

AAP Abroad

Myanmar, AAP come together to boost health care for children



Pictured above are Yakin Children's Hospital senior faculty and Francis E. Rushton Jr., M.D., FAAP (third from left). The pediatricians presented Dr. Rushton with a lungi, a garment commonly worn by men and women in Myanmar.

Improving care for young children and collaboration with the Academy's sister pediatric society were the focus of a meeting in Myanmar, which was attended by AAP representative Francis E. Rushton Jr., M.D., FAAP, in November.

Dr. Rushton was welcomed by pediatricians from the Pediatric Section of the Myanmar Medical Association in a follow-up visit to the June launch of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) Survive & Thrive partnership (see <http://aapnews.aapublications.org/content/34/5/34.5>).

The Academy and Survive & Thrive partners will return this spring to continue work on maternal and child health needs. Although the country

has made tremendous strides, preventable pediatric diseases and deaths continue to plague Myanmar children, said Dr. Rushton, who toured two of the main children's hospitals. Children suffer from birth asphyxia, dengue fever, diphtheria, pneumonia, meningitis, dehydration, shock and other preventable diseases because of a lack of resources, he said.

USAID has identified Myanmar as having the third highest rate of deaths among children younger than 5 years in the Asia and Pacific Region. The Academy is working to improve newborn interventions, collaborations with colleagues and community-level interventions.