

MEMORANDUM OF CALL

No hurry to meet
Previous editions usable

TO: CR

YOU WERE CALLED BY YOU WERE VISITED BY

OF (Organization) Bill Finnerflock

Amer. Acad. of Physicians & Surg.

PLEASE PHONE FTS AUTOVON
(703) 836-2272 Ext. 3025

WILL CALL AGAIN IS WAITING TO SEE YOU

RETURNED YOUR CALL WISHES AN APPOINTMENT

MESSAGE
Wants to meet w/ you.

RECEIVED BY: Roz DATE: 3/30 TIME: 4:40

63-110 NSN 7540-00-644-4018 U.S.G.P.O. 1992 312-070-40024
STANDARD FORM 63 (Rev. 8-81)
Prescribed by GSA
FPMR (41 CFR) 101-11.6

You'd said you were in no hurry to meet w/ him. He called again tonight - please advise.

April 29
is earliest - Roz
30 mins.



American
Academy
of Physician
Assistants

file

April 29, 1993

Ms. Carol Rasco
Assistant to the President for
Domestic Policy
Executive Office of the President
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Carol:

Ann Elderkin, PA-C, Nicole Gara, Bill Finerfrock and I would like to thank you for taking the time to meet with us today to discuss the health care reform package and the concerns of the PA profession. Your interest and concern were greatly appreciated.

Enclosed is some general information on the PA profession. We are also looking for the language used by the government in the '70s to discourage "raiding" of clinical sites by one health profession from another. As soon as we uncover this language, I will forward it to your office.

As you so aptly stated, the success of the health care reform effort will not be measured by meeting arbitrary deadlines but rather in terms of whether we are successful at improving access to health care.

We look forward to working with you in the months ahead to ensure that the health care reform effort is a success. If we can provide you with any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me, Nicole, Bill or Ann.

Sincerely,

William H. Marquardt

William H. Marquardt, PA-C
President

Enclosure

950 North Washington Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

703-836-2272
FAX 703-684-1924

PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS

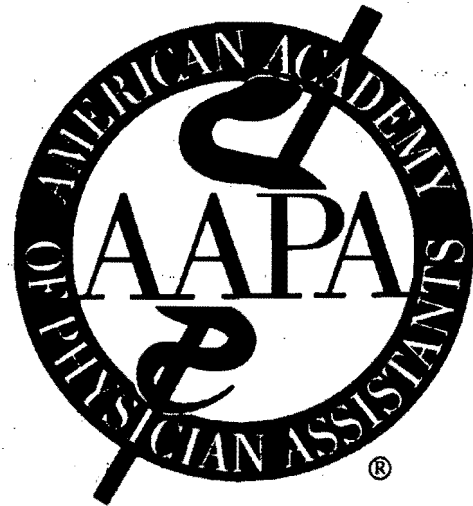


PARTNERS IN MEDICINE

American Academy of Physician Assistants
950 North Washington Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

Official Definition of Physician Assistant

approved by the
American Academy of Physician Assistants (AAPA)
House of Delegates
May 1991



“Physician assistants (PAs) practice medicine with supervision by licensed physicians. As members of the health care team, PAs provide a broad range of medical services that would otherwise be provided by physicians.

It is the obligation of each team of Physician/PA to ensure that the physician assistant’s scope of practice is identified; that delegation of medical tasks is appropriate to the physician assistant’s level of competence; that the relationship of, and access to, the supervising physician is defined; and that a process of performance evaluation is established. Adequate and responsible supervision of the PA contributes to both high quality patient care and continued professional growth.

The AAPA is committed to the concept of physician assistant practice of medicine with supervision by licensed physicians.”

HOD 1303-01-01
1-23-93

PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS

BACKGROUND

Physician assistants (PAs) practice medicine with supervision of licensed physicians, providing patient care services that would otherwise be performed by physicians.

Overview

The relationship between a physician and a physician assistant (PA) is one of mutual trust and reliance. The PA's responsibilities depend on the type of practice, his or her experience, the working relationship with the physician and other health care providers, and state laws.

Educated in a medical program, PAs are qualified to perform approximately 80 percent of the duties most commonly done by physicians. PAs perform physical examinations, diagnose illnesses and determine treatment plans, order and interpret lab tests, suture wounds, set fractures, and assist in surgical operations. In a majority of states, PAs write prescriptions.

PAs Practice Medicine

Physician assistants follow a medical model of patient care and practice medicine with supervision by licensed physicians. PAs perform a wide range of medical duties, from basic primary care to high-technology specialty procedures. Specific duties are defined by state regulation and practice setting, but include both diagnostic and therapeutic procedures. PA education also prepares physician assistants to deal with many medical emergencies. PAs often act as first or second assistants in major surgery, and provide pre- and post-operative care.

In some rural areas, where physicians are in short supply, PAs serve as the only providers of health care, conferring with their supervising physicians and other medical professionals as needed and as required by law.

Education

PAs are educated in one of 55 specially designed PA programs located at medical colleges and universities, teaching hospitals, and through the Armed Forces. Due to the close working relationship PAs have with physicians, PA education was designed to complement that of physicians.

PA programs generally require applicants to have at least two years of college education and previous experience in health care. The typical PA student in 1992 had a bachelor's degree and over 4 years of health care experience prior to admission to the PA program. PA education is usually 24 months in length and is approximately two-thirds that of medical students (102 weeks vs. 152). PAs often are in the same classes as medical students.

The first phase of PA education is in the classroom, providing students with an in-depth understanding of medical sciences. Additional subjects include differential diagnosis, medical ethics, and pharmacology. The second year is spent in clinical rotations where students have direct patient contact. Each year, PA programs graduate

approximately 1,600 men and women. More than half of the PA programs offer a baccalaureate degree upon completion; nine have master's degree programs or master's options.

Practice Credentials

Nearly all states require PAs to pass a national certifying examination before they can begin practicing. The exam, open only to graduates of accredited PA programs, is given each year by the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants (NCCPA), an independent organization established to assure the competency of PAs.

To maintain certification, PAs must complete 100 hours of continuing medical education every two years and complete a recertification exam every six years. Only those with current certification can use the credentials Physician Assistant - Certified or "PA-C".

Practice Settings

Today there are over 25,000 PAs in the United States; over 40% of them are women. PAs practice in almost all health care settings and in every medical and surgical specialty. They also serve on the White House medical staff.

Sixteen percent of all PAs practice in rural communities with fewer than 10,000 people; nearly a third practice in towns with fewer than 50,000 people. The majority of all PAs (56%) practice primary care, with 32% in family medicine. Twenty-six percent practice in surgical specialties. Approximately 70% of PAs practice in outpatient settings (clinics, HMOs, medical offices), and 30% practice in inpatient settings (hospitals).

Growth of the PA Profession

Demand for PA services is rapidly increasing. Current national statistics show there are approximately six jobs for every new PA graduate. The Department of Labor projects the number of physician assistant jobs will grow by 44% percent from 1990 through the year 2005.

Factors that have contributed to this growth include Medicare/Medicaid reimbursement for PA services and increased recognition of the quality of care that PAs provide.

• • • •

"Conceived during the new health practitioner movement of the 1960s, physician assistants have demonstrated their clinical effectiveness both in terms of quality of care and patient acceptance."

— Eighth Report to the President and Congress on the Status of Health Personnel in the United States

PRACTICE SETTINGS

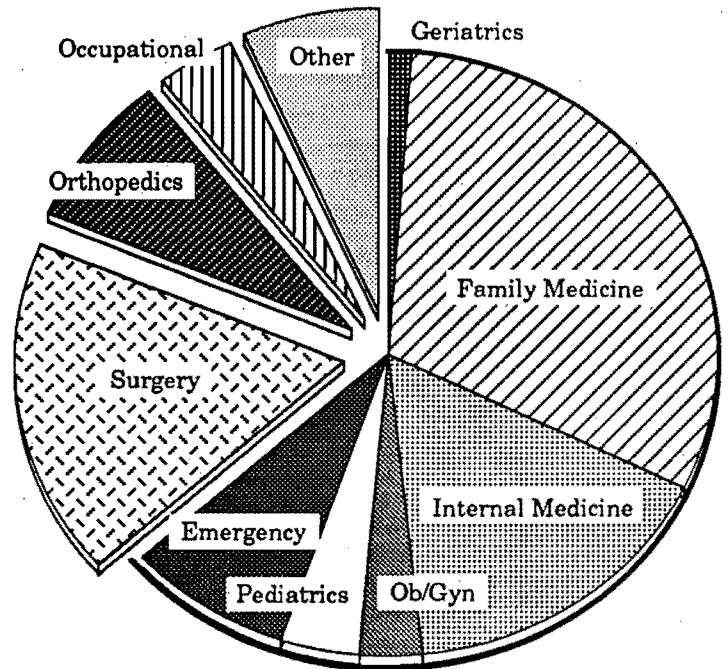
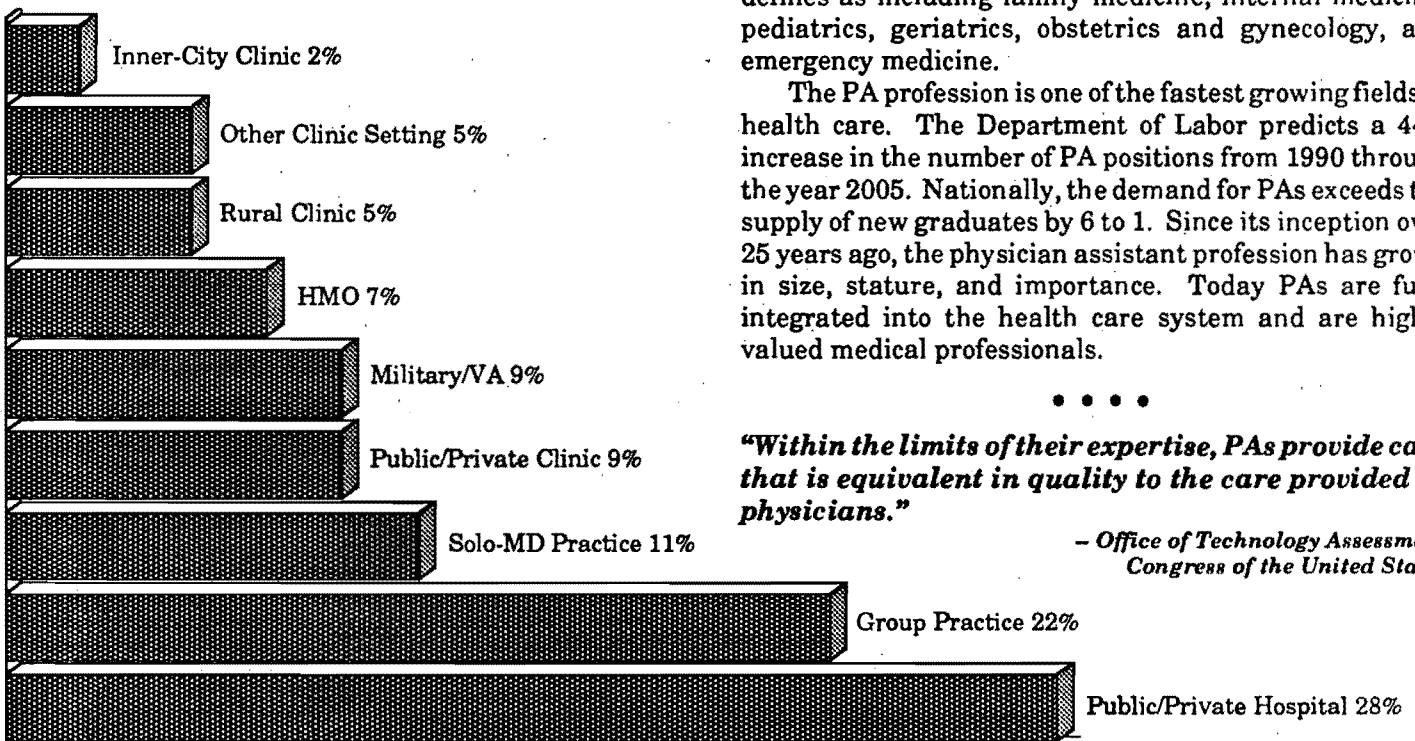
Physician assistants (PAs) practice medicine with the supervision of licensed physicians, providing patients with services ranging from primary medicine to very specialized surgical care.

Currently there are over 25,000 physician assistants in the United States, more than double the number just ten years ago. In some rural areas, where physicians are in short supply, PAs serve as the only providers of health care, conferring with their supervising physicians and other medical professionals as needed or required by law.

While most physician assistants are in primary care settings such as a family practice, PAs also are filling roles that were not anticipated when the profession began. Some of these practice settings include nursing homes, HMOs, and occupational medicine. Many hospitals, faced with a shortage of physician residents, have discovered the value of physician assistants. PAs even serve on the White House medical staff.

The PA profession has demonstrated its ability to adapt to a constantly changing health care environment. Having become an integral part of health care delivery, it is likely that PAs will continue to find, and fill, new and expanding roles in health care.

Approx. 70% work in outpatient settings (clinics, HMOs, medical offices) and 30% in hospitals



Over 50% of all PAs are in Primary Care

In 1992, 16 percent of physician assistants worked in rural communities with fewer than 10,000 residents. Twenty percent practiced in cities with more than a million people. Over 50% of all PAs practice primary care, which AAPA defines as including family medicine, internal medicine, pediatrics, geriatrics, obstetrics and gynecology, and emergency medicine.

The PA profession is one of the fastest growing fields in health care. The Department of Labor predicts a 44% increase in the number of PA positions from 1990 through the year 2005. Nationally, the demand for PAs exceeds the supply of new graduates by 6 to 1. Since its inception over 25 years ago, the physician assistant profession has grown in size, stature, and importance. Today PAs are fully integrated into the health care system and are highly valued medical professionals.



"Within the limits of their expertise, PAs provide care that is equivalent in quality to the care provided by physicians."

*— Office of Technology Assessment
Congress of the United States*

PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS

EDUCATION

PA education was modeled after physician's training -- including continuing medical education to keep abreast of medical advances.

Overview

Physician assistants are trained in an intensive medical education program that usually lasts 24 months in length. The program is offered at medical schools, colleges and universities, teaching hospitals, and through the Armed Forces. Because of the close working relationship between physician assistants and physicians, PA education was modeled after physician's training and is similar in structure, albeit shorter than medical school. Physician assistants are often educated alongside their physician counterparts.

The first year is composed of classroom instruction, with a heavy emphasis on medical sciences and related disciplines. Second-year PA students perform clinical rotations, seeing and treating patients. Some programs offer specialty training.

The Students

Over half of entering PA students are medical professionals who have experience in health care and want to continue their education. Many applicants for the PA programs are former emergency medical technicians, nurses, or other allied health professionals. Nearly half of those who apply already have a bachelor's degree.

The Programs

There are 55 physician assistant programs in the United States, graduating approximately 1,600 PAs a year. Programs are accredited by the American Medical Association's Committee on Allied Health Education and Accreditation (CAHEA). Only graduates of accredited PA programs are eligible to take the national certifying examination.

National Certification

Most states require PAs to pass the national certification examination, offered through the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants (NCCPA). Only those successfully completing the examination may use the credentials "Physician Assistant - Certified" or "PA-C."

A PA's education does not end at graduation. In order to remain certified, physician assistants are required to complete 100 hours of continuing medical education (CME) every two years and take a recertification examination every six years.

Degrees Awarded

All PA programs offer a certificate upon graduation, and most offer a bachelor's degree. Nine of the programs also have a master's degree program or master's options. More than 70% of physician assistant graduates have a

Classroom/Lab Instructions

Anatomy	Internal Medicine
Physiology	General Surgery
Pharmacology	Pediatrics
Clinical laboratory sciences	Psychiatry
Physical Diagnosis	Family Medicine
Microbiology	Behavioral Sciences
Pathophysiology	Emergency Medicine
Obstetrics/Gynecology	Biochemistry

Clinical Rotations

Emphasis is on Primary Care
Ambulatory Clinics
Physicians' Offices
Acute and Long-Term Care Facilities

National Certification Exam (Required in most states)

Continuing Medical Education (100 hours/2 year cycle)

Recertification Examination (Every 6 Years)

bachelor's degree, and 11% have a master's degree or higher.

• • • •

"Since the inception of the discipline in the 1960s, physician assistants have become firmly established as a provider group well suited to address problems of maldistribution of physicians and enhancing cost-effectiveness in health care."

- Eighth Report to the President and Congress on the Status of Health Personnel in the United States

PAS IN THE US

In 1967

The physician assistant concept originated during the mid-1960s. Physicians and educators recognized there was a shortage and uneven distribution of primary care physicians. To combat these problems, the physician assistant program was developed. The first physician assistants graduated from Duke University in 1967. They were former military corpsmen who wanted to use their medical skills in civilian life.

Today

In 1992, more than 50% of all PAs provide primary care, and 32% practice in small towns with fewer than 50,000 residents. PA distribution more closely matches the population than other primary care providers according to the *Seventh Report on the Status of Health Personnel in the United States*, published by the Department of Health and Human Services in 1990. The report noted that, were it not for PAs, many areas would have little or no access to quality health care.

The PA Practice

Physician assistants work in all 50 states, the District of Columbia; Guam, and around the world in the military. In 1992, there were approximately 149 million patient visits to physician assistants.

The average starting salary for PAs is \$35,000 to \$40,000. The average salary range for physician assistants nationwide is \$45,000 to \$50,000.

Quality Care

A study by the Congressional Office of Technology Assessment concluded that "within the limits of their expertise,

PAs provide care that is equivalent in quality to the care provided by physicians." Studies conducted by the Rand Corporation and other researchers found that PAs save as much as 20% of the costs of medical care, can perform 80 percent of the routine functions of a physician's practice, and are widely accepted by patients.

Case law reveals that physician assistants have been involved in very few malpractice cases. The majority of PAs (65%) are insured by a rider on their employer's malpractice policy; many (24%) have their own coverage.

Prescribing

A PA's practice is determined by education and experience, the supervising physician's practice, and state law. One aspect of state law is prescriptive authority.

During the last decade, the number of states granting prescriptive authority has more than doubled. Thirty-two states, the District of Columbia, and Guam allow PAs to write prescriptions for medications. Seventy-seven percent of all PAs practice in states that allow physician assistants to prescribe medication.

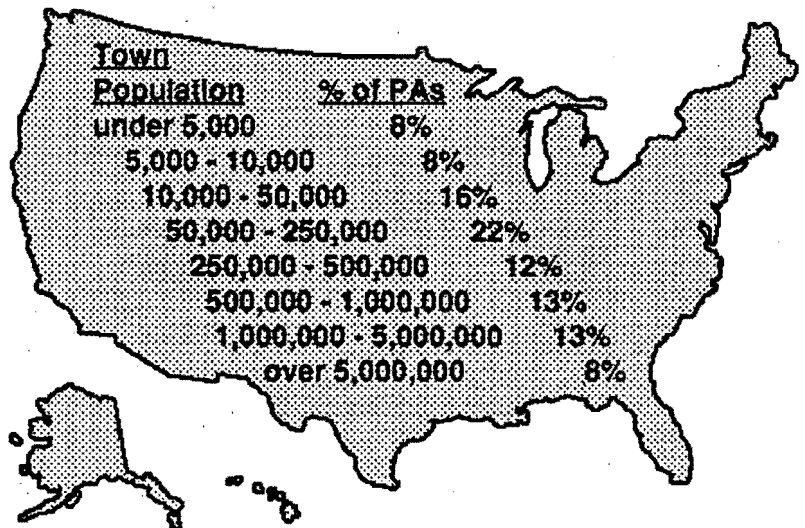
Prescriptive practice for physician assistants is a logical outgrowth of both their role and education. PA education in pharmacotherapeutics (the study of the use of medication in the treatment of disease) is proportionally equivalent to that of physicians. The National Board of Medical Examiners determined that the PA national certification examination is a valid assessment of this knowledge. Surveys show a strong similarity between PA and MD prescribing patterns.

A state-by-state summary of the laws and regulations governing PAs is available from the American Academy of Physician Assistants.

• • • •

"(Congress has) singled out programs in family medicine, general internal medicine, and general pediatrics, and training of physician assistants. . . for priority in the allocation of federal assistance because these professions will play a pivotal role in reaching the national goal of making access to primary health care more widely available and of reducing unnecessary health care costs."

*-United States Congress, 1992
Public Law 102-408*



PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS ORGANIZATIONS

American Academy of Physician Assistants

The American Academy of Physician Assistants (AAPA) is the national professional society for PAs. Founded in 1968, the Academy has chapters in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Guam. There are also chapters that represent physician assistants working for the Public Health Service, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and all branches of the military.

The mission of AAPA is to "promote quality, cost effective, and accessible health care and to promote the professional and personal development of PAs." Major activities to accomplish this goal include government relations, public education, research and data collection, and professional development.

More than 66% of all practicing physician assistants are members of AAPA. Members are graduates of accredited physician assistant programs and/or those who are nationally certified. Students at accredited programs are also eligible for membership.

The AAPA's Physician Assistants Foundation (PAF) provides funds for scholarships and research on the PA profession. In 1992, it awarded 37 scholarships totalling \$87,000 to PA students and \$15,000 in research grants to AAPA members.

For more information, contact:
American Academy of Physician Assistants
950 North Washington Street
Alexandria, VA 22314
(703) 836-2272

National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants

The National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants (NCCPA) is an independent organization established to assure the competency of physician assistants. The NCCPA was formed in 1975 by PAs and other health professional associations in order to administer a national certifying examination to graduates of accredited PA programs. The examination and the recertification exam physician assistants are required to take every six years are designed to test the medical knowledge and clinical skills of PAs.

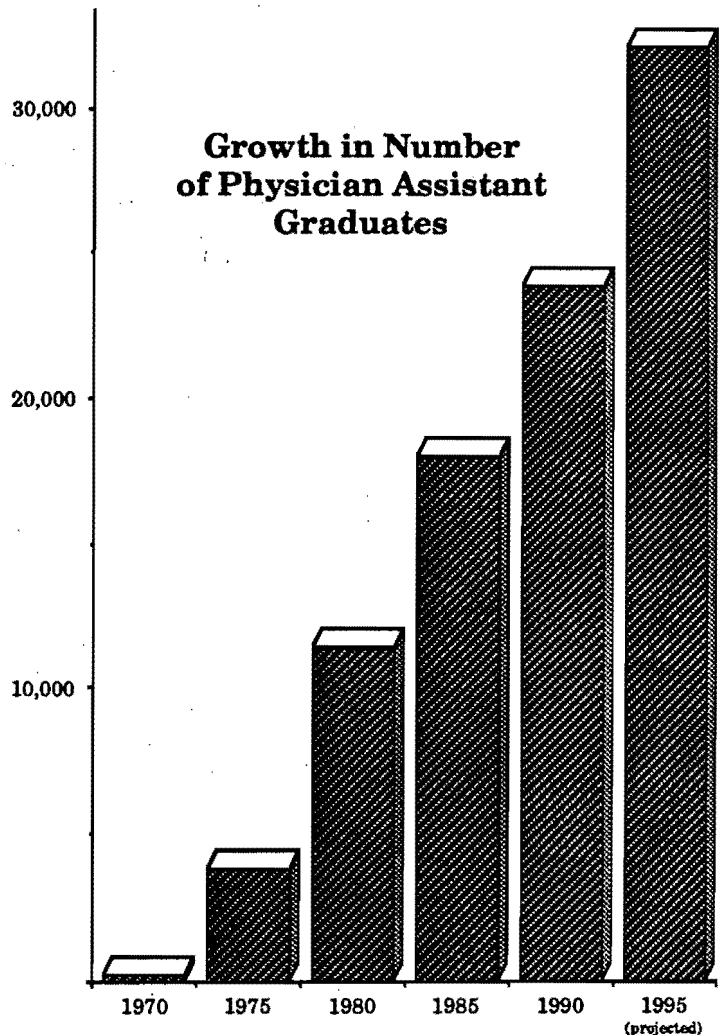
For more information, contact:
NCCPA
2845 Henderson Mill Road NE
Atlanta, GA 30341
(404) 493-9100.

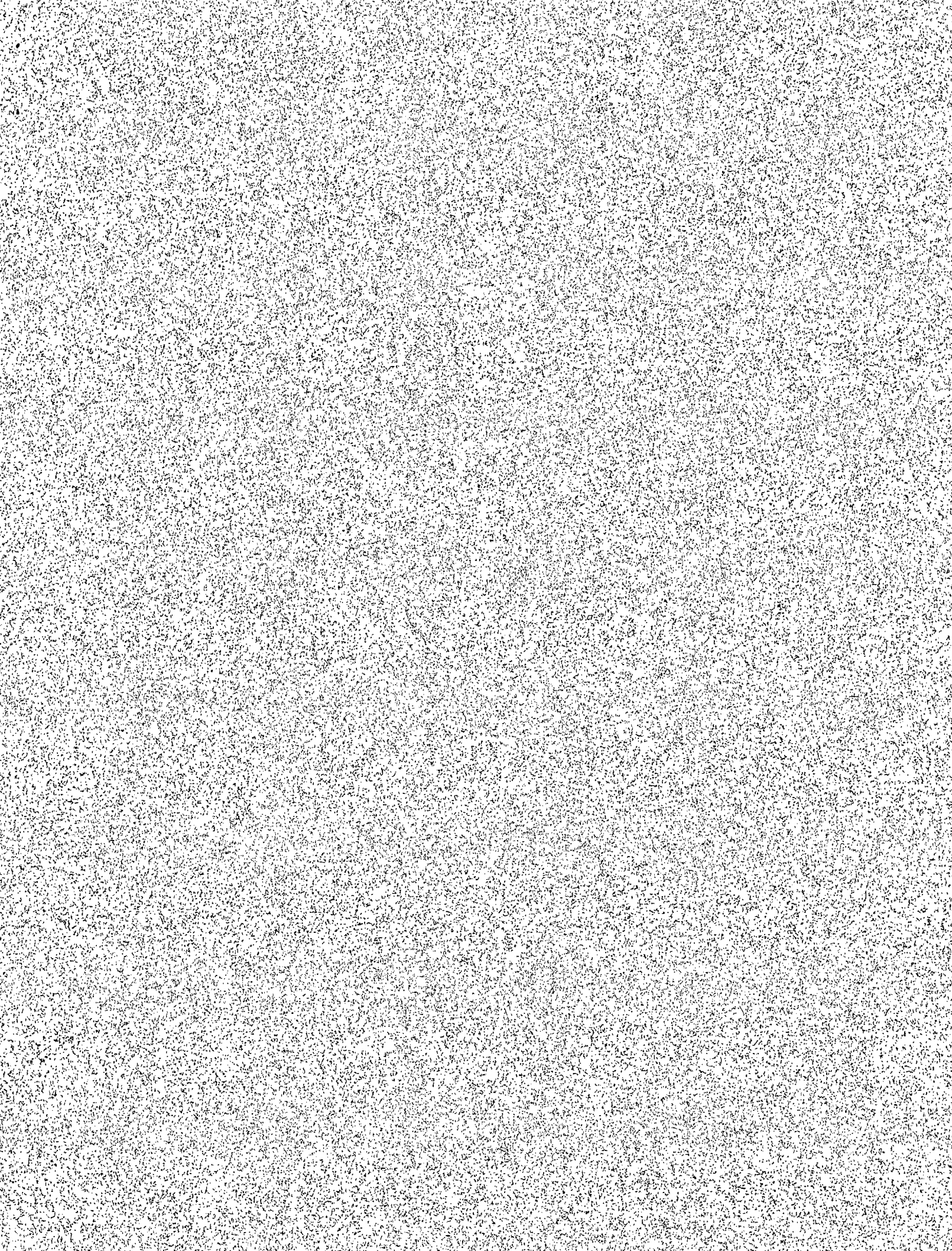
Association of Physician Assistant Programs

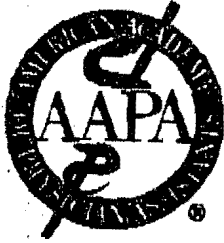
The Association of Physician Assistant Programs (APAP) shares its national headquarters with AAPA. Whereas the Academy is made up of graduates and students, APAP members are the physician assistant educational programs and faculty. Founded in 1972 to help maintain the high quality of PA education, APAP's objectives are to encourage communication among the programs and to serve as a national information center on PA education.

APAP publishes the "National Directory of PA Programs," giving complete information on the names, locations, requirements, tuition, length, and degree(s) awarded for each of the accredited PA programs. The directory is available to the public for a small fee.

For more information, contact:
Association of Physician Assistant Programs
950 North Washington Street
Alexandria, VA 22314
(703) 548-5538







AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS
950 North Washington Street, Alexandria, VA 22314
(703) 836-2272 ♦ FAX (703) 684-1924

FAX Transmission

To: Roslyn Kelly

Fax Number: 6031 452 - 2878

From: Bill Fairbrock

Day and time sent: 4:15

Number of pages (including cover sheet): 2

If you are missing pages, please call (703) 836-2272, ext. 3205

Comments: _____

Any questions,
please call



21st ANNUAL
PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT
CONFERENCE
Miami Beach
June 12-17, 1993



**American
Academy
of Physician
Assistants**

April 14, 1993

To: Roslyn Kelly
From: Bill Finerfrock *WF*
Re: Appointment with Carol Rasco

The following individuals will be attending the meeting with Carol scheduled for 10:30am on Thursday, April 29th:

950 North Washington Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

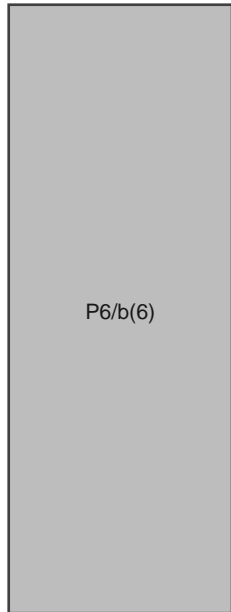
703-836-2272
FAX:703-684-1924

William Marquardt, PA-C
President
American Academy of Physician Assistants

Ann L. Elderkin, PA-C
President-elect
American Academy of Physician Assistants

Nicole Gara
Director of Government & Professional Affairs

William Finerfrock
Director of Federal Affairs



P6/b(6)

If you require any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me.