



# Kidsline

The Newsletter of Annapolis Pediatrics

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## Making a difference to all kids: Dr. Libber volunteers at local clinic

Dr. Libber has never been accused of having too much free time. However, between his general pediatric patients, endocrine patients, working in all three Annapolis Pediatrics offices, offering his time to various health and outreach organizations, not to mention his own family, Dr. Libber knew he could do more. Last fall he began volunteering at the Stanton Community Center in Annapolis.

Anne Arundel Medical Center sponsors the free clinic at the Stanton Community Center for those have limited or no health insurance or do not have access to health services for other reasons. The Center's team consists of a nurse coordinator, case manager, nutrition counselor, and Spanish speaking patient advocate who volunteer their time in addition to the all-volunteer medical team who provides care to those in need.

Joining the Stanton Center was a logical progression for Dr. Libber who participated in the SCAN committee, but which stopped operating a few years ago. As much as he enjoyed guiding pediatric health outreach programs for communities in Annapolis who remain underserved by the medical system, patient interaction is what he loves most of all. And area kids who have inadequate or no health insurance are especially lucky to receive care from one of the finest pediatricians in the area.



Dr. Samuel Libber

The community served by the Stanton Center has a not-insignificant frequency of endocrine problems, including children with thyroid disease and

Type 2 Diabetes. For them, Dr. Libber, who also assists with the Pediatric Advisory Group of the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine Department of Pediatrics. is a real blessing. He is a highly sought-after pediatric endocrinologist who treats children from throughout the region and runs a very full appointment book. But the families who receive his care at the Stanton Center are among the most grateful patients he treats.

And, the ever-positive Dr. Libber doesn't see the benefits as one-sided. He smiles broadly as he tells how this work provides him great personal reward, as he has an opportunity to foster his love for language. In fact, next time you see him, he'd appreciate a chance to polish his skills. Just ask him about his recent mix-up during a pediatric exam of the Spanish word for "head" (cabeza) with the word for "beer" (cerveza): a laugh was shared by all.

## Summer 2007

### Physicians and Nurse Practitioners

Dwight Fortier, MD  
Samuel Libber, MD  
Katherine Edwards, MD  
Stanley Weimer, MD  
James Rice, MD  
Margaret Turner, MD  
Charles Parmele, MD  
Sefanit Fassil, MD  
Jennifer Corder, MD  
Dana Kim, MD  
John McGrath, MD  
Anita Weissburg, CPNP  
Gwyn Reece, CPNP  
Cathy Baldino, CPNP  
Roseanne Thompson, CPNP  
Linda Murray, CPNP  
Gina Friel, CPNP

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## A Warm Welcome to John McGrath, M.D.

Annapolis Pediatrics is delighted to introduce Dr. John McGrath, a dynamic, board-certified pediatrician who will be joining our practice in July. Dr. McGrath will offer pediatric care to patients throughout our practice as we embark on an exciting time of growth. As we are expanding our office in Waugh Chapel and adding a new office on Kent Island to serve area children, we realize that we must also expand our team of providers to continue to offer the responsive, high quality care our patients deserve.

Dr. McGrath comes to us from private practice in New Haven, Connecticut. A Connecticut-yankee by birth, he began his academic career at Tufts University and received his medical degree from the University of Connecticut. He completed pediatric training in the United States Navy at the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda and Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, DC. Dr. McGrath spent two of these years in Annapolis, where he fell in love with the town and vowed to return.

Dr. McGrath worked as both a Hospitalist and general pediatrician at Naval Hospital Camp Lejeune in Jacksonville, NC after completing his residency. He also served as a Navy medical officer and was deployed with the Marine Expeditionary Forces during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Dr. McGrath has two special areas of interest within pediatrics. He has a soft spot for newborns and premature infants, as he sees those patients as among the most vulnerable and in need of top notch medical care. His other primary area of interest is sports medicine. Dr. McGrath is an avid sports fan

and active amateur athlete; he is always happy to join in a friendly game of basketball or join friends for a round of golf. If you have an early office visit, you might find him back from a morning run, as

well. And, of course, he was drawn to Annapolis partially by his love of sailing.

Maggie McGrath, DMD shares her husband's devotion to children and health-care. She is a pediatric dentist who will be joining Dr. Collins and Associates in Annapolis. She graduated from the University of Connecticut School of Dental Medicine and completed her General Practice Residency at the University of Maryland Hospital. She obtained her Masters in Public Health in 2004 from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Subsequently, she worked as a dentist for two years at a Community Health Clinic in Wilmington, NC, where she primarily treated underserved children. It was that experience that inspired her to specialize in pediatric dentistry. She is currently completing her Pediatric Dental training at Yale New Haven Children's Hospital in Connecticut.

The McGraths are also bringing their three black Labrador retrievers (all Lab Rescue dogs) to Annapolis. We hope you will all welcome Dr. McGrath to the area and we are confident you will find him a wonderful addition to the Annapolis Pediatrics family.



Dr. John McGrath

### Kent Island Progress

In May Annapolis Pediatrics reviewed the first round of architectural drawings for our office space at AAMC-Kent Island. The facility will offer a bright, comfortable reception area, large exam rooms, and a child-friendly patient bathroom. For more information and updates, including some Frequently Asked Questions, see AAMC's website:

[www.AAMContheshore.com](http://www.AAMContheshore.com).



## Policy Reminders and Updates

One of the most important elements of this newsletter is communication of policies to our patients. These policies are intended to help things work as smoothly as possible for our patients as well as our physicians, nurses, and staff. Adjustments and changes are made to try to accommodate needs as they evolve. To that end, we'd like to remind you of some policies and call your attention to some new elements.

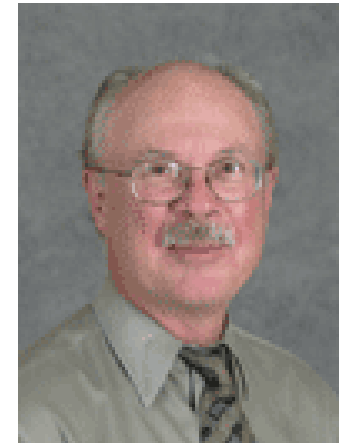
**Forms Fees.** Medical forms can be time-consuming to complete. Each individual form may not seem like much to a parent who's child is off to camp or a new school, but multiply your forms by the hundreds of others that have

the same deadline and you see why we need 7-10 business days and a \$5 fee to cover the time it takes to complete them on your behalf. We realize that planning ahead isn't always possible and oversights happen, so we now offer a 24-hour turnaround option for a \$20 fee. These fees are per child, per form. Advance notice and ample time is still the best way for us to handle medical form requests to avoid stressful crunch times.

**No Show Reminder.** It has been a long-standing Annapolis Pediatrics policy to require patients to cancel appointments in advance. Our physicians' and nurse practitioners' time is in demand and we know it is

frustrating to patients who want to schedule an appointment and are told their providers' schedules are full. More frustrating to us is watching that provider wait for a patient who doesn't show for his or her appointment. If you do not cancel a physical or consultation at least 24 hours in advance or a same-day sick visit at least 2 hours in advance, you will be charged a \$25 no-show fee. Please be sure your current phone number is on file with our office, since we use an automated reminder system to call patients at least 2 days before their scheduled appointment time.

As always, we appreciate your understanding and cooperation with our policies.



### Celebrating 35 Years

Dr. Dwight Fortier was honored at the Annual AAMC Medical Staff dinner. Dr. Fortier has been an active part of the Annapolis medical community for 35 years. In that time Dr. Fortier has served as AAMC Chief of Pediatrics and mentored numerous pediatricians and pediatric nurses.

Cheers to Dr. Fortier for all your hard work serving the children of the Annapolis area.

## New Pharmaceutical Program

Annapolis Pediatrics believes that maintaining a medicine dispensary in our facility is one way we offer the most convenient pediatric care possible. However, we know that sometimes things don't work as smoothly as we would like. Patient feedback is a critical element to offering the very best service.

Computer hang-ups and insurance complications were not common, but we know that some patients experienced delays at our medicine dispensary.

In response to these patients concerns and to improve efficiency, we have recently changed providers for our medicine dispensary. For over Twenty years, PD-Rx Pharmaceuti-

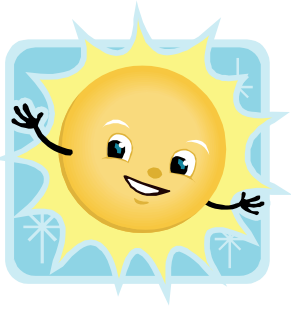
cals has provided in-office pharmaceuticals and pharmaceutical supplies, as well as over the counter medicines.

Our Annapolis office will offer generic prescription and over-the-counter medicines as "cash and carry." We will not file with your insurance for medicines, although you may do so on your own, according to your insurance coverage. This program will allow us to offer these medicines at highly competitive prices. And, as always, we can fax your prescriptions to your pharmacy of choice.

If you have any questions or need to reach our medicine dispensary, please contact our pharmacy hotline at 410-280-2089.



Superior Healthcare for newborns,  
children, adolescents and young adults



### Sunscreen Tips

Babies under 6 months should be kept out of direct sunlight.

After 6 months, use sunscreen that is made for children.

If a rash develops, talk to your pediatrician.

Look for sunscreen that will screen out UVB and UVA rays.

Choose a water-resistant or waterproof sunscreen and reapply every two hours.

Zinc oxide can be used as extra protection on the nose, cheeks, tops of the ears and on the shoulders.

Use a SPF of at least 15.

Put on sunscreen 30 minutes before going outdoors.



## Annapolis Pediatrics Prepares Families for Birth and Baby Care

It isn't news to many of our patients with young children, but the doctors and nurse practitioners of Annapolis Pediatrics have been donating their time to help area parents prepare for the arrival of their little ones. Our providers work closely with the education and outreach staff at Anne Arundel Medical Center to create educational content for as well as participate in birth classes held at AAMC.

Who better to teach expectant families about some of the ins and outs of newborn care than the medical professionals who have been treating Annapolis-area newborns for almost 60 years? Our docs and nurse practitioners cover everything from birth and routine in-hospital medical ex-

ams to newborn care basics, common infant medical needs and vaccination. They answer questions from nervous first-time parents-to-be and experienced moms and dads who attend the class as a refresher or to update them on birth and newborn care changes since their older children were born.

Over 5,000 babies were born at AAMC last year, and Annapolis Pediatrics is thrilled to be able to do our part to start so many of these families off on the right foot. So much about birth and newborn care can be overwhelming, especially to first time parents. We consider it a privilege to be able to help remove some of the fear and anxiety for moms and dads.

### Summer Safety for Children

The American Academy of Pediatrics has some great information on keeping your kids safe this summer, including:

- Children should wear a proper-fitting life jacket at all times on boats
- Even good swimmers need buddies and adult supervision
- Children who are not licensed drivers should not operate all-terrain vehicles
- Fireworks can result in severe burns and are not safe for home-use

See the AAP's website (<http://www.aap.org/advocacy/releases/summertips-p2.htm>) for more information.