PA History Society

Ruth Ballweg, MPA, PA-C Emeritus Historian
CAPA Meeting, October 29, 2017
PA History Society

Celebrating 50 Years of PA Professional History
1967 - 2017
Anniversaries: Impetus for Research!

- When is the Anniversary?
  - Logo for General Use.
  - Special Projects
  - Events at Conferences.
- Journal and Publication Plan.
Predictions and Projections:

• “What’s Past Is Prologue!”
  William Shakespeare
Physician Assistants: Collaboration and Care
Follow the Adventures of Chipper Wallet
A Pioneering Physician Assistant

Before becoming a PA, Chipper Wallet was a former Navy Hospital Corpsman who fought in Vietnam. His story mirrors that of many of the PA Profession’s pioneering PAs.
2006 - USPHS Rear Admiral Mike Milner becomes the first PA flag officer.

2011 - Karen Bass from California is sworn into the 112th Congress, becoming the first PA elected to the US House of Representatives.
JOHN McELLIGOTT PA VETERANS MEMORIAL GARDEN
Eugene A. Stead, Jr. Center for Physician Assistants
Durham, NC

The only veterans garden in the United States dedicated strictly to PAs!
Shared Planning for Journals and Publication

• Journal of the American Academy of Physician Assistants (JAAPA)
  • Multiple Articles spread out over 1 year.
    • Formal Research
  • Stories and Documentation of History
    • First Person Accounts.
Shared Planning for Journals and Publication

• **Journal of the Physician Assistant Education Association**, JPAEA
  
  • Single Edition, October 2017 to parallel annual PAEA Conference.
  
  • Focus on Education
JAAPA – Documenting History

• The evolution of PAs in the Canadian Armed Forces
• The March on Trenton: PA Regulation in N.J.
• The Battle for Mississippi: The Final PA Law
• How PAs became licensed to practice in the United States
• The evolution of PAs in the Canadian Armed Forces
• Presidents as patients: A White House PA recalls his service
• PA prototype—the legacy of Buddy Treadwell
• A chronicle of PA journals
• The GMENAC report and the PA profession
2000 - Mississippi enacts PA enabling legislation thereby making PAs universally accepted in all of the states and territories of the USA

In 2007, Indiana passes legislation allowing PAs to prescribe. All 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Guam now allow PAs to prescribe.
JAAPA Articles - Research

- Are we facing a physician assistant surplus?
- Female PAs—Where are we today?.
- PAs: Public awareness and the popular media.
- Diffusion of PA innovation: Risk-taking vs. safe bet.
- Development of the United Kingdom physician associate profession.
JAAPA Articles – First Person Accounts

• Presidents as patients: A White House PA recalls his service
• Mt. Everest memorial honors US physician assistant
• One PA's experiences in the Netherlands, South Africa, and Australia
• Chief PAs—A seat at the table
1977 - Rural Health Clinic Services Act (PL95-210)

1978 – Commissioning of PAs by the U.S. Air Force
JAAPA – Editorials, Commentaries

• Reflecting on the PA profession's 50th anniversary
• Celebrating the PA Profession’s 50th Anniversary – Conclusion and Lessons Learned.
• Predicting the past
JAAPA – 4 Preceptors’ Reflections

• **Communication is key to the MD-PA team**
  • Eric Summers MD

• **One physician's perspective on the physician-PA relationship**
  • Maggie Grandin MD

• **Wasn't that a time? PAs in Alaska in the early 1980s**
  • Peter Marshall MD

• **Collaborating with PAs for more than 48 years**
  • Fred Sadler MD
JAAPA – Policy

• Best practices in PA development: Lessons from three countries
History

• Physician Assistant Education: 50 Years and Counting
• Crafting a Profession: Moving from Innovative Model Programs to a Successful National Profession.
• Physician Assistant Education Association: Past, Present and Future
• Preserving 50 Years of Physician Assistant History
• The Interservice Physician Assistant Program: Educators for an Expanding Profession.
JPAEA Research Topics
October 2017 Edition

• Policy and Controversies
• The Physician Assistant Doctorate: A Ticket to Autonomy
• The Role of Advocacy in the Future of Physician Assistant Education
• Physician Assistant Education Advocacy and Occam’s Razor
• Promoting Diversity to Eliminate Health Disparities
• Observations on the Global Spread of Physician Assistant Education
JPAEA Research Topics
October 2017 Edition

• “Research on Research”
• Physician Assistant Education Research
• Physician Assistant Education: 50 Years and Counting
• The Physician Assistant Applicant Pool: The First 50 Years
JPAEA Research Topics
October 2017 Edition

• Education

• Physician Assistant Contributions to Medical and Higher Education

• The Challenges of Clinical Education

• Innovative Features of the First Physician Assistant Examinations

• Redesigning Physician Assistant Education to Promote Cognitive Diversity, Inclusion and Health Care Equity
• Flexibility Remains Critical:
  • “Our flexibility, novel in US health care, enables PAs to evolve in concert with patient needs, advances in biomedical knowledge and disruptive changes in the health care system.”
Editorial Comments #2
(Bushardt and Ballweg)

- Pioneering New Trails
- There is broad evidence that PAs continue to pioneer new paths to increase access to high quality health care and improve the health of our communities.
A Call for Leadership

PAs have been relatively silent on the national health policy debate. Recent frictions among internal stakeholders have distracted attention from these national policy and workforce issues.

As our profession grows, we must embrace leadership and not abdicate the responsibility to shape healthcare policy and the models of care within which PAs practice.

We must reconcile a path that embraces interprofessional education but increasingly empowers the profession to drive its own journey ahead.
Editorial Comments #4 (Bushardt and Ballweg)

• What Lies Ahead?
  • Will Advanced Degrees dramatically change who we are?
  • How diverse and inclusive will the PA profession be?
  • We hope that the benevolence and altruistic character that have defined our career...will continue to mature.
  • A culture of philanthropy is lacking despite today’s highly competitive salaries.
  • We should prepare ourselves for the development of new careers that fill gaps in health care.
  • Should PA organizations increase their support for global PA development?
The Last Word!

• “In this volatile business of ours, we can ill afford to rest on our laurels, even to pause in retrospect. Times and conditions change so rapidly that we must keep our aim constantly focused on the future.”

  • Walt Disney
Thank you! Questions?