



CONNAPA NEWS

A Publication of the Connecticut Academy of Physician Assistants

Spring 2006

ConnAPA Spearheads Successful Resolution of PA Supervision Issues

by Tricia Marriott, PA-C

After negotiations involving multiple interested parties, including ConnAPA, s.H.B. 5477, "AN ACT CONCERNING THE SUPERVISION OF PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS" was amended twice, and was passed by the House of Representatives on April 20, 2006 with a vote of 143 yea, 8 absent/not voting. There were no dissenting votes in the House.

Then, on May 2, 2006, with just under 36 hours remaining in the 2006 legislative session, the Senate passed sHB 5477 (File Nos. 393 and 623), *An Act Concerning The Supervision of Physician Assistants* (as amended by House Amendment Schedule "A"), on a roll call vote of 33 yea, 3 nay, 0 absent/not voting, in concurrence with the House. Senator Murphy brought out the bill, urged passage and explained how this is not a scope of practice expansion bill. Instead, he explained, the bill clarifies a potential conflict concerning physician supervision in settings outside of the hospital. Senator Gunther rose and spoke in opposition to the bill. Senators Gunther, DeLuca and Freedman were the three "nay" votes. As of press deadline, the bill awaits the signature of the Governor. Once signed, the changes will become effective October 1, 2006.

The final version of the bill will be posted on the ConnAPA website - www.connapa.org

The amendments further clarify the weekly face-to-face meeting requirement that was added in Substitute HB5477. The weekly face-to-face

meeting will be required only in all non-hospital settings. The face-to-face meeting also must occur at a practice location at which the physician/PA practice. Additionally, the alternate supervising physician must now also be registered with the state.

The passage of this bill is quite an achievement, particularly given the short legislative session. Through ConnAPA and the AAPA Legislative Action Center, e-mails and letters were sent out to PAs in Connecticut, with calls to action as the bill progressed. Thanks to the many PAs, MDs, and hospital and practice administrators who wrote e-mails and called their legislators, our voice was heard at the Capitol. Several physician groups provided written testimony. Linda Kowalski and her staff at The Kowalski Group assisted us with strategy, led us through the minefields of the legislative process, and helped ConnAPA in getting key people to the negotiating table. I am particularly grateful for Linda's insight and wise counsel in my first attempt as Legislative Chairman.

As of deadline, there are still several other bills of interest to PAs currently awaiting decisions in both the House and the Senate. Updates are continuously being posted on the ConnAPA website (thanks to Bruce Fichandler), usually within 24 hours of any important change. So, go to www.connapa.org for the latest information. If you have any questions, contact Tricia Marriott, Legislative Chairman, at MarriottTBonz@sbcglobal.net

For more legislative activities, go to page 5

ConnAPA News Needs an Editor

By Alison Hall, PA-C

I will be taking over the President-elect position in June so my time as the newsletter editor must come to an end. ConnAPA needs a member to take over the editor position as soon as possible, preferably in time for the next newsletter at the end of the summer. The newsletter is published four times per year and the editor plays an important role in communicating with our members.

The editor is responsible for collecting articles and photos from designated members, and then editing the articles. The editor does not work alone. S/he can enlist other members to assist with these tasks and works in conjunction

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Summer Newsletter Deadline: July 13, 2006
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ASSOCIATION NEWS

President's Message

It's spring-time, and while the robins and the tulips are out in full force, the crocuses and the Charter Oak Conference have come and gone. This year's conference was top notch in both the CME opportunities and the weather. For those of you who attended, I hope you found the conference as excellent in quality as I did. The speakers were knowledgeable and the topics were informative. A well-deserved thanks go to Ana Rodriguez-Musterer and her crew.

Attending Charter Oak always refreshes me. I am renewed by the break from patient care, the camaraderie and the new knowledge I obtain. Now that spring is really taking hold, it is important for all of us to take time to renew. We do a disservice to our patients if we do not heed the command of "heal



thyself". With the lengthening days, chirping birds and peepers in the streams giving us a nightly chorus, now is the time to get out for an evening stroll. Bring along someone you care about and enjoy. Your sense of peace and happiness will rub off onto your patients.

"Renew" has a double meaning at this time of year. You shortly will receive your ConnAPA membership renewal invoice. Please take a few moments to review and update the information, and mail back to the ConnAPA office. As you saw with our current legislative efforts, we can accomplish a great deal together. Please spread the word to colleagues who are not current members but who receive the benefits of our efforts for all PAs working in CT. We need everyone's active support.

Last but not least, I would like to personally thank each and every one of you who donated so generously to the legislative fund (*please see page 8*). We raised over \$4,000, which has helped greatly with our successful lobbying efforts for the current supervision bill.

Thanks again and I wish you all a joyous spring and summer.

Respectfully Submitted,
Drew Morten, MPH, PA-C



In Memoriam

Malcolm Beinfield, MD Longtime PA Advocate

Malcolm S. Beinfield, a longtime Westport physician and surgeon, died on February 20th, at age 84, after a brief illness. He was recognized nationally for his medical activities and research.

In 1976, in conjunction with the departments of surgery at the Yale School of Medicine and Norwalk Hospital, Dr. Beinfield founded the first community-based surgical residency program for physician assistants. He remained director of the program until he retired in 1996, a span of 20 years.

Dr. Beinfield taught at Yale as an associate clinical professor of surgery. He was on the faculty of King's College, University of Wisconsin Medical School, Quinnipiac University and George Washington University School of Medicine where he provided undergraduate surgical training for PA students.

Dr. Beinfield was a major supporter of the PA profession, lending his name and time to legislative efforts in Connecticut to improve their practice environment. He was awarded honorary membership in ConnAPA and in AAPA.

Dr. Beinfield was widely published in medical journals during his career. One article questioned the custom of lengthy post-operative hospital stays following surgery and led to ambulatory surgery and short hospital stays. He became an early advocate for breast-conserving surgery in the management of malignancy. He initiated the earliest clinical lumpectomy trials at Yale, collecting follow-up data over 20 years. He found that there was no survival advantage of mastectomy over lumpectomy.

Outside of the medical field, he was a devoted gardener, raising thousands of rhododendrons and azaleas from his own cuttings. His garden was visited by hundreds of local admirers and was filmed by Martha Stewart. He was

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2005 - 06 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT

Drew Morten
W: 203/205-1347
drumort@aol.com

PRESIDENT-ELECT

Jennifer Madonia-Barr
W: 203/336-3306
x329
jabecs@adelphia.net

IMMEDIATE PAST PRES.

Ron Podojil
W: 860/442-0711
podojilct@hotmail.com

SECRETARY

Jamie Wessell
W: 860/569-8808
jcwessell21@yahoo.com

TREASURER

Bill Kohlhepp
W: 203/582-5226
bkohlhepp@quinnipiac.edu

STUDENT DIRECTOR

TBA

REGIONAL DIRECTORS

I. Northeast

Maureen Robert
W: 860/646-3903
morbertpa@aol.com

II. Southeast

Bill Shea
W: 860/442-0711
weshea@snet.net

III.

South Central

Jeanine Ondrof
W: 203/688-2342
jeanineon@yahoo.com

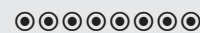
IV.

Southwest

Thomas Kodz
C: 203/650-0960
tmkodz@yahoo.com

V. Northwest

Brian Major
W: 203/5736121



ASSOCIATION OFFICE

ConnAPA

591 North Avenue, Ste. 3-2
Wakefield, MA 01880-1617
800/493-9200

Fax: 781/245-6487

connapa.org@verizon.net

www.connapa.org

ASSOCIATION MANAGEMENT

The Association Advantage
781/245-6485

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DEADLINES FOR SUMMER 06 ISSUE

July 13, 2006

Please e-mail editorial submissions

directly to Editor Alison Hall

alictpa@yahoo.com

Please fax advertising reservation forms to 781/245-6487.

Dr. Beinfeld continued from page 2

elected to the board of the state arboretum in 1995.

Malcolm Beinfeld is survived by his wife of 60 years, Marjorie, and his children: daughters Harriet Beinfeld; Lynn Beinfeld, and Elizabeth Falsey; son, Bruce Beinfeld; and an “adopted” son, John Edoga, a native of Nigeria who took up residence with the Beinfelds at the age of 18 to pursue a career in medicine.

The family requests that donations be made in his memory to The Aku Project, an organization that brings water and education to Edoga’s native village. Information can be found at www.akuproject.org

Newsletter Editor

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with the production manager who performs more editing, produces the layout, and coordinates printing and mailing of the newsletter. The production manager is Sherri Oken at The Association Advantage.

The work can be done entirely at home at your computer, via e-mail. Time commitment is approximately 10 hours of work the month the newsletter is published.

I have guidelines/outlines available to help with the process, and I will be available to help with the transition along with Sherri. Please contact me if you are interested at alicatpa@yahoo.com or ConnAPA@verizon.net

A note from the production manager: Kudos to Alison Hall who is one of the best volunteer editors I’ve worked with in the many years I’ve managed associations. She deserves a huge thank you for her conscientious work on behalf of ConnAPA. We are very lucky she has agreed to assist ConnAPA in an even greater capacity.

REGIONAL REPORTS**Region I (Northeast) Update**

By Maureen Robert, PA-C

By now, you are probably sick of receiving all the legislative updates, reminders and general nagging correspondence regarding our supervision bill. If you have not been receiving e-mail from me regarding the above, please notify me as it means I do not have your

current e-mail address. You can be rest assured that I will only contact you with pertinent information regarding PA practice issues in the state of Connecticut. The computer is the best way to disseminate information quickly and accurately to large groups of people, but we need to have the correct address. It is also one of the best ways to contact your legislators and to have a record of all correspondence. So please let ConnAPA or myself know of any e-mail changes.

Welcome new members: Bridget Kelly, Chancranni Quinones, William Ramos, and Katherine Voss. Welcome back members: Kristen Boucher, Tara Breslin, Peter Sandor, Blaise Smyth, Debra Strigun and Anthony Vida.

Region II (Southeast) Update

By Alison Hall, PA-C

Welcome new members: Jennifer Felicelli and Michael Lillpopp.

Welcome back members: Toni Brienza, Joseph Robert Castro, Crystal Clarkin, Gwendeline Demers, Sandra Frimel, Joseph Mendes, Laurie Seeger, Loreto Verde, and Sarah Whalen.

Thank you for your support!

Region III (South Central) Update

By Jeanine Ondrof, PA-C

Please give a warm welcome to our newest members: Gary Cook, Tracy Gambardella, Alyssa Girard, Steven Kaufmann, James Lunn, Qadara Moore, Sandra Nute-Aupi, Juliet Rivera, Rosanne DeAngelis, Katie Fifer, Jessica Fredeen, James Lunn, Ashley Morris, Amy Slogeski, Caroline Smith, and Michele Trinidad.

Welcome back to Karin Auger, Mary Cash, Kara Paelia, Melissa Michelle Redlinger, Mark Whelan and James Williams.

This has been an exciting time for PAs in Connecticut. We have important legislative issues on the table that affect how we practice, and we have just completed another successful Charter Oak Conference. Thank you to all of those actively involved in these important

issues and activities. I encourage all PAs to volunteer; after all, it is your profession that is at stake.

Region III hosted a CME dinner on 4/24 at the Sage American Grill in New Haven. Dr. Scott Reuben, a practicing anesthesiologist, spoke about “Advances in Acute Pain Management”. We have another CME dinner event planned on 6/23 at the Avra Grille in Branford. Mr. Paul Possenti PA-C, Chief Surgical PA with the Department of Surgery at Bridgeport Hospital, will be discussing “Common Surgical ICU Infections”. Please be advised that there is commonly a waiting list for these events. If you are unable to attend, kindly let me know as soon as you can.

If you have any questions or concerns, or you’d like to become more involved, feel free to contact me at jeanineon@yahoo.com.

Region IV (Southwest) Update

By Tom Kodz, PA-C

I would like to start by welcoming our new members: Justin Lynch, Julie Quartuccio, Lydia Sequi-Oxonoff, Brooke Harrison, Rita Migliaccio, and John Sakowich. Welcome back members Maria Bernardi, G. Marie Darrow, Susan

DeMelis, Rachele Gates, Stacy Holtz, Kent Kilbourn, and Gordon Plaut. Thanks for joining or renewing your membership; it is much appreciated.

My CME dinner plans are in process and I hope to have an event soon. In the

meantime, be on the lookout for CME dinners from neighboring regions. There are no boundaries - members of ConnAPA can attend any region’s CME.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any ideas or questions you may have.

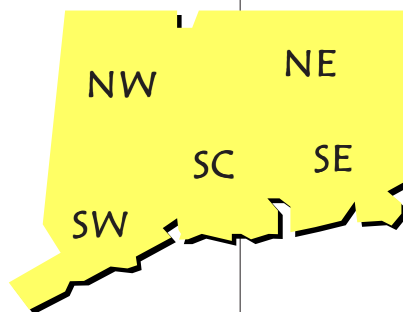
Region V Update

By Alison Hall, PA-C

Welcome new members: Anne D’Amico, Alan Houle, Brian Major, and Michelle McCrossen.

Welcome back members: Sherie Bender-Cocchiola, Stephen Sales and Jessica Dale Lindsay.

Thank you for your support!



ASSOCIATION NEWS

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The State of the Academy: Successful Conference Fuels ConnAPA Financial Performance

By Bill Kohlhepp, PA-C, MHA

With the close of its fiscal year on December 31, ConnAPA ends the year in the black. As has been the case for the past few years, the contribution of the Charter Oak Conference (COC) to the budget is a critical piece of the overall financial success of ConnAPA. In



his last year at the helm, Don Solimini led a strong team of Conference Planning Committee members to a successful 2005 event. The financial aspects were one measure of that success with the conference exceeding budget expectations by \$10,000. Membership recruitment and retention efforts continue to show results with membership revenue meeting expectations. The only disappointment relates to revenues from label & list sales and advertising that have fallen off dramatically resulting in those areas coming up short of budget. Overall, ConnAPA finished the year able to contribute close to \$7,000 to the fund reserve.

It cost about \$63,000 to run ConnAPA for the past year. In order to provide sufficient monies to cover our expenses, we saw dues contribute a little over half of what was needed (53%). Our expenses are primarily focused in two areas: \$39,000 to cover contractual fees paid to our management firm and to pay for office expenses (telephone, postage, and printing). Another \$21,000 goes to our lobbyist for their retainer and expenses related to efforts like that involved with the PA supervision bill. Those two categories of fixed expenses account for 91% of our expended dollars. The remainder goes to insurance and accounting fees as well as to fund the work of committees and our repre-

sentatives to other organizations. Although expenses exceeded projections by \$1,000, this was the result of final quarter adjustments to The Association Advantage contract related to new accounting services. Thus, the Board continues to do an excellent job of controlling expenses.

While an overall budget excess was realized for the 2005 COC, income was actually below projection (by \$3,600). Therefore, the financial success of the conference was again the result of expenditure control. Shortfalls were due mainly to decreased attendee revenue (\$11,000 less than projected) and Exhibitors (\$5,000 less than projected). Sponsors revenues exceeded projections by \$12,500. An overall savings of close to \$1,700 was realized in administration. Facility expenses were almost \$13,000 below projections. Speaker honorarium expense also was below projection, in the amount of almost \$2,500.

ConnAPA would be in a more stable position if a more significant portion of its revenue came from membership dues. With the future of pharmaceutical support for CME becoming unpredictable, ConnAPA needs to move away from relying too heavily on Charter Oak revenues to cover expenses. The Board has two options to accomplish this year: 1) Increase the amount of dues paid by those PAs consistently supporting the work of ConnAPA through their membership; 2) Hold dues at current rates but capture a more significant portion of PAs in the state as members. For the latter solution to be viable, we need each of you to encourage any non-member friends or colleagues to join the organization.

Clearly ConnAPA is accomplishing great things in fighting off threats to the practice environment for PAs. The time for all PAs to support that work is now!

ConnAPA Web Site Update

By Ron Podojil, PA-C, Immediate Past President

The new ConnAPA Web site was available for viewing at the Charter Oak Conference during the exhibit hall. We had many visitors who were very pleased by the appearance of the new web page. Comments were extremely positive regarding the photos displaying ConnAPA members, the easy access directory with a point and click and the member's only section.

We are putting the finishing touches on the site and expect it will be completed later this month. In addition to an entirely new look, we will be moving into the realm of e-commerce. For example, you'll be able to register online for the Charter Oak Conference.

In the meantime, our web site web master, Bruce Fichandler, continues to provide current information about working as a PA in CT, CME opportunities, ConnAPA activities and more. www.connapa.org is an excellent resource that will only get better!

ConnAPA Needs You!

By Ron Podojil, PA-C

Your organization needs your help. The Nominating Committee issued a "Call for Candidates" for office for open Board positions: President-Elect, Treasurer, and Regional Directors for the Southeast region and the Southwest region. A slate of candidates has been proposed and they are as follows:

- Alison Hall for President-Elect
- Jonathon Pinto for Treasurer
- Ron Podojil for Regional Director for the Southeast region
- Thomas Kodz for Regional Director for the Southwest region.

You might be curious about what holding these positions entails.

The President-Elect assists the President and leads various committees. After a year, s/he becomes President.

The Regional Director is the liaison between the members in his/her region and the Board of Directors. Responsibilities include facilitating open communications between the Board and members in the region, organizing CME dinner programs and attending all designated BOD meetings. Regional Directors are members of the Legislative and CME committees.

The Treasurer oversees the finances for ConnAPA. Responsibilities include developing a budget for the fiscal year, monitoring finances and financial management, signing checks, and presenting financial reports (prepared by The Association Advantage staff) at BOD meetings.

Please consider serving your organization and profession. Whether you'd like to serve on the Board, a committee or help with one activity, you may contact me via e-mail at podojilct@hotmail.com

Adventures in Lobbying 2006: A Day on Capitol Hill

By Tricia Marriott, PA-C

Connecticut PAs were well represented at the AAPA's "Adventures in Lobbying" conference, held in Washington, DC, on February 6 & 7. Of the approximately 160 PAs in attendance from 33 states, there were thirteen PAs from CT with a large showing from the Yale PA Program.

The first day was comprised of informational sessions to prepare the group for the day of lobbying. Amy Walter, senior editor of *The Cook Political Report*, shared her insights on the prospects for health care legislation during this mid-term election year. The group then participated in an interactive session designed to hone our constituent lobbyist skills. Christopher Kush, president of Soapbox Consulting, Inc, presented this lively and engaging activity.

The AAPA staff from the Government Affairs and Reimbursement Committee then went over the nuts and bolts of the issues, talking points, and particulars of the congressional visits. The key issues addressed were access to healthcare, adequate funding for PA educational programs (Title VII), coverage of services provided by PAs through Medicare (hospice, homecare and skilled nursing facilities) and the Federal Worker's Compensation Program. Also, it was suggested in order to optimize care provided by PAs in VA facilities, the position of PA Advisor in the Department of Veterans' Affairs needs to be a full time position in the VA's Central office.

The second day was devoted entirely to lobbying on Capitol Hill. Prior to arrival in DC, the Connecticut contingent was able to procure appointments with every Senator and Congressperson representing CT. The group split up to cover more ground, and we successfully met with staff from the offices of Senators Dodd and Lieberman, and Congresspersons Delauro, Johnson, Larson, Shays, and Simmons. Congratulations to the students for a job well done.

Lobbying is not just a once a year event. Let your voice be heard by contacting your federal legislator regarding these national PA issues. For more information, go to the AAPA website at www.aapa.org.



From L to R: (Front Row) Jacob Hauptman, PA-S, Yale; Matthew Cook, PA-S, Yale; Jesse Harkness, PA-S, Yale; Vanessa Balta, PA-S, Yale; Maura Brennick, PA-S, Yale; (Back row) Richard Chen, PA-S, Yale; Maryann Chomiak, PA-C, West Haven VA; Ryan Mooney PA-S, Yale, is the tallest; David Brissette, PA-C, Clinical Coordinator Yale PA Program; Tricia Marriott, PA-C, Waterbury Hospital/ConnAPA Legislative Chair; Andrew Barlow, PA-C, Bridgeport Community Health Center.



Members in the News

Quinnipiac University Professor Appointed to Editorial Board

By Alison Hall, PA-C



Dawn Colomb-Lippa, PA-C, was recently appointed to the editorial board for the *Journal of the American Association of Physician Assistants* (JAMA). As part of the editorial staff, she will review manuscripts, provide

advice on the direction of the journal, write articles and be a part of an effort to encourage and improve medical writing among practitioners.

Dawn earned her Bachelor's degree in occupational therapy from the University at Buffalo, State University of New York, in 1991. She received her Master's degree in 1998 in health science while attending the physician assistant program at Quinnipiac University. She joined the Quinnipiac faculty full time in 2002 where she is an assistant professor in the PA program. She currently practices at Tribury Orthopedics in Waterbury.

Kudos to Dawn!

David Charash, DO, Honorary ConnAPA Member



At the 2006 Charter Oak Conference, David Charash, DO, received quite a surprise after delivering his presentation. Jennifer Madonia-Barr, President-elect, presented Dr. Charash with an Honorary ConnAPA membership.

The Board voted to present Dr. Charash with an honorary membership for his ongoing support and mentoring of PAs and his contributions to PA education.



Another Successful Charter Oak Conference

By Ana V. Rodriguez-Musterer, PA-C,
CME/COC Chair

ConnAPA's 19th Annual Charter Oak Conference in late March took place during a beautiful week at the scenic Water's Edge Resort in Westbrook, CT. The week was filled with phenomenal speakers, topics and workshops that provided a well-rounded primary care focused experience. The week started on Sunday with the Pre-conference Symposia that offered a half day of educational lec-

tures and 4 CME credits. We offered a total of 38 CME credits for the entire conference.



David Hecht (right) and GlaxoSmithKline are consistent friends of ConnAPA and PAs

In addition to the lectures, a few special events took place. On Monday, the Welcome Reception and PAF Silent Auction took place to raise money for student scholarships. Tuesday was the annual ConnAPA business luncheon that featured a presentation by Paul Robert, Esq., on the "Ethics & Medical Practice". The PAF also awarded their 2006 scholarships to five lucky students. On Thursday, everyone enjoyed the Exhibit Hall where one could learn about the latest medical products and services plus receive some free stuff! The entire first year QU PA class attended Thursday's lectures and Exhibit Hall thanks to Professor Cindy Lord. Thursday evening was the

2006 CHARTER OAK CONFERENCE



annual, tasty Viennese Dessert Buffet, and Friday morning, we featured the annual breakfast buffet.

Many students from the QU and Yale Program as well as ConnAPA Board members volunteered their time to help through the week. Thank you all for volunteering so much of your time and effort. And thanks to all the attendees who made this year's conference a success. We look forward to seeing you all again at next year's conference.

The conference is made possible by the dedicated work of the volunteers and of course, the sponsoring and exhibiting companies. We encourage all interested persons to volunteer as much time as you can to assure the continuation of this outstanding conference.

PAF Scholarships Awarded at COC

By Audrey Douglas, PA-C

The Connecticut Physician Assistant Foundation (PAF) awarded its annual scholarships at the Charter Oak Conference in Westbrook, CT. This year, the PAF received applications from six different PA schools from around the country. The applicants were judged on their community service, quality of narrative, and CV.

Five \$1,000.00 scholarships were awarded as follows:

Anthony Ricciuti is a student from Saint Vincent Catholic Medical Center PA Program. Anthony was an athletic trainer before pursuing his PA education in New York. His volunteer experiences have included the KEEPS program and fundraising for the Host City Fund at the AAPA Conference.

Kate Johnson is a current member of the Quinnipiac University PA Program. She is an active member of the Durham Ambulance Service, Faith in Action, and at the ACES school in North Haven.

Sarah Adams also is a student at the Quinnipiac University PA Program who has served as an EMT in Wolcott. She has participated in various QU Student Society volunteer activities.

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PAF Silent Auction Raises Over \$1,600

By Audrey Douglas, PA-C



Once again, the Charter Oak Conference was the venue for the CT PAF's Silent Auction. This year we raised over \$1,600.00. All of the proceeds go towards PA student scholarships. I would like to thank all of the people and companies who donated to the Silent Auction, and all of you who visited the event, spent time bidding and purchasing items. Special thank you to the PAF trustees Joe Varano, Kim Chemacki, Terry O'Donnell, and Rebekka Cullen for helping to organize the event.



PAF Scholarship Winners *continued*

Katie Fifer is a student from Yale University's PA Program. Katie has volunteered at the Haven Free Clinic, and is a certified doula as well as a yoga and movement instructor for children.

Christopher Dill was the recipient of the J. Jeff Heinrich \$1,000 scholarship. Christopher has participated in two volunteer service trips to both Mexico and Kentucky, helping underprivileged people in various ways. He also is a student at the Quinnipiac University PA Program.

I would like to thank the scholarship committee for their time and efforts: Kim Chemacki, Joe Varano, Jonathan Weber, Natalie Ramadon and Brian Landry. Thank you to all of the applicants for their time and effort.

Scholars with PAF Trustees: (l - r) Audrey Douglas, Kate Johnson, Sarah Adams, Christopher Dill, Anthony Ricciuti, Joe Varano, Terry O'Donnell

ACADEMIC NEWS

QU Update

By Chris Berube, PA-S

Springtime is always an exciting time for the students and faculty at Quinnipiac. The 1st year students are eagerly awaiting their chance to put newly acquired knowledge to good use in the clinical year.

The 2nd year students are nearing the light at the end of the tunnel. And, the new PA class of 2008 will be arriving to their home away from home on Sherman Ave.

To Quinnipiac students, the word springtime is also synonymous with cows. Each year, the students organize a 5k-road race, silent auction and their famous "cow chip bingo" to help raise money for the PAF Host City Prevention Campaign. Even though the weather did not cooperate (40° and pouring rain), the event was a total success. The Quinnipiac PA program raised \$7,500 for the PAF. This year's campaign is focusing on disparities in healthcare and is benefiting Kerry's Kids, a charity that operates a mobile clinic to serve the indigent children and families of the San Francisco Bay area. In addition to the money raised, the students took time to assemble 100 care

packages containing necessities such as toothbrushes and toothpaste, as well as nutritional snacks.



With the help of a few cows, Quinnipiac students raised \$7,500 for the PAF

She helped sponsor our yearly fundraiser and allowed the entire class to attend this year's Charter Oak Conference.

At this time, I would like to thank Professor Kohlhepp, who stood out in the freezing rain for hours waiting for a couple of cows to do their business, and Professor Lord for her generous contributions to the Class of 2007.

Yale Program Update

By Chris Maio, PA-S and Beth Samels, PA-S

On March 30th, the PA program and medical school held the annual Cadaver Gratitude Ceremony to honor those individuals who donated their bodies to science. Students read poetry, performed musical arrangements and read letters written by families of donors. Many students, staff and professors attended to pay tribute to those that gave such an incredibly unselfish gift to educate future health care providers.

Two first year students were selected to receive the Wilber G. Downs Fellowship which supports Yale students who undertake biomedical, medical, nursing and/or public health research in developing countries. Downs Fellows carry out research in the context of their host country's culture, health problems and resources.

Katie Fifer plans to examine the prevalence of Immune Reconstitution Syndrome, a side effect of anti-retroviral medication. Dr. Brian Forsyth, Associate Professor of Pediatrics at Yale University School of Medicine, will oversee her research. She will study HIV-infected children at the Pediatric Immunology Clinic in Pretoria, South Africa.

Gerald Kayingo will be working with Professor P.S. Coelho, a medical school faculty member at the University of Sao Paulo in Brazil. He will be developing rapid molecular diagnostic tests for paracoccidiodomycosis, also known as South American Blastomycosis.

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ACADEMIC NEWS

Yale continued from p 7

First and second year PA students continue to volunteer at the Fair Haven Clinic, Yale University's student-run medical clinic, which provides free medical services to the community. Three members of the first year class have been appointed as board members, including Rachel LoSchiavo who is currently serving as the Laboratory Director. Ms. LoSchiavo is working to negotiate free lab services for Fair Haven patients and secure lab equipment donations. She also developed an apprenticeship that reviews phlebotomy protocols and techniques as well as introduces students to the laboratory environment.



Also serving on the Haven Free clinic board is Suzanne Bakke, PA Program Representative. She has several goals she would like to accomplish. She wants to increase the amount of volunteers among Yale-New Haven Medical Center staff PAs, and to promote PA student volunteers. She is also serving as the liaison between the Fair Haven Clinic and the PA Faculty. Katie Fifer currently serves as Clinic Co-Chair and works directly with the Clinic Directors and Faculty Steering Committee to ensure high quality healthcare and social services for patients.

Currently, the first year students are one semester away from clinical rotations and can't wait!

Membership renewal time is here!

ConnAPA's membership year runs from July 1 - June 30. When your renewal form arrives later this month, please look it over, make any additions or changes and mail it back with a check or credit card information as soon as possible.

And, don't forget to encourage colleagues who are not members to join the Academy.

We work for all PAs in CT!

Legislative Fund Donors

You helped to make it happen!
On behalf of all PAs in CT, ConnAPA thanks you for your generous support.

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Professional Updates

Volunteers Needed to Take FMCSA Medical Examiners Survey

By Alison Hall, PA-C

The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) proposes to establish a National Registry of Certified Medical Examiners (NRCME) program. The NRCME would provide a list of medical examiners who are authorized to examine interstate truck and bus drivers, and effectively determine their physical qualifications to operate commercial motor vehicles (CMV) in interstate commerce. Medical examiners would be required to participate in training and pass a certification test before being listed on the NRCME. FMCSA is projecting that medical examiner training and certification would be in place in late 2007.

As part of the development of the NRCME program, FMCSA is in the process of identifying 5,000 medical examiners to complete a survey that will help define the role of the medical examiner. This group will include a minimum of 1,000 practitioners from each of the five medical professions authorized by FMCSA to perform physical examinations for CMV drivers (Advanced Practice Nurses, Doctors of Chiropractic, Doctors of Osteopathy, Medical Doctors, and Physician Assistants).

If you perform physical examinations for CMV drivers, please volunteer to take part in this important survey. The target deadline for identifying the 5,000 participants is June 15, 2006.

To volunteer go to the NRCME Web site at <http://www.nrcme.fmcsa.dot.gov/>



IT'S LIVE!



www.connapa.org
Visit the newly redesigned
ConnAPA website for
current information
about ConnAPA and
PA practice in CT

OPPORTUNITIES

To place an ad in ConnAPA News, contact the ConnAPA office at 800/493-9200 for ad insertion forms and lay-out specifications. Ad reservation deadline for the next issue is July 13, 2006. Camera ready ads (jpg files) can be sent to connapa.org@verizon.net

Orthopedic Surgery Eastern Connecticut

Excellent opportunity for a PA-C to join a progressive, nine (9) physician, two (2) PA orthopedic and physical medicine practice.

Primary responsibilities include assisting in surgery and patient triage in the office.

Candidates should hold NCCPA certification and CT license or eligibility.

Orthopedic/surgical assisting experience preferred.

Attractive benefit package

Mail, fax or e-mail CV to
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82 New Park Avenue
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Temporary Position

Part-time/per diem to work
in a busy family practice
in Southeastern CT

Four days a week

Competitive salary

Fax CV to 860/445-2538
attention: Jess

NCCPA Deadlines

INITIAL CERTIFICATION

April 1 - July 31, 2006

Spring PANCE administration; scores will be available online
two weeks after your exam date

May 24, 2006

Application deadline for the Summer 2006 PANCE administration

CME LOGGING

June 30, 2006

Earning, logging and payment deadline for the 2004-2006
certification maintenance cycle

July 1 - December 31, 2006

\$100 late processing fee added to hours earned or logged or
payment made for the 2004-2006

RECERTIFICATION

Spring Pathway II scores will be available online approximately
eight weeks after your exam date

www.nccpa.net

GET INVOLVED IN CONNAPA

CME Chair

Ana V. Rodriguez-Musterer
avrmjan@comcast.net

Constitution & Bylaws;

Ron Podojil
podojilct@hotmail.com

Impairment

Nancy Najarian
znajarian@snet.net

Legislative

Patricia M. Marriott
marriottbonz@sbcglobal.com

Professional Practices Subcommittee
Open

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Newsletter

Alison Hall
alicatpa@yahoo.com

Nominations & Elections

Ron Podojil (see above)

Public Relations/Public Education

Justin Champagne
justin_champagne@hotmail.com

Reimbursement Ad Hoc

Steven Fries
sfries0660@aol.com

Web Site

Bruce Fichandler
bruce.fichandler@yale.edu

CONNAPA

Connecticut Academy
of Physician Assistants

591 North Avenue, Suite 3-2
Wakefield, MA 01880-1617

CALENDAR

If you know of CME programs or other events of particular interest to PAs, please submit to the Newsletter Editor, Alison Hall, for inclusion in the calendar. Visit www.connapa.org for CME opportunities between newsletter issues.

May 23 North Haven, CT

2006 American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine (OEMAC) Annual Meeting 1 hr. Cat. I CME
contact: 860/349-8995 or 76032.660@compuserve.com

June 12 – 16 Piscataway, NJ

PA Certification & Recertification Exam Review 43 hrs. Cat. I CME
contact: 800/522-3439 or www.cmeresources.com

June 15 - 16 Worcester, MA

Pri-Med Update 15 hrs. Cat. 1 CME
contact: www.pri-med.com/updates/worcester or 877/477-4633

June 23 Branford, CT

ConnAPA Annual Meeting and CME Dinner “Common Surgical ICU Infections” 1 hr. Cat. I CME
contact: ConnAPA at 800/493-9200

August 16 - 20 Stony Brook, NY

31st Annual Stony Brook Board Review and Post Graduate Program for PAs 40 hrs. Cat. I CME pending
contact: 631/444-3190 or <http://www.hsc.stonybrook.edu/shtm/programs/pa/boardreview.html>

September 16 Mashantucket, CT

2nd Annual Connecticut Dermatology Physician Assistant Society (CDPA) CME Symposium “Don’t Gamble With Your Skin” 8 hrs. Cat. 1 CME
For details, visit www.ctdermpa.com

October 4 – 7 Harrisburg, PA

Pennsylvania Society of Physician Assistants 31st Annual CME conference 25 hrs Cat. 1 CME
contact: www.pspa.net

CME DINNER AND ANNUAL MEETING

Friday, June 23, 2006

Avra, Grille

Branford, CT

7 – 9 p.m.

Enjoy a fine dinner, earn CME and celebrate the induction of the new ConnAPA Board and the 2006 honorees

All ConnAPA members will be sent invitations.