



IDAHO CHAPTER
American Academy of Pediatrics

NEWSLETTER

Resources

[During First Year Of Pandemic, Patient Visits, Medication Use For JIA Decreased Among Children With Commercial Insurance In The US, Study Finds](#)

[Rheumatology Advisor](#) (11/21) reports, "During the first year of the COVID-19 pandemic, patient visits for juvenile idiopathic arthritis (JIA) decreased by 10% to 12% among children with commercial insurance in the United States (US), with decreases in medication use observed according to recency of diagnosis, based on study results published in the *Journal of Clinical Rheumatology*." However, the [study](#) found "telemedicine use increased substantially during the pandemic and may have mitigated this decline."

Spotlight on an Idaho AAP Champion

Dr. Noreen Womack has been the Early Childhood Champion for the Idaho AAP for over twenty years. She is part of the AAP Council on Early Childhood, whose aim is "to relentlessly lift up infants, young children and their families in programs, practice and policy." In 2024, she plans to continue to give presentations on the importance of tracking development to statewide early childhood programs, and also continue her appointment on the Centers for Disease Control National Work Group, Learn the Signs Act Early.

Advocating for Kids

What happens when you love the technical side of medicine and the emotional draw of babies in need? You become a neonatologist. Dr. Joanna Parga-Belinkie explains why the traumas and the triumphs of her tiny patients, many of them premature babies, make neonatology the "best job." See her story in this [video](#).

See all of the We Are Pediatricians videos on the AAP YouTube playlist. [#WeArePediatricians](#)

Thanks to the neonatologists in our chapter who take care of the most fragile babies every day,

Upcoming Educational Opportunities/Meetings

Mark your calendar for our Chapter visit to the Idaho Legislature on February 22, 2024. We will meet at the Capitol Rotunda on the first floor at 8:00 am for photos. Please wear your White Coat and a stethoscope to be quickly identified in the Capitol. We will watch some committee hearings and encourage each of you to make appointments to meet with your Senator and/or Representative that morning. Sherry will also be setting up some opportunities to meet some lobbyists that we work with to learn more about their advocacy for kids during the Legislative Session. Please RSVP to idahoAAP@gmail.com, and you will receive additional details on how to prepare for your visit.

Our Winter business/awards dinner will be held that night at Cottonwood Grille at 6:00 pm. Please RSVP your attendance to idahoAAP@gmail.com.

Please consider participating in the Strengthening Families Training Institute March 27-28 at Jump. Please watch [Strengthening Families Training Institute \(idahochildrenstrustfund.org\)](http://idahochildrenstrustfund.org) for registration information.

AAP Spokesperson Training for Pediatric Immunizations

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) is recruiting Chapter Immunization Representatives (CIRs) to be a Part of the Chapter Immunizations Representatives Spokesperson ECHO (AAP CIR Spokesperson ECHO). For more information, please see the attached flyer.

Listen to Pediatrics On Call, the Podcast for Pediatricians By Pediatricians

Pediatrics On Call is a podcast on children's health from the AAP. Each episode features interviews about new research and hot topics in the field of pediatrics. Hear about the most important innovations in pediatrics, from the people who are behind them. Co-hosts – pediatricians David Hill, MD, FAAP, and Joanna Parga-Belinkie, MD, FAAP – draw on their expertise and training as physicians, as well as their many conversations with families and their experiences as parents to inform their interviews. The podcast is available on Apple Podcasts, Google, Spotify, and wherever podcasts are found. Learn more at aap.org/podcast [mailview.bulletinhealthcare.com].

Book Corner

[Understanding the NICU](#), 2nd Edition [Paperback] - What Parents of Premies and Other Hospitalized Newborns Need to Know - Meera Meerkov, MD, FAAP, Gary M. Weiner, MD, FAAP and Jeanette Zaichkin, RN, MN, NNP-BC

Welcome to our New/ Returning Idaho AAP Members

Julie Celeberti, MD
Jackary Fox, MD
Susan Kressly, MD

Katie Coleman, Med Student
Jonathan Jerkins, MD
Sean Stringham, MD