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ABP Names Inaugural Paul V. Miles Fellow in Quality Improvement

Chapel Hill, NC – The American Board of Pediatrics (ABP) is delighted to announce Paul Sharek, MD, MPH, as the inaugural Paul V. Miles Fellow in Quality Improvement.

This award was created to honor the passion for improving healthcare for children that Dr. Paul V. Miles has exhibited throughout his career, including his years of service with the ABP. The award is bestowed on individuals who have dedicated themselves to quality improvement and demonstrated accomplishments leading to better healthcare for children.

As Senior Vice President for Maintenance of Certification, Dr. Miles championed quality improvement efforts and established improved outcomes in child health as the cornerstone of the MOC process. His enthusiasm and devotion to outcomes-based improvement is mirrored in the works of Dr. Sharek.

“The ABP created the Paul V. Miles Fellowship in Quality Improvement not only to honor Dr. Miles but also to recognize the individuals who will follow in his footsteps and carry on the mission that he has started,” said President and CEO David G. Nichols. “It’s an award for an individual who best exemplifies the Paul Miles spirit.”

Quality Improvement (QI) has been at the center of Dr. Sharek’s career, and he has emerged as one of the movement’s leaders at the local, state, and national levels. Dr. Sharek’s focus on improving health care began in 1989, when he earned his medical degree from the College of Physicians and Surgeons at Columbia University. He completed his residency and chief residency at the University of California, San Francisco before earning a master of public health degree in epidemiology from University of California, Berkeley.

Dr. Sharek went on to study under Dr. David Bergman at Stanford University, completing a fellowship in pediatric quality of care in 1998 before being named as the Medical Director of Quality and Chief Clinical Patient Safety Officer at the Lucile Packard Children’s Hospital (LPCH) in Palo Alto, CA. He now also serves as Medical Director of the LPCH’s Center for Quality and Clinical Effectiveness, which he established.

Dr. Sharek has demonstrated the tremendous ability to coordinate organizations’ efforts in pediatric quality of care, transforming concepts and goals into results.

"I am really delighted that Paul Sharek was selected as the recipient," said Dr. Miles. "He is one of the emerging national leaders in quality improvement in pediatrics."

As medical director of the Child Health Accountability Initiative (CHAI), Dr. Sharek served as the principal investigator of a 4-year, \$1.3 million Partnership for Quality grant, which funded a series of QI initiatives for the 14-site CHAI. He impacted countless children when he expanded this Partnership for Quality program to all 43-member hospitals in the Child Health Corporation of America (CHCA).

Dr. Sharek's work ultimately laid the foundation for the continued large-scale QI efforts developed as a result of the CHCA's Quality and Safety Leaders Forum.

He serves as the Director of Quality for the California Perinatal Quality of Care Collaborative (CPQCC), which monitors the quality of care for more than 90 percent of all infants admitted to NICUs in California. For his achievement in quality improvement with the CPQCC, Dr. Sharek was awarded the David Wirschafter Award from the California Association of Neonatologists.

Through research and publication, Dr. Sharek has also been able to swiftly and profoundly impact pediatrics. He has authored 44 peer-reviewed journal articles, including "Effect of a Rapid Response Team on Hospital-Wide Mortality and Code Rates Outside the ICU in a Children's Hospital."¹ This article helped to spur the Joint Commission to require rapid response teams in hospitals throughout the United States. Its influence reached beyond the borders of the US—accelerating the integration of RRTs across the globe.

As the first recipient of this award, Dr. Sharek will receive a cash award and an invitation to meet with the ABP to share insights and experiences as we advance the mission of pediatricians devoted to better health for children. More information about this collaboration and the work of Dr. Sharek will be shared throughout the coming year.

"We will never give up on improving the quality care that our children deserve and need," Dr. Nichols said. "There will always be room to make it better."

About the ABP

Founded in 1933, the American Board of Pediatrics (ABP) is one of the 24 certifying boards of the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS). The ABP is an independent, nonprofit organization whose certificate is recognized throughout the world as a credential signifying a high level of physician competence.

The ABP awards certification in General Pediatrics and 14 subspecialty areas such as Adolescent Medicine, Cardiology, Emergency Medicine, and Neonatology. Certification is also awarded in conjunction with other specialty boards in the areas of Hospice and Palliative Medicine, Medical Toxicology, Neurodevelopmental Disabilities, Sleep Medicine, Sports Medicine and Transplant Hepatology.

Through the Maintenance of Certification (MOC) process, pediatricians not only pursue the improvement of healthcare for children but also demonstrate their advanced knowledge and commitment to lifelong learning. Pediatricians who participate in MOC learn how to measure quality of care and effectively improve their practice.

For more information about the ABP, please visit our Web site at www.abp.org.

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¹ 2007 Sharek PJ, Parast LM, Leong K, Coombs J, Earnest K, Sullivan J, Frankel LR, Roth SJ. Effect of a Rapid Response Team on Hospital-wide Mortality and Code Rates Outside the ICU in a Children's Hospital, JAMA. 2007;298(19):2267-2274