

Connecticut PA

A Publication of the Connecticut Academy of Physician Assistants

JOIN CONNAPA TODAY!

By: Danielle Tabaka, PA-C

Are you a member of ConnAPA? If so, we thank you for your ongoing support of the organization.

If not, we encourage you to join today. ConnAPA currently represents only twenty-five percent of all registered PAs in the state. Through these times of uncertainty in the future of healthcare, it is more important than ever for us to realize that the strength and prosperity of our profession depends on the support of our members. We hope this free edition of our newsletter will help our non-member colleagues better understand the work being done by ConnAPA.

Benefits of membership include the following:

- **Legislative Advocacy.** Our members agree that legislative support is the most valuable benefit of being a ConnAPA member. Over the past legislative session, we made progress in the following areas: 1) RNs must now execute written orders from PAs; 2) PAs are now an authority to examine athletes after they have suffered a concussion to certify that they are able to resume play; and 3) PAs also retain the authority to certify a patient's need for a handicapped place card. The cost to maintain a lobbyist is significant and we need your dues to help fund this vital service.
- **CME.** CME events are held throughout the year. Over this next year, we hope to increase the number of events being held and to be sure all regions are reached. As a member, you will be invited to these events at little or no cost. You will also receive a discounted rate for the Charter Oak Conference.
- **Information.** Members receive newsletters quarterly to keep up-to-date on news and legislative changes affecting PAs. Members are also invited to attend our annual meeting in June, which provides a summary of the financial status of the organization as well as an update from all board and committee members on efforts made over the prior year to support PAs.
- **Public Relations.** We continue to develop strong relationships with other professional organizations (e.g., Connecticut State Medical Society, Primary Care Coalition of CT and National Kidney Foundation Serving Connecticut). We also strive to educate the public about our profession. We have participated in the NBC 30 Health & Wellness Fair for the past several years and will be represented there again this year in October.

We hope that you enjoy your free newsletter and hope you have a better understanding of what ConnAPA does for PAs in the state. We look forward to your joining us today by mailing in your completed membership application or visiting us at www.connapa.org.



Danielle Tabaka, PA-C

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

President's Message	2
Quinnipiac Uni. Prof. Receives President's Award	2
2010 Session Report	3
PA Focus	3
2010 Annual Meeting	4
CT PA Foundation 1st Annual Bike/Walk	5
Why "PA" Should Also Stand for "Political Activist"	6
Yale PA Student Update	7
Pedi Notes	8
Quinnipiac Universities Summer 2010	9
Bill Kohlhepp Appointed to Assoc. Dean of Health Sciences	10
1st Annual Job Fair	10
A Big Chance to Help Patients of Connecticut	11
Specialty Certification	11
Quinnipiac University PA Students Present \$13,000 to Health Horizons Int.	12

**2010-2011
Board of Directors**

OFFICERS

President

Justin Champagne
Justin_Champagne@hotmail.com

Vice President

Danielle Tabaka
Danielle.Tabaka@att.net

Imm. Past President

Jeanine Sico
jeanineon@yahoo.com

Secretary

Jennifer Violette
jennifer_spada@hotmail.com

Treasurer

Terry O'Donnell
Terry.ODonnell@quinnipiac.edu

REGIONAL DIRECTORS

Region 1

Marc Benjamin
mbpac97@aol.com

Region 2

Peter Juergensen
pdjuergensen@cox.net

Region 3

Sarah Fountain
sfountain13@hotmail.com

Region 4

Andrew Barlow
abarlow@opthc.org

Region 5

Andrew Turczak
aturczak@srhs.org

STUDENT REPS

Yale University

Fauve Hill
fauve.hill@yale.edu
Susan Curilla
susan.curilla@yale.edu

Quinnipiac University

Kevin Wood
Kevin.wood@quinnipiac.edu

**Please email editorial
submissions to:**

**Dawn Colomb-Lippa,
PA-C, Editor**
Dawn.Colomb-
Lippa@quinnipiac.edu

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By: Justin Champagne, MHS, PA-C



Another membership/fiscal year has come and gone. ConnAPA enjoyed several successes last year, and we are looking forward to having another productive year. The board and committees are already working diligently to prepare for the upcoming work we are planning to do. We have drafted a budget, which will help guide our finances and keep us on track. Like many other businesses and organizations, we have been affected by the poor economy; but we are being proactive and looking for ways to decrease our expenses while trying to find new ways to increase revenue and make membership more provocative. We plan to partner with companies to provide group discounts on items for ConnAPA members such as insurance products and medical equipment and software.

One other big endeavor we will be forging ahead on is the development of a strategic plan. All good businesses and organizations have a strategic plan. The strategic plan will work off of our mission to develop a vision, define our priorities and goals, elucidate strategies to accomplish these goals, and focus our resources appropriately. Much like a budget, a strategic plan will help keep our organization on track and work towards the agreed upon goals. The strategic plan, though, is much more than a budget. Its aim will be to guide all of our decisions for the next three years. From legislative to membership to public relations to financial to conference/CME planning and everything in between. It will be the most comprehensive set of goals the Academy has seen. The AAPA recently went through a professional strategic planning session of their own, and the result was a detailed plan with definitive goals and timelines to achieve them. ConnAPA hopes to have this same type of roadmap for the future. You will be hearing more in the near future about the work on our strategic plan.

In parting, as I take over the ConnAPA presidency this year for the outgoing President Jeanine Sico, I'd like to thank her, the executive office, the board, the committee chairs, and committee members for all the hard work they did last year. At the same time, I look forward to working with everyone this year to build even further on the gains we made last year.

I encourage all non-members to join the organization to support all the things we are doing to advance PA practice and patient care in the state. We work on behalf of ALL PAs in the state, but we still don't represent even a majority of practicing PAs in Connecticut. For all those PAs who continually join ConnAPA, thank you! Lastly, if any members wish to attend any of our board meetings, please come to see what work we are doing on the profession's behalf and to see the many ways you can contribute to ConnAPA's success.

QUINNIPIAC UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR RECEIVES PRESIDENT'S AWARD FROM STUDENT ACADEMY OF THE AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS

Hamden, Conn. – William Kohlhepp of North Haven, associate professor of physician assistant studies and associate dean of the School of Health Sciences at Quinnipiac University, received the Student Academy of the American Academy of Physician Assistants President's Award during the American Academy of Physician Assistants' annual conference, held May 30-June 2 in Atlanta.

The President's Award is presented to a physician assistant who has demonstrated exemplary service to PA students and has furthered the leadership, educational or professional development of PA students. Kohlhepp was nominated by the class officers in the physician assistant program at Quinnipiac.



2010 SESSION REPORT – CONNAPA SHAPES MANY LEGISLATIVE OUTCOMES

By: Linda Kowalski of the Kowalski Group, LLC

The 2010 session adjourned at midnight, May 5. There were a number of significant actions taken that relate to the Physician Assistant profession, and we are pleased to outline them here for your review.

P.A. written orders

Legislation was passed to provide that registered nurses will execute written orders by a Physician Assistant that are within the scope of practice. We can report that this is a solid scope expansion and role clarification for the profession (SB 428).

P.A. certification of student athlete health

In a second scope expansion, legislation was passed (SB 456) that provides new training to athletic coaches to recognize when a student athlete may have suffered a concussion. The bill provides new authority for Physician Assistants to examine and certify that an athlete is ready to rejoin the team and participate in contact sports.

P.A. reports on impaired drivers

In another recognition of the important role Physician Assistants play in ensuring the health and safety of patients, legislation was enacted (SB 414) that specifically references practitioners as having authority to report a patient to the Department of Motor Vehicles when the individual appears incapable of driving safely due to a medical condition. The same bill also includes a rewrite of the handicapped placard law—Physician Assistants retain current authority to certify a patient's need for a placard.

P.A. inclusion in charity care

Legislation was passed (HB 5452) that permits out-of-state practitioners—including Physician Assistants—to come into Connecticut and treat at medical charity or sporting events such as Mission of Mercy or the Special Olympics.

SAGA transferred to Medicaid

In a major policy change, the 2010 session approved legislation (HB 5545) that takes advantage of new federal rules to include all SAGA clients in the Medicaid program. We believe this will result in an increase in access to healthcare services for many vulnerable citizens. It builds on ConnAPA's excellent testimony earlier this year to the Appropriations Committee that cautioned policymakers over proposed reductions to the state's healthcare safety net.

Insurance and tort reforms pass

Several bills were enacted that continue to improve the accountability of managed care organizations: **SB 17**—provides greater oversight of the practice where MCO entities "rent" their provider networks to third parties. **HB 5004**—requires MCOs to provide certain municipal clients with aggregate encounter and claims data so that customers can see where their premium dollars are going. **HB 5303**—requires MCOs to report aggregate claims denial data to the Department of Insurance for publication in the consumer report card. Finally, changes to the tort system were included in **SB 248**. Mandatory mediation will exist in all lawsuits alleging medical malpractice or negligence.

Bills that did not pass

- **HB 5258**—a major Scope of Practice bill that created a committee at the Department of Public Health to "vet" all scope requests before they could be submitted to the legislature. ConnAPA testified in opposition to the bill.
- **SB 14**—legislation would prohibit patient co-payments for routine annual physicals or check ups. Although it was unfortunate the bill did not pass, the new federal healthcare reform law contains similar provisions that will take effect in coming years.
- **SB 393**—provided additional steps in leveling the playing field between health practitioners and MCOs. Called "Standards and Contracts," the bill, among other provisions, required payment of claims submitted electronically within 20 days.

Finally, the budget . . .

The major bill of the 2010 session, the budget legislation, passed both chambers on the final

(Continued on page 4)

PA FOCUS - BURDEEN CAMP



The thing that really motivated me to become a PA was... a desire to help people

I am currently working... clinically in outpatient Medical Oncology at the Hospital of Saint Raphael

If I weren't a PA I would be a... staff person for Special Olympics Connecticut

When I am not at work I like to... travel, cook and volunteer for Special Olympics Connecticut

What I would tell someone who wanted to become a PA is... Being a PA can provide a very demanding but extremely rewarding career that allows you the opportunity to make a difference in many ways.

We would like to learn more about our membership!

Please share your answers to these questions with a photo of yourself so we can feature you in the next edition! Email your answers and photo to:
ConnAPA@ssmgt.com



Save the Date

24th Annual Charter Oak Conference

April 10-13, 2011

Mystic Marriott Hotel & Spa
Groton, CT

Contact the ConnAPA
Office for details:
ConnAPA@ssmgt.com

2010 SESSION REPORT (continued)

day. The legislation addressed a projected \$750 million deficit in the fiscal year that begins on July 1. Time will tell whether the accounting maneuvers, increased bonding and projections of additional federal revenue will do the trick. What most observers see is a potential catastrophe awaiting Connecticut's next Governor in January 2011. The budget for the first two years of the new administration could be out of balance by as much as \$8 billion.

And a thank you!

We very much appreciate the fact that many ConnAPA members answered the call when asked to contact their legislators on key issues this session. We can absolutely assure you that these contacts are very important and make a difference. Although the session has ended, ConnAPA's legislative team will be meeting this summer and fall to develop an aggressive legislative program for 2011. We welcome your involvement and interest! Finally, I want to thank the co-chairs of ConnAPA's legislative committee: Jonathan Weber and Bill Kohlhepp for their countless hours of involvement this past session.

2010 ANNUAL MEETING BRINGS TO A CLOSE ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL YEAR

By: Michael Thompson, Executive Director



From left to right: Justin Champagne, Jennifer Violette, Sarah Fountain, Don Solimini, Jonathan Pinto, Jeanine Sico

On July 1, 2010, ConnAPA held its Annual Meeting and Awards Presentation at Carmen Anthony Steakhouse in New Haven. The event, sponsored by Sanofi Aventis, opened with a cocktail reception, giving attendees an opportunity to network and socialize with their colleagues. Following the reception, attendees sat down for dinner and a presentation on Atrial Fibrillation by Lester Chow, Pharm.D. Dr. Chow's presentation was informative and well researched and he answered a number of related questions following his presentation.

At the conclusion of dinner and Dr. Chow's presentation was the business meeting. An overview of activity was shared by several Board members and Committee chairs, and the new slate of officers and directors was elected as

follows: Justin Champagne, President; Danielle Tabaka, Vice President; Jennifer Violette, Secretary; Marc Benjamin, Region 1 Director; Peter Juergensen, Region 2 Director; Sarah Fountain, Region 3 Director; Andrew Barlow, Region 4 Director; and Andrew Turczak, Region 5 Director. Welcome to our new Board members.

Finally, several deserving members were recognized for their ongoing dedication to the Academy in furthering our mission. First, Jonathan Weber was recognized for his ongoing efforts as Chairperson of the Government Affairs Committee. Next, Bill Kohlhepp was recognized for his long-standing contributions to the Academy and the guidance he has shown to the new leaders of the Academy. Mark Tabaka was presented with a certificate of achievement for his work as Treasurer and Chair of the Finance Committee over the past three years to ensure that the Academy was in good financial shape. The 2010 Conference Planning and Education Committee was recognized for its hard work in putting together another outstanding conference at the Mystic Marriott. Finally, Incoming President, Justin Champagne, thanked Jeanine Sico for her work and accomplishments as President over the past two years, and presented her with a plaque for recognition of her service.

CT PA FOUNDATION 1ST ANNUAL BIKE/WALK FOR EDUCATION

By: Rick Pope, MPAS, PA-C

The CT PA Foundation hosted its first BIKE/WALK CT for Education fundraiser for the CT PA scholarship fund. The CT PAF used the State of CT to host this fundraiser. Biking 66 miles and walking 10 miles over the two-day period prompted many of our fellow colleagues, friends, family, and associates to donate to our cause.

On our first day we took nine Bikers over 33 miles to reach our destination in Farmington, CT. Sixty-five percent of the ride was on the Farmington River Canal trail and the rest on relatively quiet roads. We started at the corner of High and Wall Street inside Yale University and rode to Joey Garlic's restaurant in Farmington on Route 6. Twelve to fifteen walkers walked up Orange Street coming out of New Haven, visited East Rock Park, and then returned to the start point. Notables in attendance were Patrick Killeen, AAPA President, and Jeanine Sico, CONNAPA President, both in attendance for the kick off. Patrick walked the route along with 12-15 others, including several Yale PA students, PAs from across the State, and many who just support PAs. Two participants came from as far away as New Hampshire to walk and bike over the weekend of June 26th and 27th.

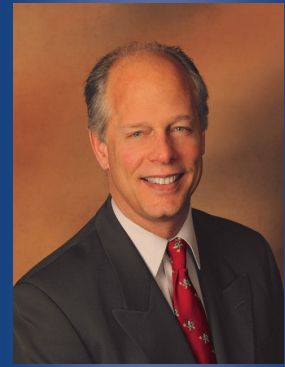
Our second day featured a total of eleven bikers who traveled up the same Rail to Trails route to the Massachusetts border (see picture). This more scenic route carried the bikers 33 miles; 85% being on the Trail. Professor Terry O'Donnell from the Quinnipiac PA program and her husband Dave were our hosts as both bikers and walkers converged for an afternoon cookout. The weather was warm with no rain and not too hot.

Total dollars raised to date are over \$4,000.00 and more is coming in every day.

The CT PAF in cooperation with CONNAPA has created an online donation page. We also intend to provide pertinent information on how to apply for the scholarship, as well as the history and mission of the CT PA Foundation.

CT PAF Scholarships go to PA students who are in PA school in Connecticut or to Connecticut residents who are attending PA school out of state. For those PA students still in school, watch for scholarship applications in the early part of 2011.

The fundraiser was a success and there is talk of a repeat next year. Thanks to all who participated, donated, or assisted in the event. A special thanks to the CT PAF Board and members of CONNAPA for their help.



Rick Pope, MPAS, PA-C



Pictured above are the BIKERS AND WALKERS on June 25th at the start of the 66-mile bike event and 10-mile walk event. All proceeds raised benefit PA students from CT or who are going to school in CT or going to PA schools outside of CT. Over \$4,000 were raised and more is expected.



On Day 2 the bikers reached the Mass border. Pictured to the right, from left to right are: Megan Ritz PA-S, Jon Reyes PA-S, Scott Borelli PA-S, Jessica White PA-S, Adam Adriens, John McNab PA-C, a PA friend, Brian Landry PA-C, President CT PAF, Al Pinard, event co-organizer, Rick Pope PA-C, co-organizer.



ConnAPA Mission Statement

To promote quality, cost effective, and accessible health care and to promote the professional and personal development of physician assistants.

Statement of Purpose

The Academy is organized and shall operate exclusively for educational and scientific purposes. To represent physician assistants and those in training effectively, the academy shall:

- Promote the delivery of quality health care.
- Act on behalf of physician assistants regarding legislation pertaining to physician assistant practice, licensure, and other matters deemed pertinent to the profession.
- Promote and provide continuing medical education.
- Promote and provide public education regarding the physician assistant profession to other medical professionals and the general public.
- Maintain liaison relationships with other health care organizations.

WHY "PA" SHOULD ALSO STAND FOR "POLITICAL ACTIVIST"

By: David Ashner, Analyst

AAPA State Government Advocacy & Outreach

We are all impacted on a personal level by political decisions - decisions that affect things like our civil rights and the taxes we pay. In addition, PAs are affected professionally by politicians who pass laws, and by political appointees who regulate the PA profession. Most importantly, laws and regulations affect your patients. Every PA has had a patient whose most pressing need was not a different drug or a new therapy, but a change in the law. It is therefore the special obligation of PAs to understand the political process and use that knowledge to advance the interests of their patients and their profession.

There are many different ways that politics impact the PA profession. State laws, which are the result of a long and sometimes grueling political process, can govern everything from which patients are covered by Medicaid to how many PAs a single physician may supervise. Before Connecticut's legislators passed a law to license physician assistants, PAs weren't even allowed to practice here. PAs should know how to work with the legislators who vote on those laws.

The first step is to stay informed. Read the newspaper and keep up with the state's economy and political climate. Know what health bills are being considered by the legislature and the implications of those bills on health care. The most basic duty of any citizen in a democracy is to vote, and understanding the issues is a prerequisite to casting an informed vote. But knowing the issues backwards and forwards also allows you to take the next political step, which is to influence others.

Introduce yourself to your state legislators, and communicate with them on health care topics when your expertise could be valuable. If you can provide advice to a state senator on public health issues, such as smoking bans or bicycle safety laws, you will find a much more receptive audience when that PA supervision bill is up for consideration down the road. You could also work on a campaign for a candidate who shares your positions on important issues, or even run for office yourself.

Running for office is the pinnacle of political activity. As a PA, you may already know many of the people in your community because they are your patients, hospital or clinic staff and colleagues. You also have a deep understanding of the health care issues that are important to your community, and few issues are more important to voters than health care. You don't necessarily have to give up clinical practice to run for political office - many governmental positions are compatible with continuing in full time clinical practice - but serving as an elected official gives you the opportunity to influence the health of your community on a much wider scale.

Along with laws passed by elected officials, PA practice is also governed by regulations adopted by appointed officials. Medical Board regulations, along with regulations from other agencies, often impact the PA profession at least as much state laws do. Unlike legislators, who must deal with the entire spectrum of public issues, regulators are focused on one specific area - in this case, medicine - and as such are expert in their field. Nevertheless, it is important for PAs and PA organizations to communicate with regulatory agencies. Attend medical board meetings if they are open to the public and submit comments on proposed regulations.

While it is possible to do these things as an individual, working through professional organization like ConnAPA is much more likely to carry weight with political actors. Working through an organization allows PAs to establish institutional relationships with other health care players in the political process, such as state medical societies and nursing groups. While PAs and other health care professionals may not agree 100% of the time, you'll find that working together when there is agreement diminishes the frequency and intensity of disagreements on more controversial issues.

To learn more about how PAs can get involved in the political process, check out AAPA's [Taking Charge handbook](#), available on AAPA's Web site.

DONATE TO PAF

http://ssman3.ssmgt.com/ssm/CAPA/members_online/members/donations.asp



From left to right:
Matthew
Sturdevant,
Leizl Moralina
(Class of 2011),
Susan Cuilla
(Class of 2011),
Amelia Siani
(Class of 2011),
Allen Michot
(Class of 2011),
Lara Kroepsh
(Class of 2011),
Colleen Rothaupt
(Class of 2011)

YALE PA STUDENT UPDATE

By Susan Curilla PA-S and Fauve Hill PA-S

Four PA students traveled to Atlanta, GA over Memorial Day Weekend for the 2010 AAPA IMPACT Conference. Ingrid Abrahamson, class of 2011 SAAAPA representative, Erin Lyons, class of 2010 SAAAPA representative, Susan Curilla, class of 2011 ConnAPA co-representative, and Ben Olmedo, class of 2011 president, attended the conference. There was sightseeing at the Georgia Aquarium, cheering at the National Medical Challenge Bowl, laughing and commiserating with other PA students, and of course, attending CME sessions! Ingrid also represented Yale at the SAAPA Assembly of Representatives and Erin at the AAPA House of Delegates.

While at the conference, Ingrid and Ben were elected to national positions in the Student Academy. Ingrid successfully ran for Northeast Regional Chair, a position that entails communicating information from SAAAPA to over 40 schools in the Northeast Region. With her new position, Ingrid hopes to make every PA student in the Northeast Region aware of the opportunities that SAAAPA offers and to encourage student leadership at the national level. Ingrid's term as Northeast Regional Chair will last until the 2011 AAPA Conference in Las Vegas, NV.

Ben successfully ran for Director of External Affairs Junior, a position that requires promoting the PA profession both nationally and internationally. To do this, Ben will attend other student medical organization conferences, such as the Student Osteopathic Medicine Association and the American Medical Student Association. With his new position, Ben hopes to improve communication between PA and medical students, and expand the visibility of PA students doing international work. Ben's position is a two-year appointment. The first year, he will serve as Director of External Affairs Junior and the second, as Director of External Affairs Senior.

More recently, Yale PA students and faculty participated in the Bike CT for Education, a fundraiser for the CT Physician Assistant Foundation. Lara Kroepsh, Class of 2011 and former professional cyclist, motivated students to participate and also led several bike rides in advance of the event. On June 26 our PA students were well-prepared for the 33 mile bike ride from New Haven to Farmington. Lara, along with Colleen Rothaupt and Amelia Siani participated in the bike ride while Leizl Moralina, Allen Michot, Susan Curilla, and Yale faculty member Alexandria Garino participated in the 5-mile walk around New Haven.

As part of the 2010 PA week, the Yale PA students are organizing a 5K race. The race will be Sunday, October 10, 2010, and will be held at Lighthouse Point Park in New Haven. All proceeds will go to the Community Health Care Van. More information regarding registration and course route will be available soon. Please mark your calendars for Sunday, October 10th!



Save the Date

Yale 5K Race

October 10, 2010

Contact the ConnAPA
Office for details:

ConnAPA@ssmgt.com



Brian T. Maurer, PA-C

One day I examined a small boy with a painful growth on the bottom of his foot.

"It looks like a plantar wart," I mused as I scrutinized his sole.

Immediately he became concerned.

"Do you think I got it from eating too many peanuts?" he asked.



PEDI NOTES: PART I

By: Brian T. Maurer, PA-C

Over the course of my 31-year career in ambulatory pediatrics, I've learned that Art Linkletter's words ring true: *kids say the darndest things*.

When my children were kindergarteners, they had a study unit on dinosaurs. Back then I used to take them to the community library every Saturday morning. Invariably, we came home with stacks of books about dinosaurs. Kids and dinosaurs seem to go together naturally—sort of like peanut butter and jelly.

Recently, a 6-year-old-boy came to the office late one morning with his mother for a check up. Decidedly nervous, he especially did not want to lie down for the abdominal exam.

"Let me listen to your tummy," I said, popping the stethoscope into my ears. "This won't hurt."

Slowly, he reclined on the exam table. "Hmmm," I mused, "this tummy sounds hungry."

The boy's face brightened. "After this, my mom is going to take me out to lunch at the Chinese restaurant."

"Ah, you like Chinese food," I said. "What are you going to have for lunch today?"

Enthusiastically, he replied: "Pterodactyl steak!"

I evaluate a lot of kids for ear pain during the summer months. Unlike winter time, when the cough and cold season is at its peak and otitis media rules, the diagnosis *du jour* in summer is otitis externa, swimmer's ear.

Once, an 8-year-old girl came to see me with complaint of earache. There was no history of a recent cold or congestion, but she had been swimming in the backyard pool every day.

"Which ear hurts?" I asked, standing before her with my otoscope in hand.

"The right one," she said.

"O.K.," I said, reaching for the left pinna to have a look.

"Hey, mister!" the little girl said, "It's my *right* ear that hurts."

"I know," I said. "This week we have a 2-for-1 special. You get both ears checked for the same price."

"Good deal!" she quipped. "My mommy will like that."

The child between 2 and 3 years of age can be a challenge to examine in the office. Many times they're out of sorts. They don't want to step up on the scale to be weighed; they don't want to be measured; they don't want to have their blood pressure taken; they don't want to get undressed. By the time I step into the exam room, they can be quite sour.

"You didn't want to find out how big you are today?" I'll ask.

To which they shake their heads "No."

"You didn't want to have your blood pressure checked?"

Again the head shake: "No."

"You didn't want to get undressed?"

"No."

Then I'll ask point blank: "Are you in the 'no' stage?"

To which they invariably reply: "No!"

One day I examined a small boy with a painful growth on the bottom of his foot. "It looks like a plantar wart," I mused as I scrutinized his sole.

Immediately he became concerned. "Do you think I got it from eating too many peanuts?" he asked.

QUINNIPIAC UNIVERSITY'S SUMMER 2010

By: Jennifer Buck

As the summer heat swings into full force so does the PA program at Quinnipiac University. The class of 2011 begins a rigorous year of clinical rotations and the class of 2010 prepares for their last semester. In just a few short months they will be taking the PANCE and heading out into the real world as physician assistants. As usual, we wish them all the best of luck in the future; they are sure to do great things in health care. As one year starts to wind down, another one swings into full gear. Welcome to the 52 fresh new faces that are now forever bonded as they comprise the QU PA class of 2012. The new class is well into their first semester now and as expected they are making the transition back into the classroom look easy.

As if the Connecticut heat wave wasn't enough for us, many of the QU faculty and students headed to sweltering hotlanta for the 38th Annual conference: IMPACT. Most of our time was spent networking with other students and professionals along with attending numerous lectures to help us prepare for the clinical year ahead, but it wasn't all work and no play. We had the amazing opportunity to attend A Paramount Evening: Celebrating Those Who Heal, Educate, Lead and Provide. The evening was truly one to remember as some of the most deserving PAs and MDs from around the country shared their most treasured memories and accomplishments.

IMPACT was a busy time for all of the faculty and students. Not only did QU's elected AOR, Christina Cheng, and HOD spokesperson, Kevin Fitzsimmons, do a superb job representing the student population of the AAPA they both were recipients of the SAAAPAs Travel Grant. The QU PA program also took home the Outstanding Student Society Award and continued on to receive the Diamond Award for its contributions to the Georgia Migrant Farm Workers, the philanthropic organization of the IMPACT conference. And it didn't stop there! Special congratulations to your newly elected PA Foundation Student Representative for the 2010/2011 term, Christina Cheng. Students weren't the only ones getting recognitions in Atlanta. It was a job well done to Professor William Kohlhepp for receiving the SAAPA Presidents Award. We couldn't leave this topic without giving a special thanks to Professor and QU Program Director Cynthia Lord as her tenure as Immediate Past President of the AAPA comes to a close. Professor Lord has devoted her time and energy to the continued success of the PA profession. There is no doubt that she will continue to serve the physician assistant community. She will truly be missed, but the profession is in good hands as Steve Hanson transitions to Immediate Past President and as Connecticut's very own Patrick Killeen dives head first into his new role as AAPA president.

Another exciting and successful event that kicked off the summer of 2010 was the CT Bike for Education fundraising event sponsored by the Connecticut Physician Assistant Foundation. Yale and Quinnipiac joined forces once again to ensure success of this first annual event. The two-day 60-mile bike/walk event kicked off on Saturday June 26th in downtown New Haven with nine bikers and fifteen walkers determined to beat the heat. The race wrapped up on Sunday the 27th on the Massachusetts border with eleven bikers and seven walkers. The CT Bike for Education event raised over \$4,000 for Connecticut PAF scholarships available to PA students throughout the state.

Looking forward, you might see some new faces and changes on the North Haven campus. Professor William Kohlhepp moves into his new role as Associate Dean of the Health Sciences while two new professors join the QU team. Please help us welcome Professor Fiore Soverio and Professor Kathy Moini as the newest faculty members of the QU PA program. As usual the QU students and faculty appreciate your continued support!



"...many of the QU faculty and students headed to sweltering hotlanta for the 38th Annual conference: IMPACT. Most of our time was spent networking with other students and professionals along with attending numerous lectures to help us prepare for the clinical year ahead... The evening was truly one to remember as some of the most deserving PAs and MDs from around the country shared their most treasured memories and accomplishments."



**Join ConnAPA's new
Facebook Page!**

**Want to do More to Support
Your Profession?**

JOIN A COMMITTEE!

Membership

Danielle.tabaka@att.net

CME/Conference Planning

Pn2bns@yahoo.com

Government Affairs

Jonathan.Weber@yale.edu

**Communications/Public
Relations**

Justin_Champagne@hotmail.com

BILL KOHLHEPP APPOINTED TO ASSOCIATE DEAN OF HEALTH SCIENCES

Hamden, Conn. – June 4, 2010 – William C. Kohlhepp of North Haven has been appointed associate dean of the School of Health Sciences at Quinnipiac University.

In his new position, Kohlhepp will be responsible for working with the School of Health Sciences faculty and staff who are located on the university's Mount Carmel Campus. Betsey Smith will continue to serve as an associate dean of the School of Health Sciences and will work with the faculty and students on Quinnipiac's North Haven Campus. Kohlhepp begins his new position July 1.

Kohlhepp, who joined the faculty of the Physician Assistant Program at Quinnipiac in 1996 and holds the title of associate professor of physician assistant studies, has held several leadership positions across campus, including chair of the Faculty Senate. He continues to maintain his clinical expertise in occupational health and has been active in both the state and national physician assistant organizations. In 2000, Kohlhepp served as president of the American Academy of Physician Assistants. In 2006, he served as chairman of the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants.

"As a faculty member in the Department of Biomedical Sciences and director of the entry-level master's of physician assistant program at Quinnipiac, Bill is the ideal candidate to serve as the point person for our health sciences students on the Mount Carmel Campus," said Edward O'Connor, dean of the School of Health Sciences.

Kohlhepp holds a doctor of health sciences from Nova Southeastern University, a master of health services administration from Quinnipiac, a bachelor's degree in physician assistant studies from the College of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey, and a bachelor's degree in biology from the University of Connecticut.

FIRST ANNUAL JOB FAIR TAKES PLACE AT QUINNIPIAC UNIVERSITY IN NORTH HAVEN

By: Michael Thompson, Executive Director



Just about one year ago, one of our PA student members suggested the Academy put together a job fair geared strictly toward PAs. As PAs are one of the fastest growing occupations in the country, the opportunity to connect employers with qualified, highly trained PA students, graduates, and experienced PAs was too good an idea to pass up.

After coordinating dates and times to allow each of the PA programs to participate, the planning process began. We advertised to our members via electronic and regular mail, and sent brochures to many hospitals and employers across the state. If you are a non-member and would like to share your email with us so we can notify you about upcoming events such as this, please send an email to connapa@ssmgt.com so we can add you to our distribution list.

We saw a dozen exhibitors turn out for the event, including hospitals, recruiters, and private practices. The opportunity for employers and PAs to meet face to face was invaluable and many positive comments about the event were shared. We plan to continue this event and improve on it for years to come and hope that you will consider being a part of it in the future and let your employers know about it as well. As a reminder, our website's employment section is a great tool to use if your practice is looking to expand or replace staff.

Finally, I would like to give a special thanks to Cindy Lord and the PA faculty at the Quinnipiac PA Program for hosting the event.

WELCOME NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Peter Juergensen - Region 2 Director, Terry O'Donnell - Treasurer
& Andrew Turczak - Region 5 Director

A BIG CHANCE TO HELP PATIENTS OF CONNECTICUT

By: Justin Champagne, MHS, PA-C

ConnAPA is seeking volunteers to assist us at the **NBC 30 Health & Wellness Festival** at the CT Convention Center, which takes place on October 16-17, 2010 from 10am – 5pm.

At this event, we will be teaming up with the National Kidney Foundation to perform a Health Risk Assessment for patients, who will complete a basic health risk questionnaire about their personal and family history of diabetes, hypertension (HTN), and kidney disease. In addition to this screening, patients will have their body mass index (BMI) and (blood pressure) BPs calculated. Those patients who are found to have an abnormal BMI or BP will meet with PAs or MDs to discuss their increased risk of health problems, including kidney disease.

In addition to helping identify patients who are at risk of kidney disease, we will also be transferring medication names and directions from patients' medications bottles to a medication card. These medication cards also have space for noting allergies and emergency contact information. With the voluminous number of pharmaceuticals out there, many patients are confused and unsure as to which medication is treating which condition. We can help make it clear for them so that when they take their medication, they at least know what they're taking it for.

In a perfect world, patients would take all their medications all the time; but the reality is, some are forced to pick and choose which medications they will take. This may be based on factors such as finances, side effects, relative importance of the disease/condition being treated, quality of life, pill burden, etc. By clearly explaining which medication treats which condition, we may be able to help guide the patients into making better decisions if it comes down to taking only a percentage of all of their meds.

So please join ConnAPA for as little or as much time as you can offer. This will be an opportunity to potentially reach the needs of hundreds of Connecticut's patients!

For more information, or if you are interested in participating in this event, please contact: ConnAPA at connapa@ssmgt.com or 860-243-3977

SPECIALTY CERTIFICATION AS DISCUSSED IN THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES

By: Jeanine Sico, PA-C

There has been much debate recently regarding specialty certification exams that will be offered by the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants (NCCPA). Several resolutions were heard in the House addressing this topic. Namely, the House adopted resolution 2010-B-11, which reads, "The AAPA strongly discourages physician assistants from taking optional specialty examinations offered by the NCCPA on the basis that such examinations are not in line with the founding principles of the physician assistant education model or standards of physician assistant practice." We discussed flexibility of our profession in light of these specialty examinations, as well as how the NCCPA is serving us as a profession. Other questions also arose, including: how will these exams be used by employers? Does the length of time that a PA is practicing in a particular area indicate competence? There is sentiment regarding a need for "specialty recognition" in our profession. Whether the specialty certification examinations will satisfy this need is to be determined as the discussion carries on. Interested in making your voice heard? Join the ConnAPA leadership as our voice in the House of Delegates by emailing us at: connapa@ssmgt.com.



NBC 30 Health & Wellness Festival

Connecticut Convention Center

October 16-17, 2010

10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Volunteers Needed!

From left to right: Patrick Killeen, John McNab, Cindy Lord, Bill Kohlhepp, Jeanine Sico, Joe Varano, Erin Lyons, Bruce Fichandler, and Kevin Fitzsimmons.



Welcome to ConnAPA: Sara Elsdén

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome a new member of our ConnAPA team, Sara Elsdén. Sara has been with S&S Management for four years working primarily as the assistant to our staff accountant. She comes to us well versed in the workings of the accounting piece of association management and an overall knowledge of association management. Previously to working at S&S, Sara worked as the office manager/production assistant for an audio/visual and event planning company. Please welcome Sara to the ConnAPA family.



Connecticut Academy of Physician Assistants

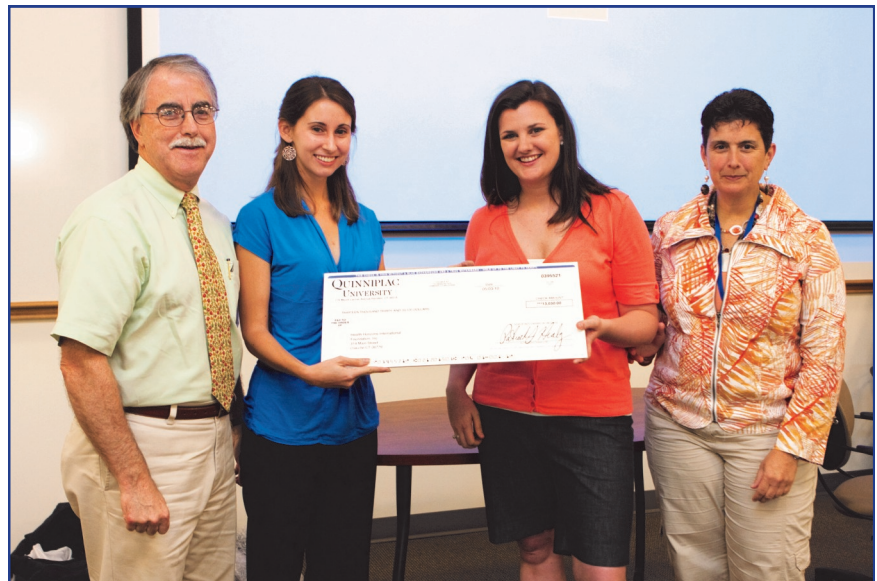
One Regency Drive
Bloomfield, CT 06002
Phone: 860-243-3977
Fax: 860-286-0787
E-mail:
ConnAPA@ssmgt.com

QUINNIPIAC UNIVERSITY'S PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT STUDENTS PRESENT \$13,000 TO HEALTH HORIZONS INTERNATIONAL

Hamden, Conn. – June 10, 2010 – Craig Czarsty, M.D. of Watertown, (left), president of Health Horizons International, and Laura McNulty, (second from the left), executive director of Health Horizons International, recently visited Quinnipiac University's North Haven Campus to accept a \$13,030 check from Carolyn Allen (second from the right), a physician assistant student in the School of Health Sciences at Quinnipiac, and Cynthia Lord of Cheshire (right), clinical assistant professor of physician assistant studies and director of the physician assistant program at Quinnipiac.

Health Horizons International coordinates continuous medical service trips with a local community health workers program in the Puerto Plata region of the Dominican Republic. Students in Quinnipiac's physician assistant program have already traveled to the Dominican Republic twice this year. To support Health Horizons International's mission to provide quality primary health care to underserved patients in the Dominican Republic, the physician assistant students raised \$3,000. The remaining \$10,000 was part of a Global Outreach Program grant from the Physician Assistant Foundation.

Quinnipiac is a private, coeducational, nonsectarian institution located 90 minutes north of New York City and two hours from Boston. The university enrolls 5,700 full-time undergraduate and 2,000 graduate students in 52 undergraduate and 20 graduate programs of study in its School of Business, School of Communications, School of Education, School of Health Sciences, School of Law, and College of Arts and Sciences. Quinnipiac ranks among the top 10 universities with master's programs in the Northern region in U.S. News & World Report's America's Best Colleges. The 2009 issue of U.S. News and World Report's America's Best Colleges named Quinnipiac as the top up-and-coming school with master's programs in the North. Quinnipiac also is recognized in Princeton Review's The Best 371 Colleges. For more information, please visit www.quinnipiac.edu.



Craig Czarsty, M.D. (left), Laura McNulty, (second from the left), Carolyn Allen (second from the right), and Cynthia Lord of Cheshire (right).