

California Chapter 2

INCORPORATED IN CALIFORNIA

American Academy of Pediatrics

DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN[®]



2022 - 2024 Chapter Election Slate of Officers

Voting starts May 16th. Visit the election website: <http://aapca2.org/election/>

It is time for our 2022-2024 Chapter Board Election. The AAP-CA2 executive board is composed of 4 officers: president, vice president, secretary, and treasurer. The AAP-CA2 executive board is joined by appointed area representatives from our various counties, and members-at-large to form the AAP-CA2 Board of Directors. Both the president and vice president must be a Fellow or Specialty Fellow of the American Academy of Pediatrics. During the two-year term, the vice president also serves as the president-elect, becoming the Chapter President the following term. Our 2022-24 incoming President is Grant Christman, MD, FAAP.

Voting will begin on Monday, May 16th. You will receive the Ballot electronically via email. Voting will close on Tuesday, May 31, 2022 at 11:59 PM. Results will be announced via the June edition of the AAP-CA2 e-Newsletter. Assumption of duties by newly elected officers will commence on July 1st.

Thank you for your dedication to children, and the people who care for and about them.

Sincerely,

AAP-CA2 Nominating Committee (Past presidents)

Alice Kuo, MD, PhD, MBA, FAAP (2018-20) | Edward Curry, MD, FAAP (2016-18) |
Paula Whiteman, MD, FACEP, FAAP (2014-16)

The Nominating Committee is pleased to present the slate of officers for your consideration. All candidates are listed alphabetically.

Candidates for Vice President/President-Elect (Please select one)

Cori Cross, MD, FAAP | Melissa Ruiz, MD, FAAP

Cori Cross, MD, FAAP



Dr. Cori Cross is a board-certified pediatrician and has been serving the LA community since her residency at Children's Hospital Los Angeles (CHLA) in 2004. She has been an active member of California Chapter2 (CA-2) for over 10 years, both as Treasurer and a Member-at-Large. In addition, she is an AAP spokesperson and uses these platforms to advocate for children and educate the public on pediatric and public health issues. [Read full bio](#)
[Watch the Video](#)

Melissa Ruiz, MD, FAAP



Hello my name is Melissa Ruiz and I am honored to have been nominated to run for vice president of AAP California Chapter 2. I'm a community pediatrician in a federally qualified health Center in Ventura that serves as a medical home for children with complex medical conditions. In addition I have a special interest in children in foster care and children with special needs because I am both a foster parent and a parent of a child with Down syndrome. [Read full Bio](#) [Watch the Video](#)

Candidates for Treasurer

(Please select one)

Mitchell Goldstein, MD, FAAP | Akhil Sharma, MD, FAAP

Mitchell Goldstein, MD, FAAP



[Watch the Video](#)

Dr. Goldstein attended the University of Miami's Honor Program in Medical Education, completed his pediatric residency at the University of California, Los Angeles, and Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine fellowship at the University of California, Irvine. Dr. Goldstein is board certified in Pediatrics and Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine. He is a Professor of Pediatrics at Loma Linda University Children's Hospital.

Dr. Goldstein is Editor-in-Chief of Neonatology Today and Medical Director of the National Coalition for Infant Health. He is also the immediate past chair National

Chair of the AAP Section on Advances in Therapeutics & Technology (SOATT) and past president of the National Perinatal Association (NPA).

Dr. Goldstein's most important trait is his tireless devotion to patient access issues, and he has been a vocal advocate for "right" sizing technology. When his hospital and many others nationwide could not purchase medical devices vital to patient care, Dr. Goldstein wrote senators and congressmen. He testified in front of a United States Senate Sub-Committee of the Judiciary regarding the practices of the Group Purchasing Organizations and the restriction of access to vital medical devices and pharmaceuticals. The story of Dr. Goldstein's vigilance, success in modifying these practices, and improvement in patient care made the front page of the New York Times.

Dr. Goldstein advocates for an improvement in the physician-industry relationship as crucial in providing exceptional care. He supports transparency, dialog, and better engagement with industry as a means of ensuring that the most advanced pharmaceuticals and medical devices are developed for our most at-risk pediatric patients.

Akhil Sharma, MD, FAAP



[Watch the Video](#)

My name is Akhil Sharma. I am a Pediatrician in private practice and co-owner of Radiant Pediatrics LLC. After completing my medical school and pediatric training in India, I did my residency in the US at St Luke's/ Roosevelt Hospital in New York City.

I moved to Victorville in 2001 and started private practice along with my wife and partner Aparna Sharma, and have grown it into a successful enterprise with 3 current locations, and growing. I am a member of the SBCMS, currently on staff at 3 local community hospitals, recently been the Department chair at Victor Valley Global Medical Center, and also on teaching faculty at California University of Science and Medicine in Colton.

Our practice has consistently been one of the top performers in quality measures in the Inland Empire for the past decade. I believe that providing quality care and guidance to a young family today will lead to a better future for the young adults of tomorrow!

Candidates for Secretary **(Please select one)**

Cindy Baker, MD, FAAP | Kimberly Petko, MD, MPH, FAAP

Cindy Baker, MD, FAAP



[Watch the Video](#)

My name is Cindy Baker. I am a general pediatrician with Kaiser Permanente Los Angeles, where I have spent my whole career. I practice general ambulatory pediatrics, have a large practice, including many grandpatients, and teach residents and medical students. I have served as Associate Residency program director, am departmental CME chair and on our Symposium committee, and am involved in our multidisciplinary Vascular Birthmark Clinic among other roles and responsibilities.

Born in Philadelphia, I attended the University of Pennsylvania for college and medical school. I came to CHLA for my residency and Chief residency, then joined Kaiser Permanente where I have spent my career.

I joined AAP as a resident but never really got involved with the Chapter until I was asked to run for member-at-large. I am now finishing my sixth term on the board. I served on the national COPAM (Committee on Practice and Ambulatory Medicine) from 2012-2018, which was a difficult but rewarding experience. I learned so much about National AAP and was able to contribute and be involved in multiple publications. It was a great experience and honor. I have met so many wonderful, dedicated pediatricians in this Chapter. We have survived many crises, including this last 2 years with Covid. AAP has been another home for me.

I have a lot of institutional memory for this Chapter. I have watched new pediatricians come in who are talented, dedicated and passionate about many issues that affect children; advocacy, immigrant health, climate change and mental health, independent practice, residency training, and other issues that are in crisis and so important for our patients and families. I am ready to serve and work with a team that is motivated and eager to move us forward. I see our Chapter continuing to accomplish great things in many areas of pediatric care. Our diverse chapter represents our diverse population. We need to continue to look at workforce issues, burnout, resilience, wellness, and support all of our colleagues. The more dedicated pediatricians we have in our chapter, the more we can accomplish.

Kimberly Petko, MD, MPH, FAAP



[Watch the Video](#)

Hi, I'm Kimberly Petko and I'm running for Secretary of the AAP-CA2. Thank you for the opportunity to introduce myself. I'm a pediatric hospitalist at Children's Hospital Los Angeles and an assistant professor at USC Keck School of Medicine. I am the Director of my institution's Advocacy Collaborative and a Health Policy Scholar through the Academic Pediatric Association. Prior to medicine, I trained and worked in public health. I have experience in pandemic response and vaccine distribution as well as evaluating health care services delivery.

In addition to my clinical work, I am deeply invested in advocacy. I've brought this passion to the AAP-CA2 during

my last 2 years serving as a Member-At-Large. In this role, I have increased trainee engagement with the chapter. I facilitated a social media campaign regarding educational disparities and legislative priorities. I also connected our Immigrant Health Task Force with a community-based organization and coordinated a training session for our members. I also participate in the California Advocacy Collaborative and represent our chapter during the advocacy training sessions for residents across the state. I've met many of you at the AAP Legislative Conference or during other AAP legislative advocacy activities. I look forward to working with our chapter's Policy and Legislative Analyst to increase our local engagement, share advocacy opportunities with our members, and strengthen our community partnerships.

If elected as secretary, I hope to continue building our local advocacy efforts, increase member engagement, and strengthen trainee involvement with the chapter. I believe that our AAP chapter has room to grow its advocacy efforts and I look forward to partnering with our members to advance health equity through advocacy. Your voice matters. I hope you vote and continue your involvement with the AAP-CA2. I humbly ask for your consideration as I run for Secretary. Thank you!

Members At Large

(Non-elected positions)

Lingie Chiu, MD, MBA, FAAP, DipABLM



Dr. Lingie Chiu is a Pediatric Hospitalist and Lifestyle Medicine Physician. She is actively serving the California Central Coast and has been joyfully involved with the AAP since 2004.

Dr Chiu completed her Combined Internal Medicine/Pediatrics Internship at St Vincent's Catholic Medical Center Manhattan and then Categorical Pediatrics PGY 2 & PGY 3 at University of Florida Shands Children's Hospital in Gainesville. She additionally completed an Adolescent Fellowship Clinical Year at UT Houston and Executive MBA at University of Hawaii

Manoa.

Special interests: International Medicine/Global Health/SGUSOM 20th Reunion Chair, Advocacy/Legislative Conference/Hawaii Children's Action Network Board of Director, Neonatal Resuscitation Teaching/SILM, Mindfulness/Physician Wellness/Core Power Yoga Teacher Certified/Lifestyle Medicine Board Certified, Hula/Tahitian/Salsa Dance,

Basketball/SUP/Empowering SheHeroes/Egg Cryopreservation (Reproductive Endocrinology), Advancing Communication Excellence Physicians/Diversity Equity Inclusion, First Prez Ko'olau HeBrews Barista/GenXCommunity Building

Kamaal Jones, MD, FAAP



Dr. Kamaal Jones is a pediatrician and currently serves as the Interim Medical Director at Los Angeles County's High Desert Regional Medical Center HUB/Scan clinic, where he cares for children involved in the foster care and child welfare system. Dr. Jones is an active member of the AAP-CA2 Advocacy Committee and serves as a Medical Justice in Advocacy Fellow through the American Medical Association and Satcher Health Leadership Institute. After his undergraduate studies at Cornell University, Kamaal completed 1,700 hours of health equity service work with Community HealthCorps. Dr. Jones attended medical school at Loyola University Chicago, where he served as the chair of the Health Disparities Committee and helped to facilitate a support group for teenage survivors of gunshot violence. Kamaal completed his residency training in pediatrics at Stanford University, where he served as co-chair for the Stanford Pediatrics Advocacy Council, was a graduate of the Leadership Education in Advancing Diversity program and was a scholar in the Stanford Community Engagement and Advocacy Research Track, through which he studied the impact of a support group for children of incarcerated parents. Dr. Jones envisions a day in which all children, regardless of the conditions that they are born into, can be safe, healthy, happy, and free, and has dedicated his time in pursuit of this effort.

Ilona Kleiner, MD, FAAP



My name is Ilona Kleiner. I am the managing partner at Pediatric Associates Medical Group, Inc. in Sherman Oaks, CA. I have been in private practice for over 20 years. I grew up in the greater Los Angeles area. I earned her undergraduate degree at UCLA, where she graduated *magna cum laude* and simultaneously received her Bachelor's degree in Biology and her Master's degree in Immunology. I then attended The David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA. I went on to do her internship and residency in Pediatrics at Cedars Sinai Medical Center.

After completing my residency in 2002, I joined Pediatric Associates Medical Group. I enjoy providing guidance and support to parents as they navigate their children's many different stages of development. I enjoy working with children of all ages and cultivating interpersonal relations with her patients and families. I

practice an evidence based approach to medical care and emphasize the importance of preventative care and parental education.

I have been on several school committees to establish COVID-19 protocols. I am currently the physician liaison for the San Fernando Valley for the Care Network at CHLA. I support independent practices and hope to help them thrive.

When I am not working, I enjoy spending time outdoors and trying new recipes, as well as spending time with my husband and daughter, Iliana.

Mia M. Lagunda, MD, FAAP



I am a pediatrician at Clinica Sierra Vista and practicing in Bakersfield, California. I also serve as medical director for pediatrics for the organization. Clinica Sierra Vista is a Federally Qualified Health Center serving primary medical, Obstetric, Dental, Optometric and Behavioral needs of Fresno and Kern County.

I graduated from the University of the East College of Medicine in the Philippines. I finished my residency at Wake Forest Pediatric residency program in 1997.

My interest is mainly general pediatrics and preventive care. My hope is to be able to continue to work with the underserved population and provide better access to medical care.

I am married to Dr. Jose Lagunda who is also a pediatrician. I have 3 children. I like to travel around California with my family during weekends and play tennis with my friends when I am not working.

Nirupama Madduri, MD, FAAP



My name is Nirupama (Niru) Madduri. I am a pediatrician in a solo private practice in Arcadia, California. I have been in pediatrics for 16.5 years, and I have been in private practice for six years. Prior to that, I worked in academia, in developmental-behavioral pediatrics. I have been faculty at Baylor College of Medicine, Vanderbilt University School of Medicine, and Children's Hospital Los Angeles.

Developmental behavioral pediatrics is highly rewarding to me, and I have the opportunity to continue much of the same work in my current clinic. I focused on children who have Down syndrome, Fragile X syndrome, and autism.

Among my career highlights, I have created, directed, and conceptualized interdisciplinary clinics for children with Down syndrome and Fragile X syndrome as well. Interdisciplinary clinics have given me valuable experiences. I have been able to work with fantastic clinicians in a variety of specialties, and I have learned how to be a better doctor as a result. I currently also serve as a consultant with the Department of Developmental Services, and I also participate in two interdisciplinary team assessments.

Recently, I have been chosen to serve on the Methodist Hospital Medical Executive Committee. Clinician wellness is a passion of mine, and I completed a fellowship from the University of CA-Davis with a certification. At Methodist, I am currently working with mental health clinicians and our Chief of Staff to form a Clinician Wellness Consortium in our area.

Teaching is definitely a highlight for me and I have thoroughly enjoyed teaching residents, medical students, and now, nurse practitioner students from USC. I have also had opportunities to facilitate as well as present at various learning sessions for other physicians and community healthcare workers. Having a close relationship with my community is the foundation for all of my clinical work. I have been able to serve on the Board of Directors of Club 21 Learning and Resource Center and also volunteer with School on Wheels as a tutor for children who live in transitional housing and shelters.

I applied to serve on the Board of AAP CA2 as well to integrate the work I love doing in the community with my clinical service to my patients and their families. I hope to incorporate mental health clinicians into my practice and also develop collaborations with therapists who are working in local public school districts. I also would like to be able to champion supports for children with special education needs, to maximize their potential.

Anthony Moretti MD, MBA, FAAP



I had expressed my interest in serving for AAP-CA2 because I feel that increasingly pediatricians need to be included within our state-wide discussions on children's health, health care policy, and health-care finance. I have a special interest in healthcare finance due to my early business exposure (father was a real-estate developer) and current career path.

I did my Pediatric Critical Care Fellowship at Harbor-UCLA, CHLA and have worked in Southern California since 2010. I served as Chairman of Pediatrics at White Memorial Medical Center from 2016 – 2020, and worked with Adventist Health SoCal CEO to build out a 3 hospital Pediatric Service Line serving the underserved in East LA, Glendale, and Simi Valley. During this work, I negotiated coverage contracts, physician recruitment, and quality.

This led me to serve at Blue Shield of California as Regional Medical Director for Los Angeles, Ventura, Orange County, and San Luis Obispo. This role is involved in ACO partnerships with large physician IPA groups and hospitals to coordinate the delivery of quality healthcare that is financially sustainable.

My final work is Medical Director UM for Loma Linda Children's Hospital where I routinely monitor LOS, delayed discharge variance, and hospital reimbursement.

All of these positions provide a certain skillset that I feel can be of value for our California AAP Chapter as we face an uncertain financial future with our physician groups. I am honored to serve and support our California Pediatricians with a strong voice at the Regional and State Level.

Gifty-Maria Jane Ntim, MD, MPH



Dr. Ntim is a primary care physician who is double board certified in Internal Medicine and Pediatrics (MedPeds). She joined the Department of Internal Medicine at the UCLA David Geffen School of Medicine as an Assistant Clinical Professor in 2016. Prior to coming to UCLA, she worked in Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) in the Antelope Valley as well as in south central Los Angeles and was medical director of APLA Health (the medical branch of the AIDS Project Los Angeles). Originally from Ghana, Dr. Ntim is a graduate of St. George's University School of Medicine.

She completed her residency training at Tulane University School of Medicine in New Orleans where she also served as the MedPeds Chief Resident. She is passionate about mentoring, medical education as well as empowering patients to achieve high levels of health and wellness. Her professional interests include HIV prevention, delivering culturally humble primary care to LGBTQ populations and finding innovative ways to improve patient management of chronic diseases. In her spare time, she enjoys gardening and spending time with family. Post Covid, she has started to dip her toes back into international travel and ironically, sourdough bread making.

Ilan Shapiro, MD, FAAP



Dr. Ilan Shapiro is Senior Vice President, Chief Health Correspondent and Medical Affairs Officer at AltaMed, where he works to advance equity and inclusion and expand community health and wellness initiatives.

In addition to being a practicing physician, Dr. Shapiro is actively involved in creating binational public health programs to reach Hispanic communities on both sides of the border. He

acted as the Medical Advisor for the General Consulate of Mexico in Chicago and was a Member of the Editorial Board for A Tu Salud (For Your Health), a health bulletin representing Hispanic health topics and resources. Dr. Shapiro is part of the National Hispanic Medical Association and a spokesperson for the American Academy of Pediatrics.

Dr. Shapiro has been on the frontlines of the COVID-19 pandemic as a leading source of education and information and a trusted media resource on both national and international news outlets, including CNN, NBC, MSNBC, Telemundo, and Univision. He also continues to have a strong social media presence averaging more than one billion unique views per year.

[Go back to the Election Website](#)

Reminder: The electronic Ballot to vote may only be accessed via your email. Look for the email on May 16th from chapter2@aapca2.org with the subject "2022 Election. Please Vote"