

Executive Summary
Federation of Pediatric Organizations Strategic Planning Meeting
July 19-20, 2007
Elk Grove Village, IL

Members of the Federation of Pediatric Organizations (FOPO) met at the headquarters of the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) in Elk Grove Village, Illinois on July 19th and 20th to draft the organization's first strategic plan. Theodore C. Sectish, M.D., the Executive Director of FOPO, convened the meeting and retained the services of Kenneth Slaw, Ph.D., Director of Membership and Strategic Planning of the AAP, to facilitate the meeting. Prior to the meeting, Ken conducted telephone interviews and shared an analysis of those interviews with attendees. In addition, all attendees received a homework assignment and the Bylaws of FOPO for review prior to the meeting. 12 members of FOPO, the Chair of the Task Force on Women in Pediatrics and Jean Bartholomew, FOPO Administrator, attended the strategic planning meeting.

The purpose of FOPO as stated in the Bylaws is to promote high standards of health care for infants, children, adolescents and young adults. Goals include: 1) promoting quality education and training of pediatricians both in residency and throughout their careers; 2) fostering research and development of new knowledge for the improvement of children's health and well being; 3) promoting the provision of quality health care to children from birth to age 21; and 4) promoting education of the public, the government, and other organizations regarding the development and maintenance of high standards of care.

Initial discussion centered on the current purpose of FOPO and its activities to date. FOPO now in its twentieth year of operation has been a communications forum and a convener of meetings to discuss issues that broadly affect pediatricians and children's health, including topics relevant to academic pediatrics, advocacy, education, global health, policy, and research. Since its inception, FOPO implemented the recommendations of the Future of Pediatrics Education II Task Force, hosted the Subspecialties Forum to review and redesign the American Board of Pediatrics (ABP) Subspecialty Requirements for fellowship training, helped launch the Council of Pediatric Specialties, issued statements regarding Women in Pediatrics and the Fellowship Application Process and selected the annual recipients for the St. Geme Award. Participants expressed interest in having FOPO continue as a communications forum and as a unified voice for the pediatrics community. There was consensus that FOPO should become a central clearinghouse for initiatives that affect the entire pediatric community or interface with external organizations. There was agreement that FOPO should enhance its visibility within and outside of the pediatric community by focusing on several strategic initiatives for the next 3-5 years.

The following goals were identified by discussion and prioritized using a nominal group process technique. Leaders of these working groups are listed in parentheses:

1. Develop a Leadership Academy in Pediatrics (Robert Perelman, AAP, and Rob McGregor, APPD)
2. Position Pediatricians as Leaders Within Organized Medicine (James Stockman, ABP)
3. Promote an Increase in GME Funding and an Understanding of the Best Practices of Funding GME (Aaron Friedman, AMSPDC)
4. Enhance the Entire Child Health Research Agenda by Increasing Support for Pediatric Research (Mark Schleiss, SPR, and William Hay, APS)
5. Establish the Global Child Health Priorities of Academic Pediatrics (Errol Alden, AAP)
6. Create a Position Statement Regarding Health Insurance for All Children and Youth in the United States (Theodore C. Sectish, FOPO, and Peter Szilagyi, APA)

An ad hoc group comprised of Susan Guralnick and Robert McGregor of the Association of Pediatric Program Directors (APPD), Mark Schleiss of the Society for Pediatrics Research (SPR), and Robert Perelman of the AAP will work with Theodore C. Sectish, Kenneth Slaw, and Jean Bartholomew to draft an implementation blueprint that will serve as a template for outcomes, measures, targets and timeframes, key strategies, leaders and champions, and needed resources. This blueprint will serve as a guide over the next few years to determine if FOPO is on track to achieve its strategic initiatives. The groups working most directly on each initiative may modify the elements as needed in response to lessons learned in the process of carrying out the strategic plan. Additional leaders of the groups working on each initiative will evolve as the implementation blueprint is presented to the leadership of FOPO member organizations.

The success of FOPO in achieving its strategic initiatives will be determined in part by the engagement and participation of each member organization through its representatives on the working groups. Optimizing communication among FOPO member organizations and their leaders is another key factor in assuring success, but more so to ensure with ongoing dialogue that the outcomes are meaningful and relevant to the strategic initiatives. Multiple channels of communication and various media will need to be a part of the communication plan, including publications, direct mailings (written and electronic) and dynamic, interactive forms of communication via the internet.