

ASSOCIATION OF PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT PROGRAMS
ANNUAL MEETING
MARCH 29, 1974

The meeting was called to order at 2:05 by Dr. Thomas E. Piemme, President. The first item on the agenda was a report from the President. Dr. Piemme reported on several items the Association had addressed during the last year:

- 1) The National Executive Office -- The National Executive Office as reported in November has been funded. Dr. Donald Fisher, the Executive Director of the National Office has been employed since November and will be in Washington full-time beginning in May. The space which has been leased is located at 2120 L Street, Suite 210 of the Gelman Building.
- 2) Internal Revenue Service Tax Status -- As announced at our November meeting, the Association of Physician Assistant Program has received its 501 (C) (3) tax status. This status is what enables us to receive monies from charitable and educational foundations. The By-Laws which were drafted to receive this tax status have a few changes dealing with minor issues that need to be made. These changes will be addressed by a committee soon to be established.
- 3) Meeting with the AAMC -- In November of last year we held our semi-annual meeting with the AAMC in Washington. At that time 36 abstracts were presented for the scientific sessions. To date we have received more than 60 abstracts for our annual meeting. In reference to the AAMC our semi-annual meeting will again this fall, be held in conjunction with them, in Chicago.
- 4) Joint Review Committee of the American Medical Association -- As of today, APAP is still not represented on the Joint Review Committee. The Office of Education has approved the AMA to continue their accreditations, however, part of this approval requires that within one year the AMA develop a plan for generic accreditation. The Association has been invited to participate and is currently involved in this plan.
- 5) National Board of Medical Examiners Certification Examination -- APAP wishes to commend the National Board of Medical Examiners for the tremendous work involved in preparing the P.A. examination and for doing it so well. The response to the Certification Examination has been varied by Programs. The eligibility for future examinations was then discussed. No concensus was agreed upon by our membership regarding whether eligibility should or should not be opened up for this next examination year. We do, however, recognize that the National Board of Medical Examiners has already stated and published that examination eligibility for future exams will be expanded.
- 6) National Commission of Certification of Physician Assistants -- Last fall 17 medical organizations participated in a meeting in Chicago to discuss a National Commission on Certification. The American Medical Association proposed such a meeting because of the uncomfortable postures felt by the National Board of Medical Examiners and the Federation of State Medical Boards. These two organizations are uncomfortable because they currently have the most input in determining eligibility, etc., for the P.A.'s. The establishment of a National Commission could relieve them of this burden and might allow for increased mobility for Physician Assistants' in the country. (A copy of the Commission Proposal

was distributed for program examination). Following the initial proposal meeting in Chicago, a five-member ad hoc Committee was appointed to study finance. This Committee included Dr. Tom Piemme and Dr. Don Fisher, from the Association, as participants. This Committee developed a budget extending income for six years. It is anticipated that the Federal Government will contribute the majority of the funding and that private foundations will provide the rest. If all member organizations accept the proposal the Commission will possibly be brought together in June of this year. Currently, by-laws are being prepared for 501(c)(3) tax status. The Commission most probably will not be prepared to screen applicants for the fall certification examination.

- (7) White Paper on Program Requirements -- At a recent Executive Committee Meeting a White Paper aimed at the criteria for establishing physician assistant programs and the relationship between an Academic Health Center and Program was discussed. Dr. Piemme expressed a desire to endorse this paper that afternoon. (The position paper was distributed to Program Participants).
- (8) Planning for National Meeting -- Dr. Piemme commended Mr. Jim Bartow, Physician Assistant at Baylor University, who chaired the Arrangements Committee for the excellent job he did in planning the conference. Next year the Annual Meeting will be held at the Riverside Hotel in St. Louis and the following year at the Regency Hyatt House in Atlanta.
- 9) Reimbursement Study -- The Reimbursement Study through HEW has just been released to an independent group affiliated with the Harvard School of Public Health. Hopefully some data from this study will be available for our November meeting.
- 10) Job Placement-MEDEX Communication Systems -- The role of the National Office in job placement and the status of the MEDEX Communications Center was then discussed.

The MEDEX Communications Center has helped to place Allied Health Professionals as well as Physician Assistants to date. This organization was originally funded by OEO; however, their funding has recently been terminated. At a recent Executive Committee meeting it was decided to maintain interest in the MEDEX Communications Center, however, in view of their funding situation the National Office will try to set up some type of job placement service.

In summary, Dr. Piemme reviewed the history of the P.A.'s and the Association and looked toward the year ahead.

The next topic on the agenda was the report of the Executive Director, Dr. Donald Fisher. Dr. Fisher reported that the National Office began to function in November in behalf of the Association and the Academy. Since that time, office space has been located at 2120 L Street, Suite 210 of the Gelman Building, Washington, D. C. This space is approximately 2000 square feet and provides the Association and the Academy with tremendous growth potential. In reference to the Academy, The National Office has had some difficulty because of the Academy's tax status, therefore, the National Office has worked with Mr. Mike Parturus, Attorney-at-Law in having their tax status changed. The Academy is submitting to the Internal Revenue Service this month all the documents needed for changing its tax status. It hopes to have 501(c)(3) tax status in 3 months.

The National Office has also met with the Academy and the Association on the proposed Commission. It has had a speaking voice and vote on the ad hoc committee on finance. As Executive Director, Dr. Fisher has represented the Association and Academy on Generic Accreditation, The National Commission and the Ad Hoc Committee of the Committee on finance. Dr. Fisher explained the generic accreditation mechanism as an umbrella type affair encompassing all specialty and non-specialty PA Programs.

On the issue of job placement, Dr. Fisher requested that individual programs submit job opportunities to him at the National Office. These opportunities would then be published in the Physician Assistant Journal as well as be available for Programs and P.A.'s for their examination. This issue raised several questions in the membership. Dave Lawrence of MEDEX Northwest made a plea on behalf of the MEDEX Communication Center. He suggested that the Association of Physician Assistant Programs endorse the MEDEX Communications Center in writing so that they might possibly get an extension on their funds. Dave Lewis of Gainseville, Florida, stated that the problem of job placement is not really placement of graduates but identification of the employing physicians. This he said is indicated by the poor response physicians have made to surveys in Florida and Massachusetts. Dr. Fisher then stated that he would write a letter to Mr. Tom Hatch expressing our interest in the MEDEX Communication Center and that in the meantime the National Office would begin to formulate its own job placement. Don Detmer, M.D., indicated that if we were seeking employment in the hospitals, the American Hospital Association attorney's have an association that could help us. Dr. Fisher concluded his remarks by requesting all programs to submit their job opportunities, etc., to him and that ideas concerning job placement would be welcome.

The next item of business was the Treasurer's Report. This report was distributed to all members present and was accepted as written.

The Membership Committee chairman, Mrs. Sue Greenberg, then reported that the Membership Committee recommended sixteen new programs for membership, and that two programs, with provisional status, be given full membership status. (A complete list of new and previously accepted programs is attached. (Addendum I). A motion was made and seconded that the Program recommended by the Membership Committee be accepted. The motion was approved unanimously. The issue of updating information about member programs was discussed. Mr. Detmer of the American Medical Association offered to share information with the Association. It was decided to request each program member to submit their most recent curricula to the National Office after they are settled this summer.

Mr. Paul Moson, President of the Academy, then reported in its behalf. Mr. Moson reported that the Academy had just received full commitment from the Joint Review Committee to accept Academy representatives to its membership. This, Mr. Moson stated, is a tremendous step forward in the accreditation process. Mr. Moson also stated that the Academy was doing everything possible to obtain a 501(C)(3) tax status, and the necessary by-law changes drafted by Mr. Mike Paturus and a special committee of the Board of Directors of the Academy were accepted by the Academy's Membership today. Mr. Moson provided the Association with some general background information about the Academy and other organizations they are dealing with. Currently 1800 student and graduate members belong to the Academy. The Academy is inclusive of all types of programs. A very few, approximately 40, nurse practitioners belong to the organization. The question was then asked what is the American Association of Physicians Assistants. Mr. Moson responded giving background information about it and all the other P.A. organizations

which had developed over the years. He stated that the Academy was concerned about the National Board of Medical Examiners Certification examination and its future eligibility. He expressed sincere appreciation to the National Board for developing and administering the examination.

Dr. Piemme then introduced Ms. Darlene Jelinek, a Nurse Practitioner from New Mexico. Ms. Jelinek reported that in New Mexico all nurse practitioners have joined an organization to promote the Nurse Practitioner concept because they have been floundering about for some time without direction or goals. This morning a room was provided for the Nurse Practitioners to meet. At that meeting, Ms. Jelinek reported they decided that the best way for them to go is to join every organization in existence. Persons interested in obtaining a list of Nurse Practitioner programs can do so by contacting the National Board of Medical Examiners who would provide them with such a list.

Approximately 10 states have addressed the Nurse Practitioner concept and some have extended the Nurse Practitioner Act to encompass the Nurse Associate. Dave Lewis asked, why do Nurse Practitioners want to take the certification examination developed by the National Board of Medical Examiners if legislation allows for expanded nursing roles. Kay Andreoli replied that this would be like taking upper level exams for Nurse Practitioners, that Nurse Practitioner Programs stress primary care and since there is such a wide variety of training programs today, the only real exam that relates to primary care competence for all Nurse Practitioners is the National Board Examination.

Mrs. Sue Greenberg, Chairman of the Evaluation Committee, reported on its current status. The Evaluation Committee has been involved with four projects:

- 1) A pilot survey of interest in employment of P.A.s by physicians
- 2) Development of a screening form to evaluate requests for data from the Association for research and evaluation purposes.
- 3) The development with Dr. Richard Scheffler, of a questionnaire to survey graduates regarding employment
- 4) The development of an application on selection for funding (Addendum II).

Dr. Henry (Gainesville) raised the question of whether requests for information from graduates should be mailed out by programs instead of by the researchers. This was not completely resolved but it was agreed that the National Office would inform program directors of projects which their Association, through its Executive Committee, based on recommendations from the Evaluation Committee, thought appropriate. In this way an effort would be made to screen Association requests so graduates will not be inundated but would not interfere with individual program wishes.

The meeting was then opened for New Business. Dr. Bob Levine made a motion to accept the Association's position paper. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously. A suggestion was made that since the paper was now accepted, that it should be made up as a flyer and circulated appropriately, or be published in the Allied Health Journal or released as a news item describing the paper and stating where it could be found. The National Office with the Association of Programs will consider these suggestions and will proceed appropriately.

Dr. Ray Kivel from the Drew MEDEX Program then commended the Association of Programs for the many diverse programs that have joined the Association. He stated that in view of this, the Association of Programs should go on record to indicate to the National Board of Medical Examiners our interest regarding the test scores and the demographic characteristics of those who took the certification examination. Dr. Piemme replied that this is appropriate and that we must respond; however, we need to ask very specific questions. Dr. Barbara Andrew from the National Board, had been approached, Dr. Piemme reported, and she is not enthusiastic about this. It has never been the position of the National Board to review its failures. Dr. Dave Lawrence commented that if the National Board refused to do this survey our Association of Programs could and should do this itself. Dr. Piemme replied this is mechanically impossible, but Dr. Lawrence replied that programs could ask the scores, etc., of the applicants and report back to us. This discussion produced the following preferences:

First, the National Board of Medical Examiners should be asked to evaluate these persons. Second, the National Commission on Certification should evaluate these persons. In either instance the Association will pursue, in the most feasible way possible, an evaluation.

Dr. Kivel moved that the Executive Committee approach the National Board of Medical Examiners and ascertain whether there is any possibility that they would gather the demographic material, etc. This passed with no dissenting votes.

Dr. Fred Sadler then presented the eligibility considerations for the second examinations. The criteria would include education, experience and clinical validation by physicians who could certify that the applicant had performed specific functions, etc. Eligibility of program persons is also being reassessed to include some of those programs denied eligibility for the first examination.

Don Bosshart then brought up the issue of the HEMIA awards under consideration at present by our Evaluation Committee. The awards being considered have two objectives:

- a) to stimulate collaborative research activities on selection and
- b) to provide a vehicle by which evaluative studies could be brought together and information shared.

These ideas were received without comment.

Mr. Jarrett Wise of George Washington University then asked if the selection and evaluating committee were one and the same. Dr. Thomas Piemme replied that a selection committee chairman would be appointed by the new executive committee.

At this time Dr. Fred Sadler presented the nominating committees' slate of officers. The slate of Officers is as follows:

President:	Robert Jewett, M.D.
Vice President:	Ray Murray, M.D.
President Elect:	C. Hilman Castle, M.D.
Secretary-Treasurer:	Suzanne B. Greenberg, M.S.

The nominations were open to the floor. No nominations were made. Nominations were closed. It was moved and seconded that we accept the slate of officers as presented by the nominating committee. The motion was carried unanimously.

Dr. Piemme, now past president, presented Dr. Robert Jewett, the new President of the Association of Physician Assistant Programs. Dr. Jewett began with a special recognition of Dr. Fred Sadler and Dr. Thomas Piemme for the work they have done in the rough conceptual years of this concept. He then thanked Dr. Donald Fisher and Mr. Jim Bartow for the contributions they have made to the Association and the Academy and he asked participation by all member programs in the current association business. He referred to areas the association would address:

- 1) The establishment of Committees
 - a. Membership
 - b. Evaluation and selection
 - c. Public and professional relations
 - d. By-laws
 - e. Reimbursement issues for physician assistant services
 - f. Curriculum and testing
 - g. Relations with other health professions
- 2) Continued assistance to the National Board of Medical Examiners
- 3) Establishment of a regularly printed newsletter

The meeting was adjourned at a few minutes after five.

Respectfully submitted

Donald W. Fisher, Executive
Director

Suzanne B. Greenberg,
Secretary

ANNUAL MEETING ATTENDENCE

March 29, 1974

ALABAMA - BIRMINGHAM

Kay Andreoli
Bert Gavin

ALABAMA - SURGEON'S ASSISTANT

Bill Harrymen
Larry W. Anderson

ALBANY-HUDSON VALLEY

Richard A. Noystron
Richard K. Tworek
D.M. Cannello

AMA

L.M. Detmer

BAYLOR COLLEGE

Carl Fasser

BOWMAN GRAY

Jimmie L. Pharris

CHILD HEALTH ASSOCIATE

Connie Boyle
Virginia Moore

COMMUNITY HEALTH MEDIC

Timothy Fleming

CUYAHOGA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Robert D. Crun
Allan B. Kunkel
Charles Nadolski
Larry A. Sturgis

DHEW

Susan M. Horowitz
Delores Staudencaus (Reg. 5)
Merjory J. Wagner (Reg. 6)

DUKE UNIVERSITY

Reginald Carter

EMORY UNIVERSITY

David L. Glazer
Robert Jewett

FEDERAL PRISON SYSTEM

Larry D. Kerr

FLORIDA - GAINESVILLE

Richard Henry
Jim Konops
David Lewis

GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

Michael McCally
 Harry Meredith
 Thomas Piemme
 Mary Silverman
 Kevin Sorem

HAHNEMANN MEDICAL COLLEGE

Frank E. Williams
 Ronald J. Rejzer

JOHNS HOPKINS SCHOOL OF HEALTH SERVICES

Mark Gross
 Marilyn Heimsoth

INDIANA UNIVERSITY

Dan Fox

IOWA UNIVERSITY

Rex Montgomery
 Denis Oliver

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS

Karen Hansen
 Alfred Sadler

KETTERING COLLEGE

Clinton W. Trott

MEDEX - HAWAII

C.A. Makarian

MEDEX - LOS ANGELES

Raymond Kivel
 Howard Taub

MEDEX - NEW ENGLAND

Mary Mitguy

MEDEX - NORTHWEST

Judy L. Demers
 Harry Felton
 Harold P. Hannon
 Sharon Humanson
 David Lawrence
 Barbara McCann

MEDEX - PENNSYLVANIA

Richard J. Bauer
 Richard H. Deter
 James Emch
 Rugh A. Henderson

MEDEX - UTAH

Ron Ross
 Vaughn L. Pulsipher

MERCY COLLEGE

Harriet Gales
Eugene Beau Davis

MISSISSIPPI

Donald Fisher
Jerry Hymel
T.D. Lampson

NEW MEXICO

Darlene Jelinek

NORTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY

Suzanne B. Greenberg

ST. LOUIS

Florence Horvath
David W. Wagner

SHERBROOKE - CANADA

Claude A. Lancelot

STONYBROOK

Steve Allan

TEXAS - GALVESTON

Donald A. Bosshart
Robert C. Greaser

TEXAS - DALLAS

John C. Delahunt

TOURO COLLEGE

Shlomo S. Twersky

USAF - USN

Charles L. Gaudry, Jr.
Nicholas C. Nicholas

US ARMY

Joe McCormick
Thomas Birk

WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

Bill Callen

YALE

Robert Levine
Paul Moson