

# Los Angeles Pediatric Society Newsletter



## President's Message

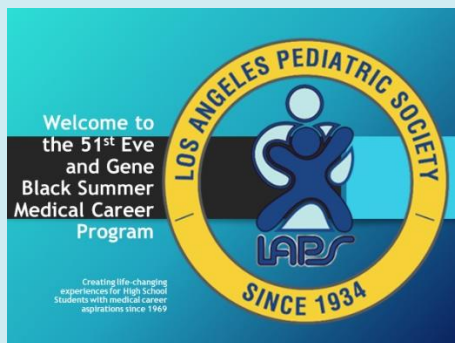
**Neville Anderson, MD**



I hope this newsletter finds you and your family healthy and safe. 2020 has been a year like no other. We all have had to rethink, reevaluate, rearrange and readjust many aspects of both our home and working lives. The Los Angeles Pediatric Society Board used this year to reassess our strategic plan to ensure that we are on the best course to fulfill our mission: improving the health and well-being of infants, children, and adolescents by being a resource for physicians with an interest in pediatric care by offering educational and networking opportunities, as well as providing inspiration and guidance for students interested in a future in healthcare. [READ MORE..](#)

## The 2020 Summer Program Zooms!

by Paula Whiteman, MD  
Member of 2020 Summer Program Committee



The Los Angeles Pediatric Society (LAPS) established the Summer Medical Career Program in 1969, which is dedicated to the memory of Eve and Gene Black.

Over the years, the program has provided a medical mentorship opportunity for thousands of high school students in order to introduce them to a variety of careers in the health professions.

Before the impact of COVID-19, students were paired with a health care coordinator at a medical facility where they had an opportunity to shadow

various medical professionals, including nurses, nutritionists, pharmacists, lab technicians, physicians as well as other medical specialists, who together provided a range of patient care services. Students had opportunities to directly observe patient care, including surgical procedures.

This year the LAPS Board of Director's felt that it was important to adapt the program to meet the challenges presented by COVID-19 and developed a virtual Zoom on-line experience. The Summer Program took place Monday through Thursday for four weeks during July 2020 in the late morning. Each session was divided into three lectures with a variety of speakers.

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How can I help? Visit our website

## SPECIALIST' CORNER



### Thrombosis and Anticoagulation

#### Recommendations in Children with COVID-19

Gavin Roach, MD, Division of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology,  
David Geffen School of Medicine at University of California,  
Los Angeles

Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19), caused by severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) has been the leading story in health-related news since it was first reported in December 2019. Despite the expansive, world-wide pandemic that has already infected more than 35 million people and resulted in the deaths of more than 1 million, there is still much that we do not understand about the pathophysiology, clinical management, and complications of the disease. This is especially true in pediatrics, where data is limited and evidence-based guidelines are lacking. While some guidelines for medical management in children (anti-inflammatory and anti-viral therapies in particular) were published relatively early in the course of the pandemic, other guidelines addressing hypercoagulability, thrombosis, and anticoagulant therapy in children have been slower to print. To date, the only two pediatric-specific papers addressing these issues have relied mostly on expert recommendations.

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### COME JOIN US!

We're excited to share that we've created a private Facebook group for LAPS members to network amongst themselves about topics ranging from clinical scenarios to practice management to job/research opportunities, etc. Join the group [here](#). Also, be sure to follow us on [Instagram](#) for current updates and news from LAPS.



# SPECIALIST' CORNER

## The Gastroenterologist's Approach to Functional Encopresis

### Tanaz Farzan Danialifar, MD

Assistant Professor of Clinical Pediatrics | USC Keck School of Medicine  
Divisional Director of Medical Student and Resident Education  
Division of Gastroenterology, Hepatology, Nutrition  
Children's Hospital Los Angeles

Encopresis is defined as the repeated involuntary passing of stool in a child older than 4 years who is developmentally capable of continence. More than 80% of children with encopresis have retentive fecal incontinence which is often associated with constipation. Functional encopresis can be attributed to overflow incontinence in the setting of large fecal impaction (typically liquid stool) or as a result of voluntary withholding with brief relaxation of the anal sphincter complex (multiple, formed small stools). The latter may be associated with visible discomfort or posturing. The prevalence of functional encopresis in the United States is up to 4% with a peak ranging from 5-6 years old and the majority of children seeking medical care between 7-8 years old (Yilanli M, 2020). Timely treatment of functional constipation and encopresis is important as 25% of children experience ongoing symptoms as adults (Colombo JM, 2015).



Chronic constipation and repetitive withholding lead to rectal dilation resulting in impaired sensation and decreased muscle contractility. The resulting large, difficult to pass, and painful stools reinforce behavioral avoidance of toileting thus, propagating the cycle of withholding. The approach to treating functional encopresis should include behavioral and pharmacological interventions.

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# Member Updates



## **WE WELCOME OUR NEW MEMBERS:**

Collen Kraft, MD  
Moirá Szilagyí, MD  
Peter Szilagyí, MD  
Gene C. Liu, MD  
Allyson Self-Stoico, MD  
Anna Muñoz Chavira, MD  
Ilan Shapiro, MD  
Danielle Elizabeth Fernandes, MD - Life Member

## **IN MEMORIAM:**

Robert W. Cleveland, MD, Bellevue, WA, June 2010 - Emeritus Member  
Donna Crosley, MD, Philomath, Oregon, January 2017 - Emeritus Member  
Theresa G. H. Tan, MD, Honolulu, Hawaii, March 12, 2018 - Life Member  
Alan E. Holtzman, MD, Sherman Oaks, November 28, 2018 - Emeritus Member  
W. T. Jones, MD, Kingman, Arizona, June 22, 2019 - Emeritus Member  
Zoe K. Kounis, MD, Glendale, July 2019 - Emeritus Member  
Moses A. Robinson, MD, Carson, 2019 - Life Member  
Hisayo Nakai, MD, Torrance, 2019 - Emeritus Member

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2020-2021**

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