



CONNAPA NEWS

A Publication of The Connecticut Academy of
Physician Assistants

2007 Summer Edition

August 20, 2007

President's Message

By Tricia Marriott, PA-C, MHAS

Welcome home!

Let me be the first to announce the return of ConnAPA headquarters to the Constitution State!

Our new association management team, *S+S Management*, is located right here in Bloomfield, CT. You will see the new return address on your membership renewals, and a new email address on your ConnAPA email correspondence.

I consider it a great privilege to serve as ConnAPA President this year. We have a lot of work to do with an energetic team ready to go. In addition to the new names and faces on the management side, we also have many new people sitting on the Board of Directors. As that annoying jingle for the NBC TODAY show goes through my head, I'd say "It's a new day" at ConnAPA.



This will be a very challenging and exciting year for ConnAPA. As President, my focus will be on three inter-related topics; relationships, communication, and education.

Relationships

The physician-PA team is all about relationships. Improving our relationship with our physician colleagues can only enhance PA practice. ConnAPA has established a working relationship with physician groups in the state. This has

resulted in open lines of communication and has been vital to our legislative successes in the past two years. ConnAPA will continue to work on these relationships, and seek representation within these physician groups.

Additionally, ConnAPA's relationship with its members needs attention. Less than 1/3rd of PAs practicing in the state belong to ConnAPA. We need to find a way to fix our relationship with the approximately 1000 PAs who do not belong. ConnAPA cannot adequately represent all PAs if a majority does not belong.

Communication

Most relationships fail because of a lack of communication. Perhaps CT PAs are unsure why they should join. ConnAPA has been working on new ways to get the message out to our peers: (continued on page 3)

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2007 Annual Business Meeting

By C. Mitchell Sorensen, CAE
Executive Director

The ConnAPA 2007 Annual Business meeting was held on Friday, June 29, 2007 with one of the largest attendances that we have seen in some time. It was a great networking and business event, and if you have not attended one of our mem-

bership wide meetings recently, I would encourage you to do so. In addition to participating in a great CME presentation by Alan Dietzek, MD, the evening was highlighted by the transfer of leadership as well as the welcoming of our new staff

from S & S Management, Mitch Sorensen, CAE, Michael Thompson, and Kirsten Longley. Also accomplished was our long awaited formal membership approval of our revised Constitution and Bylaws as is required for our (continued on page 7)



ConnAPA Proud of 2007 Legislative Victories

By Tricia Marriott, PA-C, MHAS
Legislative Chair

As the 2007 legislative session comes to an end, ConnAPA and PAs around the state can be proud of several successful legislative initiatives.

Governor Rell signed *Public Act 07-103, (sHB 7155), An Act Concerning A Professional Assistance Program For Health Care Professionals*, into law on June 11, 2007. This Act establishes confidential access to counseling and treatment for practitioners suffering from impairment, such as alcohol, drugs, mental illness, or behavioral abnormalities. Planning has been underway for the immediate implementation of this Act. ConnAPA has signed incorporation documents as founding members of the new program, which will be known as *HAVEN-Healthcare Assistance interVention Education Network*.

Governor Rell also signed Public Act 07-119, (sHB 7089), *An Act Concerning Supervising Physicians For Physician Assistants*, into law on June 11, 2007, which shall take effect July 1, 2007. This Act eliminates the registration requirements for supervising and alternate supervising physicians. It also eliminates the 30-day notification requirement upon termination of a physician-PA supervision relationship.

Additionally, Governor Rell signed *Public Act 07-252, (sHB 7163), An Act Concerning Revisions to Statutes Relating to the Departments of Public Health and Social Services and Town Clerks*, into law on July 12, 2007. The bill contains three provisions affecting physician assistants:

-Section 23 eliminates the requirement of registration of alternate supervising physicians,

-Section 41 establishes a fine of up to \$500 or imprisonment for up to 5 years as penalties for persons fraudulently practicing as a physician assistant (PA) ; buying, selling or fraudulently obtaining a PA diploma/license; or fraudulently using the title PA or related terms. (known as "Title Protection")

-Section 5 increases the amount of a civil penalty from \$10,000 to \$25,000 that the DPH and various health professional regulatory boards can assess a health care professional. Under the law, DPH and various health professional boards and commissions can, after a finding of good cause, take various disciplinary actions against licensed health professionals. These actions include license suspension or revocation, censure, letter of reprimand, probation, or assessment of a civil penalty.

The "FMG" bill, which would have allowed Foreign Medical Grads to become PAs, died in committee early in the session. ConnAPA provided the Public Health Committee with information on the Florida and NY experiences with the concept from the early 90s. Fortunately this bill never got off the ground.

The APRN independent scope of practice bill made it out of the Public Health Committee, but died in the House. CSMS expended a lot of time and energy fighting this bill. ConnAPA remained in communication with CSMS on this issue.

ConnAPA remains grateful to Linda Kowalski and The Kowalski Group, our lobbyists, whose efforts continue to lead ConnAPA to legislative victories.

2007-2008 Board of Directors

OFFICERS

President

Tricia Marriott—mar-riottbonz@sbcglobal.net

President Elect

Jeanine Ondrof—jeanineon@yahoo.com

Imm. Past President

Jennifer Madonia-Barr—pa904@comcast.net

Secretary

Heather Tomchik—babington@sbcglobal.net

Treasurer

Mark Tabaka—mark.tabaka@comcast.net

REGIONAL DIRECTORS

Region 1 & 2—open

Region 3

Donald Solimini—Pedipa@comcast.net

Region 4

Thomas M. Kodz—tmkodz@yahoo.com

Region 5

Brian D. Major—brianmajor@sbcglobal.net

STUDENT REPS

Yale

Gregory Raines—gregoryrains@yale.edu
Courtney Southard—courtney.southard@yale.edu

QU

Keith Paul—keithpaul@quinnipiac.edu

DEADLINES FOR FALL 2007 ISSUE October 12, 2007

Please email editorial submissions to:

Alison Hall, Editor
alicatpa@yahoo.com



President's Message continued from page 1

-a new website with the only on-line Job Bank in CT plus continuous updates of new information important to PAs.

-newly amended bylaws

-a Public Relations team that includes a chairperson, webmaster and newsletter editor. By joining forces, communications to our members can be more effective and more frequent.

-stylish "logo wear" available for sale on the website. The hats, T-shirts, and sweatshirts made their debut at this year's Charter Oak Conference.

ConnAPA leaders need to hear from our members. Tell us what is on your mind. Is there an issue at your workplace? Do you have a question about the new laws? We cannot develop a strategy to deal with problems that we do not know about. Contact your regional director, a board member or committee chair. Remember, we represent you.

Education

Our members need CME in order to maintain certification and we provide the largest educational event in the state—the Charter Oak Conference. We have new ideas, a new venue in CT, a new management team and new strategies that will make this year's Charter Oak Conference a smashing success.

***"As President,
my focus will be
on three inter-
related topics;
relationships,
communication,
and education."***

Legislators are not well informed of the PA profession. Our battles in the legislative arena exist because our representatives do not "know" the PA profession. We are gaining ground, but we are light-years away from total acceptance.

Physicians, PAs and office manag-

ers are hungry for information about PA utilization, reimbursement, and practice issues. This year, we are hoping to present a seminar offering education with a focus on these topics.

There is a lot of work to be done in the next 365 days. I look forward to the opportunities ahead. I do hope to see more of you join our committees. Our Board meetings are open to all members. Feel free to attend and see the work being done on your behalf.

I also look forward to hearing from you regarding any and all issues affecting PAs in the state. Send your thoughts, ideas, comments or complaints to me at MarriottTBonz@sbcglobal.net.

GRADUATES

**BE SURE TO
TELL CONNAPA
YOUR NEW
CONTACT INFO**

Northeast Regional Meeting Report by Jeanine Ondrof, PA-C

The Northeast Regional Meeting was held during the AAPA 35th Annual PA Conference in Philadelphia. It was my first time attending this meeting. I was interested to learn both the similarities and differences among our neighboring state organizations. Topics discussed included successful programs such as NJ's recent CME conference and the utilization of AAPA resources such as ConnAPA's

PPAP visit-Planning for PA Association Progress.

Continued efforts to win legislative battles and to recruit and retain members were common issues among state organizations. Both NY and Penn are looking to improve their practice privileges. It was discussed that membership and volunteerism are vital aspects to a healthy organization. So, if you or someone you know is interested in becoming

involved, contact ConnAPA. There are many levels of involvement from committee work to attending the House of Delegates in San Antonio in 2008.

Ray Cord of the RI state chapter and I discussed the possibility of holding a joint CME dinner between our organizations, hopefully in Mystic, CT. There will definitely be upcoming conferences in the northeast so go to the respective state chap-

ter website for details. Many allow CT PAs to attend other Northeast Conferences at the member rate for that state.

ConnAPA would like to thank Judy Nunes, PA-C for her commitment as the Northeast Regional Representative and warmly welcome John McNab, PA-C, our new representative.

AAPA House of Delegates Report

By Jeanine Ondrof, PA-C and Thomas Kodz, PA-C



Jeanine Ondrof, Thomas Kodz, Jennifer Madonia-Barr and Joe Varano

Connecticut was well represented at the House of Delegates annual meeting, which took place during the recent AAPA conference. Delegates included Jennifer Madonia-Barr (Chief Delegate), Jeanine Ondrof, Joe Varano, Thomas Kodz, Bill Kohlhepp, Judy Nunes, Patrick Killeen, Cindy Lord, Bruce Fichandler, and Tricia Marriott. Many issues were discussed and policies proposed.

The HOD debated support for graduate education for Physician Assistants. Pro testimony reported that most PA programs already offer a masters degree/option and that our profession is moving toward this level of education. Con testimony stressed the potential for discrimination against those PAs who do not hold a masters degree. Also, would non-masters level PAs be grandfathered in? After a lengthy debate, the HOD passed policy to "support" awarding master's degrees to new PAs, however, competency based education and lifelong learning will continue to be the mainstay of training.

Discussion was held regarding the following resolution: "Would the AAPA support lengthening the PA recertification cycle from 6 to 10

years?" The Society of PAs in Addiction Medicine stated that this would put us on the same schedule with physician specialty recertification. However, some delegates felt that the 10 year recertification cycle for physicians is not comparable to ours as PAs test in a general fashion. Also, it would weaken our 6 year standard. This resolution was not adopted.

A bill was introduced to voice the AAPA's opposition to treatments intended to alter sexual orientation. This bill was introduced to counter the growing culture of "conversion treatments" to try to "talk" someone out of an alternative lifestyle, i.e. homosexuality, transexualism, etc. This is based on the thought that homosexuality is a mental health disorder. This bill would give voice to the AAPA that we oppose this practice which could be considered a form of discrimination, and that sexual orientation should not be the basis for health care administration, nor is it a mental health disorder. Pro testimony was given by Connecticut's own Bill Kohlhepp, the AMA Liaison, by drawing comparisons to their own policy for the same treatment. Most of the testimony provided was in favor of the resolution. It was clarified that this resolution does not include sexual reassignment surgery. The Christian Fellowship caucus spoke against the resolution stating all forms of therapy should be offered to a patient. Other concerns were voiced that if we start to oppose certain therapy options based on inadequate results, would we start opposing other therapies with

sometimes poor outcomes such as in alcohol and drug abuse? The bill was finally adopted with amended language.

Another bill was introduced to reaffirm the AAPA position on specialty exams. This resolution opposes specialty exams, seeing them as barriers to PA practice. Bill Kohlhepp spoke as the Immediate Past President of the NCCPA defending their stance of proposing solutions to the medical world moving toward specialization, not necessarily mandating specialty exams. Many spoke to maintaining the flexibility of the PA profession.

For a complete listing of policies and actions by the HOD, please visit www.AAPA.org.

We as the CT delegation look forward to next year in San Antonio, where we will once again represent Connecticut at the HOD!

Region 3 Update

By Jeanine Ondrof

Dr. Raymond Sinatra recently gave a lecture entitled "New Ideas in Pain Management" to an intimate group of ConnAPA members at Thai in downtown New Haven. Thank you to all of those who attended!

A CME dinner will be held in Mystic, CT on Friday, September 14th. The talk will be Chronic Kidney Disease. This event will be open to both Connecticut and Rhode Island academy members. More details to follow via the website and a membership email.



Region 4 Update

By Tom Kodz, PA-C, MHS

Hope everyone is having a good summer! We are already starting to organize our Charter Oak Conference for next year and plan to make this one the best so far! We are diligently working to find informative, up-to-date lectures for your CME. If you have any suggestions on available speakers or topics, please contact your Regional Director, or CME Chair Jonathan Pinto.

We also ask that you spread the word about ConnAPA to any of your colleagues who are not members. Remind them that the way we practice here in CT is challenged constantly by others who would like to see us restricted. ConnAPA monitors legislation, collaborates on PA friendly legislation, and works to remove or amend unfriendly bills. However, we cannot keep this up without continued support. We also cannot have a great

CME conference without good attendance. Tell your colleagues to contact us so that we may inform them of the benefits of membership.

As always, feel free to contact me with any thoughts or concerns.

ConnAPA Members Elected to AAPA Board

By Alison Hall, PA-C

Cynthia Booth Lord of Cheshire, CT was elected the AAPA president elect for the 2007-2008 term. She will automatically succeed Gregor Bennett in June 2008. Cynthia has been a long time member of ConnAPA and is currently the director of the Quinnipiac University PA program. She has served as an AAPA director at large since 2003.

Patrick Killeen of South Salem, NY

was re-elected to a second term as director at large. He is currently chair of the board's External Affairs Committee. Patrick also has been a long time member of ConnAPA and currently works in the pediatric department at Danbury Hospital and lectures at both Yale University School of Medicine and Quinnipiac University.

And our own webmaster, Bruce Fichandler, was once again re-elected

as secretary.

Congratulations to all three and good luck with your positions!

Connecticut Physician Assistant Foundation Awards Scholarship

By Audrey Odoj, PA-C

The Connecticut Physician Assistant Foundation (CT-PAF) was able to award Karen Molkenthin of Pawcatuck, CT a \$650.00 scholarship. The former Southeast Society of Physician Assistants was eager to award a scholarship to a deserving student from the southeast region of Connecticut with their remaining funds. Since the implementation

of regions within ConnAPA, the Southeast Society has dissolved.

Karen currently attends the Northeastern University PA Program in Massachusetts. She received her BS from Simmons College. She worked as a research intern at Massachusetts General Hospital and as an EMT with Stonington Ambulance Corporation. She volunteered at the Mary

Elizabeth Nursing Center as a nursing assistant. On behalf of the CT Physician Assistant Foundation, we would like to formally congratulate Karen Molkenthin and thank the Southeastern PAs for their generous donation towards a scholarship award.

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www.connapa.org

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| •Full Zip Hooded Sweatshirt | \$32.50 |
| •Two-tone cap | \$15 |
| •Long and Short sleeve t-shirts | \$15-\$18 |
| •Rib fitted scoop-neck t-shirt | \$18 |

Please contact Justin Champagne at
Justin_champagne@hotmail.com for more information.

AAPA Congressional Visit, by Christopher Maio, PA-S

I was recently invited by the AAPA to participate in their Congressional Visit Program, where both practicing PAs and PA students go to Washington to provide their personal and unique perspectives on current legislative issues important to Congressional staff. As a CT resident and PA student, this was an excellent opportunity to both continue my education and affect changes in the state and profession in which I will practice. It was quite an honor to be chosen by the AAPA to travel to Washington D.C. on June 12th to speak with our state's Sena-

tors and Congressmen on behalf of CT PAs. I accompanied Professor Bill Kohlhepp, PA-C as part of a mentor-student team to ask our state leaders for their support on current bills in the House and Senate. These meetings were facilitated by Ann Walker-Jenkins of the AAPA Government Affairs staff. Specifically, these issues included expanding Medicaid and Medicare coverage, Federal Employee Workers' Compensation claims and Title VII grants for PA education. Additional information on these issues can be found

at: <http://www.aapa.org/gandp/fed-factsheets.htm>.

This was a wonderful opportunity to view our political process in action. We were very well received by the staff at the offices of Senators Lieberman and Dodd as well as Congressmen Courtney, Larson, Murphy and DeLauro. We were given ample opportunity to explain our issues and ask for their sponsorship. I truly felt that our message had been heard. Representative Rosa DeLauro actually excused herself from her busy schedule for a brief face-to-face with us and a photograph. I felt this was an excellent testament to her personal support of PAs. I was also impressed with the AAPA for putting together these visits. There were several other PA teams visiting from other states during the week.

hear Mr. Kohlhepp speak about early Congressional Hill visits where the majority of the precious meeting time was spent trying to explain exactly what is a Physician Assistant. It was apparent these early experiences paid off. When we offered to begin each meeting with an explanation of what was a PA, none of the staff members took us up on it. They explained to us that either one of their friends or family members was or worked with a PA or that they have supported PAs in the past and knew exactly what our profession entailed. It was wonderful to see the recognition our profession has received in a relatively short time. My hope is that the next generation of PA students will be able to appreciate the advances to the profession my classmates are responsible for, just as we recognize the efforts of those before us.

It was very interesting to





Annual Business Meeting continued from page 1

re-chartering every five years by the American Academy of Physician Assistants. Recognized for her outstanding leadership during this year of transition was Jennifer Madonia-Barr, who relinquished the leadership of our Association to Patricia (Tricia) Marriott, who was presented the President's Award for her valued service over the past year as Legislative Chair. Other award recipients included Justin

Champagne, who received the ConnAPA Leadership Award, Ana Rodriguez-Musterer, who was presented the Award for Service, and Judy Nunes, who received the Founders Award. With a new staff and newly elected leadership, the ConnAPA is well on their way to meeting the growing objectives of the organization in the coming years. If you're not now a member or have not yet renewed your

membership dues, look at our accomplishments this year alone (well defined in our recent legislative bulletin, on our web page, and elsewhere in this edition of ConnAPA News) and send in your membership dues today!



Jennifer Madonia-Barr congratulates Tricia Marriott



Jennifer Madonia-Barr congratulates Justin Champagne



Jennifer Madonia-Barr congratulates Judy Nunes



Dr. Dietzek speaks to meeting attendees



QU PA Program News

By Keith Paul, PA-S

The past several months have been very exciting around the Quinnipiac PA program. The Class of 2007 is currently going through their remaining classes of the PA program before they graduate and enter the workforce as full fledged PAs. The Class of 2008 recently began their clinical rotations and has done so with exuberance. In addition, both the Class of 2008 and faculty welcomed the incoming 49 students with a picnic to put them at ease and perhaps dispel some possible myths.

As always, the students work hard in and out of the classroom. As any QU PA student will tell you, one of our favorite things to do is to participate in community service events. Some of the activities the students have participated in include several KEEP's events throughout the State, Health fairs, the ACES reading program, and the National Kidney

Foundation Golf tournament in Orange, CT. Throughout this entire year both classes have worked extremely hard and with hard work one deserves some rest and relaxation. Fortunately many of the students got to enjoy themselves for a couple days in Philadelphia at the AAPA conference. Naturally, it was not all fun and games and students did attend educa-

*"..being
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unrecognized."*

tional programs. It also gave students the opportunity to network with other PAs and have an experience like no other. While in Philadelphia, the QU PA Program was acknowledged

on several levels for all the hard work that was done over the course of the year. We received Honorable Mention (first runner up) for the 2007 Outstanding PA Student Society. The QU PA Program also was recognized as a Diamond Level (highest level and largest donation) for the Host City Prevention Campaign (\$6,000 of the \$21,000 total). The money was raised through the annual Fun Run and Cow Chip Bingo. The Class of 2008 also created and donated the largest amount of health kits that went to benefit the Esperanza Clinic. Finally, the Program received first place from the PA History Society for the history of the QU PA Program. At the time when one is participating in community service, it is difficult to gauge how you are affecting others. However, being recognized on a National level really lets you know that all of

your hard work did not go unrecognized. I believe that I can speak for the entire PA Program when I say that after being recognized in Philadelphia we all felt an immense sense of pride and accomplishment. Given the chance to do it all over again we would work twice as hard even if we were not recognized, because just knowing that the events we participate in can really make a difference in those that need the help is the real gauge of success.

Finally, the QU PA Program would like to congratulate Professor Lord on being elected AAPA President Elect. We would also like to welcome Professor Rick Pope to the QU PA family as a full-time faculty member.

Yale PA Faculty Awarded Research Grants

By Alison Hall, PA-C

The AAPA/PAEA (Physician Assistant Education Association Research Grants Program) recently awarded two Yale University faculty members nearly \$20,000 in grants for their recent submissions.

Mary Warner, MMSc, was awarded \$10,806 for her submission "Career Patterns

in Physician Assistants: A Retrospective Longitudinal Study".

Rosana Gonzalez-Colaso, Pharm.D, MPH was awarded \$8,000 for her submission "Physician Assistant Utilization Among Children with Special Health Care Needs: Type of Provider and Satisfaction

with Care".

The PAEA plans to honor both Warner & Gonzalez-Colaso at their awards ceremony at the PAEA Annual Education Forum in Tucson, AZ this fall.

The PAEA Research Grants Program is underwritten by the AAPA in order to promote research on the PA

profession. PA practice patterns, effective utilization of PAs in the workforce and workforce policy are areas that are of particular interest. Nine proposals were submitted to this year's program.



ConnAPA Member Named Outstanding PA of the Year

By Alison Hall, PA-C

J. Jeffrey Heinrich was recently named Outstanding PA of the Year by the AAPA. Jeffrey has a long history with the state of Connecticut. He was a founding member of ConnAPA serving as president for a term. He was instrumental in the passage of state legislation authorizing PAs to practice and physicians to delegate prescriptive privileges. He also created a PA foundation in Connecticut.

Jeff was co-founder of the Yale-Norwalk PA Postgraduate Surgical Residency Program at Norwalk Hospital and was one of the first to introduce handheld devices into

Yale classrooms.

Jeff is currently the program director at the George Washington University PA Program and is president of the District of Columbia Academy of PAs.

Congratulations and many thanks for making an outstanding practice environment here in Connecticut.

Advertise Here!

Each issue of ConnAPA News is mailed to nearly 600 members, associates, and state chapter affiliates.

2007-2008 Advertising deadlines are as follows:

Publication Date	Deadline	Type of Publication
November	October 12th	Fall 2007 Edition
February	January 8th	Winter 2008 Edition
May	April 14th	Spring 2008 Edition
August	July 15th	Summer 2008 Edition

S&S Management History

S & S Management Services is pleased to welcome the Connecticut Academy of Physician Assistants as its newest association client. Based in Bloomfield, Connecticut, just five minutes from downtown Hartford and fifteen minutes from Bradley International Airport, S & S Management Services is a firm specializing in association management, public relations, and government relations for business and professional associations.

S & S represents medical, professional, commercial, and trade associations. It is one of the largest association management firms in New England. The firm is headed by Mark Schuman and C. Mitchell Sorensen, who have accumulated over 50 years of experience as association executives. The staff at S & S recognizes the importance of human relations in implementing

any association management program, and we require that our personnel be innovators, researching problems and seeking solutions for the consideration and approval of an association's governing body.

From the very beginning of the selection process, S & S has been impressed with the dedication and enthusiasm of its volunteer leadership and look forward to being a positive adjunct to the Academy and to work with its leadership to enable the Academy to meet its goals and objectives.

ConnAPA Executive Offices

One Regency Drive, PO Box 30
Bloomfield, CT 06002
860/243-3977
860/286-0787
Email: connapa@ssmgt.com
Web: www.connapa.org

Staff

C. Mitchell Sorensen, CAE
Executive Director
Michael Thompson
Assoc. Executive Director
Kirsten Longley
Administrative Services

2007 Summer Edition

One Regency Drive
PO Box 30
Bloomfield, CT 06002

Phone: 860-243-3977
Fax: 860-286-0787

*"The Voice of PAs in
Connecticut Since 1977"*



*Visit us on the
web at [www.
connapa.org](http://www.connapa.org)*

CME Calendar of Events

September 14th

Mystic, CT
CME Dinner Event
Chronic Kidney Disease
More info to follow

September 29th

Mashantucket, CT
CT Dermatology PA Society (CDPA)
3rd Regional CME Symposium
8 hrs Cat I CME
Contact: www.ctdermpa.com or (830) 980-8489

October 2nd Farmington, CT

October 3rd Shelton, CT
Skin & Wound Care
6.25 hrs Cat I CME

October 4th—7th

New Orleans, LA
Annual AASPA CME Meeting
American Association of Surgical
Physician Assistants (AASPA)
33hrs Cat I CME
Contact: 989/780-2075 or www.aaspa.org

October 8th—12th

Waikiki, Hawaii
HAPA 19th Annual Aloha Medical Conference
Hawaii Academy of Physician Assistants
28 Hrs Cat I CME
Contact: www.hapahawaii.org

October 11-14

Boston, MA
Pri-Med East
30 Hrs Cat I CME
Contact: www.pri-med.com/east/RI6

October 29th—November 3rd

Las Vegas, NV
AFPPA 9th Annual Family Practice Conference
30+ Hours Cat I CME
Contact: 877/890-0181

November 2nd-3rd

Cambridge, MA
Pediatric Infections
BU School of Medicine
12.5 Hrs Cat I CME
Contact: www.bu.edu.cme