



MAPA News

Newsletter of the Mississippi Academy of Physician Assistants

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Mississippi College Physician Assistant Studies

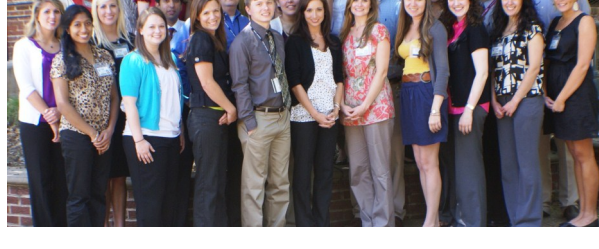
Mississippi College Physician Assistant Studies program began their first class with thirty matriculants. Orientation and the start of their intense education began May 25, 2011. The program includes 15 months of intense didactic preclinical course work followed by 15 months of clinical rotations to include a three month clerkship. If you are a practicing PA and want to sign up to precept these bright and energetic students, then please visit the MCPAS webpage at <http://www.mc.edu/academics/departments/pa/volunteer>

MAPA is planning a welcome to the profession event for the students in August. If you would like to participate please contact Jo Peyregne-Lollar, PA-C, at jo.peyregne@gmail.com

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Males:Females	7:23	State of Residence	
Average AGE	26.2	AL	2
Average Hrs Direct Exp	1347.8	FL	2
Average Hrs Indirect Exp	973.0	LA	4
Average GRE Score	1054.3	MS	21
Average GRE written	3.9	TX	1
Average Overall GPA	3.5		
Average Science GPA	3.4		



MAPA Welcomes New Management Company

The MAPA Board of Directors is pleased to announce partnership with Focus-ED, led by Susan Easter, Certified Association Executive. Ms. Easter and her team have taken over management of our organization and will be the new point of contact for membership relations. Please have patience with us as we transition this month, and feel free to contact your board directly with any membership concerns while we work on getting all of the new office contact information uploaded to the website.

MAPA Honored with Award of Achievement at AAPA Annual Conference



MAPA receiving the CO Award of Achievement from Eric Smith, PA-C, CRC Chair at the 2011 HOD in Las Vegas.

MAPA was given the Award of Achievement for the small chapter category this year which was awarded at the Annual AAPA Conference in Las Vegas. Your House of Delegates representatives, Murl Dotson, PA-C and John Stevenson, PA represented MAPA to accept the award. The award of achievement rewards chapters who 'have developed and successfully executed innovative programs and services that have had a positive impact on healthcare and/or the PA profession and have encouraged leadership and organization growth.' MAPA received this award for its efforts during capitol day and the positive legislative effects it had on bills passed last year. If you have ideas on an innovative program that MAPA may implement please contact your Board of Directors.

Why "PA" Should Also Stand for "Political Activist"

We are all impacted on a personal level by political decisions – decisions that affect things like our civil rights and the taxes we pay. In addition, PAs are affected professionally by politicians who pass laws, and by political appointees who regulate the PA profession. Most importantly, laws and regulations affect your patients. Every PA has had a patient whose most pressing need was not a different drug or a new therapy, but a change in the law. It is therefore the special obligation of PAs to understand the political process and use that knowledge to advance the interests of their patients and their profession.

There are many different ways that politics impacts the PA profession. State laws, which are the result of a long and sometimes grueling political process, can govern everything from which patients are covered by Medicaid to how many PAs a single physician may supervise. Before Mississippi legislators passed a law to license physician assistants in 2000, PAs weren't even allowed to practice here. PAs should know how to work with the legislators who vote on those laws.

The first step is to stay informed. Read the newspaper and keep up with the state's economy and political climate. Know what health bills are being considered by the legislature and the implications of those bills on health care. The most basic duty of any citizen in a democracy is to vote, and understanding the

issues is a prerequisite to casting an informed vote. But knowing the issues backwards and forwards also allows you to take the next political step, which is to influence others.

Introduce yourself to your state legislators, and communicate with them on health care topics when your expertise could be valuable. If you can provide advice to a state senator on public health issues, such as smoking bans or bicycle safety laws, you will find a much more receptive audience when a bill relating to PA practice is up for consideration down the road. You could also work on a campaign for a candidate who shares your positions on important issues, or even run for office yourself.

Running for office is the pinnacle of political activity. As a PA, you may already know many of the people in your community because they are your patients, hospital or clinic staff and colleagues. You also have a deep understanding of the health care issues that are important to your community, and few issues are more important to voters than health care. You don't necessarily have to give up clinical practice to run for political office – many governmental positions are compatible with continuing in full time clinical practice – but serving as an elected official gives you the opportunity to influence the health of your community on a much wider scale.

Along with laws passed by elected officials, PA practice is also governed by regulations

adopted by appointed officials. Medical Board regulations, along with regulations from other agencies, often impact the PA profession at least as much state laws do. Unlike legislators, who must deal with the entire spectrum of public issues, regulators are focused on one specific area – in this case, medicine – and as such are expert in their field. Nevertheless, it is important for PAs and PA organizations to communicate with regulatory agencies. Attend medical board meetings if they are open to the public and submit comments on proposed regulations.

While it is possible to do these things as an individual, working through a group of PAs like the Mississippi Academy of Physician Assistants is much more likely to carry weight with political actors. Working through an organization allows PAs to establish institutional relationships with other health care players in the political process, such as state medical societies and nursing groups. While PAs and other health care professionals may not agree 100% of the time, you'll find that working together when there is agreement diminishes the frequency and intensity of disagreements on more controversial issues.

To learn more about how PAs can get involved in the political process, check out AAPA's *Taking Charge* handbook, available on AAPA's Web site.

MAPA's New 2011– 2012 Board of Directors

President: Karmen Clark, PA-C

Immediate Past President: Kimberly Fortier, PA-C

President-Elect : Daniel Silvio, PA-C

Secretary/Treasurer: Cindi Fox, PA-C

Director at Large (South/Coastal): Andy McDermott, PA-C

Director at Large (Central): Krista Blanchard, PA-C

Director at Large (North): Amy Ballard, PA-C

SAVE THE DATE



DRUG ENFORCEMENT AGENCY WORKSHOP

Saturday, August 13th

7:30am – 7:00pm

Registration/Breakfast begins at 7:30am

Mississippi College

*Department of Physician Assistant Studies
Located on the 3rd floor of the Baptist Healthplex
102 Clinton Parkway, Clinton, MS 39056*

Join the MS Academy of Physician Assistants on Saturday, August 13th for 10 Category 1 CME Hours that satisfy the State requirement for prescribing controlled substances. Additional information will be posted to the website at <http://www.missipas.org/>.



Job Posting

If you are interested in hiring a PA and want to advertise in our newsletter please send information to Kimberly Fortier at kfortier@SMSurgeons.com. We also have many PAs looking to relocate to the area. Please contact MAPA if you are looking for or know of any postings in your area and we can forward your contact information to those looking for jobs.

Now Offering SIGN-ON BONUS

Physician's Assistant/Nurse Practitioner

Enjoy a peaceful, rural atmosphere in a close proximity to an international airport.

Physician's Assistant or Nurse Practitioner needed for a growing family medical practice that excludes Obstetrics but includes Dermatology, Medical Aesthetics, Nursing Home, Hospice and Hospital-based Care. Requires at least five years of practical experience as a PA or NP. Must also be experienced in the following areas:

- Collaborating with the Doctor for the patient's care.
- Taking a complete medical history from the patient.
- Performing full physicals.
- Carrying out nurse at home and geriatric responsibilities.
- Assisting with inpatients at the local hospital.
- Evaluating laboratory reports and work in a partnership with the Doctor.
- Reviewing the charts for accuracy.
- Playing an active role in the practice.

This position also has need of demonstrated:

- Professional attitude and attire
- Time management skills
- Computer skills in Logician / Centricity

Other qualifications:

- Certification in field.
- No more than two jobs over the past four years.
- Professional, positive work references.
- Ability to work on weekends and share on-call time with the Doctor.

Email resume to mbanner@hhstaffing.com

Renew or become a MAPA Member Today!

Annual Dues are due on July 1

NEW!—Online payment now available at www.missipas.org

Or download a form to mail or fax

MAPA's New Contact Information

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Please send your news and submissions for future newsletter issues to MAPA@Focus-ED.net

To Unsubscribe please email mapa@focus-ed.net