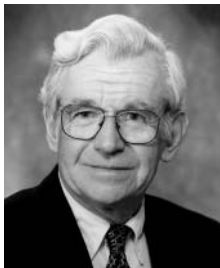


2003-2005 President's Report

Richard M. Sarles, M.D.



The past two years of my presidency have been wonderful, filled with fun and friendship, wrestling with hard issues, and using our science to improve treatments for children and adolescents. It has been two years of fellowship, national and international outreach, and good will. It has all been my good fortune. Whether it

was working with and responding to the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) on children's medications, pressing forward to increase the number of child and adolescent psychiatrists, or submitting applications for major research grants, the AACAP has delivered again and again.

I start by acknowledging the newly elected officers of the AACAP, **Robert L. Hendren, D.O.**, President-Elect, **Gregory Fritz, M.D.**, Secretary, **James C. MacIntyre, II, M.D.**, Treasurer, **David Fassler, M.D.**, Assembly Chair, **David DeMaso, M.D.**, and **Bela Sood, M.D.** Councilors-at-Large. I give my heartfelt thanks to those I have served with—too many to mention, too many moments of inspiration and camaraderie. I thank those retiring from Council—**Marilyn Benoit, M.D.**, **Sandra Sexson, M.D.**, **Steve Cuffe, M.D.**, **Efrain Bleiberg, M.D.** and **Susan Villani, M.D.** And, I must give special thanks to **Scott Moseman, M.D.** who has ably served as the Jerry M. Wiener Resident Member of Council, bringing the perspective of residents, time, energy, and commitment to this position.

One of the major themes of my presidency was collaboration. Through the exchange of ideas and information we work toward broadening the horizon of our mission as well as to creating an effective tool toward accomplishing mutual goals. My presidency enabled me to take steps toward this goal through local and global travel.

I have met with many regional councils—Alaska, Georgia, Illinois, New Jersey, San Diego, Washington state, Washington, DC, and Wisconsin—and represented the AACAP in Canada, Cuba, Ecuador, Germany, Iran, Italy, Mexico, and South Korea. I joined our American Medical Association (AMA) delegation for three out of four House of Delegates meetings. This is one area where our numbers are leveraged by the strength and opportunities used by our delegation. Thank you to **David Fassler, M.D.**, **Louis Kraus, M.D.**, **Jeremy Veenstra-VanderWeele, M.D.**, **Tanya Royster Anderson, M.D.**, **Shiraz Butt, M.D.**, Mary Crosby, and Kristin Kroeger Ptakowski. We had two summits with the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) leadership, to advance our mutual agenda of improving the treatments of children and adolescents' mental illnesses. The FDA pharma black boxes and other warnings greatly reduced the amount of treatment being given by pediatricians. I am pleased to say the AAP is supportive of the collaboration about the work force crisis.

Some of our agenda was new and some issues evolved. Our work force agenda moved forward, thanks to the Steering Committee on Workforce Issues, chaired by **Tom Anders, M.D.** and **Greg Fritz, M.D.** We worked with and on opposite sides of the FDA in an effort to address many issues of pharmacology. I am particularly grateful to **Larry Greenhill, M.D.** and **Robert Findling, M.D.** for their guidance and effective leadership. We launched a special effort to map a plan for our members and for treating children with substance abuse disorders, led in great part by **Tim Wilens, M.D.** We have continuously benefited from the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA), thanks to the leadership of Drs. Nora Volkow, Timothy Condon and Cindy Miner. **Paula Riggs, M.D.** submitted a new K-12 grant, originated six years ago by **Bennett Leventhal, M.D.** where in five years we will have trained five more of our own as researchers in substance abuse.

The Work Group on Systems of Care, chaired by **Nancy Winters, M.D.** and **Mark Chenven, M.D.**, continues to educate our members with yearly symposia on collaborations in systems of care. They also continue with the training on the CASII and in developing a new instrument to measure service intensity needs for early childhood. Our Health Care, Access and Economics Committee, chaired by **Michael Houston, M.D.**, began our collaboration with the AAP by including a pediatrician on the committee and co-wrote a letter to MBHO directors on reimbursement issues.

Members have partnered with the staff at our National Office, directed by Virginia Anthony. Six months into my presidency, I championed a 6-month sabbatical for her and I subsequently worked with Mary Crosby as Acting Executive Director. A fresher, renewed Virginia Anthony returned. (All right, I confess we talked frequently throughout her sabbatical but mostly about politics [the television show *The West Wing*].) I worked with her to maximize our benefit of these six months. I have also had a wonderful time working with others on the staff, particularly Kristin Kroeger Ptakowski, Heidi Büttner Fordi, Earl Magee and Jennifer Medicus. But I send an inclusive thank you to all of our staff for their support and direction.

People said I lucked out with a great Executive Committee. . . and I did. However, I would also like to think that one of my strengths is encouraging and allowing the best to come from my colleagues. I like participation, really using the strength and gifts of my fellow officers. **Steve Cuffe, M.D.**, Chair of the Assembly, contributed a rationality and the voice of our regional organizations; **James MacIntyre, M.D.**, our Treasurer, is always focused; **Sandra Sexson, M.D.**, Secretary, offered a perspective of decency and support for new physicians and early careers as well as launching our very important Maintenance of Certification program; and **Tom Anders, M.D.**, our new president, is committed to our important future. I also

think the Council assumed a greater level of functioning as I, along with the other officers, encouraged Council to focus on what's important and to struggle with and make the policies that will improve our chances of achieving our mission. This year the theme of the Council meeting was the "Ethics of Influence," highlighting our ongoing deliberations regarding internal and external influences on the organization's scientific meetings, publications, and agenda. **William Sexson, M.D.** led us in addressing the ethics of influence and Council agreed to move forward in order to help members be actively involved and knowledgeable on this issue.

And thanks to **Sandra Sexson, M.D.**, we have improved the functionality of our components, bettering communication and planning to meet at least biannually with all work group chairs. As President, I thought it particularly important and exciting to meet with many components. I am in awe of the work done, by volunteers and staff, who have a passion for perfecting our ability to improve

practice, treatments and expand research. Through my participation, I have worked closely with Kristin Kroeger Ptakowski, the new Deputy Executive Director and Director of Government Affairs and Clinical Practice, a very effective advocate and awesome athlete.

I assumed office during the AACAP's fiftieth year, a glorious celebration of our history led by **Norb Enzer, M.D.** I have served at an exciting time, working on the Program with **Larry Greenhill, M.D.** and **Bob Harmon, M.D.** as chairs and **Bennett Leventhal, M.D.** We began an effort to take our intellectual property to the world, led by my good friend, Past President **Dave Pruitt, M.D.** Phase II of this project will be chaired by incoming President-Elect **Bob Hendren, D.O.** And along the way, our meetings staff, directed by Heidi B. Fordi, had three babies, all the while setting many attendance records at our meetings.

We launched and then struggled with variations of our Campaign for America's Kids, and hosted a fundraiser at the Canadian Embassy under the chairmanship of **Marilyn Benoit, M.D.** and **Davis Gammon, M.D.** Council worked with them to create its next phase, chaired by **Alan Axelson, M.D.**, where we will fund many grants to expand access to treatments for children. It has been a great success with 18 initial grant applications.

I have been gratified by many achievements and decisions in the past two years. Because of my years in universities, I am personally pleased with recent efforts. In August, the Executive Committee approved funding to double the resident participation in our components, thus introducing a new generation to the opportunities of the AACAP. We also agreed to support psychiatry clubs for medical students.

It has been difficult to summarize my two years as your leader, not only because of the richness of the experience but because of the many friends and colleagues who have supported me. I wish everyone could experience this, if even for a day. Thank you, colleagues and thank you, AACAP for this very special journey.

