

# NEXUS

Physician Assistants for Global Health Monthly Newsletter

## MARCH 2014

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### PAGH 2014

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Laura Erdman, PA-S

[www.pasforglobalhealth.com](http://www.pasforglobalhealth.com)

[pasforglobalhealth@gmail.com](mailto:pasforglobalhealth@gmail.com)

Join us on Facebook: *Physician*

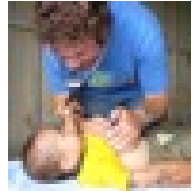
*Assistants for Global Health*



Physician Assistants for Global Health  
*Local Hands, Global Reach*

## Join the Team!

Jacob Hauptman, PA-C, President, PAGH



**P**hysician Assistants for Global Health has continued to fill our board with dedicated volunteers who want to help make our organization even better. Recently we have had the addition of Emily Pilachowski, PA-C, a former student representative of PAGH who has returned to the PAGH board to act as our new secretary. We have also welcomed Ismah Jawed, PA-C, as our new Healthcare Disparities Committee Chair, a role which has not been filled for many years but which is integral to the mission of PAGH. Every single person who donates their precious free time to PAGH helps ensure that we remain a source of information, a solid support system, and a central meeting point for PAs and PA students who are passionate about global health.

As with all volunteer-based organizations, PAGH is only successful if everybody possible pitches in to help out. Despite the recent additions to our board, we are still desperate to fill several roles which will help ensure that we can not only continue to provide our current services but also add on more services to benefit our members. If you would like to take your passion for global health to the next level, please consider joining our board as either a board member or a committee chair. The time commitment is small however it means the world to PAGH. Below are the list of current

opportunities - please read through them and contact me at: [hauptmanjacob@yahoo.com](mailto:hauptmanjacob@yahoo.com) if you are interested!

**President-Elect** - The required step before becoming president of Physician Assistants for Global Health, you will work with the president for one year in almost all activities, after which you will assume the presidency automatically. This is for the PAGH member who is willing to commit at least 3 years to the organization and believes they can help make PAGH the best it can be.

**Vice President** - A crucial role in our board, the Vice President actively helps steer the course of PAGH along with the President, maintaining the current activities of our organization, assisting with the overall planning of our annual events, and stepping into the President's role when necessary.

**PAGH Delegate and Alternate Delegate for the 2014 AAPA House of Delegates (HOD) in Boston** - A fun way to see the inner workings of the AAPA and to contribute to our profession as a whole. As of 2013 PAGH has an individual vote in the HOD, creating a chance for us to cast a vote in the HOD with a global health perspective in mind. If you like any sort of politics than this is the role for you.

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# World Update: Decreasing Health Disparities

Ismah Jawed, PA-C

**M**aternal mortality is one of the many health disparities facing communities around the world. In 2010 the World Health Organization (WHO) reported that the maternal mortality ratio in developing countries was 290 deaths per 100,000 live births versus 14 in developed countries.<sup>1</sup> This month the WHO featured Morocco's success in decreasing its maternal death ratio by 67% between over 20 years from 1990 to 2010. The Moroccan plan aims for greater progress in this final year as they work to reduce maternal mortality by 70% by the 2015 Millennium Development Goals deadline. They achieved this success by targeting nine regions in Morocco that were lacking coverage for maternal and child health services due to the remote locations, shortage of health care workers, and low quality services. By identifying these barriers to care in the needy regions, the Minister of Health was able to implement a plan to train more health care workers, offer free services, and improve transportation and safe travel for pregnant women.<sup>2</sup>

Although the maternal mortality ratio is lower in developed countries as the United States, it is still prevalent and increasing especially among

African American women. Possible contributing factors to the increasing rate include inconsistent health coverage, increases in obesity, older mothers, requested caesarian births, and emerging infections as HIV. Racial disparity in maternal mortality was the highest among maternal health indicators in the United States. The mortality ratio of African American women at any educational level was three to four times higher than that of white women. Suggested strategies to decrease this difference include increasing funds for community health centers and taking preventative action to provide timely access to health care.<sup>2</sup>



## References

- 1) Markides, Kyriakos. (2011). *Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Maternal Mortality in the United States*. Retrieved from <https://www.acog.org/~media/Departments/Public%20Health%20and%20Social%20Issues/Racial%20And%20Ethnic%20Disparities%20In%20Maternal%20Mortality%20InThe%20US.pdf?dmc=1&ts=20140223T1945216467>
- 2) Morocco takes a stride forward for mothers and children. (2014). World Health Organization. Retrieved from <http://www.who.int/features/2014/morocco-maternal-health/en>

*Continued from Page 1*

**CME Chair** - One of the biggest benefits PAGH gives to all PAs and PA students who are interested in global health is the chance to meet once a year at our annual conference and interact with like-minded individuals. We are already in the midst of planning for the 2014 PAGH Symposium in Colorado. Now would be the perfect time to join us as the CME Chair to help plan this great event and then take over for the 2015 conference!

**Web Co-Coordinator** - Stephen Pasquini, PA-C has been working in the background as our web coordinator for almost 2 years now but he needs

help. If you have a talent with websites and web design then please consider joining PAGH as the Web Co-Coordinator and creating a strong online presence for PAGH!

**Nexus Editor** - Our Editor-in-Chief, Chad Eventide, PA-C, is obviously doing an amazing job but he can always use some help. If you have publishing or graphic design experience and especially if you like to write, please consider joining our team as a Nexus Editor to help Chad continue to produce our valuable monthly newsletter.



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## Announcements

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### **Welcome To Our New and Returning Fellow Members!**

Michael Tiska, Rudorwashe Nurse, Jacquelyn Lageman.

### **Welcome To Our New and Returning Student Members!**

Taylor Villari, Maria Orrego, Karina Worden, Krystal Coleman, Rachel Peck, Luis Munoz, Linn Bergander.

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### **Physician Associates and the 21st Century NHS Workforce**

**March 11, 2014. Birmingham, UK.**

*[www.birmingham.ac.uk/pa2014](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/pa2014)*

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.

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### **Global Health & Innovation Conference**

**April 12-13, 2014. Yale Univeristy, New Haven, CN.**

*[www.uniteforsight.org/conference](http://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.

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### **PA INVEST 2014**

**October 30 - November 1, 2014. Amsterdam.**

*[www.pa-invest.nl/en/Amsterdam\\_20\\_291.html](http://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.

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### **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](http://www.hrdcnepal.org) or email [adminhrdc@ntc.net.np](mailto:adminhrdc@ntc.net.np)*

B. P. Koirala Memorial Cancer Hospital

is looking for PAs to be exposed to Pediatric Oncology

*[www.bpkmch.org.np](http://www.bpkmch.org.np) or contact Earle Canfield at [jecan314@gmail.com](mailto:jecan314@gmail.com)*

ANSWER (American-Nepali Student and Women's Educational Relief)

*[www.answernepal.org](http://www.answernepal.org) or email [jecan314@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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.



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# Careers

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## **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](mailto:gregoribub@aol.com)

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## **Peacework Medical Projects**

is looking for a provider to staff their Ranquette, 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](http://www.peaceworkmedical.com) for more information and click the link "New Clinic Help!".

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## **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.

[www.twinningagainstaids.org/documents/SouthAfricaCountrySnapshot07-09-12.pdf](http://www.twinningagainstaids.org/documents/SouthAfricaCountrySnapshot07-09-12.pdf)  
Please contact Sara Adelman for more information about this post: [sadelman@aiha.com](mailto:sadelman@aiha.com)

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## **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>.

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



# Medical Service Trips

## **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*

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: 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.

## **Timmy Global Health**

*www.timmyglobalhealth.org*

*2014 Schedule:*

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*

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

Uganda: Oct 25 - Nov 1, 2014

Indonesia: Nov 22-30, 2014

Haiti: Dec 27, 2014 - Jan 3, 2015

## **Kenya Relief**

*www.kenyarelief.org*

April 3 - 13, 2014

Contact Steve James: [sjames@kenyarelief.org](mailto:sjames@kenyarelief.org)

## **Project Amazon**

*www.projectamazon.org*

Santarem: May 30 - June 8, 2014

Contact: [pazgquesthouse@gmail.com](mailto:pazgquesthouse@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](mailto: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](http://www.africacancercareinc.org)

**Amazon Promise** - Medical trips to portions of the Amazon Basin. [www.amazonpromise.org](http://www.amazonpromise.org)

**Benjamin Wellness Center** - Opportunities in Gatamaiyu, Kenya. [www.benjaminwellness.org](http://www.benjaminwellness.org)

**Christian Medical and Dental Assistance** - [www.cmda.org](http://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](http://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](http://www.elgfze.com)

**FIMRC Global Health Volunteer Program** - Opportunities in El Salvador, Nicaragua, Peru, Costa Rica, India, and Uganda. [www.fimrc.org](http://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](http://www.fdoamerica.org)

**Flying Samaritans Mexico** - year-round for Baja California, Mexico. [www.flyingsamaritans.net](http://www.flyingsamaritans.net)

**Global Brigades** - [www.globalbrigades.org](http://www.globalbrigades.org)

**Goabroad.com** - Assists different professions with placement internationally. [www.goabroad.com](http://www.goabroad.com)

**Grounds for Health** - Uses PAs in Africa, Mexico, Peru, Nicaragua. [www.groundsforhealth.org](http://www.groundsforhealth.org)

**Health Horizon International** - [www.hhidr.org](http://www.hhidr.org)

**Health Volunteers Overseas** - looking for volunteers to train and educate local health care providers around the world. [www.hvousa.org](http://www.hvousa.org)

**Heal the Children** - Ecuador, Haiti. Contact: [jensorooni@gmail.com](mailto:jensorooni@gmail.com). [www.healthchildren.us](http://www.healthchildren.us)

**Heart to Heart International** - weekly trips to Haiti and Guatemala. [www.hearttoheart.org](http://www.hearttoheart.org)

**Holy Rosary International Medical Mission** - [www.hrimm.org](http://www.hrimm.org)

**Hospitals of Hope** - Bolivia, Haiti, and Liberia. [www.hospitalsofhope.org](http://www.hospitalsofhope.org)

**ICHA Outreach to fight Cardiovascular Disease** - Ghana. [www.ichaonline.org](http://www.ichaonline.org)

**International Medical Relief** - [www.internationalmedicalrelief.org](http://www.internationalmedicalrelief.org)



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# Volunteer Organizations

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**Kenya Relief** - [www.kenyarelief.org](http://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](http://www.lalmba.org)

**Many Hands For Haiti** - [www.mh4h.org](http://www.mh4h.org)

**Medical Missions Response** - North Africa, Middle East, South/East Asia. [www.mmronline.org](http://www.mmronline.org)

**Mercy Ships** - volunteer opportunities aboard "hospital ships". [www.mercyships.org](http://www.mercyships.org)

**Mountain Medics International** - Cordillera Huayhuash, Peru. [www.mountainmedics.org](http://www.mountainmedics.org)

**Nunoa Project** - two trips a year to Peru. [www.nunoaproject.org](http://www.nunoaproject.org)

**NYC Medics** - deployment to disaster zones and humanitarian emergencies. [www.nycmedics.org](http://www.nycmedics.org)

**Omni Med** - work focused in Uganda. [www.omnimed.org](http://www.omnimed.org)

**Operation Smiles**: providing surgeries around the world. [www.operationssmile.org](http://www.operationssmile.org)

**Palmetto Medical Initiative** - [www.palmettomedical.org](http://www.palmettomedical.org)

**Panama Global Connections** - [www.panamaglobalconnections.com](http://www.panamaglobalconnections.com)

**Peacework Medical Projects** - [www.peaceworkmedical.com](http://www.peaceworkmedical.com)

**Physicians for Peace** - work in Central/South America, Africa, Asia. [www.physiciansforpeace.org](http://www.physiciansforpeace.org)

**Project HOPE** - land based and ship-based care to regions around the world. [www.projecthope.org](http://www.projecthope.org)

**Rotations and Courses Internationally** - [www.gorgas.dom.uab.edu](http://www.gorgas.dom.uab.edu) and [www.cugh.org](http://www.cugh.org)

**The Carolina Honduras Health Foundation** - Limón, Honduras. Active clinic, frequent need for medical volunteers. [www.carolinahonduras.org](http://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](http://www.timmyglobalhealth.org)

**US Doctors For Africa** - utilizes PAs for Africa work. [www.usdfa.org](http://www.usdfa.org)

**Volunteer Kenya / ICODEI** - accepting PA volunteers year-round - [www.volunteerkenya.org](http://www.volunteerkenya.org)

**WellShare International** - [www.wellshareinternational.org](http://www.wellshareinternational.org)

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**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](mailto:chad.eventide@gmail.com)

