



MAPA News

Volume 1 • Number 4

Newsletter of the Mississippi Academy of Physician Assistants

November 2006

From the President

By Amy Ballard, PA-C

Happy PA Day! October 6th is a special day for the PA profession. On this day in 1967, the first physician assistants graduated from Duke University. Today nearly 40 years later, 60,000 PAs are providing essential medical and surgical services to people all over the United States and internationally. In Mississippi, PAs were able to practice in the state in 2000. Since that time we now have close to a hundred PAs providing much needed medical treatments and care.

In celebration of PA day several PAs from around the state participated in the Moss Point Playground Construction Project. Through the KaBoom!™ Organization, the Mississippi Orthopedic Association, MAPA, and approximately 250 volunteers, a playground was constructed in five hours. The PAs who participated and made the dream come true were Amy Ballard, Jason Lowery, Angelle Lowery, and Anna Evans. The children’s dreams came true through the hard work of these individuals and others.

Another project in celebration of PA Day was the “So you want to add a Physician Assistant to Your Practice” brochure. The MAPA Board of Directors developed the brochure to educate the medical community and increase public awareness of our education, credentials, and ability to practice medicine. The brochure has been sent to all Mississippi physi-

cians and MAPA members. We hope this will be a great tool for increasing public awareness of Mississippi PAs.

I presented “PARTners in Medicine” to the North Mississippi Executive Board members. The presentation was used to educate the executive board about PA education, the profession, and reimbursement for our services. I also took the opportunity to educate the board about the increase of Mississippi PAs and our current utilization.

As you can see Mississippi PAs have been active in celebrating our great profession. I urge each of you to continue to show your pride in being a physician assistant. I hope each of you had a Happy PA Day and I wish us many more!

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Obtaining Your DEA License

By Marc Finch, MPAS, PA-C

Several steps must be completed in order to receive your DEA license:

1. The first step is attending a board-approved educational program pertaining to the prescribing of controlled substances. Currently the only two approved programs are offered by the Mississippi Nurses Association (conference fee: \$500; for more information visit www.msurses.org) and MAPA (conference fee: \$200/members, \$300/nonmembers; for more information visit www.aapa.org/msapa). Completion of the program is required for initial DEA licensure only.
2. Next, mail the “Application for Prescriptive Authority” form to the Mississippi Medical Board (obtain this form at www.msaml.state.ms.us). The medical board will review your information and contact you once your request is approved.
3. After receiving approval from the medical board, apply for the DEA license on-line at www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov.
4. After you receive your DEA license you are required to obtain 10 CME hours directly relating to the prescribing of controlled substances each year. The CME hours can be category I or II.

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New MAPA Web site

By Amy Ballard, PA-C

We are currently having the MAPA Web site updated. We hope the site will be informative and a great source for Mississippi PAs. MAPA will always strive to increase employment opportunities for PAs all over the state. One of the biggest additions to the Web site is the Job Board. We will be happy to list any job opportunities on the Web site at no cost to you or the employer. To post an opportunity, please e-mail Marc Finch at *pacfinch@yahoo.com*.

MAPA Notes

Address Updates

Please contact MAPA with any changes in your contact information such as:

- Home and Work Address
- Phone Numbers (Home, Work, and/or Cell)
- Email Address

E-mail the information to missipas@aapa.org or mail to MAPA, 950 North Washington St., Alexandria, VA 22314-1552.

MAPA Officer Contact Information

Please feel free to contact any of the MAPA Officers with any questions, comments, or concerns you may have.

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MAPA Membership

Do not forget! MAPA's membership cycle runs from July 1st through June 30th. Membership fees for the 2006-2007 year were due by July 1, 2006. A membership application is included with this newsletter.

Insurance Reimbursement Issues

Please contact Tristen Harris at tharris2@ent.umsmed.edu or (601) 667-9796 if you are having difficulty with insurance reimbursement.

Calling All Writers!

The MAPA Newsletter will be published on a quarterly basis. If you are interested in submitting an article please contact Marc Finch at pacfinch@yahoo.com or (601) 606-9870 for further information.

Free CME

Having trouble obtaining CME hours that pertain to the prescribing of controlled substances? The following Web sites have an abundance of CME opportunities and are completely FREE! Medscape at www.medscape.com and CMEZone at www.cmezone.com. (Thanks to Brad Martin for the tip!)

Interested in Precepting PA Students?

Precepting is a great way to get new PAs in the state. Please contact Amy Ballard at amymballard@yahoo.com or Tristen Harris at tharris2@ent.umsmed.edu for more information

Rules and Regulations

If you would like a copy of the MSBML Rules, Regulations, Laws and Policies Governing the Practice of Physicians, Podiatrists, and Physician Assistants, please contact Rhonda Freeman at (601) 987-3079 or rhonda@msbml.state.ms.us. This information is provided as a courtesy to PAs who hold a current Mississippi license.

MSBML Executive Director Mallan Morgan Passes Away

By Marc Finch, MPAS, PA-C

Mallan G. Morgan, M.D., Executive Director of the Mississippi State Board of Medical Licensure, passed away on September 22nd after a lengthy battle with cancer. He was 62. Dr. Morgan earned an M.D. from Louisiana State University Medical School and completed his internship, residency, and a cardiology fellowship at Confederate Memorial Hospital in Shreveport, Louisiana. Dr. Morgan assumed leadership of the Mississippi State Board of Medical Licensure in December 2005 and served in a variety of state and national leadership roles in the medical community. He was a former president of the Board of Trustees of the Mississippi State Medical Association and also served as a delegate to the American Medical Association. Dr. Morgan was an avid supporter of the PA profession and was instrumental in improving the rules and regulations, including the recent addition of temporary licensure for Mississippi PAs. MAPA has made a donation to Trinity Episcopal School in Natchez, Mississippi, in memory of Dr. Morgan's service to his community and to the health care profession.

Fall 2006 DEA Workshop

By Marc Finch, MPAS, PA-C

The 2006 Fall DEA Workshop was held on Saturday, October 14, 2006, at Mississippi Baptist Medical Center in Jackson, Mississippi. Fourteen PAs attended and completed the necessary requirements to apply for DEA licensure.

The next DEA Workshop is tentatively scheduled for February/March 2007. Please check the MAPA Web site for updates. If you have any questions, please contact Amy Ballard, PA-C, at amymballard@yahoo.com.



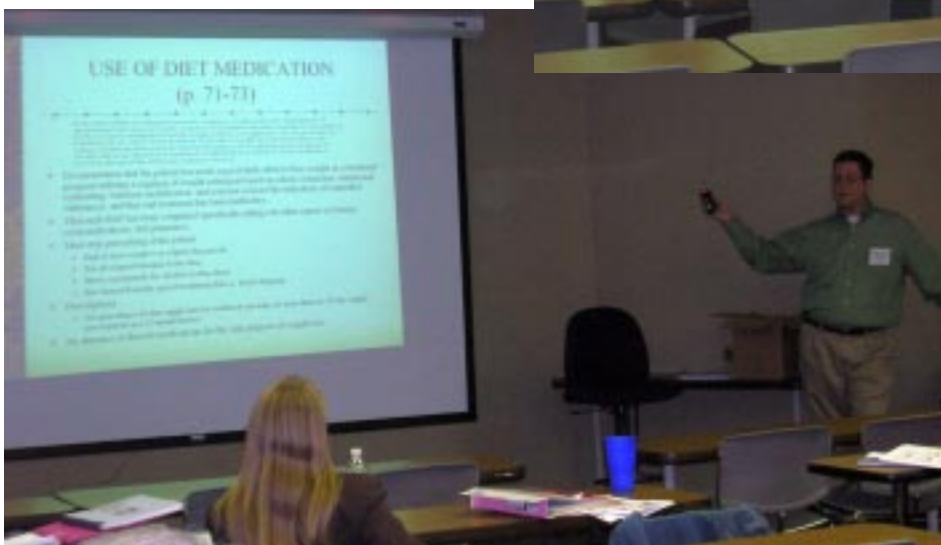
MAPA President Amy Ballard and Dr. George Wilkerson. Dr. Wilkerson represented the Mississippi Professionals Health Program and presented two lectures “Recognizing Addiction” and “The Impaired Provider.”



MAPA Secretary/Treasurer, Tristen Harris and President, Amy Ballard. Tristen also presented “Liability or Safeguard?—Appropriate Documentation in the Medical Record.”



Thomas Washington from the Mississippi State Board of Medical Licensure presenting “Proper Licensee Prescribing, Evaluating, and Documenting.”



MAPA Past President Marc Finch. I presented "Review of Regulations Pertaining to Prescribing, Administering, and Dispensing of Medication."

Medicaid Program Subject of Concern

By Reed Branson, MAPA Lobbyist

Medicaid was perhaps the most scrutinized and contentious of the two-week legislative budget hearings, with considerable focus on why the costs are down and rolls are reduced, as well as a discussion of the division's dispute with the state's private hospitals and brief discussions on Non-emergency transportation.

- There was considerable discussion over approximately 50,000 citizens who had dropped from the Medicaid rolls during the new annual review process in which individuals must come into a Medicaid office. Chairman Watson told the division that the goal was not to "give notice" of the coverage being dropped, but rather to screen for fraud. There was concern that the eligible population was less likely to respond to a letter or not receive a letter due to a change of address. Dr. Robinson promised to provide the committee with the number who were canceled simply because they did not show up.

- The division is requesting a \$45 million deficit appropriation to match

with a \$45 million fee they are imposing on private hospitals to make up for a loss the state incurs because of a federal ruling on how the state can provide matching money for disproportionate share funds. The division defended its decision, which is being challenged in court by the hospital association, saying it would help public and smaller rural hospitals. Representative Cecil Brown noted that some states are using "certified public expenditures" to draw matching funds, raising \$60 of the \$90 million. The Division argued that that plan would negatively impact public and rural hospitals.

- The presentation includes a reduction in pharmacy expenditures, in part because of the Medicare Modernization Act and in part because of changes made in May 2006.

- Chairman Holland asked why the number of people in assisted living or at-home, which has risen in recent years, leveled off. The division responded that they were looking for

other at-home or less costly options and that Dr. Robinson would later brief the legislature on other options short of nursing home care. Holland also said he was not comfortable with funding hospice care through a nursing home.

Medicaid Numbers

Enrollment in Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program is dropping while the number of uninsured remains constant. A breakdown is listed below:

Monthly Average Medicaid Enrollment: 605,157 in 2006; 621,394 in 2005; and 583,000 in 2004.

Monthly Average Children's Health Insurance Program Enrollment: 63,547 in 2006; 67,470 in 2005; and 61,126 in 2004.

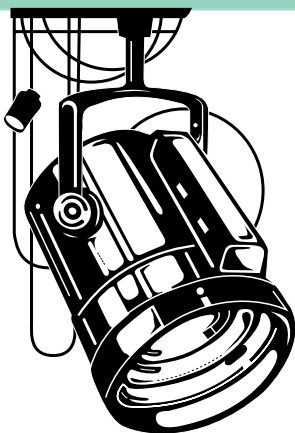
Number of Uninsured Mississippians in 2005 Total: - 495,000, <18 years - 86,000, <65 years - 492,000, ≥65 - 3,000

Sources: Division of Medicaid; U.S Census Bureau

Jackson Area PAs Get Together to Celebrate PA Week



da Vinci™ Robot Provides Radical Prostatectomies



Clinical Spotlight on Baptist Medical Center

By Krista Blanchard, PA-C

Always a forerunner in modern technology, Baptist Medical Center, in Jackson, Mississippi, is the first hospital in Mississippi to use a robotic system that makes minimally invasive radical prostatectomies possible.

The new da Vinci™ Robotic Surgical System gives urologist Patrick Daily, M.D., a highly advanced tool for performing the surgical procedure. Dr. Daily, along with Dr. H. Jason Blalock, both of Mississippi Urology Clinic and the staff at Baptist have performed well over 100 prostate-cancer procedures since acquiring the da Vinci surgical system in 2005.

“The robot doesn’t do anything on its own,” said Dr. Daily. “The system merely translates the hand movements of the surgeon into the surgical field, so it only does what the surgeon tells it to do. It’s really an advanced tool for doing laparoscopic surgery.”

Considered by many medical professionals to be the future of surgery, the system eliminates the need to make an incision. “In traditional surgery, we’re basically working inside a hole deep down in the pelvis with a lot of blood, and it’s not always possible to see as clearly as we’d like,” said Dr. Daily. “Using this system, surgeons can see better, be more precise, and have the sensation that we are actually inside the patient working.”

Dr. Daily points to four main advantages for patients using the da Vinci surgical system for radical prostatectomies:

- Much less blood loss during surgery
- Less post-operative pain
- Faster recovery time
- Better visualization during surgery for the surgeon
- Faster return of urine control and less chance of erectile dysfunction

The surgeon makes five incisions, the largest of which is about the size of a dime – a dramatically smaller incision than that made for a traditional radical prostatectomy.

“This system allows us to operate with 10x magnification and much less blood in the surgical field,” said Dr. Daily. “This provides much better visualization of the delicate nerve bundles near the prostate. Also, early data shows the ability to control urination returns faster with robotic surgery than with traditional surgery.”

During the procedure, the surgeon operates on the patient while viewing a 3-D image of the surgical field at a console. The surgeon can manipulate master controls that convey hand, wrist, and finger motions into precise, real-time movements performed by the robotic surgical instruments inside the patient. “The system scales down the movements of my hands into what amounts to microsurgery, making it possible to perform technically demanding procedures with great precision,” said Dr. Daily.

Anyone who has organ-confined prostate cancer with a 10-year life expectancy is a candidate for the da Vinci surgical procedure. There are no contraindications, according to Dr. Daily. As long as the patient is otherwise healthy, he may be a candidate for this minimally invasive procedure. “The only men we may not consider as ideal candidates would be those who’ve had multiple abdominal surgeries,” Dr. Daily said. “They present some challenges for a laparoscopic procedure.”

Dr. Daily performed Mississippi's first procedure of this kind in the spring of 2005. More than 210 da Vinci systems are in use in major hospitals and surgical facilities throughout the U.S., Europe, and Japan.

Baptist Health Systems is the parent company of Baptist Medical Center, the Mississippi Hospital for Restorative Care, and a number of related healthcare services and programs. From its beginning in 1911, Baptist has grown to include a 649-bed medical center, along with a variety of health and medical services for people in every stage of life. Through the decades, the hospital has continued to provide quality, compassionate Christian-based medical care to the people of Mississippi.

A 15-member volunteer board of trustees, consisting of top-echelon leaders in business, medicine, clergy and other fields, guides Baptist Health Systems. In its daily operations, the hospital adheres to ethical and spiritual values consistent with those of the Mississippi Baptist Convention and the Southern Baptist Convention. Baptist strives to emulate Christ's ministry of help and healing for all who seek its services.

Baptist Medical Center is part of a growing network that makes comprehensive health care, health education, health-risk assessments, and wellness more accessible than ever before. For more information visit Baptist's Web site at www.mbhs.org or call the Baptist Health Line, toll-free, at (800) 948-6262.



The da Vinci surgical system has been successfully used in thousands of prostate cancer procedures worldwide. It has been FDA approved to assist in urologic surgery, general surgery, thoracoscopic (chest) surgery procedures, general laparoscopic procedures, coronary artery bypass surgery, and mitral valve repair.



MAPA Members Help Build Kreole Elementary Playground

By Amy Ballard, PA-C



On August 29, 2005, Hurricane Katrina destroyed more than just homes and businesses – it destroyed the parks and play areas of Gulf Coast children. The students at Kreole Elementary in Moss Point, Mississippi lost a place where they could exercise, imagine, chat with friends, make-believe, or just run around. On August 5, 2006, MAPA members Amy Ballard, Anna Evans, Angelle Lowery, and Jason Lowery along with the KaBoom!™ Organization, Mississippi Orthopedic Society, and 250 volunteers built a playground to help the students at Kreole to resume normal life. Many of the families lost their homes to flooding and the school was struck by a tornado. This was a very deserving community to volunteer our time and effort.

MAPA members weathered the rain to construct the vast playground. They helped pour concrete, move mounds of bark, build play parts, construct a pizza flower garden, build picnic tables, and paint murals inside the school. This was a great opportunity to give back to the community. It was a diverse group of volunteers collaborating to achieve the simple goal of building a play space in one day for children. I am glad to say MAPA was part of such a worthy event to brighten the future for the students of Kreole Elementary.

Enjoy some photos of the day!



Win an iPod Nano!

Join MAPA between now and December 15th and you will be automatically entered into a drawing for an iPod Nano giveaway. This would be a great Christmas present for yourself or someone else. The drawing will be held December 16th. Go ahead, join MAPA and have a chance to win.



Updates from September 2006 Legislative Budget Hearings

By Reed Branson, MAPA Lobbyist

Mississippi Institutions of higher learning presented an organized pitch for a 36% increase in support for maintaining capital facilities (the single biggest landlord in state government), hiring and retaining talented staff, and expanding economic opportunity for citizens. Commissioner Tom Meredith framed the request around the broader argument that more Mississippians will need at least four-year degrees for individuals—and the state as a whole—to be competitive in coming years and decades. The bulk of the increase comes in a request to increase the budget of the University Medical Center by 48%. Testimony highlights include:

- .07 cents of every \$1 for student financial aid is need-based.
- Defended tuition increases.
- \$93 million in appropriations, not bonds, for recurring upkeep and maintenance of existing facilities.
- Senate Finance Chair Tommy Robertson is discouraging new building until the state is able to care for existing infrastructure.
- Representative Steve Holland called for a dedicated source of revenue to support universities.
- Senator Terry Burton encouraged Mississippi State to continue bio fuels research.

UMC's request is the single largest. Dr. Dan Jones made these points:

- In 1955, Mississippi had the fewest physicians per capita and in 2006, it still has the fewest.
- UMC's goal is to go from 50th to somewhere in the middle third in number of physicians per capita.
- The salary for residents (\$36,000 for approximately 80 hours a week) is not particularly competitive.
- The typical debt of residents (question asked by Senator Jack Gordon) is \$75,000 in Mississippi and \$110,000 nationally.
- UMC has increased slots in medical school from 100 to 110 without additional appropriations and are now pushing for 150.
- Residency is the biggest factor in determining where doctors ultimately practice.
- Other health policies having impact on UMC funding include the need for \$31 million in disproportionate share funding next year.
- Uncompensated/Uninsured Care in 2005 was \$53 million and about \$30 million 2006.
- The trauma care system is unraveling and needs financial support.

Representative George Flaggs asked about the impact of tobacco use and Dr. Jones confirmed it was a cause for substantial expenditures.

Senator Hillman Frazier and Representative Percy Watson asked about the physical plant and plans. Dr. Jones said the master plan would include expanding to create a biotech research park perhaps where the old farmer's market is. That would attempt to put UMC-based research into commercial use.

Referral to Physical Therapy by a Physician Assistant

By Amy Ballard, PA-C

It has been brought to our attention that the Mississippi State Board of Physical Therapy Rules and Regulations has the following bylaw:

“Physical therapist licensed under the physical therapy law shall not perform physical therapy services without a prescription or referral from a person licensed as a physician, dentist, osteopath, podiatrist, chiropractor or nurse practitioner.”

Under this current regulation, PTs are unable to accept a referral by a PA. The MAPA Board of Directors has written a petition to the Mississippi State Board of Physical Therapy Board asking them to consider adding PAs to the list of disciplines that are accepted as a source of referrals to physical therapy. The PT board met September 28th and we will keep you informed on the decision as information is obtained.

MAPA HOD Call for Nominations

MAPA is looking for two delegates to serve on the 2007 AAPA House of Delegates in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania (held in conjunction with the AAPA Annual Conference). Delegates must be fellow members of both MAPA and AAPA. Part of the expenses related to this position will be reimbursed by MAPA. If you or someone you know might be interested in serving as a MAPA delegate, e-mail the MAPA leadership at missipas@apa.org. Nominations must be received by December 15th and delegates will be announced during the first week of January 2007.



Mississippi Academy of Physician Assistants

Membership Application

Name _____ Home Phone () _____

Home Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ E-mail _____

Employer _____

Business Address _____ Work Phone () _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Preferred Mailing Address: Home Work

Supervising Physician _____ Specialty _____

PA Program Attended _____

NCCPA Certification Yes No Cert. # _____

AAPA Member Yes No Member # _____

Joining as: Fellow \$100 Affiliate \$50 Associate \$50 Student \$50

Are you interested in volunteering as an officer or committee chair? Yes No

Indicate area of interest (CME, Membership, Legislative, Newsletter, etc.) _____

Dues are paid annually and the membership year runs from July 1 to June 30

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES:

- Fellow:** An individual who is a current member of the American Academy of Physician Assistants. Fellow Members shall have full voting rights and shall be eligible to hold office.
- Affiliate:** An individual who qualifies for fellow membership but elects not to be an AAPA member. These members have the privileges of Fellow members but may not serve on the MAPA Executive Committee, as an HOD representative or vote on AAPA matters.
- Associate:** Non-PA (e.g., physician, pharmaceutical liaison, etc.) or member of another AAPA constituent chapter.
- Student:** An individual currently enrolled in a PA program. These members have privileges of Fellow members but may not serve on the MAPA board or vote on AAPA matters.

Dues are paid *annually*. Approximately 22.5% of your dues are not deductible as an ordinary business expense as a result of lobbying activities which are regulated by lobbying laws. Questions about the valid tax deductibility should be discussed with your tax advisor.

Make checks payable to: MAPA
Mississippi Academy of Physician Assistants
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Alexandria, VA 22314-1552

Secretary/Treasurer Notes

By Tristen Harris, MPAS, PA-C

We are continuing our great start this year at MAPA! We have had a steady stream of membership renewals and new memberships since July. For those of you who have not yet paid your membership dues for 2006-2007, please get them to us soon. We do not want anyone missing out on anything this year. We are generating revenue by offering continuing education and putting a great deal of resources into promoting our profession to physicians in Mississippi.

We have had a very positive response to our DEA Conference and are generating buzz for a similar program in the spring that will be open to nurse practitioners as well.

We have started planning for our Spring Primary Care Conference at the Imperial Palace Hotel & Casino in Biloxi. We are excited to bring the meeting back to the coast of Mississippi for the first time since Hurricane Katrina.

We will be applying for the AAPA Award of Achievement and various other AAPA grants in an effort to secure funding to help support our mission. We received a very generous donation from the Mississippi State Medical Association, which enabled us to send our promotional brochures to more than 2,000 MSMA member physicians statewide.

We now have 35 members of MAPA and we are constantly striving to increase our numbers. As we grow, so will our influence and reputation for excellent health care in Mississippi. If you know or work with any PAs who are not members of MAPA, please encourage them to join so that we can all work together to improve awareness of PAs and elevate the level of health care available in Mississippi.



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