



## **Joseph F. Hagan Jr., M.D., FAAP**

Dr. Hagan is clinical professor in pediatrics at the University of Vermont College of Medicine and Vermont Children's Hospital. He is co-editor of *The Bright Futures Guidelines, Third and Fourth Editions*, the standard of preventive care for the Affordable Care Act.

Dr. Hagan has been active in the Academy throughout his career, having served as Vermont Chapter vice president and president. He chaired the Committee on Psychosocial Aspects of Child and Family Health and is a regular reviewer for *Pediatrics*. Following the attacks on 9/11, he chaired the Academy's Task Force on Terrorism.

His commitment to the care of vulnerable children led Dr. Hagan to chair the Citizen's Advisory Board for the Vermont Department for Children and Families. He consults for the commissioner on complex child protection cases.

An experienced advocate on community, state and federal levels, Dr. Hagan served on the legislative committee that created Vermont's Family Court. He has testified on behalf of the Academy before U.S. Senate committees regarding the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children and the Affordable Care Act and often testifies before the Vermont Legislature. His extensive media experience includes "NBC Nightly News," *The New York Times*, NPR, CBC/Canada and the BBC. He has published extensively, presented nationally and internationally, and has received numerous awards recognizing his work.

Dr. Hagan founded and manages a primary care pediatric practice in Burlington, Vt. He is a Vermont Managed Care Board member and has consulted to the National Business Group on Health. Additional professional information is available at [www.hrcpediatricians.com/aap.html](http://www.hrcpediatricians.com/aap.html)

### **Position statement**

Pediatricians seek to not simply cure disease, but to use a family's strengths and community supports to establish a return to health. Prevention and wellness matter. This is who we are; this is how we think. With so much to do in daily practice, it is crucial that the

Academy and its leadership facilitate the many important services that we provide.

Pediatric practice has to thrive and remain not just viable, but strong in both the traditional fee-for-service setting and in the emerging accountable care environment. Necessary changes and improvements are within reach for both specialty and primary care practices. We need to promote the business and practice of pediatrics as well as the science. The AAP plays an indispensable role in supporting practice, research and teaching, and must continue advocating for fair payment for this essential work.

The example of early brain development science underscores what we've always believed: Nurturing parents and communities have a positive impact on both physical and mental health, as well as cognitive and social outcomes. Using these insights and relying on our academicians for evidence and direction, we describe a new foundation for preventive care in the AAP *Bright Futures Guidelines*. We are developing tools to make each encounter an opportunity for developmental assessment and to address psychosocial factors that impede development. By connecting our families, our practices and our communities together, we can foster healthier outcomes. We can leverage our significant political voice to trumpet the significance of early brain development and warn of the often-irreparable harm of toxic stress.

Our Academy gives every pediatrician an expanded voice to improve the lives of the children we care for. This is how the Academy has supported my practice, my community work, and my chapter, district and committee service. Together, we must work to keep policymakers focused on what we know is best for children and families. We must nurture collaboration with other child health advocates to build on our successes and to take on new challenges. As AAP president, I will seek your input and promote your voice on behalf of children.