

The pediatrician and their role in child health: A non-delegable commitment to the future

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Pediatrics is an essential discipline for the development of healthier and more equitable societies. Scientific evidence has consistently demonstrated that childhood and adolescence are critical periods in the life course, during which biological, psychosocial, and environmental experiences exert a profound and lasting impact on health. In this context, the pediatrician plays a central role by integrating health promotion, disease prevention, treatment, and longitudinal support, addressing the child within the framework of their family and social environment.

In March 2026, the Sociedad Argentina de Pediatría (SAP) presented the Position Statement prepared by its Advisory Council, *“The Pediatrician and Their Role in Child Health: Current Challenges and Commitment to New Generations,”* a strategic reflection on the present and future of the specialty in Argentina, including proposals aimed at strengthening vocation and enhancing the professional status of pediatric practice.¹

The medical profession is currently facing a global crisis characterized by increasing clinical workload, bureaucratization, reduced professional autonomy, and growing burnout.² This scenario particularly affects specialties grounded in continuous care and comprehensive

support. Within this broader context, Pediatrics faces additional, specialty-specific challenges: a sustained decline in its selection by young physicians and the presence of unfilled pediatric residency positions.³ This trend constitutes a warning sign for the health system and calls for a thorough analysis of its determinants and consequences.

Identified contributing factors include early-career working conditions marked by instability and comparatively lower remuneration than other specialties, high clinical demands, and increasing emotional strain. Teaching and supervisory responsibilities—assumed with strong commitment by many pediatricians—do not always receive appropriate institutional or financial recognition. Generational shifts that prioritize work–life balance have further reshaped expectations regarding professional practice.

In light of this situation, we reaffirm a fundamental conviction: infants, children, and adolescents must be cared for by pediatricians—professionals specifically trained to address development in a comprehensive and integrated manner. Failure to ensure such access poses risks to quality of care and to the full exercise of children’s rights.⁴

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Within this framework, the Sociedad Argentina de Pediatría assumes a strategic role. As the leading national scientific society in the field, it is called upon to inspire pediatric vocation, support training, and promote improvements in practice conditions.

The challenge requires a comprehensive and sustained response. Revaluing the specialty means revaluing childhood. The Sociedad Argentina de Pediatría reaffirms its commitment to leading this process and to ensuring comprehensive, continuous, and high-quality care for infants, children, and adolescents. ■

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