

Meet the Ohio AAP Staff

Melissa Wervey Arnold, Executive Director, has more than 10 years experience in the association, event planning and development field. In her current role as the Executive Director of the Ohio Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics, she provides executive, administrative leadership to the Chapter and its membership, as well as serves as Executive Director of Ohio AAP Foundation and Ohio Pediatricians PAC. During her tenure, the Ohio AAP recently took home the Outstanding Very Large Chapter of the Year Award from the American Academy of Pediatrics Annual Leadership Forum.

Prior to her current position, she served as Assistant Executive Director and Director of Development for New Directions Career Center, a non-profit organization committed to helping women get back into the workforce. Before joining the staff at the Center, she was the Director of Communications and Education for the Ohio Psychological Association.

Melissa lives outside of Columbus, Ohio with her husband and two small children. She serves on the Board of two Columbus non-profit organizations, and is active on a local political level. In addition, she was recognized as one of the 2006 Forty Under 40 honorees from *Business First* in Columbus for her outstanding professional accomplishments, awards in her professional field, and commitment to community service. She has also received numerous awards from the association management community.

Heather Hall is Assistant Executive Director of the Ohio AAP Foundation, as well as Coalition Leader for Reach Out and Read (ROR) Ohio. The Ohio AAP Foundation is dedicated to supporting the mission and vision of the Ohio Chapter, AAP. As Assistant Executive Director, she develops and manages the Foundation's marketing and fundraising plan, organizes Foundation events, and looks for new opportunities to raise funds and awareness for the Foundation and its initiatives. In her position as ROR Ohio Coalition Leader, she oversees the programmatic structure of Reach Out and Read by assisting sites currently within the coalition, developing an expansion plan for new sites, coordinating book donations, organizing fundraising events and conducting site visits.

Heather is no stranger to pediatrics, with nearly seven years of experience in the marketing department of Columbus Children's Hospital (now Nationwide Children's Hospital), including helping promote the Reach Out and Read program within the hospital's ambulatory network. She left Children's to follow her dream of working in professional sports as community development manager for the Columbus Blue Jackets and Columbus Blue Jackets Foundation, where she managed the team's educational and literacy initiatives.

Karen Kirk is Project Manager of the Maximizing Office Based Immunization Program (MOBI). She is responsible for the day-to-day management of the program. MOBI is a free statewide provider immunization education and training program developed for

health-care providers. This continuing education program is offered through the Ohio Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics, and funded by the Ohio Department of Health with technical assistance from the National Immunization Program, Centers for Disease Control & Prevention. Karen also updates the Chapter's Web site and is editor of the Chapter's e-newsletter and *Ohio Pediatrics*, the quarterly newsletter for the Chapter.

Prior to her current position, Karen served as Web editor and Associate Editor of *Ohio Medicine* at the Ohio State Medical Association.

Karen spends her time away from the office with lots and lots of furry friends – she runs her own pet sitting business.

Elizabeth Kelleher is Operations and Program Manager at the Chapter. She is responsible for assisting the staff of the Ohio AAP and Foundation, as well as working on the Reach Out and Read Ohio program, the Young Girls Initiative, the Ohio AAP Committees and MOBI. Elizabeth also coordinates the Prevent Blindness Program.

Elizabeth's experience is in conference planning and association management. She has held meeting planner positions with the Supreme Court of Ohio and The Ohio Society of CPAs. Previously she was the program coordinator for the Association of Community Cancer Centers (ACCC), where she planned conferences for 14 state societies nationally.

Elizabeth likes to spend time with family and friends, and enjoys traveling.

Dan Farkas is the Project Manager for the Autism Diagnosis Education Pilot Project. Dan is responsible for the day-to-day management of the project, whether it's recruiting new talent, garnering autism related media attention, or dealing with any developing nuances surrounding autism and autism education.,

Dan is a graduate of the Ohio University Scripps College of Communication. Prior to joining the staff at the Ohio Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics in February 2008, he spent more than a decade working as a journalist in Ohio, Iowa, Michigan, and Tennessee. In addition to plenty of moving expense reports, he also has more than two dozen awards to remember his days as a news reporter and anchor.

Joanne Gordon is an Administrative Assistant at the Chapter. Joanne works primarily with the Maximizing Office Based Immunization Program (MOBI) preparing materials to be shipped to MOBI trainers for presentations. Joanne is also a realtor.

