

Convention News

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Good Subjects—Speakers

Plenary Session Rated 'Best' by PA Audience

Monday's Plenary Session, beginning with the morning panel discussion *The Real Issues of Your Profession* and ending with a session on *Tracing Your Roots: Past, Present and Future*, proved to be one of the day's most attended group meetings.

As one attendee described it, "One of the best line-ups of subjects . . . and by speakers I most wanted to hear the subjects from."

Henry Silver, M.D., Professor of Pediatrics at the University of Colorado School of Medicine was on the morning panel to discuss *What's in a Name: PA-PA-MLHCP: HELP*. According to Dr. Silver there is a need to clarify terminology used to describe and/or designate various categories of health professionals. His portion included a recommendation that one of two names, *Synatrist* or *Health Care Practitioner*, be adopted as a generic name for all health professionals who perform functions traditionally performed by physicians.

Physician Assistant Vs. Surrogate Physician was the panel topic of E. Harvey Estes, Jr., M.D., Professor and Chairman of Duke University Medical Center's Department of Community Health Services. The presentation of Dr. Estes addressed

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IT'S RODEO TIME! They went, they saw, they gasped, hooted, cheered, laughed, ate, laughed, danced, listened, laughed, and lived happily for the whole evening . . . at the Western Rodeo and Dinner at the Equestrian Estates. Besides broncs and bull riding, calf riding and the like, Convention attendees enjoyed a dinner and dance Monday Evening. Yipeee!

Reflections of Past

In the opening of the Plenary Session Monday morning Frances L. Horvath, M.D., President of the Association of Physician Assistant Programs narrated a very special program for the American Academy of Physicians' Assistants—*Reflections: AAPA Past Presidents*.

The program highlighted the accomplishments of the Academy during the past ten years and featured all the AAPA Past Presidents. Each spoke of his recollections of his term or terms in office.

William Stanhope, who served as the Academy's first president from 1968 through 1971, reviewed what he called the "fragility" of the profession and the Academy. He described the almost impossible tasks facing the first Board of Directors in 1969, and told in detail of how they were able to set in motion

goals that today are still being acted upon.

Tongue in cheek, Stanhope noted that a goal of "more regular board meetings" was the only one that does not still need work, adding, "I have recently been hearing talk that there have been too many board meetings!"

Each Past President following Stanhope took a brief time to describe his own term of office. John McQueary, Tom Godkins, Paul Moson, Carl Fasser, Roger Whittaker, and Dan Fox all brought the audience through ten years of history in a manner which was interesting as well as informative.

They described the history of the name changes in the Academy; the formation of the first regional chapters; the many struggles for

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Plenary Session

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the issue of more complete autonomy for the physician extender—a posture supported by nursing for nurse practitioners. He described the various professional pros and cons on the subject including what he called a “politically and professionally detrimental” trend calling for “a masters level program of training, leading to an independent type of primary care practice.”

The third panel speaker, Robert Robards, M.D., Vice President for Medical Relations for the National Pharmaceutical Council, approached a subject close to all physician assistants, *Prescribing: A Privilege and Responsibility*. Through a straightforward presentation of facts and figures, Dr. Robards examined the power which is conveyed through the issuance of prescriptions. A major emphasis of his talk concerned the cost effectiveness of rational drug therapy.

Following the break at the end of the panel discussions, Jackson Riddle, M.D., Ph.D., Director of the Division of Education Policy and Development of the American Medical Association, presented the topic of *Professional Ethics*. Dr. Riddle went into the historical antecedents of professionals ethics, their relationship to the law, and an exploration of using current medical ethics as a basis for the ethical behavior of physician assistants.

The final speaker before lunch was Sam Romeo, M.D., the Medical Director of the Family Medical Center in Pocatello, Idaho. Dr. Romeo is also the recipient of the AAFP Outstanding Physician Award for 1977. His topic, *Your Role in Private Practice*, dealt with the introduction of the physician assistant into the office practice setting. Dr. Romeo sees a direct impact on the productivity and efficiency of an office practice under

these circumstances. He noted that “the physician assistant enhances the quality delivery of medical care,” but added “the reality of health care delivery and enhancement by the PA must be tempered and judged with an eye towards economics.”

Approaching a subject which he claims most of society “avoids,” the Executive Director of the Boston Center for Religion and Psychotherapy, Inc., Mwalimu Imara, D.Mn., spoke forcefully on *Counseling the Terminally Ill Patient*. He described many of the thoughts, fears and loneliness experienced by those who are faced with an impending death. Pointing out that as caring professionals, we can gain much by dropping our masks (hiding us from the terminally ill) and allowing the seriously ill and bereaved to share their deepest feelings with us . . .’ Dr. Imara sees

this step by the medical community as the only way to attain a similar step by society in general.

Dr. Imara revealed a dedication to his feelings during a brief interview prior to his presentation when he noted that remuneration from his talks across the country is used to help support his center where about forty percent of the work is being done on a charitable basis.

An Associate Professor of Family Medicine and Dentistry at the University of Oklahoma Medical School, William D. Stanhope, P.A., gave the final presentation of the day, *The PA Profession: Past, Present and Future*. Stanhope reviewed the historical developments within the physician assistant concept, on both a national and international level. He gave prognostications as to the direction of the profession in the future.



The Auto Tutor Center was active all day on Monday as physician assistants took advantage of the programmed instruction for CME credit available in the Majestium Room.

Notes to Spouses

Looking for the Spouses' Hospitality Room? You'll notice that it has moved from the Baccanel Room to the North Registration Desk. The gathering spot is an informal atmosphere where you can sit and chat with others—plan your day, or possibly round up a tennis partner. Refreshments are served 'till around 1 p.m. The Hospitality area is open from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Judy Ciliax from the Las Vegas Convention Bureau is there to

direct and help with any questions you might have. So as you come into the Convention area—stop a while, have a cup of coffee and talk—this is an excellent opportunity for you to meet other spouses. It's an opportunity for you to find out how others in different communities deal with having a family member in this new field of physician assistants. There are many social changes which are taking place in

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Reference Committees Have Busy Monday

Several Reference Committee hearings were conducted as a part of the Academy's House of Delegates business Monday, each studying different subjects. Those meeting included: Reference Committee on Health Care Services; Reference Committee on Education and Certification; Reference Committee on Membership and Membership Services; and the Reference Committee on Constitution, Bylaws and Judicial Affairs. These committees will report their findings and/or recommendations to the House of Delegates for appropriate action.



Reference Committee on Health Care Services—Committee Members: Don Miller, Nadyz Dimitrov, Bill Religo, Staff Resource; Jane Faulman.



Reference Committee on Education and Certification—Committee Members: Terry Mahan, Clara Vanderbilt, Mike Sheldon, Staff Resource; Mary Jane Crane.



Reference Committee on Membership and Membership Services—Committee Members: Richard Gemming, Fred Gianola, Burden Camp, Staff Resource; Susan Walton.



Reference Committee on Constitution, Bylaws, and Judicial Affairs—Committee Members: Nancy Staible, Maryann Ramos, Michael Grutsch, Staff Resource; Joy O Connor.

New APAP President Installed

The newly installed President of the Association of Physician Assistant Programs, Archie Golden, M.D., stated Monday that the future of APAP must hold a shift in goals to assure quality education of physician assistants especially in light of changing laws regarding prescriptive practices for PAs.

Speaking at the APAP Business Meeting, Golden said that APAP members can look forward to receiving increased support in terms of specially designed workshops and faculty development activities in the next year.

Golden stated two specific objectives for the Association: better funding for PA training programs, and ensuring legislation through Congress to provide for student scholarships and loans. The second objective may take until 1980 to accomplish, he acknowledged.

In addition to Golden, other new APAP officers to take the reins for the coming year are: Thomas R.

Godkins, P.A., President-Elect, David E. Lewis, Ed.D., Vice President; and Karl Katterjohn, P.A.-C., Secretary/Treasurer. The election of Mr. Godkins as president-elect of APAP marks a first for this organization which has historically been presided over by physicians.



Outgoing APAP Officers pose with awards as Dr. Golden assumes presidency. (left to right— Harriet Gales, M.A., Vice President; Archie Golden, M.D., President; Frances Horvath, M.D., Past President; Karl Katterjohn, P.A.-C., Secretary/Treasurer)

On Today's Schedule . . .

- 7:30 Early Bird Seminar
- 8:30 Credentialing and Seating of House of Delegates
- 9:00 AAPA Surgical Council
- 9:00 Self-Assessment Exam I
- 9:00 Auto Tutor Center
- 9:00 AAPA Business Meeting
- 9:30 Spouse's Special Program
- 11:00 AAPA House of Delegates
- 11:00 Golf Tournament
- 11:30 The PA Journal Editorial Board Luncheon
- 12:00 Tennis Tournament
- 1:00 SAAAPA Elections
- 2:00 Self-Assessment Exam II
- 3:00 SAAAPA Board of Directors
- 5:00 Tennessee Academy of PAs
- 5:30 Ohio Academy of PAs

Reflections

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accreditation; the problems of funding; the formation of the Continuing Medical Education program and guidelines; the growth of the national image of AAPA; and many other landmarks.

Each Past President seemed to reflect the Academy's accomplishments inwardly as they spoke to the audience, but each in his own way noted that the next ten years must be as fruitful as the past if the Academy is to continue to serve its membership properly.

NEWS exhibit



Ribbon Cut and Exhibits Open (left to right—Carl Fasser, P.A.-C., Conference Committee Chairman; Don Fisher, Ph.D., AAPA/APAP Executive Director; Dan Fox, P.A.-C., AAPA President; Jim Bartow, Convention Manager.



Shonnie Beach takes time out from her meetings with the House of Delegates to discuss with Warren-Teed Pharmaceutical Representatives Mike Condon and Jeff Woller their product line.

Spouse (Continued from page 2)

your spouses profession—it's a profession which also puts you in the limelight. This convention is also for you. You are welcome to visit and participate in any of the CME or other programs that interest you. By attending some of the sessions it might help you to get a different viewpoint and better understand the profession, the work, its problems and pressures. There may be a program which simply interests you. Please join in, because your part is very important too.

This morning there is a special program for you on the agenda which will not only educate you on the tricks of gambling but also give you a cordial atmosphere to meet the other spouses attending the convention. Mr. Marcel LeBon of "Charm Unlimited" will present his entertaining show titled "From Monte Carlo to Las Vegas." He will demonstrate the mechanics of games such as baccarat, blackjack, craps, and roulette. The show will be in the Colosseum Five Room at 9:30 a.m.

Photo Credits

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