

AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PHYSICIANS' ASSOCIATES

Room 356, 2150 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, D. C. 20037  
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Summary of the Joint Meeting of the American Medical Association  
and the  
American Academy of Physicians' Associates  
A.M.A. Building, Chicago, Illinois  
August 29, 1972

AMA

C. H. William Ruhe, M.D., Director  
Division of Medical Education

Nicholas M. Griffin, Secretary  
Council on Health Manpower

John Fauser, Ph.D., Assistant Director  
Dept. of Allied Medical Health  
Professions and Services

L. M. Detmer, Staff Associate  
Dept. of Allied Medical Health  
Professions and Services

Bernard P. Harrison, Director  
Division of Medical Practice

Theodore R. Chilcoat, Jr.  
Director, Dept. of Specialty Society  
Services

Naomi R. Patchin, R.N., Secretary  
Committee on Nursing

AAPA

Thomas R. Godkins, President  
American Academy of Physicians'  
Associates

William D. Stanhope, Secretary  
American Academy of Physicians'  
Associates

Alfred M. Sadler, Jr., M.D.  
President  
American Registry of Physicians'  
Associates

The meeting convened at 1:30 p.m. in what was initially a very "formal" atmosphere. Dr. C. H. William Ruhe and Mr. Thomas R. Godkins served as Chairman for their respective groups.

After formal introductions Mr. Godkins presented Mr. William Stanhope who, as founding President of the Academy, detailed the Academy's past. Mr. Stanhope discussed the reasons for the Academy's inception (education of professional and lay people, to develop continuing education among other benefits for its membership, etc.) and how since the beginning the Academy has had physician input.

Dr. Fred Sadler then presented briefly the American Registry of Physicians' Associates and its close relationship with the Academy. Dr. Sadler commented upon the problem now confronting not only the Registry but the Academy in just how "inclusive" should the Registry be?

Mr. Godkins briefed the A.M.A. staff on the Academy's current areas of effort and what we hope to accomplish in the future. Mr. Godkins commented upon Mr. Paul

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Tot's efforts at developing a good program in continuing education, the fact that we hope to soon compete for contracts and grants with the hope of doing studies on our membership, that we still are attempting to educate professional and lay people about the Physician's Assistant concept, that we are developing a professional Journal Physician's Associate and are in the process of changing its content from one of "clinical medicine" to "allied health education", and that we are also investigating the possibilities of developing an insurance package for our membership. Mr. Godkins concluded by asking the American Medical Association for "formal recognition", asking for consideration of Academy input into the Joint Review Committee and the accrediting process of programs for the assistant to the primary care physician, and stressing the fact that the Academy, its members and officers will work with the A.M.A. in any way possible in the future.

The A.M.A. staff and specifically Dr. Ruhe asked several questions which were pertinent and asked often of Academy members. They inquired about the name "Physician's Associate" stating that they were sure we realized that the A.M.A. House of Delegates recent action opposed the term Physician's Associate and how did we feel about this? We answered by saying that the term was adopted out of a "defensive posture" due to the mass proliferation of Physician's Assistant Programs over the past two years. It was agreed upon by Dr. Sadler and Mr. Godkins that we are not opposed to a name change within reason. It was pointed out by Dr. Sadler that the N.I.H. Office of Special Programs will sponsor a seminar in the spring to debate this very problem- a problem of terminology.

Dr. Ruhe posed the next significant question of whether the Academy will remain "exclusive" or become more inclusive? It was noted that the Academy anxiously awaited the A.M.A.'s accreditation of programs to the assistant to the primary care physician and the National Board of Medical Examiners Special Committee development of a national certifying examination. Dr. Sadler then offered the fact that he felt he was speaking for his board of directors in saying that they felt that the Registry must become more inclusive. Mr. Godkins stated in a recent poll of his board of directors that they also felt that the Academy must become more inclusive. It was emphasized however that such a move on the part of the Academy must be approved by the general membership.

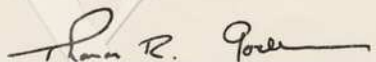
Mr. Nicholas M. Griffin, Secretary of the Council on Health Manpower, then asked us of our opinions regarding the other organizations purporting to represent Physician's Assistants. Mr. Godkins stated that the Academy has great "concern" regarding the American Association of Physician's Assistants of New York, New York, of whom Mr. Paul Palace is Executive Director. Mr. Godkins also noted that the Academy had been asked to merge with the National Association of Physician's Assistants but that this was declined due to the details of the merger and concern over N.A.P.A.'s relationship with the AFL/CIO. It was pointed out also that representatives of the Academy (Mr. Godkins and Mr. Stanhope) had recently met with Mr. Gilreath President of the American College of Physician's Assistants (Cincinnati, Ohio) and that we felt that they were sincere and had good objectives. It was pointed out that Mr. Gilreath and Mr. Godkins had discussed the possibility of some form of merger between the two organizations and that further discussion would be given to this issue.

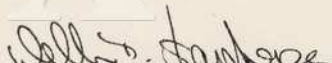
As the meeting concluded we were cautioned that it would be extremely difficult for the A.M.A. to formally recognize any organization with an elitist membership base and it was the consensus recommendation of the A.M.A. staff members that we immediately consider expanding the membership base of the Academy to include

individuals who are students in or will be graduates of A.M.A. approved programs and also to include a provision in the by-laws to accept people into membership who have successfully passed the National Board of Medical Examiners certification examination. Dr. Ruhe noted that the A.M.A. has "concern" for the other organizations purporting to represent Physician's Assistants and that he and his staff will soon be meeting with their respective representatives. Dr. Ruhe stated that he and his staff (specifically Nick Griffin or John Fauser) hope to remain in close communication with us and advise us of their future actions. Dr. Ruhe also commented that at the present time the A.M.A. could not formally recognize the Academy nor specifically assign a board of advisor member to our organization.

Mr. Godkins asked Dr. Ruhe whether or not he felt Dr. Malcolm Peterson's position on the board of advisors to the Academy would be a "conflict of interest" and Dr. Ruhe answered in the affirmative. Dr. Ruhe said that he would notify Dr. Peterson that he would prefer him not to participate in our organization and Mr. Godkins stated that he would later confirm this action by letter.

At the conclusion of the meeting both A.M.A. and Academy representatives felt the exchange of information quite worthwhile and looked forward to future meetings. The meeting was "formally" adjourned at 4:30 p.m. with informal discussions continuing until 5:00 p.m.

  
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Thomas R. Godkins, President

  
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William D. Stanhope, Secretary