

Dear SIG chairs,

It smells like spring on a 70 degree day even here in New Hampshire where I was quite literally skiing in a foot of new snow just two weeks ago. But with the spring holidays and school breaks complete, things are in full swing to begin our annual meeting in San Francisco in less than two weeks.

This update includes:

1. The SIG chair lunch and new SIG co-chair session at PAS
2. The new APA strategic plan and SIGs at the membership meeting
3. Nominations for the APA Board

1. At PAS, we invite all the SIG chairs to the Monday SIG chair lunch. This is a way to thank you for your service to the APA, but also to share perspectives. As you should already know, we will be meeting from 11:30 to 1:00 on Monday in the Yerba Buena 10-11 room at the Marriott. Those of you completing a term are welcome, as are the new incoming SIG chairs, for whom this first lunch is a terrific way for others to get to know them. If you have a new co-chair for your SIG, please reach out and let him or her know about the lunch, and that it is especially important to attend in one's first year.

Preceding the lunch at 11am, there is an orientation for new SIG co-chairs, so please have any new SIG co-chairs that have already been identified, or those who are chosen in the first few days of the meeting attend this important information session. If you have a new co-chair already identified, please send an email to Laura Turner to have these new leaders added to our new database.

At lunch, we will have a visit from our APA president Dr. Mary Ottolini, and from Dr. Judy Shaw, the APA secretary who is our liaison to the PAS for meeting planning-- she sits on the program committee. The timeline for SIG planning was quite different this year, and all of you were terrific in adapting to this. The processes for getting rejected abstracts and workshops to you in an organized and timely manner had some new challenges this year, so that will be a good topic to discuss. We will also be reviewing the membership survey conducted last fall, so that you will know what members would like to see more of in SIG activities. I will facilitate this part along with Dr. Tumaini Coker, membership chair. We hope to discuss SIG session planning and its support from the central APA office, as well as successful or ideas for novel networking activities at your SIG sessions. Other new ideas for SIGs we plan to talk about are roles in SIGs for senior APA members, and SIGs that may be interested in showcasing educational innovations in their interest area.

2. Members of the Board will also be visiting all of the region breakfasts on Monday morning to discuss the new APA strategic plan, so please plan on attending your region breakfast on Monday morning, and also the membership meeting from 3:45 to 5:45 on Sunday afternoon. To familiarize yourself with the new strategic plan ahead of time, please see this link: [http://www.academicpeds.org/aboutUs/strategic\\_plan.cfm](http://www.academicpeds.org/aboutUs/strategic_plan.cfm)

3. This year the call for nominations for new Board positions has been announced, but is open until after the PAS meeting. These are due on May 15th. So, please use the time at PAS to find out more about being on the board if you are interested, or to encourage or nominate colleagues to run for these positions. Nominations are open for President-elect, Workshop Chair, Research Committee Chair, and 2 nominating committee positions. Please see [Call for nominations: http://www.academicpeds.org/index.cfm](http://www.academicpeds.org/index.cfm) for more details.

I am looking forward to seeing all of you soon.

Sincerely,

Alison Volpe Holmes, MD, MPH

APA Chair of Regions and SIGs

Vice-chair of Pediatrics for Education

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