

LITAH
MEDEX
DEMONSTRATION
PROJECT

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FEB 6 1973

January 31, 1973

Paul F. Palace, Executive Director
American Association of Physicians Assistants
2 Park Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10016

Dear Mr. Palace:

I am writing to inform you that I am unable to accept your invitation to serve on the Advisory Board of the American Association of Physicians' Assistants. Although the reasons for my unwillingness to become involved with your organization are numerous, I feel compelled to relay to you my concerns about the potential of your organization to impede the progress of the physician's assistant movement.

To begin with, national certification of P-A's is a task which has been undertaken by the National Board of Medical Examiners. To attempt to duplicate the Board's efforts is to add further to the confusion which surrounds this issue in many areas of the country. Moreover, the AAPA's "relatively simple method" of certifying P-A's mentioned in your letter can do little more than raise, unrealistically, the expectations of those who, despite their lack of training, are passing themselves off as certified physician's assistants.

Finally, your claim to represent the nation's physician's assistant is simply untrue. The non-profit organizations which they themselves have formed are rapidly consolidating into a uniform system for encouraging continuing education and communication. They have also maintained their commitment to collaborate with other organized health professionals rather than ally themselves with organized labor for the purposes of collective bargaining.

In sum, I can only suggest, if indeed you are sincerely concerned about helping to solve the many problems which face the P-A movement that you reassess your organization's objectives and then devote your efforts to the work which lies ahead.

Sincerely,

C. Hilmon Castle
C. Hilmon Castle, M.D.
Principal Investigator

cc: MEDEX Directors, Fred Sadler, William Stanhope

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