

Remembering Our Why: Strategic Advocacy in Challenging Times

SPEAKER

Mark Del Monte, JD, CEO/Executive Vice President

American Academy of Pediatrics

COURSE DESCRIPTION

In this pivotal moment for child health, pediatrics is being called to reaffirm its purpose and leadership role on the national stage. In this presentation, Mark Del Monte, CEO of the American Academy of Pediatrics, reflects on the Academy's origins and enduring commitment to advocacy as a professional responsibility. Mark will examine the federal policy challenges affecting children, families and pediatric practice, and how the AAP has strategically adapted its advocacy to meet an increasingly complex environment. Featuring real-world examples — including efforts to strengthen vaccine confidence amid rising misinformation — this session highlights the power of pediatricians' collective voice and renews the imperative to advocate boldly for children.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

By the end of this talk, participants will be able to:

- Summarize the origins of the American Academy of Pediatrics and why advocating for children remains central to the Academy's identity.
- Identify the key federal issues affecting children, families and pediatricians and how the AAP has adjusted its advocacy approach to meet the challenging, complex environment.
- Describe the innovative ways the AAP and its members are working to protect access and build confidence in vaccines in the face of growing skepticism and misinformation.



Mark Del Monte, JD, serves as the CEO/Executive Vice President of the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP). Previously he served as the AAP's Chief Deputy and Senior Vice President for Advocacy and External Affairs. Before joining the AAP's Washington, DC office in 2005, Mark served as Director of Policy and Government Affairs for the AIDS Alliance for Children, Youth & Families, a national organization advocating for children and families with HIV/AIDS. Mark began his career working as a lawyer in his home state of

California, providing direct legal services to low-income children and families affected by HIV. Mark holds a law degree from the University of California, Berkeley and a bachelor's degree in economics from Gonzaga University.

The Santa Barbara County Consortium for Continuing Medical Education is accredited by the California Medical Association (CMA) to provide continuing medical education for physicians.

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PEDIATRIC GRAND ROUNDS

Ron Werft Amphitheater
and via Zoom

(Please attend in person, if you are able.)

Friday, May 8, 2026

7:30 – 8:30 a.m.

JOIN US

Register in advance for this meeting so that we know how you will be attending:

cottagehealth.org/pedsgr

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining.

QUESTIONS

Contact Tamara Norton at

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or Katherine del Valle-Mackie at

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Disclosures: The planners and speaker for this educational activity have stated that they have no relationships with ineligible companies.

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