

SOUTH DAKOTA ACADEMY OF *Physician Assistants*

“PARTNERS IN MEDICINE”
Volume 20, Issue 4 – October 2010

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

The September Summer/Fall SDAPA Conference in 2010 was a productive conference for the Board of Directors. This was my first SDAPA Board meeting serving as your President. I was very happy to see that our board meeting was full with every place at the table taken. We did have a strategic planning session the evening prior to the conference again this year with Clover Schultz, coming in from the AAPA. I thank everyone who participated in this as this made for some really long days at this conference.

Karen Bumman, SDAPA East River CME Coordinator did a great job putting together all the CME lectures. I thank her for her dedication and hard work. Anyone who was there can tell you that we got some great CME at a very affordable cost. As a Board, we decided to increase our registration fees. We felt that this is necessary because of rising costs and in order to stay competitive with other organizations.

Sheila Schweitzer sent in her resignation as Vice President/President Elect. I appointed Justin Thurman to fulfill her term and the Board approved this decision. The remainder of Justin's term as director at large will be fulfilled by Susan Morris the next highest vote getter in the 2010 election for Board of Directors.

During the general membership meeting we did discuss the upcoming election. SDAPA has decided to support the It's Time: A Smoke Free South Dakota Campaign. We have given a monetary donation to this effort and have pledged our continued support. We felt that this is in the interest of all our patients.

We did briefly discuss Initiated Measure 13 which is a measure to authorize the possession, use and cultivation of marijuana by and for persons with specified debilitating medical conditions registered with the Department of Health. The South Dakota State Medical Association has taken a stand against this issue which can be read on their website. I found with our discussion that our organization does have conflicting views on this topic. There was no consensus from our discussion. Because of the discussion and the dissenting opinions, we did not take a position on this measure.

Also part of the general membership meeting was discussion regarding continued expansion of the SDAPA website. Please see additional information in this newsletter regarding the Member's Only section, which to begin will be a database of our membership. Nancy Rude our membership chairperson had been working to create a membership directory on paper. We have decided to abandon the paper version and put our energy into an electronic version. It is important that you sign on so that our database is as complete as possible.

It is PA week as I am writing this. I hope all your organizations, colleagues, and communities recognized you and the important work that you do this week. Just today I was told by a patient that he seeks out treatment by PAs because of the time and the great care he has received in the past by members of our profession. To me that is the most meaningful recognition.

Respectfully submitted,
Kristi J. Stemsrud PA-C DFAAPA
SDAPA President



SDAPA Officers – Front row: Marvel Buhler-Treasurer, Kristi Stemsrud-President, Sandy Rhody-Board of Director, Michelle Hagen-CME West River Co-Chair, Back Row: Randy Fite-Student Representative, Nancy Trimble-Board of Director, Dan Palmer-PAAC, CME West River Co-Chair, Louise Papka-Delegate, Jessica (Thurman) Martin-Student Representative, Rod King-PAAC, Vicki Blake-Nafus-PAAC, Legislative/Policy Chair, Justin Thurman-Vice President/President Elect, PR Chair, Lola Pollard-Past President, Carey Wheelhouse-Student Representative



We are a family practice clinic with an opening for a PA four days per week. We offer two weeks paid vacation, sick time, three personal leave days annually and a full benefits package including health insurance, dental, life insurance, long term disability and 401(k).

Please send cover letter and resume to:

Heather Quasney, Clinic Manager
Medical Arts Clinic
717 St. Francis Street
Rapid City, SD 57701
605-342-2880

SDAPA CONGRATULATES VICKI BLAKE-NAFUS PA OF THE YEAR



Vicki is from Pierre, SD. She is married and has three children and two grandchildren. Vicki has been an advocate for PAs her entire career, often encouraging other PAs to become members of our organization. She has been an active member of SDAPA serving many positions including President, Treasurer, Board Member, Legislative Policy Coordinator and now a PAAC Member to the Board of Medicine and Osteopathic Examiners. She has been a tireless advocate for PAs. Currently she is working in the ER at Huron Hospital, SD Women's Prison in Pierre, Medical Associates Clinic in Pierre and still does some locum tenum work. Some comments from her peers describe her as caring, capable, providing common sense care, dependable, honest, open, a team player, hard working selfless & dedicated. Another one says her leadership, guidance and continued encouragement to others has resulted in more Physician Assistants becoming more involved in more issues, both at the State and National levels. Another says she is highly motivated, a hard worker, great sense of humor, with a heart for her patients, always puts her patients first and has made a difference every where she has worked. Vicki is always up for the challenge. Her sponsor, Dr. Buron Lindbloom says "Vicki is intelligent, witty, humorous, a hard worker & dedicated to her profession. She sees complex medical problems daily & treats them appropriately and refers appropriately." Congratulations Vicki!

Ellsworth Air Force Base, SD

Physician Assistant

Full Time Position Providing Civilian Services at this Military Medical Treatment Facility.

Qualifications:

Be a graduate Physician Assistant qualified by academic and practical education to provide patient services as a physician extender under supervision of a physician. Be a graduate of a Physician Assistant Training Program accredited by the Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant (ARCPA), or its predecessors, and acceptable to the Surgeon General, USAF, is mandatory. Certification as a Physician Assistant by the National Committee on Certification Physician Assistants (NCCPA) is required. Have at least 24 months of experience within the last 36 months. Experience in ER or Urgent Care Center is required.

Candidates Please Send Resumes by Email to: apco@rlmservices.net or Fax to: 786-787-3048

RLM Services, Inc. EOE





**Excellent Practice Opportunities –
Upper Midwest
Nurse Practitioners & Physician Assistants**

Sanford Clinic North based in Fargo, North Dakota has immediate opportunities for motivated practitioners. **Sanford** is offering market competitive salary and comprehensive benefits, paid malpractice insurance and a supportive work environment. Job Opportunities are currently available in both our ND and MN locations and include the following:

- Emergency Medicine** •**Neurosurgery**
- Oncology** •**Wound Ostomy** •**Rheumatology**
- Family Practice** •**General Surgery**
- Sleep Disorder**

Sanford Health is the largest hospital in North Dakota. We have 27 regional primary care centers in western Minnesota and eastern North Dakota – an excellent referral source. Our main campus is located in Fargo, ND, a robust, economically diverse, metropolitan community of nearly 190,000. Our community features three universities, community symphony and orchestra, an international airport and much more. Fargo-Moorhead-West Fargo, as the combined community is known is a great place to raise a family with its excellent public and private schools, friendly neighborhoods and easy access to the beautiful Minnesota lake country. For more information on our community and way of life visit www.fmchamber.com and www.culturepulse.org. To learn more about these positions, contact:

Christina McAmis, Physician and Mid-Level Recruiter

Sanford Health
1720 University Drive South
Fargo, ND 58122-0385
Office Phone: 701-280-4814
Fax: 701-280-4136
Email: Christina.McAmis@sanfordhealth.org
Sanford is an EOE/AA Employer

Medical Mission Trip

As some of you are aware and have gone on trips in the past, I wanted to let you know we are planning another trip this spring. We will probably go over Spring break to Belize in Central America.

Dr. Venugopal, formerly from Brooking, has moved there and opened a hospital and attempting to set up rural clinics where people can receive free health care. He has residents and students from two medical schools who now come on rotational schedule to staff these clinics when there are no other volunteers. He is collaborating with the Sanford Children's in Sioux Falls and is currently building a children's clinic/hospital that will utilize physicians from Sioux Falls on an as needed basis. Already some of those doctors go down on a 2-3 month cycle to provide services.

Last year we took a group of 12 down and had a wonderful trip. Nice hot days and even spent a day at the ocean enjoying scuba and snorkeling. In the middle of winter here, it makes for a pleasant change.

For this next trip I really would like anyone who speaks Spanish to consider going along and any other PAs who might enjoy the opportunity to do something different. Right now I have two physicians who are considering the trip but only one PA besides myself. Dr. Venugopal is asking us to do a couple days on the Guatemalan border where folks get no care but they are all Spanish speaking whereas in Belize they speak English. If I could find an extra PA or two I could easily tell him we could do clinics in two places and utilize all members of the team.

Most of the patients we saw last year had diabetes and hypertension so lots of one on one teaching needed. We are working on some hand outs that will talk about diet and activities they can incorporate into daily lives. We have to use the foods they can get and that is a challenge as the mainstay of their diet is beans and rice. They all get tons of exercise walking everywhere as transportation is limited in the rural areas and they must walk several miles to catch a bus into the city. Children were all basically healthy considering all circumstances.

If you have any interest in this mission please contact me for further information. ladyathome1@hotmail.co.uk - Thanks, Marilyn Harms PA

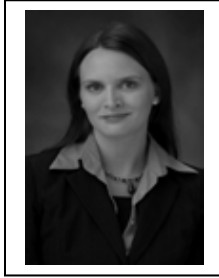
The Most Important Lesson

Jennifer A. Thielen, PA-S3

During my time attending the University of South Dakota Physician Assistant Studies Program, I have learned a great deal about caring for my patients. I learned the proper methods for history taking and performing physical exams. I learned the appropriate laboratory studies to order to help reach a diagnosis. I learned how to formulate my differential diagnoses, and I learned appropriate treatment options. But upon contemplating what it is that I feel has been the most important lesson that I have learned, it isn't one that could be found in a book, or picked up from a lecture. No, the most important aspect of patient care that I have learned as a student is empathy.

This lesson has come from the wonderful physicians and PAs that I have been privileged to study under. I have witnessed providers crying with their patients, holding hands and calming fears. I watched them take extra time away from their lives and away from their families to help heal a less tangible aspect of human anatomy—the human soul.

Though I witnessed countless such episodes during my clinical rotations, there is one example that I felt was particularly remarkable. During one of my surgery rotations, we were caring for an elderly male patient with a particularly poor prognosis. He had been battling stomach cancer for quite some time, and had most recently developed a bowel perforation. This patient had a loving partner, who had been with him for many years since her first husband passed away. My preceptor had been involved in the end of life care of this woman's first husband. Though it had been many years, and this woman was now grieving the inevitable loss of another man she loved, she exclaimed how happy she was to have this particular physician on the



case because of how compassionate they had been during their last encounter. My preceptor hugged her and cried with her, and comforted her for a second time. Witnessing this emotional reunion, and seeing this physician slip into this empathetic role was heartwarming, encouraging, and inspirational.

When we allow ourselves to walk in our patient's shoes, to feel what they are feeling and fear what they are fearing, we have a wonderful opportunity to provide the best possible care for the body, mind and soul—a truly holistic approach. I hope that as I begin my career I wear this most important lesson on my sleeve, and never forget the impact that empathy can have on my patient's health.



Be a Pioneer with Sanford Health

For more than 100 years, we've pioneered advances in medicine. We've witnessed and created remarkable change. Our dedication to providing flawless experiences that inspire people to live their best lives empowers us to continue to transform patient care.

Sanford Health is looking for qualified candidates for many exciting opportunities. To learn more about the mid-level openings, visit us at sanfordhealthcareers.silkroad.com.

It's our pioneer spirit and our passion for improving the lives of our patients, neighbors, and communities that keeps us on the leading edge in research and clinical care.

Public Relations Report

Physician Assistant Week is a time to celebrate our profession's past as well as the future. SDAPA continues an emphasis in participating and supporting PA Week by several means. As in the past, we have placed Public Service Announcements in several South Dakota radio stations, from as far west as Belle Fourche to the corners of the state such as Sisseton and Vermillion. We have an advertisement in the Midwest Medical Edition, and have created Band-aid dispensers promoting PA Week. The USD Physician Assistant students have again helped to promote PA Week by distributing the band-aid dispensers and PA Week stickers in the Dakota Days parade. We have also sponsored a golf hole during a recent charity golf event arranged by the USD PA students that promoted PA Week. Most recently, Governor Mike Rounds signed a proclamation in support of the Physician Assistant profession that was witnessed by a group of Physician Assistants from the surrounding areas.

Regards, Justin Thurman

“MEMBERS ONLY”

Members sign up for the Members Only on the SDAPA website. The site is still under construction, but now would be the time to sign up. This site will be where you will go to contact other PA Members & the membership directory will be listed here. www.sdapa.net under Members. If you have questions contact Mary Nafus nafmb@dakota2k.net

PAAC Report

The Board of Medical and Osteopathic Examiners meeting was held on September 16, 2010 in Sioux Falls. This was also their annual meeting with the Board of Nursing.

Of interest in the nursing meeting were two issues: 1) a report on the use of mid-wife services since 2008 and 2) The Board of Nursing looking at implementing regulations for criminal background checks on all new applications at some time in the future. With regard to the nurse mid-wives, there have been 38 out of hospital services provided by them since 2008. Four times in 2008, 13 in 2009 and 16 in 2010. I believe that 2 of the 16 in 2010 ended up delivering in a hospital setting.

The criminal background check issue will likely be one that will affect new licensing PA's in the future, though no time line was defined.

The Board of Medicine now reimburses for only one member from each advisory board to attend the meeting. I was in attendance for the PAAC and there were representatives from respiratory therapists and from the dietitians. The advisory board members spent some time together while the board was in executive session. Of interest in this question/answer session we had with a board of medicine staff member, James Slattery, was a question raised by the respiratory therapist advisor. She brought up their practice law: **36-4C-3.**

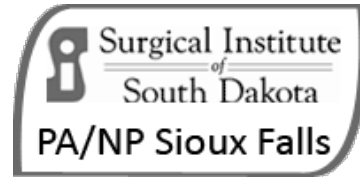
Respiratory care authorized. Respiratory care may be performed in any clinic, hospital, skilled nursing facility, private dwelling, or other place deemed appropriate by the board, in accordance with the prescription or verbal order of a physician and shall be performed under a qualified medical director where mandated by institutional accrediting agencies. She then asked if RT's could therefore act on orders from a PA or NP. It was brought up that under PA law we are designated agents of the physician which covers RT's accepting orders. This has also been an issue on a national level which may be in part where this is coming from.

By Rod King - PAAC

From The Banquet Sioux Falls

I want to thank all who so generously contributed to the cost of the meal and to all those who came to help serve. That evening we served 285 meals at a cost of about \$1.70 each and served 28 gal of milk. The total cost came to \$533.81, and is paid in full. This year to date the Banquet has served over 150,000 meals and of that number 22,000 are children. We serve nine meals every week and that includes breakfast three times a week and Saturday noon as well as five evenings a week. The two evenings before we served, shoe vouchers were given out to 1000 guests to the total of \$50,000. On those evening we served over 700 meals each evening. Our guests appreciate having the comfort and security to come for a full meal and sit in peace and visit with friends. The Banquet serves a dual purpose in both nutrition for the body and social contact. Again, Thanks you for helping us at the Banquet.

Marilyn Harms, PA



Surgical Institute of South Dakota, P.C., a six physician general surgery practice in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, is seeking a full time physician assistant to provide support to our surgical hospitalist service at Avera McKennan Hospital. Primary responsibilities will include hospital rounds, the reporting and follow-up of diagnostic test results, patient consultations, assisting with the development and execution of the care plans of each patient within the service, and assisting with surgical procedures in the operating room.

General surgery experience is preferred, and NCCPA certification and licensure or eligibility for licensure in the state of South Dakota is required. Expected hours will be M-F 7am-5pm, with rotating weekend half-day shifts. There are no nights/call obligations. An excellent compensation and benefits package is available.

Questions regarding this opportunity may be directed to mhatting@surgicalinstitute.com

For consideration, please send CV and cover letter to:

Surgical Institute of South Dakota
Attn: Mark Hatting
911 E. 20th St., Ste. 800
Sioux Falls, SD 57105

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

A CAPITOL EVENT CME CONFERENCE – JANUARY 26, 2011
CASEY TIBBS SD RODEO CENTER, FT. PIERRE, SD &
LEGISLATIVE RECEPTION – RAMKOTA HOTEL, PIERRE, SD

WINTER/SPRING CME CONFERENCE – MARCH 10, 11 & 12, 2011
BEST WESTERN RAMKOTA INN, RAPID CITY, SD

SUMMER/FALL CME CONFERENCE – SEPTEMBER 8, 9 & 10, 2011
HOLIDAY INN CITY CENTRE, SIOUX FALLS, SD

**SDAPA General Membership Meeting
September 10, 2010 – Holiday Inn
City Centre, Sioux Falls, SD**

Kristi Stemsrud, President, called the meeting to order at 12:25 pm.

Secretary report for March General Meeting was published in the April Newsletter.

Treasurer report is available at the registration table.

President Kristi Stemsrud reported Sheila Schweitzer has resigned as Vice President/President Elect. Justin Thurman has been appointed to fill the position. His position as a Board Member will be filled with the next highest vote getter from previous election. Susan Morris will be approached regarding the position.

Past President - no report.

Report from Justin Thurman for the Vice President position was given. Vicki Blake-Nafus has been awarded the PA of the Year award. We need to continue to submit nominations for PA of the Year and Distinguished PA for consideration.

Jessica (Thurman) Martin spoke on the upcoming golf tournament and SDAPA sponsorship of a hole. Randy Fite is the newest student representative on the board from the 1st year class that just started this fall.

Report from the USD program was given by Wade Nilson. The PA Foundation has awarded three students with scholarships. There are also two new Faith Family Scholarships available. Applications received so far

for the coming class have been about the same number as previous years. Faculty for the program is unchanged. Hayes scholarship winners last year were Ryan Slaba and Amber Olson.

Legislative report was given by Vicki Blake-Nafus. The Smoke Free campaign is supported by the SDAPA with a donation and a challenge to all PAs in the state to donate to the cause. There are no known controversial issues coming before the legislature.

The Medical Association is against the Medical Marijuana Movement. The floor was opened for dialogue from members regarding this issue. Concerns brought forward included problems with monitoring the use, concern about determining who will get the marijuana, and off label uses by those who do receive it. The need to have guidelines but those who need it should be able to get it was brought forward. We will not draft a position statement at this time.

Reimbursement report was given by Amiel Redfish. He will be leaving the position March 2011. He has had no calls in the last six months. There was a speaker from the Georgia Medical Association at the National meeting. From his lecture it was suggested that we need to check on claims when they are denied. There was \$1.5 million recovered for practices by re-submitting claims.

Public Relations committee, Justin Thurman says is working on PA Week activities. If there are any photos taken for publicity please submit for newsletter. There will be a picture taken with the Governor on September 29th for PA Week. Students will distribute

stickers and band aid holders at the USD Homecoming parade. SDAPA has sponsored a hole at the upcoming student golf tournament. There are PA mugs available for \$10. Upcoming issues will be to create a SDAPA logo for recognition purposes and a lapel pin.

CME report for East River was given by Karen Bumann. There are 122 attendees at this conference. If you have suggestions for speakers give them to Mary Nafus. We need to know if there is an interest in workshops again. There has been a request for presentation to be available as written presentation. We will increase the space next year. We also need more exhibitors to contact, so if you have any please notify Mary Nafus.

West River CME will be held March 10, 11 & 12, 2011. There will be a clinical breast examination workshop. A social will be held one of the evenings.

A Capitol Event CME will be held on January 26th in Ft. Pierre to coincide with the Legislative Reception that evening.

Membership directory will be on-line in the “members only” portion of the website. New graduates will be offered ½ price memberships dues for their first year. Please send updated email addresses to Mary Nafus.

Elections will be for Secretary, Board of Director, and Delegates for 2012. The ballots will be sent in January with results announced at the March meeting.

Communications report was given by Dan Palmer. We had a strategic planning meeting for the board on

Wednesday evening before the conference. We need to continue building communication. We will be redesigning the newsletter and make it on-line, but continue with an option for hard copy. Dan gave a demonstration of “Members Only” portion of website.

Meeting was adjourned at 1:15 pm.

Submitted by
Marilyn Ruhlman, Secretary

SUMMER/FALL CME – DRAWING FOR DOLLARS WINNERS \$100.00



Dana Stark, PA-C Elk Point and Marilyn Ruhlman, PA-C Brookings

A CAPITOL EVENT CME
JANUARY 26, 2011
CASEY TIBBS SD RODEO
CENTER, FT. PIERRE, SD &
LEGISLATIVE RECEPTION –
RAMKOTA HOTEL, PIERRE, SD

WINTER/SPRING CME MARCH 10,
11 & 12, 2011 - BEST WESTERN
RAMKOTA INN, RAPID CITY, SD

CME SUMMER/FALL PICS



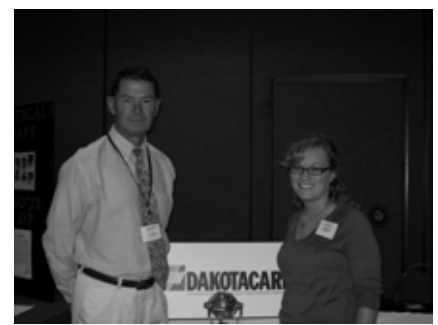
CME VENDOR WINNERS



SD Army National Guard – Leslie Linden, PA-S & Carolyn Tedford, Rep.



Delta Dental – Leonard Wonnemberg, PA-S & Jean Gross, Rep.



DAKOTACARE – Scott Jamison, Rep. & Lia Eastman, PA-S



US Army Health Care – SFC Tim Schwarten, Marilyn Seymour PA-C, Dianna Urban PA-C, Megan Schriener PA-S, Ryan Slaba PA-S, Jaelyn Vander Linden PA-S, Betty Hulse PA-C

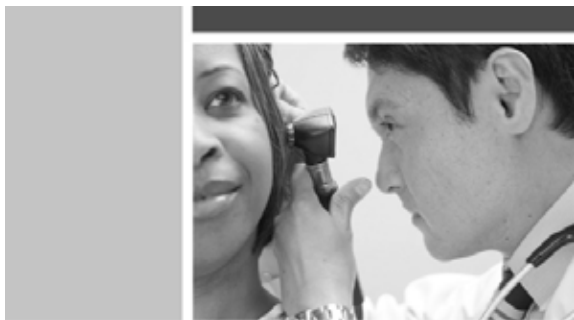


Horizon Health Care – Larry Sluiter PA-C & Lori Feller, Rep.

PA WEEK 2010

Governor Rounds signs PA Week Proclamation

Darcy McClelland-Ft. Pierre, Marvel Buhler-Onida, Governor Rounds, Barbara Joy-Pierre and Justin Thurman-Sturgis



PA WEEK 2010



During PA Week, take a moment to celebrate the individuals who work every day to transform health care. More than 74,000 certified PAs nationwide play a critical role in meeting America's growing health care needs and are valued members of today's medical workforce. Visit www.aopa.org or www.paoexcellence.org to learn more about certified PAs.

Celebrating Certified PAs Who Transform Health Care



SOUTH DAKOTA
ACADEMY OF
Physician Assistants
120 S. Madison Ave., Pierre, SD 57501-3536

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Past President Lola Pollard, MPAS, PA-C (605)588-0026	CME Coordinators West River – Co-Chairs Dan Palmer, PA-C (605)348-7957 Michelle Hagen, PA-C (605)791-2887 East River Karen Bumann, PA-C (605)847-4214	Ex-Officio Wade Nilson, PA-C, MPAS (605)677-5128
Delegates Wade Nilson, MPAS, PA-C (605)677-5128 Louise Papka, PA-C, MPAS, DFAAPA (605)670-8923 Michelle Hagen, PA-C (605)791-2887	Communications Coordinator Dan Palmer, PA-C (605)348-7957	
Alternate Delegate Clint Perman, PA-C (605)649-7684	Executive Secretary Mary B. Nafus (605)224-1203	

The South Dakota Academy of Physician Assistants newsletter is a publication of the SDAPA, edited and published by Mary B. Nafus, Executive Secretary.

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