Postgraduate Training for Physician Assistants:

The Association of Postgraduate PA Programs

Give us a year. We’ll give you the opportunity of a lifetime.
Brief PA History

- First PAs to graduate from Duke University in 1967 (50<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year)
- Concept of the PA was created to fill the critical access need in primary care
- PAs are trained in the general medical model, similar to medical students
- Shortly after the profession started PAs were called on to enter the specialty arena
When, Where, Why?

- Prediction of Surgeon Surplus 1970’s
  - Reduction of surgical residencies
  - Development of first all-PA Residency in Surgery

- First PA “Resident”
  Montefiore Medical Center - Bronx, NY 1971

- Early PA fellowship/residency programs were primarily in surgery but have evolved to encompass many specialties of surgery and medicine
Programatic Troubles

- Programs quickly developed the reputation of a inexpensive labor workforce.
  - Emphasis was placed on staffing instead of education
  - PA trainees were paid a reduced salary with exceptional work hour expectations
  - There was no oversight to ensure safe and reasonable work hours, compensation, documented educational time, or benefits
APPAP
Association of Postgraduate PA Programs

- Organization for Postgraduate Programs emerged in 1988
  - 8 Members
- 2017
  - 60 Programs and new interest every year
Factors Driving the Need

- What's wrong with the way things were?

- Medical knowledge doubling effect
  - Predicted in 2020 every 73 days
  - Driving the specialization of medicine

- Global physician deficient:
  - 61,700-94,700 shortage by 2025

- Aging population
  - 10,000 people per day turn 65
Factors Driving the Need

- Cost of healthcare
  - Currently non-sustainable: re-define workforce
  - Value based care affecting changes in workflow

- Increasing Demand for Specialty PAs
  - Primary care focus
  - Complex specialties
  - Technically demanding roles
  - Increase in patient acuity requiring specialty skills
Typical Program

- Particular Sub-Specialty
- 12-Months
  - Certificate (typical)
- Average $60,000/year
- ACGME Guidelines
  - Hours Restriction
  - Call Restrictions
  - In-House Hours Restriction
- Didactic
  - Reading
  - Testing
  - Skill Development
- Clinical
  - Functioning similar to an Intern
  - Skill Development
## Current Program Diversity

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Medicine Subspecialty</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Acute Care Medicine</td>
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<tr>
<td>Critical Care</td>
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<td>Emergency Medicine</td>
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<td>Hospitalist</td>
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<td>Neonatology</td>
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<td>Ob-Gyn</td>
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<td>Pulmonary Medicine</td>
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<td>Geriatrics</td>
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<td>Palliative Care</td>
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<td>Oncology</td>
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<td>Neurology</td>
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<td>Psychiatry</td>
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<td>Internal Med/Family Medicine/Pediatrics</td>
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<tr>
<td>Trauma/Critical Care</td>
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<tr>
<td>Urology</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pediatric Neurology</td>
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<tr>
<td>Urgent Care/Pediatric Urgent Care</td>
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# Current Program Diversity

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SURGICAL SUBSPECIALTY</th>
<th>Specialty</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cardiovascular/Thoracic</td>
<td>Surgery: General/Multi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neurosurgery</td>
<td>Orthopedic Surgery</td>
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<tr>
<td>Otolaryngology</td>
<td>Pediatric Surgery</td>
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Current State and Future Predictions for Postgraduate Programs

- Currently 60 programs are members of APPAP
- Significant increase in calls for assistance in building programs
- Anticipate an additional 20 programs in the next 3 years based on inquiries over the past 2 years.
Postgraduate Accreditation
Why?

- Increasing number of clinical postgraduate PA programs
- Increasing interest in hiring PA graduates of these programs
- Increasing interest from healthcare systems to build their own programs.
- Protection of both PA Fellow/Residents as well as employers
- Renewed AAPA interest in accreditation (JAAPA May 2016)
Accreditation for Postgraduate Programs

- ARC-PA
  - Same Accreditation Commission for entry level programs
  - Process placed in abeyance in 2014, only 8 programs accredited in 7 years
  - Process extremely laborious and similar to entry level programs

- ARC-PA currently experiencing a significant increase in the number of applications for entry level programs
Accreditation Process (continued)

- Currently 218 accredited entry level programs
- Anticipate 55 new entry level programs by 2018
- 11 applications for accreditation process received from new programs in 2017
- 6 new accreditations granted for entry level programs in March 2017

paea.org: accessed 4/15/17
The Postgraduate Revision Work Group

- Formed at the APPAP business meeting in November 2015
- Designed and presented a revised format for postgraduate training to the ARC-PA in March 2016 and answers to subsequent questions in July and September
- ARC-PA tabled discussion until September 2017
Revisions

- **Goal:** a thorough but practical accreditation process
- **Administrative structure**
- **Curricular components**
- **Evaluation methods**
- **Continued reporting and evaluation**
Began discussions with CAAHEP through Kathy Megivern in October

Decision made to pursue accreditation through CAAHEP at the APPAP business meeting in November

Open communication maintained with ARC-PA and AAPA concerning decision
Thank You!

Questions?

Contact Information:

ww.appap.org

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