

Colorado: Honoring Our History of American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) Leadership

Department of Pediatrics faculty members have been leaders in child advocacy in Colorado, nationally, and internationally. The State of Colorado has had more presidents of the American Academy of Pediatrics than any other state, including Franklin Gengenbach, MD; James Strain, MD; Donald Schiff, MD; Donald Cook, MD; and Stephen Berman, MD. With their leadership, the American Academy of Pediatrics has led the nation in advocacy for universal health coverage for children and the development of the Medical Home Initiative, which is now recognized as the foundation for creating a better health care system to improve the health outcomes of children and adults.

Here is information on these leaders:

Franklin P. Gengenbach, MD

Franklin P. Gengenbach, MD, known as "Frank" throughout the region, was a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine in 1899 and completed his internship at Saint Christopher's Hospital in 1900. Dr. Gengenbach joined the University of Colorado Clinical Faculty in 1911 and became the first Department of Pediatrics Professor and Chairman in 1930, when the Department of Pediatrics was established as a separate department. He served as Chair of the Department of Pediatrics until 1946 and retired as Emeritus Professor of Pediatrics from the University of Colorado.

Known as the first doctor in Colorado to exclusively practice pediatric medicine, Dr. Gengenbach was also one of the first in the nation to be board certified in pediatrics. He held many titles and served on several boards throughout his career. He was on the first Board of Directors of the American Board of Pediatrics (ABP) and for many years he was an active examiner for the ABP. He also served on the Advisory Board at Children's Hospital of Denver, was Chief of Service at Colorado General Hospital and a consultant at Denver General and National Jewish Hospitals. Frank was considered very instrumental in the in the beginnings of the now nationally-renowned Children's Hospital Colorado. Dr. Gengenbach was a member of the American Pediatric Society, the old Central States Pediatric Society, and the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP). He served as President of the AAP from 1943-1944.

Legend has it that at a dinner of the Pediatric Section of the AMA, of which he was Secretary, he won a wager by standing and calling every section member at the dinner by his full name. "Frank was gentle, kind, considerate and very generous to all of his young colleagues and competitors, many of whom he trained in his own office." Dr. Wiley Jones wrote of him in his obituary. Dr. Gengenbach died in 1955.

James E. Strain, MD, FAAP

James E. Strain, MD, FAAP, received his AB degree from Phillips University and his medical degree from the University of Colorado. Following one year of a rotating internship at Minneapolis General Hospital, he returned to Denver to complete his pediatric residency at Denver Children's Hospital. Dr. Strain established a private practice in Denver in 1950 and added six associates during his 36 years of practice.

Dr. Strain is a member of the clinical faculty at the University of Colorado Denver School of Medicine, and was recently promoted to Distinguished Clinical Professor. He was chairman of the Clinical Faculty Affairs Committee of the Department of Pediatrics and President of the Medical Board of Colorado General Hospital. He was also President of the Colorado Chapter of the Academy of Pediatrics and later served as District VIII Chairman.

In 1981, Dr. Strain was elected Vice President of the American Academy of Pediatrics and served as President from 1982-1983. In 1986, he was asked to be Executive Director of the American Academy of Pediatrics, where he served until 1993. Dr. Strain was an oral examiner for the American Board of Pediatrics and is currently an Emeritus Member of the Board. He chaired the National Advisory Committee on Childhood Vaccines and is currently a Senior Member of the Institute of Medicine.

There are two prestigious awards named for James E. Strain, MD: the James E. Strain Award at Children's Hospital Colorado and the James E. Strain Community Service Award at the Colorado Chapter of the AAP.

Donald Schiff, MD, FAAP

Donald Schiff, MD, FAAP, was a pediatric resident at the University of Colorado Denver School of Medicine and served as Chief Resident from 1955-1956. Dr. Schiff served in the U.S. Navy and U.S. Public Health Service after graduating from Wayne State College of Medicine. During his 30 years of private practice at the Littleton Clinic, he was Chief of Pediatrics at Porter Hospital and Swedish Hospital. He also served as a member of the Littleton District Public School Board, as well as the boards of other community organizations, including the United Fund, the Arapahoe County Developmentally Disabled and Child Abuse Teams, and the Arapahoe County Mental Health Board. Dr. Schiff joined the faculty at the University of Colorado Denver as Professor of Pediatrics in 1987 and was Director of the Child Health Clinic at The Children's Hospital (now called Children's Hospital Colorado) from 1986-1991. Presently, Dr. Schiff is a Professor of Pediatrics Emeritus at the University of Colorado.

In 1987, Dr. Schiff was elected Vice President of the American Academy of Pediatrics and served as President from 1988-1989. Dr. Schiff was also President of the Colorado Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics and served as District VIII Chairman. Dr. Schiff also received the Grulee Award, a Special Achievement Award, and the James E. Strain Community Service Award, all from the Colorado Chapter of the AAP. He was honored with a teaching award for 25 years of teaching from the University of Colorado School of Medicine, Department of Pediatrics.

Dr. Schiff was also contributing editor of *Pediatric Grand Rounds* and is an author of a book, *Your Child's Symptoms*. Dr. Schiff served nationally on the AAP Access and Government Affairs Committees and on the Colorado Pediatric Council.

Donald E. Cook, MD, FAAP

Donald E. Cook, MD, FAAP, was a Clinical Professor of Pediatrics at the University of Colorado School of Medicine. He was a pediatric resident at the University of Colorado School of Medicine and was Chief Resident from 1958-1959. He practiced six years in Aurora, Colorado and during that time was elected President of the Adams Aurora Medical Society and was instrumental in organizing the Stop Polio Sundays for Aurora and East Denver. Dr. Cook moved his practice to Greeley in 1964, where he continued his practice until 2004. While in Greeley, he served for 10 years on the Weld County District VI School Board. Because of the large number of indigent children in Weld County who did not have access to medical care, Dr. Cook founded the Monfort Children's Clinic by raising over \$6,000,000 in 1994. The Clinic still treats over 100 patients per day as part of the Sunrise Clinic, an FQHC.

Following his American Academy of Pediatrics responsibilities as Colorado Chapter Chairman and District VIII Chairman, he was elected Vice President of the AAP in 1998 and served as President from 1999-2000.

Dr. Cook chaired the committee on Coloradoans for Seat Belts on School Buses from 1985-1990. He was the consultant for the School Health Nurses program from 1986-2006; He was on the Board of Directors for the North Colorado Medical Center, 1995-1998; Board of Directors for the Weld County United Way; and Board of Directors for the North Colorado Medical Center Foundation, 1993-2012.

Dr. Cook is a two-time recipient of the James E. Strain Community Service Award from the Colorado Chapter of the AAP and has received numerous awards in Weld County for his services to children. He also received the Benezet Alumnae Award from Colorado College; the Phi Delta Kappa, University of Northern Colorado Outstanding Contributor to the Community Award; and the Phi Delta Rho, University of Northern Colorado Compatriots in Education

Award. In 2005, the Weld County Medical Society established scholarships (Elsie and Donald Cook Awards) for two outstanding teachers and two outstanding students. Dr. Cook died in 2012.

Stephen Berman, MD, FAAP

Stephen Berman, MD, FAAP, is a Professor of Pediatrics and served as Section Head for General Academic Pediatrics at the University of Colorado School of Medicine. In 2005, he received The Children's Hospital Endowed Chair of Academic General Pediatrics. He attended Temple University School of Medicine in Philadelphia, and he completed his pediatric training in 1975 at the University of Colorado and was Chief Resident from 1976-1977.

Dr. Berman was elected Vice President of the American Academy of Pediatrics in 2000 and served as President from 2001-2002. A practicing primary care pediatrician, he is a leader in child advocacy, child health policy, clinical and outcomes research, international health, and pediatric education.

Currently, Dr. Berman is the Director of the Center for Global Health, Colorado School of Public Health, University of Colorado School of Medicine. An active clinical and outcomes researcher, Dr. Berman has received support for his research from the World Health Organization (WHO), multiple federal agencies including the National Institutes of Health, Centers for Disease Control, Agency of Health Care Research and Quality, and several national and local foundations. Dr. Berman has served as special advisor to WHO and the Pan American Health Organization and consultant to many countries throughout the world. Recently, Dr. Berman lead the first delegation of pediatricians to visit Cuba co-sponsored by the American Academy of Pediatrics and the Pan American Health Organization since the U.S. normalized relations. It was a historic trip, one aimed at reestablishing ties between medical professionals at a time when relations between the two nations seemed to be thawing.

An effective child advocate, Dr. Berman helped to draft six child health bills enacted by the Colorado State Legislature. These laws provide health insurance to low-income children, require seat belt use, and mandate immunizations and preventive care in insurance plans. When he served as Director of the State Medically Indigent Program, he designed and implemented the Colorado Child Health Plan, which became Colorado's Title XXI federally supported state child health insurance program. Dr. Berman has also helped to develop several successful community service projects.

Well known for his contributions to pediatric education, Dr. Berman has authored four editions of his pediatric textbook entitled, *Pediatric Decision Making*, and has published over 100 peer reviewed research articles and many textbook chapters related to common pediatric clinical problems, such as acute respiratory infections, diarrhea, and immunizations.