

Treasurer



Candidate: Mark L. Hudak, MD

Primary City of Practice: Jacksonville, Florida

Statement of Interest/Bio:

Serving on the Board of the FCAAP has amplified my understanding of the evolving challenges that confront Florida children, families, and pediatric caregivers and allowed me to witness how strong, persistent and focused advocacy by the FCAAP and its dynamic leadership has made a critical difference in addressing these challenges.

I am running for Treasurer of the Executive Board of the FCAAP because I wish to channel my energies to help lead the FCAAP in its missions of statewide advocacy and education. As a member of the FCAAP leadership team, I will contribute my skills and “lessons learned” from the many different responsibilities entrusted to me over my career. There is a huge need for the FCAAP to continue its powerful advocacy on behalf of children. We have all watched how the COVID-19 pandemic has deeply affected the mental and physical health of children and families and the well-being of our members. The pandemic has also exposed systemic problems in our country related to racism and health and social disparities. In addition, the shifting political landscape is threatening our children in new ways.

Although I started my career as a neonatologist at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, I have served for more than 10 years as the Chair of Pediatrics at the University of Florida College of Medicine – Jacksonville. Serving in this position, I have acquired a broad understanding of the entire pediatric care continuum and the needs of all children and families. As Chair, I have acquired specific expertise in financial management, which I also brought to bear when I served as Treasurer of the non-profit St. Johns Riverkeeper organization.

Moreover, I have been blessed to have other incredible learning and service experiences within the national AAP. I served a 7-year term on the AAP Committee on Drugs and 7 years on the Committee on Child Health Financing, the final 4 years as Chair. I continue to work with members of COCHF to finalize key policy statements on Scope of Benefits, Medicaid, and Alternative Payment Models. I served as the Chair of the Section on Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine from 2018-2020 and am finishing a two year term in November as Immediate Past Chair. In addition, after 10 years as a committee member, it was my honor to serve as Chair of the FDA Pediatric Advisory Committee from 2015-2018. I currently serve as an Associate Editor of Pediatrics. I have published extensively in the areas of clinical interventions and outcomes and have worked with AAP to advocate for responsible changes in child health care financing and health care policy. I was the lead author of a resolution entitled, “The Medicaid Program for

Children and Young Adults Requires Foundational Change: National Standards and Full Federal Funding” that was voted the #1 resolution at the 2021 AAP Annual Leadership Conference.

Going forward, FCAAP leadership must be even more engaged with our members and with our allies in government to address medical, societal, and workforce issues.