST

Dr. Damon Korb will facilitate a discussion on technology.

Wednesday August 22<sup>nd</sup> – 12 noon EST

Dr. Tanya Froelich will lead a journal club on several anti-racism articles we will send out!

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I hope you & your families find some time to take a rest soon- I am taking the rest of this week off to recharge my batteries!

Warmly

*Robyn Mehlenbeck, PhD*

*President, SDBP*

**Today's thought:** “We spend so much time being afraid of failure, being afraid of rejection, but regret is the thing we should fear most. Failure is an answer, rejection is an answer, regret is an eternal question you will never have the answer to...it will haunt you for the rest of your days.” -  
*Trevor Noah*

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