

A New Chapter, A Shared Purpose

**A Message from Incoming AAP California Chapter 2 President
Mitchell R. Goldstein, MD, MBA, CML, FAAP**

Dear Chapter 2 Colleagues,

It is both a tremendous honor and a genuine privilege to begin serving as President of the American Academy of Pediatrics California Chapter 2. I am grateful for the confidence you have placed in me, and I look forward to working alongside each of you as we continue our shared commitment to improving the health and well-being of children and families throughout Southern California.

Before looking ahead, I want to thank our outgoing president, Melissa Ruiz, MD, MPH, FAAP, and the many volunteer leaders who have devoted their time and talents to our Chapter. Their leadership has strengthened our organization, expanded opportunities for members, and ensured that Chapter 2 remains a respected voice for children, families, and pediatricians. I am fortunate to build upon such a strong foundation.

Like many of you, my career has been shaped by extraordinary mentors, dedicated colleagues, and, most importantly, the children and families who have entrusted me with their care. As a neonatologist, I have spent decades working with critically ill newborns and their families during some of the most challenging moments of their lives. Those experiences have continually reminded me that medicine is about far more than diagnoses and treatments—it is about listening, compassion, partnership, and advocacy.

Those same principles will guide my presidency.

We are practicing pediatrics during a period of remarkable change. Our profession faces workforce shortages, increasing administrative demands, evolving reimbursement models, growing behavioral and mental health needs, and continuing challenges related to healthcare access. At the same time, scientific advances, new technologies, and innovations such as artificial intelligence are creating opportunities that previous generations of pediatricians could scarcely have imagined.

These challenges are real, but so are the opportunities.

Every day I am inspired by the work of pediatricians across our Chapter. Whether you practice in a community office, an academic medical center, a children's hospital, a school-based clinic, or a rural health setting, your commitment to children makes an extraordinary difference. Our collective expertise is one of the greatest strengths of Chapter 2.

As your president, my goal is simple: to ensure that our Chapter continues to provide meaningful value for every member while remaining a powerful advocate for every child.

That begins with listening.

Over the coming months, I hope to meet with pediatricians from every part of our Chapter to better understand the issues affecting your practices, your patients, and your professional lives. Every practice is unique, but many of our challenges are shared. By listening carefully and working collaboratively, we can identify practical solutions and strengthen our voice as pediatricians.

Several priorities will guide our work together.

Advocating for Children

The American Academy of Pediatrics has long been the nation's leading advocate for children's health, and Chapter 2 will continue that tradition. We will advocate for policies that improve access to care, strengthen Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program services, promote immunization, address the pediatric mental health crisis, and support programs that improve the lives of children and families. Our patients deserve nothing less.

Supporting Pediatricians

Our members are the heart of this organization. Whether you are a resident beginning your career, an early-career pediatrician establishing your practice, or a seasoned physician with decades of experience, Chapter 2 should be a professional home where you feel connected, supported, and valued. Expanding mentorship, leadership development, continuing education, and networking opportunities will remain important priorities.

Promoting Physician Well-Being

We cannot care for children if we fail to care for one another. Burnout, moral distress, and administrative burdens continue to affect pediatricians across every practice setting. Supporting physician wellness is not simply about resilience; it is about creating sustainable systems that allow pediatricians to thrive while providing exceptional care. Ensuring equitable remuneration is part of creating these sustainable systems.

Preparing for the Future

Medicine is evolving rapidly. Artificial intelligence, digital health technologies, precision medicine, and data-driven quality improvement will increasingly influence pediatric practice. Our Chapter has an opportunity to help members understand these changes, evaluate new technologies thoughtfully, and ensure that innovation enhances—not replaces—the human relationships that define our profession.

Throughout my career, I have learned that the strongest organizations are built through collaboration rather than individual achievement. Chapter 2's success depends not on its president, but on the commitment, creativity, and generosity of its members.

That is why I encourage you to become involved.

Serve on a committee. Attend educational programs. Mentor a trainee. Participate in advocacy efforts. Share your ideas. Introduce yourself to someone you have not yet met at our next Chapter meeting. Small acts of engagement strengthen our community and help shape the future of pediatrics in California.

One of the greatest privileges of serving within the AAP is the opportunity to learn from colleagues whose experiences differ from our own. Together, we represent every corner of pediatric practice, bringing diverse perspectives that ultimately make us stronger advocates for children.

As we begin this new term together, I am excited about what lies ahead. I believe our best work is still before us. By listening to one another, embracing innovation responsibly, supporting our colleagues, and keeping children at the center of every decision, we will continue to build a Chapter that reflects the very best of our profession.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve. I look forward to meeting many of you in the coming months, hearing your ideas, and working together to advance the health of every child and adolescent in the communities we serve.

Together, we can make an even greater difference.

Warm regards,

Mitchell R. Goldstein, MD, MBA, CML, FAAP

President

American Academy of Pediatrics California Chapter 2