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American Academy of Physicians' Assistants

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March 5, 1973

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MEMO

FROM: Thomas R. Godkins, President
American Academy of Physicians' Assistants

TO: Board of Advisors, Liaison Advisors;
American Academy of Physicians' Assistants

SUBJECT: Update on Academy Activities and Reminder of the Upcoming
National Conference and Annual Meeting of the Academy.

BOARD OF ADVISORS

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Duke University

The Academy continues to make excellent progress and I would like to detail our efforts to date. At the Academy's February New York meeting, the following was accomplished: (1) the name of this organization was changed to the "American Academy of Physicians' Assistants" (at the advice of our Board of Advisors, the A.M.A., and etc.); (2) the By-Laws were revised (a copy is enclosed for your interest); and (3) the proposed merger with the American College of Physicians Assistants (a group of urological, orthopedic, and surgical assistants based out of Cincinnati, Ohio) was approved. We are happy with the name change and the approved revisions in the By-Laws will facilitate a rapid growth of the Academy. As you may or may not have known the A.M.A. recommended the merger with the College and indeed guaranteed us a position as a collaborating member of the Joint Review Committee if the merger is completed before June 1973. We think the merger proposal is more than fair (considering we now have over 600 members and the College approximately 100, the majority of which are students) and are awaiting reply from the College. It is our understanding that they have many reservations regarding the merger and we believe it would indeed be unfortunate for them to reject our offer. If the merger is approved we shall immediately join the Joint Review Committee and if the College rejects our proposal we shall still approach the Joint Review Committee requesting input.

LIAISON ADVISORS

- Thomas Bowles, M.D.
Association of American Medical Colleges
- Alfred Sadler, Jr., M.D.
Association of Physician Assistant Programs
- Frederic L. Schoen, M.D.
The American Academy of Family Physicians
- William B. Young, M.D.
American Society of Internal Medicine

There are other areas of effort that I would like to detail. The name of our Journal under the new guidance of our first physician editor, Dr. Don Detmer, will assume a new name with the April 1973 issue - "The P.A. Journal" with the subheading of "The Journal For New Health Practitioners". Many revisions are planned for the Journal, an Editorial Review Board is being established with input by educators and practitioners involved in all areas of the "physician extender movement", and articles for publication are welcome from you and/or your colleagues regarding any aspect of physician assistancy. Enclosed are three proposals which have been submitted and/or are being

The P. A. Journal

Don E. Detmer, M.D.
Editor

developed for extramural funding. The Department of Labor Grant apparently is meeting with "favorable administrative review" but funding is questionable due to the "freeze" at the Department of Labor. Two Grants - one asking for funds to establish a national office in conjunction with the Association of Physician Assistant Programs and another seeking monies to develop, sponsor, and evaluate continuing medical education for graduate physician's assistants - will soon be submitted to the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. Keep in mind that the enclosed proposals to the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation are both "roughs".

Finally and most importantly, you will find enclosed a copy of a letter from Dr. C.H. William Ruhe of the American Medical Association to Mr. John Proffitt at the Office of Education (H.E.W.). The Academy in harmony with the Association of Physician Assistant Programs wrote U.S. Commissioner of Education, Sidney P. Marland and Mr. John Proffitt (Director, Accreditation and Institutional Eligibility Staff) about our concerns regarding the accreditation process for assistants to the primary care physician programs currently managed by the American Medical Association. Our criticisms were aimed primarily at the quality of the accreditation process itself and the fact that no physician's assistant graduates or P.A. program educators were directly involved in that process. Dr. Ruhe's well written letter speaks for itself but the Office of Education subsequently called a meeting at the Office of Education on March 1, 1973. Representatives from over twenty organizations attended to discuss the concerns of the Academy and the Association of Physician Assistant Programs. The meeting was very fruitful, a good exchange of information occurred, and valid arguments from "both sides" were discussed. Dr. Fred Sadler and myself voiced our concerns and specifically stated that if the "current process" could not be improved upon perhaps utilizing the Liaison Committee on Medical Education would be more profitable. Our argument was based upon the fact that physician education and physician's assistant education so closely parallel one another that comparable accreditation processes should be utilized. We voiced strong opposition to the suggestion that a "Liaison Committee on Allied Health Education" be used to accredit P.A. programs. We left with the strong hope for input in every aspect of the A.M.A. accreditation process in conjunction with the Association of American Medical Colleges. If no changes occur then we shall continue to move forward and evaluate other possibilities for accreditation of P.A. programs.

I want to remind you of the "First National Conference on New Health Practitioners" and the Annual Meeting of the Academy scheduled for Wichita Falls, Texas, in April with the Air Force Physician's Assistant Program serving as our host. The "National Conference" will begin the evening of April 10th with a kickoff speech by Dr. Edmund Pellegrino and continue through to and include April 12th, 1973. On Friday April 13th the Academy will sponsor the first national Continuing Medical

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Education Program ever provided for physician's assistants. On Saturday April 14th the Annual Meeting of the Academy will take place with business reports, election of officers, and etc. If your schedule permits we think you will find the "National Conference" very worthwhile with many prominent guest speakers from around the country participating in this event. For those of you who plan to attend we would appreciate your early arrival for a Board of Directors and Advisors Meeting tentatively scheduled for 3:00 p.m. on April 10th prior to the kick-off of the National Conference that evening. A Board of Directors Meeting alone will begin that same day at 1:00 p.m. For those of you who plan to attend and who find the tentative schedule of the Board Meeting unfavorable please notify me as soon as possible for perhaps this meeting could be scheduled sometime during the Conference. As usual and unfortunately the Academy will not be able to pay your registration fee and your travel expenses and you therefore will have to assume these costs. However, I do think you will find the National Conference of great interest and if you can attend we would greatly appreciate your attendance at the Advisor Meeting scheduled for 3:00 p.m. April 10th. I have enclosed Housing and Pre-registration Forms for the Conference and hope to see you there. If you cannot attend we shall continue to do our best at keeping you well abreast of current Academy activities by phone and mail.

If you have any questions, comments, or criticisms regarding current Academy activities and/or the upcoming National Conference please do not hesitate to get in contact with me (405-271-5047).

Sincerely,



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

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

TRG/cs

Enclosure

cc: Board of Directors
John Braun, P.A.
John McQueary, P.A.
Dave Lewis, P.A.