

NEWSLETTER of the American Association of Physicians' Assistants

AAPA

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IS A LICENSE THE ANSWER?

Much has been said of licensing Physician's Assistants, as physicians and nurses are now licensed. Dr. Edward Forgotson has pointed out that licensing laws may really be a detriment to progress. As new health professions develop, each seeks a license to practice his particular segment of medical care. Generally speaking, these activities are aimed at establishing and protecting the status of the new profession rather than avoiding incompetence. A little forward thinking readily tells us that this could lead to a nightmare of segmentation and division of medical care. Each person can do only a certain part of the job, thus the patient must receive the services he needs piecemeal.

Licensure can also be a defense of non-progress. A license can be a demonstration that a person has arrived at a certain level, which must be defended and protected for future security. A more useful means of insuring future security is continued learning, continued progress. Further education, reading, attending conferences, asking questions, and keeping up are a more certain means to future security than a carload of licenses.

I feel that we must not delude ourselves that a license is our major goal, and that it will solve all problems. Because of the problems of fragmentation, new techniques of avoiding incompetence are probably around the corner for nurses, doctors and all other health professions. Annual examinations have already been mentioned as such a device. For the individual, a license is certainly not the answer to security. Each individual should continuously strive to develop competence in a wider area. Security, independence and self respect will be the dividends. No license can provide as much.

Dr. Harvey Estes, Jr.

help of each individual Physician's Assistant. For example, there are several committees which are handicapped because of a membership shortage.

The Board of Directors will present the American Association of Physician's Assistants in its entirety during the Core Curriculum Seminar which will be held under the auspices of the American Medical Association in Durham October 27 through October 29 of this year. Attending this seminar will be representatives from the American Medical Association and individuals who are starting or are interested in starting Programs similar to ours. We feel this is an excellent opportunity to inform the participants of the seminar about our organization and its goals. If you are interested in working on this project please get in touch with me as soon as possible.

At this conference Drs. Estes and Howard will present a completely revised, extremely well organized curriculum outline for next year's class. The seven-hundred hours of this new curriculum will be broken down on a weekly basis at the beginning of the year. Dr. Howard has asked that anyone interested in the development of such an exhaustive curriculum contact him as soon as possible. He has also asked that we send him general references which will be useful to us in our didactic training or which we feel will be useful during the didactic phase of next year's class.

Dr. Estes has requested that students writing letters of inquiry either contact his office or Dr. Howard's. This request is not ment to stifle the individual's attempt at job placement, but rather to avoid embarrassing incidents caused by lack of communication.

We would like to close with an appeal to all those who have not yet paid their dues. The advantage of strength in numbers has never been more applicable. As I said in the beginning of this correspondence, if the American Association of Physician's Assistants is to grow and become a meaningful organization we need the held of each individual member.

William D. Stanhope
President

A.A.P.A. PRESIDENT SPEAKS OUT

I would like to thank all of the Physician's Assistants and faculty members who have helped this organization grow from its inception to its present statue. However, if the American Association of Physician's Assistants is to accomplish its goals we will need the

BOARD COMMITTEES ESTABLISHED

It is obvious that an organization as young as the A.A.P.A. has much work to be done. The board of

directors has established committees to carry out the many tasks to be done. The committees and their aims are as follows: (1) a By Laws Committee to improve and provide amendments to the By Laws when needed; (2) an Advisors Committee which will be concerned with selecting and maintaining in close communication with a group of doctors who shall serve as advisors to the organization; (3) a Dues and Budget Committee who shall handle the financial affairs of the organization; (4) an Ethics Committee who shall be responsible for improving and maintaining a sound code of ethics; and (5) a Public Relations Committee, who will be concerned with improving our image, both nationally and here at home. If anyone is truly interested in serving on one of these committees, he is invited to contact the committee chairman of his choice either by phone at home or by the mailing address of the A.A.P.A.:

(1) By Laws Committee Chairman: Mr. Victor Germino - 489-0301

(2) Advisors Committee Chairman: Mr. Richard Scheele - 489-7261

(3) Dues and Budget Committee Chairman: Mr. Roger Whittaker - 286-1408

(4) Ethics Committee Chairman: Mr. Kenneth Ferrell - 596-2824

(5) Public Relations Committee Chairman: Mr. Richard Scheele - 489-7261

PHYSICIAN'S ASSISTANT PROGRAMS NOW IN EXISTENCE

The program to be discussed in this article is the one at Alderson-Broaddus College in Philippi, West Virginia. The city, state, and college lie wholly within the Appalachian area. The college has undergone many studies and has received many grants from numerous foundations in an effort to raise its academic standards. This includes mainly (1) course expansion into the sciences, (2) an increase in student body from 422 in 1959 to 841 in 1967, and (3) an increase in full-time faculty to 45 in number.

As a part of this expansion program it was decided that a "Physicians' Assistants" program would be of value. The program will be based on the college's existing requirements for education in the liberal arts (two years of required courses) and experience in clinical and laboratory work for an additional two years. The student at completion would receive a B.S. degree with a major in medical science. The clinical and laboratory experience will be gained at Broaddus Hospital (a small community hospital) and at the Medical School at West Virginia University.

The tasks that have been proposed for the P.A. to perform are essentially the same as those under the Duke plan for Physicians' Assistants. The Alderson-Broaddus plan does call for the P.A. to be familiar with central supply functions. He would be required to mix sterile

solutions, know sterile technique, and be able to maintain an inventory of central supply. In the operating room the P.A. would first assist in minor surgery and second assist in major surgery.

In general the program has progressed well with the approval of the National Council on Medical Education and the North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools. Several months ago the Commonwealth Foundation of New York State awarded the college a large grant (approximately \$500,000) to initiate the program. Classes will begin this year with, hopefully, 16 men and 16 women. All will receive scholarships of \$1,000 per year. It must be noted, however, that the program has not yet received the approval of either the West Virginia State Medical Association or the American Medical Association.

The source of much of the information in this article is the Alderson-Broaddus Catalog.

A.A.P.A. DUES

To move an organization forward requires such assets as good leadership and aggressive membership but without financial support the goals of the organization cannot be achieved. The board of directors has decided on a yearly dues to cover the costs of the A.A.P.A. One who wishes to become a member must remit a \$5.00 initiation fee and a \$15.00 membership fee which must be paid in \$5.00 installments or more within ninety days by September 30th. If remittance isn't received by September 30th the potential member has a 30 day grace period which will cost that person an extra \$10.00 and must be paid by October 30th. If that person has not paid in full by October 30th he will not be considered for membership in the organization until the following year. One who joins the organization now will be known as a Charter Member and a founder of the organization. New guidelines for dues are now being debated by the board and will be released as soon as possible.

Those who wish to join the organization may send their money by check or money order to Mr. Roger Whittaker, 2222 Elba St., Durham, N. C., and should make the check payable to him. Please include a return address so that a receipt may be mailed to you.

EMPLOYMENT OFFERS

Dr. Howard has given the Newsletter permission to print and make available to our membership several job offers. These job offers have been confirmed and are available to the right person. It must be noted however, that one should not rely on this Newsletter for all of his job offers. Any P.A. or P.A. Trainee (well into his second year) who would like employment should contact Dr. Howard for specific job placement.

- Here are the job offers available at the present time.
- (1) Department of Community Health Sciences, Dr. H. Estes, Chairman of the Dept., Durham, N. C. The P.A. will perform various tasks in the Crossdale Clinic.
 - (2) Department of Community Health Sciences, Dr. H. Estes, Chairman of the Dept., Durham, N. C. The P.A. will travel throughout the state and would work in various community hospitals which are interested in the P.A. program.
 - (3) Dr. Sidney Levine, M.D., Chief of Medicine, Melrose-Wakefield Hospital, Melrose, Mass. The P.A. would work with this cardiologist in a busy cardiac clinic.
 - (4) Dr. Henry Sherwood, M.D., 195 South Main St., Middletown, Conn. Dr. Sherwood is an allergist who is interested in having the P.A. (1) work a 32-hour work week, (2) see patients and give injections, and (3) clean and sterilize 700 syringes a day.
- It is the wish of Dr. Howard that everyone who corresponds in response to these job offers be truly interested and be absolutely positive that this is where your interest lies.

SCHOOL CORNER

Dr. Howard informs us that an administration rotation will be included in the Physician Assistant curriculum. It will consist of two groups of six students who will spend two weeks with various agencies such as the State Board of Health and the State Mental Health Association. Plans are being made for expansion in this rotation.

Mr. John Braun is now employed by the P.A. program on a part-time basis where his main purpose will be to coordinate the various activities of the student. The other part of Mr. Braun's time will be spent in the department of Neurology working for Dr. A. Heyman.

Miss Linda Marshall (a graduate student in sociology) is well underway in studying the attitudes toward and the acceptance problems of the P.A. program. She will report her findings in two preliminary papers. The first paper will describe how the new role is assimilated into an established system and the second paper will describe her own first hand attempts to view the problems of the P.A. Further studies are being planned.

A.A.P.A. CODE OF ETHICS

After many meetings of the board of directors and much debate a soundly moral code of ethics has been passed as follows:

CODE OF ETHICS

PREAMBLE

These principles are intended to aid physicians assistants individually and collectively in maintaining a high level of ethical conduct. They are not laws but standards by which a physicians assistant may determine the propriety of his conduct in his relationship with patients, with colleagues, with physicians, and with the public.

SECTION I

Physicians assistants should strive continually to improve medical knowledge and skill.

SECTION II

A physicians assistant should not voluntarily associate professionally with anyone who violates the principle of healing by scientific methods.

SECTION III

The Association should safeguard the public and itself against physicians assistants deficient in moral character or professional competence. Physicians assistants should observe all laws, uphold the dignity and honor of the profession and accept its self-imposed disciplines. They should expose, without hesitation, illegal or unethical conduct of fellow members.

SECTION IV

A physicians assistant will not engage in independent diagnosis or treatment or work on a fee-for-services basis.

SECTION V

A physicians assistant may not reveal the confidences entrusted to him in the course of medical attendance, or the deficiencies he may observe in the character of patients, unless he is required to do so by law or unless it becomes necessary in order to protect the welfare of the individual or of the community.

SECTION VI

A physicians assistant should participate in activities which have the purpose of improving both the health and the well-being of the individual and the community.

EDITOR'S NOTE

The purpose of the Newsletter shall be fourfold: (1) to present only news and information relevant to the A.A.P.A.; (2) to print only the true facts from reliable sources; (3) to present the facts in an unbiased manner; (4) to have the foresight (as well as hind-sight) which an organization as young as ours needs.

Along with each Newsletter will go my editors note. It must be appreciated that these editorials will be my sole opinions and not that of the American Association of Physicians' Assistants. Any person having suggestions for an editorial please submit them to the Newsletter office and they shall be considered.

Thomas R. Godkins