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Shannon Martinello Appointed to National Child Passenger Safety Board
Connecticut Pediatrician Follows in Footsteps of Mentor as AAP Representative

ITASCA, IL – The National Child Passenger Safety Board is pleased to announce the appointment of Dr. Shannon Martinello. She will serve as the American Academy of Pediatrics representative on the Board.

Martinello lives in Woodbridge, CT, and works as a primary care pediatrician. She has a special interest in the safe transportation of children with adaptive transportation needs.

Martinello replaces Dr. Marilyn Bull, a pioneer in child passenger safety and leading authority on the safe transportation of children with special needs. Bull served as the Board's AAP rep for 25 years before stepping down earlier this month. Martinello was a pediatric resident and fellow under Dr. Bull at Indiana University's Riley Hospital for Children and is humbled to have the opportunity to follow in her footsteps.

"We honored to have someone with Dr. Martinello's credentials and experience join our team," National Child Passenger Safety Board Chair Scott Downing said. "We look forward to working with her as CPS education and training continues to evolve. At the same time, we'd like to thank Dr. Bull for her years of experience and invaluable leadership. She blazed a safety trail."

Martinello is a Child Passenger Safety Technician and has completed the Safe Travel for All Children enrichment training. Early in her career, she realized her training in CPS was not universal in the healthcare setting.

"I took a deep breath and re-educated my brand-new boss with a crash course on CPS when I heard advice being given that wasn't best practice," she said. "Thus began my quest to make sure any pediatrician or nurse I shared space with was up to date on best-practice recommendations so the best advice would be given to our families."

A few years later, Martinello's training was put to the test. She and her family survived a crash with a tractor-trailer while traveling in a rental vehicle outside Chicago. The car was totaled, but her children were safe because they were correctly restrained in car seats.

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“That was the day my standard tagline to caregivers in my practice was launched,” she said. “I tell caregivers they only need those car seats to work once, and when those seats do their job, they’ll be forever grateful.”

Martinello was born in New Haven, CT. She attended Stritch School of Medicine at Loyola University Chicago and later did her residency at Indiana University’s Riley Hospital for Children. She currently works in private practice, attends at Yale New Haven Children’s Hospital as a community pediatrician and teaches third-year medical students at the Netter School of Medicine at Quinnipiac University on their pediatric rotation. She and her husband, Richard, have raised four boys. When Shannon is not at work, she likes to swim and spend time on the beach. She also is an avid reader and loves to travel.

About the National Child Passenger Safety Board

The National Child Passenger Safety Board’s mission is to save lives and prevent injuries by promoting child passenger safety through education, mentorship, engagement and innovation. The Board’s work is managed by the National Safety Council. For more information about child passenger safety or the National CPS Board, please visit the Board’s website at www.cpsboard.org