

IPA Child Health Emerging Leaders Program (Child HELP): Overview

Background

Global child health challenges require strong global leadership. While pediatricians are recognized experts in child health, they rarely receive formal leadership training as part of their medical education. Effective leadership skills are essential to mobilizing communities, health systems and multi-sector responses to meet the needs of children. The Child Health Emerging Leaders Program (Child HELP), developed by the IPA in partnership with Johnson & Johnson, is designed to increase leadership capacity, interdisciplinary collaboration and cross-sector partnerships at national, regional and global levels.

Program Overview

The IPA will identify cohorts of emerging pediatric leaders to participate in a formal mentored leadership development program, tailored to the needs of pediatricians seeking greater influence on child health priorities within organizations, health systems and global development agendas. Goals include increasing engagement of early career pediatricians in professional member societies, fostering cross-border collaborations, and improving key leadership skills in both current and future pediatric leaders within individual societies, the IPA and the global child health community.

Program participants will receive funding to attend in-person leadership trainings during the IPA Congress, as well as seed money to support the development and implementation of required individual leadership projects.

Eligibility and Selection

A diverse group of 14 emerging pediatric leaders will be selected from among IPA member societies, based on endorsement of nominees by their national societies, and a commitment from society leadership to provide individualized mentorship and “on the ground” support throughout the two-and-a-half-year program.

Nominees must be within 10 years of training, have an identified mentor among the leadership of the sponsoring society, and confirm their availability to participate in core leadership training sessions at the IPA Congress in Panama (March 16-17, 2019) and in Glasgow (August, 2021). Participants must also commit to preparing for quarterly web-based group convenings, and to completing an individual mentored leadership project.

Timeline and Logistics

Child HELP will launch during the Panama IPC, where the first cohort will attend formal leadership training sessions, have opportunities for networking with senior IPA and member society leaders, and engage in activities designed to showcase and foster collaboration among Child HELP participants.

Between in-person meetings at the IPA Panama and Glasgow Congress, regular web-based convenings will enable participants to work together on an ongoing basis, discussing leadership training modules, sharing successes and identifying strategies for addressing leadership challenges and barriers to project implementation.

Deadline for applications is Monday, January 28: Help us spread the word!

Panama is rapidly approaching, and we must quickly identify strong candidates for the first cohort of Emerging Leaders. We are seeking a diverse group of early career pediatricians with recognized leadership potential, track records of meaningful engagement, and a commitment to advancing child health. Selection requires endorsement by leaders of the sponsoring society, who must also identify mentor(s) to provide support throughout the program.

Please forward this overview, and the attached call for applications, to leaders of your societies, pediatric colleagues, and any promising candidates for the Child Health Emerging Leaders Program.

I greatly appreciate your help in launching this exciting new program, and in working together to identify, inspire and build capacity among future leaders in child health.

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