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Presidents Column: Local, Regional, National and Global Advocacy!

By Neel Patel MD, FAAP

Our chapter is truly an entry point into the world of advocacy. Think of this work as a journey—one in which you can dip your toes or dive deeply into an area you are passionate about. Here are just a few ways to get involved:

Local:

Advocate within your community with a letter of endorsement from AAP-CA1. Please reach out to your Area Director or any chapter leader to begin the process.



Regional:

Join a committee or become more engaged with our chapter by serving on our leadership team. There are so many meaningful ways to participate. Another wonderful opportunity is to share your passion and expertise by sponsoring or leading a Chapter Chat to engage pediatricians across our region. If this interests you, please contact a committee chair, Area Director, or any member of chapter leadership.

National:

There are countless opportunities to connect directly with national AAP leadership, and many of you already do. If you join national sections or initiatives, please remember to keep our chapter informed—and continue to participate locally as well!

Global:

Many in our chapter are involved in caring for children across the world. If you participate in global health work, please share your experiences and the extraordinary impact you make. These stories remind us of the profound power we have to care for children everywhere.

Last month, I had the opportunity to participate in a maternal-child health mission trip to Guatemala, joining the dynamic work at *Hospital de la Familia* in Nuevo Progreso. Organizations like this are always looking for clinicians to join their missions. The trip was an incredible chance to reset, recenter, and be reminded that children—regardless of where they live or what is happening in the world—benefit deeply from the care we are able to provide. With humility and strength, we move forward together.

Please encourage your colleagues to join our chapter! Here is the link to join and feel free to share: [AAP California Chapter 1 Membership](#).



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