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Mentoring is about empowerment. To be a successful mentor, you must have experience in your field and be willing to share your expertise. Training encompasses anything that helps increase the realization of a person's potential. I believe in mentoring members to enable them in their work, and to assist in developing their careers while still meeting personal and family needs.

The work force has changed in pediatrics and many of our new pediatricians are women working part time. To have a successful mentoring program within the AAP, I would encourage chapters to identify willing members who would be available to new members. It would strengthen chapter value. Nationally, it can be done by using social media. Mentoring can happen anywhere and at any time. One person can mentor many people. Mentoring can be as simple as an email, "tweet," or linked-in message. I would promote use of existing services first and add to the AAP Website a "just ask" column that would be answered by volunteer pediatricians chosen by their councils or sections.

Listserves can also be tapped for mentoring. The Section on Practice Management listserv is a classic example of an interactive connection that section members use to exchange ideas and support.

Full mentoring contacts could be developed through the office of membership by request of the individual. Those who request mentors should find chapter administrators and officers also helpful in locating a pediatrician who could serve another pediatrician's need. Participation can be one question or a long term relationship between colleagues, and enrich the lives of both members.

Whether you are in direct patient care or academic medicine, members of the Senior Section locally and nationally hold a treasure of information and are often quite willing to mentor new pediatricians.

We are teachers by virtue of being students first and always. Mentoring colleagues follows our physician oath and should be a natural result of membership in our professional organization. It is with our peers we find our practice voice. The AAP is positioned to be influential in the workplace by developing new ways to mentor members.