

April 11, 1978

Dear Colleague:

The sixth annual AAPA Conference in Las Vegas has concluded. How did the surgical physician's assistants fare? Specialty PA's were heard as a more concerted voice than ever before. More of the details regarding the conference in relation to specialty PA's will be forthcoming in the next issue of the AASA Journal.

However, this correspondence is an urgent memo to all surgical PA's. We have all worked for years in an attempt to get a certification mechanism measuring competence of the specialty PA in surgery. Within thirty days a recommendation will be made to the American College of Surgeons regarding funding of a surgical add-on examination to the present NCCPA certifying exam.

A test committee has been established and a pool of test questions already developed. The reality of an add-on examination for surgical PA's in the fall of 1978 is solely dependent upon funding at this point.

I cannot express the magnitude of influence you possess or the urgent necessity that you utilize your influence immediately--without even a single day's delay. Your officers of the AASA, your representatives in the AAPA House of Delegates and in the Surgical Council of the AAPA have done their work. To a large degree the reality of success now depends upon you (collectively).

Your impact can be made in three ways and you should pursue all three avenues vigorously.

1. Write as a surgical PA directly to Doctor David Sabiston and Doctor Kenneth Printen, whose addresses will be attached expressing your desire and need for certification as a surgical PA and request financial support of the American College of Surgeons in funding the examination.
2. Encourage your employers to request the American College of Surgeons' support of the surgical add-on examination by writing Doctors Sabiston and Printen.
3. Most importantly, if you or your employing surgeon knows one of the members of the ACS Board of Governors vigorously seek this member of the Board of Governors support in procuring funding from the American College of Surgeons for the NCCPA surgical add-on examination.

One of the taunted unknowns surrounding the issue of specialty PA's and the certification mechanism for surgical PA's has been the question of actual numbers requiring certification. Now is the time to stand up and be counted or forever hold your peace in oblivion.

By way of further information, the add-on examination will cost surgical PA's an increased fee (less than \$100) over and above the established NCCPA primary care examination fee. This additional fee will be returned by NCCPA to the ACS to defray the outlay of funds which we are requesting at this time to produce and administer the initial surgical add-on examination.

If any questions arise regarding this issue, please do not hesitate in calling day or night, or writing me at:

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