

APAP

ASSOCIATION OF
PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT PROGRAMS
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NEWSLETTER

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A Special Tribute

There is a saying that "old soldiers never die, they just slowly fade away." Fortunately for the Association of Physician Assistant Programs, our valiant soldiers only fade away at the rate of the half-life of uranium— 4.5×10^9 years.



The Association of Physician Assistant Programs has continued to excel in its responsiveness to member programs and the physician assistant concept. The Association remains indebted to its founders and most especially to those called to serve in

leadership capacities. The National Office staff is particularly grateful for the tremendous dedication and the support we have received from the current Board of Directors (Executive Committee) and some special/recognition will be given these devoted leaders at the Third Annual Conference.

At the April Conference Robert E. Jewett, M.D. will remain on the Board of Directors as Immediate Past-President. Dr. Jewett, Dean of the School of Medicine at East Tennessee State University and also affiliated with the Emory University Physician Assistant Program, served this year as President of the Association. Previous to that, while directing the P.A. Program at Emory University, Dr. Jewett served on APAP's Board of Directors. Under Dr. Jewett's direction, the Association has continued to grow and expand its services to its members, the American public, and the professional medical community.

(Continued on page 2)

APAP Grows by Three

In recent action by APAP members three new programs gained membership in the Association bringing the total to 48 programs. A brief overview of each follows:

Medical College of Georgia Physician's Assistant Program

The Physician's Assistant Program at the Medical College of Georgia, under the direction of John R. Palmer, M.D., was recently approved for membership in APAP. A 24-month program with a class size of 20 students each year, the P.A. program began operation in January of 1973. The program is affiliated with the VA Hospital in Augusta, Georgia Regional

Hospital, Talmadge Hospital, University Hospital, and Georgia War Veterans Home.

University of California at Davis Family Nurse Practitioner Program

The UC DAVIS Family Nurse Practitioner Program is the first of its kind to join the APAP ranks. Directed by Len H. Andrus, M.D., the FNP program is dedicated to the educating of nurses to become mid-level practitioners of medicine. Graduating 58 FNP's a year, this 18-month program had its inception in September, 1970.

Western Michigan University Physicians' Assistant Program

John J. Josten, Ph.D. directs the Physicians' Assistant Program at Western Michigan University. Started in August 1972, the program is affiliated with six hospitals, the largest of which is Kalamazoo State Hospital. The 24-month program has a class size of 22 students and an apparent emphasis on clinical training.

Malcolm C. Todd, M.C. to Speak at Conference

AMA President, Malcolm C. Todd, M.D., will be the featured speaker at the Third Annual Conference on New Health Practitioners next month in St. Louis. Dr. Todd's address, "Other Voices, Other Rooms," will be delivered following the noon luncheon on Wednesday, April 9.

President of the American Medical Association and twice chairman of the AMA Council on Health Manpower, Dr. Todd is one of the leading authorities on health manpower in our country today. As a leader in medicine, he has played a major role in AMA's

(Continued on page 2)

Biographical Sketch

Dr. Thomas E. Piemme—Energetic P.A. Advocate

Dr. Thomas E. Piemme, current Past President of the Association of Physician Assistant Programs and President of the National Commission on Certification of Physician's Assistants, is one of the foremost leaders of primary care in academic medicine today.

A native of Pennsylvania, Dr. Piemme received his M.D. from the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine in 1958 and interned (rotating) at Health Center Hospitals in Pittsburgh the following year. While a fellow of the American Heart Association at Dr. Lewis Dexter's Laboratory for two years, Tom served as an Assistant in Medicine, Peter Bent Brigham Hospital, and as a Research Fellow in Medicine at Boston's Harvard Medical School.

Following two years of service in the Air Force at Wright-Patterson AFB, Dr. Piemme was awarded the coveted John and Mary Markle Foundation

Scholarship and taught at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine while serving as Assistant Chief of Medicine at Presbyterian-University Hospital.

In 1969 Tom moved to Washington, D.C. to become Professor of Medicine at George Washington University and director of the Division of General Medicine. A leader in the development of a broad variety of primary care programs, Dr. Piemme administers at GW programs in graduate training of physicians for primary care and the training of physician assistants and nurse practitioners. In addition he has established a university-based HMO and is in charge of directing the Emergency Room, the Emergency Care Outreach Department, and the drug abuse program. Few medical centers in the country have such a broad array of primary care activities.

(Continued on page 4)

New National Commission Office Open

The new National Commission on Certification of Physician's Assistants opened its offices in early February. The office is located at 3384 Peachtree Road, NE in Atlanta, Georgia.

The Commission will review and process applications for certification of Primary Care Physician Assistants as well as determine eligibility requirements for applicants.

The inception of the Commission represents a major step in insuring quality health care by primary care P.A.'s.

David L. Glazer, Executive Director of the Commission, recently directed the Physician's Assistant Program at Emory University in Atlanta. Mr. Henry R. Datelle, who joined the Commission staff as Assistant Director, was on the Emory faculty in the field of Physical Medicine. He is presently in the final stages of finishing his doctoral degree in special education administration.

The office staff also includes three ladies who will be assisting in the overall function of the Commission. Connie Gibson who attended the Atlanta School of Art, Ginger Thompson who attended Georgia State University and Russell Manes with a BS from the University of Florida.

The initial activities of the Commission include preparing for the 1975 Certifying Examination. The exam is scheduled for November, 1975 and further details will be forthcoming.

Also, the Commission will engage

in interfacing activities with State Legislative Agencies to insure that certification through the National Commission becomes a prerequisite to practicing as a physician assistant.

MALCOLM C. TODD (Con't.) efforts to alleviate shortages of physicians and allied health professionals.

Dr. Todd has been active in the medical profession's mobilization efforts to establish a national certification program for physician assistants. Under this program, P.A.'s must successfully pass the proficiency examination developed by the National Board of Medical Examiners to assure prospective physician employers of their competency and to safeguard the public.

Special Notice

The reduced pre-registration fee for all persons will now be accepted until April 7, due to the late and incomplete mailing of the Conference and hotel registration forms by the Ambassador Mailing Company of New York. Registering for the Conference upon arrival in St. Louis will not result in a late fee. Hotel room reservation requests should be sent to Stouffer's Riverfront Towers, 200 South Fourth Street, St. Louis, MO 63102. ATTENTION: Third Annual Conference on New Health Practitioners, (Telephone: 314/241-9500)

A SPECIAL TRIBUTE (Con't.d.)

Taking Dr. Jewett's position as President of the Association will be C. Hilman Castle, M.D., Professor and Chairman of the Department of Family and Community Medicine at the University of Utah School of Medicine. Dr. Castle has been an active promoter of the New Health Practitioner concept for several years as the Director of the Utah MEDEX Project. As President-Elect of the Association this past year, Dr. Castle has worked with the National Office and Board of Directors to keep abreast on national legislative activities.

The officer with the longest tenure and the only remaining charter officer of the Association is Mrs. Suzanne B. Greenberg. Mrs. Greenberg, Director of the Physician Assistant Program at Northeastern University, has served the Association as Secretary/Treasurer for the last three years. Mrs. Greenberg, who also chaired the Evaluation/Selection Committee since its origin, has, through her dedication and responsiveness, made invaluable contributions to the physician assistant concept and the Association.

Dr. Raymond H. Murray, Vice President of the Association, is Director of the Regenrief Institute for Health Care and Chairman of the Department of Community Health Sciences at Indiana University School of Medicine. As Director of both a physician assistant and nurse practitioner program, Dr. Murray provides the Association with both the balance and perspective necessary in this evolutionary stage of the New Health Practitioner concept.

The Director of the Physician Assistant Program and Acting Chairman of the Department of Health Care Sciences at George Washington University, Thomas E. Piemme, M.D., will leave APAP's Board of Directors where he has served as Immediate Past-President this year. Dr. Piemme has proven over the last several years his energetic and dedicated advocacy of the P.A. concept through his involvement with the Association. As he leaves APAP's Board of Directors, we wish him great success with his new role as President of the National Commission on Certification of Physician's Assistants.

Perhaps during our April, 1975 Conference you will take time to express your appreciation to these individuals for their contribution to the physician assistant concept and the Association of Physician Assistant Programs.

The President's Message

As the time for the annual meeting nears, as president of APAP I would like to comment on those accomplishments of the Association which appear personally to be of special significance. In addition, I would like to offer an opinion as to the remaining unresolved or new issues facing our organization in the foreseeable future.

First, great recognition is due Don Fisher and his staff at the National Office for the splendid accomplishments of establishing the facilities and setting up a sorely needed organizational framework for the Association and its member programs. I believe we significantly underestimated this task and only through the real dedication of Don and his staff were we able to realize these goals. Membership in the Association has increased during the year and has been carried out while the task of establishing the office has been in progress. Dick Nyström is currently revising our membership application and process hopefully to provide the Association with much needed new guidelines and data for the benefit of all programs, students, and graduates. We hope also to correlate many of these items with data needed by other appropriate organizations and agencies.

Last but not least, the staff has put together greatly needed publications relating to the P.A. concept, program admissions requirements, newsletters for member programs, etc.

Second, in recent weeks, the Executive Director and the Association have been fortunate in establishing long overdue recognition by key legislative committees as prominent educator-spokesmen for the P.A. movement. This recognition of our organization offers us a long needed opportunity to be of service as a resource organization for the legislative process.

Third, the establishment of the National Commission lends great credibility to our stated objective of sound educational programs for P.A. training as a major emphasis and goal of APAP. I am sure we are all anxious to learn of the results of the latest National Board exam, especially with respect to performance of non-formally trained individuals in this framework.

Finally, it is gratifying to see the fine job being done by the Academy and its officers. This organization and its members hold the key to the future of the P.A. movement and can, by its structure, significantly influence the milieu in which P.A.'s participate in health care in the future. It is criti-

cal that this organization continue its role in an effective, cohesive fashion.

With respect to the "hump," we certainly have made progress, but I don't think we are on the other side. Perhaps, we should actually never reach the other side as it might be all too easy to get complacent! Well, I think the issues comprising the "hump" are of enough significance that fear of solving them all, leaving us nothing to do, can be dismissed as a likely occurrence.

The issue of reimbursement is still unresolved and is undoubtedly intimately linked with federal action on NHI to say nothing of our current "economic slump." The issue of finance also nears its head with respect to continued support of our individual programs to say nothing of the Association and the office itself. We will need to be resourceful in this arena. With respect to programs, I suspect that the future trend will be for students to assume more and more of their educational costs probably by deferred tuition loans and service to specified need areas. The Association will probably need to shift a good bit of its costs to contractual grant projects capturing operating funds through overhead charges. Hopefully membership fees and foundation support will continue at some base "first-dollar" funding for us.

(Continued on page 4)

P.A. Certification Examination

Exam results have been tabulated for the 1,303 individuals that sat for the National Certifying Examination for Primary Care Physician's Assistants administered by the National Board of Medical Examiners last December. The profile of those who took the exam includes:

- 922 Physician assistants
- 196 Medex
- 128 Informally trained assistants
- 69 Nurse practitioners
- 38 Persons retook the exam

Barbara Andrew, Ph.D. reports that 84 percent of those tested successfully passed the certifying exam. These successful candidates are eligible to receive an official certificate as proof of their performance which is currently being developed by the National Commission on Certification of Physician's Assistants.

Detailed information about the exam results will be presented by Dr. Andrew at the April Conference in St. Louis.

Applications and information regarding the next examination will be available this spring from the National Commission office in Atlanta. It is anticipated that the 1975 exam will be offered in November.

Dateline Washington

The House Health Subcommittee approved the Health Manpower Act of 1975 (HR 2956) on March 11, including in it funding provisions for P.A. training programs. The bill reflects most, if not all, of the revisions proposed to the committee during the middle of February by the Association of Physician Assistant Programs at the request of Congressman Paul Rogers.

The minimum of enrollees required for new MD assistant programs was reduced from 25 to eight. Money for MD assistants and dental auxiliaries was removed from capitation and the two programs consolidated under special projects at \$25 million, \$30 million, \$35 million for the next three years.

Meanwhile in the Senate, Senator Kennedy, Chairman of the Senate Labor and Public Welfare Subcommittee on Health, introduced four bills on March 6 on the subject of health man-

power. One (S989) is identical to the bill that cleared the subcommittee and the Labor Committee last year only to be scrapped on the Senate floor in favor of a Republican-sponsored measure. The others are written by the Association of American Medical Colleges (S990), one drafted last year by former Rep. William Roy (S991), and the bill (S992) that passed the House last year. Kennedy made clear that he opposes the AAMC and House bills. He also indicated that he was introducing the Roy bill only for discussion. Also introduced this session is the Ford Administration bill (S996). This bill is the same one the Nixon Administration introduced during the last session.

The primary differences in the Senate bills are in the areas of capitation assistance, medical residency authority, and authority with regard to alien physicians.

Donald W. Fisher, Ph.D.
APAP Executive Director

Third Annual Conference on New Health Practitioners
Presentation of Selected Papers
Tuesday, April 8, 1975

9:00 a.m.
Curriculum Innovations, South Ballroom
Moderator:
John M. Nickel, Ph.D.
Education Director
P.A. Program
Wichita State University
Wichita, Kansas
9:00 a.m.-9:15 a.m.
"Self Instructional/Tutorial Program for
Physician's Assistant" by
Paul Benoit, Ph.D.
Victor Morris, Ph.D.
Bowman Gray School of Medicine
Wake Forest University
9:15 a.m.-9:30 a.m.
"Tutorial Study Groups" by
Jimmie L. Pharris, Ph.D.
Victor Morris, Ph.D.
Bowman Gray School of Medicine
Wake Forest University
9:30 a.m.-9:45 a.m.
"Use of Protocols in New Health
Practitioners Training" by
David Lawrence, M.D., M.P.H.
Harry Felton, Mx.
Kathleen Lester, P.A.
Medex Northwest
University of Washington
9:45 a.m.-10:00 a.m.
"Integrated Modular Teaching of Human
Biology For Primary Care Practitioners" by
Michael S. Glasgow, Ph.D.
Johns Hopkins University
School of Health Services
10:00 a.m.-10:15 a.m.
Coffee Break
10:15 a.m.-10:30 a.m.
"Things Ain't What They Used to Be;
The Social Scientist in Clinical Education"
by
Penny Williamson, Sc.D.
John Davis, P.A.
Johns Hopkins University
School of Health Services
10:30 a.m.-10:45 a.m.
"Comparison Between Medical Student and
P.A.'s in Basic Science Examinations" by
Jarrett M. Wise, P.A.
Michael McCally, M.D., Ph.D.
Thomas Piemme, M.D.
George Washington University
School of Medicine & Health Services
10:45 a.m.
Evaluating the Clinical Experience
Moderator:
Daryl L. Graham, Ph.D.
Program Evaluator
University of Texas Health Science
Center at Dallas
10:45 a.m.-11:00 a.m.
"Evaluating the Clinical Competence of
Physician's Assistants" by
Richard K. Tompkins, M.D.
Wayne D. Kniffin, M.D.
Margaret C. King, B.A.
B. Timothy Walsh, M.D.
Mary H. Mitiguy, Mx.
Department of Medicine
Dartmouth Medical School
11:00 a.m.-11:15 a.m.
"Clinical Competence of Child Health
Associates" by
John E. Ott, M.D.
Claibourne I. Dungy, M.D.

Virginia Moore
John B. Moon
University of Colorado Medical Center
Colorado General Hospital
Department of Pediatrics, Denver
11:15 a.m.-11:30 a.m.
"Performance, Evaluation, Assessment of
Clinical Experience" by
Elaine Glaze, P.N.P.
The Johns Hopkins University
School of Health Services
11:30 a.m.-11:45 a.m.
"The Problem Oriented Journal As A
Method For Evaluating Clinical Experience
of Physician's Assistants" by
Leonard Heller, Ed.D.
Carl E. Fasser, P.A.
Jayne L. Middleton, M.Ed.
OERR-University of Michigan
Baylor College of Medicine
12:00 Noon-1:30 p.m.
Lunch (By Individual Arrangement)
2:00 p.m.
Utilization of New Health Practitioners
Moderator:
William D. Stanhope, P.A.
P.A. Program Director
University of Oklahoma
2:00 p.m.-2:15 p.m.
"Utilization of New Health Practitioners in
Remote Setting" by
John Riess, M.C.P.
David Lawrence, M.D., M.P.H.
Department of Health Services
University of Washington
2:15 p.m.-2:30 p.m.
"The Physician's Assistant in a Rural
Satellite Clinic" by
Robert F. Hill, Ph.D.
J. Thomas May, Ph.D.
Allen Holcomb, M.P.H.
Health Science Center
University of Oklahoma
2:30 p.m.-2:45 p.m.
"Roles and Functions of Physician's
Assistants and Nurse Practitioners" by
Suzanne B. Greenberg, M.S.
P.A. Program Director
Northeastern University
Arlene Lowenstein, B.S.N., M.A.
Nurse Practitioner Program Director
Peter Bent Brigham Hospital
2:45 p.m.-3:00 p.m.
"Impact of Mid-Level Practitioners on Pat-
terns of Practice in an Health Maintenance
Organization" by
David M. Levine
Laura L. Morlock
Alvin I. Mushlin
Sam Shapiro
Health Services Research & Development
Center
Johns Hopkins University
3:00 p.m.-3:15 p.m.
"A Model to Evaluate Efficient Utilization
of Allied Health Manpower" by
Gail S. Lasdon, A.B.
David Major, M.D.
Krishan Bharadwaja, M.D.
Department of Medicine
Hahnemann Medical College & Hospital
3:15 p.m.-3:30 p.m.
"National Employment Profile" by
Richard M. Scheffler, Ph.D.
University of North Carolina

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (Con't.)

It will also be essential that the Association in concert with the Academy and other groups collect, maintain, and study data on programs, students, and graduates. While much has been started in this area, much remains to be done. It may be redundant to point out the importance of this data, but I will regardless—our credibility depends upon being able to document our impact to those who formulate policy which affects us. We are in times of potential change in medicine and health care delivery where such information is of a critical nature. The cooperation of all involved is a must.

There is another area where the P.A. movement can receive much recognition. This is the area of continuing education. Again the P.A. movement has an excellent start in this area and with careful planning and expansion can establish itself as a model for others to emulate.

It has been a pleasure to work with you. Let me close by reiterating the major role and importance of the National Office, your executive director and his staff in carrying out the routine functions of our operation and for the new innovative programs and policies which have produced the significant advances enjoyed by the Association this year.

Robert E. Jewett, M.D.
President, APA

DR. THOMAS E. PIEMME (Con't.)

Dr. Piemme has played a leading role in medical education through his work with the Association of American Medical Colleges and the National Board of Medical Examiners. He is chairman of the Task Force on Primary Care of the AAMC and has served on the Goals and Priorities Committee of the National Board of Medical Examiners. This past year he has served as a member of the Board of Advisors of the American Academy of Physicians' Assistants and President of the National Commission on Certification of Physician's Assistants to name just a few. And he has been active on the national legislative scene as well. His unusual command of the issues in medical education and medical care have helped him in his valuable contributions to the medical world. The Association is indeed fortunate to have such an energetic and dedicated advocate.

In a news release from the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, it was reported that employment opportunities for graduate P.A.'s are plentiful. The release also noted that competition among applicants is keen as admission applications outnumber the available class seats by at least five to one.