

A Vision for a Better Future

In 2006, the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry (AACAP) effected positive change. Through advocacy, awareness, education, recruitment, and research, our membership advanced quality treatment for children and adolescents with mental illnesses.

Recruitment

In 2006, the AACAP advanced its 10-year priority of brining more child and adolescent psychiatrists into the profession through scholarships, grants, and mentorship programs. According to the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education National Resident Matching Program Data, the number of child and adolescent psychiatry residents has increased 14 percent in the past five years. The AACAP will continue to recruit and educate child and adolescent psychiatry's next generation of clinicians, teachers, and scientific investigators.

Research

For more than 50 years, the AACAP has promoted and supported research careers, publicized research and training opportunities, and sponsored initiatives to nurture the development of early career psychiatrists. The AACAP publishes peer-reviewed scientific papers, offers fellowships and awards to encourage scientific excellence, holds scientific meetings, and publishes curricula and recruitment materials to fulfill the needs of child and adolescent psychiatrists and the families they treat.

Advocacy

The AACAP relies on the passion of its members to fight for improved access to care. Our federal and state legislative initiatives address a severe national shortage of child and adolescent psychiatrists, parity for mental illnesses in the health insurance system, and improving community-based systems of care. With grassroots action and work at the national and state level, the AACAP's members have a defined legislative agenda to help eliminate these barriers.

Awareness

The AACAP informs the public, including educators, lawmakers, and families, that mental illnesses are real, pervasive, and treatable, especially when identified early. Our Web site, www.aacap.org, is our main educational platform and received more than 3 million visits in 2006. Our *Facts for Families* series offers families constant access to credible information on what is normal, what is not, and when to seek help.



Education

Through the AACAP's Annual Meeting, Annual Review Course, Mid-Year Institute of Maintenance of Certification, Psychopharmacology Update Institute, *Journal of the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry*, and the future eAACAP site, physicians are educated in the newest research on childhood mental, emotional, developmental, and behavioral disorders. The AACAP's continuing medical education programs are a part of clinicians' lifelong learning and daily practice and are designed to bring the best treatments to children in need.

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