

American College of Physicians Assistants



January 12, 1973

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Dear Colleagues,

Thank you for your response to our letter of November 24, 1972. Your personal reply will be forwarded but the nature of some of the response makes it necessary in this communication to clarify the first paragraph of November's letter.

It was not our intent to be interpreted as stating or implying that the American College of Physicians Assistants had been recognized as the sole representative of physician's assistants by the American Medical Association - this interpretation would be presumptuous. In perhaps clearer terms we restate the intent of the paragraph concerned. Our past and our current exposure to the American Medical Association as we see it is leading our organization successfully toward that day when the physician's assistants will be a recognized entity on a national representation basis. The American College of Physicians Assistants assumes this goal as our responsibility and is looking toward the day when it will be a physician sanctioned organization which represents physician's assistants professionally.

Now onto other business. In the quest of the College to represent its members and to have positive input in the destiny of the physician's assistant, we recently submitted a preliminary recommendation to the National Board of Medical Examiner's Study Committee concerning the Certifying Examination for physician's assistants and who is eligible to sit for the first examination. Barbar J. Andrew, Ph.D., Director-Division of Allied Health Evaluation, forwarded a letter of appreciation for our input in which she stated, "In reviewing your position statement, there appears to be a considerable compatibility of views on this question." She also said that our preliminary recommendation would be under consideration by the Special Study Committee on Eligibility and that the results of their meeting would be forwarded to the College. Again we feel encouraged that our line of thinking appears to be coordinated with those appointed individuals whose task it is to structure this important aspect of physician assisting. Any concrete suggestions on your part will be most appreciated by the College and will be forwarded to those areas where they will be most beneficial to the physician's assistant profession.

The College has just received a physician's assistant salary survey along with position availability information (both being of great interest) from The Arkansas Regional Medical Program, 500 University Building, 12th at University, Little Rock, Arkansas 72204.

A jointly sponsored Hospitality Suite of the American College of Physicians Assistants and the American Academy of Physicians' Associates was held at the American Medical Association's Clinical Convention in Cincinnati, Ohio. Some of those in attendance were:

John Sargeant, Executive Director - Maryland State Medical Association
James F. Gerrits, M.D., Mayor - City of St. Clair, Michigan
Lewis A. Miller, Editorial Director - "Patient Care" Magazine

Paul Perret, Secretary, Treasurer, and Public Relations - Louisiana State Medical Association
H. Ashton Thomas, M.D., Secretary/Treasurer - Louisiana State Medical Association
Patrick Corcoran, M.D., Council on Health Manpower - A.M.A.
Frank A. Reddick, Jr., M.D., Council on Health Manpower - A.M.A.
Malcolm C. Todd, M.D., Chairman, Council on Health Manpower - A.M.A.
Nicholas M. Griffin, M.P.H., Acting Director, Council on Health Manpower-A.M.A.
Donald F. Foy, M.P.H., Director, Management Services Division - A.M.A.
Louis O. Machlan, M.D., Alternate Delegate, Oregon
James Stewart, M.D., President-Elect, Louisiana State Medical Association
Homer C. Pheasant, M.D., Disability Insurance Claims Review Committee - A.M.A.
Joseph C. VonThron, M.D., President-Elect, Florida State Medical Association

and several others among whom were members and advisors of the College and a representative of the Academy, faculty members of a local physician's assistant academic program, and physician's assistants in the area.

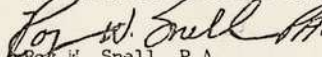
The reason that a Hospitality Suite was sponsored was twofold. First, to show to the medical community a unity between the American College of Physicians Assistants and the American Academy of Physicians' Associates. Second, to familiarize the medical community with the members of the American College of Physicians Assistants as representative of their profession. It was felt that those who attended left with a better understanding of what the College and the Academy conceive the physician's assistant to be professionally and how he envisions himself fitting into the health care delivery team.

In view of the success the College has had for physician's assistants, we still expend great efforts at the difficult road of reality ahead for physician's assistants professionally, motivated by our original philosophy:

The American College of Physicians Assistants is aware of the health needs within all levels of our society. We are devoted to the best patient care and are dedicated to facilitating that concern under the guidelines of the governing medical authority. In order to achieve this goal, we believe that it is necessary to establish and maintain high standards of personal integrity and professional ethics. Equally necessary is the continual improvement of the knowledge, skills, and education of the medical community. It is to the fulfillment of these ends that the American College of Physicians Assistants is formed.

Sincerely,

The National Executive Committee


Roy W. Snell, P.A.
Secretary-Treasurer