



Kansas Academy marks 35 years of service

Physician Assistants in Kansas have witnessed tremendous advancements in the profession since KAPA's inception in 1975. A special thanks to those early organizers of the Academy and for their dedication and service to those who have followed in the Physician Assistant career path.

The first Board of Directors for the Kansas Academy of Physician Assistants met in Wichita on January 21, 1975 to formally set up the organization by electing officers and adopting bylaws for the governance of the Academy. Val Valgora served as KAPA's first president in 1975.

When the Academy was first formed KAPA only had 13 members. Those original 13 were: Lonnie Bradford, Steve Bland, Marc Dicker, Marvis Goosetree (Lary) Dick Hamaker Willie Howard, Gary Nelson, Jim Oehlert, Andy Robles, Charles Scott, Val Vigora, Madonna Ward and Keith Wilborn.

Being so new to healthcare in Kansas the early PAs could perform very few duties. Some roles of early PAs included calling patients into the room, taking patient's history, transporting patients for X-ray, assisting physicians and performing first aid duties. Early on most hospitals required any input from PAs on patients' charts to be signed by a physician. This even included listing vitals. Physician assistants were also not initially allowed to write and sign prescriptions in Kansas.

Marvis Lary, PA (graduate of the first WSU PA Class in 1975), former member of the KAPA Board of Directors and former Director for the PA Program at WSU recalled the days when patients said, "I don't have to pay the same fee to see the PA do I? By the way what is a PA?"

She also heard nurse say, "I won't take orders from a PA...only a physician."

The journey for PAs in the early years was long and difficult. Those early PAs kept their heads down, avoided challenges to their authority when they could and became valuable members of the healthcare community. Most importantly PAs worked to provide quality patient care.

KAPA became a Charter member of the American Academy of Physician Assistants in January of 1978. In 1985, according to the AAPA the average PA salary was about \$22,500.



In the 35 years since that first meeting KAPA has been instrumental in the development and expansion of the physician assistant practice in Kansas. KAPA members participated in the development of initial laws relating to PAs in Kansas passed in 1973 and again in 1978. KAPA was also instrumental in the establishment of the PA Advisory Committee (now the PA Council) in 1986 and when PAs were permitted to issue prescriptive orders in 1987.

In 2000, KAPA made significant progress on all fronts for the organization. We established a permanent office location and presence in Topeka. The Kansas Legislature enacted PA licensure in Kansas after a lengthy review and debate process. KAPA was also involved in the regulatory changes that have enabled Kansas PAs to sign for pharmaceutical samples and prescribe controlled substances.

Overtime the duties and the role of PAs have expanded and now PAs are well-respected members of the health care team. Thanks to the significant impact and sacrifices made by the early PAs and those who persevered along the way.

Issues that KAPA struggled with over the years and resolved include: "Over the Shoulder" supervision, by physicians, Third-party reimbursements, Hospital privileges and general acceptance.

BEST WISHES

To Robert Blanken, PA and his family on their move to Florida. Robert served two terms as KAPA President, as a KAPA Representative to the AAPA's House of Delegates and as a member of the Kansas Physician Assistant Advisory Council to the State Board of Healing Arts. Robert, his wife Stephanie and their soon to be two children will be relocating to Jupiter, Florida. Robert has been a PA since 1991, primarily practicing in orthopedic medicine and surgery. We wish them the best!

823 in 2010

Number of Active PAs in Kansas.

**Up from - 35 in 1975
175 in 1990
360 in 2000**

President's Corner

Kansas PAs -

First, I would like to thank Richard Allenbach for his leadership and steadfast service to KAPA. He has demonstrated dedication and provided vision for the Academy as President for the past two years.

Second, I would like to thank our Board of Directors. These PAs have made a commitment of their time for the next two years to keep our association moving forward and are dedicated to making the PA profession in Kansas grow.

We continue to offer CME credits to our members and provide topics and information relevant to their continued practice of serving the residents of Kansas. If anyone is interested in serving on our CME Development Committee please contact KAPA via email at kansaspa@sbcglobal.net.

Our KAPA website continues to be revamped and will become a valuable tool for our members going forward.

Whether you support it or not, health care reform is coming. We need to see how health care reform will impact our profession and position ourselves within our community to maximize the benefits of health care reform and programs for health care disparities. During the next year we need to continue advocating for our patients and quality care.

This is your Academy and I would like to invite all of you to be involved. We are working for you and appreciate your support.

Thanks.

Judy Dowd

Judy is a graduate of the University of South Dakota PA Program and practices Dermatology at the Cotton - O'Neil Clinic in Topeka. She has been on the KAPA Board since 2005.

Physician Assistant Council News

The Kansas State Board of Healing Arts Physician Assistant Council meets every quarter to review and discuss PA practice issues.

Council members are appointed by the Governor, based on recommendations from KAPA, and serve a two-year term. The Council also has two physician members appointed by the Board of Healing Arts.

Current PA Council members are:

David Day, Wakeeney (2011)
Sheri Floyd, Ozawkie (2013)
Jay Wedel, Hesston (2012)

Physician members are:

J. Michael Patton, Wichita
Nancy J. Welch, Topeka

If you might be interested in serving on the Council contact the KAPA office and submit your name for consideration.

The responsibility of the PA Council is to serve in an advisory role to the Board of Healing Arts regarding physician assistant issues. The vast majority of the Council's time is spent reviewing disciplinary cases. Once a complaint has been filed with the State Board, it is investigated and then ultimately sent to the Council for review. The Council's role is to determine if the Standard of Care was met or not met. Based on the review the Council then forwards to the Board a recommendation regarding disciplinary action.

Although the Council sees a wide variety of issues in the cases they review, one piece of advice offered to fellow PAs, is to "be thorough in your care of patients and document this thoroughness clearly". Keep in mind that you are not documenting only to help you remember the care provided, but your documentation should be clear to others who may be reviewing the record even years down the road.

Council members also regularly review the PA practice statutes and regulations and recommend changes to provide for effective and efficient professional services by PAs in Kansas.

Forms rejected?

Do you have healthcare forms regularly returned or rejected because your doctor didn't sign them or PAs aren't authorized to sign them? If so, let KAPA know what form has been rejected and we will work to get the signature issues solved.

AAPA Conference and House of Delegates issues

At the AAPA's HOD meeting in Atlanta, compliance with the AAPA bylaws was the major topic of discussion by the HOD. Legal counsel for the AAPA indicated that the AAPA's operating activities are not in compliance with the North Carolina non-profit corporation statutes, which is required. The HOD has conducted business and set policy for the AAPA over the past 3 decades and now it has been determined that the HOD had no authority to do so. Revisions to bring the bylaws in compliance will have substantial impact on AAPA operations and will be expensive to pursue. The undecided question was who should make the changes, the AAPA Board of Director or the AAPA HOD. The AAPA is trying to look at different governance options, including power sharing duties and legislative obligations. Much more to come on this topic in the future.

KAPA Membership Fellow Members

1975 - 13

1980 - 75

1990 - 104

2000 - 232

2010 - 162

KAPA recent activity and actions

KAPA continues to work on issues that benefit all PAs in Kansas and KAPA remains proud that our Kansas PA Practice Act is among the best in the United States

At the State level, KAPA continues to work at improving the Physician Assistant Practice in Kansas. This means regular interaction with other health care provider groups, such as the Medical Society and Osteopathic Association, on issues of importance to PAs in Kansas. We maintain a regular presence at the Statehouse in Topeka during the legislative session, monitoring hearings and providing testimony to legislative committees when needed. KAPA regularly follows the activity of the Kansas Board of Healing Arts and PA Council.

In November, KAPA will appear before the PA Council to propose changes to regulations regarding chart review in Kansas. Current regulations, specifically K.A.R. 100-28a-10, require a responsible physician to co-sign, within a 14-day period, 100% of the patients charts, when seen or treated by a PA. KAPA will offer modifications to the regulation which will allow the responsible physician and PA to determine the appropriate method of chart review. Whatever method the PA and responsible physician it should be documented in writing and provided to the Board of Healing Arts as a part of the supervision record.

It is important that PAs communicate with their physician(s) and collaborate as a team on patients matters.

We will keep you posted on this process.

As we look at other states and how PA groups across the country are seeking changes to their practice acts, Kansas PAs can enjoy the benefit of the forward-thinking KAPA Boards of Directors that in the late 1990's and early 2000's sought and successfully achieved many of the changes other states are now seeking.

KAPA honors Jim Sperry

KAPA awarded, posthumously, the 2010 Physician Assistant of the Year award to Jim Sperry. Jim died in a automobile accident on February 6, 2000 near Atchison, Kansas. He was a graduate of the 1984 WSU PA Program and worked in the emergency department in Atchison. Jim was president of KAPA in 1999 and served on the Legislative Committee.

At the time of his death, Jim was deeply committed and involved in the KAPA effort to obtain licensure as a form of regulation for PAs.

2010-2011

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Melissa Whitney, Class of 2012
Joleen Wilson, Class of 2012



Heart of America Fall Conference October 14-15, 2010 at the Wichita Hyatt Regency Hotel

Join us for our fall meeting in Wichita. We will offer 14 hours of CME.

Go to our website at kansaspa.com for more information.

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KAPA serves as the official representative voice of Kansas PAs. Our mission is to enhance the quality of medical care for the citizens of Kansas by providing medical education to physician assistants, other health professionals, legislative and governing bodies, and the public. We accomplish this by promoting quality, cost-effective, and accessible health care, and by supporting the professional and personal development of physician assistants.

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Important telephone numbers and websites for you to use.



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