



2010-2012 Board of Directors Nominee Biographies

2010-2012 President

Laura Mabie, MD, FAAP has served Chapter 2 tirelessly over the past four years in Officer positions as Treasurer and Vice President/President Elect. Along with holding these Officer positions, Dr. Mabie has also participated in several Chapter committees including the Pediatric Practice Committee, the District Pediatric Council and the Quality Improvement Committee, on which she is the Co-Lead for the Early Developmental Screening and Intervention Initiative – a chapter-wide early developmental program in partnership with UCLA and First5 LA. Professionally, Dr. Mabie is a leader among her colleagues as the physician manager for her 7-physician group for the past 10 years and the Medical Director for the Huntington Medical Foundation. Her dedication to the practice of pediatrics continues through her role as an Assistant Professor of Family Medicine at the Keck School of Medicine at USC. This time of leadership has prepared her to assume the role of President for the 2010-2012 term.

Vice President – President Elect:

Helen DuPlessis, MD, FAAP is a general pediatrician with 25 years of experience working to improve the health and healthcare system for children, youth and families in California and across the US. Dr. DuPlessis has a rich history of professional and personal involvements to that end including a her role as clinician, Community Pediatrics program director, and CMS administrator in the Los Angeles County Department of Health; as the Director of Student Medical Services for the LAUSD, where she spearheaded the development of an innovative school-based health insurance outreach and enrollment program, accelerating the enrollment of nearly 100,000 low income students and families and developed the first set of tools and processes for mapping the health needs and resources in the LAUSD; as the Chief Medical Officer of LA Care Health plan, the largest not-for-profit Medicaid managed care plan in the country; and more recently as a Senior Advisor at the UCLA Center for Healthier Children, Families and Communities.

Throughout her career, Helen has enjoyed a robust relationship with the American Academy of Pediatrics at both the Chapter and national level, serving for eleven years on the Council on Community Pediatrics (including two years as chair/co-chair helping to steer a significant restructuring of committees and councils at the national level).

At the Chapter level, Helen served as a key liaison between the Chapter and National AAP; facilitated understanding and dialogue throughout the Medi-Cal managed care transition; led an early obesity task force; and has been a driving force behind the recent development of a Chapter quality improvement initiative to support members as they strive simultaneously to improve outcomes for children and youth, efficiency and quality in their practice settings and to meet their ongoing pediatric board certification standards.

As we find ourselves living in truly “interesting times” we have unprecedented opportunities to optimize the health and wellbeing of the pediatric population as well as the providers and systems that support that population. Helen’s commitment, leadership and breadth of experience equips her with a keen understanding of the needs of children and families, and of the richness of the pediatric profession that she hopes to use in guiding the Chapter to leverage policy, programs and quality improvement to realize those goals.

Dr. DuPlessis received her undergraduate degree from USC, obtained her MD from the University of California at San Francisco, and her Masters in Public Health from UCLA. While obtaining her Masters, she also completed a fellowship in Drug Policy and Health Services Research through RAND and UCLA.

Secretary:

Howard Reinstein, MD, FAAP has been a general private practice pediatrician in the Valley for nearly 25 years. After receiving his undergrad at University of Pennsylvania, Dr. Reinstein earned his medical degree from the Albert Einstein Medical School. He went on to do both his internship and residency at CHLA and was a member of the full-time faculty at UCLA and USC. He remains active on the clinical faculty of both schools.

Dr. Reinstein has served as treasurer and a member of the executive committee of Chapter 2. Additionally, he has been the Chapter’s public relations coordinator for several years and was a founding member of AAP National Media Resource Team. Dr. Reinstein is excited about the opportunity to serve as an Officer for Chapter 2 once again as Secretary for the Chapter.

Dr. Reinstein has also held leadership positions for other professional organizations including, past president of the Los Angeles Pediatrics Society. He was also awarded housestaff teaching awards both from UCLA and CHLA. He was previously chosen “Best Pediatrician” by readers of the *Daily News* and voted into “Best Doctors” in America and Southern California.

Treasurer:

Edward Curry, MD, FAAP is a partner pediatrician with Southern California Permanente Medical Group (SCMPG) for the past 25 years. He attended the University of California at Santa Cruz, and received his MD from Yale University. He completed his residency at Children’s Hospital Los Angeles. Dr. Curry was Chief of Department Pediatrics at Kaiser Fontana Medical Center for 12 year. He is regional coordinator for Inpatient Pediatrics and a member of SCMPG Compensation Committee, Pediatric Symposium committee, Pediatric Health Connect Committee, and Chairman Interdisciplinary Practice Committee.

Dr. Curry is currently a member of AAP National Committee on Practice and Ambulatory Medicine. He is currently AAP Chapter 2 Treasurer elected in 2008 and he wishes to continue as Treasurer for the Chapter. He has been chairperson of Chapter 2 Scholarship Committee since 2000. Dr. Curry was a Member at Large for Chapter 2 from 1997 to 1999.

Dr. Curry brings a variety of experience to the position of AAP Treasurer. He would enjoy the opportunity to continue to serve the Chapter in this position.

Members-At-Large

Description:

Members-At-Large act as liaison between the membership in their geographic area and the Board. To this end, they should be in contact periodically with the membership in the immediate city or area to allow the members a chance to voice their needs, problems and concerns.

Cynthia (Cindy) Baker, MD, FAAP moved to California from Pennsylvania where she attended the University of Pennsylvania for undergraduate education and medical school. Upon moving to Los Angeles, she began her residency at CHLA and stayed on as a Chief Resident during her fourth year. After completing a year as Chief Resident, Dr. Baker joined Kaiser Permanente Los Angeles (Sunset) where she has been for 25 years. Dr. Baker has been an active Kaiser Permanente partner physician. She has served as the Associate Pediatric Residency Program Director for over 20 years and the CME chair for the Department of Pediatrics' weekly half-day of continuing medical education for 25 years. She continues to have a busy practice in general pediatrics and also does almost daily resident and medical student teaching in the outpatient department. Additionally, she is the Reach Out and Read champion for the medical center and she has been the team pediatrician for the Kaiser Sunset Vascular Birthmark Clinic, a multidisciplinary clinic for children and adults with vascular abnormalities. She was one of the original team members in 1994 and has continued to attend this clinic every month. She has a strong interest in Pediatric Dermatology and does a lot of resident teaching in this area. Dr Baker started the Pediatric hospital Pet Visitation program in 2001 with her golden retrievers Brooke and Sara. She participated in the AAP/UCLA Center for Healthy Families Early Developmental Screening and Intervention Learning Collaborative with a group of local pediatricians last year and enjoyed interacting with pediatricians from the community in the project.

Dr. Baker has been an AAP member for over 25 years. She first joined to follow the legacy of her father David Baker, a pediatrician, who had been a lifetime member. He instilled in Dr. Baker the importance of the AAP as a pediatrician's parent organization and built her respect for the organization through example. Her uncle, Lester Baker was a pediatric endocrinologist at CHOP in Philadelphia and a widely known researcher and clinician. She is excited about her first term as Member-At-Large so she can continue in their footsteps as pediatricians and be involved and represent her colleagues in Pediatrics.

Toni Johnson-Chavis, MD, FAAP If Dr. Chavis had to be described in one word it would have to be humanitarian. Dr. Chavis is a physician, mother of two beautiful children and is happily married to Mr. Kenneth Greene. Dr. Chavis grew up in Compton and went on to attend Stanford University, UCLA and UC Davis where she graduated with honors and in the top ten in her class. She interned at LAC-USC Medical Center and opened her medical practice in the early 80's. Dr. Chavis has one mission in life and it is to make a difference in the community she had grown to love as a child Dr. Chavis still calls Compton home.

Dr. Chavis has practiced medicine in Compton for over 20 years. She has successfully hosted many "non-profit" events giving back to her community. She has hosted "Back to School Fairs" "Thanksgiving Food Drives" and Christmas Toy Drives". Her motto has been to provide more than quality care to her patients. She offers counseling; she is an educator, a leader, mentor and someone that the children can relate to and look to for guidance. She can be heard calling the children in her community "Our Future Leaders".

Her commitment is solely driven by the love for the children. Dr. Chavis never complains of the tireless hours she works at the hospital or the long tiresome days in her office. She simply smiles and says “this is what I chose in life-it was my choice to become a physician in the inner-community”.

After graduating from Stanford University with honors and being offered many lucrative offers. Dr. Chavis was asked why she chooses to practice in Compton. Her reply; “I wanted to serve a community that clearly had a lack of physicians furthermore; there were no board certified pediatricians”.

Dr. Chavis has been a proactive voice for the children in her community. She has relentlessly spoken on behalf of the children. She can be heard speaking to health plans at all levels about the disparity in healthcare affecting our community. Dr. Chavis has taken much time out of her busy schedule to make trips to Sacramento and speak to our Senators informing them of the needs in her community. She has made much progress and continues to do so.

Dr. Chavis is the Chief Executive Officer of Omnicare Medical Group. She helped spearhead Omnicare Medical Group to its current position of strength and stability. Omnicare Medical Group has been more than a Medical Group, giving back to the community by providing scholarships to exemplary students and athletes.

Dr. Chavis enjoys spending time with her children, husband, immediately family and church friends.

Dr. Chavis is a compassionate and passionate physician that has definitely dedicated her entire life to ensuring the children in the surrounding communities are treated with the utmost regard.

Janet Arnold-Clark, MD, FAAP graduated from the University of Oklahoma School of Medicine, moved to Southern California to complete her residency at Childrens Hospital Los Angeles, and spent eight years as a primary care pediatrician as part of Kaiser Permanente in Santa Clarita. In 2004 Dr. Arnold-Clark began working at the Los Angeles County + University of Southern California medical center as a faculty member in the Department of Pediatrics. She primarily treats patients and teaches medical students and residents in a clinic within the Violence Intervention Program that provides general pediatric care and forensic assessments to children in the Los Angeles County foster system. Dr. Arnold-Clark has been active in the local Adoption and Foster Care subcommittee for the last few years, and is currently involved in efforts to build a network of community pediatricians to treat our foster children. She has enjoyed being a Member-at-Large for Chapter 2 for the last two years.

Chris Landon, MD, FAAP completed medical school at USC, residency at Stanford, and fellowship training in Allergy-Immunology-Respiratory disease at Stanford Children's Hospital at Stanford. Following building a neonatal intensive care unit service in northern California and seven years in private pediatric practice he returned to southern California as Director of Pediatrics at Ventura County Medical Center, a UCLA affiliated Family Medicine Residency. Dr Landon directs the Pediatric Diagnostic Center, a multi-specialty pediatric referral center now in its third decade. As the Pediatric Diagnostic Center Practiced Based Research Network director he oversees projects in breast feeding, childhood obesity, health care disparities, telemedicine, asthma, cystic fibrosis, adolescent depression, maternal depression, and developmental screening. The AAP member at large position allows our rural voice to be heard along with our urban compatriots.

Lorna McFarland, MD, FAAP is one of eight pediatricians at Columbia Pediatrics in Long Beach one of America's most diverse communities. She grew up in the Soundview Projects of the Bronx, graduated from the Bronx High School of Science in 1971 then Yale University in 1975 with a BA in psychology. She then went on to teach elementary school for a couple of years in the Bay Area and decided to go to medical school. She completed UCSF School of Medicine in 1984 and the pediatric residency in 1987 at Children's Hospital Medical Center in Washington, D.C. From 1989 to 1994 she lived in West Africa while her husband was on assignment for the New York Times. She has been at Columbia Pediatrics since 1996 and is still enjoying her work despite all of the changes that have made medical practice more stressful.

She has been Member-at-Large since 2003.

Paula Whiteman, MD, FAAP is a pediatric emergency medicine physician at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center and Providence Tarzana Medical Center. She is presently serving her third term as a member-at-large for the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), California, chapter 2 and co-chairs the Committee on Pediatric Emergency Medicine (COPEM), which is a joint committee of the AAP California, chapter 2 and the Los Angeles Pediatric Society (LAPS). She has shown leadership skills having served as President of the LAPS.

In those positions, she has helped to create the Emergency Department Approved for Pediatrics (EDAP) and Pediatric Medical Center (PMC) guidelines, has surveyed hospitals which qualify for those designations, and has written many articles for our chapter newsletter on topics, such as vaccination, blast injuries, and emergency medicine issues. She is a reviewer for Pediatric Emergency Medicine Practice.

She serves as the pediatric physician consulting specialist for the Los Angeles County, Department of Health Services, Emergency Medical Services (LAC DHS EMS) Agency and in that capacity, she participates on the Interagency Council on Child Abuse and Neglect (ICAN).

For her efforts she was awarded the national AAP Special Achievement Award in 2005 and again in 2009, for her outstanding AAP work and in recognition of her contributions to pediatric emergency medicine. She is presently on the national COPEM for the American College of Emergency Physicians.

On a fun note, she was the medical advisor for the movie, 'The Bucket List,' and volunteers as a camp doctor during the summer in Malibu at Wilshire Boulevard Temple's Camp Hess Kramer and Gindling Hilltop Camp.

Susan Wu, MD, FAAP Susan Wu is a Pediatric Hospitalist at Childrens Hospital Los Angeles, and Assistant Professor of Clinical Pediatrics at the University of Southern California Keck School of Medicine. She received both her undergraduate degree and medical degree from Northwestern University in Chicago, and completed a pediatric residency and chief residency at Children's Hospital & Research Center at Oakland. In her role as Director of the Pediatric Residency Community Pediatrics and Advocacy Program at CHLA, she has helped to develop and implement a legislative advocacy training curriculum, in which residents work with faculty to visit local elected officials and advocate for children's health programs. As a current Member-at-Large, she has helped to secure two grants for the AAP Chapter 2, including a grant for resident outreach and a grant for advocacy training. Her research interests include healthcare access, injury prevention, and childhood respiratory diseases. She serves on

the boards of the California Physicians Alliance, the National Council of Asian and Pacific Islander Physicians, the Asian Pacific American Medical Students Association, and the Asian Pacific Community Fund. She lives in Burbank with her husband, a 7th grade English teacher, and their 3 month old son. If elected as Member-at-Large, her priorities would be: promoting legislative advocacy training, increasing child advocacy activities at the state and local levels, and improving access to quality improvement activities which can be applied toward satisfying the Maintenance of Certification requirements.