

# THE EVPS NEWS

Volume 19 Issue 1

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January 2010

## Upcoming Events...

For upcoming lecture topics, times and locations, please go to [www.azaap.net](http://www.azaap.net) and click on "Calendar" at the top of the page.

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### PICU and NICU M&M Conferences at Cardon Children's Medical Center

Starting in January there will be a new meeting time for the PICU and NICU M&M conferences at Cardon Children's. These conferences have been an excellent teaching resource for the staff and all physicians are most welcome. Interesting cases are discussed in depth and it is a great time to review your medical knowledge as well as interface with your colleagues and pick up some CME credit at the same time. Lunch will also be served! ☺

In order to make these more accessible to our physicians, the time has been changed to a lunch meeting rather than an early morning meeting as has been the case in the past. The PICU M&M will be the fourth Friday of each month at 12:30 and the NICU M&M will be the third Monday of each month. These meetings will take place in the Ocotillo room of the Rosati Education Center. Mark your calendars and try to attend if at all possible. You will be glad you did.

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### EVPS Dues

Hard to believe it is that time of year again. The start of a new year and the 19<sup>th</sup> year of the EVPS News! Take a deep breath and take a moment to reflect on the year that just passed. While doing so, maybe make out a check to the East Valley Pediatric Society to pay your dues! And remember to also pay your AZAAP state chapter dues as well. Our societies are only as strong as the membership makes them.



### Madhu Dungarani, M.D.

6/5/1950 – 12/15/2009

This past December we lost one of our fellow pediatric colleagues. Dr. Dungarani came to the U.S. in 1985. He had received his medical degree from the B.J. Medical College, Gujarat University in Ahmedabad, India. He then went on to finish his pediatric residency in the United Kingdom. His first practice in the U.S. was in South Dakota where he functioned as a family physician from 1985 until 1987 when he then enrolled in the pediatric residency at Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit, Michigan. He completed that program in 1990 and obtained his board certification from the ABP. He moved to Arizona and joined Dr. Chiles in practice in Chandler that year. He has been one of our East Valley Pediatric Society colleagues ever since and was still in private practice at the time of his illness and death.

I was able to obtain a quote from his son, Amit - "He was a loving son, brother, husband, father, and friend. He was also a prominent member of his community, both back home in India as well as here in the U.S. Most notably, he spent the majority of his life serving others not only as a physician but as a loving, jovial and supportive friend to many. My dad prided himself on living life according to a certain standard of conduct and set of values. Of

those values, there were three that were very close to his heart and served as pillars for the way he raised his children, served others, and lived his life. These 3 pillars are education, healthcare, and the well-being of children. "

We would like to extend our sympathies to his family and friends. His family has asked anyone interested in making a donation in his name do so through:

[www.firstgiving.com/dungarani](http://www.firstgiving.com/dungarani).

The proceeds raised will help Pratham USA, which is India's largest non-profit organization in the area of education. Pratham helps underprivileged children in rural and urban India with preschool and primary education.

## State Cuts KidsCare

Thanks to Sue Braga and the state chapter for the following announcement:

Due to Arizona's historic budget crisis, the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS) has instituted an enrollment freeze of the KidsCare program effective January 1, 2010.

There will be no more new KidsCare applications processed and only children currently enrolled in the program will be able to continue as long as their eligibility is maintained.

It is important that providers know that children will not be able to re-enter the KidsCare program if their parent or guardian fails to submit a renewal application prior to the expiration date of the enrollment period or if they fail to make monthly premium payments.

Therefore, KidsCare providers may want to consider adopting a policy of reminding parents or guardians of their KidsCare patients of the

importance of renewing the children's enrollment in a timely manner and also satisfying any of the cost-sharing requirements. Also, if patients change their address, they should inform AHCCCS, so they do not miss any important deadlines for appropriate correspondence regarding renewal.

If you need to refer someone for assistance with their KidsCare enrollment, many community organizations and clinics are willing to help. Please use this link for on-line assistance:

<http://www.azahcccs.gov/applicants/Downloads/KidsCareApplicationHelp.pdf>

or for other questions, please call the AHCCCS KidsCare Program:

·Within Maricopa County 602-417-5437

·Statewide: 1-877-764-5437

## Another Study Finds No MMR-Autism Link

*Reuters (01/01/10) Norton, Amy*

A new study of 96 Polish children, ages two to 15 years, provides additional evidence that the combined measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR) vaccine is not associated with increased risk of autism. The children, all of whom had autism, were each compared to two healthy children of the same age and sex, treated by the same doctor. Some children had received the MMR vaccine, others had not been vaccinated, and still others had received just the measles vaccine. Over the past decade in Poland, the MMR vaccine has gradually replaced the measles-only vaccine. The study results suggest that children who had received the MMR vaccine may actually have an 83 percent lower risk of autism than peers who had not received the vaccine. The measles-only vaccine also showed no evidence of greater autism risk. This study is

reported in The Pediatric Infectious Disease Journal.

Now that is certainly an interesting statement! An 83% less chance of having autism if one received the MMR versus if one did not. Maybe the first time such a reverse benefit from immunizing with the MMR has been suggested as far as the risk of autism. Nevertheless, this study just reiterates for the record that there is no proven link between the MMR and autism and that we need to move on to making sure all children are immunized so we do not have to face the incredible morbidity and mortality that we would see if there was a full blown measles epidemic.

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## 2010 Immunization Schedules Released

The American Academy of Pediatrics, the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the American Academy of Family Physicians have approved the 2010 recommended childhood and adolescent immunization schedules. Schedules have been revised for children from birth to age six years, for children and adolescents ages six to 17, and for catch-up vaccinations.

Changes include a new recommendation for influenza A (H1N1) 2009 monovalent vaccine and a recommendation that children who are still at increased risk of meningococcal disease receive another dose of the MCV4 vaccine. New recommendations also affect combination vaccines, the recently licensed bivalent human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine in girls, and the quadrivalent HPV vaccine in boys. A report of these changes is published in the January 2010 issue of Pediatrics. You can always download a copy of the schedule from

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[www.aap.org](http://www.aap.org) and look under "Immunizations".

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## So Far So Good with H1N1 Vaccine

The incidence of serious side effects from the H1N1 vaccine has been quite low so far making many sigh a sigh of relief when it comes to the flu vaccine and public hesitancy in general to get either the H1N1 or the seasonal flu shot. Only two cases of possible or probably Guillain-Barre syndrome have been reported within 1 day of the vaccine. It seems temporally related but since the number is below the background case rate in the general population one cannot be 100% sure these are from the vaccine. There have been 8 reports of death following the vaccine. Two were after the nasal mist and 6 after the shot. The three cases that have been thoroughly reviewed so far show that there were severe underlying health issues in all the vaccine recipients.

The conclusions so far of the CDC's Immunization Safety Office are that the flu shot and the H1N1 vaccine are safe and effective. The morbidity and mortality that we would see without the vaccine would be far more serious than what we see with the vaccine. With a third wave of the H1N1 starting one would still hope everyone is getting their shot.



Early Bird Gets the Worm...plan to attend the Pediatrics in the Pines June 11-13, 2010