



President's Bulletin – week of September 14, 2020

Robyn Mehlenbeck, PhD

Dear Members, Trainees & Friends,

Nineteen years ago on Friday – where were you? I remember trying to contact my father, who worked in Washington, DC about 2 miles from the Pentagon. September 11th is his birthday (he was 78 this year!), so I had planned to call after work – not early in the am to make sure he was safe. I remember hugging my co-workers and heading home to be with my 6 month old son and husband. Our nation came together to help each other out and was as unified as it had been in decades.

It is powerful that at this time, as SDBP, we are talking about coming together and truly facing and addressing some of our issues together. While I would love to fix our national division (each of us can make a difference – VOTE!!!!), starting within our society and with our clients & families has a big impact. We have set up our Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Committee, and published the goals of this committee on the website (<https://www.sdbp.org/committees/DEI-committee.cfm>). We are moving forward on training our society leaders to be aware of our own anti-racism actions. We are sharing resources to help the children and families that we are passionate about. I also wanted to draw your attention to a petition to include race in pediatric training given our passion for advocacy – we are looking for support from ALL disciplines!

Petition to Include Racism in Pediatric Competency Requirements

This petition is to the American Board of Pediatrics to include competencies related to racism:

Objective: To petition the American Board of Pediatrics (ABP) to include **competencies regarding the effects of racism on health outcomes for children** and families.

Significance: Inclusion in the ABP competencies commits pediatricians at all levels of practice to remain up-to-date with the historical, generational, health, educational, and economic effects of systemic racism and bear responsibility to equip providers with tools

to recognize and address racism at individual, institutional, and societal levels.

Context: Literature describing the effects of racism on child health has been growing steadily over the last 20 years. Research shifted from acknowledging racial disparities to examining these disparities and their root causes. Pediatricians must shift their efforts to understanding that race is a social, not a biological, construct and racism is the driver of health disparity. By recognizing the power and bias in the perception of the majority or dominant culture, pediatricians can mitigate the adverse effects of racism with regard to healthcare, health research, training, and practice.

Your important role: You can sign this petition EVEN IF you are not certified through the American Board of Pediatrics. As a member of SDBP, you are a developmental-behavioral professional or professional-in-training who has valuable insights into the training needed to appropriately care for children. Let your voice be heard!”

If you would like to read and sign this petition, click [here](#).

BACK TO SDBP:

This year is a year none of us will ever forget. 2020 has brought many challenges, but it has also brought many opportunities (yes, if you haven't figured it out, I do tend to be a glass half full person). As we are getting ready to have our first ever virtual annual meeting, I encourage you to join us! In addition to incredible content, there ARE opportunities to socialize, meet up with colleagues, share your ups & downs from the past year, and re-connect. This is who we are.

Our last September **SDBP Connect** will be devoted to our Annual Meeting. We will address YOUR questions, whether it be logistical or questions you would like shared with our speakers in advance.

What is your Board looking forward to this year at the Annual Meeting?

- The kickoff of the DEI Committee
 - A couple of protected days to listen and learn
 - Figuring out the advantages of being virtual
 - Meeting a potentially more diverse group of professionals and trainees than typically attend our meeting in person
 - Yoga and Meditation time
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- Surprise Social Events (I can't share yet – more news to come!)
- And a lot more!

SDBP CONNECT - Wednesday September 23rd – 12 noon EDT

Led by Carol Weitzman, one of our Program Co-Chairs and our President Elect, we will “de-mystify” our virtual Annual Meeting!! All questions/comments welcome!

Looking forward to seeing everyone (in little squares) very soon!

Warmly,

Robyn Mehlenbeck

President, SDBP

SELF CARE TIP:

A powerful quote shared by a friend Friday morning:

“Please keep in mind – today is a difficult day for people for many reasons...be kind, be thoughtful, be patient, with others and yourself...”



I think maybe it applies to many days -

Thank you to all of you for everything you do every day



ANNUAL MEETING 2020
**Coping with Complex Problems:
Developing Creative Solutions**

October 9-12, 2020 • www.sdbp.org
Sessions live on US Eastern time
and also available on-demand

new format, same exciting content!



We look forward to seeing you at the Annual Meeting, and hearing what you've been up to! Let us know that you are "going" on the meeting's [event page](#) on Facebook, and invite all your friends too! Share your experiences with us on Twitter, Facebook, & Instagram by tagging us [@SDBPeds](#) or using **#SDBP2020**.
