

P.A.

MONTEFIORE HOSPITAL AND MEDICAL CENTER

111 EAST 210TH STREET, BRONX NEW YORK 10467

RICHARD G. ROSEN, M.D.
SURGICAL DIVISION

Associate Professor of Surgery
Albert Einstein College of Medicine

Telephone:
Area Code 212
920-4756

July 3, 1972

Mr. Thomas R. Godkins
President, American Academy
of Physician's Associates
University of Oklahoma
Physician's Associate Program
641 1/2 N.E. 15th Street
P.O. Box 26901
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73190

Dear Mr. Godkins,

A few weeks ago Mrs. Clara Vanderbilt and I met with Mr. Paul Palace, Executive Director of the American Association of Physician's Assistants. We spent some time exploring the goals, the organization, and the methods of Mr. Palace's association.

The association was formed two or three years ago by two physicians in private general practice. Mr. Palace, a businessman, became associated with the group early in its development, and after being appointed Executive Director, has devoted increasing amounts of time to its affairs. The ostensible purpose of the organization is to provide all people who help the physician with an effective professional organization and to help solve the nation's health care delivery shortages. Membership is open to all individuals trained in paramedical discipline or who have experience in these areas. Membership dues are \$20.00 a year and there are currently somewhat less than 3,000 members.

The association plans to implement these goals by disseminating information about the P.A.'s, encouraging its members to upgrade themselves, and to work at the legislative level to achieve uniform certification. They also hope to clarify the confused situation presently existing in the classification of paramedical personnel by introducing a classification system of their own. Their classification system is original, and does not match with the ones previously published by the AMA, The National Research Council, or other organizations interested in this problem. At the present time most of the programs of the association are in the planning stage only. Little concrete progress has been made.

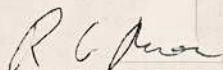
It is our opinion that at the present time the American Association of Physician's Assistants does not have the type of sponsorship required to effectively fulfill its goals. After speaking to Mr. Palace at length and perusing the literature he made available to us, we see little reason to believe the association has any reasonable chance of "helping to solve the nation's health care delivery shortages". The association does not represent any clearly defined constituency but rather represents the

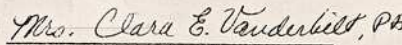
Mr. Thomas R. Godkins
Page 2

results of a fairly effective recruitment program among physician's aides of many types by a few self-appointed guardians. If there is a need for this type of umbrella organization it would better come from an amalgamation or federation of previously organized societies.

If the American Academy of Physician's Associates were somewhat less rigid in its membership requirements, so as to include all those who are both truly professionally oriented and actually participating in direct patient care, we believe it would be a much more effective voice for the Physician's Assistant than the American Association of Physician's Assistants.

If there is any more specific information you wish, please do not hesitate to call upon us.


Richard G. Rosen, M.D.
Assistant Chief
Department of Surgery


Mrs. Clara E. Vanderbilt, P.A.
Member - Board of Directors
American Academy of Physician's Associates