



PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

Dear Colleagues and Members,

I am thrilled to share with the child life community about my recent visit to Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, where I had the privilege of being joined by ACLP CEO, Alison Heron, MBA, CAE. Together, we engaged in meaningful discussions with Abdulrahman's Oasis, a foundation dedicated to integrating child life services into healthcare systems across the country.

Abdulrahman's Oasis was founded by the family of Abdulrahman to honor and carry on the memory of his loving, joyful spirit and noble optimism even after his departure from the earth

at a young age. The legacy of Abdulrahman and his family was palpable throughout our time there, reinforcing the profound impact of their advocacy. Meeting so many passionate individuals committed to the advancement of child life was truly a privilege. We had the opportunity to connect with healthcare leaders, educators, and child life professionals who are deeply dedicated to strengthening the field and prioritizing emotional safety in pediatric care across the region. One of the most inspiring aspects of this experience was witnessing the growing commitment to integrating child life services into healthcare systems across Saudi Arabia, driven by a long-term, sustainable vision.

The week concluded with a profoundly moving celebration—the graduation of the first cohort of child life students in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Attending this milestone event was both humbling and emotional, as we had the opportunity to connect with the graduates and the broader community surrounding Abdulrahman's Oasis. The graduates' enthusiasm, coupled with the foundation's ongoing investment in developing comprehensive child life programs, signals a bright and sustainable future for the profession in Saudi Arabia.

This visit reinforced that child life is not just a profession—it is a movement that transcends borders and unites us in a collective mission to ensure that every child, no matter where they are in the world, receives the emotional and psychosocial support they need. I am excited for the future as we continue to work together to advance the field of child life. The growth of international child life programs, such as in Saudi Arabia, reflects the increasing recognition of child life on a global scale.

ACLP's collaboration with Abdulrahman's Oasis is just one example of how our second Key Priority Area in the 2025-2027 Strategic Plan Framework, Strengthening Partnerships and Collaborations, opens new doors for learning and innovation, and I am excited about what the future holds as we continue to share knowledge and expand our reach worldwide.

As President of ACLP, I am continually inspired by the dedication and passion of child life professionals worldwide. Your commitment to this profession is what makes progress possible. As Child Life Month begins, we not only celebrate our work but also reflect on the impact we have collectively made in the lives of children and families. Our new strategic framework presents all of us a unique opportunity to build on this impact, and I encourage each of you to consider how you can contribute. Whether it's joining an ACLP committee, mentoring a new professional, or advocating for child life services in your community, your involvement is essential in shaping the future of our profession.

Thank you for your unwavering commitment to child life. Together, we will continue to make a difference in the lives of children and families everywhere.

With gratitude and enthusiasm for the future,

Sarah Patterson, MSc, CCLS

President, Association of Child Life Professionals

