

## INTRODUCING ...



**Tricia Marriott, PA-C, MPAS**

### **The Physician-PA Team**

**T**HE Physician Assistant (PA) concept, developed in the mid 1960s by physicians, is a symbiotic, synergistic, dependent relationship. Physician Assistants are increasingly being utilized across all practice settings, not only in Connecticut, but in all 50 states, DC, the US Virgin Islands, Guam, Canada, England, and Scotland. Educated in the medical model to provide a broad range of medical services, PAs always practice with physician supervision, and are held to a quality of service set by the physician. PAs are committed to remaining dependent practitioners, with no desire to pursue independent practice. The Physician-PA team concept is the cornerstone of PA practice.

Team care brings added value, improving patient satisfaction, providing coordinated care, and preserving continuity. To that end, the team must be nurtured and supported. Physician issues directly affect the PA; conversely, PA issues impact the physician. Legislative battles, decreasing reimbursement, increasingly burdensome paperwork, and policies that create barriers to patients' access to care are just some of the things that affect us equally. The Connecticut Academy of Physician Assistants (ConnAPA) and CSMS have partnered successfully on several legislative issues in recent years. By joining together, we have improved the practice environment for the Physician-PA team, and, ultimately, have improved our ability to care for our patients.

Physician Assistants are eager to support our physician supervisors, and want to foster a collegial practice environment. The recent decision to grant PAs membership in the Connecticut State Medical Society validates the team concept. PAs serving on medical society committees will surely improve communication between the two professions, and can only enhance the team's ability to provide quality, affordable, accessible health care to the citizens of Connecticut. Together, we are stronger.

Tricia Marriott, PA-C, MPAS  
*President, Connecticut Academy of Physician Assistants*  
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Patricia Marriott, PA-C, MPAS, President of ConnAPA and Jennifer Barr, PA-C, MS, Immediate-Past President of ConnAPA, were elected by the CSMS House of Delegates at the 2007 Annual Meeting to be Associate Members of the CSMS. We encourage other physician assistants and other health-care professionals and providers interested in the team approach to medicine and medical care in the state of Connecticut to apply for membership consistent with the CSMS bylaws.

*Physicians and others interested in the science of medicine and public health ... may be elected as Associate Members ... by majority vote of the House of Delegates ... Associate members shall enjoy all of the rights and privileges of members of the Society except that they may not vote or hold elective office ... (CSMS Bylaws)*

Matt Katz  
*Executive Director*  
Angelo S. Carrabba, MD  
*President.*