

## AACAP Mentorship Grants for Medical Students, supported by AACAP's Campaign for America's Kids

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*The AACAP Mentorship Grants for Medical Students, supported by AACAP's Campaign for America's Kids, provide the opportunity for medical students to receive a formal overview of child and adolescent psychiatry, establish mentor relationships with child and adolescent psychiatrists, and experience the AACAP Annual Meeting. Recipients receive \$1,200 of financial assistance to attend AACAP's Annual Meeting.*

**Jennifer Agwagom, BS\*\***—Geisinger Commonwealth School of Medicine

**Shukri Ahmed, MPH**—Western Michigan University

**Christian Aka, BS\***—Howard University

**Jayalakshmi Alagar, MPhil**—Temple University

**Alissa Altidor, BS\***—Meharry Medical College

**Nicole C. Anyanwu, BS**—Oregon Health & Science University

**Miranda H. Arakelian, BA**—Case Western Reserve University

**Nu N. Bui, BS**—Kansas City University's College of Osteopathic Medicine

**Andrea Chapa, MS**—Louisiana State University Health New Orleans

**Nimesha Gerlus, BS**—Duke University

**Madalyn A. Grass, BS**—Michigan State University

**Loren S. Hardeman, MS, MBA\***—Morehouse School of Medicine

**Heather Held, BA**—University of Arizona

**Angeline N. Huynh, BS**—Oklahoma State University College of Osteopathic Medicine

**Ethan Jetter, MPH**—University of Florida

**Qingxi Jia, BA**—University of Vermont

**Emma Longmire, MPH**—University of California, San Diego

**Alvin N.K. Mantey, BS**—University of Cincinnati

**Emily S. Ng, BS\***—Medical College of Georgia at Augusta University

**Oreoluwa Odeniyi, BS**—University of Pittsburgh

**Karen Qi, BA**—Johns Hopkins University

**Yael Quiles Ramirez, MSL\***—University of Puerto Rico

**Joanna Shad, BS**—University of Colorado

**Lillibeth C. Snellman, BA, BS**—Baylor College of Medicine

**Shielene Vargas, BS\***—University of Houston

**Winni Yang, MS**—Rutgers New Jersey Medical School

**Jiwon Yi, PhD**—Washington University in St. Louis

*\* Award partially funded through a generous donation from the Hirsch Legacy Fund.*

*\*\*Award partially funded through a generous donation from Muhammad Waqar Azeem, MD, 2023 AACAP Norbert and Charlotte Rieger Service Program Award for Excellence recipient.*

# AACAP Mentorship Grants for Medical Students

Supported by AACAP's Campaign for America's Kids

You are required to complete **seven programs** during the Annual Meeting. See below.



Check out these committees, [AACAP group events](#) & [program offerings!](#)

- Presidential Theme Programming
- [Medical Students and Residents \(MSRs\)](#)
- Training and Education Committee

also consider...

- [MSR Roadmap](#)
- Plenary Sessions
- Networking events
- Honors presentations
- CAP@Home programs

1. Choose **one (of three) Life Member Sponsored** Session(s). Options are:

Tues. Oct. 21 **4:45 - 6:15 PM**

[Medical Students, Residents, and Fellows Meet Life Member Mentors at the 2025 AACAP Meeting](#)

Thurs. Oct. 23 **10:00 AM - 12:00 PM** | Member Services Forum 9

[Child and Adolescent Psychiatrists Unite: Bridging Intergenerational Gaps for the Future](#)

Thurs. Oct. 23 **2:30 - 4:30 PM** | Clinical Perspectives 67

[Life Members Clinical Perspectives: The Development of Psychiatric Careers in Leadership, Teaching/Mentoring, Research, and Clinical Practice](#)

2. Weds. Oct. 22 **8:30 - 10:15 AM** | [Opening Plenary](#)

3. Thurs. Oct. 23 **7:30 - 9:30 AM** | [Medical Student and Resident Breakfast Reflections of Resilience: Learning From Life's Challenges in Psychiatry](#) (RSVP Required)

4. Thurs. Oct. 23 **4:15 - 6:00 PM** | [Mentorship Program for MSR - Part 1](#)

[Free ticketed event. Two sessions: Thurs. Part 1 | Fri. Part 2\*]

5. Fri. Oct. 24 **8:00 - 9:30 AM** | [Young Leaders Awards Breakfast](#) (Invite Only)

Fri. Oct. 24 **4:15 - 6:00 PM** | [Mentorship Program for MSR - Part 2](#)

[Free ticketed event. Two sessions: Thurs. Part 1 | Fri. Part 2\*]

Complete **two additional required sessions** based on your individual interest; may include a program that you monitor, or in which you are serving in a chair, discussant or co-presenter role, or other academic/clinical programming of choice from the program schedule.

LEARN MORE!



**AACAP's PsychStream**

is your new, go-to destination for expert-led, on-demand content in child and adolescent psychiatry.

AMERICAN ACADEMY OF  
CHILD & ADOLESCENT  
PSYCHIATRY

WWW.AACAP.ORG

AACAP Executive Committee – MGMS CFAK  
c/o AACAP's Research, Grants and Workforce Department  
3615 Wisconsin Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20016

November 11, 2025

Dear Executive Committee,

Thank you so much for providing me with the opportunity to attend the AACAP Annual Meeting. I am truly grateful to have experienced such an inspiring and welcoming community of people who are committed to improving the lives of children and families. Being part of this gathering was more than just educational, it was transformative. It reminded me why I chose to pursue child and adolescent psychiatry and showed me what is possible when passion and purpose come together.

Throughout the meeting, I had the chance to meet mentors and peers whose stories, research, and dedication moved me in ways I did not expect. Hearing about their journeys helped me see my own path more clearly and encouraged me to think about the kind of psychiatrist I hope to become.

This opportunity also gave me a sense of belonging in a field that I care about so much. I left the conference feeling renewed and inspired to find ways to contribute meaningfully, whether through research, advocacy, or community work. The connections I made and the wisdom I gained will continue to shape my growth for years to come.

Thank you again for making this experience possible. Your support not only allowed me to attend the conference, but it also gave me a sense of encouragement. I am sincerely appreciative of this opportunity and of the investment AACAP makes in students like me.

Sincerely,

*Jennifer Agwagom*

Jennifer Agwagom  
MS3, Geisinger Commonwealth School of Medicine

AACAP Executive Committee - MGMS CFAK  
c/o AACAP's Research, Grants and Workforce Department  
3615 Wisconsin Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC. 20016

November 05, 2025

Dear Executive Committee,

I am writing to express my heartfelt gratitude as a recipient of the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry (AACAP) Mentorship Grant for Medical Students (MGMS). Having the opportunity to share my story and aspirations with you was meaningful in itself but receiving this was truly an honor. Thank you for believing in my commitment to child and adolescent psychiatry and providing me with the opportunity to further my career.

This award holds special meaning because so many experiences have been rooted in service to immigrant communities like my own. Whether supporting Somali families of children with developmental disabilities, developing culturally responsive ASD programs, or engaging in public health outreach during the COVID-19 pandemic, I have seen firsthand how representation and trust profoundly shape health outcomes.

Attending the Annual Meeting for the first time was a deeply meaningful experience that exceeded every expectation I had. As a Black woman in medicine, one of the most impactful parts of the meeting was attending the Black Caucus and connecting with peers and mentors with shared cultural backgrounds and lived experiences. These conversations gave me a sense of community I rarely encounter in my current training environment. The town I attend school in has only one Child Adolescent Psychiatrist who primarily works in an outpatient setting. Additionally, several of the individuals I met will become lifelong friends. I also had the opportunity to meet early-career child psychiatrists who generously offered guidance, encouragement, and insight into navigating this field. These relationships have already begun shaping how I envision building a sustainable, supported career in child and adolescent psychiatry.

The conference also exposed me to unique educational opportunities that I could not access at my institution. Learning from researchers in global mental health and connecting with leaders doing work that aligns closely with my interests was invaluable. Students like myself who are from smaller medical schools, without access to dedicated child psychiatry facilities, means that opportunities for mentorship, shadowing, and advanced training are extremely limited. This conference opened doors that simply do not exist in my local environment and strengthened my confidence as I prepare to pursue a pathway to an integrated five-year child psychiatry residency program.

I am committed to staying engaged with AACAP, including joining student groups that will allow me to contribute to building opportunities for other trainees, particularly those from underserved or underrepresented backgrounds. This award made it possible for me to be fully present at the

conference, to grow, to connect, and to imagine a future in this field with more clarity and more support than ever before. I hope that in the future I will be able to join the network of AACAP mentees who make opportunities like this possible.

Thank you again for your generosity and support. This award not only eases the financial burden that would have limited my participation, but also inspires me to continue striving toward my goal of becoming a culturally responsive, community-centered child and adolescent psychiatrist.

Sincerely,

Shukri Ahmed, MPH  
Medical Student, Class of 2027  
WMU Homer Stryker M.D. School of Medicine

AACAP Executive Committee – MGMS CFAK  
c/o AACAP's Research, Grants and Workforce Department  
3615 Wisconsin Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20016

November 12, 2025

Dear Executive Committee,

Thank you for donating to the AACAP Mentorship Grants for Medical Students. The funds from this scholarship truly eased my mind when determining my living, travel, and dining arrangements for the 2025 AACAP Conference. Moreover, this grant also provided many mentorship and career development sessions that truly enhanced my knowledge of psychiatry. There were a plethora of informative and inspiring sessions for students to engage with during the conference. As a result, I am extremely thankful for the opportunity to learn from amazing child and adolescent psychiatrists through the generous donations of the Executive Committee.

As a medical student, it can be difficult to find funds for conferences while balancing how to manage our student loans. Consequently, many students decline to attend conferences due to the stress and inability to pay for the expensive costs of many medical conferences. Due to this unfortunate circumstance, I believed that I would not be able to attend an AACAP conference during my training as a medical student. Nevertheless, I was ecstatic when I received the email that I was selected as an award recipient for the grant. This grant finally provided the opportunity to network and learn from many child and adolescent psychiatrists.

As an aspiring child and adolescent psychiatrist, I was excited to learn more about community, addiction, and interventional psychiatry during the conference. Gaining insight into the field of child and adolescent psychiatry from physicians in different training levels and from different walks of life truly solidified my love for psychiatry. As aforementioned, I am extremely grateful for the donors of the AACAP Mentorship Grants for Medical Students. I am hopeful that I will have the opportunity to give back in a similar fashion to aspiring child and adolescent psychiatrists in the future.

Sincerely

Christian Aka, MS-3, Howard University College of Medicine

AACAP Executive Committee - MGMS CFAK  
c/o AACAP's Research, Grants and Workforce Department  
3615 Wisconsin Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC. 20016

November 18, 2025

Dear AACAP Executive Committee,

I very much appreciated the generous funding that I received via the “Campaign For America’s Kids” to attend the 2025 meeting of the American Academy of Adolescent and Child Psychiatry in Chicago, Illinois. I was deeply inspired by my experiences rotating in inpatient adult psychiatry to understand etiology of pathology, especially when and how trauma shaped later-life experiences. As a third-year medical student with limited exposure to child psychiatry, I found the conference extremely helpful for knowledge gathering and career orientation.

Mentorship sessions with faculty at Drexel University, University of New Mexico, and University of Indiana were the highlight of my conference because they revealed to me the great diversity of residency and fellowship programs possible for someone like me, who is interested in forensic as well as adolescent psychiatry. I so appreciate having early-stage career conversations now, before I begin the process of applying to residency.

Equally formative was the AACAP Awards breakfast, whose participants—I am sure of it—will include my future colleagues and collaborators. Listening to psychiatrist Dr. Robles-Vega speak about the importance of resilience in training as well as the need to develop a routine wellness regimen has inspired me to become more reflective and growth-minded in my own practice. I appreciate how interdisciplinary psychiatry is becoming, and I am so glad to see that AACAP is celebrating and embracing this new future too. I was impressed by the diversity of speakers at the plenary, including the Mayor of Chicago and the founder of the Innocence Project, as well as by the focus on indigenous health during the workshop and poster presentations. Advocating for a more inclusive, diverse field is vital, and now more than ever, I see the need for myself to become a voice and leader towards a positive change.

Thank you once again for the generous funding opportunity. It has meant so much to me, and I hope to continue my involvement in AACAP (including in my region) for years to come.

Sincerely,

Jayalakshmi N. Alagar  
M.D./M.A. Candidate  
Lewis Katz School of Medicine, Class of 2027

AACAP Executive Committee – MGMS CFAK  
c/o AACAP's Research, Grants and Workforce Department  
3615 Wisconsin Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20016

November 2025

Dear Executive Committee,

I am honored to be a recipient of the Mentorship Grant for Medical Students. I want to express my deepest gratitude for the support you have provided for trainees like me. Your financial assistance afforded me an invaluable opportunity for growth in my professional development.

I am a second-year medical student at Meharry Medical College, and I am committed to a career in child and adolescent psychiatry. The knowledge and inspiration I left with after this year's conference only reinforced my resolve. It was such a pivotal experience to be able to connect with fellow medical students, dive deeper into interesting topics in CAP, and speak with many life members such as yourselves. The goals I have set for myself now feel more attainable because of this experience.

Thank you again for investing in the future of child psychiatry. I am grateful for the doors you have opened for me, and I look forward to contributing to this field and someday sharing the same generosity and mentorship.

Sincerely,

Alissa Altidor  
MD Candidate, Class of 2028  
Meharry Medical College School of Medicine

AACAP Executive Committee – MGMS CFAK  
c/o AACAP's Research, Grants and Workforce Department  
3615 Wisconsin Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20016

**November 14th, 2025**

*Dear Executive Committee,*

I am writing to extend my heartfelt gratitude for selecting me as a recipient of the AACAP Mentorship Grants for Medical Students (MGMS). I am deeply honored to be chosen for this award and sincerely thank AACAP, CFAK, and the Life Members Fund for your generous commitment to fostering the next generation of child and adolescent psychiatrists.

As a second-year medical student at Oregon Health & Science University (OHSU), my path has been shaped by a dedication to child and adolescent mental health, trauma-informed care, reproductive psychiatry, and community-centered healing. This award carries profound meaning for me, not only because of the financial support it provides, but because it reflects your shared belief that early, intentional mentorship can transform the future of our field. The opportunity to engage directly with AACAP Life Members, leaders who have shaped decades of discovery, advocacy, and progress in child and adolescent psychiatry, is both humbling and inspiring.

The MGMS award gives me the invaluable opportunity to attend the 2025 AACAP Annual Meeting in Chicago, where I will participate in mentorship programming, connect with distinguished clinicians and researchers, and deepen my understanding of the evolving landscape of child and adolescent psychiatry. As an emerging physician with aspirations in preventative mental health, reproductive psychiatry, and youth-centered interventions, this experience will meaningfully shape my professional development. It will also strengthen my ability to advocate for young people, particularly Black youth and other marginalized children, whose mental health needs remain critically unmet.

Most importantly, this award affirms the mission that guides my work: building systems of care where every child, adolescent, and family is met with dignity, empathy, and access to quality mental health support. Your investment empowers me to continue advancing this mission without the additional burden of financial strain. I am committed to honoring this opportunity by engaging deeply in the Annual Meeting, uplifting AACAP's recruitment and educational resources among my peers, and channeling what I learn into my ongoing work at the intersection of mental health, equity, and community well-being.

Thank you again for believing in my potential and for providing opportunities that help shape future leaders in child and adolescent psychiatry. I am profoundly grateful for this support and for the legacy of mentorship, excellence, and service that this award represents.

*Much appreciation and gratitude,*

**Nicole Chizitara Anyanwu, MS-2, Oregon Health & Science University (OHSU)**

AACAP Executive Committee – MGMS CFAK  
c/o AACAP's Research, Grants and Workforce Department  
3615 Wisconsin Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20016

November 12, 2025

Dear Executive Committee,

I am writing to express my heartfelt gratitude for the AACAP Mentorship Grant for Medical Students. I am deeply appreciative not only for the funding that allowed me to attend the annual meeting—and to stay for many more days than most medical students typically can—but also for the extraordinary mentorship opportunities it provided. I was genuinely impressed by the intentionality behind every event designed for medical students, from small-group discussions with residents and early-career psychiatrists to opportunities to connect with experienced leaders in the field. I learned so much about the diversity of career paths within child and adolescent psychiatry and gained valuable insights into how physicians build meaningful and impactful careers in this specialty. I also appreciate the emphasis on supporting child and adolescent psychiatrists who pursue careers as researchers. I met so many generous mentors who took the time to share their experiences, and I left the conference inspired and energized. I was truly struck by how much thought and effort AACAP invests in supporting and uplifting the next generation of child and adolescent psychiatrists. This experience has strengthened my commitment to the field, and I look forward to returning to future annual meetings, staying actively involved, and becoming a lifelong member of this remarkable community.

Sincerely,  
Miranda Arakelian  
5<sup>th</sup> year Medical Student  
Cleveland Clinic Lerner College of Medicine of Case Western Reserve University

AACAP Executive Committee – MGMS CFAK  
c/o AACAP's Research, Grants and Workforce Department  
3615 Wisconsin Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20016

November 08, 2025

Dear Executive Committee,

My name is Ellie Nu Bui and I am a 4<sup>th</sup> year DO/MPH student who is truly grateful to have received the Mentorship Grant for Medical Students through the Campaign for America's Kids fund. Attending the AACAP Annual Meeting this year was something I have hoped to do for years, but financial barriers always made it out of reach. This grant made it possible, and I will never forget that.

It was my first AACAP Annual Meeting, and it felt like finding the community I have been searching for. I met mentors who reminded me why I chose this path and peers who share the same passion for children's mental health and health equity. The conversations, panels, and small moments of connection gave me encouragement and clarity about the kind of psychiatrist I strive to become.

Thank you for believing in students like me and for opening doors that once felt closed. Your support gave me not just access to an opportunity, but a sense of belonging and hope that I will carry forward in my journey.

With sincere gratitude,



**Ellie Nu Bui**

D.O. Candidate | Kansas City University – Class of 2026

M.P.H. Candidate | University of Nebraska Medical Center – Class of 2026

AACAP Executive Committee – MGMTS CFAK  
c/o AACAP's Research, Grants and Workforce Department  
3615 Wisconsin Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20016

November 10, 2025

Dear Executive Committee,

I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to the AACAP Executive Committee for nominating me to receive the *AACAP Mentorship Grant for Medical Students*, supported by *AACAP's Campaign for America's Kids*. This incredible opportunity allowed me to attend the 2025 AACAP Annual Meeting in Chicago, where I was able to learn more about the field of child and adolescent psychiatry. As I stated in my personal statement, I have prior experience in working with organizations serving families of children with ASD in my undergraduate, graduate, and medical training. It was a goal of mine to attend sessions that focus on the assessment and management of individuals with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) and comorbid psychiatric and behavioral challenges in youth with this developmental disorder.

During the conference, I attended several sessions on topics involving ASD and attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD)—areas that have always been strong clinical interests of mine. I was also able to get advice from colleagues about topics of interest on research and where to start to further my ideas into a poster presentation or future publication.

Beyond the educational opportunities, I had the privilege of networking with mentors and professionals who shared invaluable insights about their work and experiences in child and adolescent psychiatry. This was one of the highlights of my experience at the 2025 Annual Meeting. I enjoyed the chance to connect with program directors from diverse training programs across the country. Through these conversations, I learned about various career paths within psychiatry, including the Triple Board program, which offers combined certification in pediatrics, adult psychiatry, and child and adolescent psychiatry—a track I had not been familiar with prior to the conference but now find deeply intriguing.

I am truly grateful to all members of the Executive Committee for giving medical students like myself mentorship and educational opportunities that help inspire future leaders in this field. Thank you again for choosing me to be a recipient of this generous award. This opportunity has furthered my commitment to the field of child and adolescent psychiatry, and I am already looking forward to next year's meeting in Atlanta!

Sincerely

*Andrea Chapa*

Andrea Chapa  
MS-3  
LSUHSC School of Medicine in New Orleans

AACAP Executive Committee – MGMS CFAK  
c/o AACAP's Research, Grants and Workforce Department  
3615 Wisconsin Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20016

October 29, 2025

Dear Executive Committee,

I am writing this letter to express my extreme gratitude for the Mentorship Grant for Medical Students, which facilitated my attendance at the 2026 annual AACAP meeting held in Chicago.

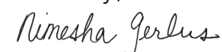
I am an MD-PhD candidate in the final year of my PhD, and I have been fortunate to attend several conferences to present my research; however, this conference has been the most beneficial professional development experience I have had at a conference thus far. I applied for a mentorship award because I was unfamiliar with the career trajectory of an aspiring child psychiatry researcher and was interested in learning more about this pathway. By attending a combination of focused mentorship sessions, research talks, and institutional receptions, I made meaningful connections with child psychiatry residents and faculty and learned about what a child psychiatrist's life is like as well as where research in the field is urgently needed.

One very strong thread I noticed throughout the conference was an emphasis on conveying to trainees such as myself the value of work-life balance within the field. I attended a small group discussion on navigating family planning, parental leave, and early parenthood, which was the first such discussion I have participated in with attending physicians during my training. I also had fruitful discussions about balancing family and career with life members and other mentors at the "Meet the Life Member" session, the ticketed two-day Mentorship Program. Prioritizing these topics for trainees indicates to me the value AACAP places on ensuring trainees and child psychiatrists are supported both personally and professionally. This space was encouraging for trainees to ask questions that I hadn't felt comfortable asking in other environments.

Finally, I was impressed by the quality of research mentorship at AACAP. I attended a talk on non-invasive neuromodulation in youth, as well as identifying transdiagnostic emotion dysregulation in youth – both of which are my current research interests and the fields I intend to pursue in my career. I attended "Starting and Sustaining a Research Academic Career in Child and Adolescent Psychiatry: A Mentoring Mingle," where I learned about what to prioritize when selecting a research-track residency. At several of the receptions, I spoke with program directors, current residents, and current fellows about their training experiences at different institutions. These formal and informal conversations were critical to increasing my confidence in my ability to pursue a research career in academic psychiatry and helped educate me on the path forward.

Thank you very much for facilitating my participation in such a formative career experience. I am deeply grateful for the opportunity.

Sincerely,

  
Nimesha Gerlus

MD-PhD Candidate, Year 7 (anticipated class of 2027)

Duke University Medical Scientist Training Program | Duke Dept. of Psychology & Neuroscience

AACAP Executive Committee – MGMS CFAK  
c/o AACAP's Research, Grants and Workforce Department  
3615 Wisconsin Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20016

November 9, 2025

Dear Executive Committee,

I want to express my heartfelt gratitude for your generous contribution to the Mentorship Grant for Medical Students. Through this grant, I was able to explore the fascinating, vast, and diverse field of Child Psychiatry. I am deeply grateful that people like you are willing to invest in my future and professional development.

Opportunities like this not only help students like me grow but also strengthen our health care community, one that supports and uplifts children and families in our communities and beyond.

Thank you again for your generosity and commitment to fostering the next generation of physicians and child advocates.

Sincerely

Madalyn Grass, OMS-IV  
Michigan State University College of Osteopathic Medicine

AACAP Executive Committee – MGMS CFAK  
c/o AACAP's Research, Grants and Workforce Department  
3615 Wisconsin Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20016

November 7, 2025

Dear Executive Committee,

I am writing to express my sincere gratitude for being selected as a recipient of the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry (AACAP) Mentorship Grant for Medical Students (MGMS), supported by the Campaign for America's Kids (CFAK) and the Hirsch Legacy Fund. It is a privilege to be supported by AACAP, and I am deeply appreciative of the Executive Committee's continued investment in medical student education, mentorship, and workforce development in child and adolescent psychiatry.

Attending the AACAP Annual Meeting as part of this program has been a formative experience in my training. As I apply for residency, the opportunity to learn from leaders in the field, attend sessions grounded in culturally responsive care, and reconnect with mentors has further strengthened my commitment to becoming a child and adolescent psychiatrist. The MGMS Award has not only provided financial support but has also affirmed my place within a community of clinicians and scholars dedicated to improving the lives of children, adolescents, and families.

I am especially grateful for AACAP's dedication to sustaining the MGMS Program. This support ensures that students like myself, who are driven by a passion for service, advocacy, and equity, can participate fully in the Annual Meeting and continue developing into future leaders within the field. I look forward to carrying forward the values AACAP has instilled in me as I transition from student to resident.

Thank you for your generosity, your vision, and your continued support of aspiring child and adolescent psychiatrists.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Loren S. Hardeman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Loren" being particularly prominent.

Loren S. Hardeman, MS, MBA  
MS4  
Morehouse School of Medicine

AACAP Executive Committee - MGMS CFAK  
c/o AACAP's Research, Grants and Workforce Department  
3615 Wisconsin Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC. 20016

Dear AACAP Executive Committee,

I am writing to thank you for your generous mentorship grant, which allowed me the opportunity to attend the AACAP Annual Meeting in Chicago this year. I am incredibly grateful to have been selected as one of the recipients of the Mentorship Grant for Medical Students and had the most amazing experience attending the conference.

Attending this conference allowed me to network with extraordinary child and adolescent psychiatrists representing many different subspecialties and career journeys. I made many connections during the mentorship sessions which I am sure will be invaluable resources as I continue in my medical career and engage in the psychiatry residency application process this year.

I also had the opportunity to present my research project, titled "Substance Use and Referral to Treatment in Patients with Suicidality in the Pediatric Emergency Department," which I have been working on since I was a first year medical student. Through presenting this research, I was able to have many fruitful discussions with other colleagues in the field and enjoyed sharing my passion for increasing awareness of the importance of screening for substance use disorders in adolescents.

Once again, thank you very much for your generosity and for selecting me to receive this award, I will absolutely be sure to pay it forward in the future.

Warm Regards,

Heather Held  
MS4, University of Arizona College of Medicine - Phoenix

AACAP Executive Committee – MGMS CFAK  
c/o AACAP's Research, Grants and Workforce Department  
3615 Wisconsin Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20016

November 11, 2025

Dear Executive Committee,

I hope this letter of gratitude finds you well. Attending the 2025 AACAP annual meeting in Chicago was truly transformative for my academic and future professional career. Prior to the conference and currently only being a second-year medical student, I was uncertain of where my passion within psychiatry currently stood. However, after being granted the funds to fulfill this opportunity, I felt my interests and passions reignite. From attending the breakfasts with fellow colleagues and professionals within the field, hearing clinical perspectives on an array of topics, and connecting with physicians/researchers at the mentorship events, it was evident to me that this field was one I am confident in pursuing.

For each session I attended, I was eager to take notes on what I found to be fascinating! In particular, I found enjoyment in learning about treatment resistant schizophrenia, queer health, autism spectrum disorder, and pediatric obsessive compulsive disorder. It was truly captivating to realize how expansive the field is, and I believe it is important to acknowledge the research and innovation being done to expand access to care for all.

Aside from the rewarding sessions that I attended, I am truly grateful for the connections that I made with fellow medical students and professionals who are like-minded and are advocating for the same passion and mission. It was truly such an inviting environment to be a part of where meaningful and impactful conversations were held in which they also served as reinforcers of my "why" in medicine. Reflecting on the conference, I am so fortunate to be a recipient of such a generous award, and I am excited to be continuing my experience in AACAP with hopes of attending additional annual meetings in the near future. Again, I am so honored and thankful that this award contributed to my growth and education within the field. I am inspired to pay it forward towards future generations. Until we meet again!

Sincerely,

*angelinehuynh*

Angeline Huynh, OMS-II  
Oklahoma State College of Osteopathic Medicine

**From:** [Jetter, Ethan M](#)  
**To:** [Anneke Archer](#); [training](#)  
**Subject:** MGMS CFAK\_Thank You Letter\_Jetter  
**Date:** Sunday, November 9, 2025 3:53:02 PM

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AACAP Executive Committee – MGMS CFAK  
c/o AACAP's Research, Grants and Workforce Department  
3615 Wisconsin Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20016

November 09, 2025

Dear Executive Committee,

I wanted to express my sincere gratitude for the opportunity to attend the AACAP Annual Meeting through the Mentorship Grant. It was an incredible experience connecting with mentors and learning from dedicated professionals in child and adolescent psychiatry.

The opportunity to speak with passionate and inspiring individuals committed to child and adolescent mental health as I prepare to enter psychiatric residency was truly a once-in-a-lifetime experience.

My passion for serving youth and my commitment to pursuing a career in child and adolescent psychiatry have been invigorated by this experience. I am deeply thankful for the support this program provides to students as they take the next steps toward entering this much-needed specialty.

Sincerely,  
Ethan Jetter, MS4  
University of Florida College of Medicine



**AACAP Executive Committee – MGMS CFAK**

c/o AACAP's Research, Grants, and Workforce Department

3615 Wisconsin Avenue, NW

Washington, DC 20016

October 25, 2025

Dear Executive Committee,

I am writing to express my deepest gratitude for being selected as a recipient of the AACAP Medical Student Mentorship Grant for Medical Students (MGMS), supported by the Campaign for America's Kids (CFAK) fund. Your generosity allowed me to attend my first AACAP Annual Meeting in Chicago—an experience that has profoundly shaped both my professional development and my commitment to child and adolescent psychiatry.

The mentorship and educational sessions provided through the program were inspiring and reaffirmed my dedication to improving the mental health and well-being of youth and families. I particularly appreciated the Life Members Mentorship events and the Medical Students and Residents Committee sessions, each of which offered meaningful opportunities to connect with mentors who generously shared wisdom about their career journeys. Their guidance helped me envision the many ways I can contribute to the field.

Beyond the formal programming, I was deeply moved by the sense of community and shared purpose that defines AACAP. Meeting other trainees and leaders who are equally passionate about supporting children's mental health reinforced my desire to continue building a career rooted in compassion, collaboration, and service. I return to my home institution energized to share what I have learned and to continue cultivating the mentorship relationships that began through this award.

Thank you again for your extraordinary generosity and for investing in the next generation of child and adolescent psychiatrists. Please extend my gratitude to the donors who made this award possible. I hope that someday I will be able to be as generous as they are. I am honored to be part of the AACAP family and look forward to remaining actively involved in the organization for years to come.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Qingxi Jia".

Qingxi (Tim) Jia

Medical Student, 2028

University of Vermont Larner College of Medicine

AACAP Executive Committee – MGMS CFAK  
c/o AACAP's Research, Grants and Workforce Department  
3615 Wisconsin Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20016

November 1st, 2025

Dear Executive Committee

My name is Emma Longmire, and I am a fourth-year student at the UCSD School of Medicine. I am writing to express my deepest gratitude for the Medical Student Grant for the AACAP Summer Medical Student Fellowship in Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, supported by the Break the Cycle Initiative of AACAP's Campaign for America's Kids.

Receiving this grant was an incredible honor and was instrumental in solidifying my commitment to the field. The Fellowship significantly increased my love for child psychiatry and provided me with invaluable exposure that confirmed my goal of becoming a child psychiatrist. I cannot express to you enough how grateful I am that this grant directly facilitated my attendance at the 2025 AACAP Annual Meeting. The knowledge I gained at the conference was immense, particularly through the sessions on serving underserved populations and the intersection between child psychiatry and law/juvenile justice. This immersive experience greatly solidified my appreciation for the scope of child and adolescent psychiatry and affirmed my career trajectory.

Upon graduating, my goal is to enter residency and become a doctor specializing in child and adolescent care. I am excited to apply the knowledge and skills I've gained to improve the quality of care within the medical field. Thank you again for your investment in my future.

Sincerely,

Emma Longmire MS4, UCSD SOM

AACAP Executive Committee – MGMS CFAK  
c/o AACAP's Research, Grants and Workforce Department  
3615 Wisconsin Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20016

November 5<sup>th</sup>, 2025

To the AACAP Executive Committee,

I pray this letter finds you and your families well. I want to express my deepest gratitude to the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry and the Executive Committee for sponsoring this year's Annual Meeting and for your continued support of the Medical Student Mentorship Grant.

As a fourth-year medical student with a strong interest in child and adolescent psychiatry attending the conference for the first time, receiving this grant was an incredible honor. It allowed me to attend the conference without financial burden and to immerse myself fully in the experience, which I did, learning from simple conversations with those who have gone before me, engaging with renown psychiatrists, and connecting with peers and mentors who share my passion for this field. I also danced multiple times with many of them, which is still hard to believe!

This opportunity not only strengthened my commitment to pursuing child and adolescent psychiatry but also expanded my understanding of the vital role mentorship plays in nurturing the next generation of clinicians and advocates for youth mental health. I am truly grateful for AACAP's investment in students like me and for your vision in creating such a transformative and inclusive program. I intend to make use of the new connections and resources I've learned of since attending and will be getting involved as much as opportunity offers. I'm inspired not only to be a part of AACAP, but to contribute my talents to improving it year by year.

Please keep the mentorship grant going. I found out about this grant only because one of my attendings told me, without which I would've never attended the annual meeting. This grant is life-changing and is truly making a difference – maybe not now, but the fruits will certainly be seen in the years to come.

Thank you again for your generosity, leadership, and dedication to advancing the field and supporting future child and adolescent psychiatrists. I left the meeting deeply inspired, transformed and motivated to carry forward the values AACAP represents.

With sincere appreciation and enthusiasm,



**Alvin Mantey**

Fifth-Year MD-MPH Student

University of Cincinnati College of Medicine.

To: AACAP Executive Committee - MGMS CFAK  
c/o AACAP's Research, Grants and Workforce Department  
3615 Wisconsin Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC. 20016

Dear AACAP Executive Committee,

Thank you so much for the opportunity to attend my first-ever AACAP Annual Meeting. Over the course of three days, I participated in several engaging and informative sessions that enriched my understanding of child and adolescent psychiatry.

One of the highlights was *CAPS Unite: Bridging Intergenerational Gaps*, where I collaborated with medical students, residents, and program directors from across generations. Our discussions on improving communication both with our patients and within our professional community were productive and inspiring. I also found the *Skills for Addressing Adolescent Substance Use* workshop valuable, as it strengthened my motivational interviewing skills and introduced me to effective screening tools for working with youth. Additionally, attending the Asian Caucus was especially meaningful, as it allowed me to build relationships with other Asian American clinicians and fostered a genuine sense of belonging and community.

Beyond the outstanding programming, I am deeply grateful for the opportunity to engage with such passionate and like-minded individuals. The Mentorship Program for Medical Students and Residents was very impactful, allowing me to form connections with peers at a similar stage of training. Sharing experiences, challenges, and aspirations in that space was both empowering and validating. Through various sessions, I also met students and residents who share my enthusiasm for CAP, and we've already made plans to stay in touch and reconnect at future AACAP meetings.

This experience truly reflected the welcoming and supportive spirit that defines AACAP. Everyone I met was kind, encouraging, and eager to share their knowledge. Attending this conference reinforced my commitment to the field and deepened my excitement to continue growing within this incredible community.

Thank you again for making this experience possible. I am so grateful to be part of the AACAP family and look forward to contributing to its mission in the years to come.

Best,  
Emily Ng

AACAP Executive Committee – MGMS CFAK  
c/o AACAP's Research, Grants and Workforce Department  
3615 Wisconsin Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20016

November 13, 2025

Dear Executive Committee,

I'd like to extend my sincerest gratitude for supporting my participation in the AACAP conference this year. It was an amazing opportunity to attend and incredibly meaningful for my development. I was able to learn from leaders in the field, connect with peers, and engage with the latest research shaping child and adolescent psychiatry. The sessions I attended broadened my understanding of both clinical and research approaches, specifically on the global scale which serves as a very important passion of mine. I left feeling even more inspired to pursue work that meaningfully supports youth and families.

Your committee's commitment to fostering the next generation of clinicians and scholars is truly evident in opportunities like this. Thank you again for making this opportunity possible. I am excited to carry the knowledge and experiences from this conference into my future training and career.

Sincerely

Oreoluwa Odeniyi, MS3  
University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine

AACAP Executive Committee – MGMS CFAK  
c/o AACAP's Research, Grants and Workforce Department  
3615 Wisconsin Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20016

November 12, 2025

Dear AACAP Executive Committee,

I wanted to express my sincere gratitude for your support of the Medical Student Mentorship Grants program. This was my first time attending the AACAP Annual Meeting, and I just felt so welcomed to this field. Because of your generosity, I was able to explore topic areas in child and adolescent psychiatry, such as integrated care, transition-age youth, transcultural adoption, and justice-involved youth. I loved connecting with new mentors and learning about their paths and experiences. I received advice that I took to heart and will continue to bear in mind the rest of my career!

Thank you so much for this opportunity!

Sincerely,

**Karen Qi**  
MS4, Johns Hopkins School of Medicine

AACAP Executive Committee – MGMS CFAK  
c/o AACAP's Research, Grants and Workforce Department  
3615 Wisconsin Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20016

November 7, 2025

Dear Executive Committee,

I am writing to express my heartfelt gratitude for selecting me as a recipient of the Campaign for America's Kids (CFAK) Award. It was an immense honor to receive this recognition and to attend the AACAP 2025 Annual Meeting.

The conference was an extraordinary experience that greatly enriched my understanding of child and adolescent psychiatry. I had the opportunity to attend a variety of sessions, interact with inspiring clinicians and researchers, and learn about the latest advances in the field. This experience has strengthened my commitment and enthusiasm to pursue a career in child and adolescent psychiatry.

As a fourth-year medical student from Puerto Rico, I am deeply appreciative of the opportunity that this award provided. Your generous support not only made this experience possible, but also reaffirmed my passion for serving children, adolescents, and their families through compassionate and evidence-based care.

Thank you once again for your generosity and for your continued dedication to supporting future generations of child and adolescent psychiatrists. I am truly honored to have been part of this inspiring community and look forward to contributing to the field in the years ahead.

Sincerely,

Yael Quiles Ramirez, MSL  
Fourth-Year Medical Student  
University of Puerto Rico School of Medicine

AACAP Executive Committee – MGMS CFAK  
c/o AACAP's Research, Grants and Workforce Department  
3615 Wisconsin Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20016

November 9, 2025

Dear Executive Committee,

I wanted to sincerely thank you for the opportunity to attend the 2025 Annual Meeting through AACAP's Mentorship Grant for Medical Students (MGMS) supported by the AACAP Campaign for America's Kids (CFAK).

This was a truly invaluable experience for me as I had the privilege to attend sessions and to learn about a range of topics in child and adolescent psychiatry. From the institutes to clinical perspectives and symposiums it was amazing to spend the week at the Annual Meeting and learn from experts in the field of child and adolescent psychiatry. Further, I truly appreciated the mentorship opportunities provided to medical students like myself, for example learning about the careers and the perspectives shared by the Life Members.

My experience at the Annual Meeting is one that I know I will carry forward with me throughout medical school and in residency. It has reinforced to me the crucial need to address the mental health needs of children everywhere. Learning more about the field of child and adolescent psychiatry at the Annual Meeting has given me a glimpse of the advances and research in this field and has also shown me the need for further work to improve care for our patients. Perhaps most importantly it has taught me the significant role that we play in advocating for each child's mental health.

Thank you again for your support and for the opportunity to attend the Annual Meeting this year.

Sincerely,  
Joanna Shad  
MD Candidate, Class of 2026  
University of Colorado School of Medicine

AACAP Executive Committee – MGMS CFAK  
c/o AACAP's Research, Grants and Workforce Department  
3615 Wisconsin Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20016

November 8th, 2025

Dear Executive Committee,

Thank you so much for your generous funding of the MGMS CFAK grant! Before learning about the grant, I was planning to attend AACAP to present my research, but I did not think it would be feasible to stay longer than the one day I would be presenting. However, receiving the grant made it possible for me to attend five days of this year's annual meeting! Each day I was at the conference, I had many moments of gratitude for the MGMS CFAK grant, which made it possible for me to learn from and form relationships with so many inspirational peers and mentors! The first event I attended was a mixer among medical students, residents, and AACAP life members. There, I got to learn from Dr. Metz, a psychiatrist at UMass who has been an advocate for children in the foster care system throughout his career. Serving and advocating for this population is one of my biggest goals within psychiatry, and it was incredibly inspiring to learn about the sustainable change that Dr. Metz has made throughout his career.

Later in the week, another especially impactful event was attending the medical student and resident committee meeting. There, I got to meet so many of my peers and look forward to continuing to nourish those relationships for years to come! A few other highlights of the meeting included attending talks on partnering with schools to increase the accessibility of mental health care services and attending the breakfast, where we heard personal stories of resilience in psychiatry from accomplished early-, mid-, and late-career psychiatrists.

Receiving the MGMS CFAK grant also inspired me to embrace every possible opportunity for mentorship and growth at this year's conference – I felt humbled and honored to receive the award and was determined to make the most of it! It was a great feeling to attend the conference, feeling like the committee believed in me as an aspiring psychiatrist, and I certainly hope to give back to medical students in a similar way in the future. Attending the conference and partaking in all the mentorship events was truly one of my highlights of my medical school experience and would not have been possible without your support! Thank you again for your generosity!

With gratitude,

Lilly Snellman, 4<sup>th</sup> year medical student at Baylor College of Medicine

AACAP Executive Committee – MGMS CFAK  
c/o AACAP's Research, Grants and Workforce Department  
3615 Wisconsin Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20016

November 5, 2025

Dear Executive Committee,

I would like to extend my sincere gratitude for the incredible opportunity you provided me through this program. The experience was truly transformative. Having early exposure to child and adolescent psychiatry has further solidified my passion for the field, and I am deeply appreciative of the resources, guidance, and educational experiences made possible through your generous support.

As a first-generation college and now medical student, opportunities like this are especially impactful. Having access to financial support and mentorship has opened doors that I never imagined possible and has given me the confidence and foundation to continue pursuing my goals. This experience would not have been attainable without the funding provided.

I am especially grateful for the chance to learn from inspiring professionals, meet leaders across psychiatry, and build meaningful connections with peers and mentors. The networking, support, and knowledge I received have had a lasting influence on both my personal and professional growth.

Thank you again for investing in students like me. I look forward to the day I can pay it forward and support future medical students in the same way you have supported me.

Sincerely  
Shielene Vargas, MS3  
Tilman J Fertitta Family College of Medicine

AACAP Executive Committee – MGMS CFAK  
c/o AACAP's Research, Grants and Workforce Department  
3615 Wisconsin Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20016

November 9, 2025

Dear Executive Committee,

Thank you so much for providing the generous opportunity to attend my first AACAP meeting. This has been a truly unforgettable experience, not only for offering a wealth of educational opportunities, but also for providing the platform to form lifelong mentorships and relationships. I felt I was able to immerse myself into the world of child and adolescent psychiatry and learn what a fulfilling career in this field can look like. I often found myself inspired by the advice of senior clinicians and humbled by how much we can do within this field to improve the mental health care of children and families.

I am especially grateful for the career and research mentoring events and all the mentors who so generously spent their time giving advice to the next generation. I found them to be warm and supportive role models and these events to be particularly helpful in giving me the confidence to pursue child and adolescent psychiatry. It is my hope that I can follow in their footsteps and one day, also give back by providing mentorship to younger generations.

I also enjoyed my time attending several lectures and talks that were truly inspiring. From nature therapy to early psychosis interventions to psychiatry in the age of AI and machine learning, it reinforced my desire to pursue a career in academic psychiatry and pursue research/scholarly work in the field. It also makes me excited about how our field will continue to evolve in the future, and I look forward to a career centered around lifelong learning.

Finally, this letter would not be complete without mentioning the people I met during the conference. From fellow medical students, to future colleagues with similar interests within psychiatry, to mentors, I cherish each shared memory, and feel that this is the start of building my own AACAP family. I also want to give a special shout-out to the [AACAP Asian Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Caucus](#) who truly made the conference feel like a home away from home, and created a warm and supportive environment where I felt welcomed and seen.

Thank you for supporting my journey to child and adolescent psychiatry, and I am truly grateful for this opportunity. This conference has further reinforced my desire to pursue a career in this field, and I look forward to seeing many familiar faces in the next decades!

Sincerely  
Winni Yang  
MS4, Rutgers NJMS

November 5<sup>th</sup>, 2025

AACAP Executive Committee - MGMS CFAK  
c/o AACAP's Research, Grants and Workforce Department  
3615 Wisconsin Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC. 20016

Dear AACAP Executive Committee,

My name is Jiwon, and I am a third-year medical student at Washington University in St. Louis and one of the recipients of the AACAP's Medical Student Mentorship Grant this year. Thanks to your generosity, I had the great privilege of attending the 2025 AACAP Annual Meeting this October.

This Mentorship Grant and the 2025 AACAP meeting had a significant impact on my development as a budding child psychiatrist. I had a chance to find mentors at various phases of their career, from residents who gave me guidance about balancing research and clinical training, to late-career faculty members. The mentorship and career guidance I received through this grant helped me gain clarity about the path I want to forge in my own career. Next year, I hope to apply to both general psychiatry and triple board programs, with the goal of one day treating the psychiatric comorbidities of pediatric patients with chronic pain and other medical complications.

This formative experience in my career development would not have been possible without your generous gift. Thank you again for your support and commitment to supporting the next generation of child psychiatrists.

With gratitude,

Jiwon Yi, PhD

MD/PhD student