

2

Yale University

SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

TRAUMA PROGRAM
Department of Surgery
333 Cedar Street
New Haven, Connecticut 06510

ALFRED M. SADLER, JR., M.D., Director
BLAIR L. SADLER, J.D., Co-Director
Telephone: (203) 436-4404

May 1, 1972

MEMORANDUM

To: Dr. Kenneth M. Endicott
Dr. Douglas A. Fenderson
Mr. Thomas Hatch
Bureau of Health Manpower Education, NIH

Dr. John Fauser
Mr. Donald Foy
Dr. Frank Riddick
Dr. William Ruhe
American Medical Association

Dr. John Hubbard
Dr. Edythe Levit
National Board of Medical Examiners

Colonel William H. Behrens, Jr.
Dr. Robert W. Ewer
Mrs. Suzanne Greenburg
Dr. D. Robert Howard
Dr. Hu C. Myers
Dr. Lee E. Powers
PA program directors and members of the
American Registry of Physician's Associates

From: Alfred M. Sadler, Jr., M.D. *Aus*
Blair L. Sadler, J.D. *BLS*

The enclosed letter dated April 7th, to Dr. Hastings K. Wright, Chief of General Surgery at Yale Medical School, contains information of concern to us. The letter comes from the "American Association of Physicians Assistants" and solicits physician membership on its national and state advisory boards. Apparently, it is a form letter that is being sent to hundreds of physicians throughout the country (many other Yale professors have received identical copies).

Of particular concern, are the references on page 2 and 3 to the role of AAPA in the national certification of physician's assistants. On page 3, the letter asserts that: "After many months of discussions among physicians and ourselves we have developed a relatively simple certification procedure. We are now using this method for certifying members according to their types of experience and proficiency. It is a national certification standard. It provides a uniform, national definition of types of physician's assistancy experience and relative grades of proficiency."

To our knowledge, the AAPA has made little or no contact with physician's assistant program directors, the American Medical Association, the National Board of Medical Examiners, or the Bureau of Health Manpower Education, and because it appears to

May 1, 1972

be holding itself out as representative of the PA field, we felt you should be made aware of these developments.

Mr. Paul Moson, a graduate of the 1968 Duke Physician's Assistant Program, who works on our program staff, and Mr. John Braun, also a Duke PA graduate, have met with Mr. Paul Palace and others at the New York office of the AAPA. It was their impression that the AAPA was largely motivated to control the rapidly growing physician's assistant movement.

We believe that the American Medical Association, the National Board of Medical Examiners and Bureau of Health Manpower Education may wish to contact this group to learn of their intent and activities. A poorly conceived and designed attempt at "national certification" of physician's assistants could compromise the efforts of all of us involved in this important field.

Already in existence is the American Academy of Physicians' Associates which was founded in North Carolina in April, 1968, (see enclosed brochure). This Academy is working with the American Registry of Physicians' Associates which has been established to help set standards for PA programs.

*They sent
a copy of
the letter
A. Academy x. 19.
Brochure.*

R.F.M.