Congratulations to the PA AAP’s 2023 Pediatrician of the Year and DEI Champion!

Pediatrician of the Year
Dr. Debra Bogen, MD, FAAP

The Pennsylvania Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics (PA AAP) is pleased to announce that Acting Secretary of Health Dr. Debra L. Bogen, MD, FAAP has been named “2023 Pediatrician of the Year.” This honor is selected through a detailed vetting process based on peer nominations and is awarded to a Pennsylvania pediatrician who exemplifies the ideals of the pediatric profession and participates in activities that reflect the mission and values of the Chapter.

Dr. Bogen’s career is remarkable, having spent more than two decades as a member of the Pittsburgh region’s medical and research community. She held a primary academic appointment as Professor of Pediatrics at the University of Pittsburgh, and secondary appointments in psychiatry and clinical translational science. Dr. Bogen also served as Vice Chair of Education for the Department of Pediatrics at UPMC Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh. While serving in leadership roles, Dr. Bogen remained dedicated as a primary care provider, regularly going above and beyond to support her patients and families, sharing her cell phone number or making house calls to assist new mothers in establishing breastfeeding. She often sought additional ways to improve the health of children beyond the clinic walls, such as helping to establish the MidAtlantic Mothers’ Milk Bank which provides safe human milk to babies in need, or by serving as the PA AAP’s Medical Advisor for breastfeeding initiatives for the last 15 years.

Dr. Bogen has been identified as a superstar among pediatricians, not only for taking care of her patients in clinic, but also for her broader community-facing efforts, research investigation, educational and training initiatives, and by accepting leadership roles that have improved children’s health and well-being beyond the practice walls.

In an effort to strengthen her impact at the community level, Dr. Bogen took on the position of Director of the Allegheny County Health Department in 2020, at the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. She jumped into this new leadership role two months earlier than planned and provided skillful leadership and public health advocacy, becoming the trusted face of the region’s pandemic response. She and her staff stayed on top of the pandemic and provided
consistent, measured and common-sense information to the public while working closely with many stakeholders in the county. Her extraordinary efforts during this time were recognized by leaders in the Commonwealth, including Governor Shapiro, who recently appointed Dr. Bogen to serve as Pennsylvania’s Secretary of Health.

“Dr. Debra Bogen has been a long-standing advocate for children’s health,” said Dr. Mary Ann Rigas, MD, FAAP, President of the Pennsylvania Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics. Rigas continued, "She represents the ideals of pediatric-care and power of the pediatrician to influence the health and safety of children, families and Pennsylvania residents of any age.”

**DEI Champion**

**Dr. Elizabeth Miller, MD, PhD, PHASM, FAAP**

The Pennsylvania Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics (PA AAP) is pleased to announce that Dr. Elizabeth Miller, MD, PhD, FHASM, FAAP has been selected as the inaugural recipient of the Diversity Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Champion Award. The DEI Champion Award was established to recognize an individual who champions diversity, equity and inclusion in the field of pediatric health care in the state of Pennsylvania.

Dr. Miller is professor of pediatrics, public health, and clinical and translational science and holds the Edmund R. McCluskey Chair in Pediatric Medical Education at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine. She is also Director of the Division of Adolescent and Young Adult Medicine and the Medical Director of Community and Population Health. She serves as the Academic Co-Director of Community PARTners (the community engagement core) for the Clinical and Translational Science Institute. Trained in internal medicine, pediatrics and medical anthropology, Dr. Miller has over 20 years of practice and community-partnered research experience in addressing interpersonal violence prevention among adolescents and young adults in clinical and community settings. With diverse funding from National Institutes of Health, National Institute of Justice, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Office on Women’s Health, and Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Programs, she has developed and tested clinical and community-based interventions in collaboration with youth, patients, health care providers, victim service advocates, public health administrators, educators, and school administrators.

Some of Dr. Miller’s extensive accomplishments includes working with the city of Pittsburgh to create the 412 Youth Zone, the city’s first ever one-step shop medical home for unstably housed youth; serving as Medical Director of the Ronald McDonald House Charities Care Mobile, providing outreach and care to pediatric patients of all ages; and the founding of the
Gender and Sexual Development Program at UPMC Children’s Hospital, where she worked tirelessly to bring together best practices to address the unique needs of our gender diverse youth.

"Dr. Miller truly stands out for her exceptional contributions to DEI efforts in pediatric medicine," said Dr. Mary Ann Rigas, MD, FAAP, President of the Pennsylvania Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics (PA AAP.) Rigas continued, "We are so pleased to recognize her outstanding efforts to advance child health equity through her clinical practice, research, advocacy and community service."