



**Newsletter of the Michigan Professional Society on the Abuse of Children, Inc.
The Michigan Chapter of APSAC**

EDITOR: Bethany Mohr, MD, FAAP
University of Michigan Child Protection Team
Medical Director

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER

By Bethany Anne Mohr, M.D., FAAP
Medical Director, University of Michigan Child Protection Team, C.S.
Mott Children's Hospital, UMHS

Keeping Up with the Changes in the Field of Child Maltreatment



This issue of the MiPSAC Newsletter highlights key educational opportunities, past and future, in the field of Child Maltreatment.

A list of several upcoming key trainings and conferences is highlighted in this newsletter, including: The 14th Annual Medical Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect sponsored by the Michigan Department of Human Services Medical Advisory Committee, the West Michigan Conference on the Multi-Disciplinary Response to Suspected Child Abuse sponsored by The Children's Assessment Center and Helen DeVos Children's Hospital, APSAC's 17th Annual Colloquium, and the 28th Annual Michigan Statewide Abuse and Neglect Conference co-sponsored by the University of Michigan Health System's Child Protection Team, University of Michigan Medical School, and University of Michigan Mott Children's Hospital. Please take the time to encourage all eligible participants to attend these invaluable trainings and conferences.

The field of Child Maltreatment is constantly evolving which necessitates all professionals working in this field, in addition to other professionals outside this field who may come into frequent contact with children potentially at risk for maltreatment, to continue to educate themselves and make changes as needed.

Identifying methods to prevent child maltreatment, recognizing a child victim of abuse/neglect, ensuring the safety of that child and other children, and providing the best possible treatment for a child is a complex process and one that involves individuals from a breadth of different fields. All of us who are dedicated to the field of child maltreatment, and the children and families we serve, are aware that we must continually strive to make improvements and search for modalities to achieve this. (Continued on page 3)

Join the MiPSAC Member Listserv

By contacting Dena Nazer at dnazer@dmc.org
(Reminder: You must be a member of APSAC in Michigan or MiPSAC to participate. MiPSAC members are automatically added to the Listserv upon becoming members.)

MiPSAC Membership

Please direct questions about MiPSAC membership, the newsletter, or other issues to:

The Michigan Professional Society on the Abuse of Children
545 Michigan Street N.E.
Suite 203
Grand Rapids, MI 49503

OR

Dr. Bethany Mohr at bamohr@med.umich.edu

Meetings & Conferences

MiPSAC Board Meetings

2nd Friday, even months, 12 PM – 2 PM
Michigan Children's Ombudsman's Office, Lansing
bamohr@med.umich.edu (Dr. Bethany Mohr)

The MiPSAC Annual Membership Meeting is held the Monday afternoon of the University of Michigan Child Abuse and Neglect Conference in October. See the conference program for time and place.

Please visit the MiPSAC Website:

www.mipsac.org

The Spring version of our newsletter can be viewed online at our website.

Downloadable PDF and Archive Version: <http://www.mipsac.org/newsletter.php>

MiPSAC's Goals

- To bring together professionals working in the area of child maltreatment
- To foster networking
- To be an information resource
- To sponsor quality training

MiPSAC Officers

President 2009 — Bethany Mohr, MD, FAAP
Vice President 2009 – Lisa Markman, MD, FAAP
Treasurer – Sara Brown, MD, FAAP
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MiPSAC is the Michigan Chapter of APSAC

www.apsac.org



President's Corner (Cont'd)

2009 for us, and the entire country, is going to be one of great change and with that, one of adapting to all of this change.

There is never enough time in the day, never enough money, and never enough resources, but we all must work together and never stop working on innovative ways to protect children (and families) to the best of our abilities.

“The probability that we may fail in the struggle ought not to deter us from the support of a cause we believe to be just.” –Abraham Lincoln

The more knowledgeable we become, along with our passion, the more power we will have to protect our most precious commodities—children.

2009 MIPSAC President Bethany Mohr, MD, FAAP

Comments on the 7th Annual North American Conference on Shaken Baby Syndrome (Abusive Head Trauma), October 2008

By: N. Debra Simms, MD, FAAP



The 7th Annual North American Conference on Shaken Baby Syndrome (Abusive Head Trauma) was held in Vancouver, British Columbia, October 5-7, 2008. Coming from Michigan, it was not a big shock to have three days of almost continual rain. It was not unusual to see frequent gatherings of seagulls. What was unique was the view of spectacular mountains and landings of seaplanes. I was even able to tolerate the weird and very expensive food--pardon me, “cuisine!” I guess the phrase “fusion cuisine” can describe a lot of strangeness. I must say, from the outset, I was very disappointed in this conference. The hotel was seriously over-priced and, in the land of the most coffee shops per capita, offered very little in the way of amenities. I think there should be a law that requires in-room coffee service.

The actual course presentations were also a disappointment. It is standard, now, that all conferences offer their handouts on CD format. The expectation is that when you return home, a printable version is available to you for future reference. The CD given at the conference contained less than ¼ of the handouts. This made for some acute disappointment and made this an even more regrettable experience.

Several presentations attempted to encourage and prepare medical professionals for their day in court. Most of these sessions had been available in other venues and were at a very basic level that did not address the needs of seasoned veterans.

Also, many of the presentations were “reruns” from the International Child Abuse and Neglect Conference put on by the Chadwick Center in San Diego each year.

However, some new material included many panel presentations and an address by Robert Block, MD, on the rationale put forth by the American Academy of Pediatrics Committee on Child Abuse & Neglect to abandon the archaic term Shaken Baby Syndrome and substitute the term Abusive Head Trauma. Continuing to use SBS implies a single injury mechanism and obfuscates the focus of medical determination of injury that is abusive. It is time to stop arguing whether just shaking can injure or kill a child, and stand on the principle that abusive force can and does injure and kill children.

Many multidisciplinary researchers gave interesting presentations on research into the nature and causes of retinal hemorrhages and use of animal and mechanical models/dummies to continue research on the forces involved in repetitive shaking forces to the head and neck of young children. Dr. Rachel Berger (Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh) delivered a lecture describing the status of her ongoing research project for the NIH/CDC looking at the use of biomarkers and other screening tools to improve the sensitivity and specificity in detecting abusive head trauma in children. Early reports are hindered by issues of feasibility and cost.

Many sessions sparked controversy such as the presentation by Dr. Mary Case (St. Louis School of Medicine), a nationally-renowned expert in neuropathology. Dr. Case’s presentation entitled “Other Theories: Is it SBS” addressed the issues of rebleeding of SDH, venous thrombosis, neomembrane formation and benign extra axial hydrocephalus as differential diagnostic considerations in the evaluation of possible Abusive Head Trauma.

In my opinion, Christopher Greeley, MD, gave the most outstanding presentation of the conference to a packed room and many disappointed attendees. Dr. Greeley’s presentation was entitled “The Literature is Your Friend: Shaken-Baby Syndrome and Evidence-Based Medicine.” Ever gracious, Dr. Greeley did an encore presentation for the individuals that were unable to be packed into the standing room only crowd.

Dr. Greeley will be delivering a similar address at the State of Michigan 14th Annual Medical Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect in Lansing on Thursday April 23, 2009.

In summary, I must confess that the most enjoyable part of the conference was the ability to meet and network with some outstanding physicians in the US, Canada, and elsewhere internationally. The same individuals are faculty at other conferences. In the difficult times we face in Michigan with money to pursue quality continuing medical education is limited, the SBS conference offered very little bang for the buck.

Dr. Simms is the Division Chief of the Center for Child Protection at Helen DeVos Children’s Hospital in Grand Rapids, MI, and was the 2008 MiPSAC President.

2008 Ray Helfer MiPSAC Child Advocate Award

2008 MiPSAC President, Dr. N. Debra Simms, presents the 2008 Ray Helfer MiPSAC Child Advocate Award to Frank E. Vandervort, JD, at the 27th Annual Michigan Statewide Abuse and Neglect Conference co-Sponsored by the University of Michigan Health System's Child Protection Team, University of Michigan Medical School, and University of Michigan Mott Children's Hospital.

Frank Vandervort is a clinical assistant professor of law at the University of Michigan Law School and part of the Child Advocacy Law Clinic. Frank has spent his professional career immersed in child welfare issues. Frank has served as legal consultant to the U of M School of Social Work's Family Assessment Clinic since 1997 and has consulted on three federally funded interdisciplinary training programs for child welfare professionals: The Interdisciplinary Child Welfare Training Program, the Training Program for Public Child Welfare Supervisors and, currently, the Curriculum for Recruitment and Retention of Child Welfare Workers.

A member of the Michigan Child Death Review State Advisory Committee and the Citizen Review Panel on Child Death, he also has served as a consultant to the Michigan Judicial Institute, the Office of the Children's Ombudsman, and the State Court Administrative Office's Permanency Planning Mediation Program. Prior to joining the faculty at the University of Michigan Law School in 2005, Frank was program manager of the Michigan Child Welfare Law Resource Center.



2008 MiPSAC President Dr. N. Debra Simms presents the 2008 Ray Helfer MiPSAC Child Advocate Award to Frank E. Vandervort, JD, at the 27th Annual Michigan Statewide Abuse and Neglect Conference

Highlights from the 23rd Annual San Diego International Conference on Child and Family Maltreatment, January 2009



As a new pediatrician practicing in the field of Child Abuse and Neglect, I was excited to travel to the 23rd Annual San Diego International Conference on Child and Family Maltreatment in January. I was also fortunate to be able to take along three other members of our medical team at the Center for Child Protection and Helen DeVos Children's Hospital. The conference was a great learning opportunity both for me and for one of our inpatient social workers, our family advocate, and our center manager. I hope that medical teams across the state will continue to pursue funding so that non-physician staff members can participate in national and international education like the San Diego Conference.

Bringing child abuse prevention education into primary pediatrics offices and clinics was one highlight of the conference. The American Academy of Pediatrics has developed parent education materials named "Practicing Safety," that cover topics such as screening for maternal depression, infant crying, potty-training, and effective discipline. The AAP is currently in a trial process utilizing these materials in physicians' offices across the country. After some fine tuning, "Practicing Safety" will be available to all AAP members. This education bundle will serve as a great resource for pediatricians and other medical professionals and will help to emphasize the importance of including these topics in parent education in every medical office.

I came away from the conference with a renewed commitment to providing equal service to and compassion for those children, and often teenagers, who appear to willingly participate in their abuse. One speaker, Kenneth Lanning, termed these children "compliant victims," and he defined a compliant victim as a child who would not be a victim at all if he or she were of consenting age. They sometimes seem to seek out and "tempt" their abusers. These victims are not the traditional "face" of abused children. It is common for these victims to sabotage our attempts to provide them with services, and are often angry at us for trying to stop the abuse. The grooming and perversion done to these children is just as much a crime as other abuse crimes. Despite our many frustrations in working with "compliant victims," these children deserve the best services we have to offer. I was glad to feel renewed in my commitment to these victims, since they can contribute so easily to burnout.

The conference offered 13 specialized lectures during each time slot, certainly enough offerings to appeal to almost any professional working in the field of child maltreatment. I encourage all MIPSAC members to consider attending next year.

Dr. Sarah Brown is a pediatrician with the Helen DeVos Children's Hospital Center for Child Protection in Grand Rapids, MI, and is the Treasurer of MIPSAC.



Held in the beautiful city of San Diego, this conference offered a great opportunity to learn from many experts in the field of child maltreatment. There were many concurrent workshops that addressed medical, social, and legal issues with varying levels of complexity. Attendees had the opportunity to learn from Howard Dubowitz, the director of the Center for Families at the University of Maryland. His session offered an approach to evaluating and addressing child fatalities that may involve neglect. Dr. Dubowitz included many valuable points in his talk including the following:

- Child neglect occurs when a child's basic needs are not adequately met and this results in actual or potential harm. Basic needs include: adequate food, clothing, health care, supervision, protection from hazards, education, nurturance, and a home.
- Seldom is there a single cause of neglect. Usually, there are multiple and interacting factors and contributors including the child, parent, family, community, and professionals.
- Child neglect needs to be properly defined to protect children and NOT to blame the parents. It should not be limited to caregivers' omission of care.

When a child dies as a result of child maltreatment, as MiPSAC members, we need to assess our professional responsibility as health care providers, childcare and school teachers, CPS, law enforcement and judicial representatives. We need to ask ourselves after a child's death: "What efforts were made, or should have been made, by professionals who had contact with the child family?" and "How preventable was the child's death?" We are all advocates for children and we all have a collaborative role in protecting children. Part of this role is educating ourselves. The conference is held once a year, always in January, which makes it a good month to enjoy the San Diego sun and get some learning done.

Dr. Dena Nazer is an Assistant Professor of Pediatrics and Medical Director of the Child Protection Center at Children's Hospital of Michigan, Wayne State University. Dr. Nazer is also the Membership Chair of MiPSAC.

Upcoming Trainings and Conferences 2009-2010

PLEASE GO TO: <http://www.mipsac.org/trainings-and-conferences.html> for further details regarding each of the following trainings/conferences.

14th ANNUAL MEDICAL CONFERENCE ON CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

Diagnosing Abuse: Are we missing something?

April 22-23, 2009

Featured Keynote Speaker: Christopher S. Greeley, MD, FAAP University of Texas Health Sciences Center at Houston Presenting on:

- Evidenced Based Medicine (EBM): "What Do We Know and How Do We Know It?"
- Chronic Subdural Hematomas

LOCATION: Kellogg Hotel and Conference Center, Lansing, MI

ELIGIBLE PARTICIPANTS: Medical professionals.

CHILD ABUSE TRAINING SERVICES, PROSECUTING ATTORNEYS ASSOCIATION OF MICHIGAN

Medical Issues in Child Abuse/Neglect Cases

April 14, 2009

LOCATION: Oakland County Sheriff's Office, Pontiac

ELIGIBLE PARTICIPANTS: DHS, law enforcement, prosecutors, medical professionals.

HEALING RELATIONSHIPS: PREVENTING THE TRANSMISSION OF INTERGENERATIONAL TRAUMA

April 28, 2009

LOCATION: University of Michigan, Ann Arbor

ELIGIBLE PARTICIPANTS: Judges, referees, and other court staff; attorneys; adoption workers for CPS, DHS, and private foster care agencies; Michigan Indian tribes; CASAs; legislators and other policy makers; and related child welfare professionals.

CHILD TRAUMA CONFERENCE: IMPACT, TREATMENT, AND INTERVENTION FOR ABUSED AND NEGLECTED CHILDREN AND YOUTH

April 29, 2009

LOCATION: Lansing Community College, West Campus, Lansing

ELIGIBLE PARTICIPANTS: Judges, referees, and other court staff; attorneys; adoption workers for CPS, DHS, and private foster care agencies; Michigan Indian tribes; CASAs; legislators and other policy makers; and related child welfare professionals.

CHILDREN'S LAW SECTION 7th ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Making a Difference

May 8, 2009

LOCATION: Splash Village, Frankenmuth

ELIGIBLE PARTICIPANTS: Attorneys, judges, referees, court staff, DHS staff, social workers, and anyone interested in social and legal issues impacting Michigan families.

WEST MICHIGAN CONFERENCE ON THE MULTI-DISCIPLINARY RESPONSE TO SUSPECTED CHILD ABUSE

Monday, May 18, 2009

LOCATION: Prince Conference Center at Calvin College, Grand Rapids, MI

ELIGIBLE PARTICIPANTS: MDT Professionals, Counselors, Social Workers, Physicians, Clergy, Nurses, Teachers/Principals, Law Enforcement, CAC Leadership (staff and board Members), Children's Protective Services Other Mandated Reporters, and Counselors.

APSAC CHILD FORENSIC INTERVIEW CLINICS

June 1-5, 2009

LOCATION: Seattle, WA

ELIGIBLE PARTICIPANTS: Anyone whose job includes interviewing suspected victims of child maltreatment; professionals from the fields of mental health, child protective services, law enforcement, social services, medicine, and law; and professionals who do not have extensive experience in forensic interviewing and who want to acquire or improve these skills.

APSAC's 17th ANNUAL COLLOQUIUM

June 17-20, 2009

LOCATION: Atlanta, GA

ELIGIBLE PARTICIPANTS: Professionals in mental health, medicine and nursing, law, law enforcement, education, prevention, research, advocacy, child protection services, and allied fields.

AN INTENSIVE REVIEW AND UPDATE OF CHILD ABUSE PEDIATRICS (PREP:CAP)

July 22-26, 2009

LOCATION: Portland, OR

ELIGIBLE PARTICIPANTS: Child abuse specialists preparing to participate in the Subspecialty Certifying Examination in Child Abuse Pediatrics; Child abuse specialists seeking an intensive review and update of child abuse pediatrics; General pediatricians, family physicians, emergency medicine physicians, critical care physicians, or other generalists or specialists interested in the field of child abuse pediatrics; Allied health professionals with a special interest or practice focus in child abuse pediatrics; or Residents or fellows seeking current and practical information in the field of child abuse pediatrics.

28TH ANNUAL MICHIGAN STATEWIDE CONFERENCE

Child Abuse & Neglect: Prevention, Assessment, and Treatment

October 19-20, 2009

LOCATION: The Inn at St. John's, Plymouth, MI

ELIGIBLE PARTICIPANTS: All professionals working with children and families, including: child advocates, educators, social workers, law enforcement personnel, physicians, nurses, mental health workers, protective services and foster care workers, prevention specialists, attorneys, Children's Advocacy Center professionals and all others committed to helping communities keep children safe.

18TH IPSCAN INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS ON CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

September 26-29, 2010

LOCATION: Honolulu Convention Center, Hawaii

For additional training opportunities, please see the following links:

- <http://www.mipsac.org/trainings-and-conferences.html>
- <http://www.apsac.org/mc/community/eventList.do?orgId=apsac>