

Duke University Medical Center

DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA

*Physicians' Asst
File*

PHYSICIANS ASSISTANT PROGRAM
P. O. BOX CHS 2914

December 10, 1970

POSTAL CODE 27706
TELEPHONE 919-684-6134

MEMORANDUM TO: Drs. Bulger, Kinney, and Anlyan
FROM: D. Robert Howard, M.D., Director
SUBJECT: Physician's Assistant Program Title

*Tom/your decision
to suggest
MedSAC
concurrence
hereafter
Tony
Bill*

As you are aware, the term "physician's assistant", since the inception of the program here at Duke in 1965, has become an extremely generic and almost meaningless term. In order to differentiate the professional type of physician's assistants we are training here at Duke, I propose that we change the title of the program to the "Physician's Associate Program". This change would be in compliance with the guidelines of The National Academy of Science and The American Registry of Physicians' Associates. It is my understanding that the program at Bowman Grey and several of the other "Type A" physician's assistant programs across the country are instituting a similar change beginning this next year.

I have discussed this with Dr. Estes both recently and several occasions last year. At his suggestion, we have discussed this with Dr. Beddingfield and Dr. Shaffner and they both agree that this change would be appropriate and would in no way offend the State Medical Society.

At our last Executive Committee and Interdepartmental Advisory Council Meeting, this topic was discussed and members in attendance voted unanimously to support this change in name.

I do not want to officially change the name without the approval and support of each of you. If possible I would like to know if you are agreeable with this proposal by January 1, so that this change can be made in our next bulletin.

If you gentlemen should have any specific questions on this proposed change, I would be most happy to discuss this with you in detail at your convenience.

DRH

D. Robert Howard, M.D., Director
Physician's Assistant Program

DRH:pd