

American Academy of Physicians' Associates

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August 28, 1972

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MEMO

TO: Don E. Detmer, M.D., A. William Horsley, M.D., Malcolm Peterson, M.D., Thomas E. Piemme, M.D., Richard G. Rosen, M.D.

FROM: Thomas R. Godkins, President
American Academy of Physician's Associates

The Board of Directors of the American Academy of Physician's Associates has recommended you to be a Board of Advisor Member to the Academy. I am honored to extend to you an invitation to serve on the Academy's distinguished Board of Advisors.

The purpose of this letter is to provide you with "background" information regarding the Academy and to "update" you on the Academy's actions, current trends on the national scene regarding the Physician's Assistant concept, and to ask you for advice on several issues now confronting the Academy.

I have enclosed material I feel is worthy of your review. I also have enclosed "straw vote" ballots regarding two important issues. The most important one being the issue of whether or not this Academy should be more inclusive. I want you to consider the political implications involved in this decision. We want, as I am sure you do, the Academy to remain in good stead with the American Medical Association, the Office of Education and the many other institutions that represent "organized medicine". In voting and reviewing all of the enclosed data, your criticisms and comments are not only welcome but necessary.

I have enclosed reports we have accumulated regarding the National Association of Physician's Assistants (N.A.P.A., formed by graduates of the Purser-Pharmacist Mate Program and the AFL/CIO) and the American Association of Physician's Assistants of New York, New York. N.A.P.A. has approached the Academy regarding a merger but we declined to merge because of: 1) the details of the proposed merger, 2) the fact that they have AFL/CIO support and financial backing, and 3) the fact that our membership is not yet ready to make such a decision. The reports regarding the A.A.P.A. of New York speak for themselves but needless to say we feel the objectives of this organization are quite questionable. Also, enclosed is information

regarding the American College of Physician's Assistants (A.C.P.A.) recently formed in Ohio. They also have contacted us to discuss the feasibility of some form of merger. The Academy has maintained close communication with N.A.P.A. and the A.C.P.A. but has not "merged" with these organizations for several reasons of which the most important fact is that we are waiting for A.M.A. and H.E.W. advice.

I have been in close contact with Dr. Ruhe and others at the A.M.A. and we shall meet with their representatives in Chicago August 29, 1972. I plan on having Bill Stanhope (Secretary), Paul Moson (President-Elect), Dr. Fred Sadler (President of the Registry), and Dr. Joseph Hamburg (Board of Advisor Member) participate in this meeting. We have asked the A.M.A. for "formal recognition", a physician that would serve as a liaison to the Academy, and for input from the Academy on their Joint Review Committee for Physician's Assistant Programs. If you can lend the Academy any support in this area by contacting the appropriate people now would be the time to do so.

There will be an Academy/Registry workshop September 15th and 16th at the Hilton Inn at the Airport in Atlanta, Georgia. The Registry (essentially a Registry of Physician's Associate Programs) will meet Friday (Sept. 15th) and officers of the Academy will attend. Friday evening all Academy Board Members will join the Registry Board Members in an informal reception. Saturday (Sept. 16th) the Academy Board will meet with participation by Dr. Sadler and other members of the Registry Board. I think this will be a profitable meeting and due to this correspondence with you, a meeting that will be unnecessary for you to attend.

I hope this letter and the enclosed information adequately informed you of the Academy's past and recent actions. I know I speak for the Academy Board in saying that we would be honored to have you serve on our Board of Advisors and hope you can confirm in the positive regarding the position. I will see to it that you receive complimentary copies of our Journal Physician's Associate and have enclosed the most recent issue.

Please try to return the "straw votes" and other comments that you might have as soon as possible. If you have any questions regarding the Academy, please contact me.

Sincerely,



Thomas R. Godkins, President
American Academy of Physician's Associates

Associate Director
Physician's Associate Program
University of Oklahoma Health
Sciences Center

TRG:sw
Enclosures