



Ian Jones, MPAS PA-C, CCPA, DFAAPA
Program Director, MPAS
Rady Faculty of Health Sciences, University of Manitoba

SHARED LESSONS, ONE OUTCOME

Kristen Burrows, BSc, BHSc(PA), MSc, CCPA
Assistant Dean, McMaster PAEP
Faculty of Health Sciences, McMaster University



4 Canadian Programs:



- 24 students
- Min 2yrs undergraduate coursework, GPA >3.0
- BHs(PA)



- 15 students
- Completed bachelors degree + required coursework, GPA >3.0
- MPAS



- 30 students
- Min 2yrs undergraduate coursework + volunteer hours, GPA >2.7
- BSc(PA)



- 10-15 students per year
- Significant military medic experience
- BSc(PA)*
*degree conferred from Nebraska

ANATOMY OF PA EDUCATION

2 Year Accredited Program Structure:

Year I: Science of Medicine

Medical sciences, clinical skills, professional competencies, & early clinical exposure

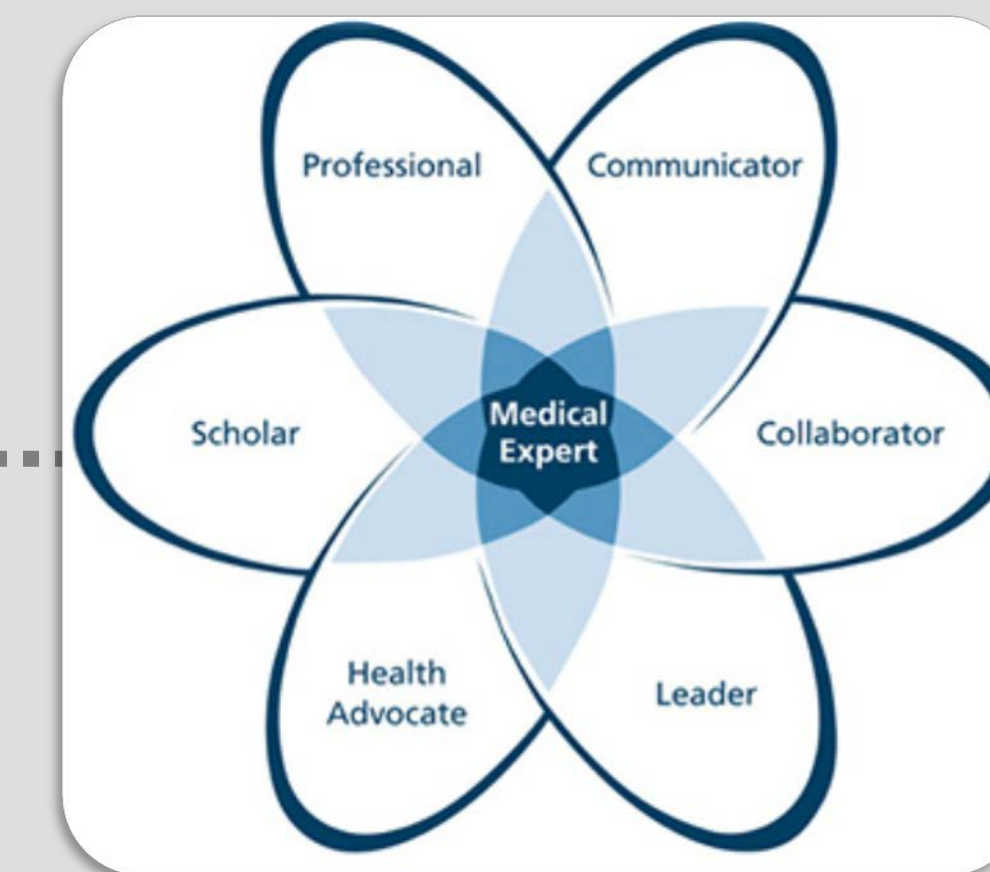
Year II: Clinical Rotations

Clinical site placements consisting of mandatory core rotations & electives



Graduates are eligible to challenge

National Certification Exam
(Canadian Certified PA, CCPA)



CanMEDS-PA

- PA's are trained in the medical model
- 2 years of intensive training before transitioning to employment



ONE OUTCOME

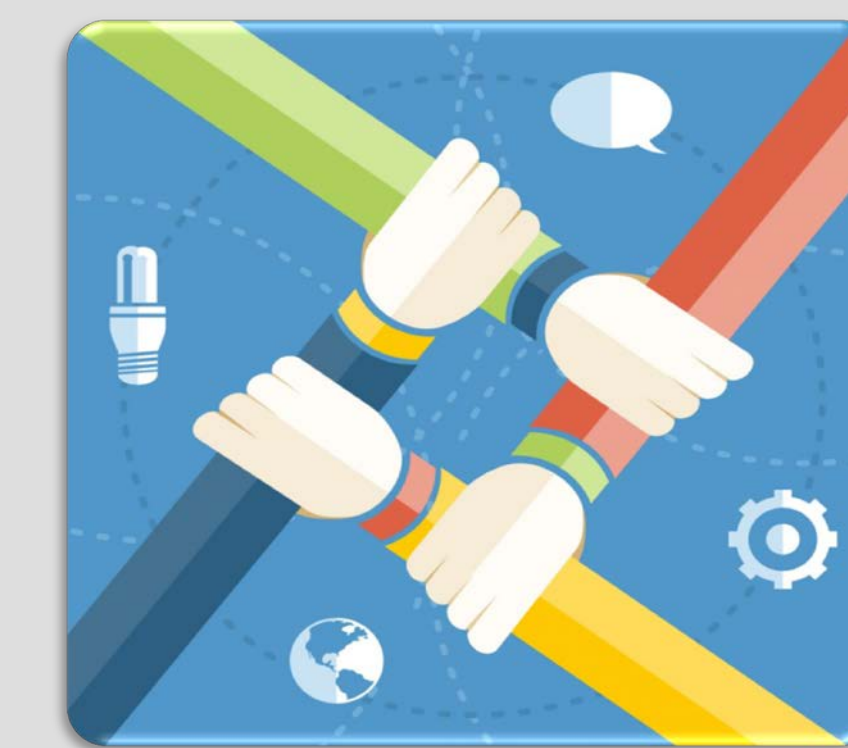


CCPA, trained as a generalist medical provider



SHARED LESSONS & CHALLENGES

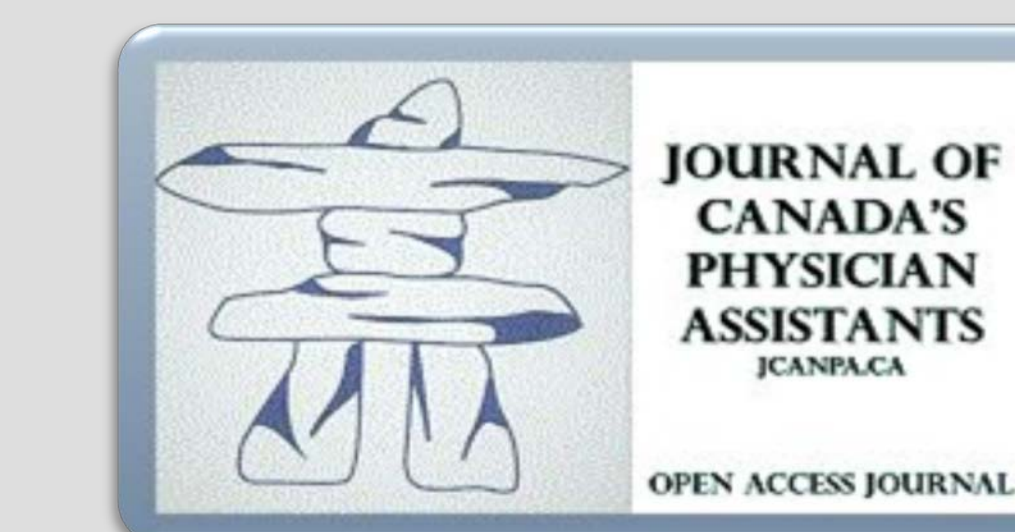
PA Programs share similar lessons and challenges:



- Must be adaptable & responsive to multiple stakeholders:
 - Government, physicians, employers, & practicing PAs
- Securing sustainable clinical rotations
- Adapting to medical school capacity
- Organizational and administrative barriers
- Misconceptions around PA learning requirements
- There is no perfect formula for admissions
- Requests for student accommodation is becoming increasingly frequent & time consuming
- Vulnerability of civilian programs due to unstable provincial funding for PAs
- CBME already part of PA programs due to the nature of the PA role (PA-MD relationship)

PA Program Faculty development:

- Challenge of staffing when many PAs not responsible for own scheduling
- Advocating for PA access to Clinical Educator certificates/training programs
- Nurturing research interests and additional educational opportunities



The University of Manitoba recently launched the "Journal of Canada's Physician Assistants", an open access journal currently seeking research contributions



PROGAM COLLABORATION

Canadian PA programs collaborate to:

- Formalize Entrustable Professional Activities for PAs (EPA-PA)
- Formalize relationship with new accreditation body
- Enhance research around health human resources and the role of PAs
- Support the expansion of PAs across other provinces
- Develop sustainable funding models and support regulation of PAs
- Adapt PA education to current and future health care needs
- Recognize the value of PAs in underserved or rural communities, and provide appropriate exposure, training and education
- Support and collaborate with other regions who are introducing the PA role or starting a PA program



FUTURE DIRECTIONS

PA Programs are working towards:

- Expansion of University based PA programs
- Development of a training pathway to allow Canadian Armed Forces PAs to receive their degree from a Canadian University
- Expansion of PA education programs in other Provinces
- Recognition of the role PAs play in clinical education
- Evolution of post-graduate PA certificates or programs, especially to support PA clinician educators, PA in medical specialties, and those interested in research
- Further embedding of CBME into PA student training and evaluation

