

**A**SSOCIATION of

**P**HYSIICIANS' **A**SSISTANT **P**ROGRAMS

**NEWSLETTER**

July 1974

2120 L STREET, N.W. • THE GELMAN BUILDING, SUITE 210 • WASHINGTON, D.C. 20037 • (202) 833-1280

**Dateline Washington —**

## **APAP National Office Fully Operational**

The long awaited summer when the National Office would be in full operation is here. On May 24, 1974, we opened the doors to begin the unbelievable task of centralization and organization that will serve the best interests of all concerned with the physicians' assisting concept. I believe you will be proud of the office and its staff. They are: Donald W. Fisher, Ph.D., Executive Director; Miss Marty Wilson, Executive Assistant; Mrs. Ruth Hoepfer, Administrative Assistant; Mr. Deny Rade-feld, Comptroller (part-time); Miss Mary Hunton, Receptionist/Typist (temporary).

Since our informal opening in May, we have been very busy. We have hosted many meetings in the office and have made considerable progress. We are keeping abreast with legislative activities on Capitol Hill and on state levels. We have instituted a National Employment Listing Service, and we are now in the process of gathering and computerizing information on graduate and student Physicians' Assistants, developing a program profile booklet, and assisting the standing committee of APAP with their activities.

The above mentioned activities of the National Office are important. However, one of the most important issues we are facing is in the area of PA reimbursement. As you know, the Social Security Administration has for the last year or so been developing a Physician Extender Reimbursement Study which is designed to predict the best reimbursement level for all Physician Extenders (re-

President's Message). Many of you have expressed concern over this study and I'm glad to report to you that APAP has been invited on several occasions to collaborate with SSA on their proposal.

Let me assure you that we are carefully watching the developments of this study and will report to you fully when we have sufficient information.

There are several projects which we have begun at the National Office in which we are in need of assistance from all Physicians' Assistant Programs. One of these is the National

### **APAP National Employment Listing Service**

The National Office of the APAP is pleased to announce its offering to members only a National Employment Listing Service. This listing of current job opportunities throughout the country will be of tremendous benefit to PA program graduates and those seeking a change of employment.

Please direct requests for employment opportunities (indicating area of geographic preference) to: APAP National Office, 2120 L Street, N.W., The Gelman Building, Suite 210, Washington, D.C. 20037.

Employment Listing Service which we instituted on the 1st of July. This is a listing of current job opportunities throughout the country and will be of tremendous benefit to Physicians' Assistant Program graduates and those seeking a change in employment. In order to make this endeavor effective, we need listings of available employment opportunities from each program. Please submit your listings as soon as possible and then any time you have unfilled jobs in your files. Each employment opportunity listed by us will be updated on a regular basis and will be available at no cost to members of The American Academy of Physicians' Assistants as well as the Association of Physicians' Assistant Programs (simply indicate whether you want national, regional, or state-by-state listings). A second activity we have begun, and again are in need of your assistance, is serving as the central repository for information on the Physicians Assistant concept. Within the National Office an area has been reserved as a Reading Reference Library. We would like to be in the position where we could offer to you, as Program Directors, or to the public, as interested persons in the concept, quick reference materials. If you should have reprints, articles, or bibliographies available regarding the Physicians' Assistant concept and/or copies of any local medical board or state legislative activities, or anything you think would serve this purpose, please send these to us. We will be most

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# The President's Message

Robert E. Jewett, M.D.  
Emory University School of Medicine

Don Fisher is now in the Academy/Association Office in Washington and except for the lack of a source of water for coffee, the layout seems excellent. I hope that you can visit the National Headquarters in the not too distant future.

Numerous projects need to be started. One of the most pressing seems to me to be getting information on students that have been associated with the individual programs. The Association should have a list (and other information deemed appropriate) on all graduates, all students who matriculated, and hopefully at some future time, on all students who had applied. The latter piece of information would probably be obtained painfully but should be collected and certainly maintained from this point on. The AAMC and its centralized application service have had considerable experience in this regard and could be of considerable help in getting this project organized. Don and I would appreciate your thoughts on this matter. Another aspect of records concerns accurate up-dated information on entrance requirements, curriculum, etc. of the individual programs.

I would like to bring you up-to-date on some items and events which have transpired since the New Orleans meeting.

## National Board of Medical Examiners

The Board was approached in mid-April concerning the desirability of keeping the eligibility requirements for the 2nd administration of the exam the same as the first. The Academy and the Association wrote Dr. Hubbard strongly endorsing this approach and were supported by letters from a number of individual programs. The Board indicated that it had stated publicly that eligibility for the 2nd exam would be expanded and it is reluctant to reverse itself. I doubt that it will. This failing, we will try to get the Board to norm the second exam

on those examinees who fulfill the requirements of the first administration, i.e., essentially graduates of formal programs.

As suggested in New Orleans, I have requested the Board to examine the records of those examinees who failed the first exam. While I have not yet received a formal reply, the Board indicates that it does not have the means to isolate ethnic, etc., categories. The Association itself, through member programs, could do a reasonable job on reconstructing this data. I would appreciate your thoughts on the desirability of the Association attempting this as well as a mechanism for isolating this on the second exam.

## National Commission on Certification of the Assistant to the Primary Care Physician

Tom Piemme continues to be active on the Commission which will hold its first organizational meeting August 8, 1974. This group will determine eligibility for the 3rd exam and this exam for sure will have expanded eligibility. To date all organizations have formally accepted the proposal, but the location of the office has not yet been determined. More information should be available at the fall meeting.

## Hemia Contracts

These contracts (appearing elsewhere in this Newsletter) have recently been let and winners will be in negotiation reasonably soon. The recipients of the contracts will need considerable assistance from the

programs and their graduates as well as employers. As you recall, the Evaluation Selection Committee of the Association has been charged with reviewing proposals which require samplings and data collection from large numbers of programs and graduates. This is hopefully a mechanism to coordinate and minimize the work of programs in responding to the request for information. Subject to Committee endorsement of a proposal, the Association will indicate such endorsement by using an appropriate cover letter. This mechanism of course does not preclude cooperation by individual programs.

We hope that HEMIA contract recipients will work through the Evaluation/Selection Committee; and I encourage programs to cooperate with the committee in its efforts to maximize efficiency in data collection.

## Social Security

Some members of the Reimbursement Committee were invited to attend a meeting with Drs. Gaus and Morris of Social Security on May 13. Results of the Phase I study are being considered in planning by the SSA for the Phase II study which may commence this fall. The SSA is planning a study of significant size, scope and impact on the PA concept to warrant careful review.

Basically, the study relates to the amount of reimbursement that SSA (and probably other federally funded health bills) will cover for PE's (physician extendors). They plan to study a large number of practices

## Association of Physicians' Assistant Programs

President	Robert E. Jewett, M.D. <i>Emory University School of Medicine</i>
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Past President	Thomas E. Piemme, M.D. <i>George Washington University School of Medicine</i>
Vice President	Raymond H. Murray, M.D. <i>Indiana University School of Medicine</i>
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Executive Director	Donald W. Fisher, Ph.D.
Comptroller	Deny A. Radefeld
Executive Assistant	Martha L. Wilson
Administrative Assistant	Ruth A. Hoeper

where PE's are used (they plan to concentrate on those who are eligible for National Board testing primarily), in numerous geographic settings, and at various levels of reimbursement, e.g., 50%, 80%, 100%, cost, etc. Apparently in the Medicine Act there is a statement where the rate can be set by the Secretary so I hope this is not an exercise in futility.

The major issues are these, as I see them. If a physician delegates a task to someone else, they ought to be as capable as the physician, otherwise it should not have been delegated. Therefore, the fee should be identical. On the other hand, the cost of delivering care under any plan where all can obtain it (whatever that level of health care may be—from 2 lifetime band aids to one free cardiac transplant) will be astronomical under the current pricing structure. A set fee for certain tasks may be established which is below current MD rates. Numerous other possibilities can also be imagined.

The feds must make it financially reasonable for the MD to hire PA's otherwise the MD's simply cannot deliver all the care needed. Also the feds should not have funded P.A. training programs to begin with if they won't reimburse for the graduates' services. Perhaps in today's world, common sense has nothing to do with it.

#### **Fogarty International Center**

Several association members were invited speakers and others guests at a two day conference held by Fogarty on May 14-15. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the role of Departments of Preventive Medicine in the PA movement from a variety of standpoints. Texts of the papers and recommendations will be available sometime this summer.

#### **New Position Paper**

Dave Lawrence and Bill Stanhope have agreed to prepare a position paper on the important subjects of demand-need-reimbursement in relation to PA's. Hopefully, a draft will be available in the fall for your review and adoption at an appropriate time thereafter.

#### **Committees**

The following committees have been continued or established and

most chairmen have notified their membership. When the lists are complete we will let you know.

#### **EVALUATION/SELECTION**

*Chairperson*—Sue Greenberg  
*Vice-Chairperson for Selection*—Jim Pharris  
*Public & Professional Relations & Education*—Kay Androeli  
*Curriculum and Testing*—John Ott  
*Membership*—Bob Levine  
*By-Laws*—Jerry Hymel  
*Reimbursement*—5 member committee unchaired  
*Liaison to AAPA*—Bob Jewett

*Liaison from AAPA*—Carl Fasser and Jeff Heinrich

I hope you will feel free to communicate with these chairmen concerning any ideas, thoughts, etc. relevant to the committee charge.

#### **Information Needed from Member Programs**

Please let the Executive Committee know of matters which you feel the Association should address. Also, while I believe the Newsletter will solve most communication problems, other suggestions are welcome.

## **HEMIA Contracts Awarded**

**Duke University**, Department of Community Health Sciences, to develop a working model of physicians' assistant careers and career patterns which will serve to clarify the process by which individuals commit themselves to the physicians' assistant role.

**University of Florida**, College of Medicine, Department of Community Health and Family Medicine, to develop, demonstrate, and evaluate a method of increasing the awareness of physicians about physicians' assistants utilization capabilities.

**Georgetown University**, to expand the analysis of a major study of a medical service area being conducted within Appalachian Maryland to include an assessment of how many and what types of physician extenders could be advantageously employed within a practice.

**Kaiser Foundation Research Institute**, to study the utilization and cost effectiveness of physicians' assistants in the Kaiser system.

**Leland Stanford Junior University**, to decentralize the Primary Care Associate Program by developing a

community-based educational program.

**University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill**, to design and implement a study of the economic characteristics which effect the demand for and supply of physicians' assistants and MEDEX.

**University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center**, to develop a post graduate program for graduate physicians' assistants which would prepare them to serve as primary care providers in problem oriented general disease clinics.

**University of Pittsburgh**, Western Psychiatric Clinic, to define the role of physicians' assistants in relation to mental health professionals and demonstrate and evaluate the physicians' assistants expanded use, under medical supervision, in providing primary care in a mental health care setting.

**University of Utah**, College of Medicine, Department of Family and Community Medicine, to develop and implement projects designed to remove existing impediments to broader use of physicians' assistants such as a self-paced training and certification program for non-formally trained physicians' assistants, and a Rent-a-PA program for the intermountain region.

**University of Washington**, MEDEX/Northwest, to conduct research and a policy development study about innovative and expanded utilization of new health practitioners in remote northwest practices.

### **Doodle with a Purpose**

AAPAP needs a logo, especially for use on the stationery letterhead and the newsletter. Exciting reward offered. Please send all entry designs to the National Office as soon as possible as the final decision will be made at the next semiannual Board meeting.

# Employment Opportunities

1. *Clinical Coordinator*: Faculty appointment available immediately for certified Physicians' Assistant. Baccalaureate degree requisite. Call or write John Palmer, M.D., PA Program Director, Medical College of Georgia, Augusta, Georgia 30902. (404/724-7111, ext. 8391).
2. *Director, Health Assistant Program*: Faculty appointment in the School of Health Services for a fully qualified Physicians' Assistant. Call or write Henry M. Seidel, M.D., Associate Dean, the Johns Hopkins University School of Health Services, Hampton House 105, 624 N. Broadway, Baltimore, Maryland 21205. (301/955-5908).
3. *Administrative, Surgery, Teaching*: Write S.E. Ziffren, M.D., Department of Surgery, University of Iowa Hospital and Clinics, Iowa City, Iowa 52242.
4. *Faculty position*. Master's degree

required. Call or write Jessie C. Edwards, Assistant Director, PA Program, University of Nebraska Medical Center, 42nd Street and Dewey Avenue, Omaha, Nebraska 68105. (402/541-4966).

5. *Teaching Coordination*. Call or write Steve Turnipseed, PA Program, S.U.N.Y., Stonybrook, Long Island, New York. (516/444-2451).

6. *Teaching and coordinating position*. Write John G. Bruhn, Ph.D., Associate Dean for Community Affairs, The University of Texas Medical Branch, Galveston, Texas 77550.
7. *Program Administrator and PA Faculty Position* (2 positions): Write Steve Allen, M.D., State University of New York/Stonybrook, Albany, New York.

## Executive Committee Meeting Held

The Executive Committee of Association of Physicians' Assistant Programs met on June 17, 1974 in Washington, D.C. Much of the information in this issue of the Newsletter has been derived from that meeting. Therefore, reprinting the minutes of that meeting in this section of the Newsletter is not necessary. In summary, the Executive Committee on June 17th: (1) discussed the pro-

gress of the National Office, (2) reviewed committee reports, (3) discussed the pros and cons of incorporating the Association, (4) discussed the necessity of gathering information on student and graduate PA's, (5) discussed the progress of the National Commission on Certification of Physicians' Assistants, (6) discussed the California legal situation (7) discussed the Nurse Practitioner/Clinician organizational meeting in California, (8) reviewed the "Physician Extender Reimbursement Study", (9) received up-dated information regarding the American Academy of Physicians' Assistant's activity by the Academy's liaison representatives.

If you have questions concerning this recent meeting and/or you would like to have a copy of the official minutes of that meeting, please write to the National Office.

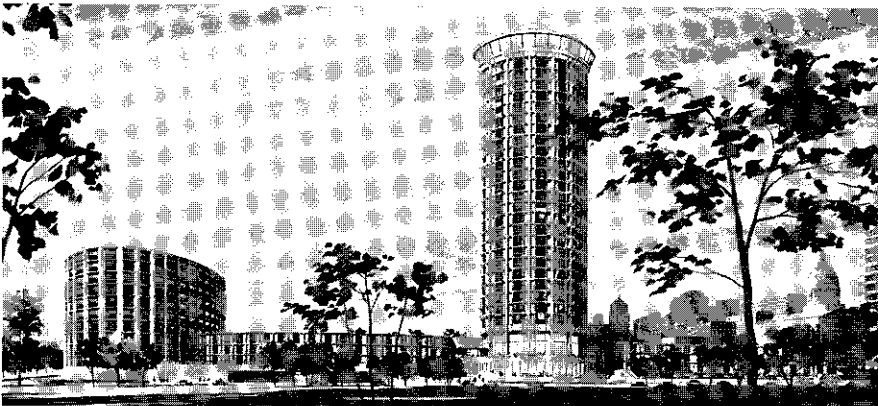
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grateful and better able to serve you and the public.

I have tried in this brief statement to bring you up-to-date on the progress of this office. If you should have any questions or be in need of any information or assistance, please do not hesitate to call. I can assure you that those of us in this office will do everything we can to serve you in the best way we know how. Looking forward to seeing all of you. Please visit us in the National Office when you can.

Donald W. Fisher, Ph.D.  
Executive Director



Mark your calendar now for our Third Annual Conference of New Health Practitioners, April 7-10, 1975—Stouffers Riverfront Towers, St. Louis, Missouri. Information will be forthcoming from James Bartow, Chairman, Conference Planning Committee.

## Profile to be Published

The National Office is working with the Public Relations/Education Committee chaired by Kay Andreoli on a National Physicians' Assistant Program profile. It is anticipated that this booklet will provide those investigating the Physicians' Assistant profession with such information as selection factors, state legislative policies with regard to practicing Physicians' Assistants, admissions processes, financial aid, en-

trance requirements, curriculum, a timetable of application and acceptance, etc.

We'll be calling on each of the programs to verify the accuracy of our information and asking every program to submit a 75-word synopsis describing its curriculum and unique offerings. All programs will be notified individually before the next newsletter is published so you may wish to start writing a brief now.