

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

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## CHA/PA Newsletter

Read on to learn more about student participation at the Stock Show, CAPA Conference, Global Health Conference, and much more!



### A Career Dedicated to the Underserved

Julia Gravlin entered the Physician Assistant profession in 1986, at a time where PA positions were difficult to find. Shortly after graduation, she sought out employment in Oakland, California, where most physicians were unfamiliar with PAs. She had



### National Western Stock Show

Growing up in suburban NY, the National Western Stock Show is a pretty foreign affair to me. Here, people and families from all over the country converge for 2 weeks in Denver to showcase their livestock and horses, buy and sell

to sell herself and the profession to break through, finding that her third year of clinical experiences were a major selling point. She ended up starting her career as a medical technologist in San Francisco where the AIDS epidemic was full blown. After a few months, Julia began her first position in pediatric medicine working both at a migrant farm clinic near San Jose and in a pediatric practice near Berkeley. Julia moved on to pediatric emergency medicine, working at LA County USC Medical Center. This job ended up becoming her passion for over two decades – the USC Medical Center is an open door hospital for every uninsured and undocumented child in Southern California. “I have been able to see some of the rarest and most fascinating cases imaginable. I can honestly say that it never, ever got boring,” notes Julia.

She then decided to move on to the hospital-based county pediatric outpatient clinic, where she works today. This clinic provides care to a large population of medically, socially, and economically disadvantaged children. Julia loves that she is able to come along side of parents who are in a constant struggle to provide good care for their children. Many of the families she works with are challenged to care

agricultural equipment, and go to the rodeo. I had the fortunate chance to volunteer both weekends with the University of Colorado and Colorado AHEC Program, providing free health screenings to adults and children. The screening booth ran like butter, staffed from 8am to 8pm everyday with volunteers from all different health professional schools on campus, as well as clinicians to oversee students. We checked BMI, vision, blood pressures and blood sugars, and asked folk about simple lifestyle and dietary choices. A lot of people who came through our booth were ranchers, farmers, and people living in rural areas with limited access to healthcare. I was humbled by the gratitude people had for our services and the small tidbits of advice we were able to offer. What’s more, it was the first time I really felt empowered as a future provider and I saw how much my words and simple suggestions were trusted. I encourage any and all to participate next year to practice some exam skills and motivational interviewing, hang out with students from other programs, and get the chance to experience an upbringing that may be far different from your own.

**Molly McLean**  
**Class of 2019**

for their sick children while balancing the associated medical costs and full-time jobs. Julia reflects back to her time at CHA/PA fondly, and especially appreciates the education she received on the psycho-social aspects of pediatric medicine and on physical and sexual abuse through CU's Kempe Center for the Prevention and Treatment of Child Abuse and Neglect. This training enabled her to understand her responsibility as a provider to abused children and to work toward the best outcome for this population.



### **PAs for Global Health Conference**

Attending PA school at the University of Colorado not only provides an excellent education, but exciting opportunities to partake in as well. One of these opportunities was the PAs for Global Health Conference held on campus. The conference brought together alumni, students, and



University of Colorado  
Anschutz Medical Campus  
Child Health Associate/  
Physician Assistant Program  
School of Medicine

### **CHA/PA Leadership Restructure**

The leadership team at CHA/PA has been restructured to better fit the changing needs of the program. Rebecca Maldonado, MSHPE, PA-C, is now the Associate Director of Educational Strategy, focusing on curriculum design and faculty development. Jacqueline Sivahop, MS, PA-C, has been promoted to Associate Director of Program Quality, overseeing program evaluation and quality improvement. David Eckhardt, MS, PA-C has been promoted to Assistant Director of Assessment, which oversees learner assessment and evaluation.



### **CAPA Conference 2017**

persons from all over the country who share a passion for working with underserved populations both at home and abroad. Throughout the day, various speakers shared insight and information on global health work, and also provided an ideal environment for networking across many interests. As the PA profession expands and becomes more globally recognized, the opportunity for PAs to engage in international work is expanding; especially considering the impact PAs could make utilizing the values of healthcare accessibility in underserved populations on a more widespread scale. Speakers also presented on different tricks of the trade, issues concerning travel and returned travelers, as well as ways to be involved domestically working with immigrant and refugee populations. While PAs continue to grow in their profession, so do the opportunities available to PAs. Involvement in global health work and the dedication to caring for underserved populations is likely to allow PAs to be integrated into healthcare systems worldwide providing exciting prospects for those interested in international work.

**Megan Darrow**  
**Class of 2019**



Roughly 20 first and second year CHA/PA students had the opportunity to escape the city in early February to attend CAPA's (CO Academy of Physician Assistants) annual Winter CME Conference in Copper Mountain, CO. Students enjoyed participating in a casting workshop, pharmacology lectures, acute care talks and even a suture lab! Additionally, this conference continually serves as a fantastic networking opportunity for CHA/PA students as many get ready to enter "the real world" as practicing PAs! Between lectures, many students were able to escape to the nearby slopes for some skiing and snowshoeing. CHA/PA's CAPA student representatives put together a silent auction to benefit Camp Wapiyapi during the first evening of the conference. Camp Wapiyapi is a Colorado-based non-profit organization which supports a summer camp experience for children battling cancer and their families. Donations collected from numerous local organizations included, Airbnb stays, escape-room certificates, Denver Zoo admission tickets and various gift cards! In addition to the silent auction, the student representatives also held a bake sale, featuring various homemade goodies made by CHA/PA students. Between the silent

## Advocating for the PA Profession

On Thursday, January 26, 2017 members of the Colorado Academy of Physician Assistants (CAPA) met at the Denver capitol to advocate for the PA profession. Participants prepared for their time with the members of the Colorado legislature by attending advocacy workshops. This was my first time at the state capitol as an advocate for the PA profession and it was quite exciting!

We spent the early part of the morning meeting with with Senator Irene Aguilar and Rep. Polly Lawrence, both of whom discussed how PAs can advocate for their patients and professions at the capitol. We shared with them how valuable PAs are in the healthcare system and focused on our training and education.

We also entered the house and senate chambers to mingle with our state leaders, including Dafna Michaelson Jenet, Rep. Steve Lebsock, and Rep. Yeulin Willett. Rep. Steve Lebsock is actively working on a DORA medical complaints bill and is seeking input from PAs in Colorado.

A key bill SB 74, Medication Assisted Therapy Treatment (MATT) Pilot program was discussed. This program includes a statewide task force for implementation that utilizes PAs

auction and bake sale, the CHA/PA Program is thrilled to have raised a total of \$800 for Camp Wapiyapi – we are very proud to continually support such an inspirational organization! The event was not only educational but a great excuse to retreat to the mountains; students are already looking forward to attending next year!

**Carly Galimanis**  
Class of 2019



### CHA/PA in the News

Faculty member Kevin Bogart and Medical Director Tai Lockspeiser, MD, presented their poster "Empathy enhancing educational design to improve communication in PA students" at the Education Scholarship and Innovation Symposium on the CU Campus

Faculty member Claudia Luna-Asturias had the following paper accepted for publication in the Journal of PA Education: "Are Physician Assistants needed in Guatemala? A survey of potential urban and rural users"

and APNs to provide MATT to those addicted to opioids in Pueblo and Routt counties. It was a fun and productive adventure and reminds me how proud I am to be a PA!

**Joyce Nieman, PA-C**  
**CHA/PA Faculty Member**

Faculty member Kevin Bogart and Kari Hayes, MD presented their poster "Redeveloping the Role of Radiology in the CU Physician Assistant Program" at the Education Scholarship and Innovation Symposium on the CU Campus

Program Director Jonathan Bowser was a co-author on a paper that was accepted for publication in the Journal of Public Health Dentistry: "Curriculum Influence on Interdisciplinary Oral Health Education and Practice"

Faculty member Jacqueline Sivahop wrote one of PAEA's "One Pagers for Preceptors," entitled SNAPPS: <http://paeonline.org/alerts/tips-for-making-precepting-painless-other-resources/>

Laticia Hollingsworth, PA-C, Class of 1997 was awarded a Certificate of Added Qualifications (CAQ) in Orthopaedic Surgery by the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants (NCCPA).



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## Interested in precepting CHA/PA students?

Have you considered precepting CHA/PA students? Find out about the advantages of training up our next generation of PA students and find contact information on the [Preceptor section of our website](#).

## CHA/PA on Facebook

"Like" us on [Facebook](#) to see what is new at CHA/PA!

### Contact Information:

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

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