

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

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CHA/PA Newsletter

Students and faculty have been raising awareness on many issues through the community from child abuse in conjunction with Children's Hospital Colorado to the needs of the homeless and educating seniors on diabetes. Read on to learn more!



Please Join Us in Boston!

Practicing Rural Medicine

Fran Schreiber did not set out to make a career in rural medicine. She had planned a two year stay in Cheyenne Wells, CO after graduating from CHA/PA in 1994. Two years turned into twenty, spent at Keefe Memorial Hospital covering the ER as well as implementing a new outreach clinic and a women's clinic. She fell in love with rural medicine and hasn't looked back.

Fran has seen lives saved as a result of a small town having its own hospital. She is able to care for underserved people in their own hometown, without having to travel hours for medical attention. Additionally, a rural setting has given her a great deal of autonomy as a PA where she has covered the ER by herself, treating everything from otitis media to stabilizing a critical case of Mosaic variegated aneuploidy syndrome. Fran is passionate about the PA

CHA/PA will be hosting an Alumni Reception at this year's AAPA conference in Boston. Please join us for drinks and appetizers in the Adams Room at the Westin Waterfront Hotel on Sunday, May 25th from 5-7pm. This will be a great opportunity to connect with classmates and other alumni. Hope to see you there!



Faculty Member Dr. Michael Hall Wins CU Teaching Award

We would like to congratulate faculty member Dr. Michael Hall on being awarded the University of Colorado Chancellor's Teaching Recognition Award. This award is one of the highest honors given to teaching faculty at the University. Dr. Hall received his PhD in Pharmacology from the University of Colorado

profession as it enables her to make a difference in others' lives every day. Treating the underserved throughout her career, she has traveled on multiple medical mission trips. She has also chosen to sow into the lives of future PAs by precepting CHA/PA students for over twenty years. "I am able to share my love of medicine and watch the students grow and learn with each new procedure and patient visit," she notes about her time with students. Fran is continuing her work as a PA in a rural setting, now in Pagosa Springs, CO in a primary care clinic. Her passion to work with the underserved both locally and abroad has not dimmed, as she recently returned from a medical mission trip to Guatemala. She had the opportunity to care for people there who had not had access to healthcare for more than three months. Fran is optimistic about the future of the PA profession. She sees that the demand will continue to grow and

Health Sciences Center in 1987. While pursuing his doctorate, he began lecturing for the CHA/PA program as a guest speaker and ultimately joined the CHA/PA faculty in 1989. Dr. Hall has taught CHA/PA's first-year biochemistry and physiology curriculum for over twenty-five years and has influenced the lives of hundreds of PA students. Congrats!



Outreach to an Adult Daycare Community

As part of my rotation at the Colorado Refugee Wellness Center, I worked with one of the patient navigators, Waseem Abdulhameer, to prepare a diabetes health outreach event for Arabic-speaking refugees at AZA

that the PA profession has become widely understood and regarded within the medical field. “No one knows the new advances in medicine, but it will be phenomenal.”



Child Abuse Awareness Month

Faculty member Jacqueline Sivahop addressed hundreds of employees from Children’s Hospital Colorado and the Kempe Center on April 1st. As part of child abuse awareness month, Jacqueline shared her passion for the protection of children on both a personal and professional level. “By educating our community about prevention strategies, we can empower others to advocate for the safety of our children. Fostering a community that is invested in

Adult Daycare on February 19th. Several participants had Type II diabetes themselves, thus they energetically contributed to the presentation as we posed interactive questions to the group. We presented information on the physiology of diabetes, associated medications, and complications that may occur with diabetes. Participants also learned how diabetes patients can best care for themselves and what their doctors will do to monitor their disease. The participants particularly responded to the images I showed them on my iPad to help demonstrate diabetic retinopathy, diabetic foot, and what happens in diabetic nephropathy. They enthusiastically asked a myriad of questions throughout the presentation. I was most caught off guard by the question “Can shock and stress from trauma cause diabetes?”, which Waseem informed me was a common belief in Iraq. We received several “thank you's” after the presentation,

preventing child abuse,” she noted. Jacqueline has participated in various endeavors with Children’s Hospital Colorado and the Kempe Center geared toward the safety of children, including the Shaken Baby Syndrome Prevention Workgroup. See [CBS4 Denver’s website](#) for video and more coverage of the event.



SAAAPA Oral Health Champions

SAAAPA (Student Academy of the American Academy of Physician Assistants) recognizes students from various PA programs nationwide that demonstrate exemplary dedication to oral health in PA education. The goal is to educate PAs about the importance of good oral health and the systemic implications of oral disease. In partnership with the

and I hope that we helped the group better understand this disease.

Kaitlin Ahern, Class of 2014



AHEC Scholarship Recipients

The Central Colorado Area Health Education Center awarded Maria Kallman, Class of 2015, and Sandra Benitez Kruidenier, Class of 2016, with the CO Health Professions Scholarship. This scholarship recognizes outstanding graduate level students enrolled in health professions who will ultimately practice in rural or underserved communities in Colorado. Faculty Member Joyce Nieman presented Maria and Sandra with their awards at the banquet on March 29th.

nccPA Health Foundation, SAAAPA has recognized two CHA/PA students as this year's Oral Health Champions: Ryan Miller and Anne Dederer.



Foot Care Clinic for the Homeless



CHA/PA in the News

Faculty Member Kevin Bogart has been accepted into CU's Teaching Scholars Program, which is offered to health professions faculty. His goal is to develop an advanced communication curricula and empathy training for the CHA/PA program.

Faculty members Joyce Nieman and Jacqueline Sivahop presented posters at this year's Education Scholarship & Innovation Symposium in February on the CU Anschutz Medical Campus. The goal of the symposium was to present and discuss educational scholarship from

In early March, four students from the PA program had the chance to participate in a foot care clinic for the homeless at several locations across Denver. Emily Greene, Savannah Porter, Karen Wilson, and I are part of the CU Unite track, a longitudinal track designed for students interested in working with urban underserved communities.

Together with six faculty members and 14 other medical students and nurse practitioner students, we provided care to 75 homeless people from the Denver community. We clipped toenails, provided basic foot toiletries, and checked for red flags such as bunions, open wounds, fractures and pre-cancerous spots, all

the CU Denver community.

Program Director Jonathan Bowser was a panel member at the Association of Health Care Journalists conference in March in which he presented on disparities in oral health care.



Sharing the PA Profession with Middle and High School Students

Health Professions Opportunity Day (hPod) is a health and research program that is available for middle school and high school students participating in Pre-Collegiate

of which these individuals could not otherwise afford. Homeless people spend an average of four hours a day standing in lines, so foot care is critical for the health of this population, as well as their ability to find work.

We were also able to spend valuable time talking with our patients while their feet were soaked. We were able to hear their stories and provide a much-needed emotional outlet for several of them. They explained to us that they rarely see a provider, and that they seldom have the chance to talk about themselves with someone truly listening. Read more about our experience in the [Denver Post](#).

Sarah Davis,
Class of 2015



programs offered by CU-system campuses. The goal of hPod is to introduce students to opportunities in the healthcare field, and provide them with information on how to prepare for a career in healthcare.

My fellow classmates and I had a great time educating the enthusiastic learners about the PA profession. We were very impressed with the student participants who were all clearly motivated about their futures and excited about the idea of working in healthcare. Many of the students were already considering becoming PAs! After talking about the PA profession, we divided into small groups where we taught the students some physical exam skills, including heart and lung sound auscultation and deep tendon reflexes. The hPod was a great opportunity for us to take a break from studying and share our passion for the PA profession with others.

We would like to thank the Office of Inclusion and Outreach and the

PA's and State Politics

We were lucky to have Steve Kudebeh, PA-C from the CHA/PA Class of 1987 return to campus this spring to talk to us about state politics and how PAs fit into the political realm. As a PA, you might think to yourself, "I care about patients, not politics!" While patients certainly have first priority, state politics greatly influence PAs and the care that we can provide.

The Colorado State Legislature makes the laws and gives the task of translating and enforcing those laws to the Colorado Medical Board. The Medical Board is an entity separate from legislature and is governed by eleven physicians, four public members, and one PA. PAs practice medicine under CO state laws, so any legislative changes have a significant impact. It is important for all PAs to be aware of state legislation and keep up to date on what changes are being made. As a profession with quickly evolving practice laws, we have the opportunity to ensure any changes

Center for Pre-Collegiate and Academic Outreach Programs for partnering on this event, as well as the students who attended for their attention and thoughtful questions!

Kelsey Ruhmann, Class of 2016

that are made are for the better, both for us and for our patients.

I would encourage you to visit the [Colorado Medical Board website](#) to become familiar with the organization. Especially important is Rule 400 that outlines the current PA practice laws in Colorado (see “Laws, Rules and Policies,” “Regarding the Regulation of Other Health Care Providers”). When it comes to politics, knowledge is power!

Patrick Machacek, Class of 2015



2014–

15 Admissions

The 2014–15 admission cycle is now open. [See our website](#) for full details on deadlines, application procedures, and prerequisites. The



Job Opportunities

Looking for a new job? We post both local and national job opportunities [on our website](#). Postings are listed for two months. Job opportunities to be



CH/PA on

Facebook

"[Like](#)" us on [Facebook](#) to track the latest events in the CHA/PA program.

next admission information session will be on June 6th. You can register [online](#). posted can be emailed to pa-info@ucdenver.edu

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