



# New Mexico PA

Newsletter of the New Mexico Academy of Physician Assistants  
Fall 2007 • Volume 27, Number 9

## Getting Ready for an Incredible CME!

by Kathy L. Johnson, PA-C, UNM Senior Health

The NMAPA Annual Fall Primary Care Update is upon us! On September 21-23, the Academy will host its annual CME Conference at the Albuquerque Marriott Pyramid, on I-25 and Paseo del Norte. The Faculty line-up for the conference is awesome with topics to intrigue every Practitioner. Registration for NMAPA Members has remained unbelievably inexpensive at \$195 for 19 hours of CME- and this price includes lunch and snacks!! (Not to mention all the fun you'll have seeing friends!) And don't forget the popular student track on Saturday morning, packed with activities for our up and coming stars! The Awards Luncheon will be held on Friday and we will be honored to have Mary Ettari, AAPA President, address us. The General Membership Meeting is scheduled for Friday at 5 pm. Please note you do not have to attend the conference to attend the General Membership Meeting! If you did not receive a brochure with conference details please call Sally Blackstad at 828-0237.

## House of Delegates Report

Annual Convention  
San Francisco  
May 2006

Delegates:  
Joe Bish  
Bonnie Kaslo  
Kathy Johnson

Alternates:  
Heather Dountas  
Wabanang Krucezk

Dear Board of Directors,

I want to express my sincere gratitude for your support in my attendance at the 34th Annual House of Delegates Meeting and Conference. As always, it is an amazing experience to be among colleagues and my learning is continual. I wanted to report some of the highlights from this years meeting.

San Francisco is an amazing city with many different cultures. The conference celebrated Chinese tradition and beautiful dancers and a dragon entertained us at the Opening Session. Everyone received a special PA fortune cookie. Guest speaker and nationally recognized photographer, Steve Uzell, delivered his message about seeking new perspectives beautifully choreographed with his exceptional portfolio.

As you know, the focus for PA's this year has been Healthcare Disparities. Many awards were given to outstanding PA's and MD's for their efforts. Our President Elect Mary Ettari has selected Patient Safety with

attention to reduction of medical errors as the charge for this year.

The House had their sessions over three days. With 180+ delegates and more than 60 alternates, a quorum was met. General election results were discussed. More than 27,000 ballots were sent to members and over 4000 returned. Bruce Fichlander gave his always popular Treasurer's report. The Academy has experienced its 19th consecutive year of running a budget excess, this year some \$1.6 million dollars. He reported a growth in membership of 4.1%. The AAPA has ~29,000 members, about half of the PA population. There are ~5,700 student members. State chapter awards were given to Alaska, Minnesota, Michigan, and North Carolina.

President Rick Rohrs gave an address by special request to discuss the recent information concerning specialty credentialing by businesses other than the NCCPA. The NCCPA has stated it intends to remain the credentialing body for the AAPA.

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## From the President



Todd M. LeCesne, MPAS, PA-C  
NMAPA President

Greetings colleagues!

Along life's path numerous options are available to each of us, for sustainment and restoration of the mind, body and soul. Individually, the path we choose to take is personal. However as a community of PAs we share the common path and great responsibility, to take part in and influence the life path of, the patients we care for.

As the newly elected President of the NM Academy of Physician Assistants I am proud to join you in a profession of competent caring clinicians who want to take care of patients. As you are aware, the world is in a state of transformation with global climate changes, on-going religious and political conflicts, and continued emergence of infectious diseases, and social and psychosocial challenges yet to be experienced. On a positive note, I will remind you that as PAs, we have been and will continue to be, quick to respond to changes in health

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**NMAPA** - *The mission of the New Mexico Academy of Physician Assistants is to promote quality, cost-effective, accessible healthcare to the people of New Mexico and to promote the professional and personal development of PAs.*

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(Third or Alternate)  
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<http://www.aapa.org>

## From the President

care delivery and emerging health issues. As an academy, we strive to focus on what's best for patients and their families through political and policy discussions taking place at the local as well as national level. Behind the scenes, I am joined by a dedicated group of colleagues on the NMAPA board, who will continue to represent the needs and concerns of our patients and in a caring and competent manner, while promoting each of us individually within our profession.

In the year that follows, I look forward to expanding our membership, increasing our mentoring commitments and expanding outreach to parts of the state where we have been less represented. I look forward to meeting new persons and approaching new and old issues with increased vigor and resolve.

We are social and spiritual creatures by nature who find meaning in our interactions and relationships with others and in our contributions to our communities. As your representative of the New Mexico Academy of PAs I look forward to the coming year and all the opportunities we have available to grow and learn and contribute positively to society.

Onward!

Todd M. LeCesne, MPAS, PA-C  
NMAPA President

## Newsletter

*New Mexico PA is published by NMAPA. The purpose of this newsletter is to serve as a forum of communication for PAs to enable them to better serve the public health and welfare. Byline articles express the opinion of the author and do not necessarily reflect the policies or views of the NMAPA.*

## PRECEPTING - Try It, You'll Like It

We've all heard the saying "see one, do one, teach one" but how often do we get to carry through on that once we are out in a busy practice setting? If you recall the best learning experiences you had in training, or early practice, you do so with some degree of gratitude.

Those people who took the time, who had the most sharing enthusiasm, and who passed on needed lessons with respect for us, (and maybe some humor!), are not easily forgotten.

We remember well, not only the lessons, but those individuals who impressed us the most with their integrity, compassion for patients, work ethic, and willingness to ask questions themselves.

What you may not know is how much they gained themselves. You may not have seen their own satisfaction in lessons learned, pride in your progress, and how gratifying it is to return the favor - as all teachers were once students.

It could be argued that we all have a certain debt to those who passed their knowledge and experience on to us, but the real reason to consider precepting is that you will gain as much as you give.

It may be hard to imagine how to manage precepting in a busy workplace, when you might often feel that there is barely enough time for you to accomplish your own tasks. But if you can arrange it, then being busy is part of the lesson. Being an example doesn't require being a perfect example (who is?). Being asked questions doesn't mean we have to know all the answers. It gives us the chance to make sure no one ever hesitates to ask.

So next time you are invited to consider precepting.....try it, you'll like it!

## From the Medical Board

From Reza Ghadimi PA

The medical board met last May and passed two issues that were of interest to PAs. Upon expiration of a PA license, PAs now have up to 90 days to renew their license. Should you be careless enough to allow your license to expire, you will have to pay a late fee but will not lose your license.

The board also passed a new rule to allow PAs, who take the NCCPA test, a one year grace period to retake this test in case of failure. The PA's license will not be affected and he or she can continue to work while preparing to retake the test.

PAs in New Mexico have a good track record. Because of our suc-

cess, many other healthcare providers who are asking for similar privileges, compare themselves to PAs. We need to be mindful of this issue. Though they have a right to request those privileges, their comparison to PAs is unfounded. There is a fundamental difference between us that must be kept in mind when any comparison is made. PAs work under the direct supervision of physicians and under the medical boards rules. No PA to date works independently in New Mexico. The healthcare providers who are seeking privileges similar to ours, work independently and under their own board regulations. The medical board or the osteopathic board has no

jurisdiction over them. This makes the comparison inapplicable.

Please address your comments, concerns or suggestion to me via e-mail; reza.ghadimi@state.nm.us. Thank you.

The Medical Board address is; 2055 S. Pacheco Street Building 400, Santa Fe, NM 87505 - The phone number is (505) 476-7220. The Fax number is (505) 476-7233. From out of Santa Fe area you can call 1 800- 945-5845.

NM Medical Board's 2006 meeting dates are; August 24 & 25, November 16 & 17. You are welcomed to the meetings.

## House of Delegates Report

A special task force has been established to examine the needs for specialty training. AAPA representatives will be on this task force to ensure our policies are considered. Pathways II is being phased out as an option for recertification.

The House decided some 65 resolutions and 5 policies set for expiration, deemed outdated, unclear, or incomplete. Three Reference Committees (A, B, and C) worked to make recommendations to the House on a variety of resolutions. We considered having the AAPA collect State dues, but with strong opposition (for a variety of logistical reasons) from CEO Steve Crane, we rejected the resolution. We will do a feasibility study for a public awareness campaign to promote the Physician-PA team model. The House has denied a voting membership to the Assoc. of Postgraduate PA Programs (APPAP). The Academy has no reciprocal representation within the APPAP organization. After significant debate, the position paper entitled "Guidelines for Ethical Conduct for the Physician Assistant Profession" was amended. Changes were made in areas of ethical obligation for patient

care, use of computerized data storage and transmission, patient referral, and complimentary and alternative medicine. Students now have a one-time AAPA dues fee of \$75, covering them for as long as they are enrolled in their program. The AAPA encourages higher education institutions to recognize the Master's degree as the terminal degree for tenure. We also now have a formal position in opposition of actions by pharmacists that limit access to care, such as refusing to fill prescriptions based on personal or religious beliefs. We support State Regulators doing criminal background checks for licensure of PA's. Anyone considering DMAT should read the position paper "The Physician Assistant in Disaster Response: Core Guidelines," to gain an understanding of broad requirements and preparation.

There were also several discussions concerning degree status of PA's. We considered a few resolutions that touched the edge of this controversial subject. Most all of us agree that we see a trend in higher and higher degrees that seems to be driven by an unseen force. In rough figures,

the PAEA believes over 65% of PA's hold a Masters and about 14% a PhD. This issue makes me think of a line in Tuesdays with Morrie when he describes a "tension of opposites, like a pull on a rubber band, and most of us live somewhere in the middle." We can not forget the history of PA's nor bury our heads against the future. I predict this will be a topic that we will attempt to address and sincerely hope it will not be divisive to our brotherhood.

I am always available to discuss details of the HOD sessions or provide copies of any adopted resolution of interest. Our policy manual is a work in progress. I have suggested we use some of our newsletter space to develop a column about current PA policy. I absolutely have enjoyed my experiences with HOD work and I am so appreciative of the Academy's support of my time there in representing New Mexico.

Sincerely,

Kathy L. Johnson, PA-C  
Chief Delegate  
HOD 2006

# NMAPA - New Mexico Academy of Physician Assistants

## Membership Application (Term: July 1, 2006 - June 30, 2007)

Name (last)	Name (first)	Middle Initial	
Home Address	City	State	Zip
Work Address	City	State	Zip
Phone (home)	Phone (work)	Email	
May we add your email address to our web membership list?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		
Where would you prefer to receive your quarterly newsletter?	<input type="checkbox"/> Home <input type="checkbox"/> Work		

Check one: ☐ Medical Board ☐ Osteopathic Board

Practice Specialty \_\_\_\_\_ Employer \_\_\_\_\_

AAPA# \_\_\_\_\_ NCCPA# \_\_\_\_\_ NM License# \_\_\_\_\_

### Membership Category

(Check one)

☐ Fellow \$75 ☐ Sustaining \$75 ☐ Physician \$50 ☐ Associate \$50 ☐ Affiliate \$25 ☐ Student \$20

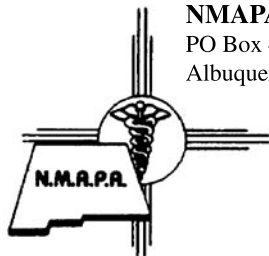
I choose to become a member of NMAPA and I agree to uphold the PA profession's Code of Ethics and to support the efforts of the Academy.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to NMAPA and mail with this application to: NMAPA, PO Box 40331 Albuquerque, NM 87196-0331

**Committees** - Opportunities for individual involvement (Check any) ☐ Legislative ☐ Reimbursement ☐ Communications ☐ Student Affairs  
☐ Membership ☐ CME ☐ Professional/Public Relations ☐ Awards



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