

Board of Directors - The American Registry of Physicians' Associates

A meeting of the Board of Directors of the American Registry of Physicians' Associates was held at the Hilton Inn, Atlanta, Georgia, on September 15, 1972 immediately preceding the meeting of the Academy of Physicians' Associates. Dr. Alfred Sadler, President, called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Board members present for the morning session were Fred Sadler, Chuck Mullican, Hu Myers, Lee Powers, Paul Moson, Bill Stanhope, Jeff Heinrich and Sue Greenberg. Invited guests also present were Bob Howard, Tom Godkins, Paul Torh and Nick Griffin (AMA). Dave Lewis and Tom Piememe attended the afternoon session.

Dr. Sadler presented the agenda (Addendum I).

The report of the President was incorporated in the items on Certification. The Treasurer reported that the books had been transferred to her on September 1, 1972. They were balanced but there was no money transferred since the bank balance was \$0.

A persistent theme of discussion throughout the day was the purpose of the Registry. While introduced early in the morning, an actual decision was not made until the afternoon. However, it was unanimously voted to make the Registry a subsidiary of the new organization to be entitled the Association of Physician Assistant Programs. (In order to be consistent with the name of the new organization this later change will be actuated by the legal counsel for the Duke program since the Registry was originally incorporated in North Carolina).

Objectives of the new organization were agreed upon. It will be the purpose of the new organization to act as a forum for physician assistant program personnel and a spokesman for physician assistant programs. It was felt that by expanding eligibility for membership that all types of programs which train physician assistants could join and that the Association of Physician Assistant Programs would become the main spokesman for the implementation of program goals.

Specific objectives included:

- 1) Coordination and standardization of curricula for physician assistant programs.
- 2) To help in the definition of roles of physician assistants.
- 3) To establish and/or encourage the establishment of continuing education programs for physician assistants.
- 4) To act as coordinator for program logistics such as recruitment, job development and placement.
- 5) To develop continuous evaluation of programs.
- 6) To continue until such time as a more appropriate organization is found to register and re-register graduates of approved programs.
- 7) To coordinate Association activities closely with the American Academy of Physicians' Associates.
- 8) To serve as a public information center.
- 9) To coordinate with other interested organizations.
- 10) To help inform relevant groups such as legislators, medical societies, hospital organizations, both on a state and national level, as to the role and abilities of trained physician assistants.

Mr. Nick Griffin, of the American Medical Association, was present throughout the day and acted as a resource person in regard to activities being carried on by the American Medical Association and the American Hospital Association in regard to physician assistants.

He began by listing the seventeen programs to train primary care physician assistants which had been approved by the American Medical Association at their September meeting (Addendum II). Two programs visited were not approved.

Mrs. Greenberg suggested that one possible role for the new Association would be to take part in site visits for accreditation of additional programs by the American Medical Association. Mr. Griffin felt that such a role would meet with acceptance by the responsible American Medical Association committee and it was moved and voted unanimously that the organization write a letter to the appropriate committee indicating that those most intimately involved in physician assistant programs could help orient and educate site visit members to the role and necessary training for physician assistants. This was felt to be particularly important, since to date physician assistant program personnel have been excluded from such visits.

The relationship of HEW to the physician assistant programs was also noted. At this time HEW is funding forty-one programs and expects to have 1,400 plus students in training as primary care physician assistants this year. It was felt that the Association could have some more specific relationship with HEW. For instance, the recent computer printout of tasks was inappropriate and if there had been some communication with the Association it might have saved the Office of Special Programs time, money and perhaps embarrassment.

Dr. Howard suggested that another letter be written, this time to the American Hospital Association to express concern about the recent resolution of the Board of Trustees which states that no physician assistant can be employed by a hospital and that when a physician assistant is in the hospital he is not to be called a physician assistant or function that way. There was much discussion as to the additional statement that a physician assistant could not function as a physician assistant when working for a full-time hospital salaried physician.

Mr. Griffin added that the American Medical Association is attempting to draft a new statement on the role of the physician assistant, and it was moved and voted unanimously that letters be sent to both organizations pointing out that if a physician assistant cannot work under the supervision of a full-time salaried M.D. in a hospital that much of the training being done in the Armed Services as well as the recent classification for the V.A. would be nullified and that the potential for a physician assistant in hospitals was severely limited.

Dr. Mullican informed the group that the Services were presently discussing the rank of the physician assistant. The Army and Navy were going for Warrant Officer but the Air Force hoped to hold out for a full commission. There was a strong feeling on the part of the members present that the physician assistant should be commissioned and in the Medical Corps since he must work under physician responsibility.

Dr. Sadler discussed the Lysaught Commission report and the fact that it appeared that the American Nursing Association and National League of Nursing

along with the American Medical Association were discussing the role of the physician assistant without involving any physician assistants. It was felt that this was inappropriate but since there was some confusion as to just what the Joint Commission's goal was regarding physician assistants that Dr. Sadler should speak informally to Dr. Pellegrino and that, if appropriate, follow up his conversation with a letter.

There was much discussion of the Association of Physician Assistants, of which Mr. Paul Palace is the Executive Director. It was suggested to Mr. Griffin that perhaps the American Medical Association could write a statement which could be mailed to State Boards of Medical Examiners, State Medical Societies, etc., which could, without mentioning the New York based group, indicate the American Medical Association's close working association with the American Academy of Physician Associates. Mr. Griffin will check on this possibility and advise the Association.

It was moved and voted that a letter be written to the American Medical Association, Council on Health Manpower's sub-committee on certification requesting that the Association of Physician Assistant Programs participate in its soon-to-be formed advisory committee to discuss certification and registration of programs and physician assistants. In the meantime it was moved and voted that the Association continue to register graduates of approved programs.

It was moved and voted unanimously to approve the applications of the Alabama, Baylor University, Drew Postgraduate and Emory program with the Registry and to extend "invitations" to all formal training programs whose goal is to train individuals to work under M.D.'s as a physician assistant. (generic term). Dr. Sadler will appoint a committee on standards for approval of programs.

The issue of accepting applications from persons who were not graduates of approved programs was raised by Mrs. Greenberg and it was the consensus of the group that the Association and the Registry not accept applications from such individuals at this time.

At this point in the deliberations it was formally moved and voted to form a new umbrella association. This new organization formerly known as the American Registry of Physicians' Associates to be known as the Association of Physician Assistant Programs and that the registration function be continued to be carried out by the subsidiary organization (The Registry).

There was discussion of a joint organization with the American Academy of Physician Associates but this motion was tabled.

Mrs. Greenberg raised the issue of simplifying the application procedure for applicants to the Registry. It was moved and voted that the packet include the application form, a picture, transcript from the physician assistant program and a letter of reference from the Program Director and the initial fee of \$25.00.

New fees were revoted for programs. They were set at \$100.00 annually, payable upon receipt of bill from the Treasurer. Registrants fees were to remain at \$25 for initial fee and \$10 for renewal.

Mr. Lewis pointed out the need for several by-law changes in the Registry's by-laws, especially Article 9, Section 3, regarding the approval of applicants. It was also moved and voted unanimously that the Secretary could issue certificates as applications were completed. Patches would be given free as long as they lasted, pins would cost \$16.

It was moved and voted that changes necessitated by the above decision be made in the Registry by-laws.

Discussion of the program for the Annual Meeting was short. Dr. Sadler appointed a committee consisting of Dr. Mullican, Mr. Stanhope and Mr. Godkins and the officers.

It was agreed to meet again in November in Washington, D. C.

Mrs. Greenberg will draft new by-laws for the Association for consideration at the November meeting and copies of the minutes will be sent to Mr. Griffin at the American Medical Association.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Suzanne B. Greenberg
Secretary-Treasurer

September 19, 1972