

CONNAPA NEWS

A Publication of The Connecticut Academy of Physician Assistants

2007 Fall Edition

November 12, 2007

President's Message

By Tricia Marriott, PA-C, MHAS

Writing for the fall newsletter lends itself to many themes and metaphors, such as changing leaves, abundant harvest, preparing for winter, pumpkins, and baseball. Bear with me, as I cannot pass up the opportunity.

While I am not a fan of any particular team, and do not watch any games during the regular season, the World Series always manages to get my attention. Why is that? Maybe it's because everyone seems to be talking about it. People get passionate about their teams. It's on the news, in the paper, and on T-shirts. Maybe, as a non-fan, I don't want to be left out. Mostly though, I think it is because it is fun to be a part



of something.
So, do ConnAPA members feel like they are part of something? Do nonmembers want to know what they are missing? Does being a PA in Connecticut make you want to wear a T-shirt? The ConnAPA Board of Directors is working hard this year to make ConnAPA an organization that every PA in the state wants to join.

We even have the T-shirts!

ConnAPA keeps our members abreast of the latest issues affecting PAs through our newsletter, our website, and email blasts. ConnAPA represents the interests of PAs in the state, not only to the legislators at the capitol, but also to the public and other professional organizations in the state. Perhaps if we talk about ConnAPA, let other PAs know what the fuss is all about, talk about the issues affecting PAs around the state, and wear our T-shirts, we can instill the same type of team spirit generated by the World Series. Every PA should want to be a member of ConnAPA.

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In Memorium

Members of the Connecticut Academy of Physician Assistants were greatly saddened to learn of State Representative Richard Belden's passing this summer. Dick was regarded as the "father" of the modern Physician Assistant profession in Connecticut, and had an incredible knowledge of our work, going back to when the authorizing legislation was first passed in the 1970s.

ConnAPA has made a \$200 donation to the Connecticut PA Foundation Scholarship Fund in Representative Belden's name.

News from the Yale PA Program

By Nicholas Bonomo, PAS and Lauren Swisher, PA-S Student Representatives

First, we would like to introduce the two new ConnAPA student representatives from the Yale Class of 2009. Lauren Swisher graduated from Valparaiso University in 2001 with a degree in Athletic Training, and received a Master's degree in 2002 from the University of Virginia. Since graduation, she has been employed as a Certified Athletic Trainer in South Carolina, Georgia, and Connecticut. She is very much looking forward to a new and exciting career as a PA. Nicholas Bonomo is originally from Bridgeport and currently commutes to school from Or-Nick graduated from ange. Stonehill College in 2006 with a B.S. in Biology. He also looks forward to a fulfilling and successful career as a PA in Connecticut.

Second, we are very pleased to announce that two new faculty members have joined the Yale PA team. Rita Rienzo, PA-C is a graduate from Emory's PA Program and leaves a full time practice as a surgical PA at Yale-New Haven Hospital. Jonathan Weber, PA-C is a graduate from Yale's Physician Associate Program and has worked as a hospitalist at Yale-New Haven Hospital.

Members of the Class of 2009 are continuing the tradition of service to the New Haven community by providing volunteer services to both the HAVEN free clinic and the Columbus House shelter. New students

partner with the medical, nursing and public health students to staff the HAVEN free clinic in Fair Haven on Saturdays. PA students involved with HAVEN participate as active members of the clinical team, in the pharmacy, in the laboratory, as researchers, and as patient advocates. At Columbus House, PA students assist in providing free health screenings and serve as a health resource to those individuals residing at the shelter.

The students also participated in the celebration of PA week at Yale-New Haven Hospital by manning an information table with staff PAs in the hospital lobby in order to raise awareness of the profession. The goal was to educate people entering the hospital about the roles and responsibilities of a PA as part of their healthcare team.

Several students of the Yale Class of 2007 were able to complete international rotations as part of their clinical train-Three students spent four weeks at Amazon Promise, a Primary Care and Women's Health Rotation in Peru. Students rotated through a city hospital for two weeks and then spent two more weeks delivering much needed healthcare to remote villages along the Amazon. Also, four students completed an Infectious Disease rotation at Mulago Hospital in Kampala, Uganda. Finally, two students traveled to Nicaragua and one traveled to Honduras for their Primary Care rotations.

We would like to congratulate the Class of 2007 on their October graduation and successful completion of the program.

2007-2008 Board of Directors

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DEADLINES FOR WINTER 2008 ISSUE

<u>January 8, 2008</u>

Please email editorial submissions to:

Alison Hall, Editor alicatpa@yahoo.com

Fall 2007



Quinnipiac University Report

By Emily Pally, PA-S

The OU Class of 2009 has been busy this semester working both in and outside the classroom. On Monday, we kicked off National PA Week at St. Raphael's reading fun stories to patients in the pediatric wing. Tuesday, a Dessert Celebration was held to honor Governor Jodi Rell's proclamation of National PA Week in Connecticut and of Mayor Craig Henrici's proclamation of PA Week in Hamden. Wednesday, the start of the OU PA Society's Literacy program for children at ACES began Thursday, the graduate PA students visited the Entry-Level PA students at Quinnipiac to encourage them in their coursework and show their support. Rounding out the week, the students held a health clinic at a men's shelter in New Haven to promote various aspects health and wellness.

On the first Monday night of every month, student volunteers distribute 75-100 egg salad sandwiches along with sodas, snacks and toiletries for the people wait-



ing at the green and at the Emergency Men's Shelter in downtown New Haven. This project, Midnight Run, has been ongoing in New Haven for 25 years with the Quinnipiac PA students participating for the last four and a half years. On September 23rd a group of 20 students went to Rentschler field in East Hartford, CT to volunteer at the Connecticut Chapter of the American Liver Foundation's annual Football Walk. Teams from all over Connecticut walked around the stadium 3 times to raise aware-

ness and funds for the foundation. Our students helped with registration, cheered on the walkers, and handed out water. One student even dressed up as ALFIE the liver! Also in September, students participated in two KEEPs (Kidney Early Evaluation Program) with the National Kidney Program. We provided blood pressure and blood glucose screenings, urine analysis and blood draws. The PA program will continue to work with the National Kidney Foundation throughout the year.

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As stated above, the PA reading literacy program kicked off the new school year on Wednesday, October 10th. Twelve students from the class of 2009 read "healthy" stories to students in grades K-8 at the ACES school in North Haven. Each student at the school also received a brand new book and activity packet to take home to share with their families and friends.

PAs Represented at Fundraiser

By Tricia Marriott, PA-C, MPAS

A round of applause for the following ConnAPA members who attended the HAVEN GALA on October 19, 2007;

Justin Champagne Matt Champeau Tricia Marriott Erika Skinnon Heather Tomchik

This fundraising event was also attended by representatives from the physicians', dentists', nurses' and veterinarians' associations. Proceeds will go help fund HAVEN, the new confidential assistance program for

health care professionals suffering from mental illness, emotional disorder or chemical dependency. For more information on the HAVEN program, go to www.connapa.org.

Quinnipiac University Offers PAs Opportunity to Gain Experience Precepting

by Bill Kohlhepp, PA-C, Membership Chair

The Quinnipiac University PA Program offers PAs in Connecticut a number of opportunities to serve as preceptors for PA students: 1) clinical rotations for the second year students; 2) preclinical clerkships for the first year students; and 3) shadowing or 4) mentoring experience for the pre-PA students. The last two experiences provide PAs who have not yet been preceptors with a comfortable way to gain some experience.

Those two experiences are part of Quinnipiac University's Entry Level Masters program. A number of classes of undergraduate Entry Level Master's PA students have now gone through this four year pre-professional component and then have entered the professional phase of the PA program to successfully graduate and get certified. The pre-professional component addresses the need for medical experience by providing students with EMT training as well as extensive time in "shadowing" and "mentoring" experiences with practicing PAs. These two experiences also give new preceptors a great opportunity to try out that role as the students are simply looking to learn about the PA profession and roles played by PAs.

The <u>shadowing experiences</u> occur in the spring semester of the second year of the program. Students will generally spend 1 or 2

hours per week with their preceptor over a 2 week span. Each student will spend time with five or six PAs who specialize in different areas of medicine. The mentoring experience provides the opportunity to gain more of an in-depth knowledge about the role and function of PAs through direct observation of PAs in practice. Each student will spend about 3 hours per week with their preceptor for the duration of the 13 week spring semester in their third year.

Preceptors who want to go to the next level can serve as preceptors for the pre-clinical clerkships that are done during the didactic phase of the program, usually from October of the fall semester through May of the spring semester. Students are at the clinical site one day a week for approximately three hours. The pre-clinical clerkships are designed to allow students to gain experience in taking patient histories and doing physical examinations. The clerkships thus prepare the students for the second phase of their educationclinical rotations.

Preceptors who want to teach PA students the breadth of medicine and surgery can participate in <u>clinical rotations</u>. Clinical rotations occur in the student's second year over three academic semesters- summer, fall, and spring. The clinical rotations are focused on providing the student

with an opportunity to become proficient in history taking, physical examination, ordering and interpreting diagnostic procedures, and developing then implementing therapeutic plans. Core rotations are family medicine, internal medicine, pediatrics, obstetrics and gynecology, general surgery, emergency medicine, and psychiatry. Opportunities for specialized training are provided with elective rotations in a variety of specialities.

PAs interested in finding out more about becoming a preceptor for the Quinnipiac University PA Program should contact Bill Kohlhepp by e-mail (william. kohlhepp@quinnipiac.edu) or by phone (203-582-5226).



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Con APA

Legislative Report

By Tricia Marriott, PA-C, MPAS

Reminder: the new law regarding supervising physicians, Public Act 07-119, became effective July 1, 2007. This legislation eliminates the registration requirement for all supervising and alternate supervising physicians. This means that physicians are no longer required to complete an application, nor send in the \$35 application fee. You no longer need to notify the state with changes in supervision or employment. The text of the Act can be viewed on ConnAPA's website under "ConnAPA and the Law". The CT DPH website has not been updated, but will soon once the statute text has been updated. As always, if you have any questions, please feel free to contact

Joint CME with Rhode Island PAs

By Jeanine Ondrof, PA-C

On September 14th, ConnAPA and RIAPA joined forces for a CME event entitled, "Enhancing Outcomes in Chronic Kidney Disease: Emerging Trends for the Prevention and Treatment of SHPT in Early CKD: Role of the Internist." Peter Juergensen, MD gave an informative talk at Seamen's Inne Restaurant in Mystic, CT. This gathering was a great way to allow PAs from neighboring states to network, share information, and get to know each other. I hope that we can hold more events like this in the future. Thank you to all of those who attended!

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ATTENTION HOSPITAL PAs!

As PA Week has drawn to an end, PAs practicing in hospitals, either as employees or privately employed, have renewed energy and interest in PA issues. Each of the 31 hospitals in the state has its own unique culture, philosophy, and, yes, computer system! PAs are struggling to navigate through the hospital's choppy waters, only to find themselves run-aground.

There are many regulatory policies affecting PAs in hospitals, including state law, Medicaid policy, federal law, Medicare Conditions of Participation, Joint Commission, and the Public Health Code. It is clear that many institutions do not know what they are.

If you are a PA practicing in a hospital, these things affect you. ConnAPA is considering forming an Ad Hoc Professional Practice Sub Committee for Hospital Based PAs. The role of this committee would be to determine the issues that affect the PA's ability to provide care in hospitals, identify the opportunities to improve, improve compliance with regulatory policy, and maximize patient access to quality affordable health care through appropriate utilization of Physician Assistants. If you are interested in participating in such a committee, please e-mail me directly at MarriottTBonz@sbcglobal.net. Additionally, if there are issues at your hospital that you feel need to be addressed, please let me know. Be sure to identify yourself and your hospital. (Responses will be held as confidential.) Response to ConnAPA's initial e-mail blast has been terrific. The inaugural meeting of the Hospital Based Physician Assistant Professional Practice Subcommittee has been slated for December 5th, 2007 at 6 p.m. at St. Francis. Directions and details will be coming soon.





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www.connapa.org

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PA Professor Meets President Carter

Bill Kohlhepp of North Haven, a professor in the physician assistant program in the School of Health Sciences at Quinnipiac University, met President Jimmy Carter at Quinnipiac University on September 26th. Carter was at Quinnipiac to receive the first Albert Schweitzer Humanitarian Award from the Albert Schweitzer Institute at Quinnipiac

Former President Jimmy Carter received the first Albert Schweitzer Humanitarian Award from Quinnipiac President John L. Lahey. Carter delivered a lecture marking the 50th anniversary of Albert Schweitzer's call for an end to nuclear weapons. Because Kohlhepp serves on the Quinnipiac Board of Trustees, he was invited to meet with Carter during a private reception held for President Carter after his speech.

Since serving as our 39th President (1977-1981), President

Carter has continued to focus on important topics like nuclear proliferation. Kohlhepp was impressed with Carter's passion about the issues in which he gets involved. He spoke with enthusiasm and energy for over an hour. At the age of 83 years old, Carter showed no signs of slowing down in his pursuit of topics important to him.

Region IV Update

By Thomas Kodz PA-C, MHS

As I write this, the leaves are turning their autumnal colors, and the air is brisk. Winter is ready to arrive. And, before you know it, it will be time for the Charter Oak Conference again. We have a lot in store for you this year! I am in charge of arranging the ever popular workshops this year, so if you have a favorite, or a new idea please let me know. We can always use volunteers to help with all of the legwork so please consider helping out your fellow CT PAs and devote some time to help out. In

addition, consider ask your fellow colleagues to become members of ConnAPA if they are not already. ConnAPA does a lot for PAs in CT and we need your support. As always, don't be afraid to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Mark Your Calander Now!

The 21st Annual Charter Oak Conference

March 30th—April 2nd 2008

Mystic Marriott Hotel & Spa Groton, CT Fall 2007 Page 7



Danbury Area PAs Organize 5K Run for Leukemia

By Jennifer Madonia-Barr, PA-C



Jonathan and Stephen Sales

Following PA week 2006, the Danbury Hospital affiliated Physician Assistant's decided that for PA Week in 2007 they would hold an organized community service event. In December of 2006 when Jonathan Stephen Sales was diagnosed with Chronic Myelogenous Leukemia, the Danbury Area Physician Assistants (DAPA), made a commitment to support the Sales family to help them defray the cost of Jonathan's treatment.

Jonathan is the son of two Danbury Physician Assistants: Stephen Sales and Lorene D'Amato, both of whom have given more than eighteen years of practice to the Danbury community.

Jonathan attended the recent five-kilometer run in Danbury

organized on his behalf. It was a nice change of environment for young Sales to be at the Tarrywile Park and Mansion on Oct. 14 for the inaugural Danbury Area Physician Assistants (DAPA) 5K: Sprint for Sales which was organized to coincide with the culmination of PA week. Sales, who recently turned 14, is usually confined to strict home isolation, a situation in effect since March when he began his treatment.

Over 100 runners turned out completing the race to raise funds for a great cause and a remarkable young man! The weather proved to be a fine fall day and the cross-country course was well designed and very challenging. There was plenty of food and drink, and a very good time was had by all in attendance! Stephen and Lorene are both ConnAPA members. Steve practices at Danbury Orthopaedic Associates and Loree practices at Southbury Primary care.



DAPA 5K Runners

ConnAPA Progress Report

By Tricia Marriott, PA-C, MHAS

In the 2005 ConnAPA Membership Survey results, the membership identified both areas for improvement and areas that ConnAPA should focused on. The #1 (85%)most important issue, was identified as "lobbying the PA legislative agenda". The majority felt that ConnAPA was "doing a good job" on this issue already. ConnAPA has continued to be successful in the legislative arena. Unfortunately, we were not performing so well on issue #2.

ISSUE:

55% *strongly agreed* that ConnAPA should focus on "acting as a liaison with other health care profession organizations".

However, only **14%** strongly agreed that ConnAPA was "doing a good job" on this issue.

ACTION:

- 1) In the winter of 2005, ConnAPA partnered with the Connecticut State Medical Society, the Connecticut Nurses' Association, the Connecticut State Dental Association, and the Connecticut Veterinarian Medical Association to pass the enabling legislation (in 2007), and to implement the Healthcare Practitioners' Assistance Program, now known as HAVEN.
- 2) ConnAPA has been participating as an exhibitor in state physician groups' annual meetings, spreading the word about PAs,

networking, answering questions, and distributing AAPA Issue Briefs. ConnAPA has purchased a travel display for this purpose, and has applied for, and received, AAPA grant funding to defray the costs of exhibitor booth space. To date, we have attended the following meetings:

May 2006—Connecticut Orthopaedic Society, (COS), Farmington

Sept 2006—Connecticut State Medical Society, (CSMS) Cromwell

Sept 2007—Connecticut State Medical Society, Hartford

Oct 2007—

ConnecticutAcademy of Family Physicians, (CAFP), Plantsville (2 days)

Nov 2007—Connecticut Chapter of the Amercan College of Sur geons, (CTACS), Meriden

3) ConnAPA has successfully negotiated with the following physician groups to achieve PA representation in state MD organizations.

Dec 2005—ConnAPA granted an "ex-oficio" board position at CTACS

May 2007—PAs granted affili ate membership in the Connecti cut Orthopaedic Society (nonvoting, may sit on committees) - Sept 2007—PAs granted affili ate membership in the Connecti cut State Medical Society (nonvoting, may sit on commit tees)

EVALUATION:

ConnAPA has made EXCEL-

LENT progress establishing relationships with other healthcare professional organizations. We are particularly proud of our improved relationship with the physician groups in the state, and continue to look for opportunities to strengthen the Physician-PA team in the state of Connecticut

GET INVOLVED IN CONNAPA

Conference Planning & Education

Jonathan Pinto, PA-C, PT **Finance Committee**Jonathan Pinto, PA-C, PT

Government Affairs

Tricia Marriott, PA-C, MHS

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Newsletter Alison Hall, PA-C

Nominations & Elections
Jennifer Madonia-Barr. PA-C

Reimbursement Ad Hoc

Jennifer Madonia-Barr, PA-C

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Justin Champagne, PA-C, MHS

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Judy Nunes, PA-C

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Judy Nunes, PA-C

Website

Bruce Fichandler, PA-C

ace Fichandier, 1 A-C

Student Affairs

David Brissette

Newsletter

Alison Hall

Fall 2007



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

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February	January 8th	Winter 2008 Edition
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Members Only Sign-On Tip:

If you experience any difficulties signing on to the members only section, remember that your ConnAPA member id number is new for the 2007-2008 year. If you have not yet renewed your membership, you will not receive your new membership card with your new number!

If you are using your new id number and still having trouble, try clicking on the members only tab from somewhere other than the home page. As always, feel free to call our management office at any time for questions or assistance.



From The AAPA...

Promote Literacy... Read to a Child

The American Academy of Physician Assistants is in the middle of its three-year health literacy campaign, Quality Care through Health Literacy. One phase of this project focuses on reading to elementary school aged children. The AAPA has allocated funds for constituent organizations or individual PAs to buy, read, and donate children's books at local schools, libraries, hospitals, bookstores, or wherever children gather. ConnAPA would like to support the AAPA's goal of having every constituent organization participate in this project. If you would like to volunteer to

read to children, please contact ConnAPA at connapa@ssmgt. com to express your interest. If we get enough interested PAs to sign up, we can organize a literacy project. If you are unable to participate in a group event but would like to do this project as an individual, please go to www.

Reach Out to the Elderly and Improve Their Health Literacy

In its continued efforts to improve health literacy in our nation, the American Academy of Physician Assistants is encouraging constituent organizations to host a brown bag medicine event for seniors. For the second phase

of the Quality Care through Health Literacy Program, AAPA has developed a how-to guide for hosting an event that would provide individualized medication cards for the elderly population. This is a very easy event to participate in and is a great way to get PAs out into the community. As the event hosts, we would be transferring medication names and directions from patient's medication bottles to a medication card. We would also be educating patients about what the medications are used for and providing basic education about different disease entities. Please contact ConnAPA at connapa@ssmgt.com if you are interested in participating in this event.



The Hospitalist Service at YNHH celebrates National PA week. Pictured are: Richard Lisitano (left), Vice President, Patient Svcs.; Victor Morris, MD, Assistant Chief of Staff; Elohe Salehi (front), APRN; Polly Sather, APRN; Jeanine Ondrof, PA-C; and Anita Dunn, PA-C. Photo taken by Leah Colihan.

GRADUATES

BE SURE TO
TELL
CONNAPA
YOUR NEW
CONTACT INFO

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CME Calendar of Events

December 3 Bridgeport, CT December 4 East Hartford, CT Ultimate One-Day Diabetes Course 6.25 hrs Cat I CME Contact: 800/843-7763 or www.pesi. com

December 6 Farmington, CT
December 7 Trumbull, CT
Respiratory Emergencies
6.25 hrs Cat I CME
Contact: 800/843-7763 or www.pesi.
com

January 10-13 Manchester, VT PAAV 26^{th} Annual Winter CME Conference 25 hrs Cat I CME Contact: 603/643-2325 or www.paav. org

COMING IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF CONNAPA NEWS:

*PAs GRANTED MEMBERSHIP IN THE CONNECTICUT STATE MEDICAL SOCIETY

*CHARTER OAK CONFERENCE DETAILS

*CONNAPA'S LEGISLATIVE AGENDA FOR THE 2008 SESSION

2007 Fall Edition

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