A Time for Gratitude
Jacob Hauptman, PA-C, President, PAGH

As we close out 2013, I would like to extend a huge personal “Thank You!” to all of the board members of Physician Assistants for Global Health. In between careers (or school), families, and personal lives, each one of the board members volunteers their valuable free time to ensure that PAGH continues to provide a valuable service for PAs and PA students. Without their efforts month-in and month-out, PAGH would not be able to function and for that I would like to recognize each of them individually:

* Chad Eventide, PA-C our Nexus editor has worked tirelessly every month to ensure our newsletter, Nexus, continues to provide our members with global health updates and information.

* Britta Kolodziej, PA-C has recently joined our board as the new Treasurer, pitching in without hesitation to ensure that PAGH remains financially solvent and up to date.

* Harmony Johnson Madden, PA-C, a Past-President of PAGH, was the driving force behind the 2013 PAGH Global Health Symposium (GHS) in Virginia Beach, donating endless hours to make sure that the conference was successful. She also ensured a smooth transition for Britta, passing along her knowledge as the prior Treasurer.

* Hoonani (Nani) Cuadrado, PA-C recently joined our board as the Membership Chair and has devoted much of her free time to helping solve membership issues, log new members, and answer any membership questions that might arise. Nani also lectured at the 2013 PAGH GHS.

* Brittany Collins, PA-C has been donating her time as the Secretary for PAGH while also fitting in time to write articles for Nexus. As a long time supporter and participant in PAGH, originally starting out as a Student Representative, Brittany has continued to find time for PAGH.

* Olivia Bockoff, PA-C, an immediate Past-President of PAGH, has been helping to find and apply for grants for PAGH as well as help out with PAGH events. We at PAGH wish her the best as she transitions to her new job in Scotland.

* Rachel Bonertz, PA-S, Laura Erdman, PA-S, Kendra Cutter, PA-C, Emily Pilachowski, PA-C, each acted as Student Representatives for PAGH this year, providing a crucial student voice and advocating for students while on our board. Both Emily and Kendra have graduated and gone on to become certified PAs this year and we wish them the best in their future endeavors. Going forward Laura and Rachel will be our Student Representatives and we’re very thankful to have them on board.

* Julie Golden, PA-C has recently joined PAGH as the new Public Relations Chair and she has already started to reach out to PA organizations across the US to ensure that PAGH is well represented.

* Stephen Pasquini, PA-C has been our Web Chair for over a year now and has helped PAGH transition to a new website which allows for our members to interact and network with each other. He has also devoted many hours to solving some of the technical issues that have come up with our new website, helping to ensure a smoothly running forum for our members.

* And last but certainly not least, OUR MEMBERS! Without you, PAGH would not exist. Thank you for continuing to believe in PAGH and for helping to support the international efforts of PAs and PA students by supporting PAGH. And as always, please consider helping even more by becoming a PAGH board member.

Happy Holidays!
Student Corner: Gabon

Hayley Smith, PA-S1, UC Denver PA Program

Spring of 2013, I traveled to Gabon - a small country on the west coast of Central Africa. Greeted by lush rainforests, misty mornings, and vibrant, friendly people, I instantly fell in love with this country. This trip, which had been months in the making, quickly became one of the richest experiences of my life.

I volunteered through an organization called the Christian and Missionary Alliance at one of their well-established hospitals in Lebamba, Gabon. The Bongolo hospital is run by a team of missionaries and Gabonese individuals and serves not only the local province, but all other provinces of Gabon, including patients from the country of Congo, Braazaville. This 158-bed facility includes a bustling Outpatient department, Surgery, Adult Medicine, Maternity, Pediatrics, Laboratory, Dental Clinic, Eye Surgery Clinic, and an HIV/AIDS treatment center. Despite the hospital’s rural location, patients traveled from all over the country for care, knowing the quality of medicine they would receive.

My position was that of a phlebotomist, with additional responsibilities added as I grew more capable. I performed blood collections, received specimens in the laboratory, interpreted serology results, examined pathology specimens, and assisted with blood transfusions. On occasion, I’d travel to various villages with a small team to set up a little clinic and administer vaccinations. Perhaps the first thing that struck me as I began

work in Gabon, was the importance of language in provider-patient relationship. I would tell my patients I spoke some French, the official language of Gabon, but “seulement un petit peu” (only a little bit). This proved to be a hurdle during my time there. While I grew in my comprehension daily, communicating effectively with my patients was quite challenging. I found that the inability to fully connect with my patients could be a hindrance to compassion as well, since I couldn’t understand the entirety of their stories. This would be one of my biggest offers of advice to those interested in global health – consider learning the language of the country you’re serving, especially if your work there will be long-term. Recruiting the assistance of a translator for patient encounters is a possibility of course, but it’s almost impossible to develop the sort of clout you’d desire with a patient without at least attempting to speak their language.

As quickly as I discovered the difficulties of the language barrier in Gabon I also encountered patient death. One of my coworkers was describing the relative slowness of the Gabonese culture in relation to the States and how that translates to healthcare.

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One day, a man limped into the clinic. I looked from his face, full of pain, down to his foot, where there was a very large, very severe burn. He explained to me that he suffers from epilepsy, and, that past week, had had a seizure while he was alone by a fire and his foot had fallen in. Because there wasn’t any space in the schedule to accommodate a skin graft, he was coming to the clinic every day to get his wound re-dressed, with the hope that someday he could get surgery, or wouldn’t need it.

In other ways, I saw services that were available and not being utilized, because they weren’t created with the competency and knowledge of the Setswana culture. For example, a program aimed to deliver formula to HIV positive mothers, to reduce the transmission to their children, was not well accepted or used. This is because the only reason formula would be used is if a mom is HIV positive, and most women chose to keep their status a secret, breastfeeding their baby instead, and thus putting their baby at risk for HIV transmission. This program has all the right pieces to be effective, however because it wasn’t based in the culture of the Setswana people, it was not effective.

Before going to Botswana, I realized that an important part of the medical field was the integration and competency of care, however my trip to Botswana made me realize that it can be, and often is, the crux of outcomes. Because care was not integrated or available, my burn patient was limping around town with some of the bones in his heel exposed. Similarly, children still tested positive for HIV, because their mothers wouldn’t use formula. In this way, my medical experience aboard helped me learn not only how to address individual gaps in care, but also to step back and look at the larger picture, of how the environment and a person’s culture can effect their health.

Where Americans would rush to the ICU for a coding patient, Gabonese individuals tend to take their time. Not out of laziness, but out of a general level of comfort with the concept of death. In countries where healthcare is scarce and individuals encounter death from a young age, death loses some of its sway. The Gabonese see the arc of life as natural and fairly straightforward. People come and people go. Death is not meant to be feared, but to be accepted. I admit, as a Westerner, I find it very difficult to accept this mentality without seeing it as defeatism. “If you’d only been a little quicker to your patient’s bedside,” I would think, “you clearly would have saved them.” Instead, they’d throw their hands in the air and state, “C’est la vie.” While the missionaries who worked at this hospital worked to educate the Gabonese staff about death prevention and the power of medicine to do so, they also found it necessary to assimilate the American understanding of medicine into the Gabonese worldview. By the end of my trip, my understanding of death had grown, affecting not only my approach to medicine in Africa, but my perspective on palliative care and related issues in the States.

As anyone who’s traveled internationally knows, these experiences can have a profound impact on how you see the world. My time spent in Gabon taught me more than I could have ever imagined and enabled me to vision cast for the future – to set measurable goals for my return to Africa, to grow in my approach to new ethnic groups, and to tailor my classwork in PA school so that I’m continually learning about the intricacies and challenges of global health. I would highly recommend volunteering internationally irrespective of your interest in global health. Engaging another culture’s beliefs about medicine enables you to truly examine your own – to filter the good from the bad and to enmesh the positive elements from both cultures into your medical ethic.


Welcome To Our New and Returning Fellow Members!
David Kuhns, Jodie Brewer, Kimberly Hanson, David Lieberman, Fiona Horgan, Morgan Fulmer, Gina Brown, Michael McGlynn, Gabrielle Turner, S Theresa Hanson, Mark Caplin, Briccio Guillermo, Nicole Banegas, Melanie Ellis, Dara Faden, Ingrid Bedinotti.

Welcome To Our New and Returning Student Members!
Monica Tesi, Anthony Steier, Rachel Fritsche, Nicole Knapp, Jesse Jamieson, Akhila Takkallapalli, Rebecca Lewis, Matthew Smith, David Pruschki, Chipepo Mugala, Michael Carter, Catherine Cleveland, Ricardo Pena, Amina Wirjosemito, Kelly Crisp, Melissa Mellon, Haley Smith, Amy Knissel, Nick Entsminger, Laura Biestek.

PAs can now work in Queensland, Australia.
Last month, the Queensland Department of Health issued guidelines on "Physician Assistant (PA) Clinical Governance." This now means PAs can work throughout the health sector in this state. Read more at http://ow.ly/rRQo7

Nursing Leadership in Global Health Symposium
www.nlgh2014.org
The event will unite nurses and other professionals working to develop pathways for effective advocacy and action to improve health among vulnerable populations.

Several Volunteer Opportunities in Nepal!
Hospital and Rehabilitation Centre for Disabled Children, a non-profit in Nepal, invites volunteers come for 4 weeks, and allow 2 weeks of travel time to enjoy the region. $200/week donation to HRDC + $200/week for food/lodging
www.hrdcnepal.org or email adminhrdc@ntc.net.np

B. P. Koirala Memorial Cancer Hospital is looking for PAs to be exposed to Pediatric Oncology
www.bpkmch.org.np or contact Earle Canfield at jecan314@gmail.com

ANSWER (American-Nepali Student and Women's Educational Relief)
www.answernepal.org or email jecan314@gmail.com

Internship: ¡Soy Capaz!
Educational Programs of Amazon Promise
Amazon Promise is a U.S. based, non-profit organization whose mission is to give essential medical care and provide education to alleviate suffering, save lives, and inspire hope in the poverty-stricken remote and urban communities of the Loreto province in the Peruvian Upper Amazon region. Since 1993, Amazon Promise has been organizing four to six medical interventions per year, each staffed by educators and medical and non-medical volunteers. The organization is headquartered in the jungle city of Iquitos, while its strategies are developed by the core Members in the United States. Through Amazon Promise, over 120,000 inhabitants of the most underserved parts of Peru have received education and medical care, and over 800 professionals have volunteered their time. (continued on next page)
¡Soy Capaz! is the educational program of Amazon Promise that specializes in the prevention of transmittable infections, HIV in particular, and of other common diseases, such as diarrhea (with focus on personal hygiene and water treatment). Furthermore, we address issues of domestic violence, alcoholism, and women’s and reproductive rights. A new addition to our program is focus on the synergies between health-protection and environmental-protection behaviors.

¡Soy Capaz! is seeking an intern for strategic support of the program’s operations, namely fundraising, grant writing and media outreach. The intern will work for the minimum of 20 hours/week for approximately 9 months, starting in fall 2013. Specific duties include:

- **Fundraising:** ¡Soy Capaz! relies solely on private contributions. We need funding for the existing educational and training activities, and in order to include new educational topics that have surged from our ongoing dialogue with the local communities. We also intend to broaden our social services for patients from the jungle areas. The intern will thus provide support to the program’s **fundraising operations** through grant and other prospect research, grant writing, and drafting of donor correspondence.

- **Media Outreach and Communications:** The intern will develop and maintain the program’s **media presence** by drafting press releases, by regularly featuring the program in social media (including Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, blog, etc.), and by working with alumni and friends to draft and place articles and commentaries in publications.

**Qualifications:**

- **Strong writing skills** and the ability to communicate with diverse audiences.
- Previous experience in fundraising, particularly grant writing, drafting of donor correspondence, and social media applications.
- Ability to work independently, prioritize, and make deadlines.
- Commitment to international development and providing services to populations in need.
- Experience working and/or living abroad, preferably in Latin America
- Proficiency in Spanish preferred

The intern will be asked to demonstrate the results of his/her funding research, produce large quantities of written text, and maintain the program’s media presence on a weekly basis. All work will be conducted in close collaboration with Director of Educational Programs, Dr. Elena Deem, who will manage the intern, and under the general supervision of the President of the organization.

While Amazon Promise is unable to offer compensation, **the intern will be invited to participate in one medical expedition in Peru.** Amazon Promise will waive **50%** of the trip fee, and **100%** provided the intern is fluent in Spanish (note: all travel expenses, e.g.; airfare to Peru/Iquitos, hotels and meals while in Iquitos will be the responsibility of the intern).

To be considered, send a cover letter, resume, writing sample, and two letters of recommendation to elena@amazonpromise.org. No phone calls or inquiries, please. We cannot respond to every applicant, but you will hear from us if you are selected for an interview. For more information about Amazon Promise, visit the Web site at [www.amazonpromise.org](http://www.amazonpromise.org).

Amazon Promise has been recognized for its long-term commitment and effectiveness to improving health in Peru. In March 2010, Amazon Promise President Patty Webster was named a **CNN Hero** ([www.cnn.com/heroes](http://www.cnn.com/heroes)) for her life-long dedication to providing desperately needed medical care and health education to vulnerable populations in Peru. The organization has been featured in the *Huffington Post*, the *Detroit News*, and *VIV Magazine*; promoted by the Portland Area Global AIDS Coalition; and past volunteers have received awards for their work with Amazon Promise, including the D. Robert McCaffree, MD, Master FCCP Humanitarian Award.
Careers

Peacework Medical Projects
is looking for a provider to staff their Ranquitte, Haiti medical clinic full-time alongside the permanent Haitian RN who works there. ANY DATES & ANY LENGTH OF TIME per their description! Please go to their website www.peaceworkmedical.com for more information and click the link “New Clinic Help!”.

Clinical Associate Mentor, South Africa
American International Health Alliance, a government-funded non-profit that works in global health primarily in Sub-Saharan Africa, is actively recruiting Clinical Associates Mentors to serve in a 3-12 month placements in South Africa. Launched in 2008 by the South African Department of Health, Clinical Associates are similar to Physician Assistants and are dramatically increasing the number of mid-level medical professionals in the health workforce who are able to confront the country’s immediate health needs.

The Volunteer Healthcare Corps began a South African Clinical Association Mentorship Program, providing US professionals (primarily physician assistants) with the opportunity to serve as mentors and clinical trainers of the students while they are in the district hospitals, often located in rural areas. This is an unique opportunity for highly skilled health professionals to directly apply their skills and expertise in a place that desperately needs it.

Please contact Sara Adelman for more information about this post: sadelman@aiha.com

Positions Open in Afghanistan
Onsite OHS is looking for PAs to work in Afghanistan. Make a difference to EXPATS and Third Country Nationals in our clinics. Bring your boots and spirit of adventure! 12 month contract for up to $205,000 plus benefits. For more information please go to www.onsiteohs.com or contact jessie.dyer@onsiteohs.com

PA Editors wanted
PAEA’s scholarly publication, The Journal of Physician Assistant Education (JPAE), is seeking editors for four features: Cultural Perspectives, Global Perspectives, Medical Director Dialogue, and Technology and Education. For more information, visit: http://networker.paeaonline.org/2013/07/17/jpae-invites-applications-for-four-feature-editors.

U.S. Department of State
Foreign Service Health Practitioners.
Board Member Opportunities

Want to participate in the only organization dedicated in advancing the PA profession globally? Email pasforglobalhealth@gmail.com if you are interested in an active role.

President-Elect
- Supports President in duties including meeting agendas, business plans, progress reports.
- Helps coordinate committees.
- Automatically assumes President Position after 1 year of service.

Web Co-coordinator
- Announcements on web, Facebook, LinkedIn.
- Topic discussions on Facebook, Forums.
- Direct member questions to proper people.

Healthcare Disparities/ Cultural Competency Committee Chair
- Member and non-member education.
- Recruit experts to write articles for PAGH email/newsletter and speak at conferences.
- Topic discussions on FB, web forum, Nexus (newsletter).

Network Resource Coordinator
- Maintain and update database of organizations that use PAs in underserved areas.
- Research and publish upcoming opportunities for PAs and PA students.
- Develop searchable web-based database of organizations that use PAs.

CME Chair
Attending the 2013 PAGH Global Health Symposium is a perfect opportunity to learn the ropes so you can then lead the planning for our 2014 PAGH Global Health Symposium.

Research Committee
- Help coordinate and execute research projects directly related to global health and PA role.
The Tandana Foundation  
www.tandanafoundation.org  
Otavalo, Ecuador: March 15-23, 2014  
Otavalo, Ecuador: March 23-31, 2014  
(possible to stay both weeks)

Project CURE  
www.projectcure.org  
Lindi, Tanzania: March 22 - April 4, 2014  
Guelaceo, Ecuador: May 8-18, 2014

Flying Doctors of America  
www.fdoamerica.org  
Panama: February 1-9, 2014  
Roatan, Honduras: March 1-8, 2014

Palmetto Medical Initiative  
www.palmettomedical.org  
Masindi, Uganda: March 7th - March 17th, 2014  
Viejo, Nicaragua: March 8th - March 16th, 2014

Health Horizon International  
www.hhidr.org  
Dominican Republic: January 11th - 18th, 2014  
Dominican Republic: May 3rd - May 10th, 2014

Peacework Medical Projects  
www.peaceworkmedical.com  
Ranquitte, Haiti: September 2014 (12 days).  
Non-medical positions also available  
(rebuilding, security, interpreters, and more).

Amazon Promise  
www.amazonpromise.org  
Iquitos, Peru/Amazon River: February 8th - March 1st, 2014

Flying Samaritans  
www.flyingsamaritans.net  
Frequent trips originating from California and Arizona to clinics 
throughout Baja California, Mexico

Holy Rosary International Medical Mission  
www.hrimm.org  
Lima, Peru: July 5 – 19, 2014.

Kenya Relief  
www.kenyarelief.org  
Jan 30 - Feb 9, 2014 (ENT/General Surgery).  
Feb 13-23, 2014 (GYN/Plastic Surgery).  
http://youtu.be/y01me1MMNtA

Timmy Global Health  
www.timmyglobalhealth.org  
2014 Schedule:  
Quito, Ecuador: January 3-12  
Quetzaltenango, Guatemala: January 4-12  
Tena, Ecuador: January 5-17  
Monti Cristi, Dominican Republic: Jan 10-18  
Santo Domingo, Ecuador: January 11-19  
Santo Domingo, Ecuador: Feb 28-March 9  
Tena, Ecuador: March 8th - March 16th  
Tena, Ecuador: March 6th - March 16th  
Monti Cristi, Dominican Republic: March 15-23  
Quetzaltenango, Guatemala: March 15-23  
Quito, Ecuador: March 15-23  
Quetzaltenango, Guatemala: March 29 - April 6

International Medical Relief  
www.internationalmedicalrelief.org  
Philippines: Jan 30 – Feb 10, 2014  
Philippines: Feb 8-19, 2014  
Ghana: March 7 – 16, 2014  
Panama: March 22 – 30, 2014  
Nicaragua: March 29 – April 6, 2014  
Philippines: April 5-13, 2014  
Ethiopia: May 24-31, 2014  
India: June 7-15, 2014  
Nicaragua: June 28 – July 5, 2014  
Brazil: July 19-27, 2014  
Kenya: August 1-10, 2014  
Thailand Gulf: Sept 20-28, 2014  
Myanmar: Oct 4-12, 2014  
Indonesia: Nov 22-30, 2014  
Volunteer Organizations

If you are aware of any trips or organizations that are looking for PA volunteers, please contact Olivia at obockoff@gmail.com. Please Note: it is not our desire to promote specific organizations only to connect PAs with opportunities and encourage professional philanthropy. This information is not an endorsement of these organizations.

Africa Cancer Care Inc - International opportunities with an oncology focus. www.africacancercareinc.org

Amazon Promise - Medical trips to portions of the Amazon Basin. www.amazonpromise.org

Benjamin Wellness Center - Opportunities in Gatamaiyu, Kenya. www.benjaminwellness.org

Christian Medical and Dental Assistance - www.cmda.org

Community Coalition For Haiti - need for medical professionals for 1-2 week trips to staff a primary clinic in Jacmel, Haiti. www.cchaiti.org

Exploration Logistics - Places PAs worldwide to serve as medical support for various expeditions. Positions include oil rigs and other industrial projects, etc. www.elgfze.com


Flying Doctors of America provides medical assistance and hope to as many of the poor and needy as they are able to reach. Medical & dental teams to wherever the current need is. www.fdoamerica.org

Flying Samaritans Mexico - year-round for Baja California, Mexico. www.flyingsamaritans.net

Global Brigades - www.globalbrigades.org

Goabroad.com - Assists different professions with placement internationally. www.goabroad.com

Grounds for Health - Uses PAs in Africa, Mexico, Peru, Nicaragua. www.groundsforhealth.org

Health Horizon International - www.hhidr.org

Health Volunteers Overseas - looking for volunteers to train and educate local health care providers around the world. www.hvousa.org

Heal the Children - Ecuador, Haiti. Contact: jensorooni@gmail.com. www.healthechildren.us

Heart to Heart International - weekly trips to Haiti and Guatemala. www.hearttoheart.org

Holy Rosary International Medical Mission - www.hrimm.org

Hospitals of Hope - Bolivia, Haiti, and Liberia. www.hospitalsofhope.org

ICHA Outreach to fight Cardiovascular Disease - Ghana. www.ichaonline.org

International Medical Relief - www.internationalmedicalrelief.org
Volunteer Organizations

Kenya Relief - www.kenyarelief.org

Lalmba - Lake Victoria in Kenya and in a rain-forest in Ethiopia. Goals are clinical medicine, coupled with public health, and working with local physicians. www.lalmba.org

Many Hands For Haiti - www.mh4h.org

Medical Missions Response - North Africa, Middle East, South/East Asia. www.mmronline.org

Mercy Ships - volunteer opportunities aboard “hospital ships”. www.mercyships.org

Mountain Medics International - Cordillera Huayhuash, Peru. www.mountainmedics.org

Nunoa Project - two trips a year to Peru. www.nunoaproject.org

NYC Medics - deployment to disaster zones and humanitarian emergencies. www.nycmedics.org

Omni Med - work focused in Uganda. www.omnimed.org

Operation Smiles: providing surgeries around the world. www.operationsmile.org

Palmetto Medical Initiative - www.palmettomedical.org

Panama Global Connections - www.panamaglobalconnections.com

Peacework Medical Projects - www.peaceworkmedical.com


Project HOPE - land based and ship-based care to regions around the world. www.projecthope.org

Rotations and Courses Internationally - www.gorgas.dom.uab.edu and www.cugh.org

The Carolina Honduras Health Foundation - Limón, Honduras. Active clinic, frequent need for medical volunteers. www.carolinahonduras.org


Timmy Global Health - looking for volunteers year-round. www.timmyglobalhealth.org

US Doctors For Africa - utilizes PAs for Africa work. www.usdfa.org

Volunteer Kenya / ICODEI - accepting PA volunteers year-round - www.volunteerkenya.org

WellShare International - www.wellshareinternational.org

Help Nexus Improve! Your input can make a difference for future issues of Nexus. We welcome suggestions and submissions for future Book Reviews, Spotlights, or other features. And of course any and all comments are welcome. Contact chad.eventide@gmail.com