

## AAP CA-2 2022 Symposium Highlights

By Niru Madduri, MD, FAAP

After two years of virtual meetings, conferences, and gatherings, a hybrid AAP symposium offered us an opportunity to attend in person as others participated on Zoom. The Luskin Conference Center at UCLA was a beautiful and convenient venue, accommodating to the technological needs which arose in the last two years. Each of the highly experienced and knowledgeable speakers shared experiences from a variety of clinically and socially relevant perspectives, giving us insight into situations we may encounter in our daily practices.



AAP-CA2 president, Damodara Rajasekhar, MD, FAAP at UCLA Luskin Conference Center for the opening of the 33rd Annual Advances in Pediatric Symposium. With COVID restrictions still in effect, only one person per six-foot table was allowed.

Drs. Nava Yaganeh (S. Michael Marcy Memorial Lecture) and Smita Malhotra lead the impressive group of speakers as they shared their experiences with COVID-19 and the impact on schools, students, themselves, as well as the current hope vaccinations have brought us for the past year.



Nava Yeganeh, MD, MPH



Smita Malhotra, MD, FAAP

After reminiscing on the stresses of the past two years, Dr. Margaret Mou provided us strategies for coping with our own compassion fatigue and guided us in a wonderful, soothing

meditation. As we journeyed through wellness, Dr. Reshma Shah visited from the Bay Area and discussed plant-based nutrition and the positive effect not only on our patients' health, but also on our own.



**Margaret Mou, DO, MEd, FAAP**



**Reshma Shah, MD, MPH**

Dr. Anisa Ibrahim traveled from Seattle and conveyed her personal and professional journey working with children and families who have migrated as refugees to the United States. She provided several components of care, which are necessary to assure our patients receive the proper trauma-informed and compassionate healthcare that is deserved. We also heard many encouraging initiatives being introduced by our state government to combat the mental health crisis arising for many of the patients for whom we care by Dr. Katrina Van Groningen, our chapter's legislative and policy analyst.



**Karinne Van Groningen, MD, MPH**  
AAP-CA2 Legislative & Policy Analyst



**Anisa Ibrahim, MD, FAAP**

Our commitment to providing compassionate care to our children includes reducing implicit bias within healthcare, and Dr. Lindsey Wells showed us many areas we can conquer and provided a blueprint to utilize. Dr. Meeryo Choe educated us on autonomic dysfunction and

postural orthostatic tachycardia syndrome, illuminating this topic and providing many interesting points to utilize when caring for our patients. Finally, Dr. James Thomason, a second-year pediatric resident at Harbor-UCLA, presented his award-winning quality improvement project sharing his experience creating a video with discharge instructions for parents after giving birth to a new baby.



Lindsay Wells, MD, FAAP  
Chair, AAP-CA2 Equity, Diversity & Inclusion



Meeryo Choe, MD



James Thomason, DO

One of the main highlights of this year's symposium was the President's Panel, as two former national AAP Presidents and our current AAP President-elect are all from our chapter. Dr. Carol Berkowitz, Dr. Colleen Kraft, and Dr. Moira Szilagyi impressed the audience with their wisdom, compassion, perseverance, and dedication to children health and pediatricians. Personally, being able to attend a symposium in person was a fantastic opportunity to be fully present and absorb every speaker's brilliance and charisma as we learned new skills to implement in our everyday pediatric practices.



Alice Kuo, MD, PhD, MBA, FAAP  
AAP-CA2 Past President 2018-2020

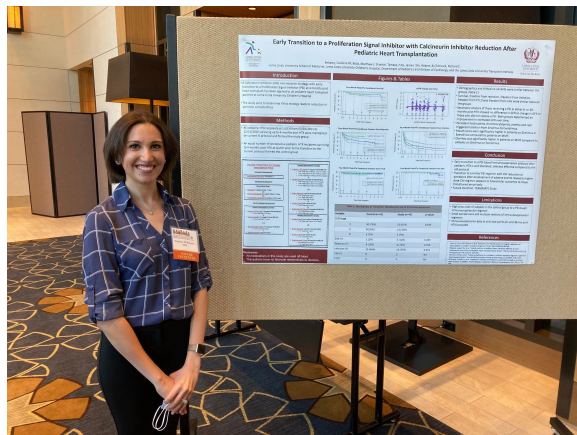
Carol Berkowitz, MD, FAAP  
AAP President, 2005

Colleen Kraft, MD, FAAP  
AAP President, 2018

Moira Szilagyi, MD, FAAP  
AAP President, 2022



AAP Past Presidents with poster presenter  
Divya Patel, MD



Poster presenter, Caroline M. Bebawy, MS4

### **2022 AAP-CA2 Research Awards**

(From left) AAP-CA2 Newsletter Editorial Board member, Sarah Gustafson, MD, FAAP presents the certificates to the winner of the oral presenter category, James Thomason, DO from Harbor-UCLA Medical Center, and to poster presenter Caroline M. Bebawy, MS4 from Loma Linda University. Poster presenter awardees not pictured below include Juhee Agrawal from UCLA, and Divya Patel, MD from CHLA.

