



# Maine Pediatrics

## May 2025 | Newsletter Highlights

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- **Trauma-Informed Care Summit - Registration is Open!**
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### A Message from Maine AAP's President, Brian Youth, MD, FAAP

Have you had a chance to step outside and feel the warmth of spring finally reaching us here in Maine? In the spirit of celebrating spring, and this amazing Earth we call home, please take a minute to check out our new [Environmental Health and Climate Change resource library on the Maine AAP website](#). There are sections for both providers and patients/families, covering topics from PFAS, wood stove smoke, and lead; to climate change-caused increases in tick-borne illnesses, extreme weather events, and mental health effects of climate change. Check it out, share it with families, and let us know what you think!

Given our political climate and seeing the potential impact this is having on children and families, I've been overjoyed to hear from pediatricians who have reached out to me over the last few months asking, "How can I get involved" and share my voice/concerns/support/advocacy? First off, I thank each and every one of you for showing up each day to care for your patients and offer special thanks to those who have engaged in advocacy, such as writing an op-ed, contacting your legislators about issues important to children and families, and/or writing testimonies to improve and not distract from the healthcare our patients deserve. I sincerely thank you for being a voice for our community, and I share this quote from Dr. Sue Kressly, National AAP President, who states, "Every day we show up as pediatricians is a better day for kids."

To that end, here are some resources to stay informed, and get involved:

- Bookmark the [Maine AAP Website](#) and the Maine AAP Advocacy Page where you can follow tracked legislation and key issues we are focusing on, as well as follow links to write to your congressional representatives
- Bookmark National AAP Advocacy Page for resources that cover the multitude of issues our organization is advocating for
- Stay informed by reading the [AAP News](#) with important content related to recent executive orders and potential funding cuts
- Join one of our Committees that you are passionate about- we'd LOVE to have you

as a member as we advance our strategic plan to promote healthy communities for the children of Maine.

Chapter Chat Highlight: Every 2 weeks, your leadership team participates in the “AAP Chapter Chat,” which brings together the AAP Leadership from every State to join a discussion and hear updates on issues impacting children's health. Last week it was heartwarming to hear that we do make a difference! Pediatricians are influencing policy—as an example, due to the advocacy of pediatricians and other constituents, 13 House Republicans in swing districts signed a letter saying they would oppose any budget cuts that impact Medicaid; thousands of emails, letters, calls to congressional offices, and coalition efforts of pediatricians across the country including a day of action focusing on Medicaid and child health is paying off.

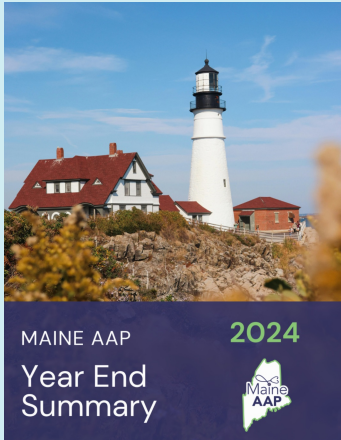
I urge you all to visit Protecting Medicaid AAP Site to learn more and participate in this call to action.

On a more local note, lots of exciting Maine AAP activities coming up including:

- AAP Engagement Mixer- Bangor, May 6th
- Trauma-Informed Care Summit, June 7th
- School Health Summit, October 25th!

Thank you again for your engagement and the work you do every day for children in Maine.

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**The Maine AAP has released the  
2024 Year End Summary.**  
**[View it here!](#)**

# TRAUMA-INFORMED CARE: A CALL FOR INTERDISCIPLINARY COLLABORATION



Focused on collaboration and practical solutions, this day-long summit will provide actionable insights for strengthening family systems, improving care outcomes, and promoting long-term healing.

Open to mental health professionals, educators, healthcare providers, and community leaders.

**Saturday, June 7th**

Registration: 7:30am

Program: 8am-4pm

**Augusta Civic Center**

FOR ADDITIONAL  
INFORMATION AND  
PROGRAM DETAILS, VISIT  
[WWW.MAINEAAP.ORG](http://WWW.MAINEAAP.ORG)



[Register Here](#)

## Introducing our new Maine AAP Treasurer, Dr. Jeff Stone!

We are excited to announce the new Maine AAP Treasurer, Dr. Jeff Stone! Dr. Stone is the Maine AAP Oral Health Champion and on the advisory committee for the Children's Oral Health Network. He was the cofounder of Waterville pediatrics and practiced primary care pediatrics for over 30 years in his hometown. Thank you, Dr. Stone, for taking on this new position and thank you to Dr. Chris Motyl for your many years of serving as Maine AAP Treasurer!



## Maine AAP Member & Program Spotlight

Dr. Anne Coates was a participant in the Alexion sponsored event *Treating NF1 Plexiform Neurofibromas: Case Studies*. Read about what Dr. Coates had to say about the presentation below.

"I recently participated in a webinar developed by Alexion and provided by Dr. Roche, a pediatric neuro-oncology nurse practitioner from Rainbow Babies who gave an insightful talk on a new innovative therapy to treat patients with Neurofibromatosis Type 1 (NF1). She gave a comprehensive introduction on this therapy

and then reviewed several case studies on the benefits and risks of it. Although NF1 is a rare disease and not a population whom I commonly care for, I really enjoyed the education and interactive structure of the talk. I hope you will consider participating in future webinars like this one because I think the quality and learning opportunities are high-yield."

Thank you to Alexion for offering education to our child health care providers!



## May is Mental Health Awareness Month

The Maine AAP continues to be dedicated to improving mental health of the pediatric population. The Maine AAP Healthy Mental Development Committee partners with child psychiatrists in the state to improve collaboration in primary care. See below for national resources in honor of mental health awareness.

### National Mental Health Awareness Month Resources:

- SAMHSA released a **Mental Health Awareness Month Toolkit** with lots of free messaging, downloadable graphics, and promotional materials designed for a variety of audiences for your practices!
- **Filter Out the Noise** is designed to help young people identify and remove negative influences, or "noise" from their lives. The toolkit includes content on self-care tips for youth, guidance on recognizing suicide warning signs, and encourages help seeking behaviors.

You can also visit the **Maine Pediatric and Behavioral Health Partnership website** for many valuable resources and trainings.

**Gifts to Maine AAP directly benefit members and trainees by helping to support attendance at educational and legislative conferences!**

**Please consider making a gift today - [click here](#)**



## Connect with Maine AAP on Social Media!

We recently joined BlueSky! Follow us there at [@maineaap.bsky.social](https://linktr.ee/maineaap), in addition to on X, Facebook, LinkedIn, and Instagram where we continue to share pro-pediatric health messages, new clinical info and pertinent articles. <https://linktr.ee/maineaap>

**SAVE THE DATE!**

**SCHOOL HEALTH SUMMIT**

Saturday, October 25, 2025  
8:00am - 4:00pm

Open to school health advisors, athletic trainers, pediatricians, social workers, mental health clinicians, school nurses, school based health clinic staff, and others involved in school health!

**Augusta Civic Center**

## Upcoming Maine AAP Programs

**June 7, 2025 | 8:30AM-4:00PM:** Trauma-Informed Care: A Call for Interdisciplinary Collaboration. (**see above**)

**October 25th:** Save the Date! School Health Summit at the Augusta Civic Center.

**The Maine AAP & MMA Center for Quality**





## In the News

- **The Children's Oral Health Network (COHN) has just released the 2024 Annual Impact Report**, and we're excited to share it with you! This report describes the collective efforts over the past year to expand access to oral health care for Maine's children and highlights how the collaborations have boosted the success of these initiatives and projects. [Read it here.](#)
- **The Maine CDC Prevention Team is fielding a Tobacco, Alcohol, Cannabis, and FASD health care provider Survey** with Public Consulting Group (PCG) that will be open until May 7<sup>th</sup>.
- **MaineHealth Barbara Bush Children's Hospital hosted a Peds Grand Rounds on Measles** titled, "Lessons We Learn From Measles" with Marin Ottolini, MD, MEd, Col (ret), USAF, MC, Professor of Pediatrics, Asst. Dean for Student Research, School of Medicine, Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences. It can be at <https://vimeo.com/showcase/11067358>.
- **Listen to the New AAP Podcast: Water Safety & Drowning Prevention: When Kids are Most at Risk & How to Choose the Right Swim Class.** Tracy McCallin, MD, FAAP, a pediatric emergency medicine doctor, joins host Edith Bracho-Sanchez, MD, FAAP, to discuss essential water safety tips for parents. Learn steps you can take to prevent drowning, the riskiest water environments for children of different ages, and how to choose the best swim class for your child. (For resources go to [healthychildren.org/podcast](https://healthychildren.org/podcast).)
- **AAP Measles Communications Toolkit for Chapters and Members.** The AAP has a new [measles toolkit](#) with resources for chapters and members to use to promote timely measles vaccination and to help combat misinformation. The content includes graphics ready for social media, videos, fact sheets from HealthyChildren.org and printable handouts.



## Diagnosing Biliary Atresia

attend.

In response to the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) release of the clinical report, **Identifying Infants with Biliary Atresia by 2-4 Weeks of Life: Guidance for the Primary Care Practitioner**, the Academy is launching an "Ask the Expert" knowledge series tailored for primary care members this spring. Maine AAP members are invited to

Knowledge experts from the AAP Section on Gastroenterology, Hepatology, and Nutrition (SOGHN) released the clinical report in mid-February and plan to participate in the knowledge series.

"This clinical report is for like-minded practitioners committed to eliminating uneven care and health disparities in diagnosing and treating children with liver disease," said Sanjiv "Sonny" Harpavat, MD, PhD, FAAP, lead author of the report. "The goal of this work – creating the clinical report and "Ask the Expert Sessions" – provides primary care pediatricians with the appropriate confidence to know what to look for to make better referrals."

The compact series, which begins in May and spans three months, allows AAP chapter members to log in, listen to the report review and case study, and ask questions. Each 20-

minute session will be held virtually on Tuesdays from 12:30 to 1 p.m. CT, May 13, June 17, and July 15. Register for an "Ask the Expert" session here: <https://bit.ly/41tHTY8>  
Prepare for the "Ask the Expert" session by listening to the AAP podcast on this series: [bit.ly/42fh6jJ](https://bit.ly/42fh6jJ). For more information about the knowledge series, contact Alison Powers, Manager, District & Chapter Programs, at [apowers@aap.org](mailto:apowers@aap.org).

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## Upcoming Partner Programs

**May 1st | 5:00-8:30PM:** 2025 Maine Association of Psychiatric Physicians Spring Conference: Yellow Flag, Red Flag, What's It All About? [Learn more.](#)

**May 3rd | 9:00AM-12:00PM:** Build & Bloom in Nature hosted by Help Me Grow and First 10 Wiscasset. [Learn more.](#)

**May 6th | 3:30PM:** Children & Youth with Special Health Care Needs Monthly Learning Series. [Learn more.](#)

**May 7th | 12:00-1:00PM:** Maine Pediatric & Behavioral Health Partnership: Improve Care for Youth in Foster Care - Expert Presentation & Case Exploration. [Learn more.](#)

**May 7th | 2:00-3:00PM:** Right From the Start - New Kids Count Data Book Presentation . [Join the zoom meeting.](#)

**May 13th | 1:30-2:00PM:** Identifying Infants with Biliary Atresia by 2-4 Weeks of Life: Guidance for the Primary Care Practitioner. [Learn more.](#)

**May 14th | 9:00AM-4:00PM:** Patient Safety Academy at the Portland Sheraton at Sable Oaks in South Portland. [Learn more.](#)

**May 15th | 1:00-2:00PM:** Strategies to Decrease Access to Lethal Means in Youth Suicide Prevention Webinar. [Learn more.](#)

**May 20th | 2:00-6:30PM:** Partnerships in Pediatrics Conference at MaineHealth Franklin Memorial in Farmington, Maine. [Learn more and register here.](#)

**May 20th | 1:00-2:00PM:** Emergency Management Process Webinar. [Resources and registration here.](#)

**May 22nd | 7:30-8:30AM:** MPBHP Behavioral Health Webinar Series: Understanding and Addressing the Health Needs of Youth in Foster Care - Expert Insights and Discussion. [Learn more.](#)

**May 22nd | 6:00PM:** Weed to Know: Marijuana/Cannabis Use in Pregnancy and Breast Feeding: Potential Neonatal Outcomes Webinar. [Learn more.](#)

**May 30th | 9:30AM-4:30PM:** Maine CDC and NAMI Maine present the latest training on Grief and Loss: Creative Toolkit for Traumatic Grief and Loss. [Learn more.](#)

**June 10th | 3:00PM:** SDF in the Medical Setting: A reconvening of the [Oral Health Learning Cafe](#) to report on progress and discuss challenges, emergent needs, and next steps in regard to SDF in the medical setting. [Register here.](#)

**June 23rd:** Save the Date! Maine Children's Alliance First Annual Golf Tournament at the Augusta Country Club in Manchester, Maine.

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