

# FAPD NEWSLETTER

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## 2013-2014 FAPD EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS

- **President -  
Dr. Julie Russo**
- **Vice President -  
Dr. Eric Berry**
- **Sec./Treas. -  
Dr. Manav Malik**

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings to Everyone! I hope that 2015 is treating you well. I am honored to be the current President of the FAPD and will do my best to follow in the footsteps of the Past Presidents who have done a fabulous job with our organization.

The FAPD currently is in great shape financially and is the largest it has ever been with 279 members. This makes us one of the largest pedo organizations in the country. We are very proud to be in this position and we encourage all of you to become active in the FAPD and to motivate other non-member colleagues to join our academy.

I must say that the first few months of my Presidency have been quite busy! As many of you know, a lawsuit was filed against the state of Florida in 2005. This action was initiated by the Florida Pediatric Society, the Florida Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, and the FAPD. Plaintiffs contended that the state failed to provide children with access to medical and dental care in accordance with the Medicaid Act which states that they should have access to care which is equal to other children in the same geographical area. The plaintiffs also alleged that a number of structural, financial, and administrative barriers result in children not receiving the access to care they are entitled to under federal law. On New Years Eve, we received the news that we all have been waiting for and Judge Adalberto Jordan sided with us! He ruled that based on the fact that 79% of the children on Medicaid are getting no dental services at all, he agrees that Medicaid children in Florida are not receiving dental services with reasonable promptness. He also stated that Florida is in violation of Federal law due to the fact that their dental rates are not sufficient enough to provide equal access for Florida's children compared to the general population. Based on the evidence in this case, he concluded that while reimbursement rates are not the only factor determining whether providers participate in Medicaid, they are by far the most important factor, and that a sufficient increase in reimbursement rates will lead to a substantial increase in provider participation and a corresponding increase in access to care. In late January, a hearing was held to try to determine the remedy to be ordered. The State raised a mootness concern saying that massive changes have occurred with Medicaid and that the problems have been fixed. We all know this is untrue, and know the new managed care plans have caused even more problems. Future hearings in the case will be set for later this year. The FAPD has been working with the pediatricians and the attorneys behind the scenes for some time



**Julie Russo**  
**FAPD President**

## QUICK BITES

- ◆ Interested in the Medicaid lawsuit? Learn more - page 2
- ◆ What's going on with continuing education? Find out - page 3
- ◆ Learn about the Annual FAPD Business Meeting. Check it out - page 3

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE CONTINUED..

now. With that being said, we are proud to say that the FAPD has recently donated \$10,000 to the case to help cover some of the costs involved. We are very excited that we received the ruling that we hoped for, but we are aware that there is still much more work ahead.

On another note, in October, we have a fantastic CE course planned with Gerry Samson who will be speaking on Mixed Dentition Orthodontics. We are very fortunate to have him and I hope to see all of you in attendance. Finally, if any of you are interested in becoming more involved with the FAPD and would like to be on one of our committees please contact me at drjulie@clermontpediatricdentistry.com. We would love for you to participate! Thank you all and I look forward to working with you this year!



## MEDICAID LAWSUIT UPDATE

After years of trying, we may finally have a breakthrough with the Medicaid System in Florida!!

Last year, Governor Scott moved the Medicaid program to the private managed care companies, MCNA and Dentaquest. Unfortunately, that resulted in issues with processing claims, incorrect reporting of providers to the state and difficulties with dentists being reimbursed due to requirements for pre-authorization for standard pedo procedures. Until very recently, things did not look as if they were going to improve. However, we recently received word of a ruling on our suit against the state of Florida regarding Medicaid. After an extensive deliberation, Federal Judge Adalberto Jordan issued a 153 page opinion where he ruled in our favor!

"In discharging its responsibility to set physician reimbursement rates, AHCA (the state Agency for Health Care Administration) does not consider whether the reimbursement rates are sufficient to ensure that children on Medicaid have access to health care services equal to that of other children in the general population," Jordan wrote.

While this federal ruling is a huge victory, it is expected that the State will appeal the ruling. The FAPD has been proud to support this attempt to bring real change to the Medicaid system. Recently, the FAPD made a \$10,000 donation to help defray some of the cost of the lawsuit. The FAPD will continue to fight for all children to have access to much needed dental care.

## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



Congratulations to our very own FAPD member, Dr. Reza Ardalan of Port St. Lucie, Florida for being elected as Secretary of the Southeastern Society of Pediatric Dentistry!! Dr. Ardalan has previously served two terms as President of the FAPD and currently serves as the CE Chair and Newsletter Editor for the FAPD. After completing his term as the FAPD President, Dr. Ardalan did a three year term on the Board of Directors for the SSPD before his recent election to the SSPD Executive Committee. Dr. Ardalan will continue to move up the executive ladder and ultimately serve as SSPD President

**Dr. Reza Ardalan** following in the footsteps of several other FAPD members that have represented us at the District level. The FAPD congratulates Dr. Ardalan on his achievement and knows that he will represent our organization well. If you know of an FAPD member that should be "spotlighted," send his/her name to our editorial department at Rezaheel@aol.com.



**Dr. Ardalan and the SSPD Executive Board with AAPD President, Dr. Ed Moody**

**Just a reminder that for your convenience,  
FAPD dues are now collected along with AAPD dues.**



## FAPD ANNUAL CE COURSE

The 2014 FAPD Annual CE Course was a fantastic event! We were thrilled to have Julie Weir and Lily Cortes-Pona as the presenters for the CE Course. It was our largest event to date with over 100 dentists and team members in attendance! The meeting was a fantastic success as registrants were able to not only gain valuable affordable CE credits, but socialize with fellow dentists as well.

Plans are already in the works for an amazing 2015 meeting. We are privileged to have the world-renowned Dr. Gerry Samson presenting a Mixed Dentition Orthodontics Seminar! Those that have heard Dr. Samson in the past will tell you that he is incredibly entertaining with a wonderful way of explaining the complex mechanics of orthodontics. The FAPD Annual CE Course is continuing to grow and provide our members with outstanding CE, so mark your calendars for the 2015 FAPD Annual CE Course!



Attendees at the CE Course



Dr. Ardalan with Julie Weir and Lilly Cortes-Pona

## FAPD ANNUAL MEETING

The 2014 FAPD Annual Meeting took place during the FAPD Annual CE Course in Orlando. Members took a break from the seminar to listen to the Executive Board update us on the activities of the FAPD. Membership is strong and currently stands as our highest membership rate in years! The FAPD has also been very fiscally responsible resulting in the organization being in a very strong position financially, allowing us to provide better member benefits. Due to our financial stability, there will be no dues increase this year!

The Annual Business meeting culminated with the installation of our new Executive Board officers. Congratulations to the new Board!



Dr. White receiving a plaque from incoming President, Dr. Russo



2014-2015 FAPD Executive Board (L to R): Drs. White, Russo, Berry and Malik

# Save the Date!!

## 2015 FAPD CE Course

Saturday, October 24, 2015

Caribe Royale Hotel

Orlando, Florida

*“The Mix”*

*Mixed Dentition Orthodontics Seminar*

Gerry Samson, DDS

### Additional Dates to remember:

March 20, 2015 PedoGator CE Course - From Contemporary Minimally Invasive to Traditional Pediatric Restorative Dentistry with Dr. Kevin Donly Gainesville, FL

April 10-12, 2015 SSPD Resort Meeting Charleston, SC

March 5-6, 7-8, 2015 Sedation/ACLS Recertification Gainesville, FL

**We are on the web!!**

**[www.FAPD4Kids.org](http://www.FAPD4Kids.org)**

**FLORIDA ACADEMY OF  
PEDIATRIC DENTISTRY**

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For any questions or comments, please  
contact FAPD President Dr. Nick White at  
[drnickwhite@netscape.net](mailto:drnickwhite@netscape.net).

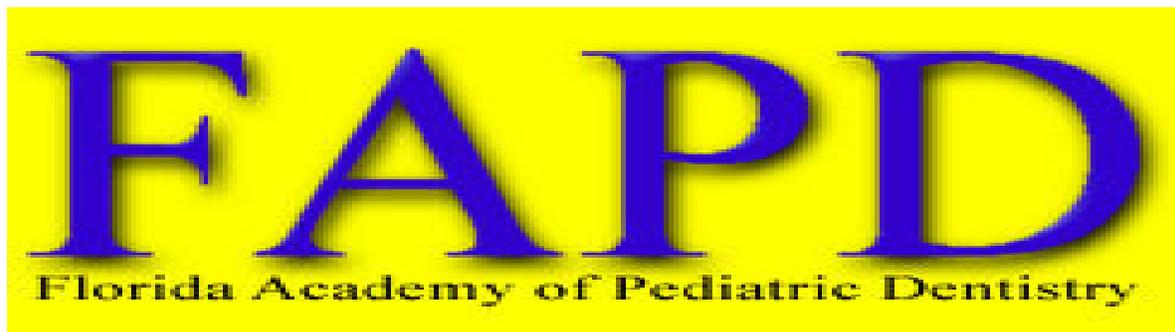
**NEXT BOD MEETING**

**May 29, 2015**

**Hilton University of Florida  
Conference Center**

1714 SW 34th Street  
Gainesville, FL 32607  
(352) 371-3600

*The mission of the FAPD is to practice the art and science of Pediatric Dentistry and promote optimal health care for infants, children, and persons with special health care needs. The FAPD advocates professional development and continued education of the health professions and remains a liaison to other health caregivers and the public.*



## Editor's Corner - Reza Ardalan, DMD

“Why should I care?” I take pride in going to as many continuation education courses as I can. I enjoy them not only for the educational component, but also for the camaraderie with my colleagues. Recently, I have made it a point to interact more with the pediatric residents and recent grads. I am happy to say that the new pediatric dentists are an incredibly bright and energetic group that have the potential to make a tremendous impact on our profession. Sadly, when I talk about organized dentistry, I often hear, “Why should I care?” I spend a lot of time talking to them about member benefits and the opportunity to interact with people that will become friends for years to come. While all of this is true, at its core, it's just the right thing to do! The number of pediatric dentists entering the workforce is doubling. We finally can have strength in numbers and make real changes to benefit our profession and our patients. So think about getting involved and the next time you see a new dentist or resident.....invite them to a meeting!!