

NEXUS

Physician Assistants for Global Health Monthly Newsletter

APRIL 2014

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PAGH 2014

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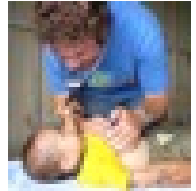
Ingrid Bedinotti, PA-C



Physician Assistants for Global Health
Local Hands, Global Reach

Thank You!

Jacob Hauptman, PA-C, President, PAGH



Over the last month, since I sent out my call for aid, I have had many people contact me regarding pitching in to make sure PAGH continues to provide a resource for PAs and PA students who are interested in global health. While not everybody was able to commit to a position or role with PAGH, I wanted to make sure that everybody who contacted PAGH knows that their interest is appreciated! There were several people who found a role which they felt suited their interests and I would like to take the time to recognize these individuals, some of whom had contacted PAGH even before I sent out the email last month.

- **Sunshine McWhinney**, a recent graduate of the PA program at Eastern Virginia Medical School in Norfolk, Virginia, will be acting as the Alternate AAPA House of Delegates Representative for PAGH. Sunny will be able to participate on behalf of PAGH and vote with a global health conscience in the 2014 AAPA HOD, helping ensure that our voice is heard.
- **Zehra Ahmed**, Assistant Professor of Physician Assistant Studies at New York Institute of Technology, will be joining PAGH as the new CME Chair. She will help plan the 2014 PAGH Global Health

Conference and then take over planning for the 2015 PAGH Global Health Conference.

- **Danielle King**, a recent graduate of the Duke University Physician Assistant Program, will be working with Nani Cuadrado, our current Membership Chair, on member services. Danielle will be helping ensure that the most important part of PAGH, our members, are taken care of.

- **Diane Price** has been working with Chad Eventide, our Nexus editor, to help continue to make Nexus a valuable resource for our members. She will help with editing and writing content and eventually help with publishing the Nexus.

- **Ingrid Bedinotti**, has reached out to help with both our Fellow and Student Scholarship offerings for 2014. Ingrid will help with reviewing the applications and making final recommendations to the board of PAGH.

Thank you again to all of you who have contacted PAGH and we always welcome new volunteers to help make PAGH even better!

Sincerely,
Jacob Hauptman, PA-C
President, PAGH

Online: www.pasforglobalhealth.com / Email: pasforglobalhealth@gmail.com

Join us on Facebook: *Physician Assistants for Global Health*



Conference Report: Physician Associates & the 21st Century NHS Workforce

Olivia Bockoff, PA-C

March 11, 2014. Birmingham, UK.

A jointly organized conference by University Hospitals Birmingham, University of Birmingham and the UK Association of PAs. Hosted at the Medical School, University of Birmingham.

The Physician Associate role was first introduced to the UK between 2001 and 2003. Multiple pilots brought in US trained PAs until PA programs were initiated. Today PA training programs exist at Saint George's University London, the University of Birmingham and the University of Aberdeen. This fall, programs will open at the University of Worcester and the University of Wolverhampton.

Physician Associates trained in the UK must pass the UK National Exam to practice legally. This exam consists of a 200 question multiple-choice test and a 16-station skills test known as an OSCE. PAs in the UK recertify on a 6 year basis with a 200 question multiple choice examination.

Currently there are an estimated 200 Physician Associates working in the UK. The majority of these professionals are employed in the Greater London Area with PAs extending into Scotland. PAs are known to be in Primary Care, Emergency Medicine, Surgery (Ortho/General Surgery/Trauma), Spinal Chord Rehabilitation and Education.

Physician Associates in the UK are currently regulated under the Managed Volunteer Registry, with hope to be regulated by the General Medical Council (GMC) in the near future. They recently gained support from the Royal College of Physicians, who will be organizing a PA faculty. This is a huge step in the direction of GMC regulation and will open the door for PAs to gain rights to prescribe and order radiology. Under the MVR, PAs agree to obtain 40 hours of continuing professional development

The provider deficit is increasing around the world. To meet the current needs of the NHS,



Professor Wendy Reid, Medical Director of Health Education England, estimated 5000 PAs would be needed just to meet England's shortage alone.

After an overview of where the PA profession has come from and where it is headed, the afternoon was dedicated to discussion groups spanning various medical specialties. Each discussion group brought a question to the entire body. This gave the forum the opportunity to more comprehensively address the utilization and development of the PA Profession within the UK and beyond.

The event was a huge success with over 30% of UK Physician Associates present. Representatives were present from the Royal College of Physicians, Health Education England and Health Education West Midlands. Deputy Chief Medical Officer of the Scottish Government, Dr. Aileen Keel presented on the Scottish experience and was in strong support of PA prescribing privileges and GMC regulation. Representatives from multiple universities and various NHS trusts were in attendance to gain understanding of the PA profession and express interest in PA education as a solution to provider shortages.

For more information, visit www.ukapa.co.uk and www.birmingham.ac.uk/pa2014.





Student Corner: Guatemala

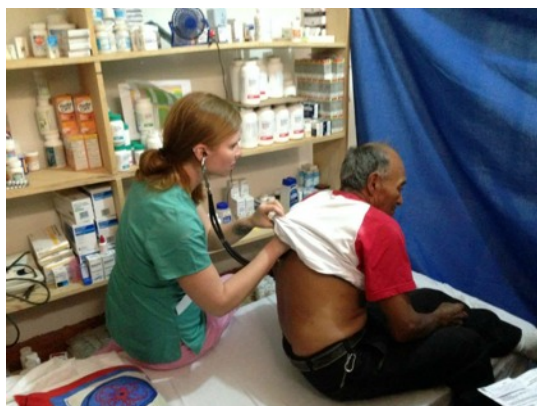
Julie Zito, PA-S, University of Bridgeport's Physician Assistant Institute



In December 2013, I traveled with ten of my physician assistant classmates and ten of the naturopathic medical students from the University of Bridgeport to Panajachel, Guatemala. We went there to volunteer in a free health clinic and two different hospitals for one week. I had never been on a medical mission trip before, and this experience not only tested my medical knowledge, but reminded me why I pursued a career as a physician assistant.

I began my week volunteering at the free health clinic in Panajachel. The clinic had naturopathic medical remedies, as well as allopathic treatments available to us. We also had medical doctors and naturopathic medical doctors supervising us. Many of the indigenous people of Guatemala were used to herbal remedies and different areas of treatment we had minimal knowledge on. The naturopathic medical students taught us about tinctures and supplements they would use with certain conditions, and we taught them about what antibiotics we would use. We also had minimal resources, so we had to brainstorm about different treatments we could use with the knowledge and resources we had. This was challenging, especially in a high paced environment and the language barrier between us and patients.

Many patients at the clinic had not received any medical care in years, and were very sick when they came to see us. Some even walked for eight hours from their homes to seek medical services at the clinic, with lines of patients waiting outside



throughout the day. Our patients suffered from conditions such as diabetes, heart disease, chronic pain, pneumonia and gastroenteritis, all

of which place an extreme health burden on their lives. Patients, some of whom were unaware they had diabetes, had blood sugar counts as high as 400 mg/dL. Others could not afford insulin, which we had in limited supply and could only give to those who were most severely afflicted. We had more of an abundance of naturopathic medical treatments, such as pancreatrophin and cinnamon for people's blood sugar levels. We also supplied antibiotics for

patients with pneumonia and peritonsillar abscesses.

One other classmate and I went on an herbal medicine walk through one of the markets in Panajachel. The markets were filled with fruit, vegetables,



different meats, clothing and herbs. We had one woman from the market show us each herb and what conditions they're used to treat. We learned that Apazote is good for parasitic infections, Germanium is a good anti-viral remedy and horsetail works well for kidney stones and urinary tract infections. Many of the people will use these herbs in their food or tea. I have always been interested in alternative medicine, so learning about Guatemalan treatments was especially appealing to me.

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Decreasing Healthcare Disparities: Diabetes

Ismah Jawed, PA-C

As a well-known chronic disease, one aspect of diabetes is commonly overlooked: the disproportionate impact on racial and ethnic minorities. These populations have higher prevalence rates, less control and greater complications. Studies have shown that all minorities, except Alaska Natives, have a prevalence of type 2 diabetes that is two to six times greater than that of the white population. For example, African Americans are from 1.4 to 2.2 times more likely to have diabetes than white persons¹ and have 2-4 times the rate of renal disease, blindness, amputations, and amputation-related mortality of non-Hispanic whites.² Additionally, rates of blindness due to diabetic retinopathy are half as high for whites as they are for rest of the population.¹ Such differences warrant the need to address the factor of health care delivery systems.

Quality improvement programs have been initiated to intervene at the patient, provider, and health care organization levels. Patient interventions were found to be successful with interpersonal communication as with peer support groups, individual education and community health workers. Provider


interventions were most effective with in-person feedback and targeting providers that serve racial or ethnic minority communities. Health care organization interventions were successful when incorporating nurse case managers and medical assistance programs. Case management allows specific barriers to be addressed such as economic, cultural and linguistic barriers. A study found that 16%-40% of low-income African American and Latino patients limited diabetes care because of financial concerns. Limited access to recreational facilities and supermarkets with diabetes compatible food options disproportionately limits the participation of minorities in recommended healthy diets and physical activity.² By addressing such barriers with the suggested interventions, the diabetes disparities can slowly be reduced. 

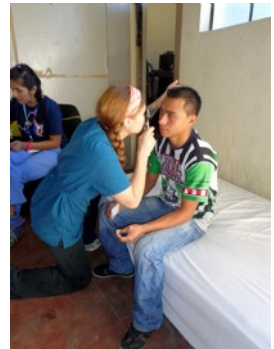
References

- 1) Diabetes Disparities Among Racial and Ethnic Minorities: Fact Sheet. November 2001. Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, Rockville, MD.
<http://www.ahrq.gov/research/findings/factsheets/diabetes/diabetes/index.html>
- 2) Peek, M., Cargill, A. & Huang, E. (2007). Diabetes Health Disparities. *Medical Care Research and Review*. doi: [10.1177/1077558707305409](https://doi.org/10.1177/1077558707305409)

Student Corner (*cont.*)

Later on in the week, our group assisted physicians in the obstetrics ward of a hospital in San Marcos, first observing children suffering from pneumonia and gastroenteritis. We headed to the OR, and four of our classmates got to assist in two c-sections. We had learned about obstetrics in our classes so far, but we had not yet learned anything about surgery. The physician performing the c-section guided them through it, and each procedure only took about 15 minutes. The lucky classmates who were able to do this were so excited, and I was proud of them for assisting in a procedure they never learned how to do beforehand.

This trip has given me experience and confidence that will be useful to me when clinical rotations begin in April 2014. Not only has my confidence grown, but my motivation to learn Spanish and curiosity for alternative medicine has as well. Applying my new knowledge as a physician assistant student was challenging, but exceptionally rewarding. This will not be my last mission trip to help those in need. Our patients' gratitude for our help and their beautiful country is something I will never forget. 





Announcements

Welcome To Our New and Returning Fellow Members!

Chelsi Wagner, Katherine Olund, Leona Hamrick, Alexis Anthony, Tammy Webb, Kari Best, Caitlin Wantuch, Pamela Keller, Jason Bales, Melissa Fontenot, Elizabeth Cherkas, Melissa Ayala, Beth Bughman, Sherri Parker, Patricia Gorenc.

Welcome To Our New and Returning Student Members!

Trinity Barnosky, Daryl Turlington, Alexander Leguire, Mary Jo Emfield, Jesse Delvin, Ross Williams, Wendy Byrd, Craig Cammann, Anne Hedges.

Global Health & Innovation Conference April 12-13, 2014. Yale University, New Haven, CN.

www.uniteforsight.org/conference

GHIC is the world's leading and largest global health conference as well as the largest social entrepreneurship conference, with 2,200 professionals and students from all 50 states and more than 55 countries. This must-attend, thought-leading conference convenes leaders, changemakers, and participants from all sectors of global health, international development, and social entrepreneurship.

PA INVEST 2014

October 30 - November 1, 2014. Amsterdam.

www.pa-invest.nl/en/Amsterdam_20_291.html

To celebrate their 10th anniversary the Dutch Association of Physician Assistants (NAPA) is inviting physician assistants and PA educators from around the world to participate in the international congress.

PAEA 2009 Survey on International Rotations

www.paeonline.org/index.php?ht=a/GetDocumentAction/i/143996

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.bpkmc.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



Announcements

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.

¡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 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.

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 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

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) 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

Orthopaedics Physician Assistant, Scotland

Ortho PA needed in the NHS Hairmyres Hospital
in East Kilbride, Scotland (30 min from Glasgow).
For more information, send CV to gregoribub@aol.com

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 a unique opportunity for highly skilled health professionals to directly apply their skills and expertise in a place that desperately needs it.

www.twinningagainstaids.org/documents/SouthAfricaCountrySnapshot07-09-12.pdf
Please contact Sara Adelman for more information about this post: sadelman@aiha.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.

Currently, application period is closed, but sign up for email alerts.

http://careers.state.gov/specialist/vacancy-announcements/hp?source=govdelivery&utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery



Medical Service Trips

Project CURE

www.projectcure.org

Guelaceo, Ecuador: May 8-18, 2014

Health Horizon International

www.hhidr.org

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).

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.

International Medical Relief

www.internationalmedicalrelief.org

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

Uganda: Oct 25 – Nov 1, 2014

Indonesia: Nov 22-30, 2014

Haiti: Dec 27, 2014 – Jan 3, 2015

Kenya Relief

www.kenyarelieff.org

April 3 - 13, 2014

Contact Steve James: *sjames@kenyarelieff.org*

Project Amazon

www.projectamazon.org

Santarem: May 30 - June 8, 2014

Contact: *pazguesthouse@gmail.com*



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

FIMRC Global Health Volunteer Program - Opportunities in El Salvador, Nicaragua, Peru, Costa Rica, India, and Uganda. www.fimrc.org

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.healthchildren.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

Physicians for Peace - work in Central/South America, Africa, Asia. www.physiciansforpeace.org

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

The Damien House - Leprosy in Guayaquil, Ecuador - <http://thedamienhouse.org/aboutus.html>

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

