



The Council of Pediatric Subspecialties advances child health through communication and collaboration within its network of pediatric subspecialties and liaison organizations.

CoPS Activities
2013-2014 Academic Year

- CoPS continues to work toward a common match date for the pediatric subspecialties. Five subspecialties currently have their match in the spring, the remainder are in the fall. In collaboration with CoPS, the AAP Section on Medical Students, Residents and Fellow Trainees (SOMSRFT) has just distributed a survey to residents and fellows soliciting their opinion about this issue. In addition, CoPS worked with the Association of Pediatric Program Directors (APPD) to clarify the effect that a common match date would have on patient responsibilities if residents needed to interview during the same time period. At the request of CoPS, the APPD has issued a [statement](#) addressing this issue.
- CoPS was an active participant in the American Board of Pediatrics (ABP) Subspecialty Clinical Training and Certification (SCTC) Initiative. This past year, CoPS circulated the final recommendations of the Task Force and posted them on the [CoPS website](#).
- In conjunction with the Academic Pediatric Association (APA), APPD and Council on Medical Student Education in Pediatrics (COMSEP), CoPS was a co-sponsor of the Pediatric Educational Excellence Across the Continuum (PEEAC) conference held in October 2013. Members of CoPS lead sessions in this highly successful conference.
- CoPS cosigned a letter to the Office of Management and Budget advocating for funding the Pediatric Subspecialty Loan Repayment Program.
- The ACGME issued proposed changes to the Common Program Requirements modifying the criteria by which trainees can enter an ACGME accredited fellowship. CoPS disseminated this information and offered fellowship program directors the opportunity to provide comments about these changes.
- The CoPS Fellowship Readiness Action Team presented its report about how residents can be better prepared as they transition to fellowship. In collaboration with APPD, this Action Team surveyed recent graduates, fellows and fellowship and residency program directors and received over 1800 responses. Data from this project were presented at the APPD spring and PAS meetings in 2014. The recommendations of the Action Team can be found [here](#).
- CoPS took the lead for subspecialty graduate medical education in developing a strategy for adjusting the start date of fellowship training as trainees move from residency to fellowship. CoPS formed an Action Team comprised of representatives from residency and fellowship program director organizations from Pediatrics, Surgery and Internal Medicine as well as Designated Institutional Officials (DIO). Although Surgery recently decided to move their fellowship start date, CoPS continued to work APPD and the DIOs to find an acceptable solution for Pediatrics.

- CoPS sponsored two webinars, one entitled “Understanding EPAs” held in October 2013 and the other “CCCs and Milestones” conducted this past February. Both had high attendance and are available for viewing on the CoPS website.
- The Subspecialty Descriptions on the CoPS website were updated and activity in this section continues to increase. From August 1, 2012 through July 31, 2013, there were over 75,000 page views, averaging 184 views per day. This represents a 124% increase compared with the time period. At the CoPS annual meeting in October, subspecialties were provided page view data about their individual description.
- CoPS has continued its efforts to enhance its website by reorganizing material and adding new content. Activity has continually increased and exceeded 200,000 page views in the current year.
- Working with the ABP, CoPS disseminated information about Entrustable Professional Activities (EPAs) to the Pediatric Subspecialty Community. In addition to displaying [information about EPAs](#) on its website, CoPS posted drafts of both the Common and Subspecialty-Specific EPAs and solicited comments about them. CoPS continues to update the EPAs as they are modified, making the latest versions readily available. In addition, the CoPS website has [resources](#) that educators can utilize to teach faculty about EPAs, including a webinar about EPAs.
- In collaboration with the ACGME, CoPS disseminated information about the Pediatric Milestones, helping to make fellowship program directors aware of which competencies reporting of milestones will be required by the ACGME. CoPS posted information and resources about the milestones, including evaluation tools and abbreviated versions that groups have made available for sharing. In addition, CoPS held a [webinar](#) about Clinical Competency Committees and Milestones that had over 130 attendees.
- In collaboration with the ABP, APPD Fellowship Committee and APPD LEARN, CoPS is helping to lead an educational research project to examine the value of milestones in making entrustment decisions related to the Common EPAs. CoPS has been instrumental in encouraging subspecialty participation. One of the goals of this project is to develop a Pediatric Subspecialty Educational Research Network.
- As an organization, CoPS formalized the processes by which officers are elected and the transition from one role to another. One of the goals was to ensure organizational memory in the Executive Committee.



Planned Activities
2014-2015 Academic Year

CoPS organizational meetings for the remainder of this calendar year are: Executive Committee Meeting on July 10 and 11; the Annual Fall Council Meeting October 1, 2, and 3

The Council, as part of the ongoing pursuit of strategic goals and growth of the organization will address a number of issues and activities. Among these will be

- Establishing a common match date for all pediatric subspecialties
- Reviewing surveys of residents/PD's/fellowship PD's and, if indicated, helping to establish a common fellowship start date
- Advancing the concept of fellowship readiness including creation and posting of a mentoring list and suggested rotations
- Working with ABP, APPD and APPD LEARN on EPA research project
- Working with ABP to develop FAQs for Maintenance of Certification
- Collaborating with ABP on development and incorporation of EPAs
- Linking EPAs with subspecialty descriptions
- Creating Milestones educational resources and posting on website
- Discussing a new "CoPS-centric" project regarding fellowship funding
- Hosting additional webinars