

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 upcoming events, faculty and graduate accomplishments, scholarship recipients, and much more!



50th Anniversary– Recap!

Many thanks to all who joined us in celebrating 50 years of educating world-class PAs and supporting current and future students with scholarship fundraising. The night was full of program memories, alumni reunions, inspiring speakers, great food & music, and a touching [video](#) showcasing the CHA/PA legacy in medical education.



PA week, 2019!

This year PA Week was extra special at the CHA/PA program as it also marked our 50th Anniversary! To celebrate, students hosted a lecture on Medical Marijuana, made crafts with patients at Children's Hospital, organized a blood drive, visited local high schools to talk about becoming a PA, supported

If you would like to donate in support of student scholarships please visit our [donation page](#).



Lorrie Kehmeier– Long–time Preceptor, Alum & Provider

As the 4th PA in Northern Colorado and an early CHA/PA grad (1984), Lorrie Kehmeier is no stranger to breaking new ground in the PA world. A current preceptor to our students at the Youth Clinic in Ft. Collins, Lorrie is a long-standing pillar in our students' clinical education and a much appreciated ally to our program.

Starting as a fresh grad in a world where most physicians had never even heard of a PA, Lorrie found herself fortunate to have made connections during her clinical time as a student. Thrilled to have

PA Giving Day, organized a book drive across all CO PA programs for Reach Out and Read, and attended the 50th and CAPA's PA Professional Day. It was quite a week – and we are already looking forward to celebrating next year!

–Kathryn Ganser
CHA/PA Class of 2021



Student Awarded NHSC Scholarship

I am honored to announce that I am a recipient of the National Health Service Corps (NHSC) scholarship. The scholarship is funded by a federal program that provides support to students and professionals who are pursuing a primary care profession in underserved communities. In return for covering the costs of tuition, all school fees/expenses and a monthly stipend during my CHAPA attendance, upon graduation I will commit the first 2

found a job at a time when they were scarce in the new profession, Lorrie joined the Youth Clinic team in Ft. Collins after graduating and has continued to work there since. From her humble beginnings as a new PA working in Northern Colorado, she also proudly witnessed and contributed to the incredible growth of the Youth Clinic. Starting out as a practice with one office and 5 providers, the clinic has grown to include 4 offices, an urgent care facility, and 21 providers. Lorrie describes the expansion as a good problem but also a challenge.

Continuing to pay it forward as a preceptor, Lorrie does not cease to inspire curiosity and foster learning in our students every day. She reflects fondly on her own time as a CHA/PA student on rotation at University Hospital where she did “well baby” rounds and had to learn to read a mercury thermometer from a mom of 3. CHA/PA is fortunate to partner with Lorrie as an educator and clinician and looks forward to witnessing her developing legacy in pediatrics!



years of my PA practice serving patients in a designated Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA).

The NHSC scholarship committee base their decision to award the selected finalists by evaluating the applicant’s commitment to a career in primary care for underserved patients. The evaluation factors include demonstrable work/volunteer experience in underserved communities, being raised in a disadvantaged background, characteristics that assess the likelihood of remaining employed in a HPSA after the 2 year service commitment, and academic performance.

Being awarded such a prestigious scholarship has made me feel like a part of something bigger. This has inspired me to take opportunities the Anschutz campus has to offer that will make me an effective PA in underserved communities. This includes becoming a Spanish interpreter at the DAWN clinic and volunteering at the Comitis homeless shelter. The scholarship award money has dissolved the financial barriers that has allowed me to be in the Urban Underserved Track and attend the Spanish-speaking immersive rotation in Guatemala. The skills and experience I will pick up from all of these opportunities will be

Proposed Changes Coming for Preceptors

We are excited to share an update in the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) student documentation ruling. CMS released its calendar year 2020 Physician Fee Schedule proposed rule, which includes proposed changes that allow ALL preceptors (physicians, PAs and NPs) to VERIFY, rather than re-perform, PA and NP student-provided documentation in the patient chart. The following is a summary of how these proposed changes may affect you as a preceptor:

How will this ruling affect my day-to-day life as a preceptor?

- **Reducing burden:** As you will no longer have to re-document the E/M services for a patient encounter, this will reduce the documentation and administrative burden of having a learner in your clinical setting.
- **Saving time:** Once students are acclimated to a clinical setting, they can actually save preceptors' time. The ability of learners to document under the direction of a preceptor will improve clinic flow, increase productivity, and provide a

priceless for when I practice medicine in the Denver area.

–Oliver Arguello
CHA/PA Class of 2022



Faculty & Staff at PAEA

Several faculty and staff participated in presentations, discussion panels, and taught courses at the annual PAEA national conference:

Jacqueline Sivahop, MS, PA-C and Tai Lockspeiser, MD, MHPE gave a presentation titled: *Competency-Based Education and Assessment: Top Ten Lessons Learned.*

Karen Vogel, MS, PA-C; Tanya Fernandez, MS, PA-C; and Janice Baker, MHR gave a presentation titled: *Clinical Boot Camp: It's More than Needledrivers and IV Fluids.*

Janice Baker, MHR moderated the panel titled: *Educators Who Write: Overcoming Barriers to Wielding the Mighty Pen*, which included faculty members Amy Akerman, MPAS, PA-C and Tanya Fernandez, MS, PA-C.

tangible opportunity for feedback to students.

- Reallocating time: Time previously spent on documentation can now be re-allocated to other activities that support the practice.

How will this ruling change learning in my clinic?

The changes for learners are equally impactful. With the implementation of EHR, student documentation has almost become non-existent in the clinical world, but now learners can:

- Increase progress toward competency: Documentation is a major component of a PA's professional practice, so this rule change will give student documentation utility and validity, while also building confidence and competency. As preceptors will need to attest and verify the documentation done by a student, preceptors can actively engage students in valuable discussions around documentation, facilitating student learning and progress.
- Receive in-the-moment feedback from preceptors: With the guideline still requiring the teaching provider to be physically

Joyce Nieman, MHS, PA-C assisted in teaching the *Clinical Coordinators 201 Workshop*.



CHA/PA News

Heather Heizer, MPAS, PA-C, CHA/PA class of 2008, was named the Barbara A. Quarantillo awardee as a Senior Instructor in the CU Department of Pediatrics. This award honors an outstanding Senior Instructor with five or more years of service for contributions and recognition in their field.

The National Interprofessional Initiative on Oral Health (NIIOH) received the 2019 George E. Thibault, MD Nexus Award. Anita Glicken, previous Program Director of CHA/PA and the current NIOH Executive Director, accepted the award on behalf of the organization. Please click [here](#) for more info.

Faculty members Amy Akerman, MPAS, PA-C and Rachel Byrne, MS, PA-C, were members of an approved \$450,000 grant from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration

present for billable services, this opens up the opportunity for preceptors to observe learners take a history, perform a physical exam, discuss medical decision-making and give patient education. These moments create opportunities for feedback that can be given “in the moment” to the student to enhance practice-based improvements.

- Expect a more comprehensive assessment: Students’ performance and documentation of their own findings on history and physical examination are essential components of a clinical educator’s assessment of a student’s skills. Incorporating a student’s ability to distill information collected from a patient interview or physical exam into a durable document is a large component of assessment for PA and NP students.
- Be utilized at their developmental learner level: Students in the clinical phase, should be challenged to see a patient from beginning to end, but the documentation burden of previous CMS rules made this impractical. Students

(SAMHSA) to the university. The grant will be used to train PA, NP, and MD students to prescribe drugs that fight opioid addiction prior to graduation. More information on this grant can be found [here](#).



Student Point of Care Ultrasound Group

The CHA/PA POCUS (Point of Care Ultrasound) group evolved out of the former campus wide Ultrasound Interest Group. There were a few of us that had a passion and desire to learn more about point of care ultrasound and to become more proficient. This passion was also spurred on by a desire to compete in the Yes, I Scan Ultrasound competition at AAPA. Our team of three was very happy to place 5th out of 36 teams from PA programs nationwide. Continuing into 2019 our original team felt that there was still a

can now be challenged to complete a visit from start to finish, while documenting all components of the SOAP note.



Students, Faculty, Staff Volunteer at Food Bank

On Friday, November 15th, CHA/PA had a team of volunteers help to pack food items at the Food Bank of the Rockies. This is a yearly tradition for CHA/PA students, faculty, and staff. This year, volunteers were able to fill 698 boxes of food which will provide 17,450 meals for those in need!

need to learn more and to share our passion for POCUS with others. With the support of the CHA/PA program, we were able to expand the team to include both 1st and 2nd year students and purchase a Butterfly Ultrasound probe to facilitate hands on practice.

Our goal in this group is to help 1st and 2nd year students learn the basic skills necessary to feel comfortable with POCUS and to ideally provide some framework that can eventually be incorporated into the Colorado Curriculum. This is accomplished through twice monthly scanning sessions that involve some didactic material and hands-on scanning time. Our group recognizes the diverse uses of POCUS and how it can help aid in clinical decision making with our future patients.

–Miles Henson
CHA/PA class of 2021



Job Listings



Interested in precepting



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Do you have a PA position to list with your practice? Email pa-info@ucdenver.edu to add a listing to our website. You can find [job listings](#) on the Alumni webpage.

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](#).

and

[Follow us on Instagram](#) to keep up with the latest CHA/PA news!

Contact Information:

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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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