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# Message from the President

**Hello WV AAP Members,**

Welcome! I am honored to begin my two-year term as president of the West Virginia Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics. I was thankful that we were all able to get together again in person at the 2024 Children's Healthcare Summit at Canaan Valley Resort in May. I enjoyed learning with each of you and spending time together as friends and colleagues. The Chapter has an exciting year planned! To be effective as a chapter, we need focus, funding, and involvement. We will continue to keep our focus on advocacy for WV childhood immunization as our top priority. We also plan to focus on childhood literacy and overall health and wellness of West Virginia's children.

**As for funding, the chapter was awarded a Benedum Grant for literacy that started on July 1.** We have submitted a second Benedum Grant application for funding and we should know by September 1 whether our application was successful. We will continue to focus on funding streams to support our mission throughout the year and my term as president.

Focus and funding are great, but we cannot realize our mission without involvement from our great physician leaders in our state chapter. Our goals are focused on unifying issues on which all West Virginia pediatricians can agree. We are looking for champions to help us realize our mission goals and help all West Virginia children. There are ways for each of you to help in the areas of vaccine advocacy, literacy, safe sleep, and smoke/vape free spaces. **As in every endeavor, many hands make light work, and if you would like to be on a task force for any of these or another issue dear to you, please reach out.** As an added benefit, involvement in WV AAP is a great way to network and get to know your colleagues around the state.

Our first event this year will be the Dolly Dash 5k Race in support of Dolly Parton's Imagination Library on August 10 at 9:00 am in Huntington's Ritter Park. Registrants to this event may run or walk in the race, as well as simply register to support this great cause in support of childhood literacy. There will be family fun like face painting, prizes, and even a Dolly Dress Up Contest. **Please spread the word and register at [www.tristateracer.com/DollyDash2024](http://www.tristateracer.com/DollyDash2024).** While at the event, look for the WV AAP booth where we will be handing out information and Benny the Bear materials.

**If you plan to attend the AAP Experience National Conference & Exhibition, September 27 through October 1 in Orlando, Florida, please let us know.** Our chapter will host a meet and greet event in Orlando, details pending. We hope to see many of you there, hopefully sporting some of our new WV AAP gear.

On behalf of all West Virginia children and families, thank you for all the work that you do. I am excited to build on past success of this chapter and to continue our efforts to ensure the health and wellness of all West Virginia children.

**Jennifer Gerlach, MD, FAAP**  
President



# LITERACY GRANT NEWS:

## INVITATION TO JOIN WV AAP LITERACY TASK FORCE



This spring WV AAP received a second grant from the **Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation** for one year to educate and engage pediatric providers in literacy initiatives for WV children and families. We are thrilled about this opportunity and want you to join this important work! We are going to engage our membership in a statewide awareness campaign about the importance of early childhood literacy. The focus of our 2025 Children's Healthcare Summit will be on childhood literacy. WV AAP will also recruit new chapter champions and partner them with existing literacy collaboratives. If you are interested in getting involved in new literacy projects please contact Candice Lefeber, WV AAP Executive Director at [candice.lefeber@wvaap.com](mailto:candice.lefeber@wvaap.com)!

Early Literacy is a key marker for lifelong success in children. Currently, WV has a 79.1% literacy rate and ranks 34th in the nation with 48% of WV 4th graders reading below a basic reading level. This is a 22% point decline since 2019, highlighting the vital and urgent need of intervention. The WV AAP will be a powerful partner in raising awareness of statewide literacy efforts and bridging communication with pediatric providers. Our overall goal will be to highlight the importance of early childhood literacy and get books in the hands of West Virginia's children. Our goal is to recruit five practices in the state to participate with the Dolly Parton Imagination Library.

The future success of West Virginia and its children vitally depends on reversing the alarming trends in falling literacy rates. One of our objectives will be to partner with the Dolly Parton Imagination Library. It has been very effective nationwide in tackling this very issue by placing books in the hands of children. The WVAAP's partnership with the WV DPIL will ensure this proven program provides this same benefit for all West Virginia children.

SAVE the  
DATE



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**2025 WV AAP**  
**ANNUAL CHILDREN'S**  
**HEALTHCARE SUMMIT**

**WHEN:**  
MAY 2-3, 2025

**WHERE:**  
CANAAAN VALLEY RESORT &  
CONFERENCE CENTER

Additional  
Details  
Soon!





2<sup>nd</sup> Annual

# Dolly Dash

## 5K RACE

Starts at 9:05 AM

Aug. 10<sup>th</sup>, 2024  
Ritter Park Huntington, WV

RESERVE YOUR SPOT at [tristateracer.com/dollydash2024](http://tristateracer.com/dollydash2024)



Family fun and prizes at the 2nd Annual **Dolly Dash 5K**, benefiting Dolly Parton's Imagination Library of West Virginia early literacy program, delivering a home library to children regardless of income or zip code statewide!

CLICK HERE TO RESERVE YOUR SPOT!



SAVE the  
DATE



**AAP** ORLANDO  
**experience** 2024  
**National Conference & Exhibition**

**WHEN:**

**September 27 - October 1, 2024**

**WHERE:**

**ORLANDO, FLORIDA**



**CLICK HERE TO  
LEARN MORE!**

**Please let  
us know if you  
plan to attend!**

# *2024 National Hospitalist Day Creative Writing Contest Winner: In Your Own Words*

## CONGRATS DR. ANDREA LAUFFER!

Dr. Lauffer's written piece *Stones* was chosen as the 2024 Creative Writing Contest Winner! Make sure to check out her feature on *The Hospitalist* below.



**CLICK HERE TO READ  
on TheHospitalist.org!**



### **NEW WV AAP APPAREL!**

The new WV AAP logo with Benny will be printed on your choice of apparel. Click to order yours online today!



## *Remembering Dr. Sharon Istfan: An Advocate for Children & Families*

It is with heavy hearts that we remember Dr. Sharon Istfan, a dedicated pediatrician who served the families of West Virginia with unwavering compassion and expertise. Specializing in adolescent care, particularly focusing on abuse and neglect, Dr. Istfan's career was marked by her relentless advocacy for the most vulnerable. Her tireless efforts ensured that countless children received the care and support they needed to heal and thrive. Dr. Istfan's legacy is one of profound impact, leaving behind a community deeply grateful for her service and dedication. In remembrance, we thank Dr. Sharon Istfan for her extraordinary contributions and commitment to improving the lives of families throughout West Virginia. Her work will continue to inspire and guide us in our mission to support and protect the health and well-being of all children.



*View Dr. Istfan's  
full obituary here.*





# SAVE the DATE



## CAMC Obesity Conference

Beyond the Scale - A Comprehensive Approach to Obesity

**September 13, 2024**

**CAMC Center for Learning and Research (CLAR)  
3044 Chesterfield Ave., Charleston, WV 25304**

### Registration

*Online registration will be available starting Aug. 1*

**Register online at: [camcmedicine.edu/conferences](https://camcmedicine.edu/conferences)**

### About the Event

- Physicians, mid-levels, dietitians, psychologists, pharmacists and RNs are encouraged to attend
- 7.5 CME credits are available
- The morning session will consist of four speakers covering the following topics:
  - Update on Bariatric and Robotic Surgery
  - Willpower vs. Biology: Breaking the Cycle of Weight Regain
  - Pathophysiology of Obesity – An Endocrine Perspective
  - Depression and Effects on Obesity and Weight Gain
- The afternoon session will consist of breakout rooms focusing on:
  - Surgical, medical and pediatrics
- Lunch will be provided



The afternoon pediatric track will be a 5210 pediatric obesity training. If any provider is interested in implementing the 5210 Rx Incentive and Fresh Connect program in their practice, practice staff is also welcome to attend. Any questions can be directed to Dr. Jeffrey at [Jamie.jeffrey@camc.org](mailto:Jamie.jeffrey@camc.org).

# In the Field 2024



**WV leadership attending the National AAP Annual Leadership Forum in Itasca, IL.,** pictured from left to right: Dr. Jamie Jeffrey (VP), Dr. Beth Emrick (Past President), Dr. Lisa Costello, and Candice Lefeber (ED).



**Dr. Allison Holstein awarded as the 2024 WV AAP Advocate for Children,** pictured from left to right: Dr. Lisa Costello & Dr. Allison Holstein.



**Dr. Jennifer Bailey awarded as the 2024 WV AAP Pediatrician of the Year,** pictured from left to right: Dr. Jennifer Bailey & Dr. Kathleen Martin.



# PROJECT FIRSTLINE

CDC's National Training Collaborative  
for Healthcare Infection Prevention & Control



CDC's Project Firstline has new **micro-learn trainings** available!

Use these simple and effective trainings to give your team an infection control knowledge refresh!



PROJECT **FIRSTLINE**

**MICRO**  **LEARNS**

Train your team  
in real time.



The Power To Stop Infections. Together.



# Welcome NEW Board Members At-Large!

## Dr. Jennifer Bailey, DO

Dr. Jennifer George-Bailey, DO, FAAP, is an ABP certified pediatrician who serves as the sole pediatrician at the Monroe Health Center in Union, WV. Dr. Bailey is a graduate of the West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine and completed her pediatric residency at West Virginia University. Dr. Bailey is passionate about improving the care of all children and is dedicated to pediatric rural health. Her special interests include pediatric mental health management, breastfeeding medicine, and quality improvement in the pediatric practice. Dr. Bailey works with a team at MHC to deliver community focused mental health trainings. Dr. Bailey was awarded the Pediatrician of the Year in 2024 by the WV AAP chapter.



## Dr. Collin John, MD, MPH

Dr. Collin John, MD, MPH, has been involved with the WV AAP for quite some time now as the Chair of the Resident Section, including moderating the Martin E. Weisse Research Competition and the Annual Brainiatrics Bowl. His goal as member at-large is to make a bigger and different contribution to the organization. Dr. John also has a Med-Peds background and current leadership experiences serving as the Division Chief of General Pediatrics for WVU and as a medical director for Project WATCH. Dr. John is excited to spearhead an effort to keep WV involved nationally with regards to AAP endeavors.



# OUR LEADERS



Jennifer Gerlach, MD, FAAP -  
President  
jennifer.gerlach@wvaap.com



Jamie Jeffrey, MD, FAAP -  
Vice President  
jamie.jeffrey@wvaap.com



Candice Lefeber, MPH -  
Executive Director  
candice.lefeber@wvaap.com



Beth Bloom Emrick, MD, FAAP -  
Immediate Past President  
beth.emrick@wvaap.com



Andrea Lauffer, MD, FAAP -  
Secretary/Treasurer  
andrea.lauffer@wvaap.com



Kathleen J. Martin, MD, FAAP -  
Member At-Large  
kathleen.martin@wvaap.com



Elizabeth Copenhaver, MD -  
Member At-Large  
elizabeth.copenhaver@wvaap.com



Youmna Mousattat, MD, FAAP -  
Member At-Large  
youmna.mousattat@wvaap.com



Jennifer George-Bailey, DO, FAAP -  
Member At-Large  
jennifer.bailey@wvaap.com



Collin John, MD, FAAP -  
Member At-Large  
collin.john@wvaap.com



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