



Connecticut PA

A Publication of the Connecticut Academy of Physician Assistants

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE - A YEAR IN SUMMARY

By: Justin Champagne, PA-C

It has been a very busy year, but a very productive one as well. Despite an economy that continues to struggle, our Academy remains in solid financial shape. As you know, we have also adopted a new 3-year strategic plan, which focuses on our goal of providing PAs in Connecticut with the support they need to maintain a patient-centered approach to deliver the highest quality care. This ever-evolving strategy will reflect our continuous advancement toward our envisioned future in an ever-changing healthcare environment.

Our organization is both unique and fortunate to be in a growth phase as the needs and demands of health care delivery grow along with us. Broad efforts to reduce health care costs are now a top priority, and we believe that physician-directed, team-based health care delivery will be a major component of improving our system. To that end, we have continued to be active here in Connecticut by submitting testimony, drafting position letters, and communicating with legislators on how to use PAs more effectively to implement comprehensive reform. We continue to handle issues regarding the fluoroscopy bill and pending deadline. Additionally, ConnAPA proposed modifications to existing PA practice statutes that would eliminate the 6:1 PA:MD ratio, that would eliminate the requirement for supervising physicians to meet with their PAs weekly to do a personal review of the PA's practice, and that would eliminate the requirement that physicians document approval of new prescriptions and orders for Schedule II and III drugs in the medical record within one calendar day. Instead, we argued that these decisions should be made at the individual practice level, rather than by statewide authorities. These proposed modifications have essentially been tabled until next year when a new committee created by the legislature to handle these scope of practice issues would be up and running. We have set the table, though, and will reintroduce these amendments next year. Our government affairs committee also fought legislation that would have potentially removed both a PA and a physician who supervises one or more PAs from the composition of the Medical Examining Board. The legislative efforts we made this year were all supported by the Connecticut State Medical Society (CSMS), an organization with which we have continually strengthened our working relationship.

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Justin Champagne, PA-C

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (*CONTINUED*)

As our profession grows, so has our membership. I'd like to thank our new members for joining and remind you that we are here to serve you in any way we can. I also do not want to overlook the rest of our membership who continue to support our profession by remaining a member year after year. Without your support and the hard work and dedication of our leaders who serve on our various committees, we would not be where we are today.

We have always been and continue to be fortunate in that many of our past leaders have gone on to serve on national organizations, such as the AAPA, the Physician Assistant Education Association and the National Commission on Certification of PAs. These leaders have literally shaped our profession and we are grateful for their contributions to our profession and to healthcare. Connecticut has that strong leadership foundation and the torch is being passed to a new regime, but we certainly need more help. I would like to ask that you consider devoting a few hours a year to help serve on a committee. I have served on all of them, and it is truly a rewarding experience to see positive changes happen that one has had a personal part in. We have tasks big and small to fit any level of interest. Bleeding ConnAPA blue blood and inking a ConnAPA tattoo are not required. We are all in this together and if everyone does a little, we can do great things.

In closing, it has been an honor and privilege to serve as your president this past year. I enjoyed talking to many of you at the Charter Oak of Conference in April, and I look forward to potentially seeing more of you at the national conference in Las Vegas.

PLAYING THE GAME

By: Brian T. Maurer

My patient complains of a cough. She's had it for nearly two weeks. It just doesn't seem to be subsiding. In fact, according to her perceptions, it's getting worse.

"What sort of cough is it?" I ask. "Can you describe it to me?"

She shrugs her shoulders. "It's a nagging cough," she says. "I can hardly carry on a conversation without breaking into a coughing fit." Seemingly to drive her point home, an immediate harsh staccato hack erupts from her throat.

"Do you bring something up when you cough?"

"Not really," she says. "Sometimes I might bring up a little phlegm."

"What do you do with it: spit it out or swallow it?"

"Usually I can't get it out, so I just swallow it," she says.

"How about at night?" I ask. "Does the cough keep you awake at night?"

She gives this question some thought before she answers. "No, I suppose not. I might cough from time to time, but it doesn't keep me up."

Mentally, I collate these findings, jotting a few key words in the chart. "Non-productive harsh hacking cough X 1 week; extinguished by sleep." Although I haven't examined my patient as yet, I have formulated a likely diagnosis based upon the historical information that she has provided.

A well-developed medical history forms the basis of good diagnostic medicine. Perhaps upwards of 80 percent of all medical diagnoses can be made on data gleaned from the medical history alone.

Yet there is another important reason to document the patient's symptoms as accurately as



PLAYING THE GAME (CONTINUED)

possible. Such data are used to substantiate the level of service when billing for care rendered.

For example, to substantiate a problem-focused or an expanded-problem-focused office visit, clinicians must document 1 to 3 elements describing the patient's presenting illness or problem. To justify a detailed encounter, at least 4 elements must be recorded in the history of present illness. For billing purposes, there is a big difference between documenting a "non-productive harsh, hacking cough" and a "non-productive, harsh, hacking, diurnal cough." It seems ridiculous, but from the third-party payers' point of view, those are the rules by which the remuneration game is played. Woe to the clinician who fails to document such elements in the chart before the auditor arrives on the doorstep.

There are other rules associated with substantiating the level of service. These have to do with proper documentation of categories in the review of systems as well as past medical, family and social historical data. Interestingly, these data do not have to correspond to the patient's chief complaint—they merely have to be recorded in the clinician's note.

Of course, all of this markedly inflates the amount of time that the clinician must spend meticulously recording these data—which, for the most part, are documented solely for the purpose of justifying the level of service billed for the visit.

A pediatrician practicing in Pennsylvania recently informed me that the main reason the clinic where she is employed elected to move to an electronic medical record system was to bolster billings at a higher level of service.

Gone are the days when the clinician could spend time talking with the patient, teasing out historical data to substantiate a proper diagnosis, and then devoting the remainder of the office visit to outlining a plan of treatment for the patient. Instead of utilizing precious minutes to hone in on the patient's condition, a greater amount of time is devoted to documenting the encounter. In a sense, third-party payers require practicing clinicians to take a self-assessment quiz as an integral part of every patient encounter.

Certainly, it is good for clinicians to go through the drills, to check themselves periodically to ascertain that they are practicing appropriately.

But when the emphasis shifts from proper patient care to merely playing the game, in my book there's a major problem with the system.

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24TH ANNUAL COC - ANOTHER GREAT SUCCESS

By: Jonathan Pinto

It was another successful year for ConnAPA and its 24th Annual Charter Oak Conference (COC), held at the Mystic Marriott from April 10th through 13th, 2011. A hard-working committee put together a wide variety of CME lectures and was able to incorporate a few new ideas into the mix as well. In the end, over 200 attendees were able to take part in this four-day event, earning up to 32 category I CME credits along the way. Our committee added two new events to this year's COC: a student leadership track geared for our three state PA programs; and round table discussion sessions after the last lecture of the day.

Our COC started off with a new workshop option, "Common Ophthalmology Problems", which was well received by those in attendance. The other workshops included the well-attended and popular "EKG review", and another newer topic, "Abdominal Imaging". Following an afternoon of lectures, we all enjoyed great food and fellowship at the Welcome Reception held Sunday evening.

New to the COC, the student leadership track was held on Sunday afternoon and over 30 students from the University of Bridgeport, Quinnipiac University, and Yale University attended this event. First proposed by a Yale University student, this two-hour seminar and forum allowed students the opportunity to learn more about leadership in the PA profession both on a local and national level, giving students a sneak peak into the world of becoming a leader and staying involved in the profession. The forum aspect allowed students the opportunity to question a panel of PAs on a variety of topics from volunteerism and clinical rotations to liability, contracts, and job interviewing. All students who attended appeared to have a great experience and the committee is already planning on expanding this leadership seminar for next year's COC. As in the past, students from all three universities also attended lectures and events on both Monday and Tuesday in addition to their leadership seminar on Sunday.

The highlight for Monday was our Annual Business Meeting which included a legislative update, the presentation of ConnAPA PAF scholarships, and our keynote speaker, Matthew Katz from CSMS. Led by our lobbyist Linda Kowalski, the legislative update included some key points we all need to know regarding legislation that affects ALL of our abilities to practice medicine here in CT. If there's one reason to be a member of ConnAPA, it's to support the hard work our lobbyist performs on our behalf. Matthew Katz, the Vice President of Connecticut State Medical Society (CSMS) was our keynote speaker and wowed the audience with an array of new federal and state related issues regarding Medicare reimbursement, electronic medical records, and the many national health plan issues which are keeping all of us on our toes. It is imperative that we as PAs continue to remain involved when it comes to these issues as there are many regulations and rules being put forth by the federal government regarding reimbursement rules and deadlines to which we must adhere.

Tuesday welcomed another great day of lectures as well as our Annual Exhibit Hall. It is due to the great support of these exhibitors that we are able to provide high-quality CME lectures for such low cost to our attendees. The exhibit hall experience was also the site for a great buffet luncheon and both attendees and students who visited all of the exhibit booths were entered into a raffle where prizes included free registration to COC next year, a free room-night at the Mystic Marriott, and free PANCE and PANRE review books donated by The Yale Bookstore.



Jonathan Pinto



24TH ANNUAL COC (CONTINUED)



(Continued from page 4)

Wednesday provided another great day of lectures and a surprise ice cream social event in the afternoon for those in attendance. Wednesday was also the final of three roundtable discussion sessions, this one focusing on NCCPA update which allowed all in attendance to ask our NCCPA speaker all those questions about specialty certification and the new changes with recertification exams. The roundtable discussion sessions on Monday (PA reimbursement) and Tuesday (PAs and liability) were also well attended and well received. Special thanks to both Tricia Marriott and Chip Danker for devoting the extra time to these additional events and allowing ConnAPA to provide an even better CME experience to all of our attendees who were present.

As we wrap up the year, plans for next year's COC event have already begun to return to the Mystic Marriott next year from April 22nd through 25th to celebrate our 25th year. As Chairperson, I'd like to send a special thanks to all of the committee members who helped in planning this great event. It is the work of these volunteers and colleagues in our PA profession that allows for such a great event. I'd also like to thank our Executive Management team, especially Michael Thompson and Kirsten Longley as their hard work throughout the year helps this event become more successful each passing year. Anyone who wants to volunteer to be on the conference planning committee or has any ideas for lectures or topics is welcome to contact us through our website ConnAPA.org or email us at www.connapa@ssmgt.com. Thanks again for a great year and here's looking forward to 2012.



Attention Recent PA Program Graduates

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From the AAPA...

NEW FACE-TO-FACE REQUIREMENT FOR HOME HEALTH CERTIFICATION

New Face-to-Face Requirement for Home Health Certification Includes PAs...but, the physician must still sign the forms.

As a condition for payment for home health services, the Affordable Care Act mandates that, prior to certifying a patient's eligibility for the home health benefit, the certifying physician must document that he or she, or an allowed non-physician practitioner (NPP) has had a face-to-face encounter with the patient. An allowed NPP is defined as a PA, NP, CNM, or CNS.

Key elements of the new rule include:

- Documentation of the face-to-face encounters must be present on certifications for patients with starts of care on and after January 1, 2011.
- As part of the certification form itself, or as an addendum to it, the physician must document
 - (1) when the physician or allowed NPP saw the patient, and
 - (2) how the patient's clinical condition as seen during that encounter supports the patient's homebound status and need for skilled services.
- The face-to-face encounter must occur within the 90 days prior to the start of home health care, or within the 30 days after the start of care.

In many cases, home health agencies will not initiate home care services without the certification form documenting the above requirements and signed by a physician. While the PA may complete the face-to-face encounter, the physician must "certify" that the visit occurred by signing the completed form. For complete information regarding this new rule, refer to the MLN Matters Article <http://www.cms.gov/MLN MattersArticles/downloads/SE1038.pdf> published by CMS, or review the CMS rule itself found in Transmittal 139 <http://www.cms.gov/transmittals/downloads/R139BP.pdf>.

For further information, contact Tricia Marriott, PA-C, AAPA Director of Reimbursement Advocacy, tmarriott@aapa.org.

MEDICARE CONTRACTOR REVERSES DECISION ON FRACTURE CODES

AAPA has been notified by National Government Services (NGS), the Medicare contractor for CT, IN, KY, and NY, that their recent decision to deny all codes submitted with a 90 day global period, including the closed treatment of fractures, has now been suspended. AAPA contacted NGS Medicare, and worked closely with many stakeholders, including the CT Orthopaedic Society, the NY Orthopaedic Society, PAOS, and Karen Zupko Associates appealing denials and assisting the many PAs and their practices who were impacted by this unfortunate policy.

From Dr. Paul Deutsch, Medical Director of NGS:

"As you have been informed, the newly-implemented edit for surgical services with a 90-day global period performed by Physician Assistants has been temporarily inactivated while it is being reviewed. This will provide an opportunity for NGS to re-look at the content and purpose of the edit in order to inactivate it permanently or revise it appropriately. Please note, there may be services for which PAs were not previously covered to perform and which were unrelated to this edit that would remain non-reimbursable. However, those services related to the closed treatment of a fracture will be reimbursed as before the implementation of this recent edit. We are reviewing the services that were denied with a plan to readjust specific codes as appropriate avoiding the need for appeals.

The edit was developed in accordance with the Medicare Benefits Policy Manual (pub 100-02) Chapter 15 Section 190.B.3 which states that those services that PAs may provide includes "minor surgery." CMS defines minor surgery as those procedures with 000 and 010 global periods. In an attempt to expedite claims processing the edit was set to look at the 90-day global period services.

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FRACTURE CODES (*CONTINUED*)

In doing so, we overlooked the additional citation that included "setting casts for simple fractures." We agree that this oversight needed to be corrected. As I indicated, we will be reviewing the entire issue before any consideration of similar multiple code edits.

I apologize for the inconvenience and confusion, and hope to be able to seek your advice in future consideration of such reimbursement determinations."

AAPA awaits further instruction regarding resubmission of the previously denied claims. For further information, contact Tricia Marriott, AAPA Director of Reimbursement Advocacy, tmariott@aapa.org.

UNIVERSITY OF BRIDGEPORT PA INSTITUTE, 2011

By Erin E. Carey PA-S1

It's hard to believe that we are about to enter into our second term; the time has flown by so quickly! Back in January, with all our fresh faces thinking anxiously about how much work lay ahead, we had to juggle an array of unknowns. Now, four months in, we are starting to feel like seasoned PA students with a strong grasp of the long days of classes and seminars as well as squeezing in hours of study time. The University of Bridgeport PA Institute is a brand new program staffed with professionals whose combined PA work and educational experiences equal over 150 years. Our program is well designed in preparing us to be professionals in only a few years.

We are grateful that we are able to break up our intense academic week by spending one day up at Yale for our cadaveric lab and anatomy lectures with Dr. Stewart, whose bowties are almost as legendary as he is. We also take a demanding Information Literature course, which focuses on preparing students to read and interpret research studies and articles. Recently we began our phlebotomy courses, taught by Susan Ferency from SVMC, where students first practiced on the tech arms and then dove right into practicing on each other. Our faculty and administrative staff were gracious enough to lend their veins to the learning process.

The UB PA class started going to St. Vincent's Medical Center and the VA Hospital in West Haven to practice taking patient histories. The opportunities have been an incredible learning experience and have helped hone our interview skills and provided us with more patient care experience. Dr. Monica Lockwood, our Medical Director here at UB, has led the formation of a relationship with Americares in Bridgeport where she volunteers her medical services. Students from UB have gone weekly to shadow MDs where we observe histories being taken, participate in diagnostic discussions and learn more about the underserved population in health care.

In March we participated in ConnAPA's Duckpin bowling night in Hamden where students challenged our professors for bragging rights. The students unfortunately lost by a very small margin but we are excited that the event was such a successful fundraiser! In early April we attended the Charter Oak Conference in Mystic where there was a Sunday seminar of student oriented information such as insight into graduation expectations, future employment, licensing, salary negotiations, and earning CME credits. The panel consisting of PA's Jonathan Pinto, Judy Nunz, Bill Kohlhepp, and Justin Champagne, shared their career experiences and encouraged our involvement in ConnAPA. On Monday we listened to the scheduled speakers throughout the day and had our first taste of attending a PA conference, a certainty in our future as practitioners. Trish Marriott, who spoke at Charter Oaks on Monday about Deep Vein Thrombosis (DVTs), came to UB to host a series of seminars on Billing and Coding.



"Students from UB have gone weekly to shadow MDs where we observe histories being taken, participate in diagnostic discussions and learn more about the underserved population in health care."



UNIVERSITY OF BRIDGEPORT PA INSTITUTE (CONTINUED)

The UB campus supports the pursuit of Integrative medicine and many PA students attend the lectures and information sessions hosted by UB's Naturopathic and Chiropractic schools. Attending these discussions enriches our knowledge and repertoire of patient centered solutions for the best patient care possible. UB PA students are eager to establish our program in the Bridgeport community by volunteering in local medical clinics, soup kitchens and food pantry's. We look forward to our program growing and forming more collaborative relationships with the PA students of Yale and Quinnipiac as well as PAs in the profession over the upcoming months and years.

UNIVERSITY OF BRIDGEPORT PA INSTITUTE CELEBRATES EARTH DAY

By Amanda Christie, Green Officer, PA-S1



"As a new Institute at the university, we wanted to start making a real contribution to the community, working hard to build a positive and giving reputation."



April 21st was a brisk and windy day in Bridgeport, but that didn't stop the UB PA Institute class of 2013 from our planned Earth Day activities. As the first —ever class of the newly established PA Institute, we organized an afternoon of activities designed to give back to the University and to the Bridgeport community for Earth Day, doing our part to clean up Seaside Park, located just south of the UB campus.

The Earth Day celebration was a mix of work and fun for all the UB -PAI students. After the day's classes were finished, we gathered outside the Institute and headed to Seaside Park. In coordination with the Park commission, who donated the gloves; garbage bags; garbage bins; and the use of a 4-wheel utility Park vehicle, the students divided into groups and cleaned the Park of garbage and debris. In just a few hours, we were able to make a noticeable

difference making the park a cleaner and more enjoyable place for everyone. As a new Institute at the university, we wanted to start making a real contribution to the community, working hard to build a positive and giving reputation.

In addition to cleaning up the campus and Seaside Park, several members of our class donated and planted flowers outside of Eleanor Dana Hall where the PA Institute is housed. As the first class in the Institute, we wanted to provide a small gift to the UB community, starting a yearly tradition of making the campus a more beautiful place.

The Earth Day activities concluded with an outdoor barbeque, which gave the students a much-needed chance to de-stress before Finals week. With program director Dr. Daniel Cervonka at the grill, we had a chance to enjoy some brisk spring air and physical activity while admiring the beautiful view of Long Island Sound.



QUINNIPIAC UNIVERSITY PA PROGRAM UPDATE

By: Robert Pandolfe, PA-S

The QU PA Student Society hosted its biggest fundraising event of the year on April 9, 2011. The 5K Run For Your Life and Cow Chip Bingo took place at the Quinnipiac University North Haven campus. This year, proceeds went to the PAF Host City Prevention Campaign and the QU PA Student Society Children's Literacy Campaign. The day began with the 5K Run at 8am followed by the Cow Chip Bingo Raffle. Awards were given to the fastest runners in the different age categories for males and females. This year's top time was 18:23. This year's PAF Host City Prevention Campaign benefits 'The Shelter Tree', a shelter for battered women and children in Las Vegas, NV. The QU PA Children's Literacy Campaign buys books for St. Raphael's Pediatric Clinic and the ACES student reading program.

On Tuesday, March 1st, all 50 Quinnipiac University PA students celebrated Dr. Seuss's birthday at the Hospital of St. Raphael with a children's health and literacy fair. Complete with appearances from the Cat in the Hat and Thing 1 and Thing 2, PA students educated 260 attendees on children's health topics, such as nutrition, physical



activity, dental hygiene, safety and hand-washing. Children sampled healthy snacks, exercised, and practiced hand-washing and teeth-brushing while parents and caregivers talked to PA students and gathered brochures. The highlight of the event was the reading corner, where every child was read to and given a book to take home. Lucky raffle winners took home bicycles, helmets, car seats, book sets, and a Wii Sports Pack. This successful event was sponsored by the QU PA Program, under the direction of program director, Prof. Cindy Lord,

and in collaboration with the pediatric center at the Hospital of St. Raphael.

One hundred twenty 3rd grade students at the Parker Farms Elementary School in Wallingford, CT were visited by the QU PA Student "Nutrition Detectives" on Thursday, April 7th. As part of the Anthem-Blue Cross Childhood Health and Obesity grant, 50 Quinnipiac PA students presented Dr. David Katz's "Nutrition Detectives" nutrition education program to 6 classrooms. Children learned how to be "Nutrition Detectives" by reading nutrition labels and looking at ingredient lists for "good" foods and "bad" foods. The QU PA students not only provided children with knowledge needed to make healthy decisions when choosing what to eat, but also distributed stickers and pencils for a job well done. This program was a project of the QU PA Literacy Program, under the direction of program director, Prof. Cindy Lord.

In February class officers from the class of 2011 and class of 2012 went to Washington, DC for the 2011 CORE Advocacy Day and Leadership Forum. The first day the students participated in advocacy boot camp, where they learned about issues and concerns that PA advocates were to present to members of congress concerning the PA profession. They worked together and planned out who was going to cover certain issues and ideas in order to get their point across effectively. Then they went to Capitol Hill to lobby for those issues. The second day consisted of a leadership conference where they learned about healthcare, budgeting and being a leader.

On Wednesday March 30th, 12 1st year QU PA students traveled up to Storrs, Ct to join the pharmacy and nursing students at UCONN for a case presentation. Once there, they split up into teams and were presented with a patient case. They systematically worked through the history and physical, differential diagnosis, lab findings, assessment and plan for this patient. The event emphasized the necessity of working as a team within the health care system and was a great learning experience for everyone involved.



QUINNIPIAC UNIVERSITY (CONTINUED)



Without fail, the first Monday of every month year-round a group of 6-8 QU PA students supply eggs, make egg salad sandwiches, provide toiletries, and donated clothes to the homeless men of the Immanuel Baptist Shelter.

Quinnipiac University continues their work to promote health literacy at the ACES school in North Haven and at the Pediatric Outpatient clinic at St. Raphael's Hospital. On April 29th, the Class of 2012 is hosting a Health and Literacy Fair, incorporating an Earth Day celebration, at the Mill Road ACES School. Students will learn the importance of safety, bullying, exercise, proper nutrition and hygiene, as well as the how to recycle. In addition there will be a station where students can learn about the PA profession. The PA program will also be raffling off book baskets throughout the event.

YALE UNIVERSITY PA UPDATE

By: Dan McNamara PA-S and Tia Ferrarotti PA-S



"The long awaited White Coat ceremony took place on March 25th. The ceremony signifies the transition of PA student to the clinical phase of their education following months of hard work."

The spring semester has been eventful, to say the least, for the PA class of 2012. The long awaited White Coat ceremony took place on March 25th. The ceremony signifies the transition of PA student to the clinical phase of their education following months of hard work. Alfred Sadler, one of the founders of the Yale PA program, was present and spoke to students about the founding of Yale's Program and the history of the White Coat Ceremony. A panel of patients also came to speak about their great experiences being treated by PAs.



The Yale Symposium took place the weekend following the White Coat ceremony. The symposium is a celebration of the contributions of Yale graduates to the ever-growing Physician Assistant profession. Distinguished alumni such as Burdeen Camp, Cynthia Lord, and Bruce Fichandler attended and lectured on the past, present and future of the profession. Current AAPA president Patrick Killeen also made an appearance.



The Service of Gratitude was conducted on April 15th. It is an event that is completely student-run and organized. Its purpose is to provide first year medical and PA students the opportunity to show appreciation to the donors who sacrificed their bodies to science. This year, PA and medical students collaborated to create a photo mosaic of Da Vinci's Vitruvian man which will be on display in the Anlyan Center. Several students expressed their appreciation individually through artwork, poems, and live musical performances.

Recently, Yale PA students took time out their busy schedule to participate in the Relay for Life. The relay is the largest fundraising event that takes place at Yale annually. Participants gather in Payne Whitney Gymnasium and raise money for the American Cancer Society by walking or running around the track. Yale has raised over \$900,000 since 2005 when the first relay was held.

With summer approaching, students are excited for warmer weather, the beginning of their clinical experiences, and most importantly, the AAPA conference in Las Vegas.

PA FOCUS - TRICIA MARRIOTT, PA-C. MPAS, DFAAPA

The thing that really motivated me to become a PA was...I wanted to be able to take care of patients. While working through high school and college as a nursing assistant, I observed that the physicians spent very little time with patients. I was disenchanted and discouraged and reconsidering my Biology/Pre-Med major. Then, I had a chance meeting with a PA at a career fair my junior year in college. That led me to an open house at the Yale PA Program where I met the greatest group of clinicians you would ever want to meet. They were a happy, collegial and enthused bunch of very real people who were focused on diagnosing, treating and caring for patients. The rest, as they say, is history.



I am currently working...full-time for the American Academy of Physician Assistants as the Director of Reimbursement Advocacy. My job is to advocate for the PA profession and support the PA's ability to treat patients to the full extent of their license, education, and capability. That includes the proper utilization of PAs, appropriate privileging, and maximizing reimbursement for services provided by PAs. I help PAs, hospitals, practice managers, and physicians understand and implement policy and regulations. Although I've been called a "policy wonk", my clinical experience helps me translate and apply all of those regulations to PA practice.

I have my years as a ConnAPA and AAPA volunteer to thank for taking on a policy position. My experience as ConnAPA Government Relations committee member, then Chairman (during the supervision crisis and fluoro bill), and my term as ConnAPA President really ignited the advocacy fire in me. I believe very strongly in the PA profession, and am thrilled to be able to work every day to support and advance the PA's role in our healthcare system.

I do still work part-time clinically to maintain my skills and my license. It is a privilege to be able to continue to care for patients.

If I weren't a PA... I'd be running a garden shop-like White Flower Farm or Van Wilgen's. I find watering and dead-heading flowers very soothing.

When I am not at work I like to...Apparently, I like to work in the garden. However, I also really enjoy networking and mentoring other PAs and educating anyone who will listen about the profession. My friends (mostly PAs) tell me I just cannot help myself. I've always got my "PA hat" on.

What I would tell someone who wanted to become a PA is...It is the best thing that ever happened to me.

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:

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WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

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Gary Cook, PA-C
Chris Dall, PA-C
Bailee Dunshie, PA-C
Jessica Fredeen, PA-C
Daniel Harris, PA-C
Amy Hogan, PA-C
Ann Hume, PA-C
Monika Laurans, PA-C
Elizabeth Likins-Graham, PA-C
Karlyn Miselis, PA-C
Peggy Rubio O'Connor, PA-C
Heather Ryng, PA-C
Melissa Salonia, PA-C
Nancy Santaniello, PA-C
Cristina Savin, PA-C
Marlie Schmidt, PA-C
Beth Shanks, PA-C
Ellen Shatzkin, PA-C, MPAS
Dana Teodoro, PA-C
Velvet Vachon, PA-C
Ying Zheng, PA-C

CT PAF BOWL-A-RAMA

By: Rick Pope, PA-C



The first annual CT PAF BOWLARAMA took place on March 11th 2011 at the Johnson's Duckpin Lanes in Hamden CT.

On Friday March 11th Johnson's Duckpin Lanes in Hamden hosted the first CT PA Foundation BOWLARAMA. 63 bowlers and 73 total participants came to watch the CONNAPA Patriots take on the AAPA Giants in our first bowling competition. Representing the AAPA was Patrick Killeen, current President of the AAPA and Cindy Lord past President. They took on Justin Champagne, current CONNAPA President and Trish Marriott, past President as the two teams battled with a collegial attitude. They were seen sharing bowling tips and the first thing they did was put up the bumpers. The score was kept and it appeared as though the CONNAPA PATRIOTS outscored their AAPA counterparts. However, it should be noted that Johnson's Duckpin Lanes does not have electronic scoring. Their motto is "We teach America arithmetic". Nonetheless the winners were seen congratulating their competition and a good time was had by all.



Yale PA students

Other bowlers included students from Yale, Quinnipiac and Bridgeport in addition to PA graduates from across the state. There were a fair number of children who also participated and seemed to have the most fun of all as they bowled with abandon.

Students were asked to donate \$15.00 and PA graduates and guests \$50.00. Non-PAs donated \$25.00 and with great surprise the CT PAF raised a total of \$1,770. These monies help to fund PA scholarships for students in CT or CT residents attending PA schools outside the state.

*From left to right:
CONNAPA
President
Justin
Champagne,
Past
President of
AAPA Cindy
Lord, Past
President of
CONNAPA
Trish
Marriott, and
AAPA
President
Patrick
Killeen.*



CT PAF BOWL-A-RAMA (CONTINUED)



Quinnipiac PA students and graduates

Combined with our BIKE/WALK CT for Education the Foundation raised over \$7,000 for scholarships this year. At the Charter Oak Conference 5 scholarships were awarded worth \$6,000 to PA students to help fund their education. The CT PAF wishes to also thank speakers at the Charter Oak Conference who donated their honoraria to the CT PAF.

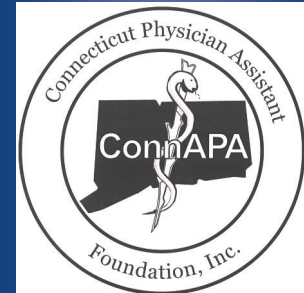
The next event will be held June 25 and 26th as the CT PAF will hold the second

BIKE/WALK CT for Education. We plan on adding a Rollerblade event this year which will take place on both days. Bikers will go over 63 miles in two days, Walkers will walk approximately 5 miles per day and the Rollerblade distance has not yet been calculated. Watch for postings as to the specifics on the CONNAPA.ORG website. Please remember to save the date as this event has proven to be a great deal of fun and is our largest fund raiser during the year.

Thanks to all who came and those who donated at the BOWLARAMA. The event will likely be repeated next year.



University of
Bridgeport
professors



Ride for Education June 25-26, 2011

The Connecticut PA Foundation invites you to a Two-Day Bike Ride from New Haven to West Suffield to help raise money for it's Annual Scholarships.

Participants can ride their bike, walk, or even rollerblade!

For more information, please contact Rick Pope at pop5rjhjc@aol.com

DONATE TO PAF

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

2ND ANNUAL - CT PAF BIKE/WALK CT FOR EDUCATION

Get In shape for the second CT PAF BIKE/WALK CT For Education.



Day 1-June 25th Friday we will begin both the BIKE and WALK at 9:00 AM from the corner of High and Wall Streets in New Haven inside the Yale undergraduate campus. The BIKERS will ride about 33 miles 65% of which will be on the Cheshire/Farmington Canal Line. Expect to complete the BIKE about 1:00 PM and all BIKERS and WALKERS are invited to have lunch at Joey Garlic's restaurant on Rte. #6 in Farmington. The trail is suitable for racing, road, and mountain bikes.

WALKERS will travel about five miles round-trip to East Rock Park in New Haven. The WALK will lead you up Orange Street outside the Yale campus and take you to the Park. You are free to return at any time. It is suggested you find a friend(s) and make the trip down to the start line where you will return.

Parking is best for both BIKERS and WALKERS

at the lot across from the Yale Coop. It costs \$9.00/day and it is gated. Biking requires a return trip to the New Haven area where you parked originally. The CT PAF is not responsible for transporting you back to your car.

Day 2-June 26th BIKERS will start at 9:00 AM from the parking of Joey Garlic's in Farmington on Rte. 6. Most of the 30 mile BIKE on this day will be on the Farmington Canal as it travels north to the MASS border. From the end of the Canal trail we will bike to our final destination at 69 North Stone St in West Suffield CT about 4 miles from the end of the canal. Here we will enjoy a barbecue as we celebrate the success of our fund raising event. Be sure to make this as it was a highlight last year.

WALKERS on day 2 will start at 11:00 AM and leave from 69 North St in West Suffield. This is the location of the barbecue and will circle on one of two beautiful trails that leave and end at the above address. The

distance for walking this day will be a choice of a little over 3 miles or five mile loop.



Both BIKERS and WALKERS will celebrate together as we hope to raise over \$5,000 from this event. Please go the connapa.org website to download a contribution sheet. We are asking that you try to keep track of your donations so we can thank our donors. Those interested in Walking or Biking do not have to be PAs. They are welcome to join us. If you cannot make it on one or both days please help by donating online at www.connapa.org. There is an easy process for donating that can be found on the right hand side of the homepage. For further information please feel free to contact the CT PAF at pop5rjhjc@aol.com. Hope to see you there!

IN MEMORIAM: ROBERT B. HOWELL, JR.

From the AAPA Professional

ROBERT B. HOWELL JR., a PA and former member of the AAPA Board of Directors who was instrumental in passage of the Connecticut Prescriptive Practices Act for Physician Assistants, died April 15, in Milford, Conn. He was 62.

Howell was born on Dec. 3, 1948, in Daytona Beach, Fla. He earned an associated degree in nursing from Polk Community College, a bachelor's degree in chemistry from the University of Southern Mississippi and a bachelor's degree in medicine from the University of Florida. He was a member of the first cardiothoracic heart team at Bridgeport Hospital and was formerly employed as a PA at Charter Oak Health Care and Hill Health Center.

He was active in health advocacy and hosted a television show, "Health Care from the Hill," on Public Broadcasting Service. He was active in his community and was a dedicated parishioner of St. Gabriel Church in Milford. He enjoyed music, fishing, cooking, traveling, going to the beach, and spending time with friends and family.

Howell is survived by his loving wife of 29 years, Debra; his mother, Gladys Large Howell; three daughters, Carolyn Pass, MD, and Cheryl Howell-Williams, both of Florida, and Christina T. Howell of Stamford, Conn.; five grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews. Memorial contributions may be made to the American Heart Association, P.O. Box 417005, Boston, MA 02241-7005; AAPA, 2318 Mill Road, Suite 1300, Alexandria, VA 22314-6868; or the National Kidney Foundation of Connecticut, 2139 Silias Deane Highway, Rocky Hill, CT 06067.

2011 Annual Meeting & Awards Presentation

Wednesday, June 22, 2011

*NSAIDS; Treatment Considerations in Arthritis Patients
and Acute Pain Patients*



110 Glastonbury Blvd.
Glastonbury, CT 06033

Registration & Cocktail Hour:	6:30 – 7:00 p.m.
Lecture & Dinner:	7:00 – 8:00 p.m.
Meeting & Awards:	8:00 – 9:00 p.m.

This event is strictly limited to 35 attendees.

If you are interested in attending, please contact the
ConnAPA Office at ConnAPA@ssmgt.com.

There will be no walk-ins.



ConnAPA Envisioned Future

The Connecticut Academy of Physician Assistants is the leading voice, resource, and advocate for PAs and the PA profession in Connecticut.

ConnAPA Mission Statement

The Connecticut Academy of Physician Assistants is committed to the professional development of physician assistants and the physician/PA team; to quality, cost-effective, patient-centered, and accessible health care; and to advocating for the PA profession.

- 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.

2nd Annual PA Job Fair



The Connecticut Academy of Physician Assistants invites you to attend our Second Annual Physician Assistant Job Fair exclusively for PAs.

Whether you are a student, a graduate, or within the workforce exploring new employment possibilities, this job fair is for you.

Date, time and location will be announced soon.



Connecticut Academy of Physician Assistants

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Bloomfield, CT 06002
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Fax: 860-286-0787
E-mail:
ConnAPA@ssmgt.com



Ride for Education



June 25-26, 2011

The Connecticut PA Foundation invites you to a Two-Day Bike Ride from New Haven to West Suffield to help raise money for its Annual Scholarships. Participants can ride their bike, walk, or even rollerblade!

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