

Early Career Pediatricians Finding Their Home within the AAP

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I remember when I attended my first AAP National Conference and Exhibition (NCE) as a second-year medical student. I cannot believe that was a decade ago. At this recent 2022 AAP NCE in Anaheim, CA, I joined the Section on Early Career Physicians (SOECP) Executive Council as the District IX Representative. The SOECP celebrated its 20-year anniversary with a special reception on the balcony of the convention center.

I look forward to every NCE as a return to my pediatrics home. I get to catch up with a special circle of friends whom I have made over the years, especially past members of the Section on Pediatric Trainees (SOPT). The AAP has also

connected me with mentors both locally and nationally, especially through the Young Physicians Leadership Alliance (YPLA). At this recent NCE, we celebrated together the recent 2020 and 2021 graduates of the YPLA and look forward to a new leadership program to be announced.

Every NCE has been an opportunity to reconnect and recharge. I get to surround myself with amazing pediatricians, dedicated to the mission of the AAP and to the advancement of child health. I leave the NCE energized and even more inspired and motivated to do the work for children and their families. Each NCE ushers in a new cohort of leaders within the SOPT and SOECP. To pediatric trainees and early career pediatricians in District IX / California, please consider connecting with your local representatives and becoming a part of this AAP family. There are leadership positions still open too!



Christine Thang, MD, FAAP is an Assistant Clinical Professor in the Division of General Pediatrics at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA. Dr. Thang is the District IX (California) Representative to the AAP Section on Early Career Physicians (SOECP). The SOECP is the home for AAP members within 10 years out from training. Its mission is to support its members achieve a successful and fulfilling start to their chosen career path and build a strong foundation for their career that optimizes clinical care, advocacy for children and child health, and leadership within the AAP, the profession of pediatrics, and communities at large.