Over the past year activities of the Child and Adolescent Standing Committee have continued to work on recovering from the COVID-19 Global Pandemic. Leadership of the committee transitioned from Ishaq Abu-Arafeh to Andrew D. Hershey. With this transition, the committee was reorganized with some members retained and new members added. A focus on continued international diversity was maintained, while working on balancing gender diversity and bringing on new members earlier in their career. Additionally, the committee was subdivided into 4 working groups: Research, Education, Advocacy and Classification, the latter to gauge interest in participating when the ICHD-4 Committee is established.

For the Research Subcommittee, a new grant funding mechanism was established through the generous support of the IHS Board. A RFA was generated in early 2022 and 9 letters of intent were received spanning a wide variety of interests. The Research subcommittee then reviewed these LOIs and 4 were selected for a full proposal. From these 4, 2 were selected to receive a seed grant:

2. Christina Szperka and Amy Gelfand - Informing treatment trial outcome measure selection for adolescents with NDPH

The expectation is a progress report at 6 and 12 months and publication of results in Cephalalgia.

For the Education Subcommittee, the initial plan was to continue to support a one-day teaching course alongside the Polish Headache Symposium. This was originally planned for December of 2020, but was postponed due to COVID-19 with the plan to develop for the 2022 meeting. The Polish Headache Association, however, removed this opportunity, thus cancelling the event and not requiring further support.

An unexpected opportunity did arise for the European Paediatric Neurology Society Congress in Glasgow, UK to have a gathering and educational session for pediatric headache specialist to discuss current and new therapies. This event directly followed Ishaq Abu-Arafeh’s presentation on “How to Run a Headache Clinic”. It was well attended and introduced members of the EPNS to the role of IHS and management of headache in children and adolescents.

The Advocacy Subcommittee is still in formation as the newest endeavor with plans to remove the stigma to headaches in this young population, while increasing awareness.

Andrew D. Hershey, MD, PhD, FAAN, FAHS
Chairman, Child and Adolescent Standing Committee