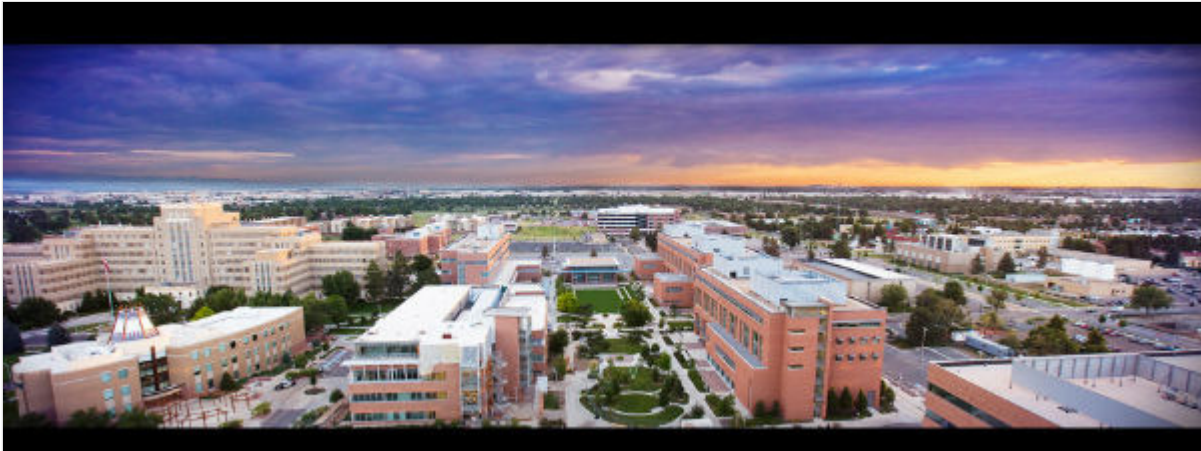


Current information about the CHA/PA Physician Assistant Program at the University of Colorado Denver.

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CHA/PA Newsletter

A CHA/PA graduate is making a difference in the lives of children and current students share their experiences with quality improvement training, the interprofessional curriculum, and the stock show. Graduates – be sure to note the Free Day at the Denver Museum of Nature & Science, the AAPA Reception, and the opportunity to interview applicants.



Helping Those Most Vulnerable

“Our children’s future and the world’s future are one,” asserted Dr. C. Henry Kempe, founder of the Kempe Center and a decades-long champion for abused and neglected children. The Kempe Center, located on the Anschutz Medical Center campus, has been a world leader for over forty



A Student's Perspective on Interprofessional Education

In the fall of 2011, each CHA/PA student was assigned to a group of interprofessional students. These groups were typically comprised of students from the following programs: CHA/PA, Medicine, Nursing, Dentistry, Pharmacy, and Physical Therapy. For many of us, it

years in child abuse treatment and prevention programs. CHA/PA graduate Cindy Tanner has aligned herself with this amazing organization for over twenty years. As a graduate of the first CHA/PA class in 1972 consisting of nine women, Cindy was part of paving the way for so many PAs to come. She was even unsure when she began the program if she would ever be able to practice medicine. There were no laws in place that allowed PAs to practice medicine in CO at that time. Cindy was able to get a job after graduation, with her first job being in a pediatric primary care setting. She experienced a fair amount of opposition from both nurses and physicians. Yet, over time, everyone's roles became defined and the nurses, PAs, and physicians began working as a team. Looking back, Cindy is amazed at the evolution of the PA profession and the various roles that PAs can now fulfill; PAs are able to function in such a broad spectrum of specialties and subspecialties. She cannot imagine having chosen a career better suited for her. She notes, "I have realized that I will never stop learning as long as I am a practicing PA, an aspect of the profession that I love." Cindy's long-term position has been as a member of the Child Protection Team at the Kempe Center, which consists of physicians, a pediatric nurse practitioner, a social worker, and a psychologist. The Child Protection Team is a consult group that evaluates cases where there are

was the first time we were able to get to know students from other programs on campus. Our Interprofessional Education (IPE) experience provided us with insight as to what each student's program is like, and it was interesting to be able to compare and contrast the different education components of each of our programs. We also were able to learn what it really means to be an individual in each profession, and what the scope of practice for each profession is. We participated in a variety of team-building exercises as IPE groups. In the fall of 2011, each group was given the opportunity to interview an individual from the community who volunteered to share their experience with the health care system. This allowed us to see from a patient's perspective how imperative it is for professionals in the medical field to communicate effectively and coordinate patient care. As IPE groups, we also went through the Ethics program together, which helped us to be able to view a variety of ethical situations from other perspectives. This past fall and spring, we were given hypothetical patient cases, which we then analyzed as a team. Our goal was to identify the issues in the patient's care, and, more importantly, why these issues occurred. The patient care issues usually related to a lack of communication between care providers. These scenarios reinforced the idea that life-threatening problems for our patients can arise as a consequence of poor

concerns of abuse and neglect. Children may be patients at The Children's Hospital Colorado or they may be referred to the Kempe Center by community physicians, law enforcement, or social services. Cindy manages her own cases and reports abuse to appropriate agencies as needed. As a contact person for social services and law enforcement, she provides updated medical information for children staying at The Children's Hospital. Additionally, she testifies as an expert witness in both civil and criminal court and shares her vast experience with medical students, residents, and PAs who rotate with her team. As one can only imagine, there is a significant emotional toll that takes place in working with abused children. She becomes frustrated when the system does not work as it should and children are not protected. Yet, she finds tremendous satisfaction as well. Her aspiration is to be someone who is there for those who cannot help themselves. "Children are vulnerable members of our society, who often cannot speak up for themselves. Knowing that I may have made a difference in a child's life is incredibly rewarding," asserts Cindy. April is Child Abuse Prevention Month. The Kempe Center is hosting numerous activities to raise awareness, educate, and garner more community support for abused and neglected children. You can get involved and learn more at [The](#)

communication between medical care providers. Our formal IPE experience has come to an end, but our opportunities to collaborate with other medical professionals is only beginning. I hope we can all take the tools we learned from IPE and successfully implement them into our patient care, both now and in the future.

Kaitlyn Weigang
Class of 2014



Participating in the National Western Stock Show

As a National Western Stock Show (NWSS) scholarship recipient, I was asked to volunteer at the Junior Livestock auction. I never thought I would have moved to the city to see my first pro rodeo or livestock auction, but little did I know that attending the NWSS would be one of the best perks of living in the city so far.

As the country music band blared its warm-up, some of the other dozen or so scholarship students, mostly University of Wyoming Agriculture Business undergraduates, told me that the bids on these hogs, sheep, and steer reach \$100,000. In return,

[Kempe Center website.](#)



CHA/PA Alumni & Preceptors Day at the Museum

All CHA/PA Alumni, Preceptors, and their families are invited to a FREE DAY at the Denver Museum of Nature & Science! Join us on Sunday, April 28th from 1-5pm. Immediate family is welcome – be sure to RSVP soon as space is limited. [Click here](#) to RSVP.



Kevin Bogart joins the CHA/PA Faculty

Kevin Bogart, MPAS, PA-C graduated from the CHA/PA Program in 2010. He practiced in Primary Care Internal Medicine at Denver Health and was a regular guest lecturer and small group facilitator until joining the faculty full time in 2013. Kevin's

I explained to them what a PA does. They were clearly more in their professional element amongst the livestock than I was in mine! Before long we were thrown into a pre-auction social "mixer," where the bidders, who appeared powerful and dressed in their finest western wear, ate meat and we thanked them for supporting the scholarship.

When the auction began, the arena was packed. To kick things off, the evening news anchorwoman directed all of us scholarship students to get on stage for the whole television-viewing city to see. When the first perfectly groomed young person paraded their well bred, perfectly groomed animal across stage, the auctioneer sang as fast as he could. Upon the sale of an animal, I had to quickly move through the bleachers, staying out of the way of the callers and TV cameras, to bring paperwork to the highest bidder. As each sold, some of the kids who raised them cried, in part for joy at earning their college tuition, and in part in sadness at seeing their animal companions be sold. Overall, it was an unforgettable experience I would have never expected to have while in PA school.

**Maria Kallman
Class of 2015**

clinical interests are in adult medicine, working with diverse urban/underserved populations, international health and motivating behavior change through interviewing. Kevin will be teaching the 2nd year Adult Clinical medicine course, developing novel adult clinical simulations for our SIMM's course, and leading an inter-professional ethics small group. He will also be involved in improving diversity in admissions and cultural competencies within the PA program and profession. We are excited to have him join us!



Faculty Member Receives Award

Faculty member Darcy Solanyk received the Barbara Quarantillo Scholarship award. The family and friends of Barb Quarantillo and the Section of Pediatric Infectious Disease sponsors this award that provides a scholarship to the recipient to attend The Children's Hospital Annual Pediatric Infectious Disease Conference held in Vail each fall.



Healthcare Improvement Training

Imagine the following two scenarios: A nurse is asked to give a patient a particular IV antibiotic. She grabs the wrong antibiotic from the cabinet and administers a different IV medication instead.^[1]

A busy surgical team does not take the extra time to perform a pre-op "time-out" and operates on the wrong side of a patient.^[1]

These two cases highlight fairly typical preventable errors that occur all too often in our medical system; the Institute of Medicine estimates that mistakes in medical care cause 44,000 to 98,000 deaths per year in the US. Recognizing the need for better health outcomes, the Institute for Healthcare Improvement (IHI) was founded to improve healthcare worldwide. One way IHI works towards this goal is by advancing quality improvement and patient safety competencies in the next generation of health professionals through its Open School. Recently, Karen Wilson and I became the first PA students to serve on the CU IHI Open School chapter steering committee.

This is also the first interprofessional steering committee for CU with



CHA/PA Students Provide Health Assessments at the Stock Show

I had the opportunity this past January to volunteer at the National Western Stock Show at the Denver Coliseum. I am originally from Minnesota and have had some exposure to farming and ranching. I thought going to the stock show would be similar to some of the other experiences I have had but I had no idea that I would stumble across a heifer judging (I thought a cow was a cow) and get to watch riders warming-up their big and elegant jumping horses. Even better, I got to meet some of the nicest and most grateful people I have encountered in Colorado.

I spent most of my time volunteering at the AHEC health-screening booth. AHEC stands for Area Health Education Center and Colorado has six regions in the state, each with its own AHEC organization. According to the University of Colorado's website, "The mission of the Colorado AHEC is to improve the quality and quantity of education to healthcare providers in Colorado in order to enhance the delivery of healthcare services throughout the state, with special emphasis on frontier, rural and urban

student representation from nursing, pharmacy, dental, medical, public health, physical therapy, and physician assistant. The interprofessional approach emphasizes team-based healthcare and the unique skills that each person brings to the healthcare team. This year, March 3-9 was Patient Safety Awareness Week. The CU IHI Open School sponsored an awareness campaign with email communications, flyers, and an informational table with case reports and resources on patient safety. We added 50 new members to the chapter from this event. Future events will focus on successful improvement projects at Children's Hospital, planning future projects, speaking engagements from local hospital CEOs, and participation in the national Student Quality Leadership Academy.

**Geoff Slater
Class of 2015**

[1] IHI Open School, PS 101: Fundamentals of Patient Safety



Student Receives CAPA Award

Andrew Henrichs, Class of 2014,

communities and minority populations.” Needless to say, they are a wonderful organization and among many other services provide support to the CHA/PA rural and CU–Unite tracks and help students find housing during rural clinical rotations.

At the health booth we gave screenings that included blood glucose measurements, blood pressure readings and cholesterol levels for those who qualified, such as farmers, ranchers and uninsured individuals. For some of the farmers and ranchers, going to their primary care provider is a struggle because they are on call 24/7 for their land and their animals, not to mention the distance and access issues some also face. Luckily, the stock show gives them, and us, an opportunity to meet face-to-face and have a discussion on how they measure up in those screening tests and the importance of following-up with the clinician in their area. This was a win-win situation because I was able to have valuable patient interactions confidently providing the screening assessment while my patients gained a little more insight into their health at no cost. I will definitely be returning again next year to see the culture of the stock show and have some more very meaningful patient experiences.

Patrick Machacek
Class of 2015

received a scholarship from the Colorado Academy of Physician Assistants (CAPA). The CAPA scholarship is awarded annually to honor a student who has demonstrated the highest level of service to the PA profession and community and who ideally has potential for future professional leadership. Selection criteria for this award consists of the student's demonstration of an evolving professional identity, and a dedication to uphold and advance the values, ethics, knowledge and mission of the PA profession within their school and community. Additionally, the scholarship committee looks for evidence of dedication in the form of professionalism, leadership, PA promotion, service, competence, and scholarship.



Graduates--Opportunity to Interview

Are you interested in interviewing applicants this fall on campus? The only requirement is that you graduated in 2010 or earlier. The time commitment is from 8am to around 2pm for each interview day. We would love to have your participation! Email Kay Denler at pa-

info@ucdenver.edu if you would like more information.



Injection Workshop for 2nd Year Students



AAPA Annual Conference Reception

CHA/PA will be hosting an Alumni Reception at this year's AAPA conference in Washington, DC. Please join us for drinks and appetizers at the Renaissance DC Downtown Hotel on Sunday, May 26th from 5 -7pm. (See the final conference program for room location.) This will be a great opportunity to connect with classmates and other alumni!



CH/PA on Facebook

"Like" us on [Facebook](#) and see photos of current students at the CAPE!

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Office Hours: 7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., Monday - Friday

MOVING? NEW CONTACT INFORMATION? Please email the office at PA-Info@ucdenver.edu so that we can keep in touch with you!!



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